

CITY OF PETROGRAD
LIKE DESOLATE ISLEResidents Isolated by Fear
and Feeling of Misery.

FOOD HARD TO PURCHASE

Shops Declared to Have Little for
Even Those With Money to
Pay for Supplies.

NEW YORK, Feb. 11.—(Special.)—If Robinson Crusoe were to drop anchor in the north of Petrograd and disembark to spend the winter there, he would have to show much the same ingenuity in feeding and clothing himself that he would have to show to survive on an island in the South Seas. Unless he had a Bolshevik meat ticket or a large stock of foreign money he would have to do as most of the Russian people do—depend about three-quarters of his time hunting for his next meal.

Petrograd would be even more inhospitable than the wilderness, because Russian Robinsons have already combed it thousands of times for food. In many respects Petrograd is very much like a distant island. For five years the city has been cut off from the rest of the world by a wall of bayonets and censorship. Enough news has not filtered through to the city for people to feel themselves in contact with the outside world.

Writer Asked for Map.
Fraternal leading citizens told a newspaper man that they could not give him a map of Petrograd. A professor of the university asked if he could see a revised map of the world indicating the new political frontiers. A "grande dame" who refused to drop her courtly manner when the court collapsed showed great excitement when she heard that the correspondent had just come from Paris. Did he not have a journal of fashions among his papers, she asked?

The revolution fossilized Russian styles. Women were limited in resources to their own of 1914. The best 1915, though their resourcefulness continued unlimited. The housewife could make her wide skirts scant, but not her scant skirts wide. What complicated the problem was that she did not know which was in style. The fashion dictators of Paris are heard with more authority than the dictators of Lenin in Russian feminine circles. Good communists often admit with despair that their wives are not the proper that they continue to rebel against social uniformity and equality.

The outward appearance of Petrograd was at first oppressive. It was much like that of a mining camp a year after the bubble had burst. Houses gutted, windows broken, doors and window frames gone, gave some parts of the city a gloomy and deserted aspect.

City Is Desolate.
This desolation was at first intensified by the fact that a citizen who had returned to the city for the first time and who had known it in its heyday. There was Henri's restaurant, where a royal dinner a pretty d'essence had been served up on a heavy silver platter; nearby was a rubbish depository, where a mass of doornails of a prominent American banking house.

Modest shops, in typical Russian fashion, have the latest styles painted on their shutters. There, painted on a gutted building, in grim mockery, smirked a stylishly gowned mannequin in the mode of 1914. A dogcart would have found a subject for a picture about the deserted, butcher shops. Here, in lurid realism, juicy cutlets, were painted on buildings where the inmates had not seen meat for years.

As on a desert island, people in Russian cities must be energetic and full of ingenuity to live in Russia today. Their work in the factory or government office is only a means to the end of meeting their needs for a week out of the month. They can only meet the difference through other activities on the side. The mechanic makes little trinkets to sell. When a Russian still has a few valuables left, he goes to market and peddles these. People who have accumulated paper rubles try feverishly to convert them into goods they need. Every one knows that the paper ruble depreciates in value from day to day. They therefore try to keep as little money as possible. This feverish barter and trade is much the same artificial activity that exists today in Germany and Austria but on a lesser scale.

Individualism Is Rampant.
Individualism and not communism or organization of any sort is the impression Russian cities and especially the markets made on an outsider. Every man, woman and child in Russia seemed to have assembled there eager to buy or to sell something. Trading conditions are much as though one were to take a glass globe, representing organized trade and industry, and were to drop it and break it into a thousand fragments, each a separate little trader with as few allies to sell.

A butcher shop was seen in an open booth in the Smolensky market of Moscow. The butcher displayed a side of pork as his one commodity for sale. But nearby stood three women each of whom had one or two pork chops in her hands, patiently awaiting buyers. They had invested their entire savings in these bits of meat. Too poor to eat meat themselves, they hoped to make a slight profit sufficient to buy bread. The butcher's booth thus received the attentions of five market women, and no doubt five more were attempting to dispose of the other half of this very detached and detailed beast elsewhere at the market.

