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TUESDAY, DEC. 4, 1917

ALLIES WON MORE

Frank H. Simonds, in his monthly story of the war for the American Review of Reviews makes the point that the German victory in Italy will not be decisive unless it undermines the morale of the people of Europe, France and the United States. At the time Mr. Simonds wrote—on November 18—it seemed that the Italian armies might sustain a crushing blow, but since that time they not only have held the line of the Piave, but have been able to attack the Austrians.

Mr. Simonds is a disciple to the western front. He believes that the decision will be won there unless Germany is able to win by negotiation, as the leaders in the central powers have tried to do from time to time. The Italian venture was so much lost from the western front, so many German guns and so many German troops deflected to a relatively unimportant area in the hope of putting the Italians out of the war. These men and guns might have been turned against the British, French and Americans.

We see today that Italy is not out of the war, but that the country on the other hand is contesting all the more bitterly. The German campaign, in spite of 250,000 prisoners, may prove a failure, and if it doesn't bring peace, it will be regarded as a failure by the German general staff.

Mr. Simonds reviews the Russian and submarine situations and insists that the allies have had the best of the year's fighting. In answer to a number of questions as to how long it will take the allies to drive the Germans out of France at the rate of about six miles a year, he points to the great retirement on the Somme and looks confidently to a German withdrawal from practically all of France soon.

The situation looks bad as one views a single angle, but as a whole it is much better for the allies than for the central powers.

If we could say where the war tax is to fall, we should be in favor of laying it on, my masters. These folks who take no interest in anything except dividends and who are not touched by ordinary and extraordinary taxation would know that what is what it is—and then plus for interest.

The idea of Mr. Kitchen and some other gents, who have fooled many of the people of course, was to make war taxes so unpopular that most folks would be glad to take a shot at Germany's being merciful to us rather than going down into their pockets and delivering all they had.

If we could grow celery like Mr. W. E. Miller, who could give them a few points in Kalamazoo, we would make several hundred dollars a year on the side. His plants cannot be beaten.

It begins to look as if the defense will try to prove that Mrs. King met her death accidentally because Gaston B. Means had squandered much of her fortune.

Those Rhode Island Reds, of whom we spoke at length a month back, have begun to earn their daily feeds, bless their hearts!

A lot of people will give Christmas presents this year, while others will do well if they have the price of a Christmas card.

Rev. and Mrs. Robert M. Courtney already have won their place into the hearts of the Methodist congregation.

LORD LANSDOWNE AND WAR AIMS

Springfield Republican.
A tremendous impression has, of course, been made in England by Lord Lansdowne's call for a re-statement of the war aims of the allies. Liberals who cannot be accused of pacifism have been calling for the same thing, but with little result. Naturally, a greater sensation is made by this appeal from a distinguished conservative like the marquis of Lansdowne, a veteran statesman who was foreign minister in the cabinets of Lord Salisbury and Mr. Balfour and has been viceregent of India and governor-general of Canada. His letter, published in the Daily Telegraph after being reprinted by the Times, is called by Bonar Law, "a disaster" but it may prove otherwise. If Lord Lansdowne gets little support in the press, that little includes some newspapers which have more than once given the government advice to the neglect of which has proved disastrous.

In the matter of war aims this country has been obliged to act with extreme discretion because of its position as an outsider. Being forced into the war, it was bound to make common cause with the allies, and knew their cause to be essentially right. It was not bound to approve of every agreement which entente statesmen might have made among themselves, still less to insist on changes which would entrench American blood in all respects but which manage the always precarious thing of a vast coalition of independent and at some points rival powers. None the less, the fact that the United States was and was known to be completely disinterested was certain to have a steady pull toward the same position for the entente powers. Russia was carried beyond that point by the momentum of the revolution; the bolsheviks not merely reject imperialism, but are ready to accept surrender all round in the fond hope that Germany will be touched by this general show of altruism.

In the other entente countries there have been confused cross currents, a growing demand for the modification of war aims creating a strong opposition even to reopening the matter. For this reason there was no little justification in the fact that delicate and tangled relations among the powers were involved and that for the allies the military map has been unfavorable for the discussion of peace terms. If the question could be indefinitely postponed, there was some reason for postponing it, but it has long been apparent that the issue was bound to come up, and that procrastination in meeting it might be more dangerous than prompt and courageous action.

