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## The Work of the Commissariat of Education

By A. LUNACHARSKY

(Report to the Central Executive Committee by A. Lunacharsky, Commissar of Education.)

THE work of popular education, from the very moment when it was called into being by the November Revolution, was immediately confronted with great difficulties, which can be classified into three most important groups. In the first place, a radical transformation of the old school was an imperative necessity. For the old school was a political school, definitely dominated by the cultural and political spirit of the bourgeoisie and gentry, of czarism and the clergy. This was the first difficulty, since there are very few works on the Socialist school in world literature. As far as theory is concerned, we had to deal in this case with an almost unexplored field. What source of light did we have to guide us on the untrodden paths? A page and a half written by Marx in his youth for the Geneva Congress, and a few scattered phrases! Instruction in the old school had, of course, something in common with education, but the school was founded on principles which aimed to give this education with a mixture of pseudo-education, with subjects harmful in so far as they were useless but consumed a great deal of time, or with clear corrupt subjects, such as religious instruction. While in the secondary and higher schools the minds of the students were poisoned with distorted science, the teachers in the elementary schools were torn between two incompatible tasks—to teach literacy and yet to leave the pupils in complete ignorance. We undertook to eradicate these vices, and we put forth the idea of the general school.

We instituted the single labor school which was to lead everyone, irrespective of origin, through all the school grades. And we made the schools popular, within reach of all. This meant not only free tuition, but also breakfast and lunches at the

school, free school supplies, etc. We had to go even further, to furnishing shoes and clothing. We wanted the people to know what the Soviet power was bringing. For we have a reply to all superficial attacks, that we "promised this or that, but did not fulfill it." We reply: we would have accomplished it if we were not diverted by the attempts to strangle us. Formally, the school net of Russia is growing rapidly. The old school buildings are in horrible condition, are badly in need of repairs. Many school buildings in the cities have been taken over for hospitals or military institutions. As soon as we have a sufficient number of schools we will immediately make school attendance obligatory.

The single school does not mean a uniform school. The single school is one which gives equal entrance rights to all, and equal rights after graduation. But we proposed at the same time, that the schools, particularly the secondary schools, should be of different kinds. We deemed it possible, and even recommended that the higher classes of the secondary schools should have two or three divisions, so that the pupils could choose one or another specialty according to their inclinations. Owing to the categorical demand of our economic commissariats we were compelled to allow pupils over 14 years of age to transfer from a general school to a trade or technical school. We have these trade and technical schools, in addition to the schools of general education. Along with this we improved the schools by eliminating the useless subjects, such as ancient languages and religious instruction, by doing away with separate schools for boys and girls, and, lastly, by abolishing the old school discipline.

But the newest feature, which even some of our

cultured comrades do not yet fully comprehend, is the principle of the so-called school of labor. This term was in many cases completely misunderstood. It was taken to mean that theoretical instruction and books should be completely excluded from the school, and that they should be replaced by productive toil in form. In reality we did not at all intend such a transformation of the schools. Essentially, the principle of the labor school includes two main ideas. The first contends that knowledge should come through toil, that the children should through their own activity discover and reproduce what they learned from books. Using at first the play instinct, the games should be made more and more serious, and, finally, the pupils should be familiarized with the subjects of their studies through excursions, observations, and so forth.

In this way may be learned the whole history of human toil. In connection with this, the technical side, say, of the organization of a factory, may also be taken up, starting with the delivery of fuel, of raw materials, of the basic types of motors, etc. It would also be possible in this way to introduce the principles of labor discipline. We can thus ignore the nature of the erstwhile capitalist system and turn directly to the present system. We have never given up this idea, for the school of labor of the industrial type is the only communist school.

And now for the elementary schools. Most of the elementary schools are situated in the villages, and productive toil in these must be of a somewhat different character from that in the secondary schools. There should be moderate self-service in these, for instance, keeping the school in order. With regard to these schools I feel that we must welcome them, and in the villages we must also see to the development of their agricultural aspect. With respect to this we have already taken energetic steps, and have tried to come to some understanding with the Commissariat of Agriculture in regard to the mobilization of agricultural experts, of whom we have but a small number, to provide instruction in agriculture for the village school teachers, the majority of whom have no such knowledge.

Our village school teachers have absolutely no knowledge of agriculture. At present steps have already been taken to improve this condition. Every fall and spring, new schools and lecture-courses for teachers are opened to instruct them in the principles of toil in elementary schools. In this respect the Commissariat of Education has already some achievements to its credit. We have data showing that the mass of our teachers, with very few exceptions, have become adherents of the Soviet power, have renounced sabotage and are working with the Soviets. At all the congresses of school teachers you will find just as much enthusiasm as in our factories and workshops. They are eagerly following the instructions and directions coming from the center.

I will quote to you some figures which illustrate

the school situation in a general way. In 1911, the last year for which complete statistical data are available, there were 55,846 elementary schools. In 1919 we had 73,859 such schools, that is, we increased their number almost 50 per cent. And for the present year their number has increased to about 88,000. These schools take care of about 60 to 65 per cent of the total number of children in Russia. The actual school attendance was not high, owing to the terrible conditions last winter, but on the whole it extended to 5,000,000. The number of pupils increased very rapidly. The schools under the czar could only take care of three and a half million children, while our schools take care of five and a half million.

The number of second grade schools increased very little, because we cannot open new schools. The total number is 3,600. We have about half a million pupils in second grade schools, which is only seven to eight per cent of the total number of children of this age. In this respect the situation is extremely bad. Even if we would exclude all the children of the bourgeoisie and petty bourgeoisie, even then, the vast majority of the children of the workmen and peasants would be left outside of these schools. It is disgraceful, and we must candidly admit it; we are forced to open two-year schools for children to give them at least some education, so that this generation may not be condemned to utter ignorance.

The figures on the training of a teaching-staff are very eloquent. Immense energy was displayed, but it must be remembered that we can not rapidly increase the number of teachers, even though we have drawn into this work a large number of persons who were excluded from this profession under the czar. There were 21 higher pedagogical schools under the czar, while we have 55. The total number of schools increased considerably, and the number of students rose from 4,000 to 34,000. I can tell you that of these 34,000—under present terrible conditions when people are condemned to starvation, and when such studies can be undertaken only by those who have not been coddled and have not been drawn into service in some other Soviet institution—we have 10,305 persons who are so completely and diligently devoting themselves to school-work that they have proven themselves deserving of social insurance (scholarship), which is given under the strictest control, and cannot be obtained by those who do not merit it. We have thus achieved a certain degree of success in this respect. But we must accomplish a great deal more than this. We need an enormous army of teachers. We have 400,000 educational workers, and we need more than a million.

Besides we also have kindergartens. Colossal efforts have been made in this direction, and we are inclined to be proud of this. It should, however, be mentioned that under the czar nothing had existed in the field of pre-school endeavor. I do not speak here of the few kindergartens, model homes for children, of a certain number of charity institutions which were established in large cities

by rich merchants, and several schools of the Froebel type for children of the rich.

In 1919 we had 3,623 kindergartens and about 1,000 kindergartens are being added every year.

I shall now turn to the higher schools. These present an even more difficult task than the secondary schools. For some time the professors were with our enemies. The students took part in insurrections against us, and the professors participated in all kinds of plots. Every time that the Whites appeared at Samara or Saratov the professors were their main support. They sent statements abroad villifying us. And when we came to them they hid in a shell. But the professors are indispensable, and we are confronted in this respect by a problem similar to that presented by the military department. Comrade Trotsky was right when he said that no army was ever betrayed as much as the Red Army. But the Red Army was nevertheless successful. This is also the case in the higher schools. A change is already taking place, and not solely through the appointment of new men. I could mention a large number of distinguished men—I do not speak here of our splendid friend, the deceased Timiriazev, whose clear views and perspicacity were amazing—I could mention a score of scientists who have really become Soviet adherents. In Petrograd the effect was soon visible. The scientific life of Petrograd has risen. The same effect occurred among the students. Petrograd sets the pace. The first students conference was held there, and after listening to a brilliant report by Zinoviev, a definitely "red" resolution was adopted by an enormous majority.

And now for the labor colleges! At present we manage them in such a way that they are open only to workers who are recommended by labor organizations. We take them into the school, and to a certain extent we subject them to rigid discipline. The students of a labor college have no right to miss any lecture without serious causes, and they must pass examinations to prove efficiency in their studies.

At present the standard of the labor colleges is quite high, and they are already very promising. But our experience with labor colleges taught also a great deal with regard to the universities in general. Under pressure from the economic commissariats the department of technical and trade education proposed raising the educational level of the workers. With this end in view, a large number of night courses for workmen were opened. Simultaneously, we took the question of the necessity of increasing the number of middle and higher engineers. We inquired about the number of engineers necessary, and the Council of National Economy made very serious demands upon us. According to its calculations the schools must give 3,600 new engineers each year. To satisfy this need of the country, the Department of Technical Education decided, first of all, to obtain the right to free engineering students of the last two years from all outside work, to provide them with rations, and

to feed their professors, but at the same time to place them under military discipline and punish them as deserters if they did not attend to their work. These measures are of course extraordinary, but they are dictated by present conditions, and thanks to them we graduated over 3,000 engineers this year. We know that we need physicians as well as other specialists, and we have therefore also decided to assure food to all the collaborators in the medical colleges, with the result that the number of students has increased threefold.

The czarist government looked upon the universities as explosive centers, but we have nothing to fear from them, and we go on opening new universities. Thus we have already 21 universities instead of 15. Of the new universities, three or four may be considered to be functioning normally. The Turkestan and Ural universities, which are still in the process of organization, will, in the near future, be in a position to do effective work. We have, just as before the Revolution, four medical universities and three archeological universities. Of veterinary institutes we have six instead of two. The number of professors has increased to 1,644, because we have promoted all the lecture-instructors to the rank of professors.

I will now speak of the work outside of the schools, which is of vast importance. All of you know that we can not at present do much in the publishing field. In library work we make use of old books, enriching the school libraries and the general libraries from the stock that we have obtained from the book-stores and from the liquidation of the landlords' libraries, which were practically useless. The number of libraries in Russia has greatly increased, and they grow with incredible rapidity. In the Tver Province, for instance, there are over 3,000 libraries. Some provinces have over 1,000 libraries. The total number of libraries in 30 provinces was 13,500 in 1919, and in these same provinces we now have about 27,000 libraries, not including reading rooms. The increase in the number of libraries is astounding, and I might add that the library attendance, considering present conditions, is no less astounding. However, in the matter of supplying the libraries in the future we are up against great difficulties.

One of the greatest of the Soviet decrees is the decree on the liquidation of illiteracy. In the province of Cherepovetz 58,000 persons have already passed through the schools for illiterates, in Ivanovo-Voznessensk, 50,000 persons. In the city of Novozybkov there are no more illiterates above the age of 40. In Petrograd also there will soon be no illiterates. We have not enough reading primers. However, at present 6½ million primers have already been printed or are on the press.

A special resolution which I proposed two years ago at the Eighth Congress, and which was then adopted, stated that the People's Commissariat of Education should, under the present conditions, be an organ of Communist education, and that the Commissariat of Education and the Party should

be closely connected, since this Commissariat is an organ of education and since education must mean Communist education. And to the extent to which the Party carries on propoganda and agitation it should make full use of the apparatus of the People's Commissariat of Education. But we made very slow progress in this direction, and the Commissariat of Education suffered thereby. Vladimir Ilyich (Lenin) has many times pointed out the plain duty of the party to attract the teachers, as they come nearer to us, to educational and political work; and to compel those teachers who do not come nearer to us to read the decrees and to spread our literature. A good start was then made by the extra-mural division. The extra-mural division was instructed to organize, conjointly with the provincial party committees, courses on the struggle with Poland. This was an absolutely new thing, because the extra-mural teachers had to undertake work of a new type in cooperation with the Party and under the direction of party members, to present the history of Poland, the present social order of Poland, the causes of the war with Poland, etc. In this respect we had considerable success which proves that when the Party supports us we can accomplish a great deal of work, considerably more work than without such support. Indeed, in this work we made a discovery. In 29 provinces, in each of which we opened a school, we passed 2,381 agitators in one month, specialists on the Polish question, and all these agitators were assigned by the Party to the front or for work in the interior. As a further illustration of my thought, I will point out how energetically the sub-divisions of the Commissariat of Education work when they have the support of the Party. Thus, for instance, when it was decided to open new educational institutions in honor of the Third Internationale, when this slogan was issued with Comrade Kalinin's and my own signature, the results exceeded all our expectations. We were able to achieve unprecedented results in the sense of opening new educational institutions. We had demanded that these institutions be situated in equipped buildings and that they be provided with school supplies. And we now have 23 schools, 164 homes for children, 20 kindergartens, etc. In short, 316 educational institutions sprang up like mushrooms. They all bear the name of the Third Internationale, and this has immense propoganda value.

