
Dr. M. Goldfarb Will Return to Work in Russia:

Revolution Has Opened Way for Him to Continue Work for the Bund, Halted in 1913 by the Romanov Autocracy — He is Member of ACW of A.

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Dr. Max Goldfarb, who came to America in the summer of 1913 to lecture for the Jewish Socialist Federation, soon will return to his native land of Russia to conduct agitation for the Jewish Bund and endeavor to help in the great task of organizing the workers of the new republic. Dr. Goldfarb is going back to Russia with a group of 20 or 30 political refugees, who have been invited to return at the expense of the Provisional Government. More than 1,000 refugees will return in response to this invitation, according to Dr. Goldfarb.

Dr. Goldfarb said he was optimistic about the future of the Russian republic.

“The press here exaggerates the internal strife in the Russian government,” he said. “I am very hopeful about the results of the revolution. I don’t believe the time is ripe for the accomplishment of Socialist ideals in Russia. Still, in my judgment, he have the right to expect more social reforms in Russia than in any other country. The Russian revolution has the experience of the time which has passed since the French revolution in 1789.

Seek Universal Peace.

“I would like to emphasize the fact that all the rumors here about tendencies toward a separate peace must be considered slander. I understand the Russian labor movement is strong for peace, not a separate peace with Germany, but universal peace.

“The men of this country who are trying by telegrams and commissions to influence the Russian gov-

ernment do not understand the forcefulness of the Russian movement. I am so emphatic on the question of separate peace because I am sure a separate peace will endanger Russia herself. Russia would be compelled to be a strong militarist country, always ready for another war. Humanity is entitled to a lasting peace after this terrible war.”

Dr. Goldfarb entered the Bundist movement in 1902 in the town of Berdichev, where the small circle of Bundists conducted propagand work for the Bund in Lodz in Poland, and Odessa. At the end of 1903 he went to Paris to study. He was connected with revolutionary groups in Paris but spent most of his time in the library and school of political science of La Sorbonne.

Organized Paris Tailors.

While in Paris Dr. Goldfarb was instrumental in organizing the first Jewish tailors’ local union in the capital of France. He represented this local in the bourse de Travailleurs, the central union of organized workers. While extending the work of this tailors’ union in Paris there came Bloody Sunday, Jan. 9, 1905 (Russian calendar). Dr. Goldfarb immediately left Paris for Russia and worked for the Bund in Dvinsk and Bialistock, two very important towns in the Bundist movement at that time.

After the manifesto of October 3, 1905, granting some degree of liberty to the people of Russian and creating the Duma, Dr. Goldfarb travelled to many parts of Russia, addressing big meetings of Jewish and

Russian workers and students who were active in the revolutionary movement at that time.

Dr. Goldfarb belonged to a group which thought it useless to participate in the first Russian Duma and he took an active part in the Boycott Movement. During the first Duma and in the interval between the first and second Dumas he participated in the Unity Campaign to get the Bund back into the Socialist Party. The Bund had been out of the Socialist Party [RSDLP] since 1903, and in 1906 there was much discussion of the possibility of unity.

Three Months in Prison.

When the first Duma was disbanded and new elections ordered, Dr. Goldfarb was assigned to work in the district of Kiev. At the first conference to plan the campaign, Dr. Goldfarb was arrested with the others at the meeting on Dec. 17, 1906. He was kept in a police station for 3 months because there was no room in the prison. On his release he was elected a delegate to the Socialist Party convention in London in 1907 [5th Congress RSDLP: May 13-June 1, 1907 n.s.].

After the convention the second Duma was disbanded and the constitution abolished. Stolypin made his coup d'état June 3, 1907. Elections on a worse election system than ever before were ordered and Dr. Goldfarb was assigned by the Bund to the district of Grodno. Under the election system, dominated by the reactionaries, it was impossible for the Socialists to elect anyone from this district.

When the elections were over the party of reaction felt it had full power. The Duma was nearly black. Stolypin had the majority in his service. It became very hard to work in Russia, so Dr. Goldfarb went to Brussels, Belgium, to continue his studies. He entered the economic science faculty of the new University of Brussels and received his title of Doctor. During his 3 years of study he visited Russia several times, addressing a number of meetings and made a few lecture tours for the immigrant colonies in the different European countries.

Lectured for the Bund.

After 1910 Dr. Goldfarb tried to do some work in the open in Russia in the form of lectures. It was necessary to be very diplomatic in these lectures to avoid the hostile government. It was impossible to conduct systematic propaganda work for the Bund, but as much was done as could be under the circumstances.

After the third Duma's term had expired, and elections were ordered for the fourth Duma, Dr. Goldfarb was assigned to be a candidate for Duma Deputy from Odessa at a conference of the Bund in Vienna. The complicated election system gave the hostile administration power to strike Dr. Goldfarb to get on the list as it pleased, so it was impossible for Dr. Goldfarb to get on the list as a candidate. A Russian comrade was put on the list to represent the Socialist Party in his place and a strong fight made for his election. The candidate of the Black Hundred was elected despite the strong fight.

Police arrested all who were active in the Socialist Party [RSDLP] campaign after the election. Dr. Goldfarb was imprisoned with all of his comrades from the end of 1912 to April 1913, when he was released on condition that he live in small and unimportant towns of Russia.

At the end of the summer of 1913 he received an invitation from the Jewish Socialist Federation in the United States to come for a lecture tour. He gratefully accepted the invitation, and came here intending to remain for a short time. Then the war broke out and he continued to remain in this country, unable to make plans for his return until the revolution.

Dr. Goldfarb is a member of Local 156 of the Amalgamated Clothing Workers of America of New York. He has always rendered very valuable assistance to our organization.

Edited by Tim Davenport.

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