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This Paper.

ALLIED FORCE IN SIBERIA IS MUCH HAMPERED

Not Army of Occupation, but to Aid the Government.

MUST STAND ASIDE

And Let Russians Decide How They Are to Be Ruled.

(By W. E. Playfair, official correspondent with the Canadian Forces In Siberia.)

Vladivostok, Cable.—The Allied forces in Siberia are not here as an army of occupation. Their functions are rather to co-operate in every possible way with the Government and army of Russian in restoring order in the country.

This is a point that must be seriously considered in reviewing the work being performed by Allied troops in this territory. It also indicates the tremendous difficulty and extreme delicacy of the situation from the standpoint of the Allied generals. On the one hand undue interference in Russion national affairs must be carefully avoided. On the other no opportunity is to be lost of strengthening the hands of the de facto Government in its efforts to bring political and economic order out of the existing chaos. It is at once apparent that the task calls for considerable tact and repression.

It is, as stated, no part of the Allied policy to criticise the various steps by which the Russian people are working out their own political salvation, although, of necessity, the Russian Government as it exists to-day in the Siberian city of Omsk has been formally recognized by the Allied Governments. It is expedient that there be some admitted central authority in the country as a basis to work from. Apart form its campaign against the pro-German Bolsheviki, the Allied policy appears to be to stand aside and let Russians decide how Russians are to be ruled.

THE POLITICAL SITUATION.

This is not an easy position, due to the complex political situation that has arisen since the Bolshevik propaganda confused all men's minds in Russia in political and economic proprietites. Without admitting of any criticism or comment, Canadian readers, who are represented by a Canadian unit in the Allies here, may be interested in a summary of the political situation in the country. This situation has been altered and further complicated by the famous November coup d'etat, by which Admiral Kolchak, formerly of the Russian Black Sea fleet, overthrew the All-Russian Government sitting at Omsk and assumed the reins of power as dictator.

From the point of view of the Kolchak party that coup d'etat was as successful as it was sudden. On the whole the new dictator has been accepted unquestioningly, but there have been certain exceptions to this general rule. For instance, certain of the Czecho-Slovak councils protested against the part played in the accession of Kolchak by the Czech forces, complaining that it was no part of Czech policy to interfere in Russian domestic politics. But the most interesting protest, and one that wields great influence in this Russian Far East, was that of certain Cossack elements in Siberia. To-day there are two Cossack armies between Lake Baikal and the Pacific which remain in the field and refuse to recognize the Kolchak Government. While recognizing Kolchak, the Allies are in the delicate position of not being able to openly oppose the hostile Cossacks. This is one illustration of the delicate position occupied by our forces in the Far East.

At the time of the coup d'etat there were three main Russian armies in the field against the Bolsheviki. In the Black Sea area were Gen. Alexieff and Gen. Deneikin, with their victorious following of Don Cossacks. In the Urals was Gen. Dutov with his army, co-operating with the Czechs, while a force of Cossacks was operating in the vicinity of Chita, where the Manchurian Railway line joins with the Trans-Siberian. This force has rendered the greatest services in assisting the Czechs to open railway communication with the coast at the time the country was largely held by Bolsheviki.

OPPOSED KOLCHAK.

With the Cossacks in Siberia were two young squadron commanders, Semienev and Kulmukov, and these refused to submit to the Kolchak regime, sending word to the dictator that they would be satisfied to accept in his place General Alexieff, General Deneikin, or General Dutov. Otherwise, they threatened, they would take the field against the dictator. Kolchak's reply was to despatch an army under General Volkov to compel the submission of the youthful officers, and this expedition is now somewhere along the railway line leading from the Urals to Chita.

Semienov and Kulmukov have been informed since that not one of the three generals they mentioned would be willing to accept the dictatorship, but that intimation has not apparently altered their decision. Russian rumor has it that there is back of the defection personal bad blood between Semienov and Kolchak.

