

The Daily Tar Heel

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Tuesday, January 19, 1932

New Czar For Old Czar

Russia fallen into the path blazed by the old nihilist group of earlier days had the audacity in 1917 to re-establish an idealistic form of government which once before in the case of France had failed. With all of the characteristic enthusiasm of visionaries, and the irrational outlook of an ignorant and provincial people the Russians looked to communism to bring on the millennium.

Old institutions, old forms, and the counsel of the ages were scrapped. With back turned on the unchanging lessons derived from the inevitable failures of all communistic governments, humanity was uprooted. The church was destroyed, royalty annihilated, commerce and capitalism, as we know them, were stricken from their social order. To what avail? In the terrible year of 1921, when a million and a half peasants starved to death, and were in many cases devoured by others, "militant communism" ended.

Lenin at the end of the Kronstadt rebellion in the same year, by the announcement of his New Economic Policy, turned Russia away from communism to a new form of capitalism. At that time he explained this action by saying, "We must learn our business from the capitalists; we must learn to trade; we must radically alter our position for some time to come."

The next year Lenin was dead. That year he had been steering Russia away from dictatorship and absolute socialism toward liberalism, which, had he lived, might have been no more radical in the long run than the socialism once enjoyed by New Zealand.

However, with Lenin dead, and Trotsky discredited and finally exiled in 1927, Stalin was supreme without threat of being ousted. And it is the hard Georgian, Stalin, the man of iron, the proletariat Bismark, and the savage and cruel hero of Kronstadt who is occupying the new throne of the Russias. New Czar for Old Czar. New mas-

ter for old master. New autocracy for old.

The Russians have abandoned, probably for good, the idealistic scheme of communism, and have patterned their government on the dictatorships of capitalistic nations. American geniuses of the hated bourgeois type have been imported at high salaries to build great automobile factories, plants, and railroads. Money has come back into use. Commerce and trade organizations such as the Amtorg have been set up throughout the world. Russia has by no means isolated herself from the economies of the world. She cannot. Just having announced that she would not be affected by the depression of the rest of the world, Russia was forced to cut down her Amtorg and other trading activities this past year because the amount of her exports had fallen way under what they had been the year before.

Russia ranks first among the capitalistic nations of the world, despite whatever you may have heard. Using all the machinery of the imperialistic nations, she has stepped ahead in the exploitation of the working classes by conscripting all the wealth, profits, and power of the nation for the use of Stalin, Inc.

Men of an acquisitive nature desire money since that is the root of power. Stalin has arrived at the root of Russia's power, and therefore has little need of money. His pay is power, absolute power; his is the power of life and death over all the millions of Russians; he has but to speak to be obeyed.

The present system under which there is no free press or free speech, under which patronage exists for those who believe in the present regime or outwardly acquiesce in its continuance, will live as long as Stalin remains the man of vigor or that he is. At his death, or at the time that his physical and mental powers weaken, a quarrel over who is to succeed to his throne will throw the balance of power among those young men who are being partially educated at the present. This group will decide the future of the state at that time. They are the genuine menace to the socialistic-capitalistic government of the day. They will probably decide for a liberal-free-socialistic-government based on the machinery inherited from the Russian capitalists of today.

There exists no threat of Russia subverting the world to its pernicious dictatorial-capitalism. Professor W. B. Eklaw of Clark university claims that "population in Russia is increasing from 3,000,000 to 3,500,000 a year. Adverse physical conditions, which man is not able to transcend, so limit the hospitality to Russia's 3,000,000 square miles . . . that more than seventy-five per cent of its 130,000,000 people live within fifteen per cent of its area. Only one-third of its restricted area is arable."

"The generally accepted belief that vast mineral wealth remains to be exploited is not justifiable."

