

is expected at this time of year as the snow is very deep and, melting, carries away all manner of refuse. I passed the Marinski Gymnasia (High School), converted into an immense military hospital filled with wounded. On returning to the train, I found that it had been decided, in consequence of Colonel Clarke's condition, to press on right through to Omsk. Consequently we expect to be in Ekaterinburg to-night and will not likely stay long there. We are travelling from Perm to Ekaterinburg over the short line. The country is less mountainous than the longer route and has been the scene of a great series of actions between the Bolsheviks and the Czechs and Russians. The only important town between the two cities is Kungur, a straggling and very dirty place of, I should judge, about 20,000 population. Just east of Kungur we came upon a plain which was, apparently, one of the battlefields, as the trenches could be plainly seen as well as several miles of barbed wire entanglements still standing and unbroken. A few hundred yards east a mighty railway bridge had been blown up, and we crossed on a temporary wooden structure. The massive stone pillars of the bridge had been smashed and the iron-work could be seen in the water below. Have I mentioned the great river Kama at Perm? The city is very picturesquely situated on a great cliff rising from the water's edge. Just west of the city there is a very large bridge which we crossed yesterday. It is evident that the Bolshevik retreat from the city was not "a retirement according to plan to prepared positions" else they would not have failed to destroy this huge bridge, which is at least 700 yards long, having seven spans. All through the Urals we have seen traces of Bolshevik work, a factory burned in one town, the railway station in another, the locomotive shops in another. Many atrocities were perpetrated in the Perm district but we did not have time to make investigations as at Ufa, and, anyway, by this time, the trail is cold. Supplies were so scarce during the Bolshevik occupation that, were a man seen on the street smoking a good cigarette, his home was immediately searched by the Red Guard in order that his hidden hoard might be discovered and confiscated. At Perm we were only 900 versts (about 600 miles) from Petrograd and less than 450 miles to Moscow. It is hoped that before the winter of 1919 the Kolchak armies may have taken Moscow and that means the end of Bolshevism.

April 17.—We reached Ekaterinburg this morning and, Colonel Clarke being somewhat improved, it is determined to stay two days. To-day General Gaida was at lunch and was presented by General Knox, in behalf of the King, with the C.B. Surely there cannot in the war be a stranger experience than that of Gaida, a private soldier in the Austrian Army, then a volunteer in the Czech detachment of the Russian Army after having been taken a willing prisoner, later the leader of the Czechs in their retreat to Vladivostok to embark for France, then the leader in their right about face and the conqueror of Siberia, following that his resignation from the Czech forces and his acceptance of the post from Admiral Kolchak of Commander of the Siberian Army. And he is now 28 years of age. This evening I accompanied a Russian to the city, and, after the inevitable cakes and coffee, and our discovery that everything was closed, it being the eve of Good Friday, he suggested our going to the Cathedral. The immense church was thronged with worshippers, each of whom bought a candle or taper which he lit at the ikon of some saint and proceeded to carry home with him. It was a peculiar sight to see the streets, otherwise dimly lighted, filled with people carrying candles and finding their steps through the mud by the aid of its feeble light.

April 18.—All day at Ekaterinburg. Beyond a walk past the "Czar's house" I stayed at the train all day. At 10 o'clock we left for Omsk, going, not by way of Cheliabinsk, but over the direct northern route through Tiumen and Ishim.

April 19.—Again in Siberia! Very little of interest. Reached Tiumen at 10 a.m. and left at 4.30 p.m. Spring has come in Siberia as in Russia with a rush, and the fields are bare. We are due at Omsk at 10.30 to-morrow morning, and I must try to get these jottings off by the express post which leaves a few hours after our arrival.