

## Raymond Robins, On Soviet Russia

Raymond Robins of the American Red Cross mission in Russia in his statement to the Senate Bolshevik investigating committee laid the blame for the crumbling of the Russian military machine on the eastern front upon the United States.

He declared that had the United States responded to the message from the Soviet government of Russia and aided them at the crucial moment, Russia would have repudiated the Brest-Litovsk treaty and remained in the war.

Robins also said that, while he had been unable to obtain aid from the Kerensky government for the work of the Red Cross, that the Soviets had given the American mission support.

He pointed out that the reason that the Kerensky government failed the American Red Cross and the Soviets had been able to befriend it was that the Kerensky government did not control the vast areas of thinly populated country as the Soviets did.

In every respect America has failed utterly in her Russian policy, he said, piling blunder upon blunder and mistake upon mistake and endeavoring to cover the results of stupidity with lies.

"I worked three months sincerely and honestly with Kerensky, and I worked six months sincerely and honestly with the Soviets," he said. "And now, when I come to tell you who have never been in Russia something of the truth, you tell me I'm a Bolshevik."

### Bolsheviki Fought the Kaiser

The Bolsheviki were the only party in Russia to consistently oppose the German autocracy. Robins said, intimating that alleged proofs of German-

Bolshevik connivance, such as the Sisson documents, had been prepared solely in order to cover up outrageous blunders made by administration leaders in their policy toward Russia. He gave an interesting sidelight on the dissolving of the constituent assembly, when he told how it was controlled by Teheroff, who, Kerensky and Breshkovskaya both agreed, was hand in glove with the German military intrigue.

"I believe the forcible adjournment of the constituent assembly was in the interests of the Allied cause," he said.

Mme. Breshkovskaya also came in for some sharp criticism from Robins, who said that, much as he admired her, he felt her attitude after Kerensky fell to be very inconsistent.

### Hits at "Babushka"

"She spent her leadership," he said, "in trying to restrain the peasants from realizing what she had always promised them. If you encourage a revolution, you must not be heard to weep when it comes."

A little later he remarked that, "if I had lived in a state like Russia, I, too, would have been opposed to half-way measures when the revolution came."

Colonel Robins told of his many conferences with Lenin and Trotzky and of his sincere admiration for the statesmanlike qualities of the former, who, he said, always was amenable to reason. Trotzky he characterized as "a brilliant orator with power of swaying men such I never have seen in another mortal."

One conference he had with the Bolshevik

leaders was on the subject of debt repudiations. Both said they were willing to take care of the American and British investment in Russia, but they could not stand for the French debt. Lenin explained that the loans of the French bourgeoisie to the Czar had kept autocracy in the saddle in Russia 30 years after it would normally have fallen and that the people of the country would not stand for repayment to those whom they regarded as the murderers of their kin.

He utterly condemned the Czecho-Slovak invasion in Siberia, and told how it had overthrown a stable government in the outlying part of Russia. To illustrate this he told of his own journey across Siberia just before France pushed the Bohemian troops in that country. The trip, he said, was made almost as quickly as under the best days of the Czar's regime. A letter from Lenin was his unquestioned passport over the entire 6,000 miles of travel and every courtesy was shown him by the local Soviet authorities.

### More Disorder in United States

"After the Czecho-Slovaks got in, I heard of plenty of disorder in Siberia," he commented dryly, adding that in his entire sojourn in Russia he had not come across half as much disorder as he could read about in a single issue of an American newspaper.

How weakness and indecision on the part of the State Department and ridiculous propaganda falsehoods by the Creel bureau contributed more than any other factor to the Russian collapse, and thereby cost thousands of American lives, was dramatically revealed by Colonel Robins.

