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Russia's Impoverishment: And Russia had no Joseph—not even a Pharaoh who, though despotic, was intelligent enough to seek an interpretation of the dream of the lean line which devoured the fat line.

So what Secretary Hughes has described as the progressive impoverishment of the masses of Russia has continued, and they have arrived at the present appalling tragedy. The consequences unescapably flowed from the conditions that were artificially established. Lenin's policy was not up to the level of that of the squirrel which stores against future need.

But though Lenin saw the truth he did not stick to it. Profoundly ignorant of the laws of production, as most socialists are, he clung to the mad doctrine that he would take from men the fruits of their toil and still have them go on working. Power was sweet to him and he hung on any way and anyhow. So Russia starves. A great people, placed on the table of a cruel vivisectionist, perishes before the world's eyes.

Pompeii when destroyed was buried, but Russia, though destroyed, is not buried—is seen festering in sad depths. She is a mighty warning. She has verified the saying of Arthur Young that a bit of paradise becomes a desert when its cultivator loses the results of his labor, while a barren rock blossoms like the rose when it is a worker's own. The lesson is as simple as it is old.

But men do not study social laws with the assiduity they disclose in the study of physical laws. Yet economic truth is as important as scientific truth. Russia attests the punishment that comes when the established habits of the human animal are ignored. It fills few mouths to argue that men should act otherwise than they do. It is conceded that the institutions of private property are not beautiful in all of their works. The time may come when religious motives or supreme enlightenment will induce men to labor for all with the zeal they display when laboring for themselves, but this millennium is not arrived. While the human species is as it is, to attempt to usher in a new era by force is supremely wicked. The outside world could have saved the Russian people. When the Czecho-Slovaks were on the Volga an opportunity beckoned. Again it did when Yudenitch was in the suburbs of Petrograd, and again when the Poles drove back the Bolsheviks and the road to Moscow lay open. But the outside world was confused by the clatter of its radicals and did nothing. Never did a small number exercise a more malignant influence. Surely there is no reason to envy the thoughts of the parlor Bolshevik as he reflects, as he reflects, on his responsibility for Russia's present misery.

The calamity is so enguaging that all the outside world can now do is relatively little. It will take many years for Russia to recover, even though the Bolsheviks be expelled to-morrow. The most effective help is to think straight and to avoid re-peating, if a door to doing practical good opens, the weak mistakes of the past.

In the main the Russian remnants must work out their own salvation, but once there is an end of a tyranny which is vicious and an abandonment of a preposterous economic system which is worse, there will be a beginning of better days and Russia, one

of the world's great grain store-houses, will cease to be a mendicant for bread.

Poor Washington!
Between now and the meeting of the disarmament conference much mention of "entangling alliances" may be expected and much quotation of Washington.

But one Washington quotation is not likely to be stressed—the one which reads:
My first wish is to see this plague to mankind (war) banished from the earth, and the sons and daughters of this world employed in more pleasing and innocent amusements than in preparing implements and exercising them for the destruction of mankind.

Washington was author of the maxim that a way to avoid war was to be prepared for it. But this was not all of Washington's doctrine. He was not pleased to see mankind "preparing implements and exercising them for the destruction of mankind." No one can doubt whether his influence would go if in President Harding's place.

It isn't fair to the great founder to present him as opposed to all alliances. It was only the "entangling" kind he objected to. The qualifying word was deliberately employed. Its use showed that he distinguished between agreements, and favored unions for peace as much as he disfavored unions for war. Yet those who have a liking for misrepresentation will doubtless continue to misrepresent.

Scientific Tariffs
The Senate Finance Committee is on the right track if it is going to require "more facts and fewer generalities" from witnesses who have asked to be allowed to testify as to tariff duties. Senator Reed moved on Friday to strike from the record the testimony of a chemical manufacturer who declined to give information about his firm's production costs, earnings, taxes and dividends. These are factors of the first importance in determining the amount of protection which an industry needs. Protective duties are supposed to be laid to equalize conditions of production at home and abroad and to prevent destructive foreign competition. But the differential cannot be determined by abstract reasoning. It must correspond to the margin of safety disclosed by the operations of the home industry.

This margin fluctuates, and the really efficient tariff is the one which adapts itself easily to economic changes. For that reason a tariff commission is a most valuable government agency. Congress usually legislates under the spell of some generalization. It is for a commission to see from year to year how the tariff rates fixed by Congress affect each industry and to what extent the margin of safety is being increased or diminished. Manufacturers who withhold information as to the prosperity or non-prosperity of their enterprises defeat the intention of the law, which is to shield them from such foreign underselling as will break down home industry, but not to give them undue profits.

What the country needs is a scientifically adjusted tariff, pliable at all times, capable of alteration through Executive action when circumstances make modification desirable. The Fordney act's chief merit is that it intrusts a good deal of discretion to the President for bargaining purposes. Export trade must be stimulated as well as domestic trade. Some day, perhaps, we shall have a tariff administered in the light of expert knowledge and capable of securing a healthful expansion of both exports and imports.

