

## DOES NOT THINK SOVIET CAUSED FOOD SHORTAGE

Polish Minister Attributes Russia's Plight To Bad State of Transport.

## DO NOT TILL SOIL RIGHT

Peasants Only Scratch Surface and Failure of Crops Is Result.

WARSAW, Poland, Dec. 16. — That the food shortage in Russia is not necessarily a result of the Soviet regime, but is in a great measure due to internal conditions of the country which were prevalent even in the days of Tsardom, is the opinion of Tadeusz Filipiuk, the Polish minister plenipotentiary in Moscow, as expressed in a recent interview in Warsaw.

"The fact is," Mr. Filipowicz stated, "that famine in Russia is a constantly recurring misfortune in some districts or another every year it breaks out. To a large extent this is due to the bad state of transport. During the rule of Tsardom the same thing happened.

"The present famine, however, is worse than usual and embraces a larger extent of the country. It can only be compared to the one in the year 1921. Partly, however, it is due to the ignorance and neglect of the peasants in famine-stricken districts on the River Volga, who actually do not plow the land at all, but only scratch the earth with wooden hook plows, which, of course, do not go down deep enough. The proof of this is that in the very same districts where there are German colonists these latter are still suffering from hunger at all, as they plow properly, and the corn sown lower down has been able to withstand the effects of the sun and drought. Further, in all the model nationalized estates now managed by the Soviets only 40 per cent of arable land is under cultivation; the remaining 60 per cent remains waste. No wonder that the production of corn has decreased."

Committee Arrested.

It is the opinion of Mr. Filipowicz that it has proved a great mistake on the part of Dr. Nansen to allow the Soviet government to take over the control of the relief work instead of leaving it in the hands of the committee as was at first intended. The result has been the immediate arrest of all the members of the committee, under the pretext of counter-revolutionary tendencies, and the direction of the food out of the proper channels and partly into the provisioning of the Red army. The people most in need of help, said Mr. Filipowicz, unfortunately do not get it, but the army receives better rations. Above all, if people want to relieve the real sufferers, they must give nothing to the government but try to get into direct contact with the people.

According to the Polish charge d'affaires, the Soviet government in Moscow is still strong and successfully combats the sporadic attempts of insurrection which take place all over the country. In Moscow itself, there is food in plenty for those who can pay for it. As regards the mutual relations of the Polish legation and the Russian authorities the situation is one of extreme difficulty. According to the preliminary of the Riga peace treaty, Russia was bound immediately to free the Polish war prisoners and the Polish hostages. But up to the present time several thousand prisoners of war and hostages are still in Russian concentration camps. On the other hand Russia is sending in masses of Jews and of former imperial officials who before the war worked zealously at the Russification of Poland.

Property Ruined.

Furthermore, according to the Riga treaty, Russia was to pay Poland the first rate of indemnity on July 1, and on Sept. 1 the second rate. Up to this time she paid nothing. Another article of the treaty bound Russia to return to Poland all her possessions, objects of art, libraries and so forth taken from her. Meanwhile the Polish committee which has gone to Russia for the purpose of arranging this return is unable to get to work on account of the sabotage of Russian officials and at the same time

the Polish members of the delegation must look on powerlessly while Polish property that should be re-occupied is given away to Russian institutions, ruined and sold.

Lastly the Russian charge d'affaires in Warsaw recently accused Poland in the press of giving hospitality to Russians who were in Poland organizing armed action against the Communist government in Russia. Now the Russian charge d'affaires has convinced himself that his accusations were founded on false documents, which had been sold to him for large sums of money. He ought, of course, to have openly withdrawn his charges, but neither has he done this, nor will he admit that in Russia the government finances Communist organizations which plan terrorist attempts in Poland, that it has verified that members of the Russian Mission support with money revolutionary Communist agitation, still more that the Russian government itself has organized a "Polish red army" and has even invited the Polish legation in Moscow to a review organized by Trotsky where among the Russian troops is a division of the "Polish Communist army!"

Relations Strained.

