

MACHINE GUNNING LEON TROTSKY.

The turbulent life of Leon Trotsky nearly came to the turbulent end expected for it last week in the Mexico City suburb where he has been living under the protection of the Mexican government since his expulsion from Norway. A gang of machine gunners overpowered his guard and, according to the stories, shot up the room in which he and Mrs. Trotsky had been sleeping and nearly got them both. Trotsky's explanation of this attempt to liquidate him is that it was undertaken by the agents of Stalin. There is nothing improbable in the surmise. Such an attempt would be correct in Stalinist theory and familiar to the Moscow practice.

Just why at this time Comrade Stalin should wish to add Comrade Trotsky to the long list of old bolos murdered or executed also can be explained. Recently Trotsky caused a split in his own party, here in the United States, by his defense of the soviet union. It might seem odd that Trotsky, who was one of the victims, should be one of the defenders, but he stood up for the occupation of Poland and the attacks on Finland by saying that in both territories the workers' republic made an advance.

Altho it was a degenerate workers' state under a burocratic tyrant who was doing his best to destroy it, nevertheless certain principles and practices of communism inevitably followed the Red troops. This view was too much for some of the American Trotskyites and after a prolonged discussion the party divided into factions, a common enough procedure with the Marxian theocrats. The man who said that wherever there were two Russians there were three political parties, anticipated the rise of the bolshevists.

It would be apparent that Trotsky by condemning the leader but applauding the soviet workers was betraying his thought that his career was not yet ended. Stalin may have informed some of his agents abroad that this careerist had better be disposed of before he had any chance to plan a return at the head of an anti-Stalin revolution.
