The most noticeable characteristic of the modern Papal policy is the relucance of the Popes to avail themselves of the prerogative of infallibility.—(*The Church Times.*)

CORRESPONDENCE

To the Editor of BLACKFRIARS

SIR,—In his article *A Land Reform in the U.S.S.R.* your contributor suggests that whereas the Party in Russia is limited to ' less than one per cent. of the total population ' I identify the Communists with the people. I do not—in the sense that it is obvious to me that the scarceness of proletarians alone in 1917 was sufficient to insure that the Russian Revolution was not (and therefore *is* not) a strictly popular one. For all that, Russia is to be regarded as effectively Communist. And those who believe that her people are so only *in potentia* must admit on acquaintance that the Bolsheviks are making infallibly sure that Potency becomes Act. In speaking (in a number of articles) of Communist conviction in Russia, and the necessity of taking it seriously, *I have made it perfectly clear that I refer mainly to the rising generation.* A personal knowledge of the situation can alone discredit the view I take. If your contributor has this knowledge his article (based largely on the observations of Lord Passfield, a Report on the Timber Camps and an article in the *Revue des Deux Mondes*) had been more valuable for the use of it.

As for *kulaks*—your contributor draws a naive distinction between ' the small rural profiteer . . . . who oppressed their fellow villages ' and those ' who by their personal industry had risen economically above the average villager.' The type I exempted (in the *Clergy Review*, March) from modern Russian romance, superlatively self-sacrificing (a fusion of the old enemies, Marx and Bakunin) exists (I have never doubted) in a *very* small minority.

I have made no reference to the degrees of Marxism existing widely outside the official party.

J. F. T. PRINCE.

https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1741-2005.1933.tb01915.x Published online by Cambridge University Press