

The Festive Day of Work and Struggle.

By A. Lozovsky.

Year after year passes, but the struggle for power between the proletariat and the bourgeoisie continues with undiminished force. The character, methods and intensity of the social fight are not everywhere the same. There is however not a single corner on the whole globe where the question of the power of labour does not arise in its full significance — especially on the first of May. The power of labour is not a dream for the distant future, but an actually existing fact which has found its territorial and national expression in the Soviet Union since October 1917. Since that date, the old festival of May 1st. has gained new significance; socialism has come down to earth out of the misty distance, down from the cloudy heights; the day of celebration of fighting and work has become a festival not only of victories anticipated in the future but also of those already won.

The October revolution has shown that the proletariat can carry off the victory, but this has not only increased the force of attack of the proletarian masses and their striving for power tenfold, it has also multiplied a hundredfold the power of resistance of the ruling classes who now know by experience what they have to expect from the revolution. In this way social differences have increased to the utmost. All the main and auxiliary forces of bourgeois society are advancing in a common front against communism in its growing vigour. Every day, every year, brings new evidence of the concentration of revolutionary and reactionary energy at the two extreme poles of present-day society. However complicated the reciprocal social relations may be, whatever may be the social structure of the State and the degree of its capitalist and constitutional development, an embittered fight for and against the October revolution, for and against Communism is always and everywhere proceeding.

The working class — of course in the historical sense — has entered into a direct fight for power. This does not mean that we are everywhere on the eve of a social revolution, but it does mean that there is no other issue from the present crisis of capitalism than that of establishing the dictatorship

of the proletariat. Decades will elapse between the beginning of the fight of the proletariat for power and its first victory (October 1917) and the victory of the proletariat in all or in the most important countries but, as the experience of the last eight years has shown, all these decades will be filled with gigantic social fights with varying results.

A critical period in the history of mankind began in the year 1917, and the year 1926 is only a milestone on the road of sinking capitalism which is convulsively fighting for its existence. This is the point of view from which the course of present events and our international proletarian festival of work and struggle must be treated.

The working class has already covered a long stretch of road; the two great forces, the Comintern and the R. I. L. U. have come into being. The union of the workers of all shades in a fight against the bourgeoisie, the struggle of the working class out of the depth towards a united front and unity, is approaching completion; millions and millions of proletarians and semi-proletarians from the colonial and semi-colonial countries are drawn into the fight, the path is cleared for the creation of a united class-fighting trade union International, many millions have been set in motion; is it possible for all this to be arrested? Can historical events be wiped out? Is it by any means possible to dam back within its old shores the movement of the oppressed classes and peoples which, vast as the sea, is flooding the land? No! Many representatives of the bourgeoisie understand better than do the so-called socialists the stage which capitalist society is passing through; this accounts for the growth of reaction and the extraordinary exertion of forces in the fight against the growing revolution.

The working class is faced by a fight of great difficulty and long duration. The bourgeoisie will still inflict many defeats on it; but whatever incidents the battle may bring, whatever defeats may be suffered on the separate sections of the social front, whatever the subjugated working masses may have to suffer, capitalism is doomed to decline, and the young, all-victorious Communism will take its place.