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INTERNATIONAL ENTENTE AGAINST THE THIRD INTERNATIONAL

22 Cerraterie - Geneva

THE LIFE OF THE WORKERS IN SOVIET RUSSIA

- I -

The present crisis, and especially the unemployment, greatly facilitate bolshevist propaganda. This propaganda would do no harm if the classes affected had been properly informed concerning the real situation in Soviet Russia. They would then have had no difficulty in realising that their own situation, although extremely difficult today, is much better than that of Soviet citizens.

What appears so tempting in the USSR, and especially for certain persons unbalanced by the crisis, is:

1. The so-called advantages of Soviet directed economy;
- 2.- The absence, no less illusory, of unemployment, due to the introduction of the Five Year Plan.

Let us first consider what is the value of these two main arguments of pro-Soviet propaganda.

Of the Five Year Plan, which we hear so much about, we may say:

- 1) that when it was applied, expectations were only partially realised,
- 2) that in the most important fields the result has been precisely the opposite of the intentions of the Plan. This happened in the first place in regard to agriculture. The Plan provided for the socialisation of 18% of the land within five years, but official Soviet sources announce today that this socialisation has already reached 60%. Now, it was precisely the possessors of privately-farmed land who were to assure in the first place the financing of the Five