

THE RED GUARDS RECAPTURE KEY POSITIONS

On the morning of October 29 the revolutionary troops stormed the post and telegraph office and recaptured it. The Red Guards ascertained that the Employees' Committee had been withholding the telegrams of the Soviet Government. The cities in which the revolution had been victorious had been switched off the telegraph network. The guard at the telegraph office placed part of the members of the Employees' Committee under arrest and notified the Revolutionary Military Committee, which sent over a special commissar.

In Lefortovo, after the workers of the Moscow Armories had set up range-finders, the cannon fire became more accurate. Shell after shell hit the Alexeyev Military School. The majority of the Cadets and the School's employees surrendered, but the Junkers and upper class Cadets continued to hold out.

In Khamovniki, on October 29, small parties of three to five Red Guards made their way through houses and courtyards into the enemy's rear. They hurled grenades at the Junkers and opened sudden fire. Soldiers of the 193rd Regiment mounted bomb-throwers on Prechistenka and Ostozhenka. One bomb-thrower was set up in a trench. The trenches of the Whites were only 200 paces away. A raking fire swept the ground between the two lines of trenches so that it was impossible to raise one's head above them.

In the Zamoskvorechye District the fighting had already ceased by this time. The Cossacks who had attempted to penetrate into the center at Ryabtsev's orders had been met in Kotly by representatives of the 55th Regiment and of the Mikhelson and other factories. After a short meeting the Cos-

sacks surrendered their arms despite protests of their officers. The Zamoskvorechye District then sent out its armed detachments to fight together with those of the Khamovniki District. The Zamoskvorechye men occupied sectors just opposite the headquarters of the military area and opposite the Alexandrovsky Military School. Supported by their artillery, Zamoskvorechye detachments engaged in battle at the Nikitsky Gates. Besides this, one of the most important tasks of the Zamoskvorechye District was to see to it that the power house functioned without interruption, a task that was successfully carried out.

The operations of the armed forces of the Revolutionary Military Committee were progressing successfully.

The Junkers and officers were forced to surrender such an important position in the center of the city as the Town Hall.

At 9 o'clock on the evening of October 29 Moscow Area Headquarters reported to General Headquarters:

"... the enemy's forces are growing and the enemy is becoming bolder with every hour that passes. We are completely cut off from the suburbs. . . . Today the Bolsheviks have taken all the railway stations and the Town Hall in the center of the city; we were also compelled to abandon the post and telegraph office, as our forces, which had already successfully repulsed repeated attacks, were exhausted. The men had to be transferred to the telephone exchange.

"The Alexeyev Military School, in which a company of Junkers yet remains, is defending itself valiantly, although the heavy artillery of the Bolsheviks had destroyed the upper portion of the building and caused fires. . . . Assistance is absolutely imperative, since, failing support, our position is far from brilliant."

The further success of the Reds seemed fully assured.