On the same day with the appearance of Lord Lansdowne's letter, the bolsheviks published another installment of secret documents, including the agreement among Great Britain, France, Russia and Italy, by which Italy was to have not only the Trentino and Trieste, but Fria, Dalmatia, some islands in the Greek archipelago and territory in Asia Minor, as well as colonies in Africa. Most of these details had leaked out and some of them have done harm to the allies, by stiffening Austria and by causing jealousy between Italy on the one hand and the Serbs and other Slavs and the Greeks on the other. It is understood that these excessive demands, put forward by a few men, and met or supported by Italy as a whole, have been modified, and the same may be said of the unreasonable demand of Rumania for territory beyond the ethnical frontier. But the old treaties still reposed in the archives at Petrograd, a perpetual menace; in common prudence they ought to have been made scraps of paper long ago.

On general principles it should have been evident that an elaborate set of agreements entered into with the czar as a partner and based on the assumption that Russia was to be a great imperialistic world power, concessions to which required counter-concessions, had been made obsolete by the revolution. In Asia the British empire no longer needed concessions meant as a safeguard against Russian encroachments; beyond the Adriatic Italy no longer had to face a Slav block supported by the weight of the Russian empire. Even at points where the secret treaties might perhaps be just-

ified by conditions obtaining in the early part of the war, they had ceased to be necessary, and in Russia, at least, reluctance to tear them up has increasingly been regarded as due to the desire of imperialists to hold free Russia to the czar's bars which have befallen the allies from causes which can be associated with these secret treaties are reviewed, a rather strong case can be made out in support of Lord Lansdowne's very moderate suggestion for the revision of war aims.

DOUBTS RECORD STATEMENT

To the Editor of the Record:
I note in your paper of the 1st a statement that is a little difficult for me to accept in full. As a rule I try to believe what I see in your paper but it will be necessary for you to give me some very substantial proof that Charley Bagby was at the office at 6 a. m. Are you sure it was not p. m.? I know him. Of course I am glad he got the postoffice but I cannot figure that it would affect him that much.
F. B. GWIN.
Marion, Dec. 3, 1917.

THE RUSSIANS IN FRANCE REPUDIATE BOLSHIEVSKI RULE

Washington, Dec. 4.—Russian army and navy contingents serving in France have repudiated the Bolsheviki regime at Petrograd. Official dispatches announced that the soldiers and sailors had presented to the French government resolutions denouncing their refusal to recognize the faction now in control and their purpose to remain faithful to the provisional government.
There has been an announcement of the number of Russian fighting men in France. Contingents of considerable size were sent some time ago, largely for the moral effect, it was understood of having Russians meet the enemy side by side of their western allies.

Announcement

To my many friends:
I have severed my connection as head mechanic with the Buick Garage and am now affiliated with the City Garage where you can find me each day.
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No. 11 Ar Hickory 11:20 a. m.
No. 21 Ar Hickory 4:45 p. m.
No. 35 Ar Hickory 12:02 p. m.
Eastbound
No. 36 Ar Hickory 9:00 a. m.
No. 22 Ar Hickory 11:20 a. m.
No. 12 Ar Hickory 5:22 p. m.
No. 16 Ar Hickory 6:50 p. m.
C. AND N.-W
Southbound
No. 9 Ar Hickory 2:35 p. m.
Northbound
No. 10 Ar Hickory 11:40 a. m.

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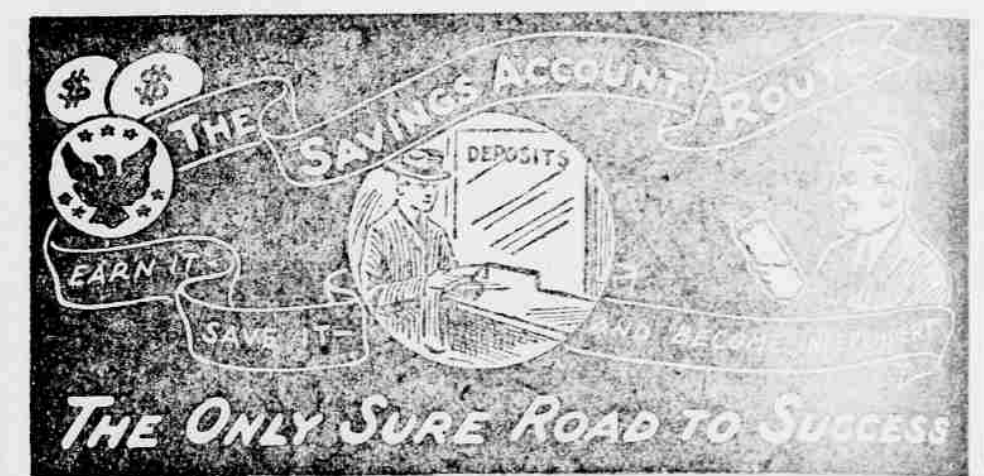
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