I shall mention another important step. In the first place, we have just now been entrusted with the food campaign. We ourselves offered to carry on this campaign by means of placards, theatrical performances, literature, and agitation of a scientific character. We threw our extra-mural and school forces into the mass of the peasantry, and have thus helped the Commissariat of Food in its struggle for the grain quotas. We have achieved a number of concrete results in this respect. But one of the most pleasant results is the fact that we now have textbooks which will be a great help in the work of training agitators. With the aid of the Central Committee of the Party a book of 200

pages was written, set in type, put on the press and printed—all in eight days. This shows what we can do if we but will it.

One of the brightest aspects of the activity of the Commissariat of Education was manifested in the care of art monuments and museums. In particular, amazing work has been done in the field of repairing antique buildings. There has been a large increase in the number of museums. At present there are 119 provincial museums, as against 31 of the old regime. Even the museum experts declare that they are amazed and fascinated by the eagerness to collect and to preserve antiques which is shown by the mass of the people of Soviet Russia and by all the organs of the Soviet power. The Ermitage has been enlarged to one and a half times its previous size.

Then comes the division of music. The number of schools has remained the same, but the schools were reorganized, and the number of students has increased. About 9,000 persons above the age of 16 are now studying music.

In the theatrical field we have accomplished great work, but to breathe in new life means to get a new repertoire. The new theatre will be created by new dramatists. In this respect the only thing to do is to write new plays. For the present we have removed from the theatres the objectionable elements.

I once asked Comrade Guilbeaux how many peasant theaters there are in France. In all of France there are only 113 peasant theaters, while in the province of Kostrorna alone we have 400 peasant theaters and throughout Russia there are 3,000 peasant theaters.

The entire People's Commissariat of Education, with its teachers and educators, is at present inspired by a strong desire to work, and is on the right path for this work. Therefore, if the Commissariat is given support great activity will be shown, and I am sure that the work will not be worse than in any other department. I hope that this report will mark a turning point. If we prove that under such difficult conditions the Communists, the Soviet power, does not overlook the work of education, and that we can even effect important achievements, I assure you that this will mean a colossal victory against our enemies and among our friends. In the field of education we must therefore display the maximum effort, and I hope that you will not reject my proposals.—*Izvestia*, October 5, 1920.

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## Military Review

By LT.-COL. B. ROUSTAM BEK

WE ARE so poorly informed of the fate of those officers of the old regime who joined the Red Army that it would be interesting to make some mention of this matter, especially since I have just received from Moscow an interesting pamphlet by Comrade Zinoviev, containing a lecture delivered by him to an assembly of military specialists, numbering 3,000 officers.

Dealing with the army and the people in general, Comrade Zinoviev, openly and frankly, expresses his view to the officers of the late Czarist army concerning their position as the commanding element in a proletarian army of the workers and peasants.

With extraordinary sincerity he touches upon the most delicate question—the morality of those who, once enemies of the workers, suddenly became not only their comrades, but even, in many cases, their commanders, namely, leaders at the most critical moment of their existence.

Can the army be kept out of politics? asks Zinoviev, and he gives a positive answer, “no”, to this question. “Many members of the army, many cultured and well-informed men among the commanding officers, are to this day profoundly convinced that the army should stand outside of politics. The idea has permeated their very flesh and blood. Nevertheless, there never was a greater mistake than this. Never for one instant has any army stood outside of politics; ever since the existence of armies founded on the principle of universal military service, they have been used to serve a definite political aim; possibly they have not always been conscious of the fact.” As an example, Comrade Zinoviev calls the attention of his audience to the years 1848-49, when the army was sent to Hungary with a purely political aim, to defeat the Hungarian Revolution, and the soldier serfs in those days certainly did not understand the crime they were committing in killing their brother serfs who were fighting for their freedom. Did the Russian soldier understand, during the Russo-Japanese War in 1904-1905, that the war grew out of a political conflict, and that the Czar and bourgeoisie deliberately brought about this war? Did even the officers know the real cause of that war?

“In short,” says Zinoviev, “our army in the Russo-Japanese War carried out a well-defined political task; it did not stand outside of politics. And the moment you turn to our internal conflicts, it will of course become all the more clear to you—vividly clear—that our army never for an instant stands or has stood outside of politics.” In order to confirm this fact the lecturer recalls the punitive military expeditions which were so well-known throughout the country. “How then?” asks Zinoviev, “was not this, too, politics? Was the army then standing outside of politics?”

\* *Army and the People: The Soviet Government and the Military Officers*, by G. Zinoviev, Petrograd, 1920.

Touching upon the position of non-partisans in the Red Army, Comrade Zinoviev says: “It is possible that in our army, both in the rank and file and in command, there may be many men who do not approve of our policy, and would wish to follow another; nevertheless, we do not hide in the bushes. Although, from the standpoint of our immediate interests, it might be of advantage to say that the army stands outside of politics, this is just where our government differs from others, in that it is not guided by momentary interests. Its policy is dictated entirely in the interests of right and truth. And were we to say that our army stands outside of politics, it would be profound hypocrisy on our part, and humiliating to the Soviet power.”

“The bourgeoisie never for one second admitted this honestly,” continued Comrade Zinoviev, “but administered a pill to the ignorant people in order better to deceive them, as the workers are fooled by the Non-Partisans. The Non-Partisans do not say to the worker: ‘Go join a bourgeois party’, because they know that no worker will do it. But they do say to him ‘Be of no party’, and with that hook they angle for the people. Just so with the army.”

Recalling the first revolutionary outbreak in Russia in favor of the republic against monarchy, the lecturer outlined that movement arising from the officer class. “I refer to the December rising of ninety-five years ago. We have never forgotten, nor will ever forget, that side by side with the reactionary crimes which the officer class has committed against its own people in the past, and is committing at present in the White Guard ranks, stand the names of those great men, who, a hundred years ago, headed the December insurrection. “Scores of officers perished at the time, many families were ruined, but such names as Pestel, Ryleyev, Muraviov, Kakhovsky, etc., shine as stars in a dark sky. Our people must know that, out of the ranks of the privileged classes, the wealthy aristocrats of a hundred years ago, rose a whole constellation of champions, officers, depending on the Petersburg regiments, who attempted to overthrow Czarism, and intended to establish a republic. This attempt failed, the people were too ignorant.” Comrade Zinoviev gives very interesting information concerning the division of the officer corps at the time of the November Revolution. During the war with Germany, he estimates, the total number of officers in the Russian Army was half a million. About one hundred thousand of these officers are now numbered in the ranks of the Red Army, “and of these an immense majority are serving in the Red Army, not from fear, but from conscientious motives.” He believes that about two hundred thousand scattered all over Russia, both Soviet Russia and the portion held by the White Guards, “are neither one thing nor the other, and are trying

in every way to escape the civil war, or remain outside of it all." About two hundred thousand are serving with the enemies of the Soviets. Comrade Zinoviev distributes the officers of the old regime in several strata. "There are," he states, "*officer landlords, and plain officers.* The *officer-landlord* defends his privileges; he wants, at any cost, his thousand dessiatins of land (about 3,000 acres); he wants to preserve his orchard, his noble family, home-nest; the other former officers received under the Czar a salary of not quite 100 rubles a month, lived poorly, came from the sphere of government officials, and, in reality, their interests were more closely connected with those of the working population than with those of the land-owning class."

Comrade Zinoviev does not consider the officers of the old army as one compact, homogeneous, black reactionary mass. "There are officers and officers," declares Zinoviev. The White Finn, Mannerheim, for instance, a former Russian officer, or such as Denikin, Kolchak, Yudenich . . . On the other hand, "the names of many officers who came from the people, and who have served the people, shine forth with great brilliancy; it is enough to mention Lieutenant Schmidt, or General Nikolayev, who perished in Yamburg, hanged by the White Guards. With the rope around his neck, he cried: 'Long live the Red Army! I declare that to my last breath I have served the workers and peasants.' There are, indeed, there are such individual examples, such heroes in the ranks of the Red Army Command. Glory to them!"

Analyzing the psychology of the officers during the first stage of the Revolution, Comrade Zinoviev finds that the officer-class played, on the whole, a rather innocuous part. "Its attitude was distrustful, cool, it stood aside," It was the soldiers who acted in those days, not the officers. This was because the officer did not believe in revolution, he waited for events to develop.

The November Revolution was met by the officers in a more hostile spirit. The November Revolution raised the question: to whom should the land belong, to the gentry or to the peasants? Here begins the division of the officers into different strata, and when those who were standing at the cross-roads fully realized what the present revolution means, that it is not a big plundering job, but a great popular movement, not a string of watchwords, produced from nowhere by some chance party, but a truly great revolution, then a great majority joined the workers and peasants. Touching upon a very important question—the relation between the officer class and the Soviet rule, Comrade Zinoviev describes how fiercely the officers and cadets fought against the revolution in November, 1917, both in Petrograd and Moscow. "Still," he says, "on the morrow of our victory, our Government did not take vengeance, did not have recourse to repression, but on the contrary, immediately offered all these elements an honorable peace—nay more than that, offered them definite work, a chance to utilize their faculties."

Comrade Zinoviev points out as an example Krasnov, one of the most conspicuous of reactionary generals, who fought the Reds near Petrograd, was taken prisoner and brought to Smolny, the headquarters of the Bolsheviks. "I saw him with my own eyes," says Zinoviev. "Well, not a hair fell from his head, nor was any insult offered him; he left Smolny a free man, after pledging his honor not to fight us any more . . ." and did Krasnov keep his word of honor? He certainly did not.

The Moscow workers did not even take vengeance on the cadets who fought against them, but let them go free, even returning their arms.

From the first moment of the formation of a Red Army the Soviet Government addressed the officers in frank and friendly terms, saying to them: "There is room and an honorable position for anyone who is willing to support the Workers' and Peasants' regime."

At that time there was no bitterness among the peasants and workers against the specialists in general and against the officers in particular, and if such bitterness exists now, it is due to the deplorable events of the civil war, which brought reprisals among the families of these specialists.

"This may not always be just, but officers should understand the reason for it," declares Zinoviev. "In truth, while there are such men as Yudenich, the organizer of a league of assassins like Balakhovich, who after gaining the confidence of the Red Army, went over to the Whites and sold districts of the province of Pskov to the Estonian bourgeoisie, men like Kolchak who flogged the peasants in all the townships and districts, in all the provinces occupied by him, until their groans reached Petrograd and Moscow; and as long as there are such figures as Nekliudov, such an attitude is inevitable. I made Nekliudov's acquaintance when I was at Krasnaya Gorka, when he was commandant. When I met him I could easily account for his being in the Red Army. He was still a young man, from a fine old family which had had several liberal members under Alexander II and Alexander III; he had taken part in the building of the fort, and it seemed to me that he loved every stone in it. Under the Czar he was of very little account, kept down by the old officials, who were generally distrustful of the ability of young men, while the Soviet Government placed him in full control of the fort; he could give full play to his capacities. It was said that he was a great specialist, a learned artilleryman, very fond of his work: one would think he had been given a sufficiently wide field of action; he was placed, like the majority of officers, under comparatively tolerable material conditions. How could we expect treason from him? Yet you know what that man did! He sold the key of our city! And to whom? To the Finnish bourgeoisie, which is sitting on a mound of corpses of Finnish workers, which about two years ago shot a hundred Russian officers, not because they were Communists, but simply because they were Russians."

"Now, although we were the first to recognize their independence, the Finns throw bombs into Kronstadt, fire on our frontier, mock their own people. And yet a Russian officer, entrusted with the key of that important place, at a decisive moment presents it to that same Finnish bourgeoisie. Nekliudov sent a radio to Bjorko, to the Finnish authorities and English there, saying to them: 'Krasnaya Gorka is at your disposal. Come and take possession!'"

"Is this not a great ignominy? Is it not the blackest page in the history of the Russian officer-class? Why, comrades, had our people even thrice erred, had they committed the greatest follies, they would still be our people, our worker and peasant masses. To go against them with French speculators, Roumanian landlords, Finnish White Guards, with Wilhelm, the Japanese and anybody at all, is that not the greatest crime? And yet this crime is continually being committed."

Comrade Zinoviev, dealing with the position of the commissars in the army, suggests that gentle measures are best, and recommends to the commissars a respect for the dignity of the man "who, though issued from another sphere of life, of different breeding and education, yet comes to work with us with a stone in his bosom, and assists with his knowledge not a party, but the people, Russia—that Russia which, just now destitute, starving, crucified, is still our very own, beloved Russia."

\* \* \*

I have before me some very curious documents issued recently by Colonel Nikolaiev, the military attache of the "Russian Embassy" in the United States of America.

In connection with the complete collapse of Baron Wrangel's adventure these documents may be of considerable interest to the public.

