

REOPENING OF RUSS. PROBLEM IS IMMINENT

Russian Anti-Bolsheviks Just as Reluctant as Ever to Meet Bolshevists in Conference But Are Becoming Desperate.

UKRAINE IN POSSESSION OF THE BOLSHEVIK

This Gives the Latter Possession of Large Supplies of Food and Materials Desired in Their Warfare.

ALLIES TO ISSUE ANOTHER INVITATION

Whether Prinkipio Will be the Designated Place of Meeting Will Depend Upon the Attitude of the Bolshevists.

(By Arthur S. Draper)

Special to The N. Y. Tribune and St. John Standard.

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London, Feb. 25.—Re-opening and re-consideration of the Russian problem seems imminent. The situation is approximately as follows:

First, the Prinkipio conference, as originally planned cannot be held.

Second, Lenin has granted permission for a Bernese Socialist Labor congress commission to go to Russia and study conditions, and the British members of the Premier Lloyd George and presented reasons why he should permit the delegates to visit Russia.

Third, two Bolshevik armies in Southern Russia have been severely mauled by Denikin's volunteer force, but on the other hand Krasnov's army of Cosacks has suffered a costly reverse on the Don, while in the north the Bolshevists have inflicted powerful attacks on the Allied troops at Archangel and Murman.

The whole of the Ukraine is now in the possession of the Bolshevists, who have thus regained possession of large supplies of food.

The Russian anti-Bolsheviks are again in substantial contact with the Bolshevists in conference, but they are becoming so desperate that they will be compelled to agree to the Allies' refusal to increase their material assistance.

It is considered probable that another invitation to meet the Allies will again be issued as the place of meeting depends upon the attitude of the Bolshevists.

Russian opponents of Lenin, who hoped for many months that the tide would turn against the Bolshevist leader, now feel that the Bolshevists are more powerful daily, and that he has succeeded in collecting and distributing food enough to meet the immediate necessities of the masses, and thus assure himself against overthrow by the people he has led into a class war.

Simultaneously he has organized a large army, repaired the railways and now commands a force which is calculated to give a lot of trouble.

The anti-Bolsheviks are opposed, also, to the suggested "cordon sanitaire," holding that such a policy would mean the disintegration of the Russian state without helping the affected districts. Such a blockade, they contend, will drive the Bolshevists to the very people it would be intended to help, because the Bolshevists, being in power, would be the last to see the blockade.

The Globe, lamenting the fact that the Russian friends are beginning to regard the Allies with suspicion, says:

"The premier does not hold out any hope of definite help to stem the tide of Bolshevism at its source. Official America seems to have declared 'hands off,' and no policy, save negotiation in discernible arms, the statecraft of our rulers. The net result will be probably, and almost inevitably, to drive Russia into the arms of Germany."

Mr. Cachtin, a deputy for Paris, writing in the Manchester Guardian, says that Germany is

that a Diet be convoked. Other reports say the entire agrarian party in Bavaria is opposed to the council of the republic, but that the peasants cannot exert any great force as they have only a few troops.

Despatches received by local newspapers assert that Government troops made a successful surprise attack against the Spartacists at Starckrad. The chief of the Spartacists, Thiele, was arrested and killed. The despatches report that the Government troops captured a large quantity of arms and ammunition.

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THE MOST VITAL QUESTION ASKED IN PARIS TODAY

Is Peace Being Delayed? If so, Who is Delaying it, and Why? Talked and Discussed By All.

ASSURANCES OF SPEED HAD BEEN GIVEN

When League of Nations Was Out of Way it Was Supposed Essential Problems of Peace Making Would Have Right of Way.

WILL ARMIES REMAIN ON GERMAN FRONT?

Paris Believes Much Time is Being Wasted in Discussing Questions That Could be Settled After Peace is Signed.

By Frederick Moore.

(Special to The St. John Standard and New York Tribune, Copyright, 1919, New York Tribune, Inc.)

