

PEACE AND TRADE WITH RUSSIA NEAR.

Urgent demands of commercial bodies to make State Department show its hand soon in clouded Russian situation. Soviet Envoy Martens tells how his work as business representative is financed with money secretly brought by emigrants.

That the clouds which have long hung over the relations between the United States and Soviet Russia will soon be lifted, is the conclusion reached by interested onlookers at the senate investigations now proceeding at Washington, where Ludwig C. A. K. Martens, Ambassador of the Soviet Republic is being questioned as to his purposes in America and the methods by which his work is carried on.

Officials at Washington openly predict that because of the complete collapse of the anti-bolshevist forces, and to save the border states of Russia from further chaos, peace and trade are at once necessary.

The Russian diplomatic situation will be cleared it is thought, so far as America is concerned, if Secretary Lansing replies to a letter addressed to him by business men seeking to inaugurate trade with Russia.

Chairman E. P. Jennings of the American commercial association for promotion of trade with Russia framed the letter addressed to Lansing, asking if the State Department would give full support and protection to a commission of business men whom the association has decided to send to Russia at once.

The letter also demands that the State Department explain why export trade licenses to ship goods to Russia are denied to American business men.

"Business men of England and France," said Jennings, "now are preparing to resume trade relations with Russia. There is no reason why American business men should be denied this privilege. We are not at war with Russia."

The association was organized in New York last week to promote re-opening of trade with Russia. Forty manufacturers and exporters attended the meeting.

Sensors on the Foreign Relations Subcommittee delving into Russian propaganda will be furnished with a list of American concerns which have closed trade contracts with Soviet Russia.

Martens already has delivered to the Senate committee a list of hundreds of American concerns seeking to close business deals with Soviet Russia, thru the local envoys.

Following Martens, the committee expects to question Santeri Nuorteva, secretary of the Soviet "embassy," and possibly two or three other members of the Lenin delegation.

A list of 941 names of firms in 32

states who have made positive statements of their desire to do business with Russia, was given to the senate committee by Martens last week.

The firms, numbering some of the largest importing and exporting houses in America, include almost every line of American manufacture, such as medical and optical supplies, dyes, paints and chemicals, agricultural machinery, leather, textiles, shoes, electrical supplies, paper, talking machines, stoves, automobiles, tractors, tools and printing presses.

How Martens got funds. Couriers from Soviet Russia, daring imprisonment and death to carry funds as letters to Martens business offices in the Woolworth Building in New York, is the method by which his work as business agent of the socialist republic is financed, was told the committee, at least week.

Martens' business offices occupy one entire floor of the famous Woolworth building, where about 35 employees are busy carrying on correspondence with business firms relatives to the opening of trade. He is spending \$2,500.00 a week in his efforts to secure recognition of his government by the State Department and to re-open business between the two countries.

Martens flatly declined to answer further questions on the subject of the couriers, and left the committee to consider whether or not his plea of "diplomatic immunity" from further examination should be allowed, while he went on to recount his personal activities in endeavoring to get his government recognized by the state department, and in placing provisional contracts for \$25,000,000 worth of food, clothing and machinery with American business houses.

This latter effort, he said, had resulted in placing two or three letters before President Wilson, urging recognition, though the state department has remained firm in its refusal to recognize him in anyway.

Out of twenty of the mysterious messengers who started during the last year from Moscow with funds and letters to him, Martens said, seven had gotten through the barriers of armies and international frontiers. Several had been shot summarily in Finland—"three that I know about," Martens said casually. Of ten who tried to get through Germany, nine were captured and jailed.

The first man to reach him, however, carried \$30,000 and his credentials as soviet ambassador to the United States. The couriers carried money in the form of Finnish marks or Scandinavian currency, Martens said, and had various varieties of passports.

Altogether, \$150,000 had come to him through the underground route.

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LONDON, Jan. 29.—A wireless from Moscow says a declaration signed by Premier Lenin, Foreign Minister Tchicherin and Minister of War Trotzky, addressed to the Polish on behalf of the council of the people's commissaries, invites a friendly settlement of all disputes and questions outstanding between Poland and soviet Russia.

