

DOCUMENT 12:

Editorial 'The Great Events in Russia', published in *The International*, November 16, 1917.

The cable news regarding the revolution in Russia is so confusing and every day so contradictory that it is hopeless attempting to build on them. The Maximalist wing of the Social Democratic Party has been gaining strength since the political revolution. Vast propaganda work has been done. One Socialist paper is mentioned as circulating 250,000 copies daily in Petrograd. All Capitalist journalists were resigned to what they considered the inevitable triumph of the Maximalists, and the growing power of the Council of Workmen. (Note the avidity with which Capitalist journalists grab at words like 'The Soviet' and 'Maximalists,' which hide the working class character of these organisations).

The immediate issue on which Kerensky has broken with the Maximalists seems to be the authority of the Council of Workmen (The Soviet). Lenin and the Social Democrats recognise in the Council the great instrument of Social Revolution, the embryo of the new order that is going to supplant the Capitalist State. To the Capitalists and their 'Socialist' hirelings the Council is naturally a menace.

Kerensky has also failed to fulfil his promises to confiscate the land and restore it to the peasants. And the shortage of bread has also precipitated things. Kerensky's association with Korniloff places him in the light of a betrayer of his great promise. Indeed he is charged with having been a secret accomplice of Korniloff in his late rebellion. Be that as it may, he had evidently become the tool of the Capitalist reaction.

The Capitalist lie factory has been busy with regard to Russia. Riga fell by arrangement with the Germans. That was deliberately planned by Korniloff. He is the German agent.

The Russian offensive in July did not fail because of regimental committees, as the Military commanders cabled. That was a lie endorsed by the Provisional Government to discredit the revolutionary committees. The reverse was the case. Out of a battalion of 6,000, 2,000 Russian soldiers were left dead on the field. This was the crime of Kerensky, who hurled them at the Germans to please American finance.

No wonder that the Social Democrats gained power. Now the abuse and filth of Capitalist journalism is being poured without restraint on Lenin and his party. But we trow that his party by this is the Russian proletariat itself. The latest cable states that the Foreign Embassies are leaving Petrograd. Russia under Social Democratic leadership will be outlawed by the Governments of Europe.

'For Peace, Bread, and the Power of the People,' was the watchword of the **bloodless** revolution accomplished by the Maximalists. All the blood that has been spilt is due to the counter-revolution. Now all the atrocities of the calendar are being attributed to the workmen of Petrograd. But we doubt not that, as in the Paris Commune, when the workmen gave a lofty example of humanity, but were massacred by the Capitalist troops, in Petrograd also the proletariat will vindicate the generous, humane order of the Red Flag, and any atrocities that occur will be due to those who seek to crush the workers. The Capitalist papers admit that they took possession without disorder. But should the Social Democrats fail, we can expect the most bloody massacre of the workingmen of Petrograd that history has ever recorded. Long live the Social Revolution, the light from the East.