

"Muddling Through" in Russia

The story of how we came to intervene, told by Col. Raymond Robins, commander of the American Red Cross in Russia.

(The president says we are to remain in Russia indefinitely; congress has not yet spoken. Our policy in Russia is the most important foreign question before us today. These articles, with original documents are drawn from the experiences of Col. Raymond Robins, a man who went in his youth as a runner to the Klondike, struck it rich, devoted his money to humanity, first came into prominence in the fight for civic decency in Chicago, later in the Men in Religion Forward Movement, and then as one of the leaders in the progressive party and the personal friend of Theodore Roosevelt. He was selected by our government as a member of the Red Cross mission to Russia, and later on, with the withdrawal of his chief, Col. William Thompson, he became the commander of that mission. He was for six months unofficial representative of the United States government with the soviet government of Russia, with credentials from our ambassador.)—Editor's note.

V. LENINE HOLDS RUSSIA.
It is the 19th of February, 1918. The Brest-Litovsk effort has failed. Trotsky has made his great gesture and the Germans have called it. He has appealed to the working-class of Germany and Austria to rise in revolt against the iniquitous and imperialistic peace terms; but the victorious armies of Germany are marching into Russia on all fronts in a plain violation even of their own terms of armistice.

"Trotsky is sulking. Lenine is in the center of the whirl of telegrams and resolutions, calm master of the game. His position is justified; he said the German workers were not yet ready to rise; and they have not risen.

"All Russia is bitter over the unexpected severity of the peace. Resolutions come up from the front; 'Let us fight the German thieves, Mobilize. Call out the red guards!'

"Detachments of red guards form, and hasten toward the battle line of their own land, only to be swept back by the tottering army, the army which has been cold and hungry for three years, which is now without officers or control, which is fleeing, sweeping all before it.

"I am in Petrograd. I have just brought in canned milk for babies, enough for 25,000 babies for two months. I have done it against the wisdom of the ambassadors and the allied business men, who told me we would be betrayed and the Germans would get the provisions.

"And now it seems that they have been right. The Germans are coming to take it. Tomorrow they will take it day after tomorrow.

"I walk down to the Nevski and up the Nevski Prospect, in a more gloomy mood than since I had reached Russia. Suddenly, I see a crowd at a corner. I think to myself: 'There must be some food in a window—for that was the thing that attracted crowds in those days.

"I go nearer and see a little bill poster, stuck on the wall, about 10 by 14 inches in size. It reads something like this:

"Lenine has fled to Finland with 30,000,000 in gold from the state bank. Revolution betrayed by Bolsheviki! New home for Russia! The Father is coming back! Nicholas Nicolaevitch is coming from the Caucasus with 100,000 brave cossacks. Rally to Holy Russia!

"I do not know whether I doubted Lenine in that hour. All that I know is that I seemed to have guessed wrong about everything, and if I had guessed wrong for my government in a situation like this, the sooner I quit guessing at all the better. This storm would break at Smolny, I knew, and I went to Smolny.

"In a great square, surrounded by a iron fence and four wide streets, missions—the subject of many a bitter fight in legislatures throughout the world this year—came up for consideration this morning at the first business session of the annual convention of the governors of the various states.

Executives of several states where there has been a consolidation of state boards and bureaus, expressed different opinions as to whether such consolidations really effected economies, or allowed loopholes for wastes. State budget questions were also informally discussed at the meeting which was held this morning.

A visit to the Great Salt Lake and dinner at Saltair are events which have been arranged for this afternoon and evening.

Stands Smolny. Once it was a convent school for rich young women under the old regime; now it is the bolshevik headquarters. I go through the guards, snowing my pass; I go up two flights of stairs to the second floor, where Trotsky has his headquarters at one end of the hall and Lenine at the other.

"It seems as if every door in the corridor is suddenly opened, and three to a dozen men come out. They hurry to the windows on one side of the building and begin to drag the canvas covers from the machine guns placed there. They get the belts of cartridges ready for action.

"I follow and look down toward the Viborg, the workman's quarter of Petrograd. It is black with red guards, coming up to settle with Smolny and then to go to the front to perish under the German guns.