All Russian officers of the Czarist army residing in the United States received in October, 1920, an invitation letter signed by Colonel Nikolaiev, the military attache of the "Russian Embassy" in the United States, to join the Crimean forces of the Crimean Baron. These letters were accompanied by a copy of instructions received from Paris and issued by the chief plenipotentiary (главноуполномоченный) of the Commander-in-Chief of all Armed Forces of South Russia, military as well as naval, dated October 2, 1920, No. 1209, and signed by Lieutenant-General Miller, the same officer who succeeded in escaping from the North Russian front when Archangel was taken by the Red Army in the beginning of 1920. According to these instructions the generals are invited by personal call. Lieutenant-Colonels and Colonels—only those not more than 50 years of age. The officers of lower rank not more than 43 years of age, and the men of not more than 38. All persons who wished to join the Crimean Army were allowed to take their families with them.

It was stated that those officers and men fit for military service who refused to go to the Crimea

would be dismissed, and a special order of the day would announce that they had been retired(?) Retired from what?

The most amusing part of these instructions is item 4, in which Lieutenant-General Miller informs all Russian officers and men that "in case of the misconduct of officers he is authorized to degrade them, even Colonels, to the rank of private, according to the decision of a "court of honor" which would be appointed by General Miller for the purpose. Colonel Nikolaiev is also instructed to submit to his chief a list of those officers who might refuse to go to the Crimea.

In his explanation attached to the letter, Colonel Nikolaiev informs the Russian officers that they will be allowed a sum of money, equal to third-class fare when traveling by rail, and to second-class fare by steamer, as well as 30 French francs per day on land and 15 francs on the sea. The terminal points indicated are: Constantinople or Belgrade (Serbia), where Generals Lukomsky\* and Artamonov are instructed to look after these volunteers until their departure for the Crimea.

Such mobilization of a military force is being conducted openly in the United States by the officials of a "government" without a country, and possibly at the expense of good American money, though it would seem, enough was spent for the latest adventures of both the old and semi-old Russian regimes.

We cannot pass by in silence the fact that during the period of the Kolchak-Denikin-Yudenich invasion of Russia the same Colonel Nikolaiev issued a series of orders to the Russian officers residing in this country in which he threatened them with court-martial and other punishment. In general the Russian officers of the late regime in political education are in a state of absolute infancy, and being oppressed economically and morally by representatives of the so-called "Russian Government", many of them, against their will, were forced to join one or another of the Russian adventurers, finally either to perish or to be taken prisoner. Now Colonel Nikolaiev is trying to mobilize the reactionary forces of Russia.

Wrangel has gone from Russia, but his third "army", represented by Balakhovich, Avalov-Bermond and others, is still alive, and is cooperating with the White Ukrainian bands of Petlura; and this army also needs officers and men.

But in spite of all the efforts of these traitors to the Russian people, their plans are falling to pieces one after the other. According to an official statement of November 15 from Moscow via London, the Red Army is "successfully advancing in the Minsk region", which means that Balakhovich's advance was checked and the Reds have gained the initiative. The same official communique informs us that "in the Proskurov direction, fierce fighting is proceeding along both sides of the railway on a front of 33 miles, with the balance in our favor", while in the Kamenetz-Podolsk direction, "during

\* General Lukomsky, as we are informed, was dismissed by Wrangel and Admiral Bubnov was appointed in his place.

the capture of Novo-Uzhitsa on November 14, our troops reached the River Uzhitsa." This means that the White Ukrainian bands of Petlura have been met by the Red Army, and the rumor which was recently spread about the capture of the town of Kamenetz-Podolsk may be a *fait accompli*.

In my former article I foresaw that the liquidation of the Crimean front would not bring peace to Soviet Russia, and I was right. Just at the moment of the greatest victory of the Red Army over Wrangel, the military operation on the western front has begun to develop. The situation is aggravated by the fact that the Polish imperialistic government is being forced by France to back the Russian and Ukrainian bandits, and this is confirmed by one of the most important of Wrangel's captains.

I have just received a copy of *Poslednyie Novosti* (of October 30), a reactionary newspaper issued in Paris, in which General-Makhrov, former General Quartermaster of General Brussilov's staff during the Great War, and later Denikin's and Wrangel's assistant, published his point of view on the Polish situation.

Now General Makhrov, appointed by Wrangel as Commander-in-Chief of all Russian forces in Poland, after his meeting with Pilsudski in Warsaw, returned to Paris for a short time. This general, in very definite terms, states that the Polish Government is absolutely ready to cooperate with Wrangel; that the armies of Balakhovich and General Peremykin (again a new one!) are well-equipped and fed and Savinkov has been appointed to organize their rear (where, in Poland?)\*

According to General Makhrov the Poles do not believe in peace with Soviet Russia, and Pilsudski, General Makhrov says, had personally assured him that "the Poles are expecting the establishment of a democratic Russia with which alone Poland may be on real friendly terms." This was said when all Europe believed in Wrangel's victory with the coming of spring. In the same issue of the *Poslednia Novosti*, the "world famous" military expert, Colonel K. Shumsky, supporting his British and French colleagues, definitely considered that the Red Army had lost its Crimean campaign. "Five armies of the Soviets," he says, "concentrated against Wrangel are in a deplorable situation." "The 13th Red Army is completely defeated . . . the new 6th and 2nd armies lost in their fight along the left bank of the Dnieper about 13,000 prisoners . . ." and so on . . . According to Colonel Shumsky's strategical combinations Baron Wrangel's set-back is a skilful manoeuver to annihilate his enemy entirely! . . . "The situation remains favorable for Wrangel," continues this military authority. "The Reds certainly will collect their forces in great number, but history having annulled the formula of Clausewitz,\* has brought forth, especially during the latest period of war, a new formula of another strategist (?) who is an

\* The latest news tells us that three armies of the bandit Petlura were routed, and the Red Army is successfully advancing in the Minsk direction, namely against Balakhovich. This may turn the Polish imperialists to reason.

enemy of the theory of number. "This strategist" (I presume that it is Colonel Shumsky himself) "supposes, and not without reason, that any sound-minded man would believe that ten sheep are inferior to one lion."

Who are the sheep and who the lion in the mind of Colonel Shumsky, it is not difficult to understand, but that he is wrong is proved by the fact that the "lion" instead of being in Moscow is now in Constantinople. I hope that Colonel Shumsky will at least agree to this.

## Interview with Yoffe

[During the Russian-Polish peace negotiations at Riga, a well-known Jewish journalist of Warsaw, Mr. N. Shvalbe, interviewed the chairman of the Russian-Ukrainian Delegation, Comrade Adolph Yoffe. The interview was in the form of written questions, to which Comrade Yoffe gave written replies, and was published in the Jewish daily, "The Day".]

*Question:* In view of the fact that the Third Internationale is based on a program of world social revolution, but that, on the other hand, the peace between Russia and the border nations will insure a state of non-interference in the internal affairs of these nations and will reinforce the barrier between Russia and Germany,—the question arises: how will the Soviet Government, after the conclusion of peace with Poland, be able to pursue a policy that will be in accord with the revolutionary program of the Third Internationale?

*Answer:* The functions of the Soviet Government should not be confused with the functions of the Third Internationale. The Soviet Government is a state organization and not an executive organ of the Third Internationale, which directs the Communist movement and the agitation in the individual countries. The Soviet Government has no intention and does not need to plant or spread Communism in other countries. Communism arises and spreads in those countries spontaneously, because like causes lead everywhere to like effects. The causes are these: the ruin entailed by the war, the organic incapacity of capitalism to establish a real peace, the high cost of living, etc. And no barrier will be of any use in this regard. Peace with Poland will not halt this process.

*Question:* As far as we know the majority of the Polish Communists expressed firm opposition against an advance of the Russian army into the boundaries of Polish territory. How then should be interpreted the actions of the Red command, which had not confined itself to purely strategical operations, but attempted to force a Soviet system

\* Rightly it should be the formula of Napoleon—the signifi-  
cance of larger forces.

upon Poland, in contradiction with the principle of national self-determination?

*Answer:* The Polish Communists, both in Russia and in Poland, hold that the emancipation of the Polish workers from their capitalist yoke must come through those workers themselves. In accord with this, Comrade Marchlewski offered a corresponding resolution at the last all-Russian congress.

The strategy of the struggle for peace and the necessity to put an end to the military aggression of bourgeois Poland demanded that the Soviet army invade the territory of Poland. The Red Army was welcomed by the working masses of Poland as a liberator. The Soviet Government was defending itself against the Polish attack, and to make a repetition of the attack impossible it had to strive not only to repulse the enemy but also to shatter his forces, if need be on the territory of Poland. The organization of the revolutionary rule in Poland was of a provisional character. There can be no question about forcing a Soviet system upon the working masses of Poland, since in the regions which had been occupied by the Soviet troops, workers' councils of villages and cities and organs of Soviet power sprang up spontaneously. Workers' councils are not new in Poland. They already have their traditions. The Soviet army would anyhow have retreated from Poland after the conclusion of peace. She did not go into Poland with aggressive designs, as was the case with the Polish military. The Soviet power has not for one moment betrayed the principle of national self-determination.

## The Ukrainian Peasants

The peasantry is the weak spot of Soviet Ukraine. In all the periods of Soviet power in that country, the greatest difficulties were found among the Ukrainian peasants, who were largely under the influence of the rich peasants and the Makhnovists.\* Class differentiation did not appear at all in the Ukrainian villages, in spite of the large number of poor peasants.

To obtain a firm foothold among the Ukrainian peasants, the Soviet power had, first of all, to win over the village inhabitants, freeing them from the influence of the rich peasant elements. It was absolutely necessary to destroy the mainstay of banditism and Makhnoism in the Ukrainian villages.

It was hard to accomplish anything in this direction by force of arms. At any rate, the methods of armed struggle alone were insufficient. There was only one choice left: to carry out in the Ukrainian villages the experiment with the committees of the poor peasants, which had produced good results in its day in Central Russia.

A recapitulation of the progress in the organization of Committees of Poor Peasants in eight

\* Partisans of the Ukrainian leader Makhno who, according to recent reports from Moscow, has declared his allegiance to the Soviet Government.

Ukrainian provinces for the period July 1—September 10, which we have before us, gives eloquent testimony to the fact that class alignment has commenced in the Ukrainian villages, and has already produced visible results, leading to the entrenchment of the Soviet power in the very midst of the Ukrainian peasantry.

The following figures show the number of Committees of the Poor (on September 10): in the province of Kharkov, 945 committees; in the Donetz province, 1,139; in the Poltava province, 1,280; in the province of Yekaterinoslav, over 200; in the province of Chernigov, 237; in the province of Kiev, 869; in the province of Odessa, 442; in the province of Nikolaiev, 1,000. The total number of Committees of the Poor in Ukraine is 6,510.

These data are far from complete, but they are enough to show the growth of class consciousness among the poorest Ukrainian peasants. Not only have committees been formed, but, in many cases, they carry on active work to strengthen the Soviet power. Thus, the above-mentioned report mentions, for instance, that in the Kupiansk county two conferences of the Committees of the Poor have already been held, accompanied by splendid revolutionary enthusiasm; the second congress declared itself mobilized as a body for the Wrangel front. In the Izum county the delivery of grain for the quota increased under the influence of the Committees of the Poor. The Committees of the Poor in the Bogodukhov county give aid to the families of the Red soldiers, and take part in the confiscation of the property of the rich peasants. A large number of congresses of the Committees of the Poor adopted resolutions showing wholehearted support of the Soviet power and determination to fight the rich peasants. In the Priluki county the Committees of the Poor are taking the lands of the rich peasants and are distributing them among the poor peasants. In the Bogdanov volost (township) of the Pavlograd county, the Committees of the Poor divide all the goods that are received from the city among the poorest peasants. And so on.

Of course, in many localities, these Committees of the Poor have to deal with the hostility of the rich peasants; in some places the extensive brigandage hinders the organization of Committees of the Poor. There are also cases where the poor peasants have been terrorized by the rich peasants and are afraid to form committees. But on the whole the Committees of the Poor will play an important part in the work for a class alignment in the Ukrainian villages, and will create a firm foundation for Soviet construction in Ukraine.—*Izvestia*, October 2.

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## Russia's Executive Body in Session

[The following is an account of the Third Session of the All-Russian Central Executive Committee, the highest executive body in Soviet Russia which holds four sessions yearly.]

On the 23rd of September, the Third Session of the All-Russian Central Executive Committee opened in Moscow.

Comrade Chicherin read a report on the international position of the Soviet Republic. Dealing in detail with the course of negotiations with England and Poland, Comrade Chicherin pointed out that on the whole, for the last three months, the attitude of the European empires toward the Soviet Republic was one which indicated that the latter looked upon Soviet Russia as a first rate power.

Comrade Chicherin's report gave rise to lively discussions as a result of which the All-Russian Central Executive Committee passed with a majority of votes the resolution regarding the proposal of peace conditions to Poland.

### Second Sitting

Comrade Brukhanov, the Assistant People's Commissar for Provisions, read a report regarding the food situation in Soviet Russia.

