

American Tells Of Miseries as "Red" Captive

Forestry Expert Saw the Death Warrants of 71 Signed Without Reading

Common People Victims

Peasants Pray to Wilson for Help, He Says; Armed Force the Only Remedy

WASHINGTON, Feb. 15.—Life inside a Russian prison under the Bolshevik terror, as seen by an American official who, almost without hope himself, watched men go forth daily to death, while those inside starved and could get neither trial nor permission to communicate with their friends, was described to the Overman committee today.

Few of the men who suffered were of the rich or noble classes, against whom the revolution is supposed to be directed. Peasants, priests, mechanics, soldiers—these were the victims. Only one man escaped—and he was a rich noble, who could pay the "friends of the people" for his life.

Two witnesses were heard—Roger E. Summers, of Hagerstown, Md., a forestry expert, who was gathering information for the War Trade Board, and William W. Welch, a member of the staff of the National City Bank's Petrograd branch. From them the committee heard detail after detail of the horrors—horror to every one in the room except the "Reds" present, who smiled tolerantly because, as one expressed it, "people seem to think a revolution can be nice and tidy"—heard of the vast hopelessness which has settled over Russia, of the hatred of neighbor for neighbor which is being systematically fostered by the Soviet leaders, and of the despair with which the suffering people are looking to the Allies, and especially to America, for help.

Peasants Pray to President "They even say the peasants are playing to the American President now," Mr. Summers remarked.

Both witnesses told of the threat to the rest of the world which the Bolshevik propaganda holds, of the number of Jews from America they had encountered, of the lies about Russian conditions which they had found in

America and of the fundamental soundness and goodness of the Russian people, which they believed gave assurance that with a fair start they could build a good and stable government.

Mr. Summers' story of his imprisonment, and the men who shared it, was the most vivid picture of the exact conditions under the terror which has been told. He had been left behind in Volodga when the other foreigners were driven out because he was too ill to move, and when recovered went to Kedloff, the chief of the city commission, for permission to leave. Letters ordering all soldiers and officials of the revolution to give him every assistance were given him by Brouski, Chief Commissioner of Commerce, Krylenko, Chief Commissioner of Agriculture, and the assistant commissioner who had charge of forestry. Kedloff looked at these, said he could go anywhere and was told he would be given a pass in two days.

But the next day Kedloff issued a decree calling on all soldiers to shoot on sight any Americans, Britons or Frenchmen, saying these capitalistic governments were enemies of the revolution. Summers, however, went back for his pass and was turned over to Eiduk, a Lettish Jew, who tried to tear up his passport, and had him arrested. He was confined in a car on the train Eiduk used, which was very gorgeous and was said to have been the Czar's.

Portentous Threat Returned

Four hours later Summers' secretary again reached Eiduk, but returned greatly depressed. He had been told that all American officials at Moscow had been thrown into prison (which was not true) and said "as to the cause of your arrest, all you will ever know in this world you will learn at 6:30 to-morrow morning."

In the prison to which Summers was sent was a young Russian, an Oxford graduate, who had come from England to visit his parents, and had been arrested because he was heard talking English. Three guards took him out about dusk, leaving his coat, and he did not return. Later Summers learned he had been shot.

Summers' secretary finally got to Kedloff with a letter telling of the secretary's work for the revolution, eleven years' exile, and service both to Kerensky and Bolshevik officials, and giving references to high officials at Moscow. As a result Summers was sent there for trial, but the secretary also was arrested and sent along. This secretary, Mr. Summers added, had worked for Albert Rhys Williams, an American now lecturing in America, and reported that Williams was hired by the Bolsheviks for this work.

In Moscow both Summers and his secretary were thrown into prison, where eighty-five men were confined in a cell intended for thirty. A few days

later they were taken to another prison. The food they had with them, their blankets, toilet articles, everything but the clothes they were wearing, were taken away. In the prison their daily fare was three-quarters of a pound of bread and two servings of soup made from dried fish.