"Lenine, has Lenine gone? I pass the door and Lenine is there, sitting quietly at his desk telephoning, ringing for orderlies, the one calm, untroubled spirit in all that maelstrom.

"In come an officer: 'The mob is attacking Smolny,' he cries. 'Give the order to fire!'

"Lenine leans to his feet, in the one impulsive action I ever saw him make. 'Niet, niet, parlez, parlez,' he says. 'Bring in the leaders!'

"They file in slowly, rough, hard-handed men from the Viborg, the workers of Russia, they who had lifted Lenine up, they who can hurl him down, and still they file in, until there are some 35 to 40, standing in a half-circle, with bayoneted guns grounded at their feet.

"Lenine rises, walks to within four feet of them and stands: 'Well, comrades, I have not run away,' he says. 'A sheepish look passes over their faces.'

"Comrades, I have been fighting for the revolution before some of you were born. I shall be fighting when some of you are dead. I do not blame you for your suspicions of me; I wonder you have any faith left at all. There are so many confused voices now even among honest men. Trotsky, Karalin, Kollontai and Krylenko say to fight the German robbers; to conquer or die.

"Fine words, the revolutionary phrase! When all we can do is to die, but if you die the revolution dies with you. You go up against artillery and trained troops without economic support and without officers. If you die, the czar come back the grand duke come back, and the blood of Russia has been spent in vain.

"My word is the right word, Peace! We will sign this shameful peace with the Germans; we will buy time to organize our new army.

"They tell you I will surrender the imperial city of Petrograd, Comrades, I will.

"They tell you I will surrender the Kremlin, the holy city of Moscow, Comrades, I will.

"They tell you I will give up your homes to the invader. I will give up all these things to save the revolution. We will retreat if need be to Ekaterinburg and the Urals, and keep the revolution alive till it flames up in Vienna and Berlin.

"What is your answer? Go to the front if you will. I will give you a special train to go. But take my resignation before you leave. What is your answer, comrades?'

OLD PARTY LINES DISAPPEAR IN HIGH PRICE AND RAILROAD ISSUES

Republicans Approve Wilson's Message—Remedies Fail to Hit Big Distribution Evils—Plumb Railroad Plan Has Strong Support—Rail Return to Owners Less Probable—Aid to Drouth Farmers Delayed.

Washington, D. C.—Republican satisfaction with the president's emergency speech on the high cost of living would indicate a bipartisan agreement in meeting the issues. It is not an issue between the parties. Both have pushed it aside beyond the substance of a long-drawn-out people's party, an issue between the common people and the great market interests who normally control the federal government.

The old party politicians naturally shy at such an alignment, with its disturbing possibilities in the 1920 election ahead of us. Republicans have not forgotten the 40 congressmen of their party who bolted the party leadership on army food sale question. In his message Wilson cleverly sidesteps the necessity of thorough reform of our distribution system and advances remedies likely to have a popular appeal so far as they go, and unlikely to have any serious results for the profiteers and the unnecessary and wasteful members of the distributing army.

Thus the standpats of both parties can again rally behind him, temporarily at least, for protection of themselves and those they represent and at the same time the president hopes for a measure of restored public confidence in his party because of his harsh words against profiteering. The confession made in his speech, however, to the effect that a democratic congress under his leadership passed a law against profiteering and forgot to affix a penalty, ought to keep the public from expecting the profiteers to suffer much from criminal prosecution.

What Wilson Offered.
The remedies which the president advanced are: Federal because of all corporations engaged in interstate commerce, with regulations to insure competitive selling and fair prices. This suggestion is, in effect, a direct endorsement of the Kenyon-Anderson bill for packer regulation.

Goods released from storage should bear the date when they went into storage and the price at that time. It does not matter greatly if we die, but if you die the revolution dies with you. You go up against artillery and trained troops without economic support and without officers. If you die, the czar come back the grand duke come back, and the blood of Russia has been spent in vain.

Limitation of the time during which goods may be kept in storage. Extension of the food control act. Condemnation and sale of surplus food stocks held in cold storage or otherwise hoarded where there is a manifest intent to hold up the market.

Immediate sale to the public of government-owned surplus food and clothing. Government control of security issues. Prompt ratification of the peace treaty, including the league of nations.

