

# Soviet Threatens to make Radio a Menace to Civilization

**O**NE hears so much of the educational worth inherent in radio broadcasting and of the entertainment and culture it brings to its far flung audiences that the thought of possible evil may not be apparent. In excepted cases it may be an agent for spreading insidious propaganda, and it has fallen to the lot of the Soviet Russia to be an exception. Through its station at Khabarovsk, the Soviet is spreading day and night the slow poison of Communism, the effects of which are so terribly patent in Russia at the present time.



HERE are few who will not recollect that the dramatic collapse of Imperial Russia in 1916 was due to causes both internal and external and that the disruption which followed in their wake brought a welter of ghastly incidents scarcely without parallel in the history of the world. The Russian Republic owes its existence to the powerful dictatorship of Lenin, who introduced the cardinal theory of Communism that in return for service to the state, every individual would receive equal rations of food, clothes, education and amusement. This was the ideal, but after a short trial failed to function as an economic possibility. "We have suffered a severe defeat on the economic form," said Lenin. "Our only safety lies in a rapid retreat from repaired positions." He then introduced new economic laws which abolished the ration system, re-established the use of money, permitted private trading which had been the unpardonable crime, and even invited the introduction of foreign capital, but he had introduced a regime which could work itself out only by squalor and misery. Government officials, rich merchants, and factory owners, were shovelling snow upon the streets, or dragging loads of wood on sledges over slippery roads. This disorder was rapidly followed by one of the greatest famines in history, and a well-known journalist writing at the time described a scene outside Petrograd in the following strains: "In bare, white-washed rooms there was no heat for lack of fuel, and men, women and children lay about in heaps huddled in their sheepskins for human warmth, tormented by vermin, fear-stricken, weak. Too weak to stand, some of them could not take their place in line for daily ration of potato soup. A doctor took us round. He pointed to those with typhus, and said, "There is no hope for them; they will be dead to-morrow or next day." There was no freedom of speech or opinion. There was no equality, even of misery, and this, surely, is a first test of a communistic state." He went on to describe how in some portions of the capital city, he was able to see the inner life of the communistic satellites, who, although millions were starving to death around them, were living in luxury.

**N**OT satisfied with ushering in a decade that has filled the whole of the world with horror, the Soviet endeavoured to entice the proletariat of the world to do likewise, but fortunately their terrible example has not been taken. An Anti-God Campaign is the latest Soviet move, and at the present time a British newspaper correspondent is stationed in the Republic to get a true picture of that country to-day. From his observation he finds Sunday in Russia as a day of contradictions, contrasts and perplexities. A God-

fearing element still attends the Cathedral or Church. For others, Sunday has become a working day, factories and shops run normally, and the usual week-night entertainment is staged; the State Museum has an anti-religious aspect, and evidences of the evolution of the human race are set out plainly. The young are invited and encouraged to attend.

This movement is arousing concern among other nations of the world, but steps cannot be taken until the reports are corroborated, since it is a difficult situation, and will require tactful handling.

The reports of the English correspondent would seem to find ample confirmation in a translation of the broadcasts from the Russian station at Khabarovsk, Russia. On two recent nights, Mr R. Leslie Jones, a Wellington listener, together with Col. A. Shebalin, of Samarkand, Turkestan, ex-cavalry officer with the regular army, and now resident in New Zealand, listened-in to this station. Interpretations show that the Soviet is using radio as the instrument for keeping the Communist element of the world in touch with the big meetings in Russia, where the voice of Dictator Stalin is sent out not only to the unfortunate people of Russia, but to his followers the world over.

Stalin is an able successor to Lenin. He appears determined to carry out the same fiendish ideals, and prosecute the anti-God campaign to the memory of the late Lenin. Stalin is only guarded by highly trained men, and his immediate associates dare not offer any criticism of their leader, or leave anything to chance for fear of being instantly done to death. The population of Russia is approximately 180,000,000, while the Red Army comprises 1,000,000 well trained men. This line of defence is supplemented by the G.P.U., a force of 130,000 special police army of highly trained men sufficiently equipped, who are in reality equal to the million Red Army.

As might be expected there is a great deal of bribery throughout Russia, especially amongst the boundary officials. It is believed that even if movement to end the Soviet regime were commenced in earnest, the question of finance would prove a source of trouble, and, furthermore, the risk of being shot acts as a deterrent.

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A microphone which conveyed to the world a message of hope and goodwill. It was used by the King when he opened the Naval Conference in London some six weeks ago. The metalwork is solid gold.