The careers of Semienov and Kulmukov afford one of the romances of the revolution. The former is now 29 years old and the latter only 26. Both served with distinction against the Bolsheviki. On their defection from Kochak they promoted themselves at once to be generals, and they are now addressed as "general" in despatches from the headquarters at Omsk. Semienov is now at Chita, whence come rumors of a rule with iron hand, while Kulmukov is at Khabarovsk, on the Amur River. Each has a considerable following.

There is no doubt that the two have been a sore thorn in the side of the de facto government, for they have an unpleasant habit of intercepting and commandeering mail and supply trains bound for the interior from Vladivostok and Harbin. An armored train is one of the Semienov's valued possessions. In to-day's Russian newspapers here there is printed an appeal from Gen. Dutov, commander of the Kolchak forces in the Urals, to Semienov, asking him to refrain from the practice of intercepting supply trains. To hamper the work of the Government is, according to Dutov, to work a serious hardship on the Russian people, and more especially on the Cossacks themselves. Dutov, like Semienov, is a Cossack.

INTERFERE IN E. SIBERIA.

Semienov has gone so far as to interfere with the dictator's plans and orders with regard to Eastern Siberia. For instance, despite the fact that the new Russian army, formed to free the country from the Bolsheviki, was a strictly volunteer institution, it has been found advisable to impose conscription in Western Siberia. Kolchak sent orders that there should be mobilization in the Russian Far East as well. Semienov sends back the reply: "No. I will attend to that when I have leisure." According to reports here, mobilization has been actually carried out at Irkutsk, Oofa, Omsk, Samara and other western centres.

This is, of course, a decided departure. In old Russia, that is imperial Russia, every adult was a soldier. From revolution days it has been the rule that army and navy should be purely volunteer. The Russian troops now in Vladivostok belong to the "new Russian army," formed here of volunteers after the Czechs defeated the Bolsheviki in the town. The vessels in the harbor are manned by volunteers. Incidentally there appears to be a decided public sentiment against conscription, as smacking too much of the old imperial regime. With this sentiment, as well as with the aberrations of Gen. Semienov, the Allies have not actively concerned themselves, both being matters for the Russians themselves to settle. The youthful Cossack general, it may be stated parenthetically, has not, as yet, interfered with any allied train, and it is not considered likely that he will.

Semienov Cossacks may be seen any day in the streets of Vladivostok, mingling with the soldiers of every land. The Siberian Cosack may be easily distinguished from other tribes of Cossacks from the fact that he wears a yellow band down the side of his breeches. There are many varieties of Cossack, and each variety has its distinctive trousers band. A police reporter in Vladivostok might draw attention to the fact that Cossacks and Russian volunteer sailors do not agree very well. When a band of sailors falls in at night with a group of Cossacks in the street there is sure to be a fight. This may be because the sailors are all Kolchak men, or it may be that both parties dearly love to "mix it."

GREAT HUN ARMY THING OF PAST

Organized Force is Now 300,000 to 500,000

And Poor Morale Makes Them Useless.

Coblenz, Cable.—According to estimates by the officers of the American 3rd army based upon reports from all parts of Germany, the organized German army now located in various depots numbers from 300,000 to 500,000 men. The reports indicate that these soldiers are of such morale that they hardly will be available for operations of any extent. The number of men in the army, reports reaching Coblenz suggest, is decreasing rapidly.

The new volunteer army numbers between 100,000 and 300,000 men of doubtful morale as they have not yet been organized fully or tested fairly. The volunteer army which is being organized for the purpose of stopping Polish and Bolsheviki invasions of Germany territory has 40,000 men in the region of Frankfort-on-the-Oder. Many volunteer battalions also are reported moving eastward.

The organized German army consists of the classes of 1898 and 1899, less some discharged because they live in occupied territory, less large numbers of deserters and less some discharged according to demobilization plans. The officers and non-commissioned officers of this army are men who intend to remain permanently in the service.

BRITISH FORCE ON THE RHINE

Force of 900,000 Men Needed, Say Officials.

Home Service Men to Be Sent Over.

Loudon, Cable.—The regulations governing the armies of occupation are dealt with in an official statement issued to-night by Winston Spencer Churchill, Secretary for War. The statement says:

"The British military commanders are of the opinion that 900,000 men are sufficient for this transition period. All the rest will be demobilized as fast as possible.

