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A. W. LEE, Publisher. JAS. F. POWELL, Managing Editor. W. H. POWELL, Editor.

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A WARTIME TRAGEDY

At last the subject of paper waste has found its way into the senate, and in the discussion the republican leader, Senator Gallinger, revealed an important fact when he declared that he was in receipt of letters daily from constituents, complaining because they were not getting their copies of the Congressional Record.

It developed that the shortage of paper was responsible for curtailing the output of the Record and that only a few, aside from officials of the government, are on the mailing list.

But that anyone should become sufficiently worried to write his senator a complaint because the Record failed to arrive on time is difficult to believe. To learn that Senator Gallinger's mail from back home in New Hampshire should be cluttered up with these complaints is to see New Hampshire folk in a new light.

What a wonderful field New Hampshire must be for the distribution of almanacs, circus heralds, patent medicine testimonials, and religious tracts. Imagine Senator Gallinger's average constituent, at rest after a season's activities on his rock-ribbed farm, settling himself for a winter day's orgy of reading, with the Congressional Record, the annual report of the secretary of the treasury and Vickers' Fireside Companion at hand.

And imagine the disappointment of that solid and substantial citizen at discovering that several numbers of the Congressional Record had failed to arrive on schedule. It might be enough to shake his faith in the government itself. No wonder Senator Gallinger was exercised.

It was the funeral Senator Smoot, constant watchdog of the treasury, who revealed that the department of public information—George Creel's bureau—spends some \$5,000 daily, a good share of the sum being for paper on which to print the government's daily Official Bulletin and the various other effusions which Mr. Creel and his remarkably large staff produce.

Someone suggested that it might be possible to conserve paper in the interest of the Congressional Record by denying publication to some of the illuminating compositions which are distributed, franked—by the various departments. The titles mentioned included, "Pirates of the Deep; a Story of the Spirit and the Octopus," "Through Costa Rica, the Magnificent With a Motor Car," "The Wholesale Prices from 1900 to 1916," and "Narcotic Plants and Stimulants of Ancient Americans."

All in all, the senate had a most entertaining discussion. An investigation of Mr. Creel's bureau was suggested, but that was all. Meanwhile nothing has been done to relieve the plight of those disappointed patriots in New Hampshire.

POT AND KETTLE

"Peace with Russia will have been arrived at only when the signatures on the treaty are dry," Dr. von Kuehlmann told the German reichstag, but certainly Trotsky and Lenin might well retort that even then the signatures would not be able to count the war ended.

There is a deep vein of genuine humor in the spectacle of official Germany charging any other government with faithlessness. In the present instance Germany and the bolsheviks are considerably like the pot and kettle of the homely maxim. Indeed, if one of the utensils were to claim an approach to lawlessness the despised Russians would be entitled to regard it as their symbol, for Germany has set a record for repudiation of solemn pledges which gives it a long start on the much younger bolshevik group—it would be mockery to call the Lenin-Trotsky combination a government.

Germany has violated the conventions of The Hague, nearly all of them, and has heaped insult on top of her lawlessness by repeating the violations and then accusing the entente nations of disregarding the same agreements.

Germany made famous the phrase, "a scrap of paper" in the early weeks of the war by repudiating the treaty which had guaranteed Belgium against invasion. In Belgium her armies broke every law of warfare and every law of humanity.

When the armistice with Russia was signed Germany continued to transfer her troops from the Russian front to France and Italy in flagrant violation of the formal agreement which Germany's representatives had postponed signing merely to permit the troop movement to be inaugurated.

The neutrality of Sweden was set at naught by Germany's foreign office and a similar disregard for international laws and usage was shown with regard to other neutrals.

And yet, in the face of all these facts, the foreign minister of the kaiser's government declares publicly that he has no faith in the promise of the bolsheviks.

kept in touch with events in Russia that the Germans are determined to obtain control not only of the Ukraine, which already has been handed over, but of Great Russia as well, including Petrograd and the path to Sweden. That is the explanation of Dr. von Kuehlmann's denunciation of the bolsheviks. He desires to build up a defense for the course on which Germany apparently has decided and which will include subjugation of Russia and seizure of whatever the nation may hold which can prove of value to the thorough-going Teutons.

