

# Mr. Abramovitch Comes to Town.

By I. A m t e r.

Mr. Abramovitch, of Second International ill-fame, has come to town. He was given a reception a few days ago — a worthy reception. The socialists engaged one of the large halls of New York city to greet their “comrade”. On the stage were all the socialist worthies — Hillquit, of La Follette fame, Panken, the “socialist” municipal judge, and the socialist heads of the Workmen’s Circle, a petty bourgeois sick benefit organisation. All the socialist counter-revolution was assembled to greet and cheer the “representative of the social democratic workers of Russia”.

What these American “leaders” said and did is immaterial. They are small fry in the ocean of counter-revolution. We are interested in Mr. Abramovitch. When Mr. Abramovitch appeared on the platform, he was met with a storm of hisses and boos so that he could not begin to speak. Finally, after the first outbursts, he began. It was a mild beginning, for Mr. Abramovitch sensed that the audience was not very sympathetic. He spoke of Soviet Russia — and was about to say something derogatory, but the mere mention of Soviet Russia threw the audience of 2,500 people into a spasm and the cheers for the Socialist Republic would not end. The spite and hate that he wished to couple with the name of Soviet Russia were lost in the cheers.

Mr. Abramovitch then spoke about the Third International. What he said, however, will never be recorded, for the mere mention of the name provoked an ovation. Cheers were called for Soviet Russia, for the Communist International. The “Internationale” was sung. Bedlam broke loose: this was a Communist audience — an audience sympathetic to Communism and Soviet Russia.

This did not at all please the counter-revolutionary socialists. They knew that something of this sort would arise. Hence they took good care to have their "strong-arm" men at the meeting. The gangsters employed by the reactionary bureaucrats of the trade unions were on hand to "keep order". They marched up and down the aisles, looking for "disturbers, that is to say Communists and Communist sympathisers. In the midst of the meeting, when enthusiasm for Soviet Russia reached one of its heights, when the socialists no longer could tolerate these expressions of solidarity with the Soviet Republic, they showed their indignation by assaulting the Communists. The gangsters also played a part, using their fists and other weapons on the Communists.

There came a time, however, when these methods did not suffice. Mr. Panken, who knows the capitalist method of "preserving order", sent out word, and 200 policemen entered the hall and took charge of the meeting, ordering the gangsters' to step aside. Mr. Panken, the other socialists and the police protected Mr. Abramovitch from the Soviet sympathisers.

Mr. Abramovitch did not finish his speech. The hurrahs for the Soviet Government and the Communist International drowned him. He had challenged the audience to produce facts about Soviet Russia, and his challenge was accepted from all parts of the hall. The meeting ended by the Communists and Communist sympathisers marching out of the hall, between the rows of the police, singing the "Internationale". But it did not end there. The victory of the Communists was too much for the socialists and the gangsters. They fell upon the Communists, beat them up, tore their clothes and seriously injured one comrade, who had to be taken to the hospital.

Mr. Abramovitch did not finish his speech. The hurrahs for York. The reactionary chairman of the Workmen's Circle extended to him the freedom of the socialist ranks. This so-called socialist organisation is turning more and more counter-revolutionary. Although the socialist party definitely took a stand against Soviet Russia some years ago, this enmity was confined to a great degree to the yellow leadership. But slowly the poison of anti-sovietism is entering the blood of the rank and file. The fight is becoming bitter. Mr. Abramovitch's coming to America is a symptom of what these counter-revolutionists intend — his coming, just at this time, makes it all the more significant.

The Communists are answering this invasion of all the counter-revolutionary forces that the bourgeoisie and the yellow socialists — the appendages of the bourgeoisie — command, by starting a broad campaign for recognition of Soviet Russia and in favour of the Communist International.

The counter-revolutionary campaign is all the more significant since senator Borah has now become the outstanding figure in the pro-Soviet movement — in spite of Coolidge's statement that the policy of the United States government toward recognition will remain the same. The battle is to be fought out — the "interests" will decide whether recognition is necessary or not. Japan has now recognised Soviet Russia — only America remains. Can America, with a big surplus of production and no markets to absorb it, allow Soviet Russia to become a market for all the other industrial countries? It is impossible. The battle will be fought out — for recognition of Soviet Russia is the issue of the day. The imperialist powers believe that Soviet Russia is weak, and that the Trotzky controversy may lead to bad consequences for the Russian Communist Party. That Trotzky has been removed from his position only proves that Soviet Russia is perfectly united. Hence the hopes that Soviet Russia can be destroyed from within come to naught.

So Mr. Abramovitch, emissary of the monarchists and social-traitors of Europe, self-styled "representative of the social democratic workers of Russia" — although such exist only in Paris and Berlin — comes on a vain mission. Soviet Russia remains and is strengthened by the unity following the controversy. The workers of America are not to be trapped by Abramovitch's glib tongue. The report of the British Trade Union delegation, which recently visited Soviet Russia, has more meaning to them than all the Abramovitches, Vanderveldes, Brantings and Kautskys. Mr. Abramovitch will knock at the doors of empty houses. He will speak to audiences of Communists and Communist sympathisers. He will get the same greeting and welcome as in New York, and he will have the American police beat up the American workers who are friends of Soviet Russia.

We welcome you, Mr. Abramovitch. Your visit will merely accelerate the recognition of Soviet Russia.

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