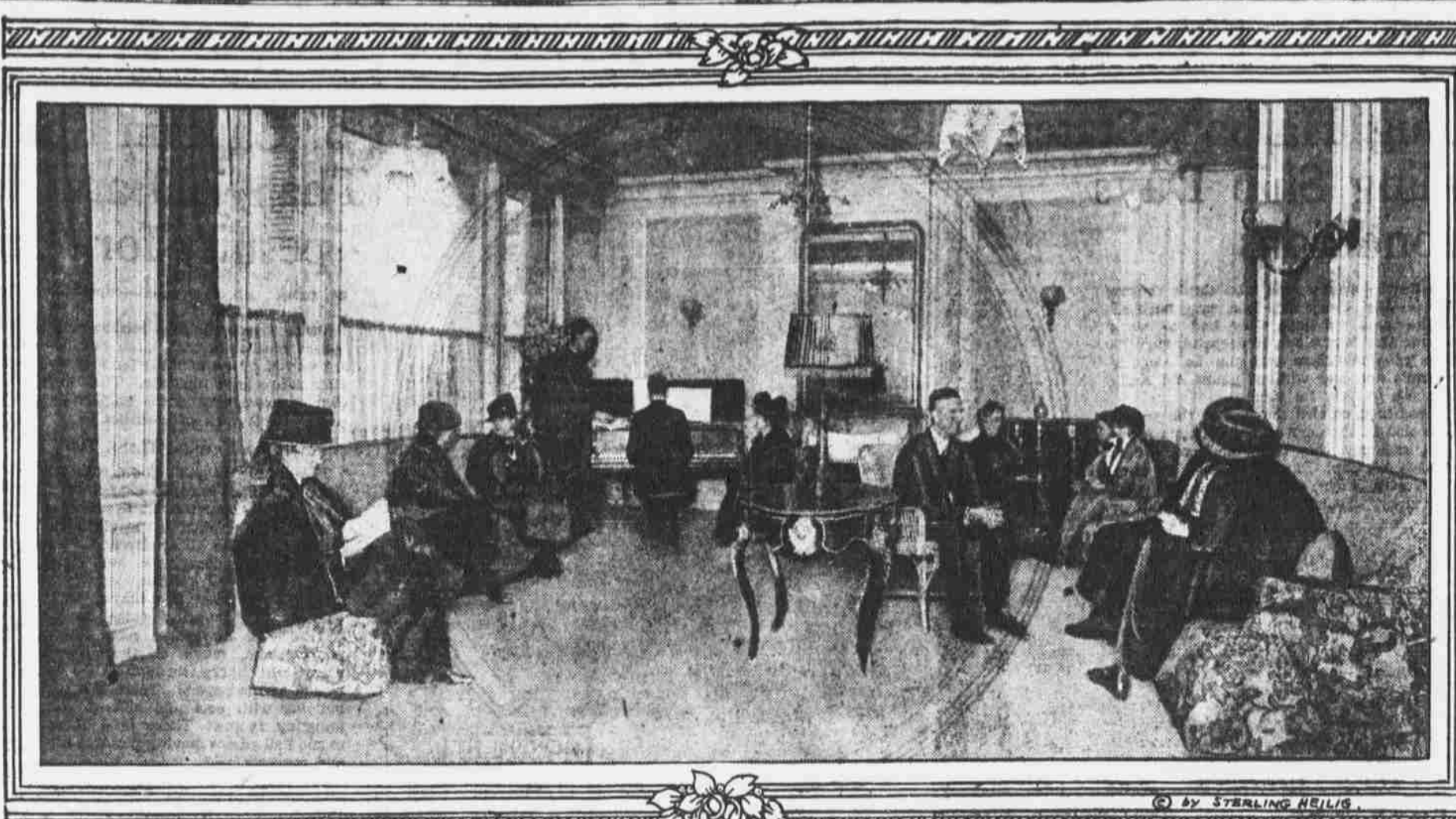


Paris Club for Women From U.S.A.

Provision Made for Rush of Visitors of Whom Many Will Be Gold Star Mothers of Heroes

By STERLING HEILIG.

THEY arrive, forerunners of the coming tourist tidal wave—American women of the usual tourist categories, and the new, the followers in buddy's footsteps and the visitors to soldiers' graves. They are as likely as not to arrive in Paris after dark, according to the vagaries of the boat train, a little shaly on their land legs and disconcerted from the wrestle with their baggage and their first glimpse of strange, babbling Paris. They are fortunate, indeed, if they are booked for the American Women's Club, that new, illustrious and important institution. The American Ambassador's wife is honorary president.



