

REPORT ON THE RUSSIANS.....



W. L. White

INSTALLMENT FOURTEEN

The Red Army band selected for their skill from all of Russia's millions. Their uniforms were spotless. Half of them played instruments and the other half was a perfectly drilled male choir of perhaps thirty voices. The big river rang with gorgeous Red Army marching songs and heartbreaking old Russian folk tunes.

Whenever they stopped for breath, the other band, out of sight on the stern of the boat, would play. Mike proudly ushered us down to the dining salon and the boat turned around, heading for our dock.

When the boat returns to the dacha, we find half a dozen women in evening gowns—artists from the local opera. In the next room another staggering banquet is laid; they are to dine with us. They speak only Russian but do their best to make polite small talk with gestures. Bob Magidov, who represents the Associated Press, is particularly helpful. His Russian is perfect.

Lenin Optical Plant No. 69 now makes range-finding equipment for artillery and tanks.

This factory was evacuated from



Russia had its USO, units which also provided entertainment for foreign visitors.

Leningrad on November 16, 1941. Sixty per cent of its 15,000 workers came with the machinery. The factory is clean, well-lit and apparently very well-run, for no one is idle at the benches. Walking down the assembly line, Mike lags behind, talking to the workers, a wave of the hand to this one, a pat on the back for that—a ward-boss patrolling his precinct. Strictly Tammany.

The director here is proud of his precision work. We ask him if it is as accurate as the great Zeiss plant in Germany—admittedly the best in the world before the war. He says it is now as good, but only recently and there are two reasons.

A pretty Komsomol presents Eric with a bouquet of flowers and a speech, to which he must reply in kind. During the pause we get some information out of Mike. First we ask him about restrictions on traveling; and he says here there are none. Back in Moscow, Leningrad and in the war zone region, yes, of course. But on this side of the Urals travel permits are not hard to get.

In the factory dining room each of us is presented with a fine pair of 8x30 Red Army field glasses, with our names engraved in Russian characters, and, of course, there is another banquet.

Back to the dacha at the evening banquet, Mike Kalugin had risen for the first toast. He was talking slowly and looking from face to face with narrowed eyes. Magidov was translating.

"Mike says," said Magidov, "this will be our last dinner together, that we have been good friends, that he has tried to show us Novosibirsk and the hospitality of a Siberian, and he hopes we have enjoyed ourselves."

Mike continued with measured words; his eyes narrowed to slits. "He says parting with friends is always sad, but on some occasions it is less sad than on others. On such occasions guests who have preferred to be friends of the Soviet Union after they have left have become traitors—writing and saying bad things about the Soviet Union. Parting with traitorous friends like this is not very sad, he says."

The room was in complete silence. But when Mike began again, his eyes were not quite so narrow. There even seemed to be a grim smile on his lips.

"Mike says," said Magidov, "that he is sure our friendship is not like this, so our parting is truly sad, and he invites us to drink that our friendship may forever endure."

Then we rose to drink the toast. After it Eric remained standing. He filled his glass, and raised it, looking

first at Mike and then at the interpreter.

"We have enjoyed your generous hospitality," he said, looking now at Mike, "and when I was invited to the Soviet Union, it was agreed that I would be free to say and write exactly what I thought when I got home. While there are many things that we admire about the Soviet Union, there are some things I do not understand.

"I have never understood the policies of the Communist Party in America. The Soviet Union should understand that if the American people feel Russia is interfering with our local affairs through this Communist Party, then co-operation between America and the Soviet Union will be impossible.

"As you know," he said, "in Moscow I saw many of your important people, and only four days ago I saw Marshal Stalin. I talked with them and with him as frankly as I am talking to you now."

We drank. Mike rose rather slowly to his feet. Then he looked sharply across at Eric and began to speak.

"He says," translated Magidov, "that from the days of the Civil War, when he fought with the Red Guards, he has always followed the discipline of the Communist Party, as he follows Marshal Stalin today. He says the Marshal now tells us that we should not interfere in the affairs of other nations. That we should get along with foreigners. That's all he wants to know: it will be done. So he raises his glass to the health of his great leader, Marshal Stalin."

Breakfast next morning was in the same room, and as we sat down, the mayor of Novosibirsk, apparently having first obtained Mike's permission, rose for a toast.

The mayor said they had found Americans to be good and warm friends; he could assure us that Russians were also warm friends. But if a friendship is broken, Russians can be terrible in their anger, Russia's friendship with Germany had been so broken, and to her great sorrow Germany now knew the weight of Russian anger. The mayor wished Mr. Johnston and those with him a pleasant journey on through the Soviet Union, and that they would get safely home.

Then the ten servants of the dacha lined up alongside the dining table and in true baronial style, each was given a glass of vodka to drink our health. We had seen Novosibirsk.