Paris, Feb. 25.—Is peace being delayed? Who is delaying it, and why? These are vital questions in Paris.

When the League of Nations was got out of the way, it was supposed that the essential problems of peace making would immediately obtain right of way, and be sped to conclusion, so that the armies of millions still holding the battle fronts could be demobilized.

Colonel House took Mr. Wilson's place, although physically he is not strong. Nevertheless he is mentally vigorous and apparently anxious to achieve the purpose Mr. Wilson is now reported to desire, namely, the signature of Germany to the terms of peace within a month after his return to Europe. The president naturally desires to see this consummation before his return to the United States, but there is admittedly little chance of this.

The European armistice contains no clause to see this consummation before his return to the United States, but there is admittedly little chance of this.

These are a few of the grave questions now agitating statesmen and the group of ten engaged in making peace. Meantime the conference continues to hear the advocates of causes that are not vital to peace with Germany.

These questions can be settled as well after as before the treaty of peace is signed. Why are they being considered now?

President Wilson, Col. House, Premier Clemenceau, Marshal Foch, Premier Lloyd George, Arthur Balfour, Premier Orlando and Baron Sennelager have known exactly what all this is all about in secret diplomacy.

Incidentally, in some quarters it is admitted, there are vital disagreements in this small group which are causing the delay. Despite the president's repeated statement, the council of ten and not the peoples are making peace.

Whatever their personal views all the delegates to the recent Bernese congress are agreed that the Bolshevists are stronger today than when the armistice was signed, and that every day's delay increases the danger of the whole of eastern and central Europe falling under the sway of Lenin.

Cachtin also thinks that conditions in Austria and Hungary are even worse, and that the growth of extreme opinions is amazing.

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AMERICANS WHO REMAINED IN BERLIN DURING THE WAR MUCH REDUCED IN FLESH

CHINO-JAPANESE AGREEMENTS BEFORE PEACE CONFERENCE REVEAL THE JAPS AND GERMANS GOING HAND IN HAND

Japanese Financiers Granted the Privilege of Making Loans to China for Building Railroads in Mongolia, Manchuria and China Proper—Chinese to Recognize All Agreements Between Japan and Germany.

Paris, Feb. 25.—(By The Associated Press.)—Japanese financiers are granted the privilege of making loans to China for the building of hundreds of miles of railway in Mongolia, Manchuria and China proper, and the Japanese are granted the right to participate in the operation of the railways now constructed in Shantung province, under notes exchanged by Japan and China on September 24, 1918.

These notes, which are now before the Peace Conference, supplement the treaty and notes of May 25, 1915, between Japan and China, in which the Chinese engaged to recognize all agreements between the Japanese and Germans respecting the disposition of

German rights and interests in Shantung Province.

Baron Goto, the Japanese Minister of Foreign Affairs, and Tsune Hsiang Chang, Chinese minister to Japan, signed the three sets of notes exchanged on December 24, last year. One set outlined the new railways which the Japanese capitalists may finance in Manchuria, Mongolia and Chihai Province, North China.

The second set outlines the railways Japanese capital may finance in Shantung Province, to connect the existing German owned lines with the other principal railway lines in North China. The third set stipulates the conditions under which Japan may participate with China in Shantung Province affairs.

All agree that food situation is most serious and if it is not forthcoming quickly there will be a state of anarchy.

Only Infants Under One Year Get a Litre Daily, Those Over That Age Three-fourths of a Litre—Mortality Among Children Greatly Increased.

By William C. Draper.

(Special to The St. John Standard and New York Tribune, Copyright, 1919, New York Tribune, Inc.)

Berlin, Feb. 25.—Those Americans who remained in Berlin during the war are mostly much reduced in flesh. All agree in representing the food situation to be most serious. Blockading the president of the American Chamber of Commerce, told me:

"If the Germans do not get food, and get it quickly, there will be a state of anarchy here."

