

THE EVENING TIMES AND STAR, ST. JOHN, N. B., THURSDAY, DECEMBER 14, 1922

## RED ARMY CALLED FINEST IN WORLD

German Traveler Says That  
Russia Could Muster Six  
Million to "Walk Through  
Europe."

New York, Dec. 14.—Interesting details of the strength, equipment and morale of the Russian Red army at the present time were brought here by Dr. Robert Fluhr, a mining engineer of Berlin. Dr. Fluhr served through the war on the Eastern front. He has just spent five months traveling through Russia. There, he said, he conversed with Trotsky and several other Communist political and military leaders. In his opinion Russia is in a stronger condition than she has ever been before, and is governed with iron discipline, not only in the army and navy, but in the civil administration itself. No matter how high an official may be, he has to obey orders the same as the man in the street, Dr. Fluhr said. The soldiers could call their officers "Tovarich," which means comrade, but they had to obey orders implicitly and were compelled to salute their superiors when they were on duty. Of duty, in the streets, a theatre or a restaurant, a soldier does not have to notice an officer.

"The Red Army, as the active force is called," the doctor said, "is composed of 1,200,000 troops, well drilled and equipped with every kind of modern weapon, including light and heavy artillery, bombs and airplanes. These soldiers are all young men who did not fight in the World War and therefore are not tired of fighting and being away from their families, like the men in the other armies in Europe. It is not an exaggeration to state that the Soviet Red Army is the finest in the world at the present time."

"The officers are men of the first revolutionary army and veterans like General Brusilov of the old Russian Army under the late Czar. Many officers who fought under General Wrangel and other Russian leaders against the Soviet have changed their views and joined the new army. In addition to these regular troops under arms and ready for active service, every city of importance has its civil guard of young men who have undergone the same hard military training as the army and who are ready to mobilize and take the field within twenty-four hours' notice."

"How many troops do you think Russia should command in case of war?" was asked.

"At least six million officers and men who could walk through Europe if they were commanded to do so by the Soviet of Moscow," was the reply.

"Do you think that Russia is likely to make war on any nation in the near future?"

"After studying the matter carefully during the last five months and making inquiries of persons in position to know, I believe that if the Allies continue to hold aloof from Russia the Soviet forces will go through Eastern Galicia, Poland, Bessarabia and Rumania without the slightest trouble. There is no army in those countries that could stand up against them to block the passage of the new Russian soldiers. For the first time in the history of Russia there is discipline all over the country. The Soviet has an excellent secret service system, and people who try to plot against it are very soon found out. Traitors have short shrift."

"How are the soldiers paid?"

"By rations of food, clothing, tobacco and all things they need for their daily life and also a certain amount of the regular paper money. The troops are in good health. They fare much better than the ordinary soldiers."

"Where do the Soviet soldiers get their arms and ammunition?"

"Chiefly from Koolas, about three hours' rail journey from Moscow, which is regarded as the Essen of Russia. They have also the supplies which were captured from Wrangel's army."

"Did Kemal Pasha receive a great part of his guns and ammunition from the Soviet to make war on the Greeks in Asia Minor?"

"Yes, Russia not only furnished the Turkish Nationals with fighting materials, but also supplied gold rubles to help them in their war against the Greeks," was the answer. Dr. Fluhr going on to say that officials in Moscow had told him that Russia did not wish to control Constantinople in any way, but simply desired to have a free entry to the Black Sea, through the

Dardanelles from which she had been debarred for more than 200 years.

"Has the Russian Army any cavalry?"

"Yes. They have very fine troops. I saw a parade and march-past of three divisions three weeks ago near Moscow, which included Cossack cavalry mounted on the finest army horses I have ever seen in Russia or in any other country before or since the war. The army comes before everything in Russia today and the spirit that has been instilled into officers and men is wonderful to those who remember what the Soviet forces were like two years ago. The men look smart in their uniforms and carry themselves with

dignity when they walk in the streets."

Discussing the political outlook, Dr. Fluhr said:

"The Government is in the hands of the old Communists. People who wanted to join the order after all the fighting was over were told by the Soviet that their services were not needed and were sent away. There is not likely to be any change in the Russian program. The Government at Moscow is solid and will stay. The sooner the harvest this year is brought in, the better it will be for them."

Dr. Fluhr spoke of the lack of factories and said that the harvest this year had been good, but not sufficient to feed the whole country. He predicted that Russia would forge ahead as soon as she could produce her own grain supply.

He said he saw an opportunity for the United States to open up trade relations with Russia as she needed all kinds of machinery and tools, particularly farm tractors. He remarked that the transportation system was being revived and there were two daily express trains between Petrograd and Moscow.

Strong Opposition in Congress to Restrictions That are Being Imposed.

Washington, Dec. 14.—(By Canadian Press)—A conflict is ahead in Congress over the question of immigration restriction. Strong opposition is rapidly developing to the present law restricting immigration to 3 per cent. of the number of nationals now in the U. S. On the other hand, some elements are advocating still further restriction.

