

ALIEN PRESS RUSSIA'S FOE

Printing Plants Nearly All Com- mandeered for Revolution- ary Cause

BOLSHEVIKS ACTIVE

(London Times Service to The Globe,
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London, Oct. 22.—The Petrograd cor-
respondent of The London Times says:

The indisputable fact that the Rus-
sian press is largely dominated by
alien influences has had an import-
ant bearing upon the course of the
revolution. It is not an exaggeration
to say that two-thirds of the news-
papers and probably four-fifths of the
editors, correspondents and report-
ers are of the Jewish race. The ubi-
quity of the Jewish journalist in Rus-
sia is equalled only by his marvellous
adaptability to all circumstances and
conditions. He flourished under the
old regime in spite of the restrictions
it imposed upon him and his kindred.
The revolution swept away all bar-
riers, and he promptly took the full-
est advantage of the change.

These plain statements by no means
imply a wholesale charge of lack of
patriotism against Jewish journalists.
Men sincerely devoted to the inter-
ests of their native land are to be
found among them, but they, in com-
mon with their co-religionists in other
walks of life, have found themselves
outnumbered and outpaced by the
revolutionary Jews, who, it may be
added, are frequently outcasts from
Jewry, to whom the faith of their
forefathers had long ceased to be a
living reality.

Big Output of Pamphlets.

The revolution entailed an enormous
output of propaganda; the Soviet, or
committee, printed its decrees and
proclamations and published a news-
paper in every townlet throughout
Russia. Later electioneering led to a
further increase in the output of
printed matter—an output that con-
tinues to grow. For instance, the
elections to the Constituent Assembly
require no fewer than 500,000,000
voting papers, printed in different
colors, and as many envelopes to sat-
isfy the needs of a universal, equal,
direct and secret ballot taken among
100,000,000 electors, mostly illiterate.

In Petrograd and other large cities
every available printing press has long
ago been commandeered for the rev-
olutionary cause. People have to make
their own visiting cards with the aid
of a rubber stamp. Revolutionary
sheets sprang up like mushrooms.
The non-Socialist newspaper printing
offices and their available reserves of
paper were simply "annexed." Some
were lucky enough to come to terms
with Socialist editors of a less exact-
ing character who "protected" them
in return for publication.

Get German Money.

Non-Socialist papers depended, of
course, upon their circulation and
their advertisements. The Socialist
organs had no advertisements and a
fictitious circulation, being largely in
the nature of party propaganda paid
for out of sums appropriated from the
treasury or—in the case of Bolshevik
organs—obtained from German
sources. Leading organs of public
opinion were mulcted of most of their
paper and were allowed to keep bare-
ly sufficient to cover circulation with-
out advertisements.

Nor was this the only penalty on so-
called freedom. The committees ev-
erywhere controlled distribution and
transport in such a manner that rev-
olutionary organs of the extremist
views reached the troops and the peo-
ple, while the non-Socialist, and es-
pecially the independent, newspapers
arrived late or not at all. A charac-
teristic instance may be cited. The
train conveying the Minister of War
to the front was found to be surrep-
titiously loaded with copies of one of
the worst Bolshevik newspapers,
openly inciting the troops to defy
their officers and to fraternize with
the **enemy**. When this subterfuge
was detected and the nature of the
goods disclosed the train servants said
they were helpless, because the con-
signment had been made in the name
of the Soviet. The Minister could do
nothing.

Alien Press Injures Nation.

Naturally public opinion is neither
reflected nor informed by a press that
receives treatment of the kind de-
scribed above and is dominated by
alien influences. It is a source of
weakness to the country, an element
of further disintegration, rather than
—as it should be—a source of
strength and reform.

In these circumstances sound per-
spective becomes impossible. Russia
is viewed through a morbid spectrum.
The interests of the country—and of
the revolution—have suffered in con-
sequence. Worse still for Russia's al-
lies, the news services from that
country are all centred in Petrograd
and are not always derived from in-
dependent sources. We thus gain our
knowledge of current events in Rus-
sia through a highly artificial medi-
um. To make matters more hopeless,

the revolutionary censorship is ap-
plied with a partiality that might be
envied by the worst exponents of the
old regime. Messages from outspoken
journalists are suppressed in toto, al-
tered to suit the revolutionary book
or "accidentally" delayed. Corre-
spondence by mail has become almost
impossible owing to delays of another
kind.