The Line-Up on Rail Issues.
The railroad brotherhoods are responsible for making official Washington officials aware that we had such a thing as the high cost of living. The great stir followed immediately upon their challenge of 'low living costs or higher wages.' The phrase expressed the thought of the great masses of the American people. And they should have the credit of it. The supply of salt beef increased 3 per cent and the price rose from \$34 a barrel to \$36 a barrel.

These are only a few samples of the way the food monopolists have been able to manipulate the market at the expense of both farmer and city housewife. They are samplers, however, which if they make more intelligent packer propaganda than any yet put out to disprove.

Russian Policy Falls.
The future of the allied policy of intervention in Russia has been made more apparent during the last week. Kotchek is reported as thoroughly broken so far as hope of his being able to check the soviet government is concerned. He has retired several hundred miles to the east. At the same time the city of Archangel and the Murman coast is about all that is left to the north Russian expedition, and the government set up in Archangel by the allies is issuing frantic appeals to the world. The movement against Petrograd from the Baltic sea has proved to be a fiasco.

In lieu of according self-determination to Russia, the allies have two courses of action open which Washington as well as other allied capitals are considering. Intervention is feasible only if great forces are used, but the liberal and radical elements in the allied countries can not prevent such a move. There remains then the blockade, which is opposed as well by many business interests because they want Russian trade and because the blockade will increase German business influence in Russia.

The recent attempts in the city press to show that soviet Russia is not so hot but pink may indicate that the powers are preparing to let the Russians alone.

DECIDE FRANCO-AMERICAN TREATY IS CONSTITUTIONAL.
(Special United Press Wire.) Washington, Aug. 19.—The proposed Franco-American treaty is constitutional, the senate judiciary committee has decided. The committee found nothing in the proposed treaty conflicting with the war-making powers of congress.

Senator Walsh was ordered to make a favorable report to the full committee. The vote was unanimous with Senator Fall absent.

even endorse the remedial bill of Representative Sinclair, appropriating \$5,000,000 for the purchase of seed grain and feed for livestock, to be supplied to farmers and stockmen in drouth-stricken areas. Mr. Sinclair is hoping to secure this endorsement next week. Almost a month has passed since he introduced the bill, but nothing can be done to forward it until it receives the O. K. of Mr. Hopston.

Mr. Sinclair points out that \$2,500,000 loaned the farmers of his southwestern states for seed purchase by the department of agriculture a year ago resulted in practically doubling the wheat acreage planted in those states. Money loaned for this purpose has always proved an excellent investment, but it would appear that the secretary of agriculture hates to let any one but himself get any credit for helping the farmers. He does need it himself, perhaps.

The first of a series of farmers' conferences scheduled to be held in Washington in the near future to help keep congress straight on agricultural problems opened here Monday, Aug. 11. John G. Brown, president of the Indiana Federation of Farmers' associations, sponsored the conference, and representatives of farm organizations in 24 states and congressional districts were in attendance. Delegates were appointed to remain in Washington to check up on congress during the next few critical weeks.

Potash to Come In.
Of great interest to eastern and southern farmers is the decision of the war trade board to lift all restrictions on the importation of fertilizer potash from Germany. The decision is a marked victory for the National Grange and the federal board of farm organizations, whose representatives have been urging this step against the protest of the American Potash Manufacturers' association, who are anxious to build an eight-month monopoly for their members.

A statement by Vance McCormick, chairman of the war trade board, states that henceforth potash may be imported without license from every country except Hungary and the parts of Russia under bolshevik control.

Some Hoarded Foods.
Evidence of the way the law of supply and demand has been paralyzed by the manipulations of the packers and other food monopolists has been collected by the federal trade commission, and was cited by the president in making his urgent recommendations to congress for reducing living costs.

The supply of fresh eggs on hand in June of this year, for instance, was 10 per cent greater than the supply on hand last year, yet the wholesale price had risen 10 cents a dozen. The stock of frozen fowls in the same period had increased 200 per cent, the average price also increasing 3 cents a pound.

While the supply of creamery butter increased 129 per cent, the price went up from 41 to 53 cents a pound. Canned corn doubled in stock, but increased in price. Canned salmon showed similar increase in stock and price. The supply of salt beef increased 3 per cent and the price rose from \$34 a barrel to \$36 a barrel.