It has been admitted frankly before the legislative bodies of both Teuton empires that the treaty with the Ukrainians is an economic one primarily. It provides that the surplus agricultural products of the vast and rich territory shall be turned over to Germany and Austria-Hungary. Premier Seydler of Austria says this surplus is so great that facilities for transporting it cannot be provided. The bolsheviks want it, of course, and the Germans are determined to forestall them. Germany's "protection" of Ukraine is one part of a plan to build up a defense for the course on which Germany apparently has decided and which will include subjugation of Russia and seizure of whatever the nation may hold which can prove of value to the thorough-going Teutons.

It is not too early to predict the downfall of the Lenin-Trotsky regime in Russia. While it may please Germany to leave these two in nominal control of affairs, they will remain only while they do the bidding of the kaiser. Meanwhile, Germany will obtain so tight a grip on affairs in Russia that any effort to establish another government, of for and by the Russians, will be smothered as quickly and effectively as were the numerous unsuccessful revolutions which were staged in Russia under the Romanoffs before the one of last March finally upset czarism and gave the Germans their first reason to hope that they might fasten their annexation and conquest hooks in the vast lands over which Nicholas has ruled with such an iron hand, albeit with so precarious a hold on his scepter.

SHIPS, AND MORE SHIPS

(From Thursday's Daily.) It is encouraging news which came from Washington yesterday, that the supply of vessels for transporting soldiers and supplies to Europe is evidencing an unexpected growth, two or three weeks in advance of the time which had been estimated as the earliest at which improvement in the shipping situation could be expected.

American shipyards are delivering vessels built under the urge of war. The offensive against the submarines has reduced the losses very materially. The transfer of neutral ships to trade outside the U-boat zone has freed allied vessels for Atlantic travel. Improvement of French harbors permits transports and supply ships to unload speedily and hasten their return to America.

And last but by no means least, labor troubles in the American shipyards have been reduced to a minimum, with prospects for future work at top speed.

American officials had expected conditions to improve, but they had set the date for the first sign of betterment late in the present month. Now they find that since February 1 the situation has been growing better steadily, and they are confident that as the year progresses continuous improvement will be recorded.

All of which is of the most vital interest and importance in the war. For if sufficient ships were available outside the front, the height of the summer's campaign to shove the Hindenburg line back upon German soil. Every ton of shipping that can be added to the present supply will bring so much closer the end of the war and victory over Prussianism.

It is not difficult to foresee that the worry which has been the kaiser's during the past winter—that of preventing hunger and disappointment over the delay of peace—will be transferred next winter to France and England and reduced materially in the Teutonic empires if next autumn finds the battle lines approximately in their present position and Germany and Austria supplied with food from Russia.

France and England, as well as America's increasing number of troops in Europe, must depend on the supply of food, and this in turn depends on the supply of ships if they are not to be disappointed.

America must guard the morale of the armies and people of her allies this year and through the winter, if the war lasts that long. Ships will play a major part in whatever America is able to do.

TIME TO QUIT

Turning back to the speech which Premier Lloyd George made before parliament in response to the invitation to join in the farcical peace negotiations that put Brest-Litovsk on the world map, one is compelled to admit that the scrappy Britisher had the situation sized up correctly.

In effect Lloyd George said that the allies could not waste valuable fighting time in futile efforts to induce the anarchistic Lenin and Trotsky to abandon their silly attitude and join in a more realistic peace. In an effort more with the entente in the effort to do that frank in depicting the bolshevik leaders as betrayers of the Russian people, but he added that the Russians had gone into the business of anarchy with open eyes and could not expect the allies to pause in a war for existence to straighten out their tangled affairs.

Events are moving so rapidly in Russia that it is almost impossible now to realize that many diplomats regarded the British premier's attitude as too harsh. President Wilson, who addressed congress within a day or two afterward, paid particular tribute to Russia's desire for independence and saved the wound in Russia's pride which Lloyd George had inflicted.

But it is not probable that the president was deceived. He may have hoped for a revival of conscience in Russia that would upset bolshevism and reinstate sanity, and he sought to appeal to that portion of Russia which had not come fully under the sway of the Lenin brand of socialism. But now, after a few weeks, he and all

"STOPSKY! DETOUR!!"



rest of the world realize all too clearly that the bolsheviks were only advance agents for German subjugation.

