

PEOPLE OF RUSSIA QUALIFIED TO GOVERN

Long Experience with Village
Communes has Given them
Grasp of Big Political Prob-
lems — Paradoxical Land
Freed.

(By N. I. Stone in New York Times
Magazine.)

There is hardly a country of im-
portance about which so much misun-
derstanding exists as Russia. This is
due, in the first place, to the system-
atic suppression by the late auto-
cratic government of all information
which was likely to enlighten the out-
side world as to the great struggle of
the Russian people for democratic self-
government, for a knowledge of the
true state of affairs would have seri-
ously undermined the financial credit
of the Russian government. But apart
from the suppression of news and the
difficulty of overcoming the barrier
of a totally different language, the
great complexity of the political, eco-
nomic, and social conditions of the
largest country in the world has
proved bewildering.

The name of Russia is associated in
our minds with ignorant, illiterate
millions of peasants at one extreme
and a handful of radicals, some of
them impractical dreamers, others
dangerous revolutionists at the other.
It conjures up visions of inhuman
cruelty and brutality typified by the
knot and the program, Cossack
words for which the outside world
has hesitated to find a proper equiva-
lent in its own language and preferred
to reproduce bodily, when speaking of
Russian conditions; and, side by side
with these dark visions, "Russia" stands
for Tolstoy and Turgenev, Veres-
chagin and Tchaikovsky, Gorky and
Dostoevsky, with the lofty concep-
tions of universal peace, goodwill
among men, and noblest
ideals to which an admiring world
has paid unstinted tribute. All of
which has caused people to wonder
what seemed impractical demands of
advanced dreamers for a degree of
self-government in which the great
body of the people seemed too ignorant
and too backward to participate.

No wonder that the events of the
past week have taken the world off its
feet. And yet, when we stop to think
of the protracted struggle for political
freedom which has lasted in Russia
for over a century, the wonder is that
it took so long to achieve this end.

In a certain sense it is quite true
that the great mass of the Russian
people is in a backward state as com-
pared with the Western nations. Over
four-fifths of the Russian people con-
sist of peasants who live in a com-
mune, and are illiterate. But, in com-
parison with the French peasants at
the time of the great Revolution, they
are far more advanced.

It is a mistaken notion to measure
political aptness by a literacy test.
Important as the ability to read is,
literacy alone does not insure an in-
telligent grasp of the political and
social problems and intelligent ex-
ercise of the political franchise, as we
know from our American experience.
The student alone learns by abstract
study of history and political sci-
ence. The man in the street ac-
quires his political wisdom only by
experience. Measured by this standard,
the Russian people, and particularly
the peasants—paradoxical as this
may sound—have had a far more
thorough training in the exercise of
citizenship than not only the French
at the end of the 18th century, but
even their contemporary neighbors
who are enjoying a representative
system of government.

Russia is, or rather was until yester-
day, a land of paradoxes. While
governed by an autocracy, with the
people denied a voice in their national
affairs, with the press muzzled, and
schools under strict police surveil-
lance, the peasantry has retained a
measure of home rule which, in spite
of all governmental pressure, has sur-
vived through the centuries and has
given to an overwhelming majority
of the people a training in self-gov-
ernment far surpassing anything en-
joyed by the more privileged classes
of Russia or that exercised by the
masses in any of the western coun-
tries.

Russian despotism is the terrible
price exacted by history from the
Russian people for the doubtful priv-
ilege of constituting a buffer between
the Tartars and western Europe. Be-
fore the great Tartar invasion of the
thirteenth century Russia consisted
of a number of independent republics.
Even in the states which were govern-
ed by princes the people, through their
assemblies, retained the power of re-
call of the old and election of a new
prince.

Under the Tartar dominion, which
lasted for more than two centuries, the
Russian Princes gradually strengthen-
ed their power over the people, and
the rulers of Moscow managed to
gain the upper hand over the other
Princes, until by far, ruthless oppres-
sion, and the assistance of the Tar-
tar Khans they asserted their power
over all the Russian states, and as-
suming the title of Czar, they estab-

lished an autocratic rule over all Rus-
sia.