FROM THE NEW YORK "NATION," MAR. 15

BOMBAY STRIKES—WEIRD LABOR SCENE

A CHALLENGE

Have the Allies yielded too late? "It is a race against time and the Spartacides," says a recent dispatch from Paris, telling of the final reluctant decision of France to allow food to go to Germany. Three hundred thousand tons of food a month are now promised to fight the Allies' cause against Bolshevism and terror spreading westward. The mere promise of food will probably strengthen the hand of the German Government, but it begins to look as though more blood must be spilled before Germany can pull herself together into a coherent, organized national whole. Forcible revolution seems to be the only human recourse against hunger and desperation. When General Plumer reports that the British soldiers of the Army of Occupation will themselves revolt rather than endure longer the sight of women and children dying of famine, it is not hard to imagine the mental state of the starving women and their husbands and sons. The "race against time and the Spartacides" bids fair to be a close one. The strikes and the revolutionary disorders appear to be temporarily under control at the cost of hundreds of lives, but the very stringency of the government measures of repression indicates the real extent of the unrest. It is interesting in this connection to note with how much complacency the press remarks upon the wholesale execution by the Ebert Government of hundreds of revolting Spartacans. There is no talk of terror or massacre or refusing to deal further with a government of assassins. Obviously, execution is the only way to handle counter revolutionists—in Germany. The fact of the matter is that the Allies have need of a government in Germany, a government crippled to be sure by terms ever more severe, but still something in the shape of a "stable" government with which they can make peace and to which they can render their bills for fabulous indemnities.

At least General von Hindenburg has the unique distinction of a definite Russian policy. Almost simultaneously with the announcement by Bonar Law that none of the Allies would recommend dispatching the necessary forces to quell anarchy

LONDON.—The dockyard strike has ended, the government granting substantial increases in response to the men's demands (says the Bombay correspondent of the Daily Express in a message dated January 21).

The cloth market strike also terminated after the employees had carried into execution their remarkable threat to lie down in front of the shops and let the masters walk over their bodies if they wanted to enter the shops.

This novel form of passive resistance, which is typically Indian, had an immediate effect.

At the main gate sixty men lay in a solid phalanx on the ground, and a similar spectacle was witnessed at the other gates, of which there are about twelve.

In Russia, comes the report that von Hindenburg is recruiting troops to fight the Bolsheviki on the Baltic front. Bonar Law complains that conditions are terrible in Russia; starvation is the newest crime of which the Bolsheviki are guilty. The people, he asserts, are starving to death at the rate of 200 a day in Petrograd alone, and yet the Allies, thinking ever of the cost, procrastinate and refuse to act. Only Hindenburg sees his duty, and, quite simply, sets out to do it. When people are starving the obvious remedy is to kill them as rapidly as possible. If any Bolshevik apologist should attempt to excuse the crime of starvation on the ground that, while the Germans seized and pillaged the food supply of the Ukraine, the Allies completely cut off Soviet Russia from access to the crops of Siberia, it is probable that neither Bonar Law nor von Hindenburg would find it necessary to make any reply. Von Hindenburg, as a simple man of action, would go on recruiting troops to crush the infamous thing, and Bonar Law would shake his head and regret the lack of a positive Russian policy. The Allies have failed in their war on Russia; they appear to have failed almost as signally in their awkward attempt at conciliation. Are they winning by their subtler war of starvation against Soviet Russia?

The success of the rapidly growing revolutionary movement is having a splendid effect upon the press of this country. Nearly all the Sunday papers are hysterically frantic regarding the success of the Bolshevik demonstrations at present being held throughout the land. The Sunday papers are asking: Where are Socialists finding the money to print their literature? In the "Socialist" we print the names of the subscribers to our press fund. Will the Liberal and Tory papers now print the names of the subscribers to the secret funds of their political parties. We challenge them to do it!—From the Glasgow Socialist.

DISTRESSING CONDITIONS ARE REPORTED IN LANCASHIRE

Due to the closing down of cotton factories there is much unemployment in Lancashire. Huge demonstrations have taken place in Manchester and other cities. In Manchester at one meeting, the speakers estimated the unemployed in that city at between 30,000 and 40,000, including about 10,000 ex-service men. Interviewing the city council a Mr. Keeling said the city was on the verge of a catastrophe, and Lieutenant Birch, president of the Unemployment Association, said there was revolutionary talk in the air, and he, as a soldier, did not want to see bloodshed in the city. The Lord Mayor: "You do not suggest that is possible, do you?" Lieut. Birch: "I do suggest it is."

In the discussion objection was taken to the council being asked to endorse the proposal to reduce the hours of labor.

Alderman Abbot: "Are we to recommend a reduction of hours in the cotton trade if we pass this?" The Lord Mayor: "Yes." Alderman Abbot: "It is ridiculous." Eventually the matter was passed on to the government to deal with. The alderman was right. If anyone thinks that industries can be run for the benefit of the people as a whole, under capitalism, he does not understand the economics of capitalism and consequently, as the alderman says, is ridiculous.