

Statement by the Russian Soviet Government Bureau.

January 23d, 1920.

In view of the more or less fanatical speculations as to the possibility of the re-establishment of trade relations with Russia by dealing with "Co-operative Societies" but in other respects "not changing the policy of the Allies toward Soviet Russia", it seems necessary to call the attention of American manufacturers and exporters to certain obvious facts, namely:

FIRST: The resumption of trade relations entails problems such as the re-establishment of Russia's foreign credit, the matter of transportation, of harbor facilities, of representatives abroad, to take care of the clearance of ships and other matters of consular nature, the issuance of passports for commercial travelers back and forth, the mutual protection of foreign visitors in Russia and Russian visitors abroad, — which cannot be solved without formal contact with the authorities in Russia.

SECOND: There exist in Russia no such cooperative societies as are being announced in the plans of some people who apparently desire to find in Russia somebody whom they might utilize in bringing about friction between the Russian people and its Government. Under present conditions in Russia, the formerly separate and independent cooperative societies have changed their nature, their position and their function. They are today distributing agencies of the Russian economic system and they work in complete harmony with the Soviet Government. So-called "representatives of Russian Co-operative Societies" in London, Paris and New York do not represent the Russian Co-operatives and have no authority whatsoever to speak in their name or to enter into any obligations on behalf of any number of people in Russia. Such foreign representatives as are now announced as negotiating with the Allies were representatives of the old Russian cooperative movement. They have been deposed by the Russian cooperative organizations and other representatives have been elected in their places, but have been prevented by the Allies from taking change of the offices of cooperatives in foreign countries. The status of these alleged representatives who now purport to negotiate in the name of the Russian cooperative movement with the Allies in Paris is about the same as the status of former Czar and Kerensky "Embassies". They do not represent anybody except themselves. Such representatives have no supplies in Soviet Russia to exchange for foreign products and have no right to negotiate obligations in anybody's name except their own.

The foreign trade of Russia is nationalized and the Russian Soviet Government is in full control of all supplies in Russia, of the means of transportation, and of such other resources as can be made, and which the Russian Soviet Government is ready to make the solid basis of Russia's foreign credit. The Russian Soviet Government is perfectly capable and ready to satisfy all requirements for the re-establishment of trade with Russia. According to information received by us from Mr. Litvinoff in Copenhagen, the Soviet Government of Russia is ready at any time, when the blockade

is really lifted, to prove in practice Russia's ability to re-enter the field of foreign trade and to begin purchasing on a very large scale, on conditions quite acceptable to all parties concerned.

Soviet Russia is eager to open her markets for American products, and is prepared to buy hundreds of millions of dollars worth of materials. In order to facilitate the development of this trade, the sooner all restrictions of mail and telegraphic communications between Russia and foreign countries, are abolished, the better. It is in the interest of this trade, and we feel confident that manufacturers and export merchants will understand that any restrictions of this character will harm them just as much as they will harm Russia.

Statement by Mr. L. Martens, Representative of the Russian Socialist Federal Soviet Republic, Before the Sub-committee of the Committee on Foreign Relations of the United States, Jan. 19, 1920

Mr. MARTENS, A CITIZEN OF RUSSIA

I am a Russian citizen. I submit herewith, and ask to have inserted in the record, a photographic copy of my credentials as Representative in the United States of the Russian Socialist Federal Soviet Republic. This certificate describes me as a "Russian citizen". The original of this document I sent to the Department of State of the United States Government on March 19, 1919. Translated into English, it reads as follows:

RUSSIAN SOCIALIST FEDERATED SOVIET REPUBLIC

People's Commissariat of Foreign Affairs Office of the People's Commissar January 2, 1919

No. 9-k
Moscow, corner of Spiridonovka and Patriarch's Lane, House number 50-1 Telephone No. 4-23-96

It is hereby announced that Russian Citizen Ludwik Christian Alexander Karłowitch Martens, who resides in the United States of America, is appointed the representative of the People's Commissariat of Foreign Affairs in the United States of America.

