

Big Problems Facing Party in Russia Met

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MOSCOW.—The Congress of the Russian Communist Party took place for the twelfth time under the most unusual conditions: the great leader of the party was missing. But tho missing, his spirit guided the proceedings. Everything was conducted in the Light of Leninism—which has a distinct meaning at the present time.

The Twelfth Congress faced most difficult and complicated problems. War-time Communism is over, and the introduction of the New Economic Policy, as a temporary adaptation to capitalism, demands greater elasticity. In the face of the ruin that rules Europe today, one can state without fear of contradiction that only the Communists have a policy. Social-Democracy and Laborism are floundering, while the Communists of Soviet Russia are guiding the government and state economy over the shoals to a constantly rising level of prosperity.

The Congress had to deal with four big problems: the organization and raising of industrial production; the bringing of the country close to the city; the national question; and the control of the government.

The question of industrial production was treated by Trotsky in an elaborate thesis, which is regarded as the most comprehensive essay in this field ever attempted. It was treated in a brilliant manner. Proletarian governments suffer from lack of talent to carry on the economic life of the country. It must be developed from the ranks of the workers themselves. This development can take a place only in the actual work. The bourgeois engineer and technician deal with men trained in capitalist production, all of them conversant with the methods of such production. The proletarian engineer has first to be created, he has to evolve his own method of production with forces unacquainted with the problems confronting them. The task is a tremendous one; many mistakes are made and many obstacles must be overcome. Only a rigid organization and careful selection of those placed in charge of production will ensure success.

Opposition to this position was led by Krassin, Commissioner of Foreign Trade, who maintained that this process was so slow that it cannot be utilized as a basis for the re-establishment of Russian industry. He declared that the only acceptable basis was one that would secure international loans and credits. Consequently, production in Soviet Russia would have to be adapted to capitalist industry. This position was completely repudiated by the Congress. Soviet Russia will greet whatever international credit and loans are granted her; her production, however, is being put on a self-sustaining basis. Soviet Russia cannot and will not wait till such time as the capitalist governments consent to grant credits. This is the demonstration of the growing power of the Soviet State.

The question of nationalities has become an imminent one since the Union of Soviet States was effected last year. There are nearly one hundred different nationalities assembled under the Red Flag of the Union of Soviet Republics, all of which have their peculiar problems. Most of them are petty nationalities, yet a few of them, such as the Great Russians, have a large population. In all cases, it is a petty-bourgeois chauvinist instinct that has to be combatted. There are also the problems of language, of education, and literature. They are mainly the problems of peasant life, and range from those of the nomads of the Circassian hills to the population of the broad Russian plains.

Soviet Russia is the only government that has given self-determination to the nationalities composing its Union, even tho that was one of the great slogans with which the Allies won the war. Only the Communists can guarantee such rights, since the proletarian State depends on the self-development of nations.

The Communists, as the initiators of the revolutionary movement that took the workers and peasants into power, have been responsible for the welfare of the State ever since. Moreover, the workers and the masses of peasants have looked to the Communist party for their guidance. True to their mission as leaders of the revolution, the Party has assumed this responsibility. And yet hitherto this assumption has been an indirect one. Today the responsibility is direct.

The Party has a Control Commission for controlling the activities and leading organs of the Party. This Commission holds the individuals and official bodies to their tasks and makes them account for their actions and decisions. It has been decided to give this Commission the further duty of controlling the Soviet government. It has been enlarged to fifty members and will have the task and responsibility of the good functioning of the government.