Russia and her capitalism is no threat to the world. Its internationale will remain unfulfilled because the industrialization of that nation will not be completely accomplished before Stalin dies or declines, and that which is more probable is that Russia will become one of the world's foremost imperialistic nations, unless Stalin is replaced by liberalism, in which case a restricted socialistic state may be born.

Communism died in France, and it has been dead for a decade in Russia. It will always die so long as the present race of man inhabits the face of the globe. It presupposes absolute selfishness under which all will share alike without desire to

have more than ability requires, and a state in which all are equal, which condition is impossible from a biological standpoint since there are innumerable gradations in mental and physical power. It is defined as being "any system of social organization involving common ownership of the means of production." The means of production of Russia are the property of Stalin, Inc., and as for the distribution of the products of such industry, they are not distributed—they go back into Stalin, Inc. All is said to be done for the good of the Russian worker, but he has no actual voice in the matter, all theory notwithstanding.

The Russian experiment may lift the serf "stolid and stunned, a brother to the ox," but it has already proved once again to an unbelieving world that communism can never succeed.

International Treatment

The new tariff bill, which has just been adopted by the Democrats in the House of Representatives, offers a challenge to economic nationalism. This new piece of legislation advocates a "permanent" international conference on tariffs and is a strict reversal of policy, for if there is one thing on which nations have jealously guarded their sovereignty, it is the matter of tariffs. It is cause for rejoicing that we are retracing our steps and thinking of tariffs internationally.

It was not later than 1928, at the Pan-American Congress at Havana, that the chairman of the Argentine delegation offered a plan which to some extent would make tariff-making a matter of international concern. The United States delegation, however, disposed of the proposal, saying that tariff policies represent the national will and could not come under international jurisdiction. At the time, this not only represented the view of the United States but also the view of the majority of the other nations.

In days past the same argument was put forth against international regulation of navies. However, since the war, this policy has undergone a change and naval armaments have been influenced by international agreements. Likewise, in so far as national sovereignty has been abated, land armaments will be considered at the forthcoming Disarmament Conference.

The reason for this change of policy is apparent. Armaments reach beyond national borders. They may be used as weapons of attack and are a constant threat to world security and the defense of other nations. Thus repercussions occur and we find nations constantly building a defense to offset the increased armaments of their neighbors.

Apply the same reasoning to tariffs and the case for international regulation is at once plain. Tariffs are levied against the goods of other countries to protect the home market. They would have no international effects if the tariff-making country was not trying at the same time to sell its own goods to those very countries. Tariffs, like navies, thus provoke counterbuilding, retaliation, and all the things which go under the name of economic war.

The world tariff structure is today well known. Mountainous tariff walls are surrounding almost every country. Even Great Britain, the last citadel of free trade, has joined the ranks of the protectionists with tariff walls which seem destined considerably to reduce the availability of its great market to foreign producers.

This rivalry may in some measure account for the falling off of American trade last year

to the extent of \$2,800,000,000. American plants are moving abroad instead of American goods, employing foreign instead of American labor. Within nine months in 1931 the number of exiled American factories in Canada alone had increased from 467 to 1071. The House Ways and Means Committee rightly concludes that it would be in the interest of the United States as well as in that of the world to consider an international adjustment of tariffs.—H.W.P.

Japanese Ambitions

The fevered activity of the Japanese nation over a period of thirty-five years leaves one wondering what the Japanese are striving to do and become.

During the middle decade of the past century and a little after Japan was inoculated with the first bacteria of western culture. Circumstances, among them the existence of an unemployed class of retainers called the samurai, caused the educated and proud Japanese citizen to throw all of his energies toward the westernization of Japan. Two ideas have been in the minds of these far-seeing and ambitious Japanese. They wanted to make their own little island the epitome of enlightenment, culture, and prosperity. In addition, they wanted to direct the attention of the world upon their efforts and cause the world to draw invidious comparisons between East and West to the disadvantage of the Occident.

