

ed. "The true destiny of mankind is, not to rest content with a full dinner pail, like America; nor like the French, to erect likenesses of men and women in marble and in bronze, but to produce a race of men like unto the Creator himself—His true representatives upon this earth. To produce and maintain such an aristocracy is worth all the blood and tears of the entire human race."

He was, in short, an aristocrat by conviction and a monarchist as well, and he was on his way to Siberia as an emissary from the Russian officers on the French front to initiate a propaganda for the restoration of the autocracy.

"But not the Romanoffs," he said. "A monarch who can not maintain himself upon the throne is not worthy of it. There is but one man in Russia who is strong enough to meet the situation. He is known to be faithful to the Holy Greek Catholic religion, and he alone can be depended upon to purge the sacred ground of Russia of Jews, Poles, Bolsheviks, infidels and foreigners."

"Who is that man?" I asked.

"His name is Kolchak," announced the military priest.

It was several weeks before I realized that Voinoff was not insane.

Conditions in Siberia in October 1918.

In order that the reader may have a good insight into the Siberian situation as I found it in October, 1918, it is important that he understand the role of Vladivostok in Siberia.

Vladivostok is the gateway to Siberia. It is situated at the end of a long line of railway that extends across two continents, from Brest in the westernmost end of Europe to the Sea of Japan.

Foreign trade and foreign manufacture, and the products of Siberia destined for other countries—outside of Europe—enter and leave by way of Vladivostok. The name of Vladivostok—the Ruler of the East—is, therefore, well chosen; for whoever is in possession of Vladivostok is in practical possession of Siberia.

In 1901 the population of the city was 24,000. Of these, 23,000 were men, and the other thousand women. It was, in fact, nothing but a Russian fortress. Today Vladivostok has

a population of about 150,000.

During the war the Tsar found it expedient to extend the institution of the Zemstvo to Siberia. It proved a signal success. Local self-government resulted in local efficiency. A new spirit of patriotism awakened, manifesting itself in an increased supply of butter, eggs, flax, wheat, and other Siberian products for the eastern front.

With the fall of the Kerensky regime, the Bolsheviks, as was the case in European Russia, substituted a Soviet government in place of the regularly elected Zemstvo administration. On the 29th of June, however, the Czechoslovaks, who had been quartered by the Bolsheviks upon the eminences around Vladivostok, followed the advice of the Allied Powers and took the city by marching through it. In justice to some of our newspapers who gave vivid accounts of the bloody battles incident to this achievement be it said that on the following day a few Bolsheviks did intrench themselves in a building near the station and a few shots were interchanged. Two days later Nikolsk-Ussuriysky fell, and the rest of Siberia followed suit. The members of the Vladivostok Soviet were, on general principles, interned in a Czechoslovak camp. The Zemstvo officials returned to their places. Upon my arrival at Vladivostok I found the Zemstvo government in full swing.

But what is a Zemstvo?

A Zemstvo corresponds to a state administration in the United States, with its legislative, executive and judiciary divisions. Its officials are elected in about the same manner as state officials are elected here.

The new administration was laboring under great difficulties. There was no manufacturing worth speaking of in Siberia, and speculation in the necessities of life ran wild in spite of the vigilance of the authorities. The railway system had broken down, and the housing problem was distressing. Within the past four years Siberia had doubled its population, and during that period hardly a single house had been built. The situation was aggravated by the fact that the Allied troops had arrived, with their Red Cross, Y. M. C. A.,