

## Will Soviet Rule Last?

By Capt. J. De V. Loder

Capt. Loder, who sat for East Lett as a Conservative from 1924 to 1929, has recently returned from a tour of observation in Russia.

I am often asked whether Bolshevism will last. Obviously there is no direct answer to such a question, but it sets one considering a variety of possibilities and trying to arrange them in order of probability. I hope, however, that no one will think I am trying to set up as a prophet.

If by "Will Bolshevism Last?" you mean "Will the system of government based on Communist principles ever become permanently established in Russia?" I would say that it seems to be highly improbable. I cannot believe that the putting into practice of the Communist system will not involve such concessions to human nature and the logic of events that, however plausibly these may be represented as consistent with the theory, the result will be quite different from what Marx or anyone else imagined. I think Lenin appreciated this. Future developments depend a great deal on how far the same realism is shared by his successors.

### Ten Years in Power

On the other hand, if you mean "Will there be a spontaneous uprising of the mass of the people driven to despair by Bolshevik tyranny?" I believe that this is equally unlikely. A revolution of 1917 seems to me almost inconceivable, except as a result of widespread famine or unsuccessful war. A revolt of peasants, industrial workers, mutiny in the Army or Navy, would not by themselves be sufficient to set the country ablaze; they would be local, sporadic affairs. The difficulties of organizing an effective opposition to the party now in power are almost insuperable. It is conceivable that some form of religious movement might sweep the country, but the time for this is hardly yet.

If, therefore, by "Will Bolshevism Last?" you mean "Will the Communist party remain in power for at least the next ten years?" the answer is that very probably this will be so, if only because, in normal circumstances, no other organized body capable of taking its place is likely to arise within this space of time. But this does not necessarily imply that there will be no changes of policy, or that internal conflicts will not arise. On the contrary, divergence of opinion within the party about the proper measures to meet practical emergencies may be expected to increase rather than diminish. Up till now, when there have been serious disputes about policy, the procedure has been for the victorious section to "cleanse" the party by turning out its recalcitrant opponents. Some day this may bring an organized opposition into existence, but it would, at first of any rate, only lead to one sort of Communist opposing another sort, and would not involve opposition to Communism itself.

### Rule By A Party

So far the party has succeeded in maintaining its integrity. In form its controversies turn largely upon interpretations of orthodoxy. All sides support their cases with quotations from Lenin, and to the uninformed it is often very difficult to discover the point at issue. There is something in the published discussion strangely reminiscent of the proceedings of the Councils of the early Christian Church. Once a point of dogma has been settled, you must either conform or be expelled as a heretic. In reality these controversies have arisen out of practical considerations of method, and perhaps still more out of the conflict of personalities. The supremacy of the party is still unshaken.

It is difficult for us to realize to what an extent Russia is ruled by a party and not by a Government. Whatever party is in power in England takes on a national complexion. While it is in office a British Government is relatively independent of the caucus of the party to which it belongs. In Russia the party organization is the only real power. Stalin, who is a virtual dictator as General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Party, is not a member of the Government at all. The policy of the party becomes the policy of the Government, because the bodies which elect the Council of People's Commissars (the Cabinet) are dominated by the party. It is for this reason that to the outside world no difference can be discerned between the activities of the Government, the party, and the Third International (which is also dominated by the Russian Communist Party).

### Internal Difficulties

Internally, there is very often anything but harmony. The two chief official newspapers, Izvestia, the organ of the Government, and Pravda, the organ of the party, do not by any means always sing the same tune. There is a possible line of cleavage here. The Government has to deal with actual situations. It has to administer a country, the vast bulk of which is non-Communist, and to maintain relations with other countries all hostile to Communism. It works with a staff of officials and technicians very few of whom are Communists.

The Government has a natural inclination to compromise, but at present it is dominated by the party. The business of the party headquarters is to see that compromise goes no further than is absolutely necessary to prevent a breakdown at home and to

obtain economic essentials from abroad. This must be a galling position for a Minister, however keen a Communist he may be, because it involves a degree of supervision that must be almost intolerable, and makes his tenure of office most precarious.

