

## UNITED STATES WILL WAIT FOR RUSSIA TO REVEAL HERSELF

American Attitude Toward the Bolshevik in Their Hour of Triumph—Germans Have Not Forgotten the Importance of Russia in the Affairs of the World in the Future.

Washington, Feb. 24.—With the Allied Supreme Council in session in London to deal with the more immediate problems left over from the peace negotiations in Paris, the recent interest in manifested here as to what attitude will be taken toward the Russian situation, the largest and most important of the problems left to be dealt with.

In the best opinion here, the Russian problem has become the world's problem because its solution, one way or the other will probably have greater influence on the history of the world than the settlement of almost any other pending international question. This has long been well recognized in Washington, but there is increasing evidence that it is also being more realized abroad.

"To secure the full blessings of peace and prosperity in Europe," declared King George in his speech from the throne at the recent opening of the British Parliament, "it is essential that not only peace but normal conditions of life should be restored in Eastern Europe and in Russia. So long as these vast regions withhold their full contribution from the stock of commodities for general consumption, the cost of living can hardly be reduced or general prosperity be restored to the world." And the British Premier, David Lloyd George, declared that "Europe could not be restored without settling Russia, with all her strength and resources, into circulation."

### Germany Sees the Point

Almost simultaneously hints have cropped out of Germany reminding the allied world that Germany imperialists, military, financial and economic have not forgotten the importance of Russia in the affairs of the world and its future. A fortnight ago Ludendorff spoke of the Bolshevik danger and urged that "every one should unite to fight the encroachments of a common danger. But, after the allied demand for the surrender of German war equipment had been submitted to the Berlin government, Ludendorff was credited with having asserted that he possessed a strong feeling to unite with Soviet Russia with the view to a Russo-German alliance against the allied world.

None of these developments has caused any real surprise in well-informed circles in Washington, where it has been thought all along that, from the viewpoint, both of politics and economics, Russia is going to be one of the most important elements in determining the world's future. The conviction has long been quite clear that the Russian problem bears a great and intricate relation to the development both of Europe and America, and that it should be studied and settled along broad and rational lines, with a view to the world's welfare rather than along the narrow and restricted channels of mere monetary political advantage.

### Look to Future Russia.

Since British and German leaders have now taken up prominently the idea that Russia must be regarded as one of the most important elements in the general international settlement, it is again opportune to recapitulate the American point of view toward the problem.

"The most important element in the American attitude is the fact that leaders of thought here are not looking so much at the changes and fluctuations of the moment in the Russian situation, however, deplorable these have been during the past year, American national policy toward Russia is being shaped with broad-gauged vision as to what this country hopes Russia will be tomorrow, rather than on the basis of what Soviet Russia happens to be today.

The Russia of the future, the Russia that is going to live in the future family of nations, is what those in control of American policies are thinking of in their handling of day-to-day developments in Russia and Siberia, and behind their policy is the ideal that no step should be taken at present, which, although for the moment they might seem expedient, would in the long run injure the relations of the United States in their future dealings with Russia. If such steps could tend to set up a barrier of hostility between the Russia that is to be, and the democratic nations of the world they would be fraught with the worst possibilities in the politics and economics of the future.

Whatever may happen, meanwhile, there is no doubt among well-informed men in Washington that Russia will rise again and become a strong and important factor in the family of nations. Even those who, like some elements in England, believe that Russia can be weakened must reckon with the fact that the mere weakening of Russia through partial dismemberment will still find that the heart of European Russia contains a compact body of more than 100,000,000 Slavs, and that history has demonstrated that this great mass has been able to buffet and outlive the storms of centuries, coming both from east and west.

The only way in which new Russia could be obliged to a strong factor in the present family of Allied nations, in the best opinion here, would be for the Allies to shape their policy toward her so as to drive her, for a time, under German control. This would tend the vast man power and immeasurable potential resources of Russia to the arms of the Germans. Nobody here desires to see that outcome. The hope here is that Russia, strong and restored, may become instead of a danger to democratic nations, a positive benefactor, working with the world in the line of those achievements that have made America a world power, and laboring for those ideals for which the World War was fought, and militarily won.

### A Potential Likeness

There are close resemblances between present Russia and what the United States was before the present crisis and trials of the American West

gave way to the transcontinental railways of today. Just as the American West once awaited intensive development and became in turn the greatest nitrogenous food resource of the world, as well as a region of mines and factories, so the immense stretch of territory in Russia offers opportunities of the greatest possibility for economic and industrial development. There seems no real reason why this vast restored land should not become imperialistic or militaristic, since she has reached both the Baltic and the Black Sea and taken possession of the sea outlets she needs neither annexation nor territorial aggrandizement. Recognition of this fact made Russia more peaceful toward the end of the nineteenth century and led to the Anglo-Russian rapprochement of 1907.

The great problems before Russia, after the elimination of Bolshevism, will be educational and economic, the education of the Slav masses to the best standards of European and American civilization, improvement in self-government, and, above all, an intensive development of potential resources along the lines of American industrial and agricultural production after the civil war—a task great enough to command the attention and effort of the Russian people for a century. One reason, in fact, why so many Americans are looking out of the present into the future, so far as Russia is concerned, and why they oppose dealing with Soviet Russia and want to see a restored, united and democratic Russia as a sincere and peaceful co-partner in the international field is a belief that there is a similarity of national conditions and common aims between the peoples of the two nations.