DRAWING ROOM of the AMERICAN WOMEN'S CLUB, PARIS.

This club is organized to answer everything. It is situated in the former bar-room of the former Hotel St. Petersburg, which was one of the greatest tourist hotels before the war, at 33 Rue Caumartin, just off the Paris Boulevard. During the American military campaign it became the foremost Hostess House of the Y. W. C. A. Now it is something really extraordinary—a hotel with 100 heated bedrooms for transient American women (women only, and exclusively American) and recognized, upheld and used for their own purposes by the best elements of the permanent American colony, not only as a women's hotel but a convenient American centre worthy of the name.

New Club a Lively Centre.

There is systematized activity, on the one side, of French girl interpreter searchers accompanying tourists to rescue their baggage and get into the right trains; on the other, of club secretaries guiding parties to the Graves Registration Bureau and the Red Cross, where they find the location of the graves which they have come 3,000 miles to see, and where their exact trip is planned for them to and from the cemetery. The Y. W. C. A., it should be noted in passing, maintains rest houses (veritable little hotels, all brand new), just outside each of the American cemeteries, for relatives and bonafide personal visitors. Later in the day they are taken to the American Passport Bureau and the Prefecture of Police.

Mingling with such seekers are entire categories of American women patronizing the club, more numerous in their ensemble, who know their way about perfectly. They are women tourists, business and professional women, welfare workers, artists, writers, doctors, nurses, interior decorators, buyers from New York, &c., and women sent over to study the fashions in hats and gowns. It is the Paris stopping place for the relief units of the Near East, the reconstruction workers with the Wellesley College Unit, the

Methodist Unit, the Smith College Unit, the American Committee for Devastated France, &c.

The permanent American Colony of Paris, formerly classed as absentees, none too American, seems lined up around the club as if in simple joy of being just American! The business men, the bankers, the commission houses, international law firms, representatives abroad, &c., have quite visibly become part of the colony and undeniable enthusiasts of the club. After eating lunch four days consecutively in the great dining room open to American men, perhaps the best known international jurist murmured to me, with emotion: "I just love its atmosphere!" And under the coup of it (as the French say) he went and founded out of his private means two 5,000 franc prizes for the best essays "On Toleration" in religion, politics, economics and society, to be awarded by the American Chamber of Commerce of Paris.

The club has given four charming dances in a series of winter entertainments; there are regular Sunday afternoon hospitality teas, with a resident American woman assisting the hostesses; there are weekly Sunday evening musicales to provide audiences for young American artists and composers studying in Paris, though interspersed for variety with programmes by the best French artists available.

Special parties in the nature of dinners and receptions are given on American holidays. Many American men and women have entertained friends at the club with private dinners and tea parties since the opening in October, and for this form of entertainment the club has provided rooms and adequate service. Nothing of this sort interferes with the hotel business—on the contrary. The former St. Petersburg was fairly spacious, even for a first class Paris hotel, and all has been

taken over. If seclusion is desired outside one's bedroom, the women's library and writing rooms on the entresol (cunning low-story or "half floor" between the ground floor and bel étage) are always quiet and restful. And one thing I am going to quote textually. The words are before my eyes:

Males Americans May Dine There.

"All American men and women are welcome to the large dining room every day regardless of whether or not they have friends staying at the club to vouch for them. The only requirement is that they are Americans. American men are welcome to the salons and downstairs rooms, where a smoking and reading room has been furnished for their use. Other floors are reserved for women."

The American College Women's Club has here its social seat. The French Home Society makes the club its headquarters. (It was formed by Meis, Joffre to introduce American soldiers to French society.) The Tuesday Evening Club for all American women in Paris is the great crush. It has been addressed by well known war correspondents like Will Irwin, Floyd Gibbons and Elmer Roberts, Paris chief of the Associated Press.

What, for example, is a young, unmarried Captain in the Adjutant-General's office, however socially fortunate, to do with a little golden-haired, blue-eyed girl of fourteen, come all the way from Oklahoma City to spend the winter in Paris with her soldier brother?