(Signed) People's Commissar for Foreign Affairs,

G. Chicherin,

Acting Secretary of the Office,

F. Shenkin.

(Official Seal of the People's Commissariat of Foreign Affairs)

(True translation)
I submit herewith also, and ask to have inserted in the record, a copy of another document authorizing me to represent the Russian Socialist Federal Soviet Republic in various legal capacities in the United States. This document also describes me as a citizen of that Republic. It reads as follows:

RUSSIAN SOCIALIST FEDERATED SOVIET REPUBLIC

People's Commissariat for Foreign Affairs May 25, 1919

No. 534-k
Moscow

To Whom It May Concern

The People's Commissariat for Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federative Socialist Soviet Republic hereby de-

clares that citizen LUDWIG MARTENS is authorized to take in charge and administer, in the name of the Russian Federative Socialist Soviet Republic, all movable and real estates of the former Embassy and Consulates and all property on the territory of the United States of America, belonging to the Russian Federative Socialist Soviet Republic. Citizen L. Martens is also entrusted with the right to solicit and answer claims within the limits of the United States of America, in all cases where material interests of the Russian Federative Socialist Soviet Republic are engaged, to prosecute all civil and criminal cases on behalf of the Russian Federative Socialist Soviet Republic, in tribunals, courts and other institutions of the United States of America.

Citizen L. Martens, is entrusted to defray all expenses incurred on behalf of the Russian Federative Socialist Soviet Republic and to receive all moneys claimed by the Russian Federative Socialist Soviet Republic in the United States of America, and issue receipts. People's Commissar for Foreign Affairs

G. CHICHERIN, Secretary,

I. LEWIN.

(SEAL)

Since each government must be deemed the sole judge in determining the status of its citizenship, I take it that these documents establish beyond all doubt the fact that I am a citizen of the Russian Republic. Nevertheless, I wish this Committee to be in possession of all the facts so that no further misapprehension may arise in this matter.

I was born in Russia of German parents, who had emigrated to Russia in the first half of the last century. At the time of my birth my parents were permanent residents of Russia. I was born in Bachmut, Province of Ekaterinoslaw, Russia, on December 20th, 1874. I was brought up in the City of Kursk and in Petrograd, and educated at the Kursk High School and the Petrograd Technological Institute.

Under the laws of the United States of America, I am a citizen of the United States. But under the archaic laws of the old Russian and German military governments, I was considered technically a German subject, although born and raised in Russia. At the age of seventeen I applied for Russian citizenship, but the Russian authorities insisted that I should first serve in the German army, which I refused to do. I continued to reside in Russia, and in 1896, by reason of my affiliation with the revolutionary movement against the Russian Czar, I was imprisoned by the Czar's government. At the conclusion of my sentence in 1898, the Russian authorities delivered me forcibly to the German military authorities, who impressed me into the German army and compelled me to serve two years as a common soldier. I continued my affiliation with the Russian revolutionary movement up to the revolution, which began with the abdication of the Czar, to the establishment of the Provisional Government on March 16, 1917. The Provisional Government proclaimed amnesty for all political offenders and invited all

political refugees to return to Russia. I was in America at that time, representing the Davidoff Count San Donato Company of Perm one of the largest steel and mining concerns in Russia. Because of my technical German citizenship, I could not avail myself of the amnesty and invitation to return, since Russia and Germany were then at war. Desirous of facilitating my return to Russia, my relatives applied to the Provisional Government of Prince Lvov for naturalization papers for me. Such naturalization papers were granted in May or June, 1917, by special decree of the Provisional Government. This Provisional Government was officially recognized by the Government of the United States. These naturalization papers were dispatched to me by registered letter. I was informed of this by letter from my sister, Mrs. Popoff, who resides in Petrograd. I did not receive the letter containing my naturalization papers. I assume that it was intercepted in the mails by the British or other censor. At that time many important letters and cables relating to my business transactions in this country, regarding the purchase of American materials for my company, etc., were being intercepted by the censor and never reached me.