However, it was not until the very
end of the sixteenth century, when
the weak-willed Theodore, son of Ivan
the Terrible and last of the old Mus-
covite dynasty, was occupying the
throne that the peasants were placed,
by a stroke of the pen, in a state of
serfdom; that is to say, prohibited the
freedom of migration and attached to
the land which they happened to oc-
cupy at the time. The peasants did
not submit meekly to enslavement.
Local revolts were many, and the con-
flagration of a nation-wide rebellion
twice lit up with its lurid light the
pages of Russian history at intervals
of a century. The rebellion led by
Stenka Razin in 1667 and that started
by Emelian Pugachev in 1773 were
both directed against the system of
serfdom. "Land and liberty" was
their watchword; through the first
half of the nineteenth century there
were local outbreaks, until the defeat
of the Russian arms in the Crimean
war signaled the bankruptcy of the
old regime and brought about the
emancipation of the peasants in 1861.
Through the centuries of serfdom
and oppression the Russian peasant
has preserved that wonderful instinc-
tion, the "mir," or village commune,
to which, in spite of all its shortcom-
ings, history will accord some day
the title of the cradle of Russian lib-
erty. Hemmed in by numerous re-
strictions of the National government,
with its officers under close surveil-
lance of the police, which became par-
ticularly oppressive in the reign of
Nicholas II, the "mir" has retained
its character of a little republic within
the over-narrow scope of its juris-
diction. Originally its jurisdiction
embraced practically everything con-
cerning the life of the peasant; it is
the source of such title to land as can
pass under that name under a system
of communal land ownership; it dis-
penses justice between peasant and
peasant, it even elected its own
priests in olden times, down to the
16th century, and in our own time
are not infrequently of a village
assembly voting to accept a new creed
and all its members following the de-
cision. In spite of government per-
secution, the "mir" stands between
the government and the individual
peasant. Until the introduction of
universal military service it decided
which of its members were to be
drafted into the army, the govern-
ment of military conscription has
exercised every governmental func-
tion reserved for itself by the Central
government.

This control over nearly every
phase of the peasant's life is exercised
by the "mir" on a most democratic
basis, with its officers elected by uni-
versal suffrage, and its members free
of direct instead of representative gov-
ernment. All its legislative and judi-
cial decisions are arrived at by a uni-
mous vote of its members after free
and unlimited discussion, with no
closure rules and points of order are
total strangers.

Such is the school in which the
Russian peasant has been trained
in civics. It would be hard to find
an equally efficient institution for the
political training of the great masses
in any of the more advanced countries
of western Europe. Even the New
England town meeting falls short of
it, for none of the questions dealt with
there concerned so intimately every
phase of the economic and social life
of its participants as is the case in
the Russian village assembly.

Whether the bold land reform en-
acted by the late Provisional Govern-
ment about ten years ago which aims at
the breaking up of communal land own-
ership will succeed in completely de-
stroying this unique institution, or
whether the great land reform which is
bound to come as the first important
act of the new Duma, elected on the
basis of universal suffrage, will build
on it a foundation for a still greater
or institution, the future alone can
answer; whatever its future, however,
the historic role it has played as a
school of self-government for the
Russian peasantry cannot be taken away
from it.

During the last half century, the
government by systematic police op-
pression and pressure brought upon
the communal officers succeeded in
greatly demoralizing the working of
these organs of rural self-government;
at the same time the former econo-
mic equality of the peasants has given
place to unequal distribution of land
among them. The Government count-
ed on this as a disintegrating influ-
ence among the once solid peasantry;
on the other hand, the bureaucracy
seemed to entertain a naive belief in
the myth which it had been assiduously
spreading abroad that the peasant
cherished an adoration for his "Lit-
tle Father," the Czar, bordering
worship. Misled by this idea, the govern-
ment conceded to a large extent the
demand of the revolution of 1905 for
universal suffrage, expecting that the
peasants would elect to the Duma the
Conservative government candidates
at its dictation.

