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Articles and a Report, Published in the Newspaper *Ural'skii rabochii* in August–December 1918

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No. 27

‘Tedious Work’¹

13 August 1918

At a time when Soviet armies are straining every effort in order to return its capital to the Urals proletariat, when many of the workers and peasants who claim allegiance to the Party of Left S-Rs are simply and unpretentiously spilling their blood at the front in the struggle against the Czechoslovaks² and White Guards, the Perm ‘litterateurs’ of that party, with a boyish zeal typical of political infants, are attacking the Communist Party with the kind of desperation that hitherto was seen only in the White-Guard press.

The leading article for 9 August in the Left S-R newspaper *Krest'yanin i rabochii*, published by the Motovilikha organisation of that party, can serve as a model of that sort of literature. In this article, where lies are blended with stupidity in one colourful pattern,

1. [From *Ural'skii rabochii*, 13 August 1918.]
2. [The Czechoslovak Legion was formed in Russia from prisoners taken from the Austro-Hungarian army – Czechs and Slovaks – during the First World-War to take part in the war against Germany. The uprising spread across the Volga region, the Urals and Siberia during May-August 1918. Ekaterinburg was taken on 25 July.]
every White Guard and Right-S-R will find for himself many fond ideas and arguments against Communists that he first made up as long ago as when the Kerensky ministry was baiting the Bolsheviks. It is tedious and difficult to respond to such articles, but it is necessary to do so at least for the sake of those Left S-R workers and peasants who are honestly fulfilling their duty by defending Soviet power with weapons in hand. The Motovilikha litterateurs of the Left S-Rs are evidently unable to understand that, by defending the position of the Central Committee of their Party, they are undermining the political meaning of the struggle by their own comrades at the front. Their comrades, who are also our comrades, are saying just one thing with their struggle: the Czechoslovak uprising is an attempt to draw Russia into imperialist war under the command of the Dutovs and must be crushed. Yet with their Moscow adventure, the Central Committee of the Left S-Rs were politically seeking the same thing as the Right S-Rs; namely, war with Germany, the kind of war that, occurring simultaneously with the current war against the Allies, implies smothering Soviet power from two directions. This is just the thing that the Savinkovs and Alekseevs want, and it is what the supporters of the Left S-R Central Committee are in fact striving for. But the Left S-Rs who are fighting at the Czechoslovak front are opposing this through their deeds. The Motovilikha litterateurs of their Party are striving to nullify this truly revolutionary struggle with their penmanship. Nevertheless, the benefits of this struggle will not be wasted for the worldwide revolution, just as the exercises of the Motovilikha litterateurs are not wasted for the counter-revolution.

Let us understand, however, the stupidity and lies of the aforementioned article. We will begin with the lies. The author of the article assures his readers that the Soviet authority is accepting ‘the restoration of foreign debts and thereby the obligation of paying redemptions abroad, for landlord holdings, of up to thirty billion roubles, imposing the kind of yoke upon the toiling village that could not be imposed even by the Tsar “liberator” Alexander II, who delivered the peasants from captivity into economic slavery, a new kind of captivity . . .’

The naïve lie of this assertion is clear to everyone who knows that of the entire sum of our foreign debts, Germany's portion accounts for less than one-tenth, and no Bolshevik has ever offered to pay the repudiated debts to the Allies. All talk of the thirty billion amounts to silly inventions intended for the uninformed reader who also does not know that the Left S-Rs in their time firmly resisted when the Bolsheviks passed laws for repudiation of the debts and nationalisation of the banks.

Let us look further. The Motovilikha litterateur declares that ‘The government of Russia delivered up to Germany, for execution, the partisans who rebelled in the Ukraine.

Just who was delivered up, and when? If you do not give specifics, it means this, too, is a lie.