

THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF COMRADE PIATNITSKY'S BIRTHDAY

THE whole conscious life of our comrade-in-arms, Piatnitsky, is spent in proletarian revolutionary action, the glorious life of a Bolshevik.

Towards the end of last century, when in the biggest centres of the country the revolutionary proletarian mass movement of Tsarist Russia entered upon the first stage of its development, a young apprentice joined one of the small illegal social democratic workers' circles in the provinces. He was given the first number of the Leninist "Iskra." No sooner had he received it, than he became one of its distributing organisers. He went through his first years of training in the Leninist school, and while still a young worker became a professional revolutionary. His training meant not only the reading of periodicals and books; it included persecutions, arrests, imprisonment, heroic escapes, emigration, exile.

Piatnitsky, the professional revolutionary, received his training in the course of self-sacrificing, tireless, stubborn, everyday work to embody Bolshevik ideas in revolutionary organisation and revolutionary action; to create and strengthen illegal contacts between the political centres of the Bolsheviks abroad, where Leninist ideas were forged, and the illegal party committees scattered throughout the land, which supplied the Leninist centre with living material from the experiences of their mass work, and which, in the fight against the narrow conditions of work inside the scattered circles ("Kruzhkovschina"), and on behalf of the revolutionary workers' party, prepared for the triumph of Bolshevism. His work was to organise party nuclei in factories and workshops, to use both legal and semi-legal methods of work, to organise strikes, mass demonstrations . . . to carry on his exemplary work of preparing the masses for the armed uprising. And all this was done in the struggle against opportunism on the right and the "left."

There exists no kind of important revolutionary work which has not been carried on by Comrade Piatnitsky, always faithfully following the teachings of Lenin. In the difficult years when the workers' organisations were being organised into a strong, centralised party, when the Party treasury was almost empty, in the years when the Leninist "Iskra" was fighting against the economists, and in the years following the Party Congress of 1903, the first years of struggle between Mensheviks and Bolsheviks, Piatnitsky was the skilful organiser of the transport of illegal party literature and illegal party workers across the vigilantly guarded borders of Tsarist Russia. During the 1905 revolution, the dress rehearsal of

October, Piatnitsky was a committeeman, one of the leaders of the Party Committee, organiser of revolutionary mass organisations and mass revolutionary fighting in Odessa. In the days when the mass movement was on the ebb, during the years of darkest reaction, Piatnitsky was again the organiser of the illegal apparatus of the Bolshevik centre abroad.

During the period of struggle against the liquidators, he helped to organise the Prague Conference in 1912. Soon afterwards he was again in Tsarist Russia as an agent of the Leninist Central Committee, the organiser of illegal work on the Volga, until he was arrested and exiled to Siberia. After the February Revolution, freed from exile, he became the railwaymen's organiser, one of the leaders of the armed uprising in Moscow, and later secretary of the Moscow party organisation. Of late years, Comrade Piatnitsky has been a member of the supreme party organs of the C.P.S.U.—the Central Control Commission and later, the Central Committee; he is also the leader of organisational work in the E.C.C.I., a member of the Executive Committee of the Communist International, and one of the secretaries of the E.C.C.I.

All this merely marks the most important stages in the life of this strong, tireless, tested Bolshevik, who has never wavered even in times of greatest doubt, and has always actively fought and is still fighting on behalf of true Leninist teachings, defending its every position, and evincing masterly skill in the art of putting Leninist theory into practice.

It is no easy task to characterise the activities of Comrade Piatnitsky in the Communist International. Not a hundredth part of what he has done and is doing to lead the work in the world party of Communism is ever heard of. His training as a professional revolutionary, under the leadership of Lenin, reveals itself in every detail of his work—the work of a professional revolutionary who, suppressing even the appearance of all that is personal, is always ready with extreme modesty to serve comrades and organisations, whom, with enormous caution, and taking into consideration all the attending circumstances, he leads and welds together with a firm, sure hand.

Within the limits of his general political leadership of the Communist International, Comrade Piatnitsky strives to pass on and to use the historic experiences of the party and mass work of the Bolsheviks in the sphere of organising the work of the leading organs of the C.I., with the ardour of a Bolshevik—builder of parties and organiser of masses.