With Russia beyond hope of redemption or reclamation, and with the invading German armies approaching Petrograd at a rate of speed easily comparable to the best service on the crippled Trans-Siberian railroad, American interest turns very naturally to the safety of Americans who are in Petrograd and other Russian cities.

Principal among them, of course, is Ambassador David R. Francis, that staunch old Missourian who has held his job and his head among exciting scenes and has reflected considerable credit on himself and his country. Mr. Francis has been compelled to hold off threatening Russian patriots with a revolver a time or two; he has seen enough tragedy in Petrograd to last a dozen men all their lives; no doubt he will be glad to get back home to St. Louis, despite its street car strikes and its nearness to the riot city across the river.

And Americans hope he will be able to make the journey safely on which, dispatches say, he has embarked with diplomats representing European nations. They must cross Russia and Siberia and take ship to San Francisco, and they cannot consider themselves safe until they shall have seen the anchor raised at Vladivostok.

Mr. Francis has done all he or any one else could do in Petrograd. It is high time for him to leave in advance of the on coming Prussians.

APPLIED SOCIALISM

As illustrating an assertion which has appeared often in these columns—that socialism with its idealistic proposals is doomed to just the chaotic failure which is exemplified in Russia today, because it neglects the individual's lack of possession of the conscience—the following from the Wall Street Journal is reproduced here:

Discarding probability, for the moment, let us suppose that John D. Rockefeller turned what part of his property he could into cash—a small amount, relatively, but still enormous—and presented himself in Madison Square, with the offer to share it equitably with the "laborer." What would happen? A few unemployables would perhaps secure some of his bounty. But, in the absence of the police, the nearest gunman would hit him over the head and appropriate all he could carry away.

This is what has happened under the Trotsky regime in Russia. Here were two German-Semitic "internationalists," anarchists both, Trotsky and Lenin, according to their Russian allies, who, after a life of poverty, had sold out to the victors for a price not specified, and virtual control of Russia and all its possibilities. They have negotiated a "peace," on terms of unconditional surrender, without a single stipulation to protect those they affected to represent. Germany has completed a conquest so absolute that history records no parallel.

Trotsky, in fact, removing his soap box from Madison Square to Petrograd, took Russia in his two hands, with all its present and potential wealth, and offered to share with everybody—his worthless, workless, criminal following, and the "laborer" whose name is so constantly on the lips of agitators of his type. The inevitable happened. The German gunman was no accident. The kaiser had easily foreseen exactly such a development. It hardly required a soap-box to knock Trotsky off his feet and take from him all

that he professed to offer to the Russian people.

The deed has been so completely accomplished that even the president, in his address to congress, seemed to recognize German dominance in Russia as a completed fact. It will be noticed that he did not repeat his fourteen propositions of the past. What power is there that can dynamite Germany out of the complete control of European Russia, with all that such a dominance implies? Certainly nothing but an effective military occupation of German industrial territory in the west. Falling this, Germany will have reduced nearly one-half of Europe to an economic slavery to the fatherland, with prospective profits which may pay her a return for all she has spent upon the war.

A compromise on these terms is a guarantee of future wars on a scale so colossal as to baffle imagination. Peace talk at this time is like tying the hands of the policeman and giving the gunman full sway.

Russia is the world's experiment in applied socialism. Within eleven months Russia has passed from the autocracy of the Romanoffs to the autocracy of the Hohenzollerns, which is the worse because it is the stronger, more ruthless, more resourceful in its iniquity and more conscienceless in its disregard of Christianity.

Meanwhile, Russia has passed through all the various stages of applied socialism, from Prince Lvoff to Trotsky—from conservative idealism to utter anarchy.

If Russia's terrible experience is to serve as a warning and a lesson to the world, socialism in every form must be recognized as the enemy of government, law and order. That is the first and essential step in the re-establishment of democracy as the spirit of the world's government. It is the aim that civilized governments throughout the world must have before them when the war is over, and unless they and their peoples realize it now, while the war is on, socialism may claim more as its theatre for devastation than is included in Russia's vast stretches.

