

# TODAY

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opera go on, the scientists are at work, half fed, half clothed. Wells raised a fund to supply them with the latest books and with paper, which they lack. And he speaks quite plainly of his own government that has helped the French to starve people, scientists included, guilty of no crime except the effort to govern themselves. Unfortunately the British commercial instinct has taken charge and England has opened trade with Russia. This may postpone, perhaps permanently prevent, the collapse which Wells eventually expects, although he does not positively say it, as the ending of Russia's effort.

In America and England printing and distributing good cheap books has dwindled because paper is dear. In Russia the work of distributing the best literature to the people goes on at government expense. Bookshops are closed, book selling is illegal. Citizens get their books free from the government, as they ride free on the street cars, such as they are, with deep holes between the tracks, rails broken, passengers clinging to the roofs and to the windows.

"Ruin is the primary Russian fact at the present time," says Wells, and he adds that England and France would have repeated the Russian crash with local variations if the war had lasted two or three years longer.

In Russia they don't fine or imprison profiteers; they shoot them. What trading and cheating exists is done by children, in secret, for children, being not responsible, are not shot.

Russia's absolute ruler, Lenin, is guarded against attack more closely than any czar ever was guarded. You pass through rooms, many rows of watchful armed men, before you reach Lenin's desk. There he sits, with a forehead shaped like that of Arthur Balfour and legs so short his feet barely touch the floor.

There have been bloody days in Russia as in every revolution. For a while everybody found armed without Bolshevik permission was shot. Many tens of thousands undoubtedly were killed in the streets. Many a peasant took vengeance with knife, gun, club on the man in the chateau and his family. Those unpleasant things happen when you break down a system that has the few riding cheerfully on the backs of many. The killings now have subsided.

To the western mind everything in Russia seems strange. Trotsky, originally a pacifist, is the head of the army, organizing Russia's fighting forces. He does it well and has beaten back all the efforts of the Allies, including the feeble, foolish efforts of the United States. He, as it happens, is a Jew, who, as Wells says, learned how to get things done here in America. The ignorant say the Bolshevik movement is Jewish. Some Jews are leaders in the Russian movement. They are leaders and also objects in all movements wherever they live. Wells observed among the most interesting Bolshevik leaders "not Jews at all, but blond Nordic men."

Included in those that should read Wells' book are Socialists that would divide up the population into "capitalists" and "proletarians," as a cook stamps out biscuits. Wells explained to Lenin and others "that in England there were two hundred different classes at least." There are not so many classes in Russia, but less numerous in Russia than in any other of the civilized nations are the so-called "proletarians," men working for wages, fixed in a rut, away from the land, from any ownership of the means of production, and from hope of financial independence.

Russia is not all in *DEBACLE*. Many things are falling, but some are building. More men and women have learned to read from the government of Lenin than from all the governments of all the czars. That is progress.

The poorest children in Russia are better fed than the men that control the government. Of what other nation can you say that? You see thin, worried men and women in Russia, but fat children.

Wells believes that depressing conditions in Russia are the result of war and the Allies' blockade more than of experiments in government.

"If one of these military adventurers of the Yudenitch or Denikin type were, by some disastrous accident, to get control of Russia, his success would only add strong drink, embezzlement and a great squalor of kept mistresses to the general complication."

No counter-revolution, in Wells' opinion, could change Russian conditions. "The hectic moral fever of the young is the dark side of the educational spectacle in Russia. I think it is to be regarded mainly as an aspect of the general social collapse; every European country has noted a parallel moral relaxation of the young under the war strain."

As to the moral side, so much discussed, of Bolshevik government. You know that the stories about common ownership of women and similar nonsense were invented to stimulate enthusiasm in the Allied armies seeking to destroy Russia. They did not stimulate enough to keep those armies from being beaten.

What has happened to Russia would have happened to England had the war lasted four years longer, says Wells. "We should have now no coal in

our grates and no food for our food tickets, and the shops in Bond street would be as desolate as the shops in the New York Prospect. Bolshevik government in Russia is neither responsible for the causation nor for the continuance of the miseries."

Impressive and depressing is the collapse of the Russian cities, which represent commerce, love of gain, and consequent crowding together. All this vanishes under the rule of crude theories that denounce the commerce on which earth's civilization is built. "Estate towns are sinking down toward slum conditions."

The picture of Russia is not pleasant. Nor is the picture of any European country accurately drawn. The Russians at least are trying to make a government for the majority. In palaces where the grand dukes lived and got drunk with money taken from the peasants, children of the poor are at school and are fed. One magnificent palace is "a home of rest for workmen."

The workmen don't like it, don't feel comfortable there, don't want "to live a life of refined ease for two or three weeks."

But at least the Bolshevik government is trying to do something for the workmen. You can't say that of other governments. Their main effort at present is to make workmen realize that they should be glad to get lower wages. Read Wells' book, "Russia in the shadows," and in one evening you will have spent six weeks in Russia, and looked at Russia through the eyes of an intelligent, fair, and earnest man.