They settled her at the club. The women guests were delighted to have her around, as there are not many attractive youngsters travelling about Europe nowadays; and they vied with each other in showing her every bit of sister-friendliness. They take her to the opera, on sight seeing trips, to hear the best

music in Paris; and she is a familiar figure in the club drawing rooms and at dances, musicales and entertainments. Big brother is always in the background, thoughtful, considerate.

A blind American woman had been stranded a week in Paris in a room without heat, or adequate food, or any care but that of her daughter, a child of twelve. They kept to their cold, lonely room most of the time, wrapped in bed coverings. Two staff secretaries of the club found them and brought them to the club next day, "to be warm and cheery"; and all the hotel guests and club visitors treated them like sisters.

The woman was a graduate of one of our largest universities. In 1908 she married and went with her husband to live in a certain European city. In 1914 she returned to the States with her little daughter to receive treatment for the eyes; but they became steadily worse until she practically lost her sight. Meanwhile the war was on and it was impossible to return to her husband. Letters came through, and he frequently cabled her. Last September the State Department issued her a passport, and after a fatiguing voyage she finally arrived—to find the home which she had planned and furnished with her own means and hands occupied by another woman, and strange children about the house! Her husband was a changed man; the situation was intolerable, and she had enough money to reach Paris.

Now, at the club, passage money was promptly and quietly found by American men, in their own pockets; and, after a short recuperation, mother and 12-year-old daughter were on their way to the boat, accompanied by a Y. W. C. A. worker, to install them, like returning tourists.

Can a pretty and stylish American girl get lost from parents and hotel in Paris? One

was lately. For three hours she wandered in the darkening streets, inquiring of police and passersby the way to her hotel—in English. Once, she had the sense to boldly step inside a famous hotel, a favorite with Americans, to put the situation to the desk; and the head clerk, who courteously understood, looked into a directory, called a taxi and gave the chauffeur the address of her hotel. But it wasn't. On arriving, all was strange; none recognized or understood her; and again she wandered on the Paris sidewalk.

One of those flirty French lads, at this moment (smart, well groomed and gay eyed) touched his hat, put on a nice, frank, impersonal air, and asked in English: "Are you lost?"

She trusted him. He thought a moment. "There is an American hotel for women nearby. I saw the name as I passed," he said. "I'll take you."

The young lady secretary was closing up the club's information for the evening. The tourist girl sank into a big leather chair, out! Half hysterical, she told how she had become separated from her people in the crush in front of the Printemps, without money, without language.

They easily found the name of the lost hotel in the directory; found it ten times, in fact, for there are exactly ten hotels of that name. Did she know the street, the neighborhood? Yes, it was a new hotel just opened. And the directory was more than one year old (the new one is late, with these war changes)! The poor child was so scared that she could scarcely sign the register.

They put her up for the night and tucked her in. Next day they found a friend of the family in his offices near the Opera. He knew the hotel and everything. And so the curtain fell on all united and happy.

City's Early Theatres Recalled

Old Park Long Dominated Amusement Business—Story of Broadway Experiment in Late '40s

By CHARLES BURNHAM.

THE old Park Theatre, which stood on Park Row was the dominating influence in New York theatricals almost from the day the original house was dedicated in 1789. So sure were the managers of its standing that for many years they called the house The Theatre, refusing to recognize any other establishment, until the exigencies of time made it imperative to give it a distinctive appellation, when the original name, the Park Theatre, was restored, a title retained until the final destruction of the house in 1848.

The National Theatre, at Church and Leonard streets, when under the direction of the elder Wallack, became the first rival worthy of disputing with the older house its supremacy in dramatic affairs. Unfortunately, the National was destroyed by fire in 1839, just as Mr. Wallack had succeeded in firmly establishing it in popular favor. In an effort to raise funds for the purpose of establishing a new theatre to be conducted by Mr. Wallack a meeting of many of the leading citizens of the city was held at the old Astor House, and the following statement issued to the public: "The time has arrived when a metropolitan theatre corresponding with the wealth and population of this metropolis should be erected on a suitable and convenient site, and that a committee of ten citizens be appointed to take the whole subject into consideration." Among the committee were such notable men of the day as Philip Hone, Epes Sargent, Robert Emmet, S. B. Ruggles, M. M. Noah, Samuel Ward, Jr., and Gerard Coster. Nothing, however, came of the matter, and it was some years later before any definite move was made to supplant the old Park, which still lingered much the worse for wear in a location that was then being considered "too far downtown."