"The new armies will begin forming Feb. 1, and will be composed, in the first instance, of those who have enlisted since Jan. 1, 1916, and who do not exceed 37 years of age. Volunteers will be accepted for one year's service from among men otherwise entitled to release, while 69 battalions of young soldiers now on home service will be sent immediately to help guard the Rhine bridgeheads and release the older men.

"The men of the new armies will be paid bonuses ranging from ten shillings and sixpence per week for private, to 42 shillings for colonel, in addition to the ordinary army pay. Leave will be granted on as generous a scale as possible.

"The occupation armies will be the home army, the army of the Rhine, the army of the Middle East, a detachment of the Far North and garrisons of the Crown colonies and India.

"These arrangements seem to be the best advisable for the year 1919. During this year, however, we must remake the old British regular army, so as to provide, on a voluntary basis, overseas garrisons and foreign stations."

In connection with the foregoing the Ministry of Labor announces that no further application for release of individual officers or men on pivotal or special grounds can be considered.

THE RETURN OF OUR FORCE

Recommendations of the Commander, Gen. Currie,

In Regard to Priority in Coming Home.

Ottawa, Report.—The Department of Militia and Defence to-day issued the following statement with regard to priorities of return of troops from overseas, as explained by Lieut.-Gen. Sir Arthur Currie:

As long as the corps constitutes a part of a larger organization such as an army of occupation it must remain a fully organized unit. For that reason it is impossible to demobilize any part in a manner which involves men being withdrawn for any other consideration than a military one. If men are withdrawn on account of length of service, occupation, etc., it is conceivable that all administrative sources of corps would break down and corps become immobile.

As a division is a tactical unit it has been considered wise to demobilize the corps by divisions and for purposes of discipline it is essental to retain them intact. The principle governing demobilization of a division is that men should be sent home by units in order that the organization under which they have been controlled, supplied and fought should remain in existence as long as possible.

When asked to nominate the order of return of units the corps commanded recommended that they be demobilized in the order in which they were formed, first, second, third, fourth. For that reason the first and second divisions were sent to the Rhine first, because at that time it was the intention that all Canadian divisions should go to Germany, and if the first and second went first they could later on be relieved by the third and fourth, after which they would be moved to the base and there get ready for demobilization.

On account of factors governing the military situation it was not found possible to send the third and fourth divisions to Germany, and it was impossible to relieve either the first or second by either the third or fourth. It became necessary to nominate either the third or fourth as the division to be demobilized first. For a similar reason to that which governed the nomination, the corps commander recommended that the third division be demobilized first, to be followed by the first, second and fourth in order named. A certain proportion of the corps troops and troops on line of communication will accompany the divisional troops to Canada. There are so many of the Canadians who were originally in the British Isles, and who wish to see again relatives and parents before they return to Canada, that more applications for leave to England were received than could be granted.

Cordially sympathizing with this desire on the part of the men, and in order that all might be treated on the same basis, it was found that the only possible way in which to meet the wish of the men was that divisions should be returned to Canada via England. This has been arranged.

After the armistice was declared such troops in England as were available were immediately returned to Canada, not including draftees under the Military Service Act. This does not include the Forestry Corps in the British Isles, which has not been released from duty. On Jan. 13 the Adjutant-General overseas issued the following order:

"All personnel who can be made available for return to Canada, other than draftees, are to be returned in accordance with their service groups as laid down in demobilization instructions, volume one, appendix B. No priority of return will be accorded to men by reason of their being in low medical category.

"General officers commanding will arrange selection of men for all future drafts accordingly."

The demobilization instructions referred to above lay down that married men, according to length of service, are to be returned to Canada first and then single men, according to length of service. For this purpose and in order to provide a practical system of priority the overseas military forces of Canada have been divided into 34 service groups, covering a period from 1914 down to December, 1918.

BELGIUM'S DELEGATE.

Belgium is represented at the Peace Congress by Emile Vandervelde, long a Labor leader in Belgian politics.

