



BRITISH DELEGATES sent to the U.S.S.R. by their fellow workers listening to an address of welcome by a secretary of the Soviet Trade Unions at the Palace of Labour, Moscow. The building was erected in Tsarist days in honour of the Empress Marie. Another delegation leaves early in November

# Dictatorship in Russia Abolishes Class Distinctions but Deepens them in Germany

LAST month RUSSIA TO-DAY warned its readers that criticism of Fascism at the Trades Union Congress would be made the excuse for attacks on the Soviet Union, as "another form of dictatorship." This warning has been justified.

Not only were attacks made, but a document was passed by the Congress which actually accuses the Soviet Union of employing the same methods as Hitler and Mussolini. Although a number of delegates shattered these arguments, point by point, no attempt was made to meet their case, and the document was adopted by a show of hands.

The National Committee of the Friends of the Soviet Union has issued a reasoned statement on the issues raised by the document, embodying the essential facts about the U.S.S.R. This statement is available to any bona fide working-class organisation.

What is the aim of the dictatorship of the proletariat in the U.S.S.R.? it asks. "To suppress the hostile class of capitalists and landlords, and beat off their attack from outside, as the essential condition for the workers and peasants—the vast majority of the people—building up a new social order where all will be workers and no class divisions will exist."

What are the aims of Fascism? asks the statement. "To perpetuate the domination of the capitalist class, at a time when it is in deadly danger from the revolt of the workers and peasants."

The methods adopted, it points out, are in keeping with these aims. In the case of the Soviet Union:

"This aim involves a *method* which has never before been practised in the history of the world, namely, mass participation of the people in the work of government; or, as it might be put, 'effective political and economic democracy for the workers and peasants.' Control of working conditions through elected works committees, control of social insurance and factory inspectors, and of the appointment of factory managers, through the trade unions; trade union organisation of the police force (militia), and fraternisation of the workers and the Red Army; control of the State through workers' and peasants' councils

(Soviets), elected from the place of employment, with millions of members and voluntary workers who can be recalled at any moment by the electors; effective economic equality for men and women; State encouragement of the formation of self-governing co-operative ("collective") farms by the peasantry, enabling them to climb out of the constant misery and isolation caused by individualist 'one-horse' farming—these are the outstanding examples of this unprecedented *method* pursued by the Soviet Union, in strict keeping with its aim."

Whereas under Fascism the method is "to ensure the continued oppression and exploitation of the majority by the capitalist minority.

"... This is amply proved by the experience of Fascism in Italy and Germany. Trade unions and co-operative societies suppressed, their property destroyed, their funds confiscated; the workers' clubs, halls, libraries, sacked and burnt; the workers' newspapers and public meetings prohibited; wages, hours, insurance, compensation, all placed at the mercy of the employers; women denied economic and political rights, and told to confine their activities to the kitchen, the washtub and the bedroom; hundreds of thousands of active workers dismissed without unemployment benefit, and their places taken by Black Shirt or Brown Shirt hooligans and lick-spittles; scores of thousands of Socialists, Communists, trade union officials, M.P.s, councillors, murdered, tortured to insanity, maimed, exiled or flung into concentration camps—these are the outstanding examples of the *method* adopted by Fascism in Italy and Germany in pursuance of its essential aim."

One has only to look at what the hundreds of tourists who have visited the U.S.S.R. in recent years (not to speak of worker delegates) say on this subject, to realise how outrageous it is to compare that country with Fascist Italy or Nazi Germany. Here are a few typical opinions.

**Professor Searls, of Hull University College**, writes: "In spite of their tremendous difficulties, there is among the younger generation an extraordinary feeling that the whole thing is theirs." (*Northern Echo*, November 28th, 1932.)

**Mr. Alfred Holt**, at the New Earswick branch of the **League of Nations Union**: "It had been said that Russia was governed by a set of dictators somewhat ruthless in their methods. He had travelled about 7,000 miles and had seen no justification for this point of view... His outstanding impression was that of the emancipation of the women of Russia. They have economic

freedom and independence, and receive equal pay with men, all jobs being open to them." (*York Gazette*, December 2nd, 1932.)

**Mr. James Crowther, O.B.E., B.Sc., F.R.S.A.**, ex-principal of Halifax Technical College, said at the Yorkshire Branch of the **British Works Management Association**: "The proletarians now were masters of Russia, and were found in the judiciary, in industry, in the co-operatives and in the school systems, and everywhere they had been lifted to heights of authority previously undreamt of... A wonderful change had come over the peasants. The fact that every man in the State was as good as every other man had had a remarkable effect on them. From being cringing they had become aggressive." (*Halifax Daily Courier*, January 13th, 1933.)

**Dr. George H. Miles**, Director of the **National Institute of Industrial Psychology**, stated: "It was the young and active Russians who were the mainstay of the new regime... Another strong general incentive was the conviction of the workers that the particular ship, or factory, or organisation belonged to them." (*Birmingham Post*, January 29th, 1933.)

**Mrs. H. P. Bibby**, a member of a well-known capitalist family, said at the **Birkenhead Women's Citizens Association**: "The impression that criticism of the regime was forbidden was quite erroneous... I know of no other country where women are so enormously emancipated... At the time when we were cutting down our expenditure on education, the Russians were endeavouring to continue education until the age of 17." (*Birkenhead Advertiser*, February 8th, 1933.)

**Mr. Hugh Brennan**, Lecturer in Russian at **Glasgow University**, said: "The idea that they had been driven by terrorism and tyranny was not true. The proletarian worker was the important man in Russia." (*Scots Observer*, February 18th, 1933.)

At the Brighton Congress, Mr. Walter Citrine, the Secretary, said he could not conceive of the dictatorship of the proletariat in actual practice. Perhaps he would apply to some of these middle-class witnesses!