In 1917 when it seized power after the collapse of the Romanov dynasty, the Bolshevik Party was a handful of Marxist theoreticians. Russians only fleetingly enjoyed freedom and the Party then assumed the autocracy of the Autocrat of all Russias. The heritage of this Party is in almost equal parts of Marx and of Genghis Khan.

In America, a Republican can be anyone—white, black, rich, poor, drunk, or sober, who has decided he likes the party's principles or candidates. But becoming a member of the Communist Party is as difficult as joining a yacht club. The usual first step is to join the Komsomols or Young Communist League, which works under the direction of full-fledged Party members. After some time in this, the aspirant may apply for Party membership. For a year he is watched carefully. Everything about him is investigated—from his work habits and political opinions to his sex life.

The Party wants only intense workers who will subject themselves completely to a discipline as rigid as that of any army. It also tries (with less success) to exclude those who may not have strong convictions about its principles, but see it as a necessary step on the ladder to success. It does not want "careerists" although in Russia membership is indispensable to a career.

Once the coveted membership is gained, the man is less closely watched, but any slackening in zeal, any deviation from the Party's political line, or any signs of "personal ambition" are punished with expulsion. These admissions and expulsions are controlled by the Party's secretary, and in the early days this was put in the charge of an unobtrusive Bolshevik named Joseph Stalin. Only after Lenin's death did the more prominent Communists like Zinoviev, Kamenev, Bukharin and Trotsky come to realize that the man who controls the Party's membership controls not only the Party but all Russia.

The high Party members, who now wield the power of the Romanovs, have moved into both the palaces and the privileges of the old Aristocracy, and are drinking quite as much champagne. But no one can argue that they do not justify their existence by hard and useful work for the state, and by taking leadership and responsibility.

Class distinctions are rapidly springing up in Russia. But, for the present at least, these distinctions are based on achievement and hard work—even though the achieve-

ment may sometimes be only political skill necessary to climb to the top of the hierarchy.

"He's got everything a Communist should have," the correspondents once said, "a motor car, a peroxide wife with gold teeth, and a dacha." But at least, he got these things by hard work, presumably (and usually) in the service of the people and the state. The privileged class in Russia is full of the rich sap of hard work. There is in it so far none of the rotten dead-wood of hereditary fortunes, piled up by useful men with vision but handed down through generations of weaklings who yet retain the privileges.

The Communist Party had about 5,000,000 members until Stalin's purges beginning in 1936 reduced it to about 2,500,000. After the war began the base was broadened and membership raised to 4,500,000, many from the army. But since responsibility for leadership goes with Party membership and Communists are supposed to (and do) set an example of personal courage, an unduly large number of them have been killed and nobody now knows the exact membership.

One of the Party's functions is to provide the Kremlin with accurate reports on the state of Russian public opinion. In the field of foreign affairs, of course, the people have no facts other than those provided by the government-controlled press. But in domestic matters the Russian people have definite ideas as to what they like and do not like. The Party is sometimes unable to check a trend in public opinion. If it is a real ground-swell they do not fight it, but divert it into proper channels.

They remember 1917, when they themselves rode into power on the crest of a tidal wave of unrest which the old autocracy failed to recognize in time, and was too stupid to handle. They expect similar unrest after this war, and are sure they will be quick enough to canalize it before it gets out of hand.

American correspondents in Russia who are most warmly sympathetic with the dictatorship say that it amounts to a government by the Gallup Poll, which is much too rosy a view of the facts. The dictatorship is, of course, acutely concerned with public opinion. But most of this is created by the government's own press; another portion may be directed into safe channels—and there remain a few instances where the government finds it must abandon, reverse, or postpone policies because they are too unpopular.

Only in foreign affairs does the dictatorship have a completely free hand. Since no Russians may travel abroad except on official government business, the people know nothing of the outside world except what they learn from their controlled press, which is of course only what their government wants them to know. Lacking any independent basis for judgment, they must accept wars, allies and peace treaties as these are handed out from the Kremlin.

Some observers in Moscow think even this will change. They say that the top Bolsheviks realize what they have lost by not permitting their people to travel abroad, for Russia has always sorely needed foreign help. But always they



Operas and symphony concerts are common in Russia.

say—even if it grants this concession—the Party will control.

On one side of the picture this is a slave empire. On the other side it is a vigorous, dynamic empire—moving on.

Just what I asked of the correspondents, will the Russians want in Europe? That was easy, they answered. Russians already have the Baltic States. They want some kind of frontier settlement with Poland, approximately the Curzon line. They want to be sure Germany is rendered harmless. Beyond that they won't want much, except to be sure that the governments in their border states—Finland, Poland, Hungary, Czechoslovakia, Rumania and Bulgaria—will not be hostile to them.