The New Theatre on Broadway. In 1847 there was erected at about what is now numbered 333 Broadway the largest theatre the city had possessed, the manager of which was practically a newcomer in the theatrical field. It was his hope that the new house would prove a worthy successor and occupy the same place in public esteem so long held by the old Park, his ambitions in that direction being set forth in the following announcement: "This splendid establishment, erected in the most fashionable and popular section of the city, will open Monday evening, September 27, with the determination on the part of the proprietor to make it worthy of the patronage of the intelligence and fashion of the city of New York. It is located on the east side of Broadway, between Anthony and Pearl streets, at a point easily reached from every other part of the city. No pains or expense have been spared to render it worthy of the character of a metropolitan theatre."

When the audience assembled on that opening night they found many innovations, and opinions were divided as to the desirability of the changes that confronted them. Foremost among them was the abolishment of the time honored English arrangement of the pit, to which women were not admitted, its place being occupied by a continuation of the dress circle, known in these modern days as the orchestra. This intrusion upon an old institution was looked upon by the old timers as rank heresy and against all theatrical rules of manufacture. About a year later one of the older managers took over the old Park Theatre and remodelled the structure, keeping the pit, which was commented on by one critic, who said: "It retains its good old character and it was not transformed into that modern absurdity, a 'parquette,' which, being a sort of adjunct to the dress circle, is too general a place to allow visitors to laugh or applaud in." Even as late as 1878 Bronson Howard, the playwright, in bemoaning the fact that there were no more pits in American theatres, said: "By the abolition of the pit and the banishment of its former denizens to the upper gallery the entire lower part of the house has now sunk to a deep level of respectability. As a dramatic author I hope to welcome the day when the pit shall return to its primitive glory."

Agreeable astonishment was created when the auditors upon entering the theatre found that it was carpeted throughout. The advanced ideas of the new manager were further manifested in the artistic manner in which the theatre had been decorated, a detail that caused one writer to say: "The splendid style of decoration which has been so freely lavished upon the cabins of steamboats and oyster saloons has at last found its way into the more legitimate use in the building of the theatre. People will hereafter wonder how they were able to endure the old fashioned filth, darkness and discomfort."

Lester Wallack's American Debut. Upon the stage of this theatre Lester Wallack made his debut in America under the name of John Lester, and later on this same artist created here the role of Monte Cristo. Samuel Lover, the famous Irish author, made his appearance here as an actor. It was in this house that Edwin Forrest was playing at the same time the English tragedian Macready was appearing further uptown at the Astor Place Opera House—two engagements that served to add to the feud existing between adherents of the two actors, culminating in the famous Macready riots, in which the English actor was driven from the stage and many citizens of the city lost their lives in the disorder that took place.

On the stage of this theatre the notorious Lola Montez made her first appearance in America as a dancer. This woman became conspicuous through her association with the one-time King of Bavaria, and her various escapades having been well advertised an enormous crowd greeted her on the opening night.

The house failed to reach the path marked out for it—to be the theatre of the city, and after passing through all the vicissitudes which seemed to fall to the lot of those early amusement places the "Old" Broadway, so designated to distinguish it from the many other theatres which adopted the same title, gave way to the advancement of commerce and in 1850 was pulled down.

United States Being Left in Scramble for Russian Trade

First Hand Report From Keen American Observer Shows Strides Made by British and Other Europeans Despite Handicap of Ancient Barter System of Doing Business

Bolshevism is an economic phenomenon; therefore the opening up of regular trade with Russia should be a far stronger weapon than military ventures or diplomatic boycott. Russia is an agrarian country, and the proletariat of skilled artisans is extremely small in comparison with the peasantry. The peasantry produces those products which we most desire from Russia and which can be most efficiently handled in exchange for our goods. Also, they are but little in sympathy with Bolshevism, which is essentially the spirit of the city proletariat.

The desire on our part to trade with them will give rise to a reciprocal desire on their part to trade with us, which will embrace by far the greater part of Russia's lines.

Yet we still flounder about in doubt. For some years to come it will be absolutely necessary to have a strong governmental backing of our own concerns trading in Russia if we expect them to have an even chance with European firms. The reason for this is that Russia's finances are in such a shattered condition that barter will be the only means of trading.

Plan of Barter and a Board of Experts.