Comrade Brukhanov pointed out that the People's Commissariat for Food will be under the necessity of surmounting great difficulties this year, in view of the bad harvest in the central provinces. With regard to the work of the People's Commissariat for Food, Comrade Brukhanov quotes the following figures:

From October, 1917, to the 1st of August, 1918, the People's Commissariat for Food prepared 30 million poods of grain. In the period of 1918 to 1919, 110 million poods of grain were obtained. In 1919 to 1920 the intended levy of grain was published to amount to 327 million poods. The actual quantity of the grain obtained amounts to 220 and a half million poods. These figures are evidence as to the correctness of the road taken by the People's Commissariat for Food upon the second year of its activity. For the present year the People's Commissariat for Food intends a levy of grain for the entire territory of the Republic to amount to 454 million poods.

In view of the fact that the provinces of Central Russia suffered a bad harvest the main task of the People's Commissariat for Food at the present time is the collection of as great a quantity of grain as possible in Siberia where for the last five years great reserves of grain have been accumulated. A mobilization of harvesting detachments, numbering 20,000 men, has been declared for the purpose of having this grain ground and despatched to the center.

At the present time full information regarding the collection of grain for the month of August has not yet come to hand for all the provinces. As regards individual provinces for which information is at hand 16,200,000 poods of grain have been collected for the month of August, while in 1919,

in the same month, 4,000,000 poods only were collected. It must be mentioned by the way that for the ten days of September, 500,000 poods of grain have been collected only in the consuming provinces, and the prospects for the future collection of grain are improving.

In regard to the exchange of goods between town and country Comrade Brukhanov points out that, for the last year, we have supplied the country (the agricultural districts) with 1,000,000 poods of paraffin, etc., and that for the present year, as the result of the success of the Red Army, we supplied the said districts with 7,200,000 poods of such material. Instead of the 3,000,000 poods of salt with which the agricultural districts have been supplied for the last year, we shall be able to give from four and a half to five million poods of salt. This indicates that the least improvement of our resources of goods is utilized by the People's Commissariat for Food in the first place in the interests of the agricultural districts.

In regard to the distribution of food products we have abandoned the former principle of equal distribution of products amongst the entire working population in favor of the complete supply in the first place of the group of workers whose activity is of the utmost importance in connection with our general plan of production. This has been carried out in complete contact with the trade union organizations. One of the first groups in question is our Red Army and the military and transport workers. The second group is represented by a number of other factories of serious State import, the third group is represented by other factories and works that are also supplied with a guaranteed ration. The first pioneer group was supplied fully 100 per cent, the second group up to 80 per cent, and the third group up to 50 to 60 per cent.

In conclusion, Comrade Brukhanov once more dwells on the difficulties with which the work of the Commissariat for the present year is faced. He says that thanks to the method of collection, and under the tension of all forces, the Commissariat for Food expects to be able to cope with its questions and to attain better results than last year.

### Third Sitting

The Third Sitting of the Session of the All-Russian Central Executive Committee was devoted to the question of public education.

Comrade Lunacharsky described the work of the People's Commissariat for Education in a long and detailed report.\*

After lengthy discussions the All-Russian Central Executive Committee passed the resolution proposed by Comrade Lunacharsky.

\* We print this report in full in this issue of SOVIET RUSSIA.

## Mrs. Snowden in Russia

Upon the immense and wide river, between verdant islands, long files of barges charged with wood and cereals, tankboats carrying precious oil, our boat the *Belinsky* sails smoothly and lightly. The freshness of the water tempers the unbearable heat. From time to time we can see on the bank the humped back of a slow and clumsy camel.

On the deck, full of ecstasy and langor, there is the figure of a woman in a tight-fitting blouse of green. The lips painted violent red and the face disguised under a heavy layer of powder. When, now and then, the active energetic Comrade Sverdlov, the acting Commissar of Means of Communication, appears above, she affects smiles and twitches, and loses herself in pathetic and monosyllabic eulogies. When the heat grows heavier and the ices are served at the instance of Comrade Sverdlov, who, in spite of the formidable task imposed upon him by his high position and his important mission, does not forget for an instant to minister to the slightest needs of his British guests, Mrs. Snowden, calling him by name, falls into something like a fit, crying languidly, "Oh, thank you Mr. Sverdlov." When she deems insufficient for the stomach of an idealist the copious repasts served her, she asks for eggs and for fish, and her wishes are realized immediately. When she complains of the mosquitos importuning her fine countenance, the windows are immediately shut and a white muslin of close texture is spread over the window of her cabin so as to protect efficaciously the representative of the British proletariat against the invasion of insects. When the boat draws up alongside some landing-stage Mrs. Snowden, fatigued by her long and tiresome voyage, graciously permits herself to be driven in a carriage or motor-car uttering fussy and interminable thanks.

However, when remaining alone with her colleagues of the Trade Union Delegation, she expresses freely and without any moderation her opinions: Russia is a "dirty" country and the Russians are a "dirty" people. And she never goes to bed before having prayed to the God of her fathers to save her from all dirt and inflictions heaped upon revolutionary Russia.

Thus Mrs. Snowden, who so admirably represented during the war five o'clock pacifism, adheres now to five o'clock Socialism. She came to Russia to bring the greeting and the encouragement of the British workers, and to study the new creations of Soviet Russia. She had come to Russia with the mind of a middle-class woman who condescends to pity the masses of workers and peasants; with the soul of an insular puritan convinced in advance that Russia is inhabited by a people of barbarians; with manners of a sea-side lady who has only one quality strongly ingrained in her, namely hypocrisy.

Oh, gentle lady and pacifist, you are at liberty to express any opinion you like upon Russia, upon the Revolution, upon the Soviets, upon Communists, but do take off your mask,—I do not mean the

paints and the powders of which you make ample use, but your hypocrisy. I very much doubt that the English workers will have, later on, that patience and benevolent indulgence, which you have shown during your sojourn in Russia to the representatives of a great people, who whatever you may do, think or speak, will rid the world of the parasitic elements which insinuate themselves into the labor movement in order to corrupt it.

HENRY GUILBEAUX.

*Russian Press Review*, October 15, 1920.

## BUYING GERMAN LOCOMOTIVES

BERLIN, October 22.—As is reported in the *Chemnitz Allgemeine Zeitung* from Essen, the conclusion of a big contract between Soviet Russia and the German Government—a contract that will be very important for the development of German economy—is rapidly approaching. The subject of the contract is the ordering of Russian locomotives in Germany, which was mentioned in the

press reports of the 15th of October. The result of the negotiations is to be a contract for the purchase of 1,000,000 marks worth of locomotives, however, modified by the provision that it is not actually to be considered as final until the Russo-Polish conflict has been disposed of.

The contracts have been prepared in all details and are now only awaiting signature. The Russian moneys have already been deposited in two foreign banks, which will open an account for the German Government for purchase of locomotives and raw materials.

The execution of this order of the Russian order will be carried out by a number of German industrial firms, consisting of the following concerns: Richard Hartmann (Kassel), Henschel (Kassel), Maffei (Munich), and Henschel (Kassel).

The preparation for the placing of Russian orders with the German locomotive industry were undertaken at the beginning of this year. They were initiated by the Russian Government, which contacted the German Locomotive Society. The latter, on its part, made an attempt to contact the German concerns engaged in the manufacture of locomotives. As the difficulty of finding orders was increasing—and these difficulties were particularly felt in the locomotive industry since many outside factories have taken up the manufacture of locomotives—these great concerns seemed about to come from Russia and had gained considerable interest. The negotiations which had been begun in Berlin, were continued in Stockholm, and we learned from one of the participants in the negotiations that the signature of the delivery contracts is probably a matter of the near immediate future.

## SOVIET RUSSIA

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This weekly will print articles by members of the Russian Soviet Government Bureau as well as by friends and supporters of Soviet Russia. Full responsibility is assumed by the Bureau only for unsigned articles. Manuscripts are not solicited; if sent in, their return is not promised.

**B**OURGEOIS critics may speak with disdain of the "brutal" doctrine of Marxism in matters of revolution or class struggle, they may deny the proletarian philosophy that underlies the Soviet Russian Government as a teaching that is based on brute force and has an eye only to "the main chance", but they will have to look very carefully through the acts of the proletarian state, either in Russia or in the past experiments elsewhere, before they find anything to parallel the sordid snatchings at momentary alterations in the international situation that are displayed even by such powerful and firmly established capitalist governments as that of Great Britain. It will be remembered that last July the Soviet Government's representatives in London were waiting to sign an agreement with the Government of Great Britain on the subject of the opening of foreign trade between the two countries. But it will also be recalled that the rout of the Polish troops before the advancing Red Army was halted by military aid suddenly thrust in, in the form of French colored colonial troops who had been withdrawn from their kindly offices in Germany, and that the British Government, which had been moved by the breakdown of the Polish buffer-state to begin to consider very favorably the peace offers of the Russian Soviet Government, thereupon immediately took a more haughty stand and the negotiations accordingly came to a stop. Threats again began to be heard to "deport" from England the representatives of the Russian Socialist Federal Soviet Republic, and things really did begin to look as if once more the great gulf separating the Russian and British peoples had widened, to the great disadvantage of both sides.

Now again the situation of counter-revolution is poor. Wrangel has been driven into the sea, Bala-khovich and Petlura are moving off the map, and the sending of League of Nations troops into Lithuania to supervise the Vilna plebiscite cannot immediately threaten to result in the formation of a new anti-Soviet front, in spite of the fact that this may be the intention of the sending of the troops. And the alteration in the attitude of Great Britain is not slow to follow the changed situation; if the Soviet Government is going to be victorious, why not make sure that the negotiations will at least move fast enough to anticipate any other similar

transactions of the Soviet Government with other powers? The *New York Times* of November 18 is accordingly constrained to print the following news item:

LONDON, November 18.—Premier Lloyd George stated in the House of Commons today that the Cabinet had decided that a draft of an agreement to carry out the July arrangements for trade with Russia should be prepared for submission to the Russian Government in a few days.

The Premier said the agreement would not be entered into until Great Britain was satisfied that the undertaking by the Soviet Government regarding the release of British prisoners was being carried out.

An authorized statement has been issued denying that the British Government contemplates evacuating General Wrangel's forces or stores. The statement says the British ships have been engaged solely in removing British subjects from the Crimea and a small party of Russian children from a hospital at Sebastopol.

It is also denied that Great Britain had any intention of seizing Batum or other ports on the Black Sea.

Now that the Soviet Government is about to control the Black Sea, of course the innocent British Government disclaims every intention of every kind of aggression in those regions. Meanwhile, however, it would be unfortunate if Great Britain should allow Italy to open trade with Soviet Russia, and accordingly an occasional Italian ship, laden with goods for that country, is seized by British cruisers in the Black Sea, and held until Great Britain's own ships may succeed in getting some sort of priority in this trade. And when an American succeeds in making a serious commercial arrangement with the Soviet Government, there is at least one government in the world—namely, that of Downing Street—which is eager to find out what he has really done and to communicate the information to its great merchant class. As Mr. Washington D. Vanderlip, who has a contract with the Soviet Government in his pocket, is now in London, why shouldn't the American Embassy be notified that "he will be closely questioned by the Intelligence Department of Scotland Yard if the present plans of the police are carried out?"

"The interrogation will not necessarily be made with the view of taking action against Mr. Vanderlip's presence in England, it was stated, but with the intention of ascertaining exactly what his activities had been in Russia in view of the many conflicting reports published in London. Such interrogation, it was pointed out, would be in conformity with the recently adopted attitude of the British Government of discouraging travel between Russia and England.

"W. D. Vanderlip was in Stockholm up to a few days ago. He recently returned from Moscow and gave out a statement, asserting that he had secured a concession for 400,000 square miles of land in Siberia, including Kamchatka, for a syndicate of Americans."—*New York Times*, November 19, 1920.

It is not the first time that the British Government has violated the principle of the secrecy of business privilege, which is one of the rocks on which the capitalist system is founded.

**W**HO was it that wanted Wrangel to Win? Every counter-revolutionist in the world, of course. But, more specifically, a corporation which Mr. Walter Duranty calls (Special Cable, *New York Times*, No. 16) "The Russo-French Society of Exploitation of South Russia and Crimea", while

Mr. Jerome Landfield, of the "Russian-American Chamber of Commerce" (letter to *New York Times*, issue of Nov. 17), calls it "The Russo-French Society for Commerce, Industry and Transportation." The name doesn't matter. The object does, and Mr. Duranty says this about the object:

"Now that Wrangel's effort has failed, it will do no harm to tell the real genesis of the Crimean movement. Wrangel was not a supporter of the old regime nor, at the outset any way, did he intend unlimited action against the Bolsheviki. He was associated with a powerful business organization with headquarters in Paris, in palatial offices in the Avenue Marceau.

This company, called the Russo-French Society of Exploitation of South Russia and Crimea, was formed at the beginning of the year with a capital of 12,000,000 francs by a group of Franco-Russian financiers and industrialists, of whom Mr. Kamenka of the Banque du Nord was the most prominent. They included the principal shareholders of the iron mines of Krivoirog, southwest of Yekaterinograd and of Russia's most valuable collieries in the Donetz Basin, southeast of Khar'kov.