Instead, the peasant deputies in the
First Duma proved overwhelmingly
radical, demanding the confiscation of
all lands held by the state and the
nobles in favor of the actual tillers of
the soil. The discovery that the peas-
antry could not be relied upon as a
bulwark against the radicalism of the
workers in the cities and the liberal

AUTOINTOXICATION OR SELF-POISONING

The Dangerous Condition
Which Produces Many Well
Known Diseases.

HOW TO GUARD AGAINST
THIS TROUBLE

"FRUIT-TIVES"—The Wonderful
Fruit Medicine—Will Protect You.

Auto-intoxication means self-poison-
ing, caused by continuous or partial
constipation, or insufficient action of
the bowels.

Instead of the refuse matter passing
daily from the body, it is absorbed by
the blood. As a result, the kidneys
and skin are overworked, in their
efforts to rid the blood of this poison-
ing.

Poisoning of the blood in this way
often causes indigestion, loss of ap-
petite and disturbed stomach. It
may produce Headaches and Sleep-
lessness. It may irritate the kidneys
and bring on Pain in the Back,
Rheumatism, Gout, and Rheumatic
Pains. It is the chief cause of Ecze-
ma—and keeps the whole system un-
healthy by the constant absorption
into the blood of this refuse matter.

"Fruit-tives" will always cure
Auto-intoxication or self-poisoning, as
"Fruit-tives" acts gently on bowels,
kidneys and skin, strengthens the
bowels and tones up the nervous sys-
tem.

60c. a box, 6 for \$2.50, trial size, 25c.
At all dealers or sent postpaid on re-
ceipt of price by Fruit-tives Limited,
Ottawa.

ism of the middle classes, prompted
the government to take the desperate
step of a coup d'état by which it il-
legally changed the electoral law and
made the nobility and large property
owners the controlling factors in the
Duma.

I have dwelt so much on the peas-
antry, although it is by no means the
most active element in the revolution,
because under a system of direct uni-
versal suffrage, the peasantry will de-
termine the composition of four-fifths
of the Duma. Ten or 12 years ago in
the First and Second Dumas, its de-
puties were a unit for the confiscation
of all lands not owned by the peasants.
Since then the Stolypin reform has
furthered the growth of a fairly large
class of peasant owners, and the de-
mand for land has become more and
more simple. To what extent this will
result in a division of interest among
the land-owning and land-less peas-
ants remains to be seen. One thing,
however, I hope to have made clear—
that the peasants as a class are well
prepared for the exercise of their fran-
chise, have a clear conception of what
they want and have more than any
other class in Russia and, indeed,
for a time, to the exclusion of all other
classes, enjoyed the privilege of
free discussion of all economic and
political questions in which they were
concerned.

The next largest class of voters
and one likewise containing a large
percentage of the intelligentsia, is the
factory and mill workers. This is the
class that has played the leading role
both in the revolution of 1905 and in
the movement of the last few years,
from which the world as not yet been
able to recover its breath. It is over-
whelmingly socialist and is led not
only by its own trade union leaders,
but to a large measure, by university
trained socialists and radicals from
the middle class. Whatever one may
think of the merits of the socialist
movement, the intelligence of the Rus-
sian workman, as a voter, has proved
to be in no way inferior to that of
the working-class voter in Germany,
France, England or the United States.
That he is possessed of greater cour-
age and political self-assertion than
his German colleague, for instance, the
Russian workman has repeatedly de-
monstrated in the face of the bloodiest
repressions he has had to contend
with in the last few decades.

As for the middle and upper classes,
their intelligence and education hard-
ly need demonstration. From their
ranks have come the great men of
letters, science and art whose names
have made Russia the object of in-
terest and admiration on the part of
the civilized world. It must also be
borne in mind that the landlords and
the middle classes have had their share
of experience with representative gov-
ernment through the municipal Dumas
and provincial Zemstvos. Although
the jurisdiction of these institutions
has been more or less curtailed since
of our own city councils and state
legislatures and suffered from the in-
terference of a central government, they
have been of some value as a
preparatory step to complete self-gov-
ernment, and since 1905 the struggle
of these institutions against the en-
croachments of the national govern-
ment has met with some measure of
success.

