

## The New Altruism

REPORTS by impartial visitors to Russia continue the enlightening process of showing the true character of the small group of despots who are in control of that great nation. For a time the peoples of Western Europe and America were convinced that the leaders of the Soviet Government were a band of unscrupulous fanatics who were using their power for selfish aims, without regard for such abstractions as liberty, truth or justice. Judged by all standards of what the experience of the ages has agreed upon as civilization, the actions of the Bolshevik authorities were those of men in a delirium of rage against anything that savored of reason, order and freedom. The outward manifestation of society as re-created by Lenin and Trotsky was evidently that of materialistic power actuated by the spirit of hate.

It now appears that the world outside of Russia has been mistaken all along. The motives actuating the Soviet leaders were not, as it seemed, selfish and tyrannical, but wholly inspired by the newer altruism that has been evolved out of the conflict between communist theories and established facts. The old altruism taught that the higher happiness was to be attained through giving up opportunities for selfish pleasures in order to be of service to others. Messrs. Lenin and Trotsky have gone one step further. If, they seem to have argued, unselfishness is the way to nobility of character, those who sacrifice the highest rewards, achieved through self-denial, must be greater than even the altruists. Whereupon they decided that they would refuse to find pleasure or exaltation in unselfish devotion to the welfare of others, and have gone on strengthening their military hold upon the Russian people, to the end that the latter may be forced to obey the orders of the men who, through control of the army, are temporarily their masters.

To the uninitiated the position of the Soviet rulers may not appear one whit different from all the other tyrannies and despotisms which have afflicted mankind. The lives, liberties and property of more than 150,000,000 people are controlled by a military oligarchy. This is due, as can be explained by any western apologist for Bolshevism, to the desire of the Soviets to encourage the growth of the higher altruism, that may seem to be plain ordinary selfishness, but is transformed by the logic which disregards facts into a justification of the most glaring violations of human rights that have ever been known in any country pretending to be civilized.