Passports for Immigrants
Whatever restriction may or may not be placed upon immigration, there are both humane and economic reasons why the winnowing should be applied at the ports of departure instead of being withheld until arrival. A bill now before Congress would require intending immigrants to have their passports vised before embarking for this country, and would permit consuls to visé them only after thorough medical and other examination.

That there should be such examination goes without saying. We are now practicing it, in difficult and unsatisfactory circumstances, at Ellis Island. Certainly it would seem to be to the advantage of all concerned to have it done on the other side. It would cost our government less. It would be better for the immigrants. It would be better for the steamship companies, for it would mean fewer to be taken back at the companies' expense.

It is obvious that a would-be immigrant's moral record and other circumstances bearing upon his fitness for American residence and citizenship can be as readily and as thoroughly investigated abroad as here. The consular service would need to be strengthened, but this would be a good thing for many rea-

sons. There would still, of course, have to be some examination at our ports, but most of the work would have been done. With a competent consular service nine-tenths of those who are now rejected and excluded at Ellis Island would be rejected on the other side, and would thus be saved a fruitless journey. It is not pleasant to think of human cargoes held in close quarters while the immigration administration counts quotas.

The Surgeon's Surtaxes
The board of Johns Hopkins Hospital, anticipating Congress by decreasing the modification of the surtaxes levied by surgeons against the rich, attacks a long established custom of the medical profession.

It has been esteemed the glory of the medical profession that it performed prodigies of service, oftentimes without charge, for the poor, while the rich were taxed all the traffic would bear. The successful surgeon is a leveller of material possessions. He has been a respecter of persons—not in the Biblical sense, but in reverse, as specially solicitous for the purseless. In law one man may be as good as another, but in hospitals parts of some persons are more valuable than parts of others. Two of America's most distinguished surgeons, the Mayo brothers, have followed the practice of ascertaining a patient's annual income and taxing him 10 per cent if their aid was invoked. Robin Hood's memory was long revered in rural England because he took from the fat to give to the lean, and the statutes of the medical code are born of a similar feeling.

Johns Hopkins Hospital fixes the maximum price for an operation at \$1,000. Its argument is that the medical profession has been getting too greedy and mercenary. But the regulation ignores half of the problem. Will not the surgeon be forced to be less lenient to the indigent when he can't recoup from the wealthy?

The Baltimore ruling doubtless has been carefully considered, but it is improbable that it will secure general imitation. It seems at war with the spirit of benevolence which has so long marked the medical profession, and this spirit will not yield tamely.

Not Alone
New Yorkers are not the only ones to be heat stricken. Londoners are reported taking to iced drinks—a barbarism heretofore righteously shunned. A Parisian judge has suspended sentence on a man who appeared in the streets sans clothes, whose defense was that he was justified. The Rhine has been almost dry, and in snow-capped Switzerland the heat has been so intense that glaciers are dissolving and the postal union conference has moved itself to lofty Zermatt. A Swiss parliamentary commission is meeting on top of the Rigi, at an elevation of almost six thousand feet. Bathing in glacier pools report that the water is tepid. Alpine lakes that are usually frozen all summer are eagerly sought by swimmers this year.

Apparently only Briggs is cool, as he stands before the fire in his camp in Maine. And all the world will agree with him that that sure is a "grand and glorious feeling!"

Uncut Pages
When is there to be a blue law against selling books with uncut pages? Such volumes are a trial to the indolent, a waste of time for the energetic, a justification of the anger of the choleric, and for all persons in hot weather an abomination. Only one reader out of every forty-seven, statistics tell us, possesses a paper cutter. Only one out of every 470 can find the paper cutter when needed. And as short hair is now the style for both sexes, the female of the species cannot resort to the useful hairpin as easily as in the Victorian era.

Pocket knives nearly always cut badly. If they are too sharp they rip at their own free will. If dull they fray the pages. A postal card will cut a dozen leaves, but thereafter is limp and pulpy. To the possessor of a golden toothpick the task is less burdensome. But how many men in a thousand wear gilt toothpicks to-day? A match is distinctly inferior. An envelope is worse than a postcard.

And any one knows what happens when the finger is used to plow a way along the crease. The book becomes gnawed and beavered. Though the process be ruthlessly hastened, even the most reckless will shrink from destruction and leave half the book unread.

And why do publishers continue to avoid trimming edges? It is a rudimentary survival—another instance of a practice outliving the reason that gave it birth. Time was when book printing and book binding were not associated crafts. The buyer was assumed to have personal preferences about coverings, as in France to-day. Then the bibliophile came along with his influence and

A LIFETIME OF PROGRESS IN FOREST PRESERVATION