Last, but not least, the experience
of the last 12 years with the Dumas, in
which all classes of the Russian peo-
ple have participated to a greater or
less extent, has not gone for naught.
The struggle of the Duma with the
government for a cabinet responsible
to the representatives of the people
has developed leaders among all the
political parties who would hold
their own in any parliament. Men
like Guchkov of the Conservative Oc-
tobrist party, leaders like Professor
Miliukoff and Rodichev of the Con-
stitutional Democrats, or Chkheidze of
the Socialists, and Kerensky of the
labor group would rise to leadership
of corresponding parties in any of the
parliaments of western Europe. Finally,
the cabinet constituting the present
Provisional government of Russia
could well afford to stand comparison
with any European cabinet in point of
scholarship and practical statesman-
ship.

In no country are the social sciences
studied with greater zest and more
absorbing interest than in Russia; no-
where are the people so well informed
as to the latest political development
throughout the world; in no parlia-
ment will be found a greater proportion
of scholars, lawyers, and brilliant

orators than in the Russian Duma.
The sad experience which the Opposi-
tion had in the Duma between 1905
and 1907 seems to have taught it the
lesson of co-operation between parties,
and there seems less likelihood,
although the danger is present, of a
hopeless division between the ex-
treme radicals every now and then
liberals such as enabled Nicholas II.
to take back in 1907 what he had
given and promised in 1905.

Whatever the course of events in
the near future may prove to be Rus-
sia is more ripe for a Republican form
of government than any country ever
was at the time of transition from a
monarchy to a republic.

GIRLS CLUB CONDUCT SUCCESSFUL CONCERT AND TEA LAST NIGHT

Proceeds Will Go to Child-
ren's Aid Society and Boys'
Industrial Home

The Girls' Club conducted a very
successful entertainment last night
in the Moose Rooms, Union street,
the proceeds of which will be handed
over to the Children's Aid Society
for their work. The "Mother Goose
Revue" composed and conducted by
Miss Estella Fox was particularly
good and came in for well merited
applause. A number of the pro-
gramme was good and the large num-
ber present thoroughly enjoyed the
evening. During the course of the
evening a vote of thanks was tendered
by the Jolly Kindness League the
proceeds of which will be handed over
to the Boys' Industrial Home. At
the close of the entertainment a
hearty vote of thanks was tendered
to St. John Lodge Order of Moose,
for the use of the hall which was kin-
dly donated to them for the occasion.

Mrs. N. C. Scott presided and the
programme was as follows:—Chorus,
O Canada; cantata, Fairies Garden;
solo, Miss Daisy Oram; bells, W. L.
Barnell; Miss Myrtle Fox; mandolin and
banjo duo, W. L. Barnell, H. Bond;
solo, Miss Nettie Boyd; Indian club
swinging, Miss Minnie McDevitt;
quartette, Mrs. Audette, Misses Al-
chora, Fox and Sparks; chorus,
Girls' Club.

Those who took part were:—"Moth-
er Goose Revue"—Young Mother
Goose, Miss Dorothy Causton; Little
Bo-Peep, Miss Jean Hoyt; Little Miss
Muffet, Miss Katherine Williams;
Milk Maid, Miss Jessie Tynes; Little
Red Riding Hood, Miss Freda L.
Hoyt; Little Rose Hornor (Jack's
Heart), Miss Edna Scott; Queen of
Hearts, Miss Estella I. Fox; Mary,
Mary, Quite Contrary, Miss Laura C.
McDevitt; Butterflies and Spider, Miss
Ethel Causton; Little Girl with Curl,
Miss Bertha Thorne; pianist, Miss
Myrtle Fox.

