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PROBLEMS FACING STRICKEN WORLD

Shall Chaos or Reconstruction
in Europe Follow the Great
World War?

POLAND NOW STANDING ALONE

Heroic Nation, Herself in Dire Need,
Is the Only Barrier to Bolshevism,
Fighting the Battle for
Civilization.

By FRANK COMERFORD.

The problems of Russia and unrest are up to the nations of the world. Russia's problem affects the world. It must be solved by the powers in concert. Its solution will make the first step toward rest. The complete solution of the problem of unrest must be decided by each nation in its own way.

I asked two important Slav leaders for their opinions as to the proper policy the world should adopt toward the bolsheviks, and the Russian problem. In Prague I spoke to President Masaryk of Czecho-Slovakia; in Warsaw I interviewed General Pilsudski, president of Poland. Both answered the question in practically the same words: "Leave Russia alone; let the Russian people solve the Russian question."

What is the Russian situation? A minority has seized the government and is holding it by force. The form of government adopted cannot last. Communism will destroy itself if given sufficient rope. Already it has destroyed production and brought on chaos. The great danger bolshevism offers the outside world is its effort to organize the unrest of the world and lead it to revolution.

Poland's Hard Position.

Poland is the barrier holding the "Red" wave of bolshevism back. Poland is a new state. It is almost as big as France in population and about the size of Germany in area. Three thrones fell to make a presidential seat for the Polish republic—Austria, Russia and Germany. The Polish people are intense in their patriotism. They are individualists. They are against the "Red" terror. But Poland is poor, terribly poor. The war brought her to the point of hunger. She is now facing starvation. She is doing world guard duty. Her army is holding closed the door of bolshevik Russia. It is an army made up of men of zeal and determination. I have never seen men sustain their spirit under more trying conditions. Think of men without shoes facing the "Red" army; hunger and cold attacking them, but standing in their places holding the front. When I was in Europe in October, 1919, I saw this magnificent army. Forty per cent of them were without shoes. There were less than 10,000 outfits for 350,000 men. They were hungry, they were cold. Back home their loved ones were not hungry, they were starving; they were not cold, they were freezing. Still these men stood at their posts. I talked the matter over with the chief of staff, General Pilsudski, and I shall never forget the manner, the tone and the words of this Roosevelt of the Slavs.

"Our army will hold the pass; the 'Red' terror will not bring the torch to Europe unless winter and want force us to retreat. Chattering teeth and pain pinched stomachs will kill the morale of any army in time. The indomitable spirit of our men has withstood hardships that might have destroyed an army made up of men less inflamed with the passion to make secure their newly achieved freedom. We are without transportation facilities even for the front. Our soldiers are ragged and hungry. They do not complain, nor do I complain for them, but facts are facts and these facts belong to the world. Our army is fighting a world cause and against a world evil. Civilization is in the balance and every citizen of civilization has a right to know the conditions under which Poland is doing world guard duty.

Fight Under Frightful Conditions.

"We have no ambulances at the front and our soldiers going into battle know that if they are wounded and are not fortunate enough to fall near a field hospital, they are doomed to die of neglect and exposure or come to death by torture from Chinese mercenaries who make up the torture battalion of the 'Red' army. We have no antiseptics and our wounded men are exposed to a gangrenous death. We are without anesthetics and wounded men are required to submit to operations while keenly alive to every sensation of the knife.

"Help must come, and it must come soon. Our troops are willing to fight on; this is their glorious spirit, but they are only flesh and there is a point at which the finest spirit surrenders to cold and hunger and pain."

Appeals were made to the peace table for help. They fell on deaf ears. Great stocks of clothing were locked up in England and France while the Polish army shivered at the bolshevik front. I saw locomotives and empty freight cars on the side tracks in Europe at the time Poland was fighting the world's fight and crying for transportation.