"At the same time," the Polish minister continued, "official Russian organs do not hesitate to issue the war cry 'Hurrah for the Soviet government in Poland.' If I add to this still, that in its relations with the Polish legation in Moscow the Russian government does not observe the most elementary forms of civilized behavior it is clear how extremely strained are the relations at the present day between the two nations. Russia bases its present policy toward Poland on the assumption that she will be able in a short time to organize a Communist revolt here. But in this case the Soviet government takes the 'will for the deed.'"

Mr. Filipowicz does not fear a recurrence of war between Poland and the Bolsheviks. The Soviet government, he says, is economically so weak that it will be unable to carry on a war. Just lately the Russian telegraphic agency has spread information that Poland intends attacking Russia. This information is, he states, only one more piece of bluff for the purpose of hiding the fact that Russia does not desire to wish to fulfill her obligations toward Poland. Poland does not want war, but she cannot allow that a year after the victory of Warsaw, Polish prisoners should be tortured in Russia, and that on the frontiers of Poland harrying should organize a propaganda having as its aim the destruction not alone of Poland, but of all the other states of Europe and America.

Mr. Filipowicz has no fear that the Polish peasant and worker will succumb to Bolshevism. He has confidence in the good sense and patriotism lesson conveyed by the condition to which Communism has reduced a country of such vast resources as Russia.

## CHINESE TRADE IN MEXICAN DOLLARS

Peking Government Has Never Minted Coin Acceptable by All Its Subjects.

PEKING, Dec. 16. — Few Canadians know that the Mexican dollar is a common medium of exchange in China; that a Chinaman living in Shanghai, who goes to Hongkong is as much at home in the use of the dollar as much as a Canadian; that a foreigner who goes to China to open up a new business enterprise must first secure the services of a comprador or go-broker, to transact his business for him before he can enter into business relations with the Chinese merchants.

Primarily, China's standard of currency is the fact, the pre-war value being about 60 cents United States gold; but China has no accepted minted coinage; the tael is merely a symbol upon which they base their prices. "Chinese cash," brass coins with little square holes in the center, being paid for small purchases, coolie hire, etc., while the Mexican dollar is used where actual money changes hands.

First Coin Spanish.

China has never minted a coin of her own which has been accepted by the Chinese themselves as a whole. The first coin to come into China was the Spanish Carolus dollar, introduced by the Spaniards from the Philippines; the date of its advent into China is uncertain. In 1854 the Mexican dollar first appeared in China, called the "eagle dollar" by the Chinese by reason of the eagle on the face of the coin, and since that time the Mexican dollar has held sway in China.

Local silvermints in China were induced from time to time to coin a Chinese dollar, but this led to so much counterfeit money being minted by the silvermints that the coins were never favorably accepted by the Chinese.

In 1887, however, it was decided to open a mint in Canton, but it was not until 1890 that the mint was in actual operation, and the Chinese accepted the coin for its weight value rather than as a currency.

One reads and hears much about the brass cash pieces, which are about the only form of currency the poorer people ever see or handle; there are 12 cash pieces to a copper cent, and about 125 copper cents, or 1,250 cash pieces to a Mexican dollar. Even the loose-fitting sack these coolies wear for clothes would not hold a dollar in "change," and the ordinary coolie seldom possesses that amount of money at all at one time.

Language is intricate.

China's language—one might say languages—is as intricate and perplexing as her currency. The foundation of all is the Mandarin dialect, the court language of China, and understood by all educated Chinamen in all parts of China. There are at least seven distinct dialects, or languages, spoken in China, and with these come a host of hundreds of different dialects have sprung up. Each province has a dialect of its own and this is also true of the currency, especially the "cash," as the "cash" of one province is not accepted in another. For the foreigner to attempt to learn Chinese is a difficult task and with the comprador system of doing business, it is hardly worth while from a business standpoint, but interesting if one has the time to devote to its study.

The usual procedure is for the man who desires to open up a business in China, to go to some reputable bank and state his case; the bank in turn will recommend some wealthy Chinaman to act as comprador; we might call such a person a credit man in this country. The comprador gives bond to the bank and the bank in turn guarantees the payment of all accounts of the Chinese firms with whom the comprador does business.

SPITE CHURCH GOING.

LONDON.—The Russian cathedral in the Saxon square, in the center of this city, is being torn down. It had been built 80 years ago by the wife of a former Russian governor of Warsaw, despite the promise of the former king of Poland that the square would remain open.