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HOUSTON HOLDS UP BILL.
While evidence accumulates that the wheat crop is seriously deteriorating at a time when famine stalks the world in the face, Secretary of Agriculture Houston has as yet refused to show sufficient interest to



BAIL IS WANTED WITHOUT FAIL FOR THE MEN WHO ARE IN JAIL

Hundreds of workers are literally rotting in the jails of this country because of their activity in the cause of Labor. Many of these victims of the world-wide class war are awaiting trial—and have been waiting for many weary months for the speedy trial guaranteed them by the United States Constitution. Others were tried and sentenced to terms ranging from one to twenty years during the period of war hysteria, and appeals in their cases are now being taken from King Capital drunk to King Capital sober.

Some of the prisoners have escaped by death, others are dying, many have contracted tuberculosis and other loathsome diseases, and all are suffering untold agony from close confinement in the fetid atmosphere, from insanitary and unhealthy surroundings, from poor and insufficient food, and from inhuman treatment accorded them by brutalized guards. Past attempts to secure bail for all of these workers in jail have not been attended with great success because of the lack of system. Individuals sought to secure bail for their personal friends, and failing to get the necessary amount they returned what had been collected, thus making their entire efforts fruitless. This was the condition facing the delegates from all the western district organizations of the Industrial Workers of the World when they met in conference on July 3 and 4 in Seattle. The delegates solved the problem by an unfailing means—Organization.

A Bail and Bond Committee was elected to systematize the work of collecting bail and a nation-wide drive has been started to secure the loan of cash, Liberty Bonds and property sufficient to gain the release of all class war prisoners. With practically no advertising Six Thousand Dollars were raised in the first five days. More than Two Hundred Thousand Dollars are needed to release those now being held for their Labor activity.

Sums of Five Dollars and up are accepted as loans, and all cash, Liberty Bonds or property is tabulated in triplicate, one copy going to the person making the loan, another being retained by the Bail and Bond Committee, and the third being filed with the Trades Union Savings and Loan Association of Seattle, with whom all funds, bonds and property schedules will be banked.

Only those who have been proved loyal and trustworthy are being sent out as collectors. Everything possible has been done to safeguard this bail and bond fund, from the selection of the committee to the choice of the bank. A portion of the fund is being set aside to return loans on demand in case persons who have made them are forced to leave the country or have other reasons for making a withdrawal.

Bail will be used to release specified persons where that is desired, but otherwise the release will take place by a blind drawing of names, thus insuring fairness to all prisoners. By common consent the men in Wichita, Kansas, jail will first be released, as they have been held the longest and jail conditions are worse there than anywhere else in the entire country. This bail has nearly all been subscribed, and the men will be made accredited collectors when released, and their speedy release will help to set others at liberty.

No necessity exists for argument. Your duty is clear. If your ears are not deaf to a call from your class, if you feel that an injury to one is an injury to all, if there burns within you the faintest spark of humanity, you will see that the men do not remain behind the bars an unnecessary minute because you withheld your support.

THEY ARE WILLING TO GIVE THEIR LIVES FOR YOU! ARE YOU WILLING TO LOAN YOUR DOLLARS TO THEM?
Send all cash, checks and bonds to John L. Engdahl, Secretary of Bail and Bond Committee, Box W, Ballard Station, Seattle.
Property schedules should be filed with Attorney Ralph S. Pierce, Room 607 Central Building, Seattle.
Butte Office, 318 N. Wyoming St., A. S. Embree, Bond and Bail delegate.

NORTHWEST NEWS

(By United Press.)
Seattle, Wash., Aug. 19.—The twentieth annual tournament of the North Pacific International Lawn Tennis association was opened here today.

Clubs throughout the Pacific northwest are represented in the matches which are limited to men's singles and doubles. The tournament will continue for three days.

Seattle, Wash., Aug. 19.—Mayors of Pacific northwestern cities are gathering here today to attend a conference at which means of fighting the high cost of living will be discussed.

The city executives will attempt to formulate plans for concerted action against the high cost of necessities. Some of the mayors will leave, following the session in this city, for San Francisco, where a conference with California executives will be held, with the same object.