Tried to Bribe Guard

Although they were in the prison about eleven days. During this time they were unable to reach any friends, and finally Summers decided to attempt to bribe the guard, a Lett, who had been in America. Eighty rubles had been smuggled in a loaf of bread to one of the sailors, the secretary had succeeded in keeping 10 rubles from the searchers and another man had 10 rubles. This 100 rubles he put in an envelope, with a letter to the Swedish Consul General, still believing the American officials were in jail.

The Lett at first refused to take the risk, stating that shortly before a guard and a man who had attempted to bribe him were both shot. But, after some argument, in which Summers protested his innocence, he came back and departed with the letter.

"Thirty-six hours elapsed, and I was one nervous man," said Summers. "Then got a card from Dr. Huntington (commercial attaché of the American Embassy) on which was written: 'Keep your nerve. We'll soon have you out.' Four hours later he came with the Swedish and American consul generals and was released.

"In the first of these prisons I got my first contact with the people the Bolsheviks are persecuting, and I was surprised. I had expected to find nobles, men with titles, capitalists and people of that calibre. But the great majority were of the middle class, mechanics, printers, peasants—many peasants—soldiers, industrial workers, small shopkeepers, and some foresters and mill men."

Cause of Arrests Unknown

"I felt this was a chance to find out what was really going on, and through all the days I was there I was in constant conversation with them. I asked each why he was there. Not one in five had been able to find out. The arrests were made without any cause being given.

"There was a lawyer named Valenkine, who had been counsel at the British

consulate. He was a true patriot. He had many chances to leave the city and would not, because he said that Russia would not be ruined. He was given one hearing. He was charged with counter-revolutionary activity, though he had done nothing against the Bolsheviks. But he refused to become an agitator for them. He was sentenced to be shot.

"He came to my cot about 2 o'clock one morning and said: 'Summers, for God's sake talk to me. Tell me about Siberia, Russia, anything to keep my mind busy. I die at 6.' So I went over and tried to cheer him up. After a while he wrote a letter, which I afterward managed to deliver to his brothers in London. Then the guard appeared in the formation we had come to know meant an execution and he was taken out. He walked to his death with a resignation which was one of the most pitiful things I have ever seen."

Prince Shot Without Trial

"There was a young prince there, and he was taken out and shot without a trial. Few of them had trials. This is not hearsay. You only read about these things and perhaps do not believe them. I was there. An Italian official tells me that he saw Peter, the chief commissar at Moscow, sign a warrant for the execution of seventy-one officers without reading their names. Peter was a nice looking young man, with a pleasant manner.

"One day while I was there they took out twenty-one—no trials. I heard that was because they had twenty-six new prisoners and wanted room.

"There was a priest. He had preached against the immorality of the Bolsheviks, though he knew it meant his death—a white-haired man of sixty. Before he was shot he told me the people of Russia were decking out the church more than ever before. He told me, too, if I could get back to America to tell them for God's sake to send help."

"What kind of help?" asked Senator Nelson.

"Release from this terrible oppression—from the kind of men who have come to the top.

Families Left Unprotected

"I could tell you any number of such stories. I simply want to give you enough so you will realize the conditions. And what became of the families of these men? They had no money, and a man was always needed to protect the family in those days.

Ground Hog's Veracity Substantiated by Geese

THERE seems to be no question about it. The ground hog was right recently when he decided he might as well return to his hole for a six weeks' nap because spring could not possibly arrive before the end of that period.

However, we people were not the only ones the mild weather fooled into hoping that spring was at hand. A flock of geese was sighted flying over New York yesterday. These geese were headed due south. They were winging a pace which indicated that a radical change in weather might be almost at their very tails.

The geese, presumably, had been deceived by the weather and had come north. Their change of plans means impending blizzards and a very late spring, amateur weather sharps predict.

heard, the terrible wail of the people wherever I went, on the trains, in the streets, in the homes, but always under the breath. There was universal condemnation.