In their first ambition the Japanese have succeeded remarkably. Their efforts in music, medicine, athletics, literature, and all lines of science have won attention over the world. Their system of education is so good that it is known that there is less illiteracy in Japan than in the great United States. In industry the Japanese are the rivals of the United States, Germany, and Great Britain in the markets of the world.

In the second ambition, that of establishing the yellow man in a position to be envied and feared, Japan has been carefully and ruthlessly building her alter. In 1894 Roosevelt called the Russians and the Japanese to Portsmouth to draw up a peace treaty. The world was amazed at this tiny Japan that had whipped decisively the Russian bear. Japan had taken her first step. In 1915 Japan presented her Twenty-One Demands to China asking for privileges which were no less than an insult to Chinese integrity and a gesture of contempt for the rest of the world and its interests in China. In this move the Japanese failed largely. And now today in Manchuria the Japanese are flaunting their arrogant disregard of Chinese, British, German, and American interests there. They have even gone so far as to attack and brutally pummel the face of an American consul. Rapidly the Japanese are becoming a feared and remarkably western nation.

The activities of the Japanese are undoubtedly dictated by a group of rabid jingoists. If they are accomplishing certain of their national ambitions, they are at the same time destroying the possibility of a strong Japan in perpetuity. It is a recognized fact that good will is a factor of inestimable value in the strength and longevity of a state. The Japanese have lost irredeemably the good will of all Chinese. It seems more than likely that Great Britain, France, Germany, and America will look with suspicion upon this arrogant state in the future. No state can stand alone. It would not be surprising if Japan, like Napoleon's France, would collapse after a flare of passing brilliance.—R.W.B.

With Contemporaries

The College Student—A "Joiner"

A glance thru the list of student activities, sports, clubs, societies, and associations would lead the stranger from Mars to believe that there was at least one group for every student in the university.

Another glance would convince him of the fact that Americans are in reality, "Joiners." Here is every type of association. First, the largest group of all, the student body. It is followed by a graduated scale of organizations, social fraternities and sororities, honorary and professional groups, departmental and college clubs, religious and literary groups. Overshadowing all of these stands the gilded bloc activities. Even the neutrals looked with yearning over the boundaries and then set up a wall about themselves. "If we cannot be different," they said, "at least we can be independent."

Now, because of the existence of these cliques the student finds himself in a maze. He enters college and is beset on every hand by pleas to "come out for this" and "you ought to join that" until he barely knows which way to turn. Where lie the difficulties? Organization? No, it is over-organization.

Who can we blame, the student? Certainly, because he erects a halo around these things, places them on a pedestal and bows down in worship. Every so often one hears of the poor misguided individual who over-stresses the extra-curricular division of college life, gets hopelessly involved and then finds that he cannot retreat. He is bound on all sides by memberships, presidencies, and secretaryships. A bit of his time is demanded here, and a fragment there, until he discovers that his health as well as his grades have suffered.

The student is not entirely to blame, however. There are other sinners and investigation would reveal that perhaps a great deal of the fault could be placed where it is least expected, upon that group which professes to be a bitter enemy of activities and organizations. Who instigates the founding of honorary and professional fraternities? Who thinks it is a fine idea to have the students govern themselves? Who delights in knowing that activities are student managed? The faculty. Who is it that gives the student seventy-five pages to study and then urges him to attend a meeting that evening? The professor.

But the blame cannot be wholly placed on either of the

two. Both must share it equally. Education of the student is the solution in part, but teaching the undergraduates that many organizations are not worth the time they demand would do little good if the professors continue to praise them.—Syracuse Daily Orange.

In the Raleigh News and Observer of January 13, two headlines of two column width appeared. They were:

FARMERS GET \$26,000,000 LESS FOR TOBACCO CROP

Below this headline appeared another: REYNOLDS COMPANY HAS EARNINGS OF \$36,396,817

The editorial rests in the headlines and the only change necessary in the arrangement would be the placing of the tobacco farmer on the bottom.—Technician.

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