In stubborn fights over many years against the remains of social-democratic traditions, both political and organisational, against spontaneity inside the party and the consequent under-estimation of the rôle of the party as the leader and organiser of the masses, Comrade Piatnitsky fights for the triumph of Leninist organisational principles and methods in each separate section of the Communist International, and primarily for the reconstruction of the Communist parties on the basis of factory nuclei. He does this with unyielding perseverance and iron consistency. This required not only direct experience of many years of party work in the ranks of Lenin's party, but detailed knowledge of the peculiarities of each Communist Party, its cadres, its membership, conditions of work and the struggle inside the factories, detailed knowledge of the policy, the methods of organisation, and the work of the enemies of the proletarian revolution, and first and foremost of social-democracy and the reformist trade unions. During the last few years, Comrade Piatnitsky's permanent and direct work has been concerned with revolutionary trade union work as the most important section of mass work in the Communist parties.

The sharp criticism which is aimed by Comrade Piatnitsky, irrespective of persons, against all who are fighting with insufficient determination for the reconstruction of the Communist parties on the basis of factory nuclei, and on behalf of revolutionary mass work, against all who justify their weaknesses by pointing to the difficulties and obstacles in their way, is always based upon an all-round understanding of the situation, upon a complete verification of all available facts, upon a Bolshevik estimate of the connection between policy and organisations, and upon a careful survey of the peculiarities of each section of the struggle. The leading idea of all the activities of Comrade Piatnitsky, which manifests itself in an extremely concrete form, is to make the sections of the Communist International truly capable of pursuing a Bolshevik policy, capable of bringing about the collapse of social-democracy, winning over the majority of the working class, and organising and leading decisive struggle for power; to make them capable of gaining the victory in the revolution.

In order to achieve this complicated task of bolshevising the world party of Communism, it was essential that the leading organs and apparatus of the Communist International should become organs of differentiated and operative, organisational and political leadership instead of organs operating primarily along the line of propaganda and agitation. Comrade Piatnitsky's revolutionary understanding of actualities is as much the result of many years in the Leninist school, which

so correctly evaluates events, fits them into their political background, and presents the question in its true concrete form, as the result of his extremely wealthy knowledge of the whole international work class movement. This understanding of realities remains the most important condition for the correct leadership of a complicated sphere of work and struggle like the international revolutionary movement—the proletarian, peasant, national and colonial liberation movement.

This Bolshevik realism, combined with true Bolshevik principles and ardent, stubborn, revolutionary endeavour to make the sections of the Communist International capable of dealing with their historic tasks, is clearly manifested in Comrade Piatnitsky, in the form of hatred towards all kinds of Right opportunist canting as regards Party decisions, towards all forms of passivity, masked behind "left" phrases. For this reason Comrade Piatnitsky is a jealous fighter against all divergences between word and deed, a fighter on behalf of the revolutionary fulfilment in practice of all decisions made. For this reason his speeches and written works are always noted for the concrete explicitness with which the problem is tackled, and for the crushing force with which he always finds and reveals the true essence of the matter.

Comrade Piatnitsky is a granite-hard Bolshevik, an exemplary leader of the International Communist Movement.

(Signed) PIECK

MANUILSKY

VAN-MIN (C.P., China)

KUUSINEN

THORES (C.P., France)

SCHVABOVA (C.P., Czecho-Slovakia)

KNORIN

LOZOVSKY

BROWDER (C.P., U.S.A.)

BELA KUN

HOPNER

SLAVINSKY (C.P., Poland)

KATAYAMA

GUSEV

HATHAWAY (C.P., U.S.A.)

KOLAROV

OKANO (C.P., Japan)

MITSKEVICH

MANNER (C.P., Finland)

CHEMODANOV (E.C.C.Y.I.)

VARGA

ANGERITIS (C.P., Lithuania)

CODOVILLA

TSHAKAYA

TRILLIA (C.P., Spain)

ISKROV (C.P., Bulgaria)

MADJI (C.P., Italy)

HANSEN (C.P., Norway).