"Why do they not organize and throw off the weight themselves? How can they? The Red Guard is all about. There are daily examples of what happens if one even whispers.

"This wall, this plea to us, cannot be disregarded. We are Russia's debtors. She had the biggest casualty list of any of the Allies. And now she is in the very throes of despair. They say the peasants are actually praying to the American President to help them."

"Would they welcome our help?" asked Senator Sterling.

"They are praying for it."

"Armed help?"

"There is no other way, for they are ruled by armed forces."

Mr. Summers began his testimony by a description of conditions as he had found them on his trip from Siberia.

Mackay Predicts Early Return of Cable Lines

Believes Public Dissatisfaction Will Force Burleson to Relinquish Wires

BOSTON, Feb. 15.—Clarence H. Mackay predicted today, at the annual meeting of the Mackay companies, that public dissatisfaction would soon compel Postmaster General Burleson to relinquish control of the telegraph and cable lines. Speaking with reference particularly to the Postal Telegraph and the Commercial Cable Company lines, Mr. Mackay said:

"We look for an early return of our lines. Under the act of Congress they are to be returned to us at or before the ratification of peace, and we do not think that is far off. Furthermore, in view of the recent increase of telephone rates by the Postmaster General, with promise of further increases to come and the threat to increase telegraph rates, there is a strong demand that the lines be immediately returned."

"The Post Office Department admits it is losing money on its awards of compensation to the companies, and that this will have to be made up by increasing rates. The public resents rate increases to make up for government mismanagement, and it is quite likely that if the Postmaster General does not exercise his authority Congress will vote for the lines' immediate return."

New Submarine Launched

BRIDGEPORT, Conn., Feb. 15.—The launching of the submarine S-2 at the Lake Torpedo Boat Company works today was witnessed by government and state officials. The S-2, which is the largest vessel of its kind built at the plant, was named by Mrs. Philip P. Brill, wife of the general manager of the Lake company.

P. S. Board Says Consolidated Gas Co. Tricked the Public

Commission, in Reply to Suit, Says Lower Candle Power Was Forwarded in 1918 Than Law Calls For

In its answer to the suit of the Consolidated Gas Company, which is attempting to have declared unconstitutional the New York City 80-cent gas law, the Public Service Commission charges that the company does not come into court with "clean hands," the answer charges, that it supplied consumers with an inferior grade of gas while being paid for a better quality.

One of the charges the commission alleges that the company deliberately, during 1918, violated the 80-cent law by distributing gas of less than twenty-two candle power as demanded by the statute. It was stated that this was done in order to extract from the gas tulo, a principal ingredient of the explosive TNT.

"As a result of said failure of compliance to comply with the statute," the answer states, "consumers received gas of lesser heating and lighting value than they were entitled to under said act, and were obliged to, and did, pay more for gas necessarily consumed by them than they would have paid had compliance complied with said act of 1906."

Tells of Increased Cost

In its suit to overthrow the 80-cent law the company contended that the cost of manufacture had so increased as to almost nullify its profits. To further this contention it intended to charge to its operating expenses during 1918 the cost of manufacturing twenty-two-candlepower gas. The commission seeks to have this individual charge omitted from the operating expenses, as "the gas sold to consumers was of a

less quality" than prescribed by law.

"Said acts of complaint were illegal and in fraud of the rights of consumers under said statute of 1906," the commission goes on.

Replying to the company's claim that its property had been undervalued, the commission referred to a decision of the United States Supreme Court declaring the 80-cent law constitutional, wherein a valuation of the company's holdings was placed at \$55,612,345. While the company contends that the valuation is far too low, the commission takes the reverse stand.

Calls Estimates Unfair

The commission also objects to the offering of the gross operating revenues and the net income received by the complainant during 1918, which, it says, "are not a fair criteria of the return heretofore earned and hereafter to be earned." The conditions, it is said, created high expenses, but figures of other years show that the company "earned a reasonable and fair average return upon the fair value of its property employed in the public service."