The bolsheviks must be shut in. They must be confined to Russia. If

the "Red" army breaks through Poland, Europe will blaze and bleed from revolution. Poland stands at the gate, guarding the pass. She is not fighting Poland's fight; she is not fighting for territory or war spoils. She is trying to hold back the threatening terror. It is the duty of the world to come to her support generously. It is not enough to help her with munitions and army equipment. To keep up the morale of the Polish army it is necessary to help the home flank. Poland does not want charity. She asks for her due. She is morally entitled to support. If she is not given it, she will crumble before the onslaught of the Reds; the world will pay the price. She is starting her life as a nation. By her position in Europe she is called upon to hold back the revolutionary horde, the bolshevik terror. In the meantime she must build her house and organize her life. She needs credit to do this. It is her crying need. It must be forthcoming. Dollars and pounds and francs will be worth much less than they are today if Poland, the keystone of the arch, is allowed to fall. This is a question the allies must answer. America is vitally interested and should lead in the response.

If we can hold the bolsheviks in Russia and keep Europe free from this menace, bolshevism will die a natural death. In the meantime we should adopt a policy and bend our energies to carry out that policy. Russia is made up of co-operative societies. I believe 20,000,000 Russians are enrolled in these organizations. The people trust their own co-operative societies. They do not trust the bolshevik government. The majority in Russia are against bolshevism; they are victims of it. Why should not we arrange, if possible, to help the starving people of Russia through these societies? Without recognizing the bolsheviks it is entirely possible to make an arrangement under the terms of which allied help can be given to the majority of the people in Russia, the people whom it is the interest of the world to save. If such an offer is made and the bolshevik government does not agree to it, an uprising in Russia, increased opposition to the bolshevik government, would weaken its power. Such a proposal was made at one time, and I believe President Wilson favored it, but because of the lack of team work at the peace table and the absence of a definite plan it failed to get beyond the discussion stage.

Let Russia Find Herself.

Let us take our troops out of Siberia; let us leave Russia alone. She will find herself sooner if we do. Let us convince the Russian people that we are their friends. Let the nations of the world acting through the League of Nations compel Japan to keep her hands off Siberia. Let our friendly co-operation make unnecessary and impossible further German penetration of Russia. Let us not encourage Denikines, Yudenichs, Petluras and Kolchaks. Let us, by our acts, convince the Russian people that we want them to have self-determination and that we are not planning to put upon them a reactionary government. With the end of military movements in Russia inspired from the outside, there will be no reason for the "Red" army. The people will compel its demobilization. The soldiers who make up the "Red" army will be eager to get back to civil life. There will be no invaders in Russia to give morale to troops and a reason for a big army. With the passing of the army the soviet government will crumble.

The majority in Russia want a free, democratic government. They will get it if left to themselves. Russia is rich. The establishment of order in Russia, the reorganization of its life, will contribute much to making Europe solvent. I do not mean that Russia is to be exploited. What I have in mind is that a productive Russia will help feed the world and furnish it with raw material. Russia in normal times before the war exported more grain from Black sea ports than the United States and Canada combined. We should not be afraid of bolshevik propaganda. All we need do is to abandon our policy of calling names and abusing our own people by calling them bolsheviks, when they are not. We have the truth on our side. Why not use our resources to get the facts about bolshevism to the people? There is no occasion for secrecy or mystery. Few people in America would entertain bolshevik leanings if they understood the program of bolshevism and knew the methods adopted by the bolsheviks. The press, the pulpit, the platforms are available. Open the schools, the churches, the lodges, the labor meetings, the community centers and expose the crime against the world. The getting together will do us good.

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Aerial Searchlights.

The British air ministry announces that, as an emergency to assist belated aircraft to locate their airdromes after dusk, it has been arranged for vertical searchlight beams to be projected from the official airdromes from about dusk till all service machines have arrived. From Hounslow airdrome there will be one beam, from Kenley two beams, and from Limpsie three beams arranged in a triangle.—Scientific American.

Valuable Chemical Discovery.

A discovery of French chemists is that by coating the interior of containers with aluminum paint the accumulation of deposits which come from hard water may be prevented.—Journal of Industrial, Engineering Chemistry.

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