The Fairies Garden.
Characters—Achievement, Miss Estel-
la I. Fox; Southwind, Miss Violet
Marchant; Fairy Queen, Miss Gladys
McDevitt; Wood Gatherer, Miss
Erma Hansford; Fire Maker, Miss
Daisy Oram; Torch Bearer, Miss Mary
Christiansen; Heath, Miss Lillian
Berwick; Business, Miss Helen Jef-
fery; Nature, Miss Louise Christiansen;
Camp Craft, Miss A. M. Pratt;
Hand Craft, Miss Tillie McDevitt;
Home Craft, Miss Edith L. Piers;
Patriotism, Miss Mable London.
Fairies—Rainbow, Miss Marjorie
Bullock; Daisy, Miss Mildred Wor-
mer; Rose, Miss Clara Vey; Violet,
Miss Marie Howard; Twilight, Miss
Christian Mercer; Cobweb, Miss Hil-
da Godwin; Buttercup, Miss Jean
Burton; Moonbeam, Miss Doris
Brindley; Butterfly, Miss Ethel Cam-
ton; Pianist, Mrs. C. E. Harding;
Violinist, Mr. Clarence Causton.

Do It NOW

The SAFETY, the COMFORT,
the HAPPINESS of Your Family
for time to come

Rest with YOU

Look into the faces of your wife and children, think
of all the future holds for them, if YOU do YOUR
part, THEN you'll grasp the full meaning of the
duty you owe them.

In providing for your wife's comfort, the support
and education of your children, ABSOLUTE PRO-
TECTION and ECONOMY must be uppermost. You
can

Save 10 to 25 Per Cent.

On Life Insurance Premiums, for the same class of
Policy, with the Policy-Holders' Mutual which
gives also, Loan or Surrender Values as good as
the best.

Our Policies are PROFIT-PARTICIPATING. And
premiums may be paid by the year, half-year, or
quarter, as you please, without consulting the com-
pany.

OTHER AND EQUAL ADVANTAGES
AWAIT YOU—LEARN WHAT THEY
ARE.

H. ELTON BEYEA
Provincial Manager

POLICY-HOLDERS' MUTUAL LIFE INSURANCE CO.
OF CANADA
E. C. ATKINSON,
Agent,
Fredericton, N. B.
85 Prince Wm. St., St. John, N. B.

NATIONAL SERVICE WORK.

L. P. D. Tilley, Director of National
Service for New Brunswick, returned
to the city yesterday from Montreal
where he had been in attendance at
a conference of directors representing
the Provinces of Ontario, Quebec,
Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island
and New Brunswick.

The questions under discussion
were: The enforcement of the Militia
Act; agricultural survey and labor,
having reference to increased produc-
tion; recommendations regarding the
increased cost of living; securing la-
bor from the cities and towns to as-
sist the farmers in their spring seed-
ing and fall harvesting; the formation
of national service leagues, and co-
operation with the provincial govern-
ment in each province in an effort to
secure an increased production of farm
produce.

Other matters which have come to
the attention of the directors were al-
so discussed and referred to the board.
Every effort will be made by the Na-
tional Service Board to bring before
the people the necessity of greater
production of all food stuffs raised in
the Dominion.

THE RIVER OPEN.

A large field of ice came down river
yesterday and went through the falls.
The ice is thought to be coming from
the Redoubt, as it is reported to be rap-
idly running out up there. The river
at Indiantown was quite high this
morning, and at high tide some of the
wharves were covered by water.

The honor of being the first boats to
go up river will fall this season to the
Majestic and the Oceanic, which leave
for their respective routes this morn-
ing. The Majestic will leave for Gage-
town, the Oceanic for Wickham and
Hamstead, and will go as far as it is
possible. The Champlain will leave
Tuesday for Upper James. The Purdy
will not run on the river this season,
unless a subsidy is granted. This will
mean that there will not be any boat
to Fredericton this summer.

Joseph S. Campbell.
The death of Joseph Smith, Camp-
bell, aged eighteen years, the only
son of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph W. Camp-
bell, occurred yesterday in the Gen-
eral Public Hospital after an illness
of three months. Before his illness

A Good Place to Buy Good Clothes

New Suits opened this week
—Gilmour Specials.

Correct clothes in two but-
ton coats with narrow lapels
and medium shapely—one
of the handsomest models of
the season.

A new three button model,
more conservative yet not
old—mannish—an improve-
ment on last year's.