"The hypothetical cost of reproducing complainant's property in the year 1918, during the existence of said state of war," the commission continues, "is not the fair value of the complainant's property, and to base rates for gas upon a valuation representing a hypothetical cost of reproduction in the year 1918, or during the said war period, would be unlawful and manifestly unfair and unreasonable."

The answer was served yesterday upon Shearman & Sterling, attorneys for the gas company, by Godfrey Goldmark, chief counsel to the commission. Attorney General Charles D. Newton and District Attorney Edward Swann are co-defendants with the commission, but were not represented in the commission's answer.

Application has already been made to the State Legislature for an appropriation of \$100,000 to fight the suit of the gas company.

Epidemic Feared at Sing Sing

OSISING, N. Y., Feb. 15.—Twenty-five prisoners confined in Sing Sing Prison are suffering with Spanish influenza and have been isolated by the authorities, who fear an epidemic. Several weeks ago there were ninety cases of influenza in the prison, but Lieutenant Amos O. Squires, U. S. N., the prison physician, and his assistant, Dr. A. Kossoff, saved all the patients.

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FIFTH AVENUE AT 38TH STREET

Monday—One Thousand Pairs
WHITE KID GLOVES

Special at
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Two clasp gloves, overseam sewn.

Washable Cape Gloves
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Formerly 2.25 **1.75**

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In white and mastic. Special at **1.00**

Women's Pure Silk Hose Formerly 2.50 **1.85**
Three Pairs 5.45

All silk hose, reinforced garter tops and soles. In black, white, cordovan, mahogany, and shades of gray.

Medium Weight Silk Hose Six Pairs 6.50 **1.10**
Reinforced lisle garter tops and soles. In black only.

Mercerized Lisle Hose Six Pairs 2.90 **.50**
In black, cordovan, mahogany, beige and gray.

Lisle Union Suits Formerly 1.75 & 1.95 **1.45**
Mercerized lisle, reinforced, in regular and extra sizes.

Lisle Union Suits Formerly 1.25 & 1.50 **.95**
Reinforced, in regular and extra sizes.

ONE HUNDRED NEGLIGES

TO CLOSE OUT AT GREATLY REDUCED PRICES

Formerly 37.50 **19.75** Formerly 95.00 **59.00**
Formerly 69.50 **37.50** Formerly 145.00 **89.00**

Exclusive Bonwit Teller & Co. models made of exquisite fabrics.

Crepe de Chine Chemises **1.75**
Plain hemstitched band. Strap shoulders.

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Plain tailored or lace trimmed models.

Satin Drawers Wide hemstitched band. . . **3.95**



Imported French VEILINGS

Just received the latest Paris veil fashions, which include many fascinating developments in large Russian meshes, embroidered filet meshes, scroll designs, octagon patterns, diamond designs, embroidered borders, Brussels net borders, Chantilly lace and chenille dots.

TAILORMADE SUITS for WOMEN

The Fine Precision and Finesse of Costliest Custom Tailoring is Characteristic of these Suits

The little graces and elegancies in the contour of shoulders and collars, the niceties of sleeve detail, the soft pliancy of the tailoring—express the highest order of craftsmanship in the strictly tailored mannish type suits and more formal modes.

Strictly Tailored Suits. . . 45.00 to 125.00
Demi-Tailored Suits. . . . 85.00 to 150.00
Costume & 3-Piece Suits. .110.00 to 265.00

DAYCOATS and WRAPS EVENING MANTLES

37.50 to 395.00

Included in the collection are practical motor coats of tweed, tricotine coats with narrow ribbon, skein silk and fringe treatments, tricotine in combination with satin fashioned in coat or dolman silhouettes—some of these modes have seven-eighth length sleeves. Duvetyn wraps are embroidered; also combined with satin or reversible with satin and combinations of tricotine-and-tricolette. Among the evening wraps and mantles are exquisite fashions in transparencies, silver and gold tissues, silks and velvets; many with the new Spring fur accentuations.