In order to obtain an official German statement of food conditions the correspondent went to the Imperial food office and saw an expert who said that grain on hand would last until the end of April, and that if the British farmers allied their contracts the potato supply would not be exhausted until about the same time.

The potato ration was reduced from seven to five pounds per person weekly on February 3, and the meat allowance increased 100 grams to cover the loss.

The meat ration in German cities varies from 100 to 200 grams, Berlin having 150 grams. Fat is most wanted, the allowance being only seven grams, and this is actually given in a few towns. The daily flour ration is 250 grams, including one-tenth substitutes.

The milk supply is most deficient. Only infants under one year get a litre daily, those over 20, four-tenths, and children between four and five half a litre.

Mortality among children and the aged has greatly increased. Comparing the 1917 figures with those of 1910, infant deaths 9.7 per cent, children one to five years 19.6 per cent, Berlin also having 23 per cent. The effect of malnutrition during the past four years is registered in the increase of 163,000 deaths in the civilian population. A high medical authority gave an appalling description of the health of the school children in the poorer districts and that of the families of petty officials, clerks, etc., whose limited salaries permit the clandestine purchase of supplies for backdoor delivery.

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PARLIAMENT STARTS UPON ITS SESSIONS

The Opening Day Heard Notable Tributes to the Memory of Sir Wilfrid Laurier.

SOLDIER MEMBERS MAKE ABLE SPEECHES

Their Addresses Were Not of the Old Fashioned Partisan Type—They Denoted Independence of Thought.

LIBERAL LEADER MAKES WEAK SHOWING

His Criticisms Not Overly Forceful or Effective—Invites Wanderers to Return to the Fold.

Ottawa, Feb. 25.—Setting out upon the session today, parliament heard notable tributes to the memory of Sir Wilfrid Laurier; listened to two young soldier members make unusually able speeches in moving and seconding the address in reply to the speech from the throne, saw Mr. D. J. Thomas White, acting prime minister, review and defend what the administration has done.

The tributes to Sir Wilfrid's memory were worthy of the great man to which they sought to do justice. Sir Thomas White, who was one of Sir Wilfrid's greatest admirers, spoke with deep feeling and fine eloquence, the House was visibly moved as he told of the dead statesman's "totality of excellence" of his exalted character of heart and mind, and of his devotion to the ideals of human liberty.

While evidently speaking without preparation, and therefore at great disadvantage, Mr. MacKenzie's tribute had a ring of sincerity which made up for whatever eloquence it may have lacked.

"Speaker," he said, "by the side of that vacant chair—a chair that will never be filled in my lifetime nor in the lifetime of any man here, the leadership of this party will be filled, but it is no disparagement of any man here to say that we have not the man nor the material to fill the chair of the late leader of the Liberal party."

Mr. Lemieux, one of the few remaining orators in the House, and for many years Sir Wilfrid's chief lieutenant in Quebec, pronounced a magnificent address, dwelling eloquently upon Sir Wilfrid's love of France, which had given him life, of England, which had given him liberty, but first and above all else, of his love for his homeland, Canada.

"Adieu, great heart," exclaimed Mr. Lemieux, in his peroration. "We thank you, Laurier, for the shining moments which you bequeath to the historian, his brilliancy shall never fade it will be a beacon light, which the lamp of history will look to, it will be as a column of fire which will guide on their march towards the promised land of a better dominion all sections of the Canadian people, recalled at last to one another, and linked together by a union sacred."

The speeches of Major Redman and Capt. Manion in moving and seconding the address were not of the old-fashioned partisan type, which too often consisted of little better than unqualified and exaggerated praise of the government of the day. They denoted independence of thought, and a study of national problems, and taken all in all, were probably the best opening addresses which parliament has listened to for some years.

Mr. MacKenzie, in replying for the opposition, made his first speech as Liberal leader, and his criticism was not overly forceful or effective. He concluded by stating that the light burned in the window for wandering sheep of the party, an announcement received with considerable laughter.

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