These are made of worsteds
and tweeds in browns and
greys, excellent values be-
cause the cloths were con-
tracted for a twelve-month
ago.

Prices \$20, \$22 and \$25.

Finished to your measure at
short notice.

Gilmour's, 68 King St.

he was employed with the Partington
Pulp and Paper Company. Besides
his parents he is survived by eight
sisters, Mrs. James Crane, of Green-
wich, and Misses Myrtle, Edith, Edna,
Dora, Helen, Thelma and Rosella, all
at home. The funeral will take place
this afternoon at three o'clock from
the home of his parents, 508 Chesley
street.

Mrs. H. Bradley, who has spent the
winter as the guest of her daughter,
Mrs. A. E. McKinley, has returned to
her home in Red Mill, Quebec.

SOLDIERS TO PLAY

BASEBALL TODAY.
The baseball season will be opened
this afternoon with a double-header at
the Barracks Square, between picked
teams from the 217th and 177th Bat-
talions. The first game will be played
by two picked teams from "A" and "B"
Companies of the 177th and the second
game by two teams from the 217th.
There is lots of good baseball material
in the battalions and hotly contested
games may be expected.

AVOID SPRING ILLS

Purify and Build Up the Blood with
Hood's Sarsaparilla.

In the spring your blood needs
cleansing and enriching. You feel poorly,
and there is more or less eruption
on your face and body. Your appetite
is not good, your sleep is broken, and
you are tired all the time.
You need Hood's Sarsaparilla. It
is the one safe and effective tonic that
has stood the test of forty years. It
makes the pure red blood that will
make you feel better, look better, eat
and sleep better. It is the old standard
and true all-the-year-round medicine
for the blood and the whole sys-
tem.

Ask any druggist for Hood's Sar-
saparilla, and insist on having it. Noth-
ing else acts like it, for nothing else
has the same formula or ingredients,
and so there is no real substitute. Get
it today.

This Electric Sweeper Vac

In Your Home Without Cost

For 2 Days Trial

Special Representative direct from factory, now introducing this Wonderful
ELECTRIC VACUUM CLEANER in Saint John, has arranged for free demonstration in
your home, costing you nothing, and entailing no obligation.

No strings to this offer. Simply fill in the attached coupon and mail to this
office, or 'phone Main 2436, and a machine will be delivered to your home where
for two days you may give it a thorough trial, cleaning your own carpets, your
rugs, your curtains, portiers, mattresses and even clothing and furs.

WORK IT YOURSELF

Try it in every room, in every nook and corner
where dust and dirt collects—you will be surprised at
the amount of dirt that this machine will take from a
carpet that appears quite clean.

After the most rigid test you may have us call for

Easy to Buy - Easy to Use - Easy to Pay

In order to regulate our supply and net disappoint our customers it will be nec-
essary to have your inquiry in this office not later than

Saturday, April 28

NEW BRUNSWICK POWER COMPANY

'Phone Main 2436

LET THE POWER COMPANY DO IT

USE THIS COUPON
New Brunswick Power Co.
Corner Union and Don Streets,
"Gentlemen: I will be glad to give
the Electric Sweeper Vac 2 days test
as per your FREE TRIAL OFFER.
It is understood that I am under no
obligation to buy.
Name
Address

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You'll Like the Flavor

U. S. FLAG DAY

PARLIAMENT BUILDING

First Time Foreign F

played There—Not

vice in St. Paul's C

London, April 20.—The U. S. flag and American in this c

celebrated America's partner

official heads of the na

a conservation which

hundreds of Americans

prominent British men

There was a great display

can flags in London and all

ish towns, and a popular

tion by the crowds which

the cathedral.

Seats 4,000.

The Stars and Stripes on

the highest tower of the

buildings at Westminster

time a foreign flag ever was

on that eminence, and few

government buildings in the

capital.

The service in the histor

ral, where the most mem

sions of national rejoicing

ing have been solemnized

ies, was unprecedented in

commemoration of an ac

tion of another nation.

The cathedral seats nearly

ple and was filled to its ca

recesses, with hundreds loo

from the balconies and nich

the vault.