THE NEW Spring Modes "BONTELL" FOOTWEAR

8.50 to 12.00

Feature the long, graceful, slenderized vamp with the supple flexibility of fine custom bootmanship.

Emphasized are oxfords in all black suede or satin, in patent or dull leather, also black, brown and dark gray kidskin, hand turned soles, high arch, slender Louis XVI heels.

BONWIT TELLER & CO.

The Specialty Shop of Originations
FIFTH AVENUE AT 38TH STREET

The Distinguished and Unusual in GOWN FASHIONS

The Gown Department on the Second Floor Features a Collection of Exquisite Modes in **WOMEN'S FROCKS and GOWNS**

To the refined sense of the fastidious a frock or gown loses much of its charm when it has been the object of constant repetition and duplication. It is more or less of a social embarrassment to encounter, at every turn, a replica of the gown one has selected as her own particular expression. Bonwit Teller & Co. feature modes that are translated in terms of simplicity and elegance—fashions distinctly unusual, revealing an artistry in form, color and the high lights of decorative touches.

The Gown Department on the Third Floor Features Refreshing, Youthful Fashions for "JEUNE FILLE" and SMALL WOMEN

The engaging spirit of youth with its attendant charm and simplicity, its naive expression, is ingeniously emphasized in these frocks and gowns for the younger set of 14 to 20 years. Individualized, original—these fashions are interpreted in manners that are apropos for the school girl, the college miss, the small woman and the debonnaire chic of the debutante. Bonwit Teller & Co. Misses' frocks and gowns are the final expression of youth and esprit and possess the inherent delicacy and restraint appreciated by those cultured to the finer things in appareling.

French Modes & Bonwit Teller & Co. Originations in an Ensemble of **MILLINERY FASHIONS**

Many interesting influences dominate the new millinery modes—Directoire motifs are revealed in "pokes," shepherdess hats patterned after the Watteau types, transparencies of tulle come in combination with jet, hats of glycerine ostrich, broad brim canotiers, large picturesque hats and little close fitting turbans in infinite style diversions.

BLOUSES and "Bontell" SHIRTS

Most comprehensive collection of "Bontell" tailored shirts in white and high colors is presented in the heavy woven silks—the kind affected by men—diversified types with many odd and original forms of tuckings, flutings and plaitings. Costume blouses of Georgette crepe and net—many entirely hand-made after exclusive Bonwit Teller & Co. designs reveal novel innovations that are not to be found elsewhere.



Introducing the new GILETS

Originations in waistcoats exclusive with this shop—developed in satin, linen and tricolette, featuring round and square neck silhouettes, strap belts and pockets. Interesting are applications of embroidery, drawn work stitchery and button garnitures.

TAILORED SUITS for the "Jeune Fille" and the Small Women

32.50 to 150.00

Featured are cylinder, straightline, box and blouse modes as well as strictly tailored types of boyish directness in style—gilet, pastron and cuirass waistcoats are emphasized, also scallop treatments and border effects in embroidered motifs. These suits are developed in serge, tricotine, Poiret twill, vari-colored checks, black-&-white checks and silk duvetyn. Sizes 14 to 18.

SPORTS APPAREL and COUNTRY CLOTHES

A more perfect understanding of the requirements of sports apparel has been brought to the models sponsored by this shop. The note of pliant leisure desired by the country gentwomen is evident in top coats and capes of natural "Worumbo" camel's hair, in the country suits of tweed hand loomed in England and Scotland, in the suits of hand woven Canadian homespuns, and in the many practicalities offered for specific sport occasions.

RIDING HABITS For Women and Misses

Models that are designed in exact accord with the strict code of riding etiquette—and which observe the accepted standards of the most approved English riding togs. Added to this is a perfection of fit and a precision of tailoring not excelled by the finest to-order custom work.