To handle this miscellaneous barter exchange it will be necessary for American banks and trading concerns to establish a form of clearing house for produce in various Russian major ports, this to be protected by mutual Russo-American Government agreements. There a staff of experts can be maintained for proper valuations of Russian goods received, and Russians themselves will receive credit for such amounts with which they can in return purchase American articles. Also adequate arrangements can be provided for the storage of produce and other articles in bond. This seems a logical and easy method of transacting such business, and could no doubt be put into effect even under present conditions.

For the independent trader here to load up a ship with assorted merchandise and then proceed to Russia to barter, bit by bit, would probably be a costly experiment and a haphazard way of approaching such business. Aside from the insecurity of his position, the time involved and the cost of maintaining experts on the various articles to be received in exchange for his cargo would set up an overhead cost that would absorb most, if not all, of his profits.

It is not to be expected that Russia will emerge from Bolshevism and pass straight into a sound, safe, normal regime in a year or so. Therefore, some governmental cooperation and backing will be essential to insure a measurable amount of security for those American firms that embark upon trade with that country. It is necessary to give some reasonable degree of confidence to those exporters here that they can go ahead and prepare a Russian market for their goods without having the fear that it can be snatched away from them with the ease with which it has been snatched from them in the past.

Lieut. Negley Farson of the Royal Flying Corps has pronounced views in favor of the United States entering into business relations with Russia, based not on his career as an aviator, but as a business man who formerly had a large connection with the empire's merchants. Our European Allies, he says, should not be permitted to go in as they are doing and get all the business.

Negley Farson is a grandson of Major-Gen. James Scott Negley of Mexican war and civil war fame. He entered the export trade on being graduated from the University of Pennsylvania as civil engineer. From December, 1915, with offices in New York, Stockholm and Petrograd, in the same year Lieut. Farson went to Russia on business with the Russian War Department. His interests procured him many personal interviews with Grand Duke Serge Michaelovitch. He suffered a bad accident to his left leg in a motor accident on the Moscow Airdrome and was unable to leave Russia at the outbreak of the revolution.

Refused on account of his disabled leg when he volunteered for service in the United States Army, Farson joined the British Flying Corps and was sent to Egypt as a scout pilot. A year later he was appointed instructor in aviation with Gen. Denekine in South Russia. His old wound and other leg fractures received in a crash in Egypt sent him eventually to hospital; he is convalescing in the Presbyterian Hospital in this city now.

By NEGLEY FARSON.

LANDING in Philadelphia from Europe about two weeks ago, almost the first question a friend asked me was what did I think about Russia. I replied that it would take a day or two to tell all I thought, but this I could say offhand, that I was certain trade was about to open up with Russia, Soviet or no Soviet. My friend turned pale. He stammered:

"For goodness sake, don't say that openly. You've heard of the Soviet Ark, haven't you? Well, if you don't watch out they'll put you on one!"

To say what I believe is a valuable thing to say is what gives me courage to brave that danger! I will preface by the statement that I have no reason to love or excuse the Bolsheviks. They plundered a shipment of my firm, for which we had paid 138,000 rubles, while it was en route from Russia to Sweden, and that simple thing does not lend toward friendliness, but I have many nobler reasons for my dislike of them and their methods. I was in Russia during and after the revolution and saw with my own eyes how their extremist theories simply cut to bits the work of the Provisional Government and destroyed Russia.

those of a philosopher or diplomat, but of a business man. Trade is opening up between Russia and the Powers of Europe. The latter are adopting a policy that shows there is another aspect of Russia that they take rather than the crushing of Bolshevism. The original policy of the Allies was never unanimous and its debacle has been followed by another policy. This promises the final overthrow, or submergence, of Bolshevism principles and the most advantageous position for the European nations with regard to the future Russian trade. The United States is left out of this concert. If by its own wish, then all the sooner should its citizens hear some facts.

Trade Connections Forming.

