

BOLSHEVISM AT WORK

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Bolshevism at Work by Wm. T. Goode

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WM. T. GOODE

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BY

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Men's Training Department, Owens College,
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respondent of "The Manchester Guardian"
in Finland in 1918, and in Finland, the
Baltic Provinces & Russia in 1919*

" . . . nothing extenuate,
Or aught set down in malice."

UNIV. OF
CALIFORNIA



NEW YORK
HARCOURT, BRACE AND HOWE
1920

FOREWORD

Most of the following pages were prepared, along with much other material, in Moscow, in July and August of the past year. The interview with Lenin, and the sections on Education, Justice, and Transport, are printed substantially as they appeared in the *Manchester Guardian*, by the courtesy of whose Editor they reappear.

In the changing conditions through which Russia is passing any such studies must necessarily be imperfect, and I do not claim for these anything more than that they are as perfect as the time at my disposal and the conditions would allow.

Their incompleteness is further increased by the continued embargo laid by the authorities on my papers and memoranda. But a happy chance has brought copies of some of them into my possession, and I hasten to give them to the public in the hope that they may prove useful in clarifying opinion on a subject which has been shrouded, up to the present, in mystification.

WILLIAM T. GOODE.

LONDON,
January 1920.



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BOLSHEVISM AT WORK

I

INTRODUCTORY

IN thinking over the problem of Russia it had been borne in on me that a Government which could last for nearly two years against the colossal difficulties which have beset, and are still besetting, it, must have some good reason for enduring. Up to the moment of my departure from Reval I had heard nothing about the Soviet Republic in which the word "destructive" did not appear, and yet it seemed to me that, whether for good or for evil, there must be a constructive side to it. To find out what was the reason of the endurance of the Bolshevistic Government and the particular form its constructiveness was assuming seemed to me therefore a completely sufficient reason for attempting to reach Moscow. For I felt sure that the thing I wished to arrive at could only be found by personal contact with the Government itself. It involved the putting away from one's mind of all preconceived notions gained from newspapers, conversation, and White Books, and studying on the spot the character and mechanism of the Government. It involved also a study of the conditions of life, of labor, of education—