(By United Press.)
Spokane, Wash., Aug. 19.—K. B. Deppe was booked on the police docket on a charge of drunkenness before the police judge.

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S. S. SCHOLAR ON PICNIC.
Scholars of Emmanuel Lutheran Sunday school today gathered at Columbia gardens, the occasion being the annual picnic of the school. The students journeyed to the gardens in a special car which left Park and Main streets at 10 o'clock this morning.

GREAT BRITAIN MAKES OF INDIA--A GRAVEYARD

The economic and educational results of British rule in India can be summed up in three facts: Education—Neither free, nor compulsory, nor universal. Illiteracy—93 per cent. Length of life—22.5 years. Death rate—32 per 1,000. Average income—\$9.50 a year per capita. Average wages—About 11 cents a day for unskilled labor. India's contribution to the war: Men—About 1 1/2 million. Money—Over one billion dollars, plus all expenses of the Indian contingents. Material—Millions of tons of food and fodder. Army equipment and military stores. The reward for this loyalty: Fresh coercion laws—The Rowlett act. Machine guns and bombs. To disperse unarmed crowds. Imprisonment, transportation and death sentences—As punishments.

The very high mortality from plague, cholera, malaria, influenza and other infectious diseases, and from famines, which have become chronic, is proof of how the vital resistance of the people has been constantly diminishing. Because of poverty, brought about by the economic exploitation by the British, millions are suffering and starving. During the last three months of 1918 6,000,000 people died from influenza alone. The total deaths from 1875 to 1918 have been 243,000,000.

To the existing oppressive laws of the country, the obsolete regulations of 1818, 1819, and 1827, the arms act, the press act, the sedition meetings act, the defense of India act, etc.—the British government has added the Rowlett act. This latter deprives

a suspected person of his entire liberty and empowers the officials to do as they please in the name of "law and order."

The cry for freedom and liberty in India was answered by bombs and machine guns from airplanes, used by the same Britishers who were so eager to get Indian recruits for the war—that autocracy be crushed abroad. Many hundreds—men, women and children—were killed as a result of this raid of the British czars upon the innocent, unarmed people of India.

To add insult to injury, "punishments have been meted out to those Indians who took part in the protests against the misdeeds of government. Up to June 20, 596 people were tried by court martial in one province alone. Among these were lawyers, editors, and other prominent men of the Punjab.

Seventy-three were sentenced to death. One hundred and forty-seven were transported for life (imprisonment in Andaman Is.). Two hundred and four were sentenced to rigorous imprisonment.

A number of citizens were flogged in the streets. Many persons have been suppressed and the security deposits of others have been forfeited. Patriotism in India is a crime; hence these punishments.

Public life in the Punjab has been killed. The country is virtually dead. From the dead bones of the half-starved and half-naked Indians the British are still exacting a heavy toll of men and money. People are dying and the foreign bureaucracy which is responsible for these results is triumphantly jubilant.

RAILROADERS HAVE NEW WAGE SCALE READY

(Special United Press Wire.) Cleveland, Aug. 19.—Increase in wages, averaging 35 to 50 per cent and installation of automatic stokers, coal passers, grate shakers and door openers, are provided in the new wage scale and standard rules report, which is in the hands of 300 representatives of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Firemen and Engineers here.

The demands will be presented to Lines, director general of the railroads, as soon as the draft proposed in the measure is rewritten. Firemen and hostlers are demanding increases averaging from 35 to 65 per cent. It will cost the railroads of the United States and Canada \$20,000,000 to install the automatic devices demanded. An annual increase in operating expense is entailed by the demands is estimated at \$70,000,000.

DISORDER BREAKS OUT IN BULGARIAN CAPITAL

(Special United Press Wire.) London, Aug. 19.—Sanguinary disorders in Sofia, the Bulgarian capital, are reported. The dispatches state that demonstrations are being held in front of the palace with the populace demanding the abdication of King Boris and the establishment of a republic. The rioters were dispersed.

SAYS AUTO DAMAGED WAGON.
Bernard F. Kelling yesterday instituted suit in district court against Frances Haviland and W. H. Haviland for damages in the sum of \$392.35, alleged to have been caused by a bakery delivery wagon driven by Kelling when struck by an auto driven by Mrs. Haviland.

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