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FRIDAY, NOV. 9, 1917

RUSSIAN SITUATION

The overthrow of the Russian provisional government presents so many slants and angles from which it can be viewed that the observer from a distance, with little intimate knowledge of the internal situation, finds it difficult to reach a conclusion that will stand his own analysis five minutes after it is made.

We may console ourselves, however, with the certainty that any action in Russia is bound to have its reaction on neighboring states-- in this case Germany and Austria. To deny that there are forces in those countries working powerfully for democracy is to close our ears to the sounds that have been emanating from the central powers since the German armies first struck hard rock on the western front.

That the forces of autocracy, pointing to the demoralization and chaos that will be a natural concomitant of the Russian coup d'etat, will be able to derive a temporary benefit from the situation there is no doubt, but as the worst elements of the Petrograd anarchists are eliminated, as was the case in the French revolution, the spirit of democracy will grow stronger in Russia and nearby states, and all the power of kaisers, generals and ministers will not be able to kill it. Ultimately Germany and Austria, particularly Austria, will feel the effects of the Russian revolution, of which the latest turn is but an incident, and it is up to the allies to see that pressure is exerted on the central powers from without so that their military will not be able to destroy the elements in Germany and Austria, as was done in 1848.

Official London, Paris and Washington, whatever their spokesmen may say, had discounted Russia for months, and the new terror is a terror only to those persons who have hoped that Russia soon would come back. We cannot expect anything from any country where an irresponsible element is in control, and we cannot expect anything from Russia as long as the anarchists dominate it, except bloodshed.

We must hope that Germany will be kept too busy to take advantage of the situation and thereby will be prevented from putting a Romanoff back on the throne and using Russian soldiers against the friends of the cause they espoused in their conventions. Given time, the Russians will work out their own destiny, but the country today is in a worse condition than it has been since the first revolution. It is not too much to hope that the bolsheviki, who would bring Russia to ruin, will be checked before they have destroyed the germ of government.

A NEW RULER

Estimated by the department of agriculture at 3,191,083,000 bushels, this year's crop is larger by 66,000,000 bushels than any ever produced in the United States. It represents in cold cash, or in hogs and horses and cattle over \$3,000,000,000--the amount of the Second Liberty Loan. It amounts to as much money, if translated into cash, as all the allies have borrowed from the United States since the first of April to help finance the war. Next to the cotton crop, it is the most valuable of all crops produced in this country. Being as how cotton is confined to the south and as how corn is more democratic, it should be hailed as the new crop ruler.

What Russia probably needs is a stronger man than has appeared on the scene since the revolution.

THE MILITARY SITUATION

The Record's editorial page Thursday scarcely had gone to press before the Associated Press brought news of the Russian collapse, and caused us to draw a picture as best we could of the military situation in the event of a separate peace with Russia. That would mean the release of more than a million men from the eastern theatre, enable the Germans to assist the Turks in Palestine and at the same time concentrate thousands of reserves on the western front--but all of this has not happened yet.

Assuming, however, that there will be a complete breakdown in Russia, the task of the allies will be increased 50 per cent. The Middle Europe idea is dominant in Germany, but it is not predominant. Those closest to the kaiser want Belgium and a part of northern France, with a front sea window looking across the channel at England. Entente statesmen know this--they know that the western front is the great battlefield, and on the success of the allies there depends the freedom not only of small nations, but France and England, the self-governing British colonies, South American republics and the United States.

Driven from France and Belgium, the Germans will be defeated. That is the opinion of the late von Bissing in January of this year. Bissing was the kaiser's governor general of the stricken Belgians. He shared the confidence of his imperial master and spoke his thoughts.

It is the big task of the allies, therefore, to protect Egypt, Palestine and Persia from the Turk-Germans, and at the same time hammer the Germans out of northern France--to defeat the war aims of the Germans in the west. Haig and Petain are doing their level best, and all other fronts are subsidiary just now. The German line is near to breaking, and a few more successful drives will cause another retreat. If the allies are able to push the Germans back before the Russians abandon the trenches, they will win the war. Hope in Germany will be dead. The kaiser's spokesmen admit frankly that with Belgium wrested from them, the war is lost to Germany, regardless of the results of German arms in other fields.

The best strategy of the allies, with all the facts before them, apparently is to hammer the western line; to gain a decision on this front.

German ministers have taught, especially since the war, that the Teutons are the chosen of God, but proof is not furnished as to when the change was made. We had begun to think that all mortals were of the chosen.

Persons whose tongues trip on the pronunciation of the German name for machine gun operators, or whatever it is, should become acquainted with some of the scientific terms in the German language.

Of course the bolsheviki will not be able to restore order in Russia--even if that was its object--and the country will suffer far more from its so-called friends than it would fighting its real enemy.

Norway has given Germany to understand that the sinking of a few more Norwegian ships will create a painful impression in that country. Norway has lost about 600.

Cotton would have closed at 30 cents yesterday had the news from Russia not been of a sort to send anything down.

ELECTION, NIGHT LONG AGO
Henry W. Pitman in Boston Herald. Among the many who are giving testimony regarding the popular Journal, allow me space to say that it was always one of the old standbys about election night when the well-known "Warrington" (William S. Robinson) had charge of receiving the returns and the editorial rooms were full of the most prominent republicans of the state as listeners. There were no transparencies in those days, but the voice of "Warrington," so clear and strenuous, was all that was necessary to give out results as they came from the wire or special messenger, the latter being one of the chief dependencies of those times. "Warrington" was an authority on prognostication at such times, rarely falling in his estimate as computed by percentages. He scarcely ever indulged in persiflage or jokes at such a time, sober, sincere and dignified.

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MUSICIANS AND LIBERTY BONDS

The orchestra members of the Philharmonic society of New York responded loyally to the recent second Liberty Loan. Although musicians can rarely be ranked among the wealthy classes, the men who play for the Philharmonic have contributed more than \$14,000 to the buying of Liberty bonds. It is generally believed that symphony orchestras in the United States are made up largely of German musicians. Although this was doubtless true some years ago, it is a fact that the present Philharmonic orchestra is composed entirely of American citizens and that by the largest percentage of them were born in this country.

To speak in exact figures, there are 42 native-born musicians in the orchestra. The naturalized citizens represent 11 nations: Russia, Italy, Holland, Hungary, Bohemia, France, Poland, Germany, Norway, and Belgium. Of these only 14 came originally from Germany or Austria and their contributions to the orchestra's total bond subscription of \$14,000 is ample testimony of the Philharmonic who are interested in the personal side of the orchestra's life. In addition the directors subscribed \$10,000 of the endowment fund.

Jitney Service.

HICKORY CONOVER AND NEWTON

Table with columns for destination (Hickory, Newton, Conover) and departure times.

R. W. CLINE

Newton, N. C.

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Train Schedules

Table with columns for SOUTHERN and C. AND N.-W. routes, listing destinations and times.

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