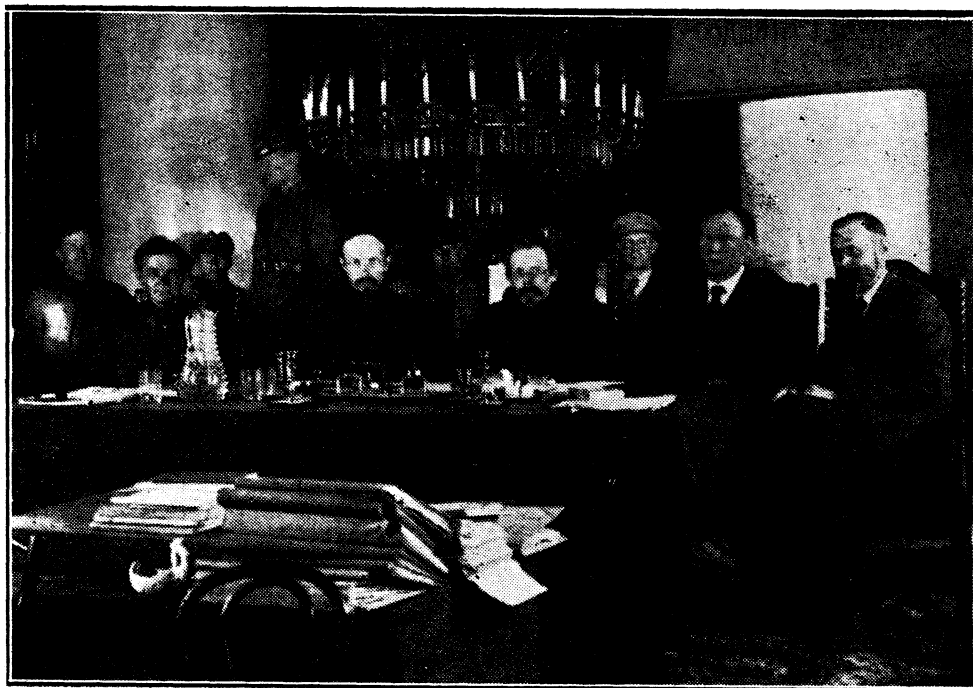


MOSCOW WORKERS' REPLY

To HENDERSON and MACDONALD By T. Bell



THE JUDGES

ON the 20th June, a remarkable demonstration took place in Moscow which, for its magnitude, enthusiasm, and spontaneity, surpassed even the monster procession of the First of May. This time the occasion was the paying of homage to the memory of Volodarsky, Uritsky, and the other victims of the Social Revolutionaries' murder tactics, for which a number of the S.R. leaders are on trial.

I am usually in a position to get first hand information on events such as these, but on this occasion I only learned a couple of days before it took place that such a thing was going to happen. It had all the semblance of that spontaneous outburst of popular feeling, upon which the security of governments so much depends. Better still, it was markedly a workers' demonstration, such as I have often experienced on the Clyde. Here were lined up in columns eight abreast, men and women straight from the factories and workshops; the men in their leathern jerkins and grimy faces just as they had left their jobs and the women in their obviously work-a-day attire.

Many of course had taken the day off and come out in regular May Day colours, but there was no mistaking the class character of the procession.

The contingents of soldiers without equipment who interspersed the demonstration only served to mark more clearly its proletarian character. One could not fail to distinguish the peasant features and origin of these sturdy youths.

From four different angles these lusty demonstrators came streaming into the Great Red Square, singing the popular songs of the Revolution, and carrying their favourite banners indicating the shop or district they belonged to.

I looked in vain for those evidences of compulsion behind the demonstration one reads about in the *Morning Post* and other scare "rags" in London. Indeed, to satisfy myself regarding the character and demeanour of the demonstrators, I traversed the entire length of one of the columns, stretching along the Tverskaya, from the entrance to the Red Square to the massive Archway at the Alexandroffsky station, a distance of two miles, marking to myself, the type of processionists and their general mood.

If one had any doubts as to the proletarian character of the power behind the

Government, these were speedily removed by the deference paid to the demonstrators by the sightseers and municipal authorities along the route.

Here the situation is completely reversed from similar events in England. I saw types of the new bourgeoisie, driving along in "Droskys" with their souls wrapped up in the cloth or other merchandise they were carrying, who were wakened up when they tried to go through the lines to turn down streets to their profiteering nests. A word from one of these workers was enough and they had to either rest there or go along to the end of the lines. The same with tramcars and vehicles of all kinds. The demonstrators, i.e., the workers, had the complete right of the way, all traffic being subordinated to it—a contrast indeed from the treatment meted out to Labour demonstrators in London, Birmingham, Manchester or Glasgow.

One could see the scowl on the faces of the timid petty huckstering shopkeepers as they stood well in their doorways, or the petty business people as they sheepishly

looked out of their new office chambers, while the singing, cheering and exultant workers triumphantly marched along to the accompaniment of their favourite bands. There was an entire absence of military display on this occasion, except for the special guard drawn up towards the approaches to the Red Square and the great hall of the "Dom Soyusa" (Trade Union House), where the trial of the S.R.'s was piecing together one of the most dramatically illuminating chapters in the history of the proletarian revolution.

As the demonstrators came streaming in from their respective angles, they surged round the tribune that stands near the centre of the wall beneath whose shade lie the heroes of the revolution. Here the workers asked Kamaneff, Radek, Bucharin, Krylienکو and Piatakoff an explanation on the process of the S.R.'s and demanded "punishment for the traitors."

After the speeches the demonstrators formed into line and defiled through the great arch of the Iberian Chapel that forms the principal entrance to the Square. Once outside the Square the demonstration passed along to the Dom Soyusa (Trade Union House) where shouts of derision were sent up for the miscreants who tried to assassinate the revolution four years ago.

Deputations were appointed, representative of each district in Moscow, who insisted in making a statement before the Tribunal denying that crimes of the S.R.'s were supported by the workers and demanding that they be rendered harmless for the future and that justice and severe punishment be meted out to them.

The declarations were made by each individual representative of his district so that there could be no mistaking the unanimity of the deputation.

Great merriment was caused by one group of workers who carried an effigy of Vanderveide in the shape of a jumping jack. The legs and arms were held by strings and as each shout went up from the crowd, the figure was made to dance, to the intense amusement of the onlookers.

As I overheard one roguish wit aptly putting it: "Vanderveide used to dance before the King, now he dances before the proletariat."



The Demonstration filing in and out of the Red Square