I entered the United States on January 2d, 1916. The United States was then at peace with the world. I registered my technical status as a German subject with the port authorities, explaining to them at the same time that I was born and resided in Russia and that my German citizenship was only a technical of German law. I have in my possession documents issued to me by the English Government exempting me and my family from internment or deportation as enemy aliens, in order that I might go about my business in England. It was by the virtue of these documents that I was permitted freely to leave England, irrespective of my status, and I submit these documents to the Committee and ask they be incorporated in the record.

The general Rules and Regulations prescribed by the Attorney General of the United States for the registration of German enemy aliens were issued December 31st, 1917, pursuant to the proclamation of the President of the United States, dated November 16th, 1917. At that time I was already a Russian citizen by virtue of a decree of the Provisional Government of Prince Lvov, and was officially recognized by the Government of the United States, and was therefore not subject to registration under those rules and regulations.

This should suffice to clear up all misunderstanding about my citizenship. The fact that the present government of Russia has certified that I am a Russian citizen and has made me its official representative in the United States disposes of this question without doubt. In addition, there are the facts which I have just stated; that I was born and raised in Russia and was given legal Russian citizenship by a former Russian Government which was recognized by the Government of the United States.

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Not Citizen Enough Ruminations of a Rebel.

By Anon.

He was only a young fellow
When he fought
In the Spanish war
And came down with malaria
In Cuba, and when he got out
Of HOSPITAL
And wandered home.
His father was dead,
The last of his relations.
So he went WEST,
PIONEERING
In many sorts of places,
Till the Great War came.
He ENLISTED
At the very first
And went to France,
He fought in most
Of the BATTLES
OUR BOYS were in,
Yet somehow or other
He still came home alive,
Not even WOUNDED
To speak of.
But somewhat worn and thin
From a touch of the gas
And maybe a bit
Of SHELL SHOCK,
He went over to Bremerton
Hunting a job
On the government works,
But his application
Came back to him.
And the reason they gave
For REFUSING
Was that he couldn't PROVE
His CITIZENSHIP
Sufficiently to suit them:
His father was an alien
And he couldn't show
Whether or not
He had been naturalized.
So the soldier boy
Is still hunting work
In Seattle
He was enough
Of a CITIZEN
For DANGEROUS jobs,
But NOT enough
For the SAFE ones!

SQUIBS.

Per-ahng, vea verily PERISHING — is the state of American Liberty.

AN IDEA.

The most powerful thing in the world is an IDEA. If an idea is wrong it will stop itself. But if it is right nothing can or will stop it. We may arrest, jail, kill or even deport men — but cannot arrest, jail, kill or deport ideas. In fact ideas feed, fatten and multiply on suppression and tortures visited on their possessors. History if it teaches us anything, proves this to us. The ideas that govern mankind today were shot at, hung and crucified in bygone days. Their tormentors and persecutors are dead and forgotten, but the ideas which they tried vainly to suppress and annihilate rule and govern today. Still other ideas

Here is a sample of the ultra conservatism of the American worker, which appeared in a late issue of the Cleveland Press, and which, of course the editor commended:

I am not a Red, but I am a wee bit radical. The man in overalls is my blood brother and his cause is my cause, yet I love him too well to cheer him when he is wrong.

Note that this workingman is expressing himself in terms of right and wrong, which is the dominant weakness of the American working mule. He doesn't know that the ruling class has always defined what is right in terms of their economic interests and he has just naturally imbibed the thought that anything inimical to his master's welfare must necessarily be wrong. His beclouded brain never entertains a suspicion of the wrongs he suffers through exploitation. Not understanding his position industrially, not realizing his wage slavery, he is a stranger to the fact that a slave cannot possibly be wrong in any effort he may make to emancipate himself. However, his admission that he is a "wee bit radical" indicates that a few scales have fallen from his eyes, which is hopeful for subsequent thorough enlightenment. His economic vision will then be clear and he will no longer be deceived by the precepts of the bourgeoisie. He will then see the class struggle in all its intensity and become an active participant in the world-wide movement for labor's emancipation. Then he will have learned that conceptions of right have their root in economic conditions.