### Orthodoxy vs. Ability

It seems to be the deliberate policy of the party to make the Government a mere "facade." It may be quite true that the Foreign Commissariat, anxious to maintain friendly relations with Foreign Powers, deprecates the activities of Communist propagandists abroad and that the Trade Commissariat may think it would go on faster with economic reconstruction if things were made easier for foreign capital, but if the party headquarters say "No," that is an end to the matter. To resist means loss of office, as one after the other nearly all the original revolutionary leaders have found to their cost. A strong man in the Government tends to endanger the purity of the party's policy, and so, as the well-known figures, Trotsky, Kamenef, Lunacharsky and the rest disappear from the stage, they are replaced by men whose primary qualification is that they are safe. Moreover, when someone loses his official position, he also loses his position in the party, which thus tend more and more to get into the hands of people whose claim to preferment is orthodoxy rather than administrative ability.

### Value of Personality

The party's greatest danger seems to lie in the loss of the older generation of Bolsheviks, who were single-minded and had a wide experience of the world, and the advent of careerists and peasants. A rapid decline in the strength of the present regime might well come from weak leadership. Everything depends on the character of the actual head of affairs, who is at present Stalin, the secretary-general of the central committee of the party, and Stalin is an able man. It remains to be seen what difficulties he has created for the future by getting rid of outstanding personalities who might be his competitors. —Montreal Standard.

## Pigeon Crosses On Mauretania As Stowaway

### Earns Keep by Acting as Weather Prophet Which Leads to His Capture

A red-checked pigeon stowed away in a ventilator of the Cunard liner Mauretania at Alexandria, Egypt, and made a voyage of thousands of miles, despite all efforts to drive the seagoing bird ashore, according to Harry Hull, the ship's donkey engineer, who exhibited the bird when the liner docked recently.

Hull said the bird displayed the ability of an albatross at following the ship and furthermore, proved to be an excellent barometer during the stormy passage across the Atlantic. Just before each spell of bad weather, the pigeon, which sometimes disappeared with sea gulls, would seek its sheltered perch in the engine-room ventilator.

Frightened Away at Alexandria. Hull noticed the bird in the ventilator as the ship prepared to leave Alexandria and chased it away. He was so surprised when he noticed the same bird in the same spot when the liner reached Villefranche that he called William Pott, an engine room trimmer who was "always fooling around with some bird or animal, anyway. When Pott learned that the bird had been aboard at both ports he said that they had better call him "Joey."

Pott, learning of Joey's value as a barometer, gradually became acquainted with the bird and saved scraps from his dinner to feed him. He said the stowaway became quite tame, and when he imitated a pigeon's call Joey would coo back at him from the shadows in the ventilator. But an extra heavy storm struck the ship and Pott was ordered to close the ventilator.

### Captured During Storm

"Don't do that, Pott," said Hull. "The bird's in there." Hardly able to stand against the gale, Pott clutched the ventilator and cooed softly into the darkness. Joey answered and, expecting his usual supper of bread crumbs, fluttered to the opening. Pott made a grab, and the stowaway became a prisoner.

Thereafter Joey lived below, and Hull says that they will keep him as long as he wants to stay. Pott feels that way, too.

### A Prayer From a Little Room

Here is a quiet room:  
Pause for a little space,  
And in the stillness cool,  
With hands before thy face,  
Pray for God's grace.

Let no unholy thought  
Enter thy musing mind:  
Things that the world has wrought,  
Unclean, untrue, unkind,  
Leave them behind.

Pray for the strength of god;  
Strength to await His plan.  
Rise from the knees less clod  
Than when thy prayer began,  
More of a man.

## A Friend to be Proud of



MUCH WISDOM MUST BE IN HIS HEAD.

Mrs. H. S. Lloyd's cocker spaniel Luckstar of Wars, champion of show at Crufts, will be entered in city and suburban canine shows at Crystal Palace, London, England.

## Man-Made Colony For Germany

### Germans Plan to Drain North Sea for Vast New Land, British Hear

London.—A gigantic scheme to drain a large part of the North Sea, formerly, sometimes called the Gorman Ocean, is being evolved by German engineers, according to unconfirmed reports received here.

