

November 9, 1917.—One of the darkest, bluest days I have known since the wretched war began. The news in the morning papers

all bad: Italians falling back on the Piave, and hot foot for the Adige, if not already there, and Venice evacuated, or might as well be. And in Petrograd, the miserable criminal villains of the Soviet in power,¹ having overthrown the poor semblance of a government that had been kept alive by the weak, loquacious Kerensky.

¹ On November 7, 1917, the second Russian Revolution began, and succeeded as rapidly and completely as the first, placing Lenin and Trotsky in power. One immediate purpose of the Bolshevists was to desert the Allies and make a separate peace with the Central Powers.