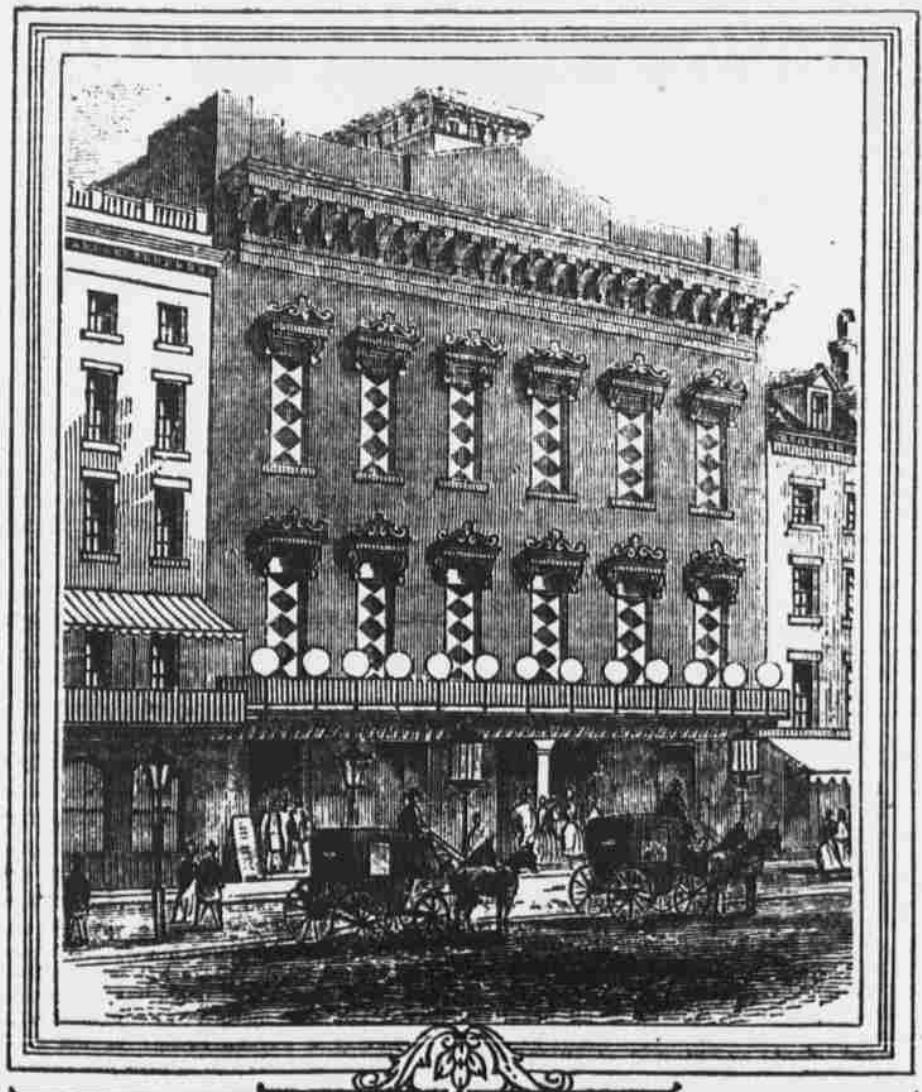
In plain words, the Allies, after debating several ways, are adopting the plan of refraining from taking sides with Russian internal affairs and are beginning to open trade connections as far as possible in all parts of Russia.

There was at one time some attempt at sending large forces of allied troops for ostensibly defensive purposes, but public opinion was dead against it. And the actual methods employed to land such troops on Russian soil were of such a nature that European populations made matters extremely embarrassing for their Governments. Eventually an Archangel commander in the English forces—Col. Sherwood Kelly, V. C.—wrote a letter stating that his troops were being used for offensive and not defensive purposes. He was recalled to London and underwent a court-martial.

It is quite unnecessary to go into the failure of Kolchak, Denekine and Judenitch. Their rule seemed less acceptable to the inhabitants of the territory they occupied than some would have us believe. However, had any one of these three succeeded in taking either Moscow or Petrograd, it would have undoubtedly ended Bolshevism, and their backers among the Allies would have received substantial trade concessions in return. That was natural and unquestionably expected. The aid they received was not due to any feeling of philanthropy on the part of their supporters.

Two motives underlie all allied action with regard to Russia—the desire for the lion's share of the vast market Russia would present and the crushing of Bolshevism. It is difficult to say which was the more important, as their relative value varied with the times. However, it is felt by some that the foreign Powers no doubt embarked on the policy that has just met with failure because, had it succeeded, it would have left the Allies in a position where they could have practically dictated their own terms for trade agreements with the Government that would have thus been established.

Up to the present America has abstained from active participation. But now that the Allies have abandoned their previous attitude toward Russia it seems unwise to continue in this position.



BROADWAY THEATRE, EAST SIDE OF BROADWAY, BETWEEN PEARL AND ANTHONY STREETS, 1850.