

Report of Comrade Losovsky.

The second session took place on 16th August. Numerous workers' representatives from various parts of the Soviet Union greeted the Congress. The Congress then passed on to the 1st point of the agenda: "The report of the Executive Bureau and the tasks of the international revolutionary trade union movement. Comrade Losovsky, received with tumultuous applause and the singing of the "International", gave his report.

The speaker analysed the crisis now convulsing the capitalist world. This crisis is one of over-production. It has arisen out of the disparity between the steady increase of the possibilities of production on the one hand and the limitations put on the markets by the impoverishment of the masses and the insurrections in the colonies on the other. The speaker described the symptoms of the present crisis, the decline of production, the closing down of undertakings, the increasing unemployment, the prohibitive tariffs, the imperialists conflicts for the markets, the growing want and misery of the working class, etc. In the capitalist countries the standard of living of the workers sinks steadily. All capitalist, colonial, and semi-colonial countries are affected by unemployment. It is clear that either the proletariat of the capitalist countries must help the working class of the colonies, or the colonial coolie will press the standard of living of the workers in the capitalist countries even lower.

Comrade Losovsky further analysed the rôle played by international reformism as agent in the service of capital, and exposed the true countenance of the so-called Left wing of the Amsterdam International in the persons of its leaders.

The situation in the capitalist countries must be compared with that in the Soviet Union. Here the crisis, there advance. In the Soviet Union not only the working class is enjoying the benefit of the economic prosperity, but the collective movement enables the broad masses of the peasantry to have their share. Before the revolution the workers of Russia, and especially the peasants, never satisfied their hunger. Were the quantities of industrial and agricultural products produced by the Soviet State to be produced in a capitalist country, the shops in such great towns as Moscow would be overfilled with goods, but the workers' districts and the villages would see nothing of them.

Comrade Losovsky concluded his report in the forenoon session of the Congress on 17th August. He first spoke of the economic struggles of the proletariat. In the period following the IV. Congress of the R.I.I., the working class confronted the bourgeoisie in every strike and economic conflict. One

of the most effectual weapons against the proletariat is the „Labour Government“. The world crisis has created a new fighting situation, greatly intensifying it, and stamping an expressly political character on all strike struggles. It is true that the Sections of the RILU. have at once taken up the leadership of the economic struggles, and have often been able to guide the movement and carry it on to the end, and it is true that they do much towards exposing the strike-breaking role played by social democracy, etc., but there are still many shortcomings to be recorded in this direction. There is still a tendency to lag behind the fighting spirit of the masses, an inadequate preparation for the strike conflict, the appointment of strike committees or their election by too few votes, the drawing up of the demands of the workers on strike by too small a circle of persons, the recognition of the revolutionary line in theory and failure to apply this line in practice, confusion in regard to the employers and an incapacity to organise negotiations competently. The economic struggle merges into the political. Under present conditions there are no purely economic strikes. To revolutionise the strike movement means making clear to the strikers the connection between their economic demands and the whole system of the bourgeois dictatorship, to expose the role of social fascism, and to convert every proletarian into a class conscious fighter for the working class.

Comrade Losovsky further dealt with the Right and „Left“ deviations and the necessity of combating these in the Sections of the RILU. He then enumerated the chief immediate tasks of the RILU. Above all the revolutionary trade union movement must devote the utmost effort towards aiding the workers in their daily struggles for better conditions and higher wages, must utilise every fighting trend in the workers, must fight against social fascism, must gather around it all workers, including the non-party, the social democrats, the Roman Catholics. The united front is our fighting method. The united front draws the backward workers into our ranks, it fights ruthlessly against social democracy, against compromises with the reformist leaders. The German trade union opposition has found the right way in organising trade union opposition groups in the works and factories. This is an example which should be followed in other countries. We must take energetic steps in the interests of the unorganised. In those places where there are no revolutionary trade unions, the unorganised must be induced to join the reformist unions, that they may swell the opposition in these. In countries where there is a powerful trade union opposition, such as Germany, the slogan of „Join the reformist trade unions“ must be replaced by „Join the trade union opposition“. The growth of the class struggle beyond the boundaries of the countries raises the question of the consolidation of international solidarity. Frontier committees and fraternities must be founded, and the active support of the striking workers of other countries must be organised. This applies especially to the workers of the mother countries. The Sections of the RILU., must insist unceasingly on the connections between the struggle of the peasants in the colonies and that of the peasants in the mother countries. The slogan of the „Independence of the colonies“ must be made one of our leading fighting slogans. In view of the growing war danger, and of the war preparations against the Soviet Union, the proletariat is set the task of organising the struggle against war. The defence of the Soviet Union is the centre upon which the attention of the workers is concentrated. Upon the efficiency with which we organise this war against war depends whether the imperialists will succeed or fail in their aim of crushing the workers' revolution.

