

SHARP ENCOUNTERS between Lenine, Trotzky, Zinovieff, Dzerskinsky, and other Bolshevik leaders took place when Trotzky tried to take Warsaw in 1920, and the majority of the committee antagonized his policy, we learn from a letter written by a Bolshevik adherent in Russia, who is "presumably high up in the Soviet hierarchy and a partisan of Trotzky." The London *Daily Telegraph* publishes the letter, in which it is noted that the anti-Bolshevik press outside Russia has rarely been able to mention differences of opinion between

the Bolshevik leaders, and so the effect of "a marvelously united front" has had due weight with the world. But now the "silence is broken," according to this informant, who tells us the "Red" leaders are "all at cross-purposes." The breaks began when first of all Zinovieff published his speech, which example Lenine followed, and improved, by printing his own speech without the knowledge of his colleagues, and we read:

"The trouble started with the question of the trade-unions. According to the pure Communist theory the latter had to disappear. The question may appear insignificant to you, but it really stirred up the whole ant-heap. Poor Trotzky was positively crushed in the verbal fight which took place in the Kremlin. Wrangel having been conquered, Trotzky seemed too powerful to his colleagues. So they reduced him to silence and then made him resign from the committee. Disgusted, he quitted the whole game and left for Siberia. Suddenly the crisis happened—I should say a whole series of crises.

"While we all were busy with the trade-unions, the existence of the Soviet state was found to be menaced. We were without fuel. Food became horribly scarce. The stocks and reserves accumulated in the preceding years gave out. After having destroyed for such a long

period, our Government was brutally confronted with the necessity to build, and build quickly. The civil war was over and could not be used any longer to explain bankruptcy. The works had to close and workmen became unemployed. Bucharin had the courage, in the middle of February, to sound the alarm: 'It is necessary to speak loudly, to shout about the collapse of our whole régime; we have no coal, no wood, no oil. It is useless to gag free speech. The truth will out.' What Bucharin said about Lenine and Zinovieff you know. It was not complimentary. The kindest thing was that they are live men with their eyes turned to the clouds and counting rooks in the sky."

The leaders of less importance, we are told, went for each other "gaily," and Lenine's wife, Krupskaya, and Schmidt, the two prominent figures in the Commissariat of Education, had "a disgraceful tussle which they made public altho Lenine disapproved." Thus disappeared the remarkable unity of purpose which has made the success of the party possible, and the writer continues:

"The risings in the north brought back sanity for a time. Trotzky was recalled. But how unwillingly! The same Krupskaya wrote: 'Trotzky is a disgusting individual, but a fighter. Perhaps with his help it will be possible to reconstitute a solid front.' You understand that in this manner it will be impossible to achieve an *entente cordiale*. Do you remember Andersen's fairy tale about the king who was naked? He had no clothes all the time, but nobody knew it until a child suddenly exclaimed: 'He is naked!' Now our leaders have themselves told the world that they are naked.

"There is no bread, no sleepers, no roads, no locomotives. Our stocks of food are so small that there is even nothing to steal. I am consoled by the thought that, whatever the issue will be here in Russia, the work of the Third Internationale will continue. There are men and funds sufficient for that.

"Thank you for congratulating me on the fall of Tiflis. But a victory in Georgia is not compensation sufficient for the calamitous situation within the party."

The Literary Digest for May 14, 1921

p . 21