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LUMBER vs. LABOR

Workers! Judge for Yourself about Centralia

As a result of the Centralia tragedy on Armistice Day one member of the Industrial Workers of the World, Wesley Everetts, was lynched. His mutilated body was dragged back to where other members of the organization were imprisoned and the captives were forced to bury their desecrated comrade. Later it appeared that the victim himself was an overseas veteran.

Every known I. W. W. in town at the time was seized and jailed without warrant. The only local attorney who was brave enough to stand by law and justice was seized, and when a Seattle lawyer arrived to defend the prisoners he was driven out of Centralia.

Ten members of the Industrial Workers of the World and the local attorney, Elmer Stuart Smith, were held on a charge of murder. They, too, will be lynched—this time by due process of law—unless the workers of America prevent it.

If the lumber and mercantile interests of the Northwest have their way, the eleven men will be legally lynched.

If the "Allied Industries", the capitalist's combination in the section carrying on the open shop campaign against all labor, has its way—the eleven men will be legally lynched.

If the private interest that instigated the attack on the union have their way—the eleven men will be legally lynched.

The situation is not a new one in the Northwest. The Centralia affair and its aftermath are only a more dramatic chapter in a story of black reaction dating back to the days when the lumberjacks first asserted their right to humane treatment. No group of workers is immune from the attacks of those whose profits are endangered by any manifestation of working class solidarity.

The same interests that entomb Hulet M. Wells, a prominent member of the American Federation of Labor and at one time President of the Seattle Labor Council, and harrass the "Seattle Union Record"—a labor daily in no way connected with the I. W. W.—now seek to kill the eleven who await justice.

Workers! read the facts of the case, and judge for yourselves. The account that has reached you through the capitalist press of the country is one-sided, distorted, malignant. Every possibility of the truth simmering through was precluded by the immediate suppression of all labor papers during the days when stories of roving bands of terrorists were created upon the country. A strict censorship was even placed upon telephone and telegraph intercourse the night of the occurrence.

With the affected workers gagged and the public mind in a white fever of credulity, the reactionary forces were able to circulate a lying version of the events. Briefly, the charges made against the accused men are these: That two or three weeks before the Armistice Day parade members of the I. W. W. had plotted to kill ex-service men; and that in conformity with this plot they stationed themselves in windows and other places of concealment and without provocation fired on those who were marching in the parade.

Here are a few bare statements of fact. How do the charges look in the light of these?

1. "Two or three weeks before the tragedy," when according to the Mayor's statement "the plot to kill was laid," no plans had as yet been made by anyone in Centralia for a parade. The first intimation in any form that a celebration of Armistice Day was being planned was a small item in the

"Local Notes" column of the "Centralia Hub," on November 4th, only ONE week before the unfortunate affair.

2. The route of the Armistice Day parade was a distinct departure from the usual Centralia parades. The I. W. W. Hall is four blocks from the business section of the town where parades are usually confined. In other words, those in charge directed the marchers a good distance out of the way in order to pass the union's headquarters. In view of the consequences we ask: Why?

3. Several of the I. W. W.'s involved, including the worker already lynched, are themselves ex-service men. Yet the only motive adduced by the enemies of labor to explain th act is that the accused men were angered by the uniform.

4. The uniformed men killed and wounded in the affray fell INSIDE the Hall. Does that look like a deliberate attack by the inmates?

5. Testifying at the Coroner's inquest, Dr. Frank Bickford, one of the paraders, said "THAT HE WITH OTHERS HAD STOPPED IN FRONT OF THE I. W. W. HALL AND SOMEONE SUGGESTED THAT THEY RAID THE HALL."—(Centralia Hub.) "I SPOKE UP AND SAID THAT I WOULD LEAD IF ENOUGH WOULD FOLLOW, BUT BEFORE I COULD TAKE THE LEAD THERE WERE MANY AHEAD OF ME. SOMEONE NEXT TO ME PUT HIS FOOT AGAINST THE DOOR AND FORCED IT OPEN, AFTER WHICH A SHOWER OF BULLETS POURED THROUGH THE OPENING ABOUT US."—(Seattle Post-Intelligencer.)

