

Notes of an Internationalist

No. 6—THE DEAD RIDE SWIFTLY.

By JOHN PEPPER.

A GERMAN proverb declares: "The dead ride swiftly." The events of the last few days show the truth of this old saying. The politically dead, the renegades of the Communist International, ride with ghostly speed to their common grave: the social-democracy. After Hogland, now Bubnik. After the Swedish traitor, now the Czech renegade, Hogland, after an ephemeral stardom, rejoined the social-democratic party of Branting, now Bubnik after a still briefer appearance in the Communist movement, goes over with bag and baggage, with his entire puny group to the Czech-social-democracy of Sokoraya.

The Bubnik question became acute prior to and during the last E. C. C. I. plenum. It was discovered that Bubnik, within the Communist Party, was hatching plans for the liquidation of the Communist Party of Czecho-Slovakia. The left party leadership, expelled him. The center (Bernal) was for a time not particularly pleased at this expulsion, but the E. C. C. I. endorsed the action and branded Bub-

nik as a traitor.

After the expulsion the traitorous character of Bubnik revealed itself in fullest bloom. Instead of considering himself a Communist even outside of the party, instead of appealing to the next congress of the Communist International, he immediately founded an "Independent Communist Party."

This Bubnikist party from the very first minute served only as a destruction and vilification organ against the Communist Party of Czecho-Slovakia. It was "independent" of the working class but not "independent" of the government.

Bubnik and his party fought the Communist Party chiefly on "moral" grounds, in questions of "honor," and in a short time it was proven by authentic documents that Bubnik's party accepted money from the government and that the most exposed secretaries of this fine society were accomplished international police spies. Bubnik tilted against the "Moscow dictatorship," only to accept in a very short time the dictatorship of the bourgeoisie in the fullest sense of the word. His chief slogan was that all elements of the labor movement must be united—but his chief activity, from

the very first to the last minute, was directed to the splitting, the shattering of the Communist Party. In Czecho-Slovakia during the current period he sought to confine recognition to the method of parliamentarism—but even parliamentarily he failed miserably; in the last elections the Communist Party received practically a million votes while Bubnik's "Independent" group in all Czecho-Slovakia mustered only 7,850 votes. Bubnik's is the typical case of a renegade. In 1921 he entered the Communist movement, in a period when the possibility of the immediate success of the proletarian revolution seemed so close at hand, and he miserably and ignominiously deserted the Communist movement, when to be a Communist meant an obdurate, grim, self-sacrificing slow preparatory work in the period of relative stabilization.

Bubnik's return to the Czech-social-democracy is the most complete justification of the policy of the Communist International in that country. The Communist Party by the expulsion of Bubnik is no smaller, the social-democratic by his acquisition no bigger, but merely still more corrupt and traitorous.