A NOTABLE CHANGE

The announcement is made today that H. N. Taylor, federal coal distributor for the district which includes Iowa, Nebraska, Kansas, Missouri, Arkansas, Oklahoma and Texas, has appointed D. F. Cushing coal distributor for Iowa. This follows by a few weeks the appointment of Federal Fuel Distributor Morrow, who is an assistant to Administrator Garfield and is charged with the responsibility for zoning the country and arranging for distribution of coal in the various zones without unnecessary conflicting railroad transportation.

Mr. Taylor is an extensive coal dealer. Mr. Cushing is general superintendent of the Fowler & Wilson mines at Rathbun and president of the Iowa Coal Operators' association. Mr. Morrow has been associated for years with some of the biggest Pennsylvania coal operators and has been secretary of the National Coal Operators' association.

The distributors are distinct from the administrators in the various states. They will handle the actual distribution of coal and the administrators will issue the orders for coal conservation. That, broadly, is the division of work indicated by the orders thus far issued with regard to them.

The feature of the affair that claims attention from the observer is the apparent decision of the government to put in the hands of men who have been identified with the coal industry for

many years—coal men. When Dr. Garfield was taken from the presidency of a college last fall and made fuel administrator, the announcement was made that he knew nothing in particular about coal. This was followed by the announcement that the fuel administrators who he was to appoint and the assistants he was to bring into his organizations would be men who, like himself, knew nothing of the coal industry. He departed a little way when he obtained the services of John P. White, president of the mine workers, but this was a recognition of the employes and not of the coal business.

It was apparent that before men could consider themselves eligible for appointment as coal administrators, state or local, they must prove that they had no connection with the coal business and no knowledge of it.

Now, all this seems to have changed. But in the meantime America has gone through a winter fraught with terrible and costly fuel famines. Industry has been halted to relieve the coal shortage. Orders have been given and countermanded; months have been lost while Dr. Garfield and his uninformed assistants were learning some of the vital facts about the coal business.

Presumably, coal men were ruled off the fuel administration last fall on the theory that they could not be trusted to conduct the industry as patriotic and honest men. This never was announced, but the inference is unescapable. Certainly, it would be difficult to assign another logical reason.

Naturally, then, the question arises whether these same men have received a new baptism of virtue and probity during the winter. Are they more honest than they were last September, perhaps? Or is it that they are needed by the government because the men on whom the government depended did not know how to handle their jobs?

The affirmative reply is demanded by the second query. And one is left to ponder whether, if the coal administration had been put into the hands of reputable coal men at the beginning, the shortage could not have been minimized greatly, with a resulting economy of many millions.

A TEST OF ENDURANCE

The world war has developed into a plain test of endurance between the peoples of the central powers' countries and those of the nations opposed to Prussianism. In this trial it is the supreme task of America and Americans to supply the final ounce of determination and moral courage which must be exerted to turn the scales in favor of Christianity, democracy and of civilization itself.

Germany and Austria are enveloping Russia, Turkey, today's dispatches announce, is experiencing a revival of interest in the war and is undertaking a new offensive in the Caucasus against the remnant of the Russian army which refused to regard war as ended when the eastern front collapsed.

The peoples of the central powers will obtain vast stores of food and raw materials for munitions from Russia. The governments of Germany, Austria-Hungary and Turkey will tap Russia of its resources, leaving nothing which could be of value. It is worse than unwise to fail to take into account the strengthening effect which the Russian invasion will have on the morale of the Teutonic peoples and their armies.

If it is true that the Germans and Austrians have been underfed, there is every probability that they will enjoy a marked improvement in conditions this year. Meanwhile, the publications of England, France and Italy must be provided with food and numerous raw materials from America. And they must be supplied with more;

they must have the unqualified and doubly certain assurance that not later than the spring of 1919 America's military forces will be in Europe in such number and strength that England, France and Italy need not longer carry the major burden of the war which they have shouldered so bravely for almost four years.

If America were able to exert its whole strength in Europe this year the situation would be a serious one. Under conditions as they are, with America unable to enter Europe in such number and strength before 1919, and with pro-German propagandists working assiduously through every possible avenue of socialism and pacifism in every European country, moral courage and heroic determination must offset the terrible fatigue of war and the longing for peace which are to be found in England, France and Italy.