If the plan becomes a reality eastern England would lose miles of its seacoast. But with a great part of the North Sea drained, a vast new land would come into being with rich mineral wealth to keep a population of over 20,000,000.

The German experts, according to the reports, are considering building two giant dams. One would stretch from Hunstanton, Norfolk, near Sandringham, the King's country residence, to the upper coast of Denmark, and the other around Kent, across the English Channel and along the Belgian and Dutch coasts to the neighborhood of Scheveningen, the Dutch seaside resort next to The Hague.

Dover and Calais would be connected by giant bridges, thus making a Channel tunnel unnecessary. Norfolk and Essex would lose their seaboard. Between the dams would be a new land, more than 100,000 square miles in area—possessing amazing mineral wealth and possibly rich oil fields.

British experts almost unanimously view the scheme as impracticable. One described it as "a wildcat scheme." Tidal conditions appear to be the chief obstacle.

## Ontario Hydro Buys Foshay Power Plants

### Bruce County Now in Provincial Company's Fold

Warkenton, Ont.—Acquisition of the Foshay interests in Bruce County by the Hydro-Electric Power Commission of Ontario was reported recently.

After many months of negotiations an agreement has now been reached. It is understood, whereby Bruce county is brought within the Hydro fold.

The price involved in the purchase of the Foshay interests is said to be more than \$500,000.

While the terms of the agreement have not been announced, it is understood to be a complete clean-up of the power situation in the Bruce peninsula.

**Little Circumstances**  
Little opera tickets.  
Little supper etc.  
Make the young man's tailor wait and wait and wait.



Bear cubs, found by ranger in Glacier National Park, are seen here in a frolic with their guardian, who hopes to find the mother from whom they probably escaped.

## Ramsay MacDonald Leaves Labor Party

### The Reason for the Premier's Action—The I.L.P. Frankly States "It Will Have to Come Somewhere With Its Old Colleagues"

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### Will Others Follow?

"The wonder is that he should have deemed it worth while to retain for so long even a nominal membership," says the Birmingham Post. "Old associations supply, one supposes, the explanation—or let us say gratitude towards the organization through which he personally climbed into prominence, combined with anxiety not to display too openly the reality of a grave split within the Labour movement."

"It will be interesting to see which—if any—among his Ministerial associates see fit to follow his example. For the I.L.P. is strongly represented in the Government. Lord Ponsonby is a member; so are Mr. William Graham, Mr. Lansbury, Mr. Wedgwood Benn, Miss Bondfield and Sir Oswald Mosley. And for each and all of them the Prime Minister has accentuated an awkward problem of divided loyalties."

Mr. Ernest Hunter, writing in the New Leader, the organ of the I.L.P., asserts:

"The fact is that the whole conception of the 'Socialism in Our Time' programme is alien to Ramsay MacDonald's mind and mood. It is stupid to say that he has changed. Few public men in this country have over a long period of time preserved a more consistent body of principle than has the present Prime Minister."

"His view of politics as a biological process in which by a series of gradual transformations and adaptations, society moves on step by step, stage by stage, to a more perfect form is in sharp antithesis to the present I.L.P. view. All his tradition, training and thought was bound sooner or later to lead him to take his present step."

### Nothing Gained by Useless Repinings

"Nothing would be gained by useless repinings. Without fuss or demonstration the Premier has decided to make a clean break. All the I.L.P. can do is to pay glad tribute to the work he did to build up this party, and to turn to the work of today and tomorrow. The past is behind. Only the future matters."

"But it will not be easy for the I.L.P. to escape from the shadow of this man's personality. He was not an easy man to live with. He is not likely to change. But he remains, and is likely to remain, the unchallenged leader of the Labour Party. Within that party the I.L.P. will have to fight, as it has always done, for its own point of view."

"In the day to day battle of ideas it will have to cross swords with its old colleague, but that it will do so with a vivid remembrance of the old days of intimate comradeship will be the deepest wish of all to whom the triumph of the common cause is the compelling motive."

