

BRITISH OR RUSSIAN?

"The idea that by forceful methods the organized democracy can find a short-cut to the attainment of its aims will have its attractions for men of unstable temperament, impatient of the inevitable setbacks which we are bound to encounter if we work along constitutional lines. Let that idea stand unchallenged by the leaders of democracy and we shall be faced with graver perils than any that have confronted us in past times."

In his "Aims of Labor," from which this passage is quoted, the Secretary and Leader of the British Labor party, Right Hon. Arthur Henderson, repeatedly counsels and warns his fellow-Britons against the doctrines of violence which groups of revolutionary Socialists are preaching in many countries. He exhorts them not to "turn aside from the path of ordered social change by constitutional methods." Recalling the feverish industrial unrest before the war, he deplores the propaganda of "direct action" as tending seriously to undermine belief in the efficacy of political action. He protests against the notion of a revolution by "bombs and bayonets." His whole book is a reasoned appeal for a gradual and peaceful transformation of social and industrial conditions.

Mr. Henderson professes to be a Socialist, and has an international reputation as one of the leaders of the movement, but his teachings are scorned by revolutionists like the Bolsheviki in Russia, the Spartacides in Germany, and the "Reds" in other countries, including Canada, who disseminate Bolshevist literature, cheer for Bolshevism at meetings, and flout orthodox trades unionism. In people of this "unstable temperament," a very charitable description of advocates of brigandage and terrorism, Mr. Henderson sees the **enemies** of true social progress. Grave peril lies ahead unless their ideas are "challenged by leaders of democracy." The British Labor party seeks to combat this dangerous element by inviting to its ranks men and women who "do not belong to any trade union or Socialist society." "We are casting the net wide," says Mr. Henderson, significantly, "because we realize that real political democracy cannot be organized on the basis of class interest." This is the opposite of Bolshevism, which makes class interest the basis of its policy and practise, and actually seeks to exterminate certain groups by starvation and the denial of employment. Do Canadian workmen choose to take their ideas from Russia or from Great Britain? They are insulted by those who tell them to reject the views and methods of the Labor movement in the Mother Country and to look for a model in the lower civilization of Russia, where the ignorant masses, debased and impoverished by a cruel despotism, have never been habituated to political action, and are being exploited by cunning leaders who live by plunder.

Mr. Henderson says rightly that revolution in the sense of armed insurrection is **alien** to the British character, and that no responsible person can contemplate such a possibility without horror. This advice is scorned by those who applaud Bolshevism in Canada or elsewhere. They want an immediate revolution by "direct action," a euphemism for violence and bloodshed, instead of using the political machinery which in a free country the majority of the people may employ to effect changes in the social and industrial organization. The Lenin-Trotsky faction dismissed a Parliament based upon universal suffrage as arbitrarily as the Czar dissolved the first Duma. Bolshevism will not tolerate Parliamentary institutions. Because it is itself a combination of anarchy and oligarchy Bolshevism hates democracy. This is the new tyranny which is being openly preached in this country by **allens**, chiefly Russians who have abused Canadian hospitality, aided by a few men of the English-speaking race who are ready to sell their British birthright for a mess of Russian pottage.