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*I*N the Spring of 1917 Kerensky requested the British Government to facilitate Trotsky's return to Russia. Common sense seemed to indicate one of two courses: to refuse, on the grounds that Trotsky was a danger to the Allied Cause or to allow him to return unmolested. As usual in our attitude towards Russia, we adopted disastrous half-measures. Trotsky was treated as a criminal. At Halifax, Nova Scotia, he was separated from his wife and children and interned in a prison camp at Amherst with German prisoners for four weeks. His finger prints were taken. Then, having roused his bitter hatred we allowed him to return to Russia. I am giving Trotsky's own account of the incident. I learnt afterwards that it was substantially correct. The outraged Trotsky came back to Russia, threw in his lot with the Bolsheviks and relieved his injured feelings by writing a fiercely anti-British pamphlet entitled "A PRISONER OF THE ENGLISH." Some trace of his resentment showed itself during our interview. I succeeded in soothing him, however. The German danger was uppermost in his mind, and his last words, as I left him, were: "Now is the big opportunity for the Allied Governments."

—from "Memoirs of a British Agent," by H. Bruce Lockhart.

This incident illustrates very remarkably the influence of one man's experience in the march of history and the heavy responsibility devolving alike upon the nation and the individual in what are glibly called "International Relations." On the balance between a nation's aggregation of likes and dislikes, manners and ill-manners, friendships and hates, continued peace must ever largely depend.

It is not in the Chanceries in the world's capitals that the issue between Peace and War is determined—but in the heart and the conduct of each citizen. At the moment black clouds, bringing apprehension and despair to millions, hang over Europe and the world. Will history repeat itself? Will goodwill and reason prevail over ill-will and suspicion? Will Germany, outlawed and her patience tried beyond bearing, be driven into the arms of Bolshevism? It matters not the cause—so-called French Imperialism, German duplicity or British perfidy—it is civilization which will pay a ghastly, irrevocable price if these years of revenge and growing animosities cannot be brought to an end. It is not *who* is in the right: *all* are wrong. Disarmament Conferences as a means to peace have had full and ample opportunity: the development of friendships and understanding as the major educational factor for all countries may well be given the chance so long overdue. The Naval base at Singapore, as a guarantee of peace in the Pacific is a substitute of doubtful value for the Anglo-Japanese Alliance. By replacing the symbol of tried and trusted co-operation with the threat of force, the future has been darkened and endangered for future generations on the Pacific coast.

In July of the present year, as the result of requests on the part of several of the Council's Committees for reliable and current information on Russia, the Executive Secretary, while in London, addressed the following letter to Mr. Carl J. Ketchum.

"This coming winter the National Council of Education is organising a series of lectures on a large scale on different countries of Europe. There is much demand for information on Russia, information of an unbiased nature, and such as will give a fair and reasonable picture of present day conditions. That information is not easy to secure and it has therefore occurred to me that you might be willing to visit Canada as the Council's guest and speak on Russia since you have spent a great deal of time there during the past ten or eleven years.

"If you feel disposed to accept the Council's invitation, may I suggest, in view of the importance of the subject that you bring your information up to date by a further visit to Russia before you come to Canada. Much has happened there during the past two or three years, and it would be most desirable that you should be in a position to speak authoritatively on present conditions and development.

"May I further suggest that you secure the utmost material possible to illustrate your lectures—such as short films or slides. In a day when people are accustomed to so much visual education such means of illustration are important. The Council has films on a number of countries always ready for use in any part of Canada, and it is possible, therefore, that the authorities in Russia might be persuaded to supply a number of films for the Council's library, for such a purpose as I have indicated".

It is frequently pointed out that it is impossible to secure a picture of that vast complex country which is not painted by the hand of master propagandists under strict Soviet supervision and restraint.

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