## EXPLOSION KILLS 3 IN GRAIN ELEVATOR

**\$3,000,000 Structure Wrecked by Combustion—Four Others Injured.**

CHICAGO, March 20.—Three persons are dead today as the result of the explosions which wrecked a portion of the Armour & Co. grain elevator in South Chicago, causing loss estimated at \$3,000,000.

The fire which followed the explosions still is smoldering. Firemen searched the wreckage for more bodies, but it was said that no employees at the plants had been accounted for.

Three bodies had been taken from the wreckage, all charred beyond recognition. Four were injured, one probably fatally.

Officials of the company estimated the loss at \$3,000,000. Nearly 1,000,000 bushels of grain were consumed.

The blast, caused by spontaneous combustion, tore away the entire front of the huge stone structure. The detonation was felt distinctly in Gary, Michigan City, Whiting, and LaPorte, Ind., and several surrounding villages.

One freight car, laden with grain, was blown to atoms. Thousands of persons rushed to the streets, fearing an earthquake.

The elevator, which was one of the largest in the country, was constructed three years ago at the cost of \$3,000,000. It is owned by the Northwestern railway and leased to Armour & Co.

## RUSSIA MAY SETTLE ALL PRIVATE DEBTS

BERLIN, March 20.—The Russian soviet government has under serious consideration the question of recognizing and settling a large part of the private debts outstanding against soviet Russia.

German financiers in numerous conferences with the soviet trade representatives made it clear that the work of reorganization and reconstruction of Russia would be tremendously furthered by the recognition of private debts.

However, the soviet government has decided to take up no question involved in the recognition of the many millions loaned by America, Great Britain and other nations to the soviet government before and during the war and the consideration will be confined strictly to legitimate private debts and claims.

## SILESIA'S BALLOT AT GUARDED POLLS

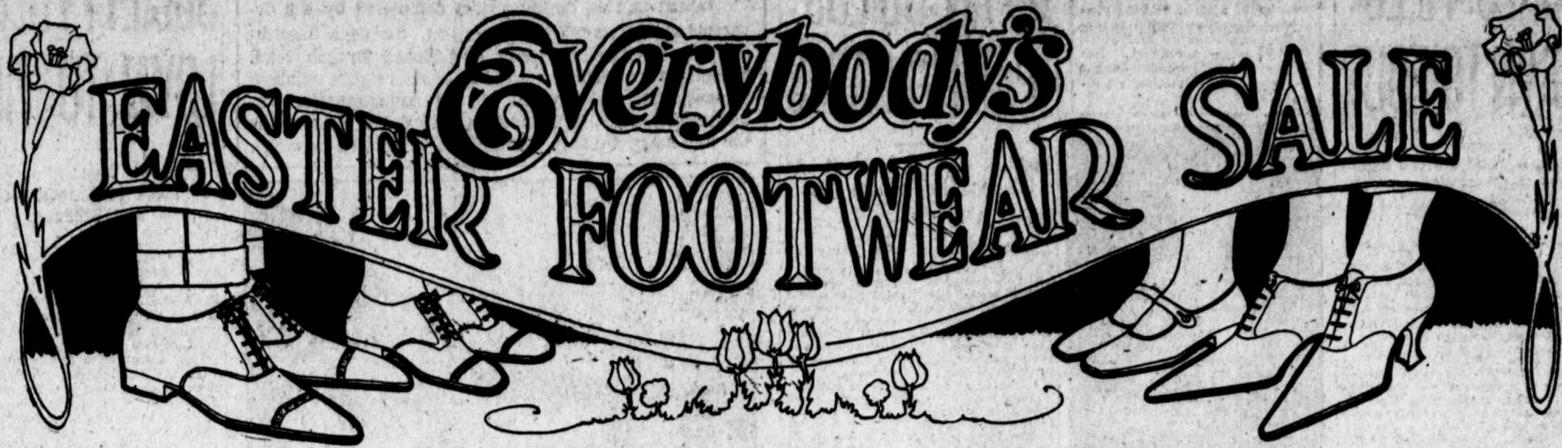
KATTOWITZ, Upper Silesia, March 20.—Hundreds of heavily-armed police carefully guarded polling places throughout the Upper Silesian district today as the 2,000,000 residents balloted to determine their nationality—whether they will be subjects of Germany or Poland.

Many minor clashes were reported in outlying districts, but the strain of the last few days had quieted somewhat as the day of actual voting dawned.

Care was taken to protect the district against threatened outbreaks by the inter-allied commission, and it was believed no violence will result, at least until the result is announced.

**Import Figures Better.**  
Import figures for wheat covering the first six months of the present crop year show that the United Kingdom is again a powerful wheat importing basis; that Germany is surprisingly near it, and that Holland and Belgium are importing at least half of the prewar amounts, according to a statement issued by the Department of Agriculture.