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PRACTICAL gifts are a daily reminder throughout the year of the good wishes expressed by the giver, and a piece of furniture is the most practical of all gifts. Select them now for the entire family.

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And stocks are beginning to show depletion in some lines. Don't wait until the last day and have to purchase just whatever you can. Select your gifts now, while there is an assortment to select from. You won't regret it. For your convenience our store is open every evening until 9 o'clock.

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## Mahogany Spinnet Desk, \$75.00

Wouldn't this Mahogany Spinnet Desk be just the thing to fill up that empty space in your living-room, to say nothing of its conveniences and attractiveness? It is well supplied with drawers and cubbyholes, where writing materials and the family correspondence may be concealed. Regular value, \$122.50.

## Fumed and Golden Quartered Oak Desks

Two big specials, the first consisting of Fumed and Golden Quarter-Cut Oak Desks. Selling regularly at \$34.00. Special ..... \$19.75

The second special, consisting of the same quality of Desks, in the same finishes, only in a much larger size, and selling regularly at \$40 and \$46. Special ..... \$23.00

## FLOOR LAMPS, TABLE LAMPS ARE EVER POPULAR GIFTS

Mahogany Lamp Standards, in several beautiful designs, including Jacobean, wired complete, double sockets. Priced very specially at ..... \$20.00

Silk Shades for above standards. We have a goodly assortment, but it would be impossible to describe them in this space. Prices range up from ..... \$19.95

Floor Lamps, complete, with silk shade. Special ..... \$22.00

Give a Table Lamp. Every home can use more than one of these useful and ornamental gifts. A new shipment has just arrived, so that you are able to make a good selection. Prices range from ..... \$15.00 up



## Mantel Clocks

Make ideal gifts—and we have one we are selling special at just ..... \$15

## Nut Bowls

Mahogany, complete with nut-crackers and picks, only ..... \$2.00

## RAG MATS.

Regular \$1.25, special 79c, and regular \$1.50, special, 98c.

## CHENILLE MATS

Size 27x54; colors, mauve and grey; regular \$6.50, special ..... \$3.95

## These Choice Rugs Make Acceptable Gifts

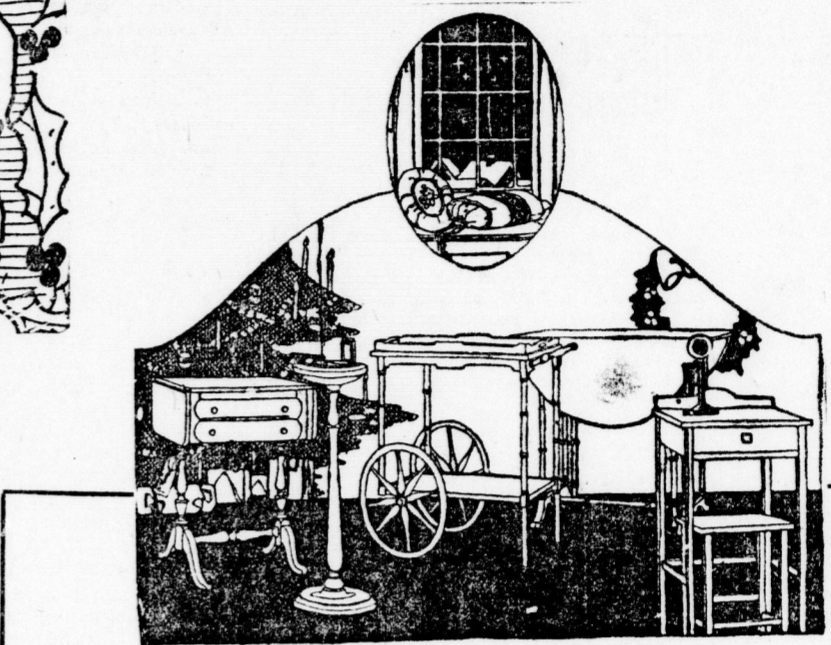
A new Rug has the knack of transforming the entire appearance of a room. If some room in your home looks dull, nine times out of ten it will take on a lighter and cheerier tone by the addition of a new rug. Our comprehensive assortment gives unusual opportunity to select one to your particular need and liking. There is no more suitable gift to the home from the family.