The company bought in France very large stocks of wheat and other grains for Wrangel's army, intending to sell them in the Crimea. The sale of grain and other commodities was profitable. Later, they hoped to continue the sale of iron and coal. They actually shipped large quantities of these commodities to Marseilles, which was the main shipping port.

The company called the tune and insisted that the Russian Government be established in the area of the Donetz Basin. In accordance with their policy, they moved toward Yekaterinoslav and further toward the Donetz Basin. Unfortunately, they were unable to control the reactionaries from Constantinople by their general's successes."

The above is uninteresting, and the influence of the French corporation on democratic Russia is even delightful.

H. G. WELLS is writing a series of articles on present conditions in Russia, which are appearing in the Sunday issues of the *New York Times*. On the whole Mr. Wells, in the first two articles—we have not read the third article, dealing with Communism proper—is fair, sensible, and in places even flattering in speaking of the accomplishments of the Soviet Government. It is gratifying to behold the sensitive Mr. Wells—who only two years ago wrote a very scurrilous note (with pen and ink illustration) to Mr. Upton Sinclair on the subject of Nikolai Lenin (and Mr. Sinclair reprinted the note in facsimile in *Sinclair's Magazine*)—now admitting that while there is much discomfort and even misery in Russia, it was brought about not by the Soviet regime, but by the Czarist order which preceded the November Revolution. From the Wells who wrote the sensational short stories on popular science topics in the 80's and 90's, and the romantic and semi-social novels of the first decade of the new century, and the wild war-culture-and-reconciliation stuff of the second decade, we had hardly expected the relatively objective and sober statements he now writes about Russia. But Mr. Wells, whose eye is splendidly trained for seeing everything that is on the surface, could not help observing that after all, in spite of all the denunciation that he has read against the Bolsheviki and the Soviet Government, there is

nevertheless a "group of salvage establishments", for the nursing of those scholarly persons that were once shining lights in Russian science and letters, and that one of these "salvage establishments" is the "House of Science in St. Petersburg, in the ancient Palace of the Archduchess Marie Pavlova", while "parallel with the House of Science is the House of Literature and Art", which is a refuge for literary men and other artists, whom the Soviet State desires to keep alive and healthy. Particularly decent is Mr. Wells' comment on the activity of some of the writers in the House of Literature and Art in connection with the new project of publishing a complete *Weltliteratur* for the masses in the Russian language:

"Writing of new books, except for some poetry, and painting of pictures have ceased in Russia, but the bulk of the writers and artists have found employment upon the grandiose scheme for the publication of a sort of Russian encyclopedia of literature of the world.

"In this strange Russia of conflict, cold, famine and pitiful privations, there is actually going on now a literary task that would be inconceivable in the rich England and the rich America of today. In England and America the production of good literature at popular prices has practically ceased now. Because of the price of paper the mental food of the English and American masses dwindles and deteriorates, and nobody in authority cares a rap. The Bolshevik Government is at least a shade above that level. In starving Russia hundreds of people are working upon translations, and the books they translate are being set up and printed—work which may presently give the new Russia such a knowledge of world thought as no other people will possess. I have seen some of the books. Of the work going on I may write with no certainty, because, like everything else in the ruined country, this creative work is essentially improvised and fragmentary."

So much we must quote from Mr. Wells, to show how fair and reasonable he can be when you bring him face to face with an actual institution, an actual accomplishment. A "House of Science", or a "House of Literature and Art"; or a "Library of World Literature"—these are tangible things, things Mr. Wells can understand; has he not himself been for years outlining just such projects as these in his *Modern Utopia*, his *In the Days of the Comet*, his *Mankind in the Making*, his *Research Magnificent*, his *New Worlds for Old*?

But Mr. Wells is not unaware that while it was suffering and hardship that forced the Russian people to accept the leadership of the Bolsheviki and the establishment of the Soviet Government, those being inevitable steps in rescuing them from such suffering and hardship—they are still accepting suffering and hardship, cold, hunger and hostile bullets for other reasons than in order to establish institutions so admirably adapted to preserving the lives of noted scientists and artists that they draw acclaiming voices from all who visit Russia! The Russian people, and their most class-conscious leaders, the Russian proletariat, accept all this misery because they are building a future society, because they know that out of their present terrible condition there will grow a system that will far outshine all past systems in the accomplishments of peace, intellect, and good will. It is here that Mr. Wells fails to understand—it is here that he most lamentably falls down. Let us quote him again:

"In regard to the intellectual life of the community, one discovers that Marxist communism is without plans and without ideas. Marxist communism has always been a theory of revolution, a theory not merely lacking creative and constructive ideas, but hostile to creative and constructive ideas. Every Communist orator has been trained to condemn utopianism; that is to say, has been trained to condemn intelligent planning. Not even the British business man of the older type is quite such a believer in things fighting themselves and in muddling through as these Marxists. The Russian Communist Government now finds itself face to face, among a multiplicity of other constructive problems, with the problem of sustaining scientific life, of sustaining thought and discussion, of promoting artistic creation. Marx, the prophet, and his sacred book supply it with no lead at all in the matter. Bolshevism, having no schemes, must improvise, therefore, clumsily, and is reduced to these pathetic attempts to salvage the wreckage of the intellectual life of the old order, and that life is very sick and unhappy and seems likely to die on its hands."

We have already suggested the reason for Mr. Wells' mistake: he is essentially an artist for the idle and superficial—we admit that we have enjoyed much of his past work—and hates the burden of hard study that must be borne by one who would really understand the Russian Communist, the Soviet Government, and their Marxian postulates. In a quick trip through Russia, his swift and eager eyes pass searchingly over all his physical surroundings: he registers rather faithfully his impressions of a great and varied panorama, much as he described the American surface in *The Future in America* (1906). But his view of history is still a vulgar and childish one; he writes *An Outline of History* (1920) not as Marx or Mehring would have written it, but in a series of fascinating and personal, but detached and unconvincing sketches, much in the manner of August Strindberg's *Historical Miniatures*. Like Strindberg, he is still a slave of the "great man" and "great epoch" theory of history.

How can Mr. Wells therefore know anything about the real nature of the preparations in progress toward a Communist society in Russia? He really thinks it true that "Marxist Communism has always been a theory of revolution, a theory not merely lacking in creative and constructive ideas, but hostile to creative and constructive ideas." Marx is not well described, nor would his disciples Lenin, Trotsky, Lozovsky, Radek, be well described by this characterization. There are many persons who have read enough of Marx to know what an inclusive and exhaustive system of philosophy he devised, and how perfectly he drew not only the picture of bourgeois society, but of the forces that would bring about a change. And those persons also know what prodigies of energy Marx was accustomed to expend in planning the political organization and the political acts that would be necessary to accomplish the transformation. Lenin also cannot be said to be exactly a planless or thoughtless person. In fact, the very uppermost impression in our reading of every new article that appears from the pens of persons who have really studied Russian conditions is that planning and

building for the future have become the absorbing occupation of every official and unofficial body in Russia. Let the reader turn back over the pages of his file of SOVIET RUSSIA, let us say through the eight instalments of Dr. Alfons Goldschmidt's *Moscow in 1920*, and let him there note what Dr. Goldschmidt has to say on Krzyzanowski, on Stunkel, on Landa, and on other prominent organizers in Soviet Russia. These are men who *live* in the future. Their present privations and miseries are such that only their firm intellectual faith in the future of their country and of the world could keep them up in the face of constant imperfection and disappointment.

And—leaving the leaders for the present—the Russian people themselves, who have accepted a program more sanely idealistic than any ever followed before by so great a number: are they planning and working for the future, or are they merely living in the present? Who built the waterways that linked the Caspian Sea with the Black Sea and the Baltic? Who outlined, discussed and promulgated the great "Code of Labor Laws" that lays the basis for a society of working men and women? Who, willingly accept starvation and want for the adult workers, in order that the children may be fed and a generation of real men and women may be made possible? Who willingly, nay enthusiastically, devote extra days and hours of toil to the tasks of sanitary and industrial reconstruction? Who is it that, after his day of toil is over, imparts instruction in reading and writing to two persons not possessing this ability? This is the duty of every literate worker in Soviet Russia. And let us not ask who it is that flocks to join the proletarian hosts that are crushing the counter-revolution, with and without, so that the future may live and not die. Mr. Wells sees some things, but it takes bigger to men to see others. One of the distinguishing marks of real genius is the power of seeing forces rather than phenomena.

HEDDA GABLER loved a warm nook and took a safe and sane provider, but her recognition and affection for real genius proved her undoing in spite of her. Dear old George Tesman was a ticketed and certificated scholar, who was quite an authority on the domestic industries of Brabant in the Middle Ages; and he was able to support a wife. His interest in life was in its past. But while Ejlert Lovborg was a scamp and profligate, he was interested both in the past and in the future. Only one of the two volumes of Ejlert's "History of Civilization" dealt with the past; Volume Two was to be the History of Civilization in the Future. No wonder Hedda was interested. The men who made the Russian Revolution, and their great predecessors who outlined its theory before it came, are contributors to the Second Volume. Mr. Wells belongs to Volume One, no matter how bulky his *Outline of History* may be. And yet Mr. Wells was once an assiduous recorder of much of the merely physical environment in which the men and women of the future seemed destined to live!

## Four Notes to the British Government

*The Russian Trade Delegation has issued the text of four notes sent by Krassin to Lord Curzon of Kedleston, protesting against British acts of hostility toward the Russian Soviet Government. The text of the notes is as follows:*

### I

128 New Bond Street, London, W.I.  
October 19, 1920.

Mr. Krassin presents his compliments to Lord Curzon of Kedleston, and begs to inform him that he is instructed by his Government to acknowledge receipt in Moscow, of the British Notes No. 256, of the 26th of September, and No. 266, of the 2nd of October.

The Russian Government can only express its deep regret and surprise at hearing that orders have been issued to British warships to attack at sight, and without warning, submarines of the Russian Soviet Republic in the Black Sea and the Baltic.

In the first place, it is not quite clear what are the legal grounds upon which the British Government thinks to justify such an extreme measure. The reference in the note of the 26th of September to the declaration alleged to have been made by prominent Soviet representatives to the effect that the Russian Government considers Russia to be at war with Great Britain, is evidently based upon some misunderstanding. The Russian Government has never declared war on Great Britain, and it is unaware of any declarations made by responsible representatives to the effect that Russia is at present at war with Great Britain. On the contrary, the Russian Government persistently continues to make offers to Great Britain for the conclusion of a stable and lasting peace, and stringent orders have been given to all warships of the Russian Republic, including submarines, in no circumstances to take any hostile action towards ships flying the British Flag. Such orders as those issued to the British Fleet cannot, therefore, be justified on the ground that a state of war exists between Russia and Great Britain.

The Russian Republic has the right enjoyed by every sovereign state to employ for the defence of its frontiers and shores all available means introduced by the development of the technique of modern warfare. It was not the government of the workers and peasants of Russia who introduced the submarine into the navies of the world. Submarines, like all other weapons of mutual destruction of mankind, are indispensable instruments of a capitalistic state of society. Only by the aggressive policy of capitalist governments has the Russian Soviet Government been forced to resort to employ all the weapons at its disposal, in order to protect its independence against foreign attacks. But if the British Government were to take the initiative towards securing a general agreement of all the capitalist governments, not to use such inhuman weapons of warfare as submarines,

aeroplanes, poison gases, etc., the Russian Soviet Government would support such an initiative. If such an undertaking were reached, the Russian Government would join the other governments in prohibiting the use of such weapons of warfare in its armies and in its navy.

The threats to attack at sight and without warning the submarines of the Russian Government are in contradiction to the peaceful declarations repeatedly made by the British Government, and are evidently not conducive to bringing about the general peace so ardently longed for by the whole of Europe. They may lead to grave misunderstanding and to untoward events, as in the open sea it is not very easy to discern the nationality of a submarine. No doubt the British Government would be very much concerned if a sudden attack by British warships were to result in the sinking of submarines belonging to General Wrangel, to France, or to some neutral power having submarines, for instance, in the Baltic.

In view of the peace which has now been concluded by the Russian Government with all the border states and with Finland, and of the armistice signed with Poland, the war operations of the Russian submarines will be limited in the Black Sea only against the ships of General Wrangel and against any ships of his allies which may participate directly in any hostile action against Soviet Russia.

No doubt the British Government is aware that in the Black Sea the armies and ships of General Wrangel, openly supported by France, are attacking Soviet Russia. The Russian Government would esteem it a great favor if the British Government would inform it whether the British Navy received orders also to attack without warning all submarines sighted in the Black Sea, which General Wrangel or France sent against the ships of the Russian Government or against ports and inhabited places along the Black and Azov Seas.