Not only do these indisputable facts give the lie to all charges of a plot and deliberate, unprovoked shooting. They also show that those who are now charged with murder shot in self-defense—and that only after their property was violently invaded and their lives threatened. In defending themselves they struck a blow for Free Assemblage in a hall for which they had paid rent.

We must bear in mind that an attack on the I. W. W. Hall would be quite in line with the unlawful, vicious acts perpetrated in the past against the organization and its individual members. Imprisonment, lynching, tar and feathers, shooting in cold blood, destruction of homes,—every torture has been visited upon members of an organization whose legality is intact despite the efforts of an army of corporation lawyers to outlaw it.

When the excitement inspired by a corrupt press has subsided and America begins to think and see straight on the Centralia matter, it will realize the absurdity of the accusation against the arrested men and the horrible crime committed by the murderers of Wesley Everetts. It will understand that ten men would never plot to shoot into a public parade of hundreds unless they were stark mad. But madmen could not plot even a mad project. It will realize that no motive can be established for a deliberate shooting such as is charged. If the killing had been planned and unprovoked, would the plotter have chosen a vantage point where escape was impossible?

Workers! judge for yourselves, NOW, before Capital succeeds in strangling eleven more who dared question the domination of wealth.

Justice and law is on the side of these men. They stood up bravely in defense of their constitutional rights. They fought the battles of labor and are therefore marked for annihilation by the overlords.

UNREST SPREADING AMONG FARMERS.

Farmers, in reply to government questionnaires, show resentment with idle profit-takers of city; threaten to curtail production to get even with unjust economic conditions.

Indications of a wide spread and deep seated resentment among the American farmers against the conditions under which they must work and market their produce is revealed in the replies of more than 40,000 farmers to a questionnaire sent out by the postal department. In fact, so threatening is the attitude of the farmers according to the replies received, that officials admit the whole economic structure is threatened.

A summarization of the replies were made in a report submitted to the senate postoffice committee by George L. Wood, superintendent of the post-office department's division of rural mails on Jan. 29th. Mr. Wood stated that of 200,000 questionnaires sent out into the agricultural states, views of over 40,000 farmers had been obtained, the intention of the questionnaire being to secure suggestions from the rural producers as to ways in which the postal department could aid in the cutting down of the cost of living.

Answers show the major complaints of the farmers in numerical order to be:

Inability to obtain labor to work the farms, hired help and the farmer's children having been lured to the city by higher wages and easier living.

High profits taken by middlemen for the mere handling of food products.

Lack of proper agencies of contract between the farmer and the ultimate consumer.

Many of the replies indicated that the writers contemplated either leaving their farms or cultivating a smaller acreage because of one or more of these three major grievances and because of the growing feeling against nonproducing city dwellers.

One postal official stated: "Such a condition at a time when the predominant cry is for production and still more production cannot but constitute a grave menace."

Excerpts from a number of letters taken at random from the more than on file at the postoffice department, showed the trend of thought among at least a considerable proportion of the farmers of New England, the middle western states, Georgia and the eastern agricultural section.

"The time is very near," wrote a farmer at East Chatham, N. Y., "when we farmers will have to curtail production and raise only what we need for our own use and let the other fellows look out for themselves."

Declaring that the whole onus of the high cost of living rested with the middleman, a Missouri producer advocated the establishment of municipal markets to be served by parcel post direct.

"I sell butter to the dealer for 45 cents a pound," his letter said, "and the same butter sells to the consumer for 80 cents a pound."

"You may ask what we would do with the middlemen. I will suggest that it be arranged for them to go on the farm and help produce things. I understand that they might not relish working fourteen hours a day, but if we get by the near future there will have to be some useful work done by every one."

The tendency away from the farm to the city was blamed by a middle western farmer for the high cost of living.