Wilton and Axminster Rugs, sizes 3x3 and 2½x3, regular \$70.00, \$74.50 and \$85.00. Special ..... \$43.50

Wilton and Axminster Rugs, size 3x3½, regular \$62.50, \$85.00 and \$97.50. Special ..... \$56.00

Wilton Rugs, size 2½x3½, regular \$20.00 and \$21.00. Special ..... \$10.95

Brussels or Tapestry Rug, size 3x3½, regular \$38.25 to \$45.00. Special ..... \$45.00



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Fumed Oak Smoker's Cabinet. Regular \$23.00. Special ..... \$19.20	97-Piece Dinner Set. Regular \$28.00. Special ..... \$18.75
Mahogany Humidor. Special ..... \$21.50	Down or Pure Wool Comforter. Regular \$22.50. Special ..... \$13.50
Smoking Stand, mahogany ..... \$1.95	Electric Washer ..... \$100 and \$125
Brass Smoking Stand. Regular \$7.00. Special ..... \$5.60	Fumed or Golden Oak Sectional Bookcase. Special ..... \$32.00
Glass Ash Receivers, mahogany base ..... 95c	Walnut Gate Leg Tables. Regular \$30.00. Special ..... \$23.95
Golden Oak Pedestal ..... \$9.25	Fumed Oak Telephone Table. Special ..... \$26.00
Mahogany Pelestal ..... \$11.95	Walnut and Mahogany Consol Tables. Regular \$38.00. Special ..... \$30.40
Jardiniere Stands, fumed and golden oak and mahogany. Regular \$7.95. Special ..... \$2.95	Walnut and Mahogany Consol Mirrors. Regular \$23.00. Special ..... \$18.00
Reed Chair or Rocker, tapestry seats ..... \$19.45	Red Cedar Chest. Regular \$26.00. Special ..... \$18.95
Mahogany Tea Tray ..... \$3.95	Leather Club Bags. Special ..... \$10.00, \$15.00, \$25.00 to \$32.50
Fumed Oak Sewing Stand ..... \$4.95	Wardrobe Trunks, Special ..... \$85.00
Mahogany Candlesticks ..... \$1.05, \$2.00 and \$2.40	Reed Fernery. Special ..... \$12.50
Reed Dinner Wagon. Regular \$33.00. Special ..... \$26.40	Walnut Hall Tree. Special ..... \$9.25
Walnut Dinner Wagon. Regular \$42.50. Special ..... \$33.00	

## Gifts that make Better Homes

## Three-Piece Chesterfield Suites

Consisting in a comfortable and well upholstered chesterfield, large arm chair and rocker, each piece built to last a lifetime. The upholstery material is an excellent grade of English tapestry. Then you may pay just a small amount down and have it delivered in time for Christmas—another big feature is that it's not expensive, the three pieces selling for ..... \$130

## A Rocker

For an Informal Corner

Can't you imagine how mother will love to sew or read in this comfortable rocker after the day's housework is done? So comfy, and yet so good-looking. Mahogany or walnut, with cane panel backs, seats, loose tapestry, velour or mohair cushion. Pay just \$5.00 down, and the balance \$2.00 per week.

\$29.50

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## FOR ONE CENT

By purchasing one box of this Stationery at our regular price we give you the privilege of purchasing a second box of equal value for one cent. See to it that stationery is included in your gift list.

Keep Your Eyes On

# THOMAS

240 Dundas Street



## Headache

Recurring headaches usually come from an exhaustion of the nervous system, and they do not disappear until the vigor of the nerve cells is restored by such up-building treatment as Dr. Chase's Nerve Food.

Temporary relief by use of powders is often obtained at an enormous expense to the nervous system and the general health.

Get the nerves right and the headaches will not return.

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"My system became run-down and I suffered greatly with pain in my head. This was so severe that I would have to bind a cloth tightly about my head so that I could get my work done. A friend advised the use of Dr. Chase's Nerve Food, and after taking the first box I found quite an improvement in my condition. I continued using them until I had taken about seven boxes, and they strengthened and built up my system splendidly, completely relieving the pain in my head."

Dr. Chase's Nerve Food, 50c a box, all dealers, or Edmondson, Bates & Co., Limited, Toronto.