In the Baltic, Russian submarines constitute no menace whatever and put to sea, not for operations of war, but for the ordinary instruction and other peacetime work which every navy carries on.

The Russian Government considers that the best means of preventing any naval conflicts whatever in the Black Sea and in the Baltic would be the removal from those seas of warships of all nations who have no possessions along the respective shores.

The Russian Government expects, therefore, that the British Government will withdraw its orders given to the British Navy, to attack Russian Government submarines.

Lord Curzon of Kedleston,

10 Downing Street, S.W.I.

## II

October 28, 1920.

Mr. Krassin presents his compliments to Lord Curzon of Kedleston and begs to place before him the following matter.

Information has been received by the Russian Government that the Italian merchantman *Ancona*, bound for the Russian port of Novorossiysk with merchandise, was stopped at sea by British warships, and taken to Batum.

On October 21 the *Ancona* left Batum, but was overtaken by British warships, fired upon, and compelled to return to Batum, where she now lies under the guard of British destroyers.

Mr. Krassin feels that it is scarcely necessary to point out to Lord Curzon that, if this information is correct, the commanders of the warships concerned have been guilty of an illegal and high-handed act, directed both against the Russian Republic and against the Kingdom of Italy.

The Russian Soviet Republic has never declared war on Great Britain; no blockade of the Russian Black Sea ports has been proclaimed; indeed, responsible British ministers have explicitly and publicly stated that no blockade exists.

There can, therefore, be no justification whatever for any interference by British warships with a merchant vessel of a friendly nation bound upon lawful occasion to a Russian port.

Mr. Krassin therefore requests Lord Curzon to institute immediate inquiry into the circumstances, and to communicate to him as soon as possible the British Government's version and the explanation of the facts.

Mr. Krassin feels sure that, if the information given to the Russian Government is confirmed, the British Government will at once order the release of the *Ancona*, will express its regret for the action of its subordinates, and will give to the commanders of its warships instructions that will prevent any such incident occurring in the future.

Lord Curzon of Kedleston,  
10 Downing Street, S.W.I.

## III

October 28, 1920.

Mr. Krassin presents his compliments to Lord Curzon of Kedleston, and begs to draw his attention to the conditions now obtaining on the western frontiers of the Russian and Ukrainian Soviet Republics.

Treaties of peace have been signed with the Republics of Finland, Esthonia, and Lithuania. An armistice, preparatory to peace, has been signed with the Republic of Poland. The Governments of the Russian and Ukrainian Republics had hoped, by the signature of these treaties and of this armistice, to bring to an end the war that has devastated their borders for over six years, and to secure peace for all the peoples of these countries.

Unhappily that hope has not been realized. War has ceased between the established governments, but a state of war still prevails. In White Russia and in Western Ukraine, armed marauding forces, subject to no government, are still engaged in hos-

tile actions against the citizens of the two Soviet Republics. These forces, commanded by Balakhovich and Petlura, are equipped and munitioned with supplies provided by the Entente Powers through Poland; and those Powers are, therefore, to no small extent, responsible for the prolongation of suffering and bloodshed caused by their operations.

The Governments of the Russian and Ukrainian Republics will take all necessary measures to free their countries from these disturbers of the peace, and to put an end finally to their lawless depredations.

The Russian Government, therefore, trusts that in this task of restoring peace and of defending its citizens and territories against lawless aggression, it will be subjected to no interference, direct or indirect, by the British Government or its allies.

It would be glad to receive assurances that the British Government will in no way give aid or countenance, material or moral, to the acts of Petlura or Balakhovich, of their associate Savinkov, or of any others who may cooperate with them. Only by the destruction, disbandment or surrender of the forces of these marauders can peace be restored; and the Russian Government asks assurance that the British Government will in no way intervene to relieve them from the consequences they have deliberately challenged, or to hinder the completion of the establishment of peace and order.

## IV

October 30.—In the course of negotiations with the British Government regarding the release of prisoners at Baku, the Soviet Government always called the attention of the British Government to the fact that Azerbaijan is an independent State whose actions cannot be determined by the Russian Soviet Government.

Your Note of October 28 still fails to recognize this fact. However, the Soviet Government earnestly urged the Government of Azerbaijan to meet the wishes of the British Government in regard to Baku prisoners, and now again in view of your complaint of delay, is renewing its representations at Baku trusting to reach a favorable result.

Your allegation of our non-compliance with the agreement is rather misplaced, in view of the fact that, regardless of altogether unnecessary delay on the part of the British Government in the matter of the repatriation of Babushkin and his party, the British Siberian Mission, Britishers sentenced to prison for grave offences, and many British civilians are being delivered today to representatives of the British Mission in Finland at the Finnish border. Other Britishers will be rapidly brought to the same border.

Steps have been taken to meet transport announced by you as bringing Russian prisoners from Egypt and Constantinople to Odessa, and the Azerbaijan Government has been informed of our urgent wish to have the release of the British prisoners in Baku and their delivery to the British representative to synchronise with the arrival outside Odessa of the British transport.

## “Nationalization of Women”

By LEON TROTSKY

[The tale of the nationalization of women has now been circulating in newspapers hostile to Soviet Russia for several years. It is difficult to see how any intelligent person can believe such absurd lies, yet it is interesting to look into their origin. The matter becomes still more interesting when we recall that vile misrepresentations are received by Kautsky with enthusiasm and that he gives them space in his “theoretical” works on Soviet Russia. In his book “Against Kautsky”, Trotsky, Commissar for War in the Soviet Republic, has the following interesting exposure of the falsehood of the nationalization story.]

**I**N ORDER to give the men and women who are his pious adherents a proper conception of the moral level of the Russian proletariat, Kautsky quotes the following order on page 116 of his book\* which is allegedly issued by the Workers’ Soviet of Murtsilovka:

“The Soviet herewith gives Comrade Gregory Sarayev the power, according to his own orders, to commandeer for the use of the artillery division garrisoned at Murtsilovka, district of Briansk, 60 women and girls of the class of the bourgeoisie and speculators, and to assign them to the barracks. September 16, 1918.” (Originally published by Dr. Nathaniel Wintch-Maleyev, “What Are the Bolsheviki Doing”, Lausanne, 1919, page 10.)

Although I have not the slightest doubt that this document was a forged one, and that the whole story was a lie from start to finish, I nevertheless had an investigation made of every phase of this matter, in order to learn what facts and episodes were at the bottom of this invention. A carefully conducted investigation gives the following results:

1. In the district of Briansk there is no place named Murtsilovka. Nor is there any such place in the neighboring districts. The name most similar to it is that of the village of Muravievka, in the district of Briansk. But there never was an artillery division in that place, nor did anything happen there that could be connected in any way with the “document” quoted above.

2. I also tried to trace this matter by following up the various artillery divisions. We have not succeeded in finding anywhere even an indirect indication of any event that has the slightest similarity to that indicated by Kautsky, from the source which inspired him.

3. Finally, my investigation also went into the question as to whether there might not be rumors of such an event circulating in Muravievka. Absolutely no information could be obtained of any such rumors. And this should not surprise us. The whole contents of the forgery are in gross contradiction with the morals and the public opinion of the leading workers and peasants, who control the Soviets, even in the most backward regions.

This proves that the document is a forgery of the basest sort, capable of being circulated only by the most malicious sycophants of the yellowest journals.

At the time when the investigation referred to was going on, Comrade Zinoviev sent me an issue of a Swedish newspaper (*Svenska Dagbladet*) dated November 9, 1919, in which the facsimile of an order was reproduced, which ran as follows:

### ORDER

“The bearer, Comrade Karasseyev, is granted the right to socialize . . . (number effaced) girls, aged 16 to 36, in the city of Yekaterinod . . . (obliterated), to be designated by Comrade Karasseyev. Signed—Commander-in-Chief Ivashchev.”

This document is even more stupid and insolent than that quoted by Kautsky. The city of Yekaterinodar (in the center of the Kuban region) was in the hands of the Soviet troops for only a short time.\* The author of the forgery, who is absolutely not at all versed in revolutionary chronology, took the pains to efface the date of his document, so that it might not unexpectedly transpire that the “Commander-in-Chief Ivashchev” had socialized the women of Yekaterinodar at a time when that city was in the hands of the Denikin soldiery. It should not surprise us that this document might deceive a stupid Swedish bourgeois, but to the Russian reader it is absolutely clear that the document is not only forged, but *forged by a foreigner working with the aid of a dictionary*. It is very interesting that the names of both these socializers of women—Gregory Sarayev and Comrade Karasseyev do not sound Russian at all. The ending -eyev occurs very rarely in Russian family names, and then only in certain definite combinations. But the name of the unmasker of the Bolsheviki himself, the author of this English pamphlet quoted by Kautsky, just happens to end in -eyev (*Wintch-Maleyev*). It is quite clear that this English-Bulgarian police creature, living in Lausanne, creates socializers of women literally after his own image.

### THE WEEK OF THE CHILD

Petrograd *Izvestia* reports the following: The working and peasant women of Petrograd and the Petrograd province have decided to introduce a “Week of the Child”, the aim of which is first, propaganda for Socialist education, secondly, the attracting of wide masses of working and peasant women to the work of education. Automobiles with propagandists and physicians are to deliver popular lectures in the villages on child hygiene. A campaign will be instituted under the slogan: “The working woman for the peasant woman—the peasant woman for the working woman,” during which the women in the city will collect toys and books for the peasant children, while the peasant women will collect foodstuffs for the proletarian children.

\* This article must have been written early this year; Yekaterinodar has been in the hands of the Soviets since the overthrow of Denikin.

\* *Terrorismus und Kommunismus*, Berlin, 1919.

## Economic Reports from Soviet Russia

### VANGUARD FACTORIES

At a sitting of the All-Russian Central Executive Committee Comrade Rykov gave the following data regarding the activity of the Transport Factories.

Out of the complete number of 4,600 locomotives, the repair of which is to be fully completed towards the beginning of 1921, the Metal Section of the Supreme Council of National Economy is responsible for 600 locomotives of which 100 are new, 250 requiring general repair and 250 minor repair. The Metal Section is also responsible for the entire production of metal, as well as of reserve parts required both for the locomotives issued by the Metal Section factories, as well as for the repairing depots of the People's Commissariat for Ways and Communications. In addition to this, the Metal Section intends to issue 620 new locomotives and 6,600 repairs.

This program has been distributed over about 70 works. Twenty-one of these factories have been organized into a special group known as the vanguard. Measures have been taken to supply all vanguard factories with provisions, labor power, fuel, and all other requisites. The vanguard factories have been selected with a view to distributing among them the greater bulk of the most important part of the work. The strongest factories have been selected for this purpose, or such as are particularly adapted for the manufacture of special locomotive parts or appliances.

Of the twenty-one factories in question, fourteen are in the central district, the remaining seven being situated in the Ukraine.

The vanguard factories turn out 60 per cent of all new locomotives, whilst 40 per cent is allotted to the remaining factories. The finer reserve parts, such as forms, axles, pipes, brakes, levers, etc., with a few exceptions, are entirely distributed over the vanguard factories. In regard to the reserve parts for carriages, as well as the supply of certain sorts of material, these are manufactured to the extent of 50 to 70 per cent at the other factories.

The general activity of the factories may be characterized as follows:

The factories began work only in July, according to the orders given, and in view of the fact that a majority of them were either completely at a standstill or working only part time, the factories could not possibly develop their full output during the first month. A certain period is required until the factories are able to work at full speed. During July the output of the factories amounted to only 50 per cent both of the repairs as well as of the manufacture of reserve parts which were to be produced for the month. In regard to August, detailed information is to be had in connection with the factories of Central Russia. Here in the work of the factories, great improvements are to be observed; these are to be observed in individual spheres of production, where, for instance, in the case of locomotive repairs and of reserve parts an

increase of 25 per cent was effected over the month of July. It must be stated that certain articles, such as a number of brass parts and other parts, began to be manufactured only in August.

The increase of productivity is still more considerable if the individual factories are taken into consideration. It is interesting to mention the Kulebak factory; here productivity of bands and rollers has, for the month of August, almost reached the usual pre-war output.

The increase of production would have been much more noticeable had it not been for certain external reasons; of such may be mentioned the fact that in July there was a shortage in supply of fuel, and there were occasions when the factories of the Omsk District stopped entirely for lack of fuel. At the present time the supply of fuel is fully organized and regular: there are no interruptions in view. In connection with the food question, the position is as follows. During the first month of the work in question, the supply was rather irregular and only in the month of August did the factories receive, with a few exceptions, the full amount of provisions.

On the whole it may be said that the factories of the vanguard group of the Central District are at the present time engaged in wholesome productive work, which is constantly on the increase, and they strive to carry out the entire 100 per cent of their task and to secure the revival of transport, being fully conscious of the duty which has been laid upon them by the Soviet Republic.

### RAILWAY CONSTRUCTION

Writing in the Moscow *Pravda*, Comrade Larin gives interesting figures regarding railway construction in Soviet Russia.