PEASANT REVOLT BY ROUMANIANS

Vienna, Cable.—A peasant revolution has broken out over the length and breadth of Roumania, according to despatches from Budapest. A simultaneous rising occurred in all the villages at a fixed hour on Saturday, when well-armed home-coming soldiers, heading the insurgents, forced their way into the various towns, resulting in sanguinary encounters with the regular troops. In Bucharest, the despatches say, there was fighting all day long Sunday, the regulars employing machine guns. Many were killed or wounded. Social revolutionists joined in the movement.

INDIA NEEDS FOOD.

High Prices Hard On the Poorer Classes.

London, Cable.—A message from Delhi states that the high foodstuffs prices are inflicting grave hardships upon the poorer classes. The agricultural position of Northern India was made worse by the absence of winter rains. It is difficult to forecast the future, but undoubtedly Government action since the appointment of a Foodstuffs Commissioner has helped to allay apprehension. This is apparent from the prohibition of the exportation of Indian grain and the acquisition of most of the Burma rice crop under favorable conditions, also the promised supplies of Australian wheat which will tend to bring down prices of hoarded stocks.

When a fellow is white all the way through it's because he is filled with the milk of human kindness.

FOUGHT WOLVES AND WILD CAT

Kingston, Report.—Harry Lafond was attacked by wolves and a wild cat at Maberly, South Lanark. He made his escape and called for help. Austin Strong and Don Vanalstine went to his assistance and tried to drive the animals away, and were chased for over a mile and had a narrow escape. Mr. Lafond, who was badly mauled, was taken home. When Stone and Vanalstine were returning home they were chased by a wild cat, but made their escape to a fence, where they secured clubs. There was a battle for a few minutes until the animal was killed. Wolves have been seen since.

OLD FOOD CARTONS

Make Attractive Table Scrap Baskets.

"Why in the world are you Hooverizing all these oatmeal cartons? I always burn mine," said the visitor in astonishment as her friend opened a cupboard and disclosed a shelf filled with a collection of oatmeal cartons, the round kind.

"I will show you," said her friend, leading the way into the living-room and taking an object from the table. "What do you think of that? I call it a table scrap basket."

"A table scrap basket!" exclaimed the visitor. "What could be more useful and what could be prettier?"

"You know," exclaimed her friend, "I always save the odd lengths of wall paper left over. There is a full box in the storeroom. One of these pieces of wall paper is of a wonderful blue, the kind with green in it, a mat tint. I took a carton, cut and fitted the blue paper to it and pasted it on. Then there was another end of wall paper left over from the dining-room frieze. It was a French paper showing a riot of gaily colored birds in a jungle of leaves and flowers. From this paper a rich blue parakeet, balancing on a red stem, was cut and pasted on the darker blue background, taking care to paste it over the seam where the paper on the carton is joined together.

"Then the edges, bottom and top, were bound with furniture guimpe which matches the blue paper. For handles I took two large rings such as are used for curtain pulls, covered them with buttonhole stitching in black, and hung them on either side of the carton, forming little drop handles. The bottom and inside of the carton were dyed a deep red, harmonizing with the touches of red in the parakeet. Other cartons were covered with a light yellow paper and mounted with brown and yellow birds with guimpe to match and black handles.

"My table scrap baskets, I find, make useful and much-appreciated gifts. And that is why I am Hooverizing the oatmeal cartons."

YANK'S HEARTS STAY IN FRANCE

French Singer Defends the French Girls.

Claims Them Better Than American.

Chicago, Report.—"Young sweethearts will come back to you, but you will not be able to keep them. Your soldier boys have been loyal to your memory while in France, but they will be more loyal to the memory of my sisters in France when they return to America."

This warning to Chicago girls and challenge from her sisters across the ocean was flung out yesterday by Yvonne Gall, Parisienne and soprano of the Chicago Grand Opera Company. It was called forth by what the Frenchwoman considered a taunt in a statement that because so few American soldiers married abroad, the girls of France are not attractive.

