

No Prospect For Soviet Recognition By America

This Country Not Trying to Dictate Russia's Form of Government But Resents Russian Propaganda to Overthrow American Institutions

By DAVID LAWRENCE
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Washington, Dec. 26. — Diplomatic relations between the United States Government and the soviet government of Russia are far from being resumed.

The controversy which has been going on with reference to the authenticity of the documents urging the followers of the Third-Internationale to arise and put "the red flag on the White House" is only a part of the problem.

The fact that the Russians seem to exercise over Secretary Hughes' disclosures is interesting enough but officials do not observe the soviet disavowing the third-internationale or denouncing the doctrine which have been the basis of soviet propaganda in the United States.

Judging by the comments which the episode has brought out, the public has missed one point that has not failed to arouse indignation in inner circles here. It relates to the Russian offer to recognize certain debts due America since the czar's regime.

On its face the suggestion seemed as if the Russians were beginning to meet the American Government half way, but coupled with their offer is a demand that the United States reciprocate by paying damages for the occupation of Russian territory both in Siberia and in the Archangel region. The Russians have been figuring it out that for American consumption they would recognize the war debt but would turn around and in the same offer demand enough for the occupation of Russian territory to offset the amount of that debt and in effect cancel the bill.

What the United States in company with the Allies attempted to do in the various Russian expeditions was to open up approaches to the territory of Germany and to maintain a blockade against Germany from all sides. Whatever was done by the United States was incident to the prosecution of the war against Germany. There never was a declaration of war against Russia. Coming on top of the American effort to save the Russian people from starvation and other evidence of American friendship, it can be stated without exaggeration that the last Russian proposal to charge the United States for occupying Russian territory during the war is considered one of the most ungrateful acts in the history of international relations.

The word battle over the documents of the Third-Internationale is about over so far as the United States is concerned. Words are interesting only as they are an index of policy or action. If the Russians do not believe in the distribution of propaganda among American workmen urging them to overthrow the Government here, they can give testimony of their good faith by squelching the activities of Russians in America who receive their funds as well as their encouragement from Moscow. If the soviet government wishes to enter into diplomatic relations with the United States Government, certain acts will prove the eligibility of Russia to be accepted by the family of nations once more.

Objections are not raised so much as to the kind of government the Russians have—that is an internal affair but the United States considers it very much a matter of international jurisdiction if one nation stands back of propaganda which has for its object the overthrow of the government of another nation.

There is in America a group of so-called "liberals" who are criticizing the administration here for failing to recognize soviet Russia. There are a few business men and promoters who are trying to persuade the Washington Government to make trade agreements with Russia. But there is no nation-wide opinion in favor of recognition of the Soviets so long as they feel it necessary to spread hostile propaganda and plot to stir American workmen to revolt. That's the aim and substance of official thought here and until Russia herself shows signs of change, the problem can be relegated to the calendar of unfinished business which from the present outlook will remain unfinished indefinitely.

ANOTHER NEWCOMER LOVES OLD BESTCITY

Wednesday was the first day as district superintendent of this district of the United States Coast Guard service for Ensign J. A. Price, who succeeds Captain R. T. Crowley, lately transferred to Buffalo. The district comprises all that territory between Cape Henry and Key West.

Mr. Price who comes to Elizabeth City from Herford Inlet, New Jersey, has fallen in love with the city and its people and looks forward to a very pleasant time here.

It is the plan of Mr. Price to move into the house occupied formerly by Mr. Crowley, at 100 Seiden street. He is married and has a family.

BUSINESS GREAT IN HOME TOWN

Entire Year of 1923 Good, and Fall Trade Kept Merchants Going Day and Night to Serve the Public.

Merchants of Elizabeth City are rejoicing after the best fall trade they have seen in years. Business all year has been very good but from the first signs of cold weather there has been a steady stream of business into this city that increased steadily until just before Christmas, store owners, managers and clerks could scarce find time to get a mouthful of lunch in the middle of the day and many worked far into the night.

The Advance got a share of the general prosperity in the form of advertising from the merchants, but it was hard to get an audience with many of them after the Christmas rush set in.

Sometimes three or four attempts were made to talk advertising with a merchant when alone about dusk someone would say:

"You'll have a hard time seeing him today. He has had no dinner and if he gets any supper he will have to eat it on the run."

One tired but happy dealer is reported to have hidden from the customers in the back of his store in order to eat a ham sandwich—for lunch.

After the rush of buying and stores were closed for the night it was necessary to put in many weary hours re-arranging stocks of goods demolished or entirely sold out during the day. Some lines of merchandise were entirely cleaned up during the Christmas buying and others exhausted about the limit of reserve supplies.

And that is not the best of it. The buying continues with Christmas over. Some stores were almost as busy Wednesday as they were a week ago and the indications are that January will be an exceptional buying month for this city.

Here is what the merchants think about the fall business:

"The best business this store has had since it was established has been enjoyed this fall," says M. G. Morrisette.

"We have done the biggest fall business this year that we have ever done since 1919, the best year of war-time buying. I do not think the farmers have touched their pocket money, their corn money or their hog money and it would not surprise me to see unusually good trading during the spring," said Jos. T. McCabe of McCabe & Grice.

"This store has had its best fall with the exception possibly of 1919," said Raymond Sheely of Rucker & Sheely.

"This fall's business has been by far greater than any enjoyed by your jeweler since 1882," counting from that time to the present," said Louis Selig. "The business of the entire year has ranked with the good years but this fall has outstripped any other fall in our business life."

"Established in 1916, this store has never had such fall business before as this year. It is the best holiday season we have passed through yet," said W. C. Sawyer of Weeks & Sawyer.

"The volume of our business has outstripped that of any season in the history of the store with the possible exception of 1919," said S. W. Twiford of the Quinn Furniture Company.

"Our business was the best we have ever had this fall, due to the good crops and the high prices prevailing," said E. P. Spencer of Spencer-Walker Company.

The store is much the same throughout the entire city in all lines of trade. Some merchants could not be seen as to their views. Oliver J. Gilbert, proprietor of Mitchell's, and M. Leigh Sheep are out of town, others who are not quoted would only strengthen with numbers the stories of good business conditions.

NEGRO WOUNDED IN CHRISTMAS QUARREL

Wilson Harris, colored, is in the Community Hospital, to which he was brought Christmas night, with a bullet lodged in his skull over the left eye. The bullet has not yet been located; but the negro is apparently not in a critical condition as a result of the wound.

Harris was shot as a result of a quarrel at New Shiloh Church, colored, Christmas night. The negro who shot him is at large and Camden authorities can give only his last name and are not certain as to that.



MISS MARGARET BLADES, who was voted the prettiest girl in Elizabeth City at the Christmas Carnival given last Friday by the Ways and Means Committee of the Elizabeth City Woman's Club. Miss Blades is very young, as yet just a school girl, but very attractive. She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Carl Blades of this city.

SEVENTEEN DEAD IN CHICAGO FIRE

Flimsy Building of Hospital for Insane Burns With Pandemonium Reigns.

Chicago, Dec. 27.—Seventeen were killed last night when fire of unaccounted origin destroyed the old wooden pavilion known as the "death house" at the State Hospital for the Insane at Dunning on the outskirts of Chicago.

Fourteen of the dead are known to be patients in various stages of insanity. One was identified but the others were burned beyond recognition.

A dozen dangerous patients are still at large. The less violently insane assisted the firemen.

Excitement was great and the scene is described as hellish and the fire is described as pandemonium.

A joint investigation of five official agencies under the coroner will fix the blame for the deaths on the flimsy building.

Loss of Dixmud Is Reluctantly Admitted

Paris, Dec. 27.—The loss of the dirigible, Dixmud, is now reluctantly admitted, although hope for the safety of the crew of 50 officers and men has not been relinquished. It is considered certain that the Dixmud fell in the desert between Biskra and Toucourt in Algeria during the gale. No message has been received here since December 21.

WANTS DISBAND KU KLUX KLAN

Washington, Dec. 27.—E. Y. Clarke, formerly high in the councils of the Ku Klux Klan, today wrote President Coolidge offering to cooperate with the executive in ending the activities of "an element" which is converting the Klan into an organization vastly different than that planned by its founders.

He also announced his intention of issuing a proclamation "calling upon the better element" either to take hold and remedy the evils or disband the organization.

JUDGE DEVIN MAKES HEADQUARTERS HERE

W. A. Devin of Oxford will be the Superior Court Judge riding the First Judicial District for the next six months, and during this period Judge Devin and Mrs. Devin will make Elizabeth City their headquarters. They have engaged rooms in the home of Dr. H. D. Walker on West Main street and will take their meals, while in the city, with Mrs. F. M. Cook on East Fearing street.

Judge Devin's first court of the year will be held at Elizabeth City, the January term for Pasquotank County beginning on Monday, New Year's Eve.

NEW YORK GIRL IS ENGAGED TO PRINCE

Copenhagen, Dec. 27.—King Christian today consented to the announcement of the engagement of his kinsman, Prince Vig, and Miss Eleanor Margaret Green, daughter of Dr. J. O. Green of New York.

YOUTH TRIES TO KILL THE PRINCE

Tokio, Dec. 27.—A youth dressed as a laborer was arrested here today after firing at the prince recent Hirohito in an attempted assassination on the prince on his way to the session of the diet. The windows of the automobile were smashed and a bullet narrowly missed the prince's head. The youth was 20 years old and is believed to be insane.

GRAHAM'S SON TO SUCCEED FATHER

Raleigh, Dec. 27.—Governor Cameron Morrison last night announced the appointment of W. A. Graham, Jr., farmer of Lincoln County, and State Senator from the Twenty-fifth District, in the last General Assembly, to succeed his father, Major W. A. Graham, who died from pneumonia here Monday, as commissioner of agriculture.

The appointment of Mr. Graham is for the remainder of his father's term only, the position being subject to the general elections of the State.

SOFTENS SENTENCE FORMER DRY OFFICER

Bluffton, S. C., Dec. 27.—After going A. M. Mutter, former prohibition agent, \$1,000 on the charge of selling whiskey, and sentencing him to a year in jail, Mayor Copenhaver of Tazewell, Virginia, today suspended the jail sentence provided Mutter would stay out of the county a year, except for 24 hours each month, when he may visit his aged mother.

SEVEN DEAD SINCE CHRISTMAS

New York, Dec. 27.—The death of two laborers as the result of bootleg liquor here today brought the total to seven since Christmas.

DIES AS RESULT OF ACCIDENTAL SHOT

Raleigh, Dec. 27.—Eugene Cole, managing partner of the Cole Plumbing Company, died at a local hospital yesterday as the result of accidentally discharging a pistol he was cleaning; the bullet pierced his head.

BOOTLEGGERS ATTACK CHURCH CHRISTMAS

Hancock, Md., Dec. 27.—Bootleggers and moonshiners said by authorities to have composed a band of ten stormed the Methodist Church at Blackwood on Christmas night, damaging the edifice and beating four members of the congregation.

ANCIENT WAX TABLET IS IMPORTANT FIND

Princeton, N. J., Dec. 27.—Pictures of a wax tablet dated within the century of the death of Christ were shown members of the American Archaeologists' Association in their annual meeting here today. The tablet is considered by archaeologists to be a most perfect extant record of the birth of girls on March 11, 128.

J. B. FEARING DEAD

John Barrett Fearing, died Thursday morning at 10:15 o'clock at his home on Riverside Drive, after several days' illness. Mr. Fearing was 84 years old and was born in Elizabeth City. He was the son of Mr. and Mrs. John Barrett Fearing.

Mr. Fearing is survived by his wife and six children, J. B. Fearing, Jr., Mrs. John Fearing, Mrs. W. R. Lantz, Mrs. Lillian Morrisette, David Fearing, Miss Della Fearing, Miss Mable Fearing and Dan Fearing.

The funeral arrangements have not yet been made.

PLAYING WITH GUN KILLS LITTLE SISTER

Winston-Salem, Dec. 27.—Aaron Stewart, aged 11, playing with a shotgun at the home of his parents in Clemmons today, in some way discharged the weapon, the entire load taking effect in the head of his seven-year-old sister, killing her instantly.

UTILITIES FILE FORMAL APPEAL

This Is Most Recent Chapter in Fight of Water and Power Company Against Municipal Ownership.

The most recent chapter in the fight of the Elizabeth City Electric Light & Power Company against the mayor and City Council of Elizabeth City to prevent the establishment of municipally owned utilities here, was in the formal entering of a petition of appeal on the part of that company from the decision of the District Federal Court to the Federal Circuit Court of Appeals at Richmond.

The petition was granted by Judge H. C. Connor and entered on December 19. Appeal bond was fixed at \$250, and was made by the petitioners on December 21.

The similar case of the bond holders of the company, John T. Hill, Howard E. Crook, Elizabeth Evans, the Safe Deposit & Trust Company of Baltimore and the Baltimore Trust Company, was also appealed and bond in the sum of \$250 furnished on the same dates as the other proceeding.

This will probably be the last step until the Circuit Court of Appeals gives the case a hearing. Attorneys for the petitioners are Aydtett & Simpson of Elizabeth City and Maloy, Brady, Howell and Yost of Baltimore. Thompson & Wilson and Meekins & McMullan are attorneys for the city.

Although it has been understood, since the city won this case in the District Court, that there would be an appeal from the court's decision, formal notice of the appeal was not given until December 12.

DENBY APPROVES NAVAL COURT MARTIAL

Washington, Dec. 27.—Secretary Denby today approved the naval court martial sentence reducing the rank of Captain Edward H. Watson, commander of the destroyer squadron, wrecked near Point Honda off the California coast last September, and Lieut. Commander Donald T. Hunter, commander of the destroyer Delphi.

NO HEARING FOR SAP IN BRAY CASE YET

LeRoy (Sap) White, held in jail for Superior Court on charges of highway robbery and burglary, may never be tried for the killing of O. C. Bray.

If plans are on foot to bring Sap to trial for this offense, neither Trial Justice Spencer nor Prosecuting Attorney Sawyer knows anything about it. If the police have on the quiet worked up a case against Sap for this shooting, they will not talk about it.

Of course Sap is known to have been in the city on the night Mr. Bray was fatally shot, and the negro has been held for Superior Court on the ground of probable cause in connection with several other holdups that night. And it is a matter of fact that the cup which the police say Sap had passed at Edenton is of about the same caliber as the bullet extracted from Mr. Bray's body at the hospital. However, if anybody has investigated the question of whether the bullet corresponds to one which might have been fired from Sap's alleged gun, nobody knows it or will say anything about it.

COTTON MARKET

New York, Dec. 27.—Spot cotton, closed quiet, middling 37.00 a decline of 25 points below opening. Futures closed at the following levels: Jan. 35.51, March 35.93, May 36.08, July 35.18, Oct. 29.17.

New York, December 27.—Cotton futures opened this morning at the following levels: January 35.83; March 36.30; May 36.50; July 35.65; October 29.46.

I. M. Meekins and daughters, Misses Isabel and Mary Meekins returned from Columbia Thursday where they have been visiting friends for several days.

COTTON AFFECTED COUNTY SCHOOLS

Fleecy Staple Which Brought Prosperity Also Made Attendance at Rural Schools Below the Mark.

Cotton, the staple food responsibility for so much good business in the territory surrounding Elizabeth City, this fall is also blamed by M. J. Jennings, superintendent of public schools for poor attendance at some of the rural schools.

There was so much cotton and it was worth so much that parents are said to have kept their children out of school to pick it.

One of the schools which did not suffer to an appreciable extent was the Weeksville school, which, owing to delay in completing the new building, did not open until the cotton picking season was nearly over. This year one school is carrying on the work done last year by seven.

The records show that last year enrollment and attendance at the seven rural schools was: Sound Neck, enrollment 26, attendance 20.7; Jennings, enrollment 38, attendance 23.8; Dry Ridge, enrollment 25, attendance 17.45; Weeksville, enrollment 45, attendance 32; Salem, enrollment 52, attendance 15; Bay Ridge, enrollment 47, attendance 41.5; or a total enrollment of 261 and attendance of 207.95.

This year there has been a gain in enrollment for the one school at Weeksville now covering the entire district to 373 and in attendance to 303.

Of the students enrolled at the Weeksville school 78 are in the high school department as opposed to 27 last year. The gain has been marked, especially in the eighth grade where there are 54 enrolled, and another teacher will be put on for the high school if one can be found.

The Newland school showed a gain in both enrollment and attendance for the first month of this school year but dropped off in the second month. The third month shows a gain over the second, but does not come up to the mark of last year.

There has been a decrease in enrollment and average daily attendance at the Fork school for the first three months of school. Some of the smaller schools show similar results.

Mrs. George W. Pendleton, who has been teacher at the Small's school, has moved to Norfolk. Her place will be filled shortly, but it is not certain who will take the place.

EX-GUMMEN FAIL AS MOTION PICTURE EXTRAS

Does an ex-gumman ever reform? Director James W. Horne of the Thomas H. Ince studios doesn't believe so.

Recently while making "A Man of Action" which shows at the Alhambra today, in San Francisco, Director Horne advertised for "ex-gummen, toughs and pugilists who look the part to play roles in a moving picture."

The response was astonishing. In answer to the "want ad" a mob gathered at a certain Nob Hill residence which had been engaged for the making of the picture. Collectively they looked like the First Annual Convention of Licensed Burglars.

Director Horne quickly picked out seven or eight of the best—that is to say, the worst-looking characters and put them on the payroll. The rest he dismissed.

They went—that is, some of them. Others wandered through the house absent-mindedly. Some stayed to watch the cameramen. A few gossiped about old times. Two hours were required to get rid of the hangers-on, and when they were gone, a wild-eyed assistant director discovered a lot of things had gone with them. A partial inventory of things missing included:

"Two (2) brass candlesticks; one (1) painting of Mona Lisa (cut from frame); four (4) silver spoons; one (1) bronze statue of Daniel Webster; one (1) bathrobe marked 'Beth Rug'; two (2) pairs of lace curtains; one (1) hot water bottle." In all, just 76 articles disappeared.

TRYING TO SOLVE MYSTERY OF DEATH

Washington, Dec. 27.—Coroner Dr. David T. Taylor, Jr., was called to Terra Ceia Wednesday to make an investigation as to the death of Samuel Gaylord who was found early this morning lying in his bed at his home two miles south of Terra Ceia.

A long distance phone message from Belhaven Wednesday afternoon stated it was not known whether Mr. Gaylord came to his death from natural causes or not. Dr. David T. Taylor, county coroner, and the physicians of Belhaven are now at the home of Mr. Gaylord trying to ascertain the cause of his death.

Mr. Gaylord was about 65 years old and resided on his farm alone. The sheriff's office Wednesday afternoon was unable to give out any information.

Scouts Have Picnic

A number of Boy Scouts with Scoutmaster Scattergood and their guest, City Manager Bray, spent a delightful day Wednesday on their boat on the river, with a picnic dinner on shore at Camden Point near the mouth of the river.