Since the days of the revival of railway construction during the Witte period, namely in the nineties of the last century, the number of versts of wide gauge railway constructed in Russia never exceeded that of the present time. For the three years ranging from 1918 to 1920, about 5,700 versts have been constructed and at the present time about 2,000 versts are about to be laid down. The rails and other accessories for these are in stock and the whole work is expected to be concluded by 1921. It is interesting to note that during these years in question the territory of Soviet Russia was smaller than that of pre-war days.

One trait of Soviet railway construction worthy of note is the domination of the productive principle, in other words, that all construction of railways is carried on in connection with immediate problems of production.

A considerable part of the newly-built and about to be concluded railways open now wide areas for production. This will be the basis for the future growth of the timber industry, a basis which was hitherto lacking.

In the number of such lines is included that of Nizhni-Novgorod-Kotel'nichi. This line is 353 versts long, of which 300 versts have already been laid down. The line will make a new and shortest cut between Moscow-Viatka and the city of Perm. Another line is that of Mga-Ovinischev, altogether 405 versts almost completed. The line extends from the suburbs of Petrograd to the borders of the Gubernia of Yaroslav, entirely through forests. And finally there is the Orsha-Ounecha, altogether 240 versts, more than half of which has already been laid down. This line cuts through the famous stretch of hundreds of versts of the "black forest".

The second group consists of a number of lines and branches which connect various industrial centers in a railway network. The first among these is that of Sarapul—Yekaterinburg. This line exceeds 400 versts in length, all of which have been laid; and that of the end of the line of Sarapul-Kazan and Shikhrany-Arzamas about 700 versts long. This line constitutes a new and shortest route between Moscow and Siberia, through the very heart of the Urals. It is now transporting Siberian grain to the center. There are two great lines of industrial importance. These are not finished yet. One of these lines extends from Turkestan to Semirechinsk, and will serve to increase the supply of bread to Turkestan which will in its turn help to reestablish cotton-growing on a large scale. For the present only 285 versts of this line have been constructed, in addition to this there is a supply of rails for 150 versts, bringing the line close to the bread district. It is now possible to consider the desert separating Semirechinsk from Turkestan as eliminated. The other line is that from Krasny Kut near Saratov to the Emba petroleum district on the northern shore of the Caspian Sea. Over 160 versts of this line have so far been laid. In addition to this there is a stock of rails for another 250 versts to extend as far as the Urals. From the Urals to Emba there is a temporary petroleum duct of 200 versts, for which over 50 versts of pipes have already been delivered. The Emba as well as the Semirechinsk lines will be completed in the first half of the coming year.

It is also necessary to note the great development of short industrial branches connecting some of the largest industrial enterprises in a railway network. In places these lines cut through a deeply populated industrial district which sees a locomotive for the first time. An instance may be given in the branch counting over 50 versts from Nizhni to Bogorodskoye, and Vorsma which is a well-known leather center, and as well as Pavlovo, famous for its metal industry.

#### SWITZERLAND FOR TRADE WITH RUSSIA

BERLIN, October 31, 1920 (*Rosta*, Vienna).—Under the firm "Aruwag Aktien Gesellschaft" (Stock Company) there has been founded in Zurich a stock company with a capital of 80,000 francs to begin with, which has already been paid in, in full, and this entirely by men of big industry in

Switzerland. According to information coming from Zurich, the aim of the new undertaking is to bring about the resumption of trade relations with Soviet Russia and to carry on export into that country, as well as to import from Russia on a large scale.

#### RESUMPTION OF TRADE NEGOTIATIONS WITH FINLAND

PETROGRAD, October 31, 1920.—In consequence of the conclusion of peace and the resumption of trade relations between Soviet Russia and Finland, the customs stations at Byelooostrov has been opened again.

#### CONSTRUCTION OF FUEL LINES

For the purpose of a speedier and timely delivery of fuel to the railway station the Supreme Council of National Economy is constructing 298 special fuel lines of an intended total length of 3,648 versts. The results achieved by August 1 amount to the following figures: 107 versts of ordinary and narrow gauge grounding have been constructed, and 825 versts of rails have been laid.

#### MOSCOW DISTRICT COAL OUTPUT

The numerous strata of coal in the Moscow District Basin, their proximity to the consuming areas, and the fact that they are situated outside the sphere of civil war has compelled the Soviet Government to pay special attention to this source. A great amount of work has been carried on for the last two years, the result of which is most far-reaching.

The output of coal for the last few years is expressed in the following figures. The figures represent the annual output in millions of poods.

1914 .....	18.9
1915 .....	28.2
1916 .....	41.1
1917 .....	43.1
1918 .....	24.4
1919 .....	24.9
1920 for 9 months only	24.9

These figures show a sharp increase, in comparison with the preceding years. From the figures given for the past eight and a half months, it is reasonable to expect an output of 34,000,000 poods for the present year.

Judging by the state of the preliminary work, the number of workers, and all other technical details, the output for 1921 will approximate 60,000,000 poods.

It is the opinion of specialists that if the general speed of work is maintained the output of coal for 1924 will amount to 200,000,000 poods. This is a figure which was not even dreamed of in former years.

#### PETROLEUM TRANSPORT

According to the information received from the Chief Administration of the Ways of Communication the total quantity of petroleum products delivered to Astrakhan from the beginning of the navigation season to September 17, amounts to 103,364,000 poods.

### PROVISION PROSPECTS

Moscow, October 19.—In spite of all bourgeois misrepresentations, the foodstuffs questions in Soviet Russia is much more favorable than last year. While in the first year of the dictatorship 30,000,000 poods of grain were gathered, and 110,000,000 in the second and 300,000,000 in the third, the harvest this year will be 400,000,000 poods. The best provisioning will of course be that of the Red Army and the cities. The Central Russian harvests have been afflicted by somewhat of a drought, but the extraordinarily prolific yields of the Caucasus and Siberia will more than make up for the effects of this drought.

### TEXTILE INDUSTRY

For the first half year of 1920 there were on an average 21 factories with 406,285 spindle looms at work.

The following figures give the amount (in poods) of the yarn manufactured:

In January .....	42,520
" February .....	52,175
" March .....	55,622
" April .....	21,635
" May .....	17,474
" June .....	18,266
Total .....	207,688

The amount of cotton at all the factories amounted to 492,830 poods, including 340,852 poods in stock at the group of pioneer factories. In January, 1920, there were altogether 229,158 poods of cotton. Thus it may be seen that the supply of cotton has improved, but is as yet far from being satisfactory.

For the six months 44,352,537 arshins of coarse fabric have been manufactured.

Various trimmings have been manufactured to the extent of 1,238,181 arshins.

### DECREE ON THE KUSTAR (HOME) INDUSTRY

The All-Russian Central Executive has investigated and confirmed the decree regarding the Kustars. The decree divides the entire petty industry into two groups: that which does not make use of hired labor and the industry which exploits such labor. The first is called by the decree "Kustar Industry", and is endowed with a number of privileges; the second, on the other hand, is limited in its rights and is placed under the strict control of the Soviet institutions.

The decree introduces important changes in the sphere of administration of the Kustar and petty industry. Until the present time the Kustar industry was under the administration of a number of government organs. Under such conditions a proper regulation of the Kustar industry was impossible. The decree liquidates this abnormal situation and the entire administration of the Kustar

and petty industry is concentrated by this decree in one organ, that of the Chief Administration of the Kustar Industry. This administration is charged with the registration and distribution of orders as well as of raw material. It also deals with the regulation of the question of awards for the craftsmen employed in this industry, their registration and control.

With the introduction of this decree the Kustar and petty industry will be brought in line with the Soviet policy.

### THE SLATE INDUSTRY

The slate season has ended quite successfully. The output intended for 1920 for the entire territory of the Soviet Republic amounted to the general figure of 77,956,112 poods. The actual amount obtained was 82,990,167 poods, i. e., 5,034,055 poods over and above the program and 15,951,197 poods over and above the 1919 output.

In the mining of slate in 1920 1,308 carts of 60 persons each and 887 machines were engaged.

### RUSSIA'S FOREIGN TRADE

*Economic Life* writes: The imports through Esthonia from April 18 to September 8 of this year amounted to 1,704,785 poods, as follows: Food and similar necessaries, 913,281 poods; animal product manufactures, 74,284 poods; timber products, 41,227 poods; chemicals, 87,339 poods; metals and products thereof, 340,542 poods; writing materials, 229,076 poods; miscellaneous, 18,381 poods. Among the metal products are included: agricultural machines, locomobiles, telephone and telegraph apparatus, tools,—things Russia has been greatly in need of. Among "chemicals" are medicines and raw materials for the leather industry and chemical industries. Writing materials comprise chiefly print paper, a great demand for which has long existed in Russia. Although the volume of imports was slight, foreign trade has begun to develop and to assume the character of regularity. Before June, imports were rather sporadic. Necessaries imported in July exceeded those of a year ago by 54 per cent; leather goods, 1,098 per cent; chemical products, 36 per cent; writing materials, 90 per cent. The imports in August reached 117,808 poods: 22,602 poods of animal products, 7,443 poods of chemicals, 41,557 poods of metals, 30,714 poods of writing materials. New objects of imports for the month of August included telegraph, telephone and laboratory apparatus, paraffin and footgear. In the first week of September must be mentioned, above all, agricultural machinery (28,664 poods),—harvesters, mowers and rakes. Exports are just beginning. In the first place there must be mentioned veneers, flax and santolin. (*Economic Life* observes that foreign trade is affected by the war more than any other branch of commerce.)

# Wireless and Other News

## CULTURE PROSPECTS

The People's Commissar for Education, Comrade Lunacharsky, recently read a report in the "Press House", in Moscow, on the "Problems and Prospects of the Coming Winter."

Pointing out the difficult political and economic position of Soviet Russia, Comrade Lunacharsky expressed the opinion that during the next year a closer contact would be brought about between the vanguard of the proletariat, i. e., the Russian Communist Party and the vanguard of the intelligentsia, i. e., all those who are engaged in educational and cultural spheres. This contact will produce a most wholesome influence on the two camps.

The extreme shortage of paper resulted in a wide development of clubs, lectures, discussions, readings, and all kinds of conversations.

In the theatrical sphere, the process of revolution in regard to the repertory of the theatre, as well as the growth both in quality and quantity of the theatre is very marked.

The serious interest of the working masses in music and art is undoubted.

As regards education generally, the forthcoming winter is expected to afford a more systematic and careful realization of the principle of the Single Labor School than it did previously.

Generally speaking it is the opinion of Comrade Lunacharsky that the present cultural term will make a healthy impression upon the whole of Soviet Russia, and upon Moscow in particular. It should be kept in mind that Western Europe has suffered a great spiritual impoverishment, and according to the opinion of western authorities the spiritual center of the world has been transferred to hungry, freezing Moscow.

In conclusion, Comrade Lunacharsky spoke of the growth of the interest and sympathy with Communism of extensive masses of the intelligentsia as well as of the great work in the sphere of culture that is going on not only in the capitals, but also in the provinces, and even in outlying districts.

## LIBRARIES IN SOVIET RUSSIA

The libraries of Soviet Russia are in charge of the Extra-Scholastic Section of the People's Commissariat for Education. At the present time this section is working under most unfavorable conditions. The impoverishment of the book market which was the result of the six years' war and of the three years' blockade, as well as the absence of an experienced staff in this branch, of course had a great influence on the state of our libraries. Yet, in spite of these unfavorable conditions the results which were achieved in this direction are quite considerable, and are an indication of the continual growth of the network of libraries in Soviet Russia.

The total number of libraries for 42 gubernias

amounts to 32,166. These do not include the libraries belonging to cooperatives, trade unions, and so on.

In 1919, 32 gubernias had 13,506 libraries; the same gubernias in 1920 counted 26,278, that is the number had doubled.

The number of libraries is especially large in the following gubernias:

1 Tver .....	879	libraries	plus	2,150	reading	rooms	3,029
2 Viatka .....							3,029
3 Perm .....	1,887	"	"	211	"	"	2,008
4 Yaroslav ...							1,828
5 Saratov ....	835	"	"	930	"	"	1,765
6 Smolenak ..							1,625
7 Samara ....	478	"	"	702	"	"	1,180
8 Kostroma ..	1,171	"	"	936	"	"	2,107
9 Kaluga .....							1,008

## PUBLIC EDUCATION IN PETROGRAD

STOCKHOLM, October 5, 1920.—*Izvestia* reports as follows on the work of public education that has been accomplished heretofore: The attacks by the White Army have somewhat retarded the complete success of the work, but nevertheless the results achieved are considerable. First of all, statistics were compiled showing the number of adult elementary students in the provinces. Great care is taken in the preparation of teachers. So far five pedagogical institutes have been started. But unfortunately there is a scarcity of teachers. The regular work begins in the fall, when four schools in all will be opened in the province, for adult elementary students. Besides this there are ten courses in progress. There are five clubs for adolescents, 25 for adults, and 175 reading clubs. There are 72 stationary and many itinerant libraries; six public schools were founded in the province, where 180 lectures have been held and 128 outings and excursions arranged for. At the present time there are 1,886 schools, 102 homes for children and 96 kindergartens in the Petrograd province. 404,362 children attend the schools of this province, and 3,794 teachers are active in these schools. 12,000 children were taken in by the children's homes, and 7,580 children by the children's clubs. Very gratifying results are reported from pupils of continuation school age: the attendance in 43 such schools is 5,544 students, and 88 such clubs have a membership of 53,503.