"The people of my country love the American soldiers," said Mlle. Gall. "They took them into their homes and showed them the home life of France, which is a thing different from the tinsel life of the Paris cafes. The American soldier carried in his heart the ideal of the American sweetheart, and to that ideal he was true, but he learned to know a different sort of girl—the daughter of France. He measured against her the idealized girl of America, to whom a loving memory gave beauty and charm she does not possess, and to that idealized girl he is coming home.

"He will be disappointed. He will be like the man who goes back to his boyhood home after years of new ideals and finds it sordid and a bore. "If the American soldier be the brave sort and brave in love as he has been in war he will go back to this girl in France, or bring her here to him. In the former, it will be a wonderful thing for France; if the latter, it will be a wonderful thing for America.

"Our girls are not cleverer, perhaps, as your American girls, but they are more loveable, more appealing. To the heart of brave, good man. The French girl follows her husband; the American girl wants to lead him.

"The French girl is happy to devote for the man she loves; the American girl demands that the man who loves her do for her. French wives are the helpmates of their husbands, not their slave drivers. French daughters obey their parents, do not dictate to them. French mothers are the teachers of their children, not the servants of them.

"The American boys have seen this—those boys who saw and understood and learned everything so quickly and surely. They have seen what a girl may be and still be loveable and progressive, as our French girls are. They will not be content to be bossed by their American sweetheart any more.

"Your wonderful Blackhawks marches were not long enough in France to learn this, but ask those boys who were there longer, and unless they are afraid some American sweetheart will scratch their eyes out for it, they will tell you I am right."

Miss Gall found a bit of comfort in a statement attributed to Lieut. Fernand Catois, of the French military commission, that 250,000 United States soldiers would take French wives before the army left for home, and the statement of Chaplain Charles Stedman McFarland before the New York Advertising Club that 10,000 Yanks already had married French girls.

ACCEPT WILSON'S SCHEME FOR HUN COLONIES

British Delegates Said to Have Agree dto Compromise Plan Despite the Stiff Protests From the Dominions' Delegates.

Paris, Cable.—The Supreme Council met at 11 o'clock this morning with a full attendance, and discussed the question of the German colonies.

The German colonial question is ripe for decision, as great progress was made yesterday concerning it. It is understood a compromise is to be adopted which will fully preserve President Wilson's plans for international administration, but giving the various mandatories certain liberty of action in executing their control of the colonies.

PROTESTS OF GRAVEST CHARACTER.

London, Special Cable.—"The British Imperial War Cabinet has accepted President Wilson's theory of internationalization as applied to the captured German colonies, notwithstanding energetic protests from the Dominions," says the Daily Mail's Paris correspondent.

"These protests," says the correspondent, "have been of the gravest character. The South African representatives believe acceptance will give the greatest encouragement to the rebel element in South Africa which it ever has received during British administration. The Australian delegates fear that Australian public opinion will regard it as extremely unsatisfactory and inexplicable. The Dominion representatives generally, though very reticent, are greatly perturbed."

The Daily Mail cites Arabia and Mesopotamia as instances where possibly the inhabitants are capable of self-determination and would have their wishes put into effect by the League of Nations.

Regarding safeguards under which the mandatories would administer the countries whose people are not ripe for self-determination, the Daily Mail says President Wilson proposes that the safeguards shall be settled by the Peace Conference or the League of Nations, they being varied according to local conditions.

"President Wilson doubtless has before him," the correspondent continues, "the principles of the British colonial administration as those which the league must enforce by safeguard, and the British view appears to be that under this system, while formal adhesion is given to President Wilson's theory, the right of government by mandatory power will not differ in effect from the British imperial conception. This view induced the Imperial Cabinet to accept President Wilson's plan, but an examination into the steps to be taken for putting it into effect already reveals the gravest difficulties."

WHERE THE PEACE CONGRESS MEETS.

This is the Quai d'Orsay in Paris (the French Foreign Office) where the Peace congress holds its public sittings.

COLOGNE'S BIG BRIDGE.

This is a photograph of the great Hohenzollern bridge at Cologne, over which the British troops entered Germany. It has railway and street car tracks as well as carriage roads and pedestrian paths and has railway stations at each end.