Secretary Mellon's reference to immigration in his annual report is suggestive of the growing opposition to the present restrictive legislation. He points out that the immigration laws have caused a shortage of labor and he is in sympathy with those who would make those laws less restrictive.

While the present session of Congress will probably not undertake general immigration legislation of an important character, the question will inevitably come up in the new Congress, after March 4.

Farmers complain of lack of adequate help and if it turns out that the farmers' organizations come to the conclusion the immigration restrictions are shutting out desirable help for the farms, the existing law will be overturned.

Many students of the immigration question are coming to the conclusion that, with Canada encouraging good immigrants, and South America drawing immigrants heavily from Europe, the U. S. is making an economical and sociological mistake to restrict immigration too sharply, especially if there is anything like proper selection. The next Congress takes up the subject. It is certain that any movement to cut the 3 per cent. limit will be hard fought, while there will be a strong effort to increase the limitation.

The Americans send at the rate of 1,000 relief packages a day to starving Russia.

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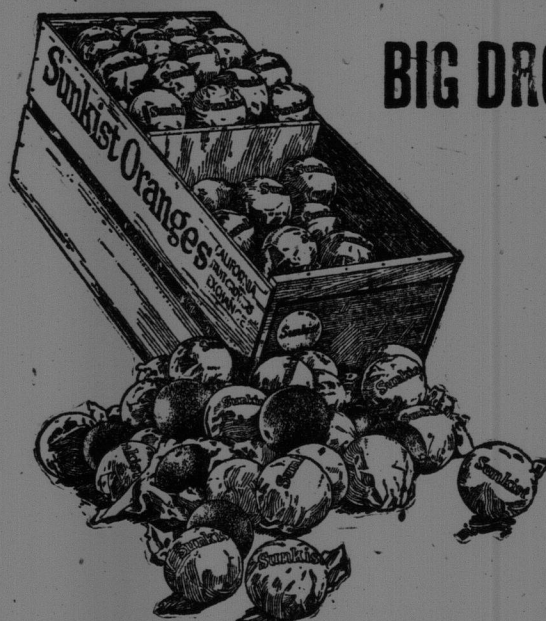
LIGHT color with Vulcanite Mouthpieces and silver bands, \$2.50 each

DARK color with Vulcanite Mouthpieces unmounted "ULTONIA" \$2.50 each

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Satin or Crepe de Chine trimmed with lace or hem, stitching, \$1.50 up.



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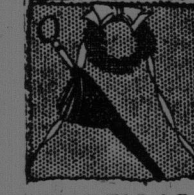
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HOSIERY  
Silk or Woolen Hose will be found here in styles most suitable for gifts.



UNDERSHIRTS and BLOOMERS  
An undershirt or a pair of Bloomers makes an ideal gift.



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For grown-ups or for kiddies an umbrella is a most acceptable gift. See our large stock.

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Our Christmas stocks of Linens are out of the ordinary, and offer many gift suggestions that are most acceptable. These include Towels, Napkins, Table Cloths, Tea Covers, Runners, Madeira Sets, etc., all at new prices.

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### SPECIAL SALE OF REVERSIBLE VELOURS

As a special Christmas offer we are placing on sale our entire stock of 27 in. Reversible Velours at 49c. yd.

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### WOMEN'S CLUB MEMBERS MAY HEAR SIR HENRY

A meeting of the executive of the Canadian Club was held yesterday in the office of the High Sheriff, Germain street, with Sheriff Wilson, the president, in the chair. Plans were made for the meeting on Monday, when Sir

Henry Thornton will address the club. It was decided to extend an invitation to the members of the Women's Canadian Club to attend, so far as the accommodation would permit, they will be admitted on their membership tickets. The following new active members were elected: W. O. Langford, S.

H. J. Hargreaves, W. A. Haines, C. L. Laing, Rev. H. Miller, Hugh Mackay, A. H. Campbell, A. E. Brown, W. H. Pearce, F. J. Brennan, His Worship Mayor Fisher, H. C. Heans, A. J. Gray and H. H. James. In addition to the active members the following associate members were elected: M. A. Poole, W. F. Knoll and A. F. Blake.



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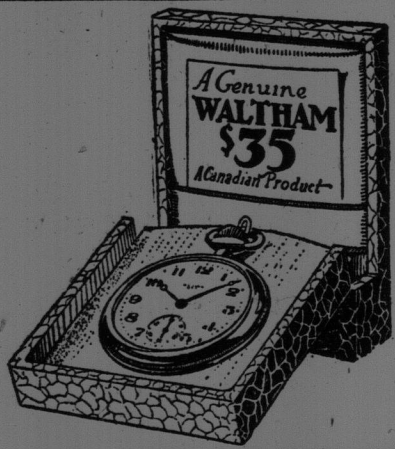
And the huge sale of DOMINION Rubbers enables the Dominion Rubber System to provide styles, shapes and sizes to fit every shoe.

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