After an understanding had been arrived at with Holland respecting the disposition of Kaiser Bill, the Allied governments launched a hue and cry for his deportation and trial. Holland demurs, as per arrangement, and the capitalist press, after emitting a yelp or two of indignation, allow the matter to quietly drift into oblivion. We are now informed that a demand has been made of Germany for some two hundred of Kaiser Bill's loyal henchmen, who are charged with abetting Bill in the perpetration of the World War, for the ostensible purpose of placing them on trial. All camouflage, brother. You may safely wager your last iron dollar that there will be nothing doing along that line. Trust the bourgeoisie to deal kindly with their own ilk. Now, if they were workmen, it would be just as safe to gamble that they would be summarily dealt with.

John Spargo, erstwhile member of the Socialist Party, visited Cleveland, shot his wad of dope against the Russian situation as per contract with August Belmont, the American high priest of world imperialism, and departed for other fields of conquest. He and his Belmont pay-roll partner, Charles Edward Russell, experienced a cool reception in Cleveland. The well informed respecting the Soviet form of government in Russia merely smile at the efforts of these mental prostitutes to put across their diatribes against the Bolsheviks, and the rest of the American public doesn't care a damn. I would advise these gentlemen to confine themselves to bourgeois audiences where they are sure to meet with an enthusiastic reception.

are today seeking entrance on the stage and those in power today refuse as stubbornly to give way to the New as the old refused to give way to those in vogue today. However the way or progression is eternal and the old must ever make and give way to the New, the old demonstrated. Error to the newly accepted Truth.

Wirth.

WHAT HAPPENED TO EUROPE.

Frank Vanderlip, American financier, recently returned from a trip to Europe. He has written a book about conditions of industry there which is called "What Happened to Europe". Among many other pointed things which Mr. Vanderlip tells the readers is the following:

"There is today nothing short of chaos in European industry. A failure to restart industry in any European nation, resulting in continued idleness, want and hardship, is certain to lead to social upheavals that will be communicated to other nations."

Continued next week.

Talking It Over With The Miners.

Malbury, Kansas 1-21-1920.
Editor Toller Dear Comrade

There are thousands of good conscious workers that still believe that we can yet save our selves through the trade union and the ballot and it is hard to convince them other wise and about all we can do is to keep the facts continually before them. The part the toiler is playing is helping things along, there is not a single man or woman who can take the events of the last 4 years and show where the trade union has made one bit of progress, where ever there has been a clash between the trade union and capitalism the union has come out defeated.

We unionists have built up an autocracy among our selves. I have reverence to the official class among the trade unions. We have separated the officials from the workers and they have become a separate class by them selves to such an extent that if a corporation wants to start a strike-proof shop all they have to do is to organize under the trade union system and they have it. If it so happens that there is a strike the official class faction of the union will defeat the strike or so cripple the proposition that the settlement that's made is worse than defeat: just look the field over and see if I am not right in my deductions. Look at the more the railroad men made and see what the settlement did to them, then take the great coal strike and see what the official autocracy did. I call them autocrats because they acted without authority from the rank and file they settled our strike on their own self appointed authority.

Then there is the great steel strike from coast to coast and after months of suffering and hardship they were sent back in defeat just as the miners were and I think the answer is plain — they were organized under the trade union system.

How, I want to go on record right here as saying that all of you that want to get any place besides the poor house and serfdom worse than you have. Better get off that old system and get your union reorganized and revolutionized and get organized under industrial unionism. Then and then only can you expect to win. For instance, had we been organized industrially when we miners came out of our prisons and demanded justice at the hands of our despoilers we would have won in a walk.

We could have tied up every industry in the U. S.