"In the old days before the Socialist movement captured the Trade Unions, the I.L.P. was the driving force," asserts the Scotsman, "and practically everything else in the Socialist cause. It was never numerically strong, but it made up by ceaseless energy and unremitting propaganda for its lack of numbers. With the permeation of the Trade Unions, however, the influence of the I.L.P. weakened, the balance of power passing into the hands of the Unions."

"The formation of local Socialist parties was another blow to its influence. Until then practically the only way to enter the Socialist movement, if one was not a Trade Unionist, was through the I.L.P."

"But with the institution of local Socialist parties a new path to membership of the Socialist movement was opened up, of which increasing advantage had been taken. Thus, in spite of the vast growth of the Social-

ist party, the I.L.P. has remained a comparatively weak body, with a membership of that number only a few years ago."

"It is, however, as the members of the I.L.P. in there is no doubt of it submitting to extinction, that the union or convergence of the Socialists and Labour."

"Since the Labour party became not merely a national federation of trade unions and Socialist societies but a political party with roots and organization in every constituency," points out the Manchester Guardian, "the place of the I.L.P. as the one Socialist society with a network of constituency branches has become almost superfluous."

"It has not been content merely to act as a missionary body—as which it might have survived—but has assumed the right to lay down a programme and to press it against the majority opinion in the national party to which nominally it owes allegiance and loyalty. The leaders of the I.L.P. have chosen to follow Mr. Maxton rather than Mr. MacDonald. The Labour movement is not tolerant of splits, and the more independent the I.L.P. becomes the more, probably, will its membership decline."

## \$315,000,000 Invested in Ontario Hydro

Toronto.—In a review of the activities of the Ontario Hydro-Electric Power Commission, C. A. McGrath, chairman, states that the cooperative municipal undertaking administered by the Commission has experienced "a most satisfactory degree of prosperity." The peak load in firm contracts in the final month of 1929 fiscal year reached 1,119,000 horsepower, an increase of 153,000 horsepower over that month in 1928. New customers served by the Commission in 1929 included four towns, 13 villages, and 33 townships, making the total of the partner municipalities 608.

Domestic consumption of 21 kilowatt hours per month in 1914 increased to 115 kilowatt hours in 1928, indicates the enhanced ability of the citizens to purchase a greater degree of comfort. During the year the tenth unit was installed in the Queenstown power house, bringing that power generating station to 500,000 horsepower, the greatest single station in the world; 240 miles of additional power transmission lines were built. On these and other construction activities the Commission invested a further \$10,000,000. The total investments of the Commission are now \$315,000,000.

During 1929 the Commission built 1,150 miles of transmission lines in rural districts to serve 6,270 customers. The total number of rural customers now exceeds 27,000. The forthcoming annual report will, it is believed, show reserves aggregating approximately \$88,000,000.

## Fairly Old Trees and Turtles Found in New Mexico 40,000,000 Years Old

New Haven, Conn.—Discovery of perhaps the largest and oldest of all petrified hardwood forests was made known here by Prof. George R. Wieland of Yale University, who performed field work in the San Juan Basin of New Mexico the last two summers. There he gathered specimens of hardwoods, petrified cycads, palm-trees, clumps of tree fern roots, the more usual pines, together with some bones of turtles and dinosaurs, all of which lived about 40,000,000 years ago, according to the professor.

In the period known as the Mesozoic division of the upper Cretaceous time, the great interior "Pierre Sea" stretched from the region of the present Gulf of Mexico to the Arctic Ocean, and the present San Juan basin constituted a great flat country of swamps and bays.

"These fossils from the 'Mesaverde' of the San Juan basin of extraordinary variety make possible one of those rare opportunities when we can bring to light a landscape of bygone times," Professor Wieland said. "The investigation of the new material is well under way."

Prof. Samuel J. Record of the school of forestry has verified the determination of several of the species of hardwoods which are of remarkable preservation as seen in thin sections under the microscope.



"Who is the best man usually at a wedding?"  
"The preacher—he gets the profits and takes no risk."