"I attribute it a great deal," he wrote, "to the good times in the cities. The young men can go to the city and get big pay for eight hours work, while farmers have to work fourteen to sixteen hours a day at hard manual labor. All of the young men in this vicinity of any account move to the city, and there are only a few old men left to farm."

Declaring that while the farmer had to take what the commission man and retailer would pay him for his product, he was compelled to pay whatever the dealer asked for his clothes, farm machinery and other necessities, another farmer said:

"Farmers work from twelve to sixteen hours a day. City labor works six to eight hours a day. The city man makes two or three times as much as the farmer. The farmer labors and produces, but gets a smaller return than any other class."

Reds Drive On - And On - And On!

LONDON, Jan. 30.—Red cavalry has forced passage of the Manyth River, in southeastern Russia, defeating the antibolshevik forces, a Moscow wireless today claimed.

The Soviet government claimed capture of 5000 prisoners in a twoday battle south of Yefremoff.

In the region of Perekop, the communists said, fighting is proceeding with alternating success.

COPENHAGEN, Jan. 29.—A peace treaty between Estonia and Soviet Russia will be signed today, according to a Reval dispatch to the Politiken.

The Berlingetke Tiden's Helmsingfors correspondent says the signing of peace between Latvia and Soviet Russia is expected in a few days.

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was badly broken in last fall's unsuccessful drive for Petrograd, has been placed under arrest.

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EMIL HERMAN TO SERVE HIS ENTIRE SENTENSE

Seattle, Wash. — Because he had never removed a small sticker written by Jack London against militarism, which was on the wall of the state office of the Socialist Party at Everett, where he became secretary, Emil Herman is in Federal Penitentiary at McNeil's Island for ten years.

His case was recently appealed to the Supreme Court of the United States but that body refused to review the case, and Herman must complete the remaining eight years of his term, unless a general amnesty for political prisoners is declared.

SEES NO I. W. W. PERIL

Labor Mediator Tells Jury Stories Are False.

TACOMA, Jan. 29.—Edgar A. Snyder of Seattle, a mediator with the United States department of labor testified today in the trial of thirty-seven alleged I. W. W. charged with violation of the state syndicalism law that he had found nothing destructive in I. W. W. literature.

"I have never met an I. W. W. who advocated violence," he declared. He added that he has interviewed hundreds of them.

BRITISH READY TO TRADE

LONDON. — The peaceful invasion of Russia has already started and as soon as the ice-bound harbors are clear orders have been booked to keep great fleets moving indefinitely.

Hundreds of tons of Siberian butter are en route to England, followed by wheat, flax and fats from the Ukraine.

The British Foreign Office points out that, because of the favorable rate of exchange for England, traders will be able to force down the high prices demanded for various products in Denmark, Holland and Sweden. At the same time it is intimated that if lifting the blockade does not materially weaken Bolshevik Russia, full recognition of the Lenin and Trotzky government is inevitable.

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Is This 100% Americanism?

CANON CITY, COLO., JAN. 16. The Daily Record tonight prints the following editorial. The owner and publisher of the Record is Guy U. Harty, member of Congress from Colorado.

"WANTED—A ROPE"
"When the 249 Reds were deported they raved and cursed the government, and vehemently declared that they would return and wreak vengeance upon every agency that stands for law and order."

"And they will return—be sure of that."

"There are only two effective means of curbing a Red—iron bars or a coffin."

Colorado has recently passed a law against anarchy making the advocacy of lawlessness a 20 year felony. Mr. Harty, however, being one of the eminently respectable citizens of the town, it is not expected that the government will bring any criminal action against him.

WHAT SOCIALISM MEANS
Socialism means that the true object of industry should be to produce the necessities of life for the common good, and not for the profit of certain individuals.

Socialism would assure comfort, independence, leisure, and education for all. It would relieve industry from the burdens of rent, interest and profit which private ownership now puts upon it.—Manchester Labor Leader.

HE MOVED

The engraver who makes our cartoons moved his plant this week — that's why we go to press without one. All set with one for next week tho.