It is up to America to win a war on the battlefield, and it is up to the allied countries in Europe to maintain a staunch opposition to the influences which, from now on, will operate with increasing strength to weaken the morale and fighting spirit of Germany's enemies.

American loyalty must set the example for the world. American unity of purpose and unity of action must be such that the peoples of the allied nations will be spurred to emulation in spite of every German wile and trick and every natural impulse to accept peace at the price fixed by the kaiser.

HILLQUIT AS A PATRIOT

Without claiming any exclusive information on the point, we have heard the news that the government will not avail itself of Morris Hillquit's offer to tell the socialists of Germany and Austria the truth about America. If we are to believe in the sincerity of his speech in New York Thursday night, Hillquit goes a short step of the way toward loyalty and patriotism in his new-found indictment of autocracy and militarism of the Hohenzollern brand.

"I want to say to you, my socialist friends," he said, "there is at least one branch of war service into which you can enter with all your hearts and souls to aid our president in bringing about his ideals of peace. That branch of war service is the work of scattering propaganda among the laboring classes of Germany and Austria."

Perhaps Mr. Hillquit does not intend to volunteer as a propagandist. Possibly he considers his job is the exhortation of his fellow socialists in America to defy the kaiser by writing letters or sending literature to the Germans and Austrians, or, perhaps, by slipping across the frontier from Switzerland and conducting a house to house campaign in Germany against autocracy.

Only last fall Mr. Hillquit, then socialist candidate for the majority of New York, was stirring his hyphenated audiences by his appeals to class prejudice and his pacifist tirades in which he pleaded for the "internationalism" of which all socialists dream and chatter. He rallied the pro-Germans and pacifists to his support and made a victory for Tammany certain.

Now he has discovered that autocracy and militarism in Germany and Austria must be put down. Apparently he has made the discovery since last November and it might be expected that he would be ready to admit he was in error then. But there is no record that he has made such an admission. Only now does it appear that he is more than half inclined to regard the present war and America's part in it as really loyal American citizens regard it.

If he did, we might find him helping to obtain recruits for the army or the navy from among the socialists. His New York address, so far as text is at hand, did not indicate that he would advise American socialists to fight in the war whose outcome will spell permanency or utter defeat for the government under which they have enjoyed privileges no other government in the world would permit them or their kind.

Hillquit is one of those socialists who endorse the Russian bolshevik and regard them as representatives of the highest type of advanced thinkers. Only now is he able to realize that the Lenin-Trotsky movement in Russia has been at the mercy of the kaiser from its inception. Only since Trotsky himself detailed the methods by which Germany is exploiting Russia after apparently recognizing the bolshevik agitators as a duly constituted government, has Hillquit voiced alarm over the vicious power of kaiserism.

Meanwhile, socialists in Germany are supporting the government in all its iniquities. Somewhat unwillingly, possibly, but without any successful efforts to assert themselves, these socialists are making it possible for Germany to crush socialism in Russia and oppose iron armies against the governments which stand for freedom and liberty.

These German socialists are past masters. Only a few days ago one of their spokesmen denounced the bolsheviks in Russia as mere tyros in the frame of world reform. He boasted that German socialism long ago passed the stage at which Russian socialism finds itself now, and warned his German hearers against following in the lead of Lenin and Trotsky.

Mr. Hillquit and his New York socialists would fare but sadly should they attempt to fan to a blaze the feeble flame of militant socialism in the Teutonic empires. The German socialist is far superior to them, with a typical German excess of "kultur" and cunning that would mock what ever half-hearted methods they might adopt in an effort to win him to support a government to which they themselves are, at best, only half loyal or less.

IS IT ECONOMY?

One of the prominent paragraphs in the letter which Governor Harding has sent to members of the state legislature, announcing the abandonment of the plans for a special session, details the state of three special appropriations made at the 1917 session. One of these contained \$50,000, for law enforcement.

From that sum, up to January 1, the

governor had expended \$4,534.35, and he reported a balance in the fund of \$45,465.65.

The \$50,000 fund which the legislature appropriated for war work had been reduced to \$685,925.79 by expenditures totalling \$264,064.21.