(TO BE CONTINUED)

IMPROVED UNIFORM INTERNATIONAL SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

By HAROLD L. LUNDQUIST, D. D. Of The Moody Bible Institute of Chicago. Released by Western Newspaper Union.

Lesson for June 16

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LEARNING ABOUT THE KINGDOM

LESSON TEXT—Luke 9:23, 24, 45-48, 57-62; 11:1-4; 17:20, 21.
MEMORY SELECTION—Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven.—Matthew 6:10.

Following Christ calls for the best in man. Weak-kneed and watered-out religious philosophies and activities have no right to call themselves Christian.

Let us put away these insipid imitations of Christianity, which so often masquerade under its name, and face our time with a call to discipleship which demands every fine, noble, manly and womanly quality.

I. Denial of Self (Luke 9:23, 24).
A cross—that speaks at once of suffering and death. We may as well face it. The Lord never intended it to be an easy thing to follow him. A man must lose his life for Christ if he is to win it.

Note that the cross we bear does not refer to the trials or vexations of life. We should bear those as Christians, but there is something else in mind; namely, the complete denial of self-will, and the eager desire to do only God's will. And note also that this is required of every true Christian, not just of a few who are especially "consecrated."

Do you qualify? If so look at the next point.

II. Humility of Heart (Luke 9:45-48).
The world looks up to the great, the mighty, and the rich. The disciples had caught that fever and were quarreling about who was to be greatest. What a tragic and disgraceful picture! But is it any different in the church today? Men are still determined to be "Mr. Big."

The follower of Jesus sees beyond the false earthly standard of greatness, and in humility ministers to the little child. And lo! he has received and served Jesus Christ himself, and has become greater than all the would-be great ones. Those about him may not see it, but God does, and in due time others shall also know of it.

III. Determination of Purpose (Luke 9:57-62).

Following Christ is more than singing glibly or carelessly, "I'll go where you want me to go, dear Lord." The one who starts out with him is to count the cost (Luke 14:28-33). He must expect the same treatment as Christ (II Tim. 3:12) and be willing to take it gladly (John 15:20; I Pet. 2:21).

We ought to make this plain to professed believers. Tell young people the truth and you will see that they are ready to respond to it. They are willing to give themselves sacrificially for causes of this earth—why not for Christ?

Christianity is considerate and courteous, and our Lord is not here suggesting any neglect of the duties or amenities of life. The point is rather that the Lord must have first place whatever else may call for second thought.

IV. Prayer of Faith (Luke 11:1-4).

The one who is to follow Jesus must know how to pray—and to pray in faith. He must know how to hold up the world to God, and get things from God for this needy world.

There is no one who can teach us to pray better than Jesus, for he practiced what he preached. He prayed. It was seeing him pray that led the disciples to ask him to teach them to pray. Jesus taught his disciples a model prayer. This prayer opens with a recognition of God as Father, followed by a reverent petition that his name may be hallowed; that is, that he may have glory as his will is done and his kingdom established in the hearts of men. Those who have that attitude are ready to ask for the supply of daily needs, and above all, forgiveness of sin and deliverance from temptation.

Note that verse 4 is not the prayer of the unsaved for forgiveness and regeneration, for that is all of grace (Eph. 2:8). "The man outside (of the kingdom) gets his forgiveness with no condition; but once he is in the kingdom of the Son of God's love, he lives within the laws of that kingdom. Then he does not get forgiveness unless he is ready to forgive, unless he has forgiven" (Morgan).

V. Recognition of Christ (Luke 17:20, 21).

The disciples thought of the kingdom in terms of "when"; they should have asked "what," or even better "who," for the kingdom was present and operative right then because the King was there.

That is the true meaning of "with-in" (v. 21), which really means "in your midst," it does not mean that the kingdom of God was within the hearts of the Pharisees, or within the social order, but that in the person of the King, the kingdom itself was in their midst. They rejected him, and so also his kingdom. What about us? Is he your King? Or do you also reject him?



TRUMAN AND WHITNEY

WASHINGTON.—Those who have sat in on the hectic closed-door conferences over the railroad strike report that it is hard to say who has been sorest at the prima donna tactics of "Brother" A. F. Whitney, head of the trainmen—government officials or the other brotherhood leaders who are not striking but were thrown out of work by the trainmen and the locomotive engineers.

At one time probably the President of the United States was the most irked at the grandstanding Mr. Whitney. Truman even had difficulty getting Whitney to stay in Washington. He was constantly threatening to stage an opera exit to Cleveland without even bothering to advise the White House.

This brought a sharp tongue-lashing from the President during one of their meetings.

