Will Soviet Rule Last?

By Capt. J. De V. Loder

Capt. Loder, who sat for East Leicester 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 me 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 Bolshevist tyranny?" I believe that this is equally unlikely. A repetition of 1917 seems to me almost inconceivable, except as a result of widespread famine or unsuccessful war. A revolt of peasants, industrial disorders, 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 wil 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 at 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 uninitiated 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 consideration 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 o fthe 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 Communistic 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, deplores the activities of Communist propagandists abroad and that the Trade Commissariat may think it would get 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, Kameneff, 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 Bolshevists, who were single-minded and had a wide experience of the world, and the advent of careerists and pesants. 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-checkered 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 disported 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 Ware, champion of show at Cruft's, will be entered in city and suburban canine show 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 seaboards. 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

Walkerton, 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 ate,
Make the young man's tailor
Wait and wait and wait.

Miss Lloyd George Delights Commons In Maiden Speech

London.—Miss Megan Lloyd George delighted the House of Commons recently with her maiden speech in Parliament, which was delivered before a crowded gathering. Ramsay MacDonald, Prime Minister, whose son Malcolm also made a successful debut as parliamentary speaker in the same debate, was in his seat as leader of the House. Miss Lloyd George occupied a prominent place on the Liberal benches.

Below her sat David Lloyd George, with paternal anxiety written large upon his face, to be succeeded by a confident smile as his daughter got hold of her audience. On her left was her brother, Maj. Gwilym Lloyd George, member of Parliament for Pembroke. In the ladies' gallery above were her mother, Dame Margaret Lloyd George, and her sister, Lady Carey Svann.

Miss Lloyd George spoke confidently and clearly, with modesty and simplicity. Her topic was the slum clearance bill introduced by Labor, which the Liberals support. She told of her own experiences in her constituency of Angelsey, where are hovels where "you needn't look through the window to see the stars or go outside to get wet." She welcomed the bill as a "bold and enterprising measure" and congratulated the Government upon launching a crusade against the slums. "And I hope," she added, "that it will achieve its goal more speedily than another crusade is likely to do"—a sally at the Conservatives and their empire tariff crusade which the Liberals disapprove, which put everybody, including her father, at their ease for the rest of the speech, which was punctuated with laughter as well as applause.

Malcolm MacDonald's debut was also successful upon a graver note. He also supported the slum clearance bill and the Prime Minister's eye softened as the speaker developed his theme with facility in an Oxford voice contrasting with the MacDonald bur that so often thrilled the House of Commons. The bill, he was, was the key that would open better houses for those who needed them the most.

He: "They can say what they want, I'm a self-made man."

She: "For heaven's sake, George, do you mean to say you have the job finished?"

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 Cross Swords With its Old Colleague."

"In view of what is going on, it was impossible for me to keep up my association. The I.L.P. has lost both its grip on Socialism and its sense of the meaning of 'comrade.' If the salt has lost its savour, it is henceforth good for nothing."—Mr. Ramsay MacDonald.

Mr. Ramsay MacDonald has discontinued his membership of the Independent Labour Party. He has written to the Hampstead branch stating that he will not continue his subscriptions. This ends a relationship with the I.L.P. which began in 1894. There are those who think that the future of the I.L.P. is involved.

"The I.L.P. is definitely challenging the Front Bench leadership in the House of Commons," comments the Times. "A second question cannot be ignored. If the I.L.P. has such objectionable characteristics that it is impossible for the Parliamentary leader of the greater Labour Party to continue any longer his association with it, is the I.L.P. a fit and proper organization to belong to the Labour Party Mr. MacDonald's accusation is scathing—salt without savour; good for nothing; uncomradely; and without a grip on Socialism. The logical consequence of Mr. MacDonald's resignation is the exclusion of the I.L.P. from the secession of all whose loyalty to the Labour Party comes first. The issue between comprehensiveness and schism may cause heartburning, but it cannot be evaded."

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 to-morrow. 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 Socialist party, the I.L.P. has remained a numerically weak body, with a membership that numbers only a few thousands.

"Small, however, as the membership of the I.L.P. is, there is no likelihood of it submitting to extinction to suit the wishes or convenience of the official Socialist leaders."

"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. Magrath, chairman, states that the co-operative 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 constructural 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 consumers now exceeds 37,000. 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, palmettos, 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 Mesoverde 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 region constituted a great flat country of swamps and boyous.

"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 profit and takes no risk."