

" I think the Russians in the sections occupied by the Russian troops would all be murdered by the Bolsheviks. There was almost a panic in Archangel because they thought my departure meant the leaving of all the American troops, and then they said they would be at the mercy of the Bolsheviks. Therefore I stayed there three weeks longer. The Bolsheviks are not nearly as numerous as they were four or six months ago: but on the other hand their organization is stronger because they have Chinese, they have Letts, and they have conscripted Russians. The Chinese were induced to go into the army by being starved. There is no food for anybody who does not join the army. There were 400,000 Chinese labourers in Russia, it was estimated, when I went there in 1916. I do not know how many of them went back to their native country, but I know there are tens of thousands of them in the Bolshevik army now. They were driven there because they could not get food otherwise.

Mr. Francis then mentioned the grades of those obtaining provision tickets. First there were the soldiers, then the men who work with their hands and work eight hours a day, then the men who had light work, then the Intelligentsia, that is the professions. Capitalists, he said, got no tickets. He further expressed the opinion that there were some Germans and Austrians in the Bolshevik army, and American troops had reported a very perceptible improvement in the discipline of the Red Guard, or Bolshevik troops, and attributed it to Russian officers who had been forced to drill the troops, and also the German and Austrian officers.

### RUSSIAN WOMEN AS HOSTAGES.

Asked if it were common report that Russian women were being held as hostages to secure the services of their husbands in the army, Mr. Francis said it was. He entirely agreed with the following statement made by Col. Lebedoff with regard to the Bolshevik army: " Finally the Bolsheviks formed a hired army of a big kind; it was an army composed of war prisoners, mainly Hungarians and Chinese formerly employed on the Murmank railway; of Lettish detachments, almost all of whom joined the Bolsheviks; and of the dregs of the population, lured by high salaries paid them by the