There is no information in the governor's letter as to how the money was spent, but it is evident that unless circumstances which cannot be foreseen now arise during the present year each of the funds will have quite respectable balances at the end of the two-year fiscal period when a final accounting is to be made.

Meanwhile it is quite in order to consider the fact that with \$50,000 at his disposal to fight law violation, the governor has disbursed money from the fund at the rate of perhaps \$10,000 per month, while the bootleggers throughout the state are plying their traffic in happy unconcern regarding the state's attitude toward them. Here at Ottumwa they have spent a very profitable winter, and the activities of state agents, as far as results have shown, have amounted exactly to nothing.

It is a certain mark of the height of inefficiency for officials charged with enforcement of the law to plead that such enforcement is impossible. It is additional proof of inefficiency that these same officials fail to take advantage of the facilities which are placed in their hands for effective enforcement of the laws. This does not apply alone to the state and its officials, but to those of city, county and township as well.

Failure to enforce the prohibition statute in Iowa is certain to be urged as one of the strongest arguments in favor of removing the lid and permitting saloons to operate. It would be less than just to refrain from calling attention just now to the obvious fact that this failure could be turned into success, at least to some extent, if the governor should adopt an aggressive policy, even to the extent of exhausting the \$50,000 fund which the legislature gave him for law enforcement. Certainly that legislature contemplated the enforcement of the liquor laws among others when it made the appropriation. And certainly the liquor laws are violated more flagrantly and openly in Iowa than are any others.

GERMAN CENSORSHIP

London newspapers published when Germany's recent strikes were in progress and which have reached America during the past week, viewed the indications of unrest in the enemy country with more suspicion than was evidenced by American newspapers. In a long leading editorial the London Times warned its readers against believing the extreme stories which the German censor permitted to cross the frontier in Berlin and Munich newspapers.

The Times argued that the censor, who had kept the news of the Austrian strikes out of Germany with such marked success, would permit the outside world to be told that Germany herself was threatened by more serious labor troubles, unless that censor had a good and sufficient reason. The Times refused to believe the situation was serious and regarded the strikes, instead, as officially inspired with the object of permitting them to progress to a certain limit, there to be suppressed by government in such a manner as to discourage the socialist from undertaking the coming army campaign.

Supporting the opinion of the London editor is a story which comes from Amsterdam today, commenting on the suppression of the attempted general strike in Brunswick munition factories. This strike, the account says, took place last August but was kept a secret by the German censor. This same busy agent of kaiserism has permitted the publication in the journal of the German metal workers' union months after the failure of the strike, commenting on its utter collapse and carrying this significant sentence: "It will be a long time before labor in Brunswick recovers from the wounds received."

It is a pretty safe bet that when news comes from Germany which is calculated to give aid and comfort to Germany's enemies, that news is exaggerated purposely or manufactured entirely by the agents of Prussianism.

FREWONT

Mrs. Alva Steele has returned to her home in Furon after a visit at the parental Springer home. Mrs. Doolittle returned to Washington Saturday. She has been visiting her daughter, Mrs. M. F. Triplett. Miss Gronewald is somewhat improved, although yet quite ill.

Christopher Weil is ill at the home of his daughter, Mrs. John Mon. Miss Ulah Reinert of Packwood and Miss Lizzie Clark of Delta spent Sunday at the Robert McKibben home.

Mrs. Emma Springer is convalescing after an illness of several days. Mr. and Mrs. Swain Cook have returned to their home in Dakota. Before they departed they were the guests of the Rebecca lodge at a social in their honor.

Mrs. Albert Severt spent a few days in Des Moines visiting her daughter, Mrs. Frank Love, and her son, Walter Severt. Miss Erma L. Kroat spent the week end at her home. She returned to her work in Des Moines Monday. Mrs. Regan was in Washington for a few days last week.

Mr. Austin has returned from Chicago. While there he visited De Verne and Nadine, who are attending school near here. Rev. and Mrs. Reese of Highland attended a meeting here one evening last week. Rev. Reese has been holding a revival with the Highland church. E. E. Austin and Lee Forbes were in Des Moines last Friday on business. The Christian church held services Sunday, as it was the regular date for their minister.