Suppose we had one big union instead of the old rotten, moth eaten prehistoric American Federation of Labor when the steel men came out, what do you think would have happened? I can tell you, we would have pulled the string and tied the entire country up and it would not have taken 4 or 5 months either, we miners had the situation at our mercy and could have won in a walk if we had had men with nerve at our head but we did not, so we lost merely because we were not on the right track. I tell you brothers we must get down to brass tacks and organize industrially and depend on our economic power to win and don't let any bone head convince you that you can better your condition by merely voting for it. It is simply idiotic to think so. Just look the situation over and be convinced. Wisconsin elected a congress man, did they get him seated? I think not. New York elected 5 assembly men, did they get their seats? Look it up and see if they did, and so it goes, forget the ballot game and play a game you can win at.

You can win through your economic power and industrial organization and the Communist Labor party is ready to coach you how to start any time you are ready to act, that is our mission in this world so awake and let us organize for victory, otherwise you go to slavery, take your choice.

Yours truly
J. L. CREVISTON

GILLOW SAYS HE IS REVOLUTIONIST

Continued from page 1.

ment regarding the world war, which he said, was caused by capital and in which, he said, the masses were led to believe that they were fighting for principles and ideals.

Judge Weeks interrupted the speaker again.

"I don't like to interrupt you," said the Court, "but you are now speaking of something not contained in the manifesto."

Gillow insisted that the Left Wing principles are directly connected with the European war which, he added, "showed plainly the failure of capitalism."

After several hours of deliberation, Gillow was found guilty by the jury. An appeal was immediately taken by attorney Darrow.

THE BLACK SHEEP

Continued from page 2.

men if you could. Still you know that the land had been theirs for ages when we came and took it."

"But the Indians never used the land," Olive urged.

"Neither does your Dad; he rents it," came back the Editor. "Furthermore, just because you never looked at your watch, does that justify me in stealing it?"

Olive looked demure for a moment, she said, "Honestly Mr. Cranston I am bewildered. I want to see justice done in the case of this boy, and that's pure selfishness, for I clearly see that universal justice cannot be done without creating ruin and if possible still greater injustice."

"It is a dog eat dog world and you can make nothing else of it," said the scribe, as Olive left the office.

She stopped for a moment in the door and looking back at the editor she said, "There is no doubt but what you say is true but it will not always be true, I know that for I will not permit it."

"Some Molly McGuire," laughed the scribe, "or is it Joan of Arc? Remember little girl that business and sentiments don't mix and this is a business world."

She disappeared down the street on her way to the preacher's house.

Continued next week.

Cost Of Living and Workers.

Continued from page 1.
in prison. If they had been workers and had stolen a pair of shoes for a bare-footed kid, they would probably have spent as many years at hard labor in one of our penal institutions.

In order to secure the welfare of the workers, we must cease relying upon any schemes proposed by the advocates of the capitalist system. To believe that profit-taking should become less than profiteering at every opportunity, is to expect the impossible. The profiteer and the profit-taker are twin brothers, fathered by the same sire. Profiteers can develop only under a profit system. It is useless for the workers to cry out against the profiteers and then by their ballots and their activities as union men, support the system which creates these leeches. In order to put down profiteering, we must put down the economic and industrial system upon which it thrives and fattens.

The law making power, even if it were sincere in its attempts to deal a death blow to profiteering, would be helpless to do so. Do not be deceived about the powers of laws. The law making power —

the political power under capitalism, is part and parcel of the capitalist system. The political government is shackled to the capitalist system with chains of gold. It is the implement of the system in conserving the interests of the ruling class.

We will witness the continued bludgeoning of the workers by the profiteers. Their ability to keep it up is accentuated by the tremendous concentration of wealth which is taking place. The old laws of supply and demand have practically ceased to exist in the world's markets. The era of capitalistic world imperialism is passed forever. Politicians and notoriety here. The old order of free competition is hunters may try to make meal for their mills in attempts to create the conditions of by-gone industry, but they will fail.

The profiteer is King and the only way to stop his rule is to take his kingdom away from him, and place the working-class in control. This is the historic mission of the workers. This is what the communist movement of the world means — A WORLD CONTROLLED BY THE WORKERS.

WEEKLY MEETINGS
50 So. Howard St.
Akron Ohio.

FEB. 15th TOM LEWIS OF CLEVELAND.
ATTEND THESE MEETINGS.
YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED.