

RUSSIA, STARVING, WILL RETURN TO THE FOLD

Plague and Famine More Potent Argument Than Debate on Merits of Bolshevism

(By DAVID LAWRENCE (Copyright, 1921, by The Star))

WASHINGTON, Aug. 2.—Russia, outcast among nations, has an opportunity now to come back into the fold. Starvation and disease, more potent than arguments about the relative merits of bolshevism and capitalism, are altering the attitude of the Russian authorities to the extent that they no longer declare themselves independent of the outside world, and they are willing to accept aid from nations which hold to the economic theory of private property as a basis of wealth. Our government is waiting patiently for the release of all American citizens who have been held prisoner. Until that is assured, there will be no comment as to the conditions under which the United States will enter into closer relations with the Russian authorities. But even then, the government here is reluctant to issue pronouncements on the subject of American recognition at a time when misery and famine is sweeping Russia and every humanitarian instinct is for relief rather than legal discussions of formulas.

So far as trade with Russia is concerned, however, there is no change of view here. Until the Russians produce something on which a basis of trade can be arranged, there will be no trade relations. Russia's supply of gold has been depleted. She has very little the outside world can buy. She needs external aid to stimulate her manufacturing and commercial enterprises. This outside capital is barred from Russia by the soviets who have been steering their own economic course without regard to the effect on the economic practices of the rest of the world. Bolshevism has failed to convert the world to its cause and the inevitable answer is a surrender to the established methods of business which have for their foundation a respect for private property.

It seems certain that the United States will remain adamant on this point. Information here is to the effect that the British and other nations which have a kind of trade relation with Russia are disappointed with the results. There will be no trade agreement, therefore, until America can see a practical basis which will permit of a quid pro quo among the merchants of the world. But the plight of Russia's people is entirely apart from the problem of dealing with the Russian government. No obstacle stands in the way of whole-hearted relief. Every encouragement is being given by our government to a relief program. It so happens that the American relief organization is an unofficial body and that Herbert Hoover is its executive. Mr. Hoover's action as executive of the relief organization was unofficial and non-governmental. But since Mr. Hoover is also a member of the cabinet he has the opportunity to consult with President Harding and Secretary Hughes and thus to obtain the moral support of our government for the relief project. Such money as will be raised for the relief of the Russians will not come out of the government's funds here, but

will be sought from the American people who have never failed to relieve distress in any part of the world. The American Red Cross has a remarkable record for help extended in the flooded areas of China and the earthquake regions of Italy. The disaster in Russia is said to be even worse, millions of persons are suffering from lack of food and are really on the verge of starvation. The number actually dying daily from starvation is not known, but every official bit of information indicates that the most horrible condition exists inside Russia. The censorship on the one hand and the refusal of the soviets to permit foreign correspondents to enter Russian territory has prevented the outside world from knowing what has really been going on in Russia under soviet rule. Our government has known for months that Russia was going from bad to worse and has felt that the Russians were to blame. There seemed no other way to bring the soviet to terms than to let them absolutely alone until they realized fully the extent of their folly. The Russian soviets apparently are beginning to see it now and are turning to the outside world for aid. There is no evidence that the American government will give vent to any vengeful spirit because of the long period within which American prisoners were held. On the contrary the government here hopes to be able to do much to relieve the distress of the Russian people who have been powerless to control the soviet clique responsible for the present disaster.

Out of it all, however, is eventually coming better relations with Russia for the influence of the United States as a Good Samaritan cannot be erased by the soviets and the chances are that the food and clothing will bring reconciliation, though it will take months to reach the goal.

SWEET LAND OF LIBERTY: Paris Dispatch: "An American congressman has just proposed a law forbidding women to smoke," notes the Opinion of Paris. First offenders would be fined \$20, repeaters \$100, for each cigarette.

"If by chance this law should pass,

it would be only one more added to the long list of Puritan laws. There are laws against kissing, against carrying rice power and rouge, against earrings, laws about the length of skirts and the height of heels.

"It is only just to add that most of these laws are rarely enforced. Once in a while the police recall their existence by an example. Thus on the same recent Sunday there were two hundred arrests for participating in games, two merchants arrested for trying to catch up with their bookkeeping on the day of rest, a peddler jailed for selling a stick of gum, and a retired citizen taken up for painting his fence.

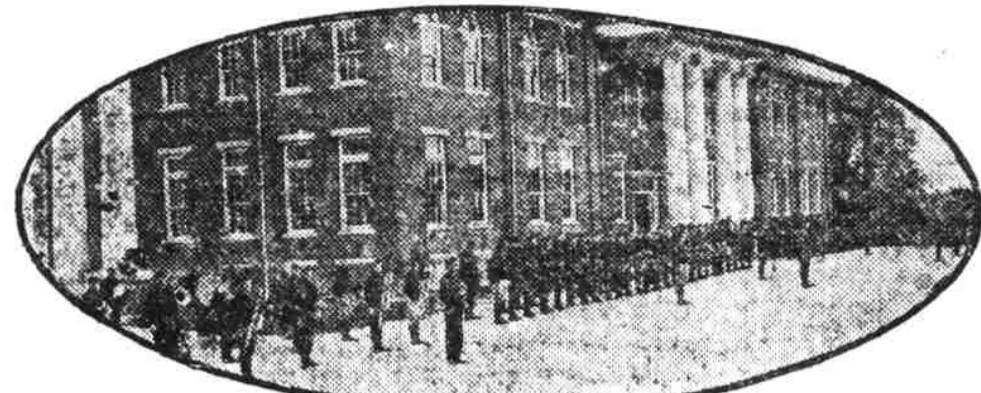
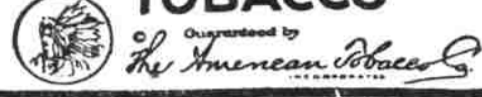
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