"What do you mean to do—walk out on the President of the United States?" Truman roughly inquired of "Brother" Whitney. "No, sir," responded Whitney—and his voice lacked its usual brusqueness.

"Well, then you had better stay here until we get this thing settled and try to show a little more co-operation," snapped Truman.

GOP WHITE HOPE

While the East and Middle West are conjuring with the names of Stassen, Bricker and Dewey as Republican presidential candidates in 1948, some strong medicine is brewing in the politically dynamite-laden state of California which may put another name in the limelight. For in next month's primary Earl Warren may win the Democratic nomination for governor, as well as the Republican.

Under California's odd election law, candidates may enter both the Republican and Democratic primaries. And under a clever law passed by the state legislature last year, Warren's name will be printed at the top of both the Republican and Democratic ballots, despite the fact that Warren is a Republican and his rival, Attorney General Bob Kenny, a Democrat.

Today Warren has split Kenny's labor support, has won the backing of the AFL hierarchy and may very well pile up enough Democratic votes to kill all competition in the final election. This would make him a very important presidential candidate.

GOVERNMENT LETTERS

The civil service commission has just issued a fancy pamphlet telling government employees how to write letters.

A section devoted to "What's Wrong With Government Writing?" reads in part: "Are you one of the people who think all government writing must be impersonal and legalistic? . . . What does it profit a man if he writes the long way around—and loses his reader? Why use horse-and-buggy writing in an airplane age?"

"Let's cut long sentences into bites we can swallow," the civil service rhetorician urges government writers. "Shorten your sentences to an average of 17 words."

But here is the payoff: The first sentence of a foreword in the booklet contains 27 words; the second, 18 words; the third, 22 words; the fourth, 22 words, and the fifth, 18 words.

\$1-A-YEAR McGRADY

Jovial Ed McGrady, vice president of the Radio Corporation of America and ex-assistant secretary of labor, was asked by a newsman if it were true Labor Secy. L. B. Schwellenbach is "raising his salary" because of his diligent efforts to bring John L. Lewis and the operators together.

McGrady got a chuckle out of the question, for he is being paid nothing for his herculean work in trying to settle the dispute.

The fact is that few men have donated more time to their government than McGrady. After a brilliant record as assistant secretary of labor, he joined the Radio Corporation of America, but during the war was loaned to the war department as a dollar-a-year man. McGrady is one of the men the treasury department cusses out. For his office is covered with framed government checks—all for \$1 and uncashed.

MERRY-GO-ROUND

Bob Hannegan is running into trouble with his "task force." His young men's committee, appointed to bolster weak spots in the Truman administration, can't operate without treading on the toes of certain weak administrators—especially John Snyder. Whereupon the cabinet protective society intervenes. Even broad-gauged Secretary of the Treasury Vinson didn't like having his subordinates invade the sacred inner sanctum of John Snyder's duties. More jurisdictional disputes!

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No More He'll Say: For 2 Cents I'd--

Before William Faulkner, the author, wrote "Mirrors of Charles Street" for The Times-Picayune, he was postmaster at University, Miss.
On his last day in that exalted position, a friend inquired:
"Bill, don't you have some kind of feeling about leaving this post-office the last time as its lord and master?"
"Yes," replied Faulkner, "probably all my life I'll be at the beck and call of somebody who's got money, but never again will I be at the beck and call of every so-and-so who's got 2 cents to buy a stamp."

Bomb Transportation

New York is the only city in this country that has bomb carriers, or trailer-trucks equipped with a cage of woven steel cable in which suspected bombs and infernal machines may be safely transported by the police department to some isolated area for detonation.

ASK ME ANOTHER? A General Quiz

The Questions

1. How many states in the Republic of Mexico.
2. Two men were vice president under Thomas Jefferson. Who were they?
3. To what do the words nimbus, cumulus, and strata refer?
4. When an airplane zooms, it ascends at a steep angle? What term is used to describe a steep descent?
5. Where is the Golden Rule of the Bible found?
6. What name is given a shield bearing a coat of arms?

The Answers

1. Twenty-eight states.
2. George Clinton and Aaron Burr.
3. Clouds.
4. Dive.
5. In Matthew (7:12).
6. An escutcheon.

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What you can't see CAN hurt you—says the National Safety Council

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2. Know in advance where your fuse box, main water and gas valves, etc., are located; have a clear path to them. Armed with your "Eveready" flashlight, you can approach without fumbling in an emergency. Be sure loose wires are out of your way.
3. Keep your "Eveready" flashlight always in the same convenient place—so you won't be tempted to do without it because it can't be located. Keep it filled with "Eveready" batteries—they're again available at your dealer's. "Eveready" batteries are the largest-selling flashlight batteries in all the world!

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