There can be no suspicion on Russia's part of American capital going into the development of a new Russia. There would be great suspicion among Russians of German capital going into Russia, based on the fact that ultimately the Germans would enslave new Russia on the cross of territorial conquest, as soon as Germany was again ready to seek a "place in the sun."

All of these circumstances have swung best American opinion around to the belief that a strong, united and democratic Russia, rising from the shadows of the present crisis, is a prerequisite and essential factor in the restoration of Europe by putting Russian strength and resources "into circulation."

Many Americans, officials as well as others, consider it necessary that Russia should thereby be aided to reconstruction and restoration along such lines, so that she can become an active co-partner of the United States in the future family of nations.

Anglo-American friendship, and its maintenance, is regarded as one of the most important keys to the whole international situation. A new element of the present situation is the fact, well understood in Washington, that deep-thinking opinion in England and the United States is now beginning to realize that co-operation between America, England and a restored, united and democratic Russia would become the greatest possible political and economic combination for the future peace and security of the world.

Realizing these elements of the situation, the best American opinion sees that anything done now in the shaping of policy on the Russian issue, must be predicated upon this prospect.

Bolshevik Impermanency.

Despite the present state of Bolshevik military triumph, close analysis of the situation discloses some signs of interior deterioration in the Soviet regime. One is that Soviet Russia is at present busily engaged seeking peace. Peace has been signed with Germany and an armistice with Latvia, Poland, which was threatened with concentrated invasion early last spring, has been approached. Soviet Russia wants the trade barrier lifted and seeks commerce direct with the allied powers.

In perspective of the sincerity of these Soviet peace overtures, which might be designed to afford the Bolsheviks a new breathing spell, preliminary to resumption of military and revolutionary activities, the very fact that at the height of their greatest success the Bolshevik leaders now ask for peace is significant. One interpretation of this apparent contradiction is that Soviet Russia, at this particular juncture, does not care to irritate England. Another is that while the Bolshevik leaders have been able to build up a good army, they cannot make a successful military drive eastward under the present conditions of disorganized transport, and supply in Russia. If Lenin wants success in Poland and Germany, he cannot tend toward an ill-supplied army such as would invade in forage and rapine without stirring the population of those countries into rising in self-defense against his hordes.

It is believed here that Lenin has now realized that he has been traveling in a vicious circle. Economic conditions compel him to carry Bolshevism into the rest of the world in order to make his experiment a success in Russia.



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as, while these same economic conditions will not permit him, through lack of supplies and disorganized railways, to undertake such a movement without temporary peace in which to remedy them. Possibly for breathing spell.

The danger of Bolshevism, however, has not vanished as a result of these developments may undermine Lenin but it is still insisted that until he and his system do collapse, he will entertain visions of invasion and plans to spread revolution through the rest of the world.

A Policy of Waiting.

Considerable hope is entertained that negotiating interior developments in Russia will pave the way for the ultimate collapse of the Soviet regime, despite its present military success. There is a strong belief founded on basic conceptions, that Bolshevism cannot become a permanent institution in Russia. With its collapse there must come into existence the reconstructive forces of national democracy. Therefore, while at present it is difficult to outline a "practical policy" in the present complicated situation, it is considered to be far-sighted political statesmanship to assume a correct "general attitude toward Russia, with a view to the future, rather than to undertake, at this time, to formulate a plan for immediate practical procedure.

The correct general attitude is outlined as being for the American and Allied Governments to turn their backs on the Bolshevik conquerors, to refuse to deal with a purely destructive force, and to await the restoration of Russia by real constructive forces of Russia. Such an attitude would mean that the Allied Powers and the United States were awaiting the emergence of new forces in Russia, with good will and friendship, it would let those who are working for real regeneration in the east remain in power, and the treasure of Russian sovereignty and unity was being held in trust by the Allies, pending the time when the reconstructionists are in a position to undertake the restoration of Russia along stable Democratic lines.

Provincial Claims.

(Montreal Gazette.)

The premiers of Manitoba and Saskatchewan have been in conference on the old question of obtaining for their province control of the natural resources, which are administered by the Dominion. The provinces now receive annual subsidies in lieu of these resources. The Dominion Government has been willing to give over the lands to the provinces, but the latter insist upon retaining the subsidies as well. Their present attitude ensures the enjoyment of the annual grant and of the revenue which is not without a political value.

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## FEAR FOR SAFETY OF WELL KNOWN GUIDE

Henry Braithwaite of Fredericton Has Not Been Heard from in Several Months—Parties Searching Woods.

Fredericton, March 4.—Henry Braithwaite, veteran trapper and probably the best known hunter's guide in America, has not been heard from for several months, and parties of woodmen are being sent into his hunting grounds on the Miramichi to see if any trace can be found of him.

Last November "Uncle Henry," as he is familiarly known to scores of the most noted big game hunters and leaders in industry and business of Europe, as well as America, started alone for his camps on the Miramichi to spend the winter there trapping, and as he had been his custom except under unusual circumstances, he refused to entertain suggestions that anybody should accompany him.

In all the twelve years that have since passed, no living being has seen the 75-year old trapper so far as known, while mail which before leaving he ordered sent in January to a box he had placed at the point of his trapping trail passed the settlements outside, was still there a few days ago when investigators first commenced to look for the aged guide.

Relatives here seem to be about ready for the worst kind of news. "We cannot help but fear that death has overcome him," one said today, "but if it has we know that it he had to go nothing would hurt him better than to have the end come in the woods, where he loved to be."

## OUR OWN MOVIES

HIS DOUBLE, ARE YOU ME?, WHY NO, OF COURSE NOT, HOW ABSURD!

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