## DENMARK FOR TRADE WITH RUSSIA

Danish business organizations have written to Krassin expressing their willingness to resume business with Russia. They propose to send business attaches to Moscow and Petrograd, and ask that Russia in return send representatives of the cooperatives to Copenhagen. The director of the Danish-Russian clearing-house in Copenhagen left for London to confer with Krassin.

### TREATY WITH AZERBEIJAN

A treaty has been concluded in Moscow between the Soviet Republic and the Azerbaijan Socialist Soviet Republic, a military economic alliance being formed. The governments of the two respective republics undertake to effect the following alliances in the shortest possible period: (1) of military organization and command, (2) of the organs in charge of Production and of Foreign Trade, (3) of the organs of Supply, (4) of Railway Transport and Post and Telegraph Administrations, (5) of Finances.

This treaty comes into force at the moment that it is endorsed by both governments. No special ratification is required. — *Russian Press Review*, October 15.

### MAKHNO AGAINST BARON WRANGEL

The following communication was published by the Revolutionary War Council:

Recently a crisis was observed among the Makhno troops who showed irresoluteness in their attacks against the Red Army. It became evident that the rank and file of the Makhno troops were greatly dissatisfied at being sent to fight the Soviets and the Peasant Governments, and thus to strengthen and consolidate the power of the landlord Baron.

With Baron Wrangel's progress into the heart of Ukraine the consciousness of the rank and file soldiers of Makhno grew to the effect that their interests are common with those of the peasants and workers of Ukraine and of Russia who are fighting against the Baron.

Finally under pressure of the fermentation among his troops and their urgent demands Makhno submitted a proposal to our South Front Command to stop all military operations against him and to allow him to fight along with the Red Army against Wrangel.

Makhno promised to give definite guarantees to the effect that he would carry out his promises faithfully and would not betray his peasant soldiers, that he recognized the Soviet Government and would fully submit to the Command of the Red Army.

Makhno's proposal was accepted by our South Front Command and he was entrusted with a military task against Wrangel. Three representatives were despatched from the Makhno groups to our military authorities. All sick and wounded in the Makhno troops were taken in charge by our sanitary department.

It is needless to exaggerate Makhno's forces as that has been done by the European imperialist press, which stated that Makhno took town after town. The fact, however, of Makhno's submission to the Soviet Government is very symptomatic. It bears witness to the fact that even the upper stratum of the peasantry has sobered under the influence of the successes of the Wrangel bands and has now turned its weapons against the counter-revolutionary Baron.

### CHINESE MISSION IN MOSCOW

A Chinese Military-Diplomatic Mission, headed by General Tchkhhan-Sy-Lin, has recently arrived in Moscow.

The aim of the mission is to form an acquaintance with Soviet Russia, and to establish friendly political and trade relations between Russia and China.

In order to discuss these questions a few sittings of the mission had taken place in conjunction with the Collegiate of the People's Commissariat for Foreign Affairs, Comrades Chicherin and Karakhan.

On October 2, the president of the Mission, General Tchkhhan-Sy Lin, was given, for delivery to the Chinese Government, a memorandum containing the basic principles for a political agreement between the Chinese Republic and the Soviet Republic.

On October 6, a conference took place between the Chinese Mission and the People's Commissar for Foreign Trade, Comrade Lezhava, at which the principles for the renewal of trade relations between the two republics was established. — *Russian Press Review*, Oct. 15.

### ARRESTS IN EASTERN GALICIA

LEMBERG, October 4, 1920.—*Vpered* reports that after retaking districts in Eastern Galicia, the Polish authorities proceeded to arrest great masses of Ukrainians. Thus great masses of peasants were taken prisoner in Radzizekhow and in the district of Dolina. All these prisoners will be tried by court-martial and condemned to death.

### COMMUNICATION BETWEEN POLAND AND WRANGEL

WARSAW, October 4, 1920.—According to the *Kuryer Warszawski*, a special delegation was despatched to General Wrangel a few days ago by the Polish Government.

### CONFERENCE OF TRADE UNIONS IN SIBERIA

Moscow, October 13, 1920.—At the conference of Trade Unions which opened at Krasnoyarsk 107 delegates, with a representation of 15,000 trade union members, took part. The greatest feeling of confidence was manifested in the dictatorship of the proletariat at the meeting, where the remarkable development of the trade union movement in Siberia was brought out.

### SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH AND EXPLORATION IN SOVIET RUSSIA

We take the following from a Moscow report of October 13, 1920: An expedition, headed by the Engineer Nalivayka, has just returned from an exploration of the district up to Indinga Bay and to the mouth of the Pesh River. During a period of fourteen weeks the party collected much valuable material in the fields of geography, ethnography, and economics. The district is very rich in fish and other useful marine life.

### WRANGEL SELLS FLEET

The Russian Steamship Company, founded in Paris, is systematically withdrawing steamships from Russian waters and selling them to foreign countries. This has produced dissatisfaction and unrest in the Crimea. The White Guard Crimean paper *Krymsky Vestnik* reports interesting details concerning the transactions of the Russian Steamship Company.

"This company," says the paper, "has cleared four steamers, *Vampo*, *Vityaz*, *Cherwomov*, and *Ruslam*, with the object of withdrawing them from Russian waters. Where these steamers now are we do not know, but it is assumed that they are in a French port.—*Rosta*.

### LIGHT ON THE RECENT POLISH OFFENSIVE

LONDON, October 17, 1920.—The Warsaw correspondent of the *Times* states: The forces of General Balakhovich, which are acting independently of the Poles, see their efforts crowned with success. At the conclusion of the armistice, all Russian anti-Bolshevist elements were required to evacuate Polish soil on October 19. These forces would not unite with Wrangel, but would cross the line of demarcation and establish a base in White Russia whose independence, with Minsk as its capital, would shortly be proclaimed. The joint Russian forces on this front number about 50,000 and operate under Generals Petlura and Balakhovich. The former will submit to General Wrangel, and his detachment will form a part of Wrangel's army. It is hoped that Permikin will cooperate with the Ukrainians, with whom Wrangel will frequently affect a junction. General Balakhovich will take orders from the Russian political committee that is now leaving Warsaw, and will independently push northwest in the direction of Minsk and Vitebsk.

### AN ENGLISH MILITARY LEADER IN WRANGEL'S ARMY

LONDON, October 18, 1920.—*The Daily Telegraph* announces that the English General Townshend is in the Crimea and will join Wrangel's forces opposing the Bolsheviks. Townshend was the English commander-in-chief in Mesopotamia against the Turkish armies at Kut-el-Aamara.

### SIDELIGHTS ON THE PETLURA-WRANGEL AFFAIR

PARIS, October 13, 1920.—The negotiations between Petlura and Wrangel have come to an abrupt end. The representative of Petlura in Paris delivered a note to Millerand, wherein he complains that Wrangel, in spite of the negotiations with Petlura, had convened the newly formed Ukrainian National Committee, which contains people who are connected with Skoropadski, in the Crimea.

### TROTSKY ON FRENCH POLICY

Trotsky sent the following communique from his train on October 11: Our train daily intercepts French radiograms. They are so silly, bombastic and mendacious as to be utterly harmless. It is harder to find an earnest or important word in them than a pearl in a dungheap. They reflect faithfully the picture of the prevailing system in France: provincial politicians in the service of bankers, who now, after victory, deem themselves rulers. The telegraph brings daily extracts from two or three speeches of Millerand or his ministers. These discourses are all of the same stripe, stupid and lying. France is exhausted; she has won a victory only because England and America willed it so. Capitalist France is being pushed farther into the background. Yet France seeks to better the work with phrases and declarations that are mere twaddle, devoid of political significance and historical perspective. At the head of France today stands the old classical type, created by Moliere: the snob, the upstart who for two hundred years strove to become an aristocrat and now, arrived at power, seeks to impose his will upon the world. France is exhausted, yet daily the telegraph brings tidings of its phenomenal restoration and reconstruction. To believe these despatches, France since the armistice has been thrice reconstructed. England rules the world. The United States is competing with England. France is being more and more exhausted and retreating farther into the background. In view of this process phrases, gestures and lies are as powerless as the gables of support to Poland and recognition of Wrangel. Shameless and arrogant, French imperialism is still capable of doing harm to Soviet Russia, but the harm thereby inflicted upon France is far greater. It is also clear that the French bourgeoisie cannot escape its doom.

### THE RESTORATION OF THE PORT OF PETROGRAD

BERLIN, October 15, 1920.—"The Syren" learns from Russia that the work of clearing the port of Petrograd has begun. No less than 700 vessels have been sunk in the basin and the canals; the Neva canal had been made impassable by the sinking of two steamers; the unloading facilities were unavailable; the docks were destroyed; the depth of the Neva Canal was reduced from 29 feet to 23 feet. Zinoviev states that all this has been altered during the last six months and that now 40 ships can be taken care of at once. In fact, according to the above-named journal, all the wrecks have been removed from the basin and the approaches, so that 45 ships (1,000 to 3,000 tons) can anchor in the harbor. The railroad has been rebuilt, coal-pockets partially restored, 2,000 square meters of pier repaired, the electric cranes refitted. About 30 per cent of the floating material is usable, so that eight vessels can be loaded or unloaded simultaneously, though not without difficulty.

### DEATH OF A COMMUNIST WOMAN WORKER

Moscow, October 3, 1920 (*Rosta*).—Comrade Krupskaya in *Pravda* warmly praises the work of a noted leader of women in the Communist movement, Inessa Armand, who died recently in the Caucasus. She was an organizer and collaborator of the journal *The Communist Woman*, and took an active part in the second congress of the Third Internationale.

Readers of SOVIET RUSSIA will recall the interesting article "Women in Soviet Russia", which appeared in our issue for August 21, 1920. The author of this article, Helen Blonina, is identical with Inessa Armand.

### PROSECUTING ATTORNEY DURASSOVITCH IN CONSTANTINOPLE

The *Posledniya Novosti* reports that Prosecuting Attorney Durassovich, who played a leading role in the Beilis case, is now in Constantinople as head of the Russian press bureau in that city.

### PETROGRAD'S POPULATION

The latest census in Petrograd fixes the population at 889,000, of which 385,000 are women. The population of the whole province, including the capital, is 1,000,000.

### H. G. WELLS IN PETROGRAD

The well-known writer H. G. Wells, who is at the present moment in Petrograd, said the following in a conversation which he had with a representative of the Russian Telegraph Agency:

"I came here to see personally what this Soviet Russia presents. The amount of untruth that has been spread in England is so great that it has been quite impossible to form a correct impression. Actually very little is known in England regarding Russia. I spoke to Krassin and I took his tip when he said to me: 'If you want to know what is going on in Russia, go and see for yourself.'

"And I came here. But, at present, it is difficult for me to speak of my impressions. I have seen too much in these few days; impressions followed one another in such rapid succession, I am rather bewildered and have formed no opinion as yet. So far, I have seen the schools, dining rooms, workers' universities, and finally I have walked along the streets watching life around me. I had every opportunity to examine, and to see whatever I desired, and I must say that I was treated with every attention on the part of representatives of the Soviet Government.

"I am going shortly to Moscow. There I hope to make the acquaintance of Comrade Lenin and, still better, to become acquainted there with the political and educational work of Soviet Russia." *Russian Press Review*, October 15, 1920.

### THE NEXT ISSUE

## SOVIET RUSSIA

Will Contain, Among Other Features, the Following:

1. UKRAINE, by Michael Pavlovich, People's Commissar for Public Works.
2. PEACE TREATY BETWEEN SOVIET RUSSIA AND LITHUANIA.
3. HOW I SAW THE RED DAWN, by M. Philips Price.
4. FRANCE 1798, RUSSIA 1920, by Mager Doolittle. (An interesting comparison of the French and Russian Revolutions based on Coleridge's poem, "France: An Ode.")
5. Regular Weekly MILITARY REVIEW, by Lt.-Col. B. Roustam Bek.

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### Important International Documents

The next issue of SOVIET RUSSIA (December 4) will print the complete text of the Peace Treaty signed last summer between Soviet Russia and Lithuania. A carefully prepared translation has been made especially for SOVIET RUSSIA.

The issue after that (December 11) will contain the text of the Preliminary Peace signed last month between Soviet Russia and Poland. The Polish text, as it appears in an official Polish publication, has been translated for SOVIET RUSSIA and will be accompanied by an interesting introductory article.