

CHAPTER IX

END OF RUSSIA'S PARTICIPATION IN ECONOMIC WAR

1. *Absorption of measures of economic war by communist legislation.*

For all countries which took part in the economic world war of 1914-1918 the results of this war were summed up by peace treaties. They show gains in the case of those countries which won the War, and losses for the losers of the War. The Treaty of Versailles (and other treaties modeled upon it) gives a whole system of rules (Part IX, Economic Provisions) which, first, put an end to all military measures and, second, fulfilled within certain limits the proposals of the Paris Conference relating to economic warfare in time of peace. The liquidation of war-time legislation took the following form: measures taken by the Allies against the rights and interests of enemy nationals were confirmed and further developed, while similar measures taken by the members of the German coalition were repealed and gave place to the obligation to compensate those against whom they were applied. The effects of economic war upon the period following the War, therefore, proved quite unilateral and manifested themselves in the deprivation of the Powers of the German group of equal rights with the Allies in the field of trade.

The close of the economic war in Russia was quite different. No systematic liquidation of war policy took place; it merely disappeared, being engulfed in the abyss of the upheaval occasioned by the Revolution.

If the first Revolution of 1917, which led to the downfall of the Monarchy and the transfer of the Government into the hands of the moderate oppositionary groups, did not produce any essential change in the conduct of economic war, the second Revolution of 1917, on the contrary, which resulted in the seizure of power by Lenin, had a direct effect upon the fate of those measures. To begin with, three days after the Bolshevik *coup d'état* (28th October 1917) there was published the memorable "peace decree" which proclaimed that the "Russian Government of Workmen and Soldiers . . . offers to all belligerent peoples and their Governments