**French Children Seek Aid.**  
American children are asked by the Red Cross, in an appeal issued last night, to aid French children in securing schooling facilities. The Red Cross asks that American children build 5,000 tables and 10,000 chairs for schools in the devastated areas of France.



# THE SEASON'S FINEST OFFERING MEN'S, WOMEN'S and CHILDREN'S STYLISH SHOES AT PRICES THAT DEFY DUPLICATION

Our big Pre-Easter Shoe Treat is all ready for your coming—counters and shelves are filled to capacity and reserve cases stand by, opened to replenish the stocks against the heavy demand these prices are sure to produce. The newest styles in the best of leathers are the predominating features—many of the lines offered being nationally known trademarked shoes of the highest merit—and all are represented in a diversity of sizes, styles and kinds affording a choice to meet any taste or inclination. Buy your Easter Footwear here—get the best at bargain prices.

## THIRD FLOOR EASTER SPECIALS

### MEN'S EASTER FOOTWEAR

Special line of Men's High and Low Shoes for Easter wear. High Shoes in Blucher Lace and English Lace Styles; Gun Metal and Tans; also Low Shoes in browns and black; English Lace Styles, including Wing Tip **\$5.85** Brogue Oxfords. Easter Special...

### Hosiery

Infants' White Hose, special ..... **19c**  
Children's Black and Brown Hose..... **39c**  
Men's Lisle Hose, assorted, special..... **29c**

### MEN'S SPRING SHOES

Men's Spring Style High Shoes and Low Cuts for Easter Wear; nationally known advertised trade-marked shoes; Craddock, Rice and Hutchins, Burt and Packard, Brown Shoe Co. and other makes; blucher lace, straight lace and English lace, including brogue styles, in low and high cut; Gun Metal, Mahogany, Brown, Genuine Black Kangaroo and Black Kidskin. Easter Special... **\$6.85**

### Children's Trade-Marked Shoes

Patrician and Buster Brown Trade-Marked Shoes for Easter wear. Goodyear welt and McKay's children's spring heels; Browns and Blacks; 8½ to 11; Misses' Gun Metal, Black and Brown Kidskin low heel styles; 11½ to 2. Easter Special **\$3.85**

### Boys' Easter Shoes

Boys' Pilot Brand Brown English Lace Shoes; sizes up to 5½. Easter Special at..... **\$3.95**  
Same in Black English Lace ..... **\$3.45**

### The American Girl Pumps

The American Girl Black Suede and All-Patent Victory Pumps; hand-turned soles; covered and leather heels; Pumps that will not bulge at sides. Easter Special..... **\$4.85**

### Ladies' Oxfords

4 styles of Ladies' Lace Oxfords; Goodyear welt close trim soles; narrow toes; Dull Calf and All-Patent Leather; Louis and Baby French heels; very dressy; Easter Special... **\$4.85**

## SECOND FLOOR EASTER SPECIALS

### EASTER LOW-CUTS

Ladies' New Spring Style Low Cuts for Easter wear; Black Satins, Black Suedes, Black Kidskin, Tans and Patents; Plain Pump, Straps, Ties and Lace Oxfords; flexible turn soles; high leather and Louis XV covered heels. Easter Special..... **\$7.85**

### WALKING OXFORDS

A number of styles of Ladies' Walking Oxfords, in Brown Calf, Brown Kidskin, Black Kid and Calf; Goodyear welt soles; Cuban heels, including popular wing tips. Easter Special **\$5.85**

### EASTER HOSIERY

Ladies' Plain and Ribbed Hose..... **95c**  
Ladies' Pure Silk Hose; various shades..... **\$1.35**  
Full Fashion B. K. Pure Silk Hose; popular shades..... **\$1.65**  
Better Grade Full Fashion Silk Hose; choice of colors. Special..... **\$2.15**  
**EXTRA SPECIAL!** Neat straps to wear with pumps; assorted. **\$1.00 and up.**

### LADIES' PUMPS

Several numbers in Ladies' Spring Style Dress Pumps; Easter fashion; Louis XV heels; hand-turned soles; Tan Calf, Patents, Mat Calf, Mat Kid; moderate narrow toes; always dressy. Easter Special..... **\$4.85**

### DRESS OXFORDS

Ladies' Splendid Quality Louis XV Heel Dress Oxfords. Brown Calf, Brown Kid, Black Patents. Suedes and Black Calf and Kid. All sizes. Flexible turn soles. Easter special..... **\$5.85**

### PRACTICAL LOW CUTS

Ladies' Black Kidskin Practical Low Cut Oxfords for street and general wear; Goodyear welt soles, narrow and medium round toes; always comfortable for summer wear. Easter Special..... **\$6.85**



**SHOE STORE**  
7th & D Sts. N. W.  
Take Elevator