Wood Cut in Forests.
City people go to the forests, cut their own wood and bring it in themselves. At the markets could be seen ten people standing alongside one another, each peddling a little bundle of wood he had gathered himself. The local trains are always crowded by city people going and coming from the country with bundles.

The prosperous dealer at a Russian market today has less money than an American storekeeper would put on a single counter. But he will farm them out to half a dozen people, to sell for him. Banking and exchange is done in a similar complicated fashion. Although there are government banks open, as yet public confidence has not been sufficiently won back for people to take their money there. Dealing in foreign money other than through government banks is illegal, yet nearly all of it passes through subterranean channels. A dollar passes through an average of six hands before the equivalent of some 200,000 rubles is given for it.

The American housewife who calls

up the grocery for sugar, flour, butter and eggs can imagine how her life would be complicated if, as in Petrograd, she had no telephone and had to go to a different person for each commodity. Even then she would not be sure of finding what she needed. A man, for example, must sometimes look several days for a pair of shoes or a second-hand suit of clothes at the market before finding one which fits.

Isolation Safest Course.
Only the communists keep together. But many of their co-operative undertakings, such as community kitchens, have failed because of this excessive individualism existing in Russia. Other Russians, much like very much like Robinsons isolated from one another. Two or three ex-bankers would not think of coming together for fear of arousing the suspicions of the secret police. Gatherings of half a dozen or more Russians outside the immediate circle of the family are a complete failure. Russians no longer know whom they can trust.

Struck by this isolation, a formerly prominent hostess was reported to tell about her ten nearest friends. She confessed that she still sees only one of them. Three she knows have left the city, the two who remained are in privations, and of the other four she knows nothing. This was a typical case. Business men knew nothing of their former associates. More serious still for Russian industry is that skilled workmen have scattered without the factory or the authorities having any adequate records of where they have gone.

Rentals, that essentially capitalist word, was stricken from the communist vocabulary when the Bolsheviks seized power. Private property, dwellings over night became free as air. Soviet billeting clerks distributed them with the same indifference that that tickets are scattered about at political mass meetings. Formerly prosperous citizens suddenly found themselves in garrets and workers in palaces.

Houses Are Crumbling.
Human nature showed itself in Russia much as it does everywhere else, in that people disregard and undervalue what they receive for nothing. As houses did not belong to them and they did not know how long they could remain, why should they bother about their upkeep. That vague body which the community should look after after repairs. But communities where no one is responsible do not repair plumbing and patch roofs. Property should belong to no one in particular is repaired by no one at all.

Houses, and often times whole blocks of them, have been deserted in today in Moscow and Petrograd which should be crumbling through failure to repair pipes and drainage.

TAXI DRIVER IS SOUGHT

TAYLOR MURDER INVESTIGATION TAKES NEW TURN.

Man, Said to Have Driven Film Director Home on Several Occasions, Disappears.

LOS ANGELES, Cal., Feb. 19.—The search for a taxi driver who disappeared from his home here about the time William Desmond Taylor, film director, was murdered, was the outstanding feature today of the police investigation of the case.

The man, it was said, had driven Taylor home on several occasions and it was believed that he might have visited the director the night he was slain, the detective said.

The driver's disappearance was reported to the police several days ago by his wife, who expressed bewilderment and alarm at his absence. The officers, in looking over his effects, found a key to his whereabouts, discovered three bullets of the caliber of which killed Taylor, and a cap similar to that worn by a man several witnesses reported having seen about the Taylor apartments the night the director was slain, they said.

The parents of Mabel Normand, film actress, one of the last persons to see Taylor alive, were expected to arrive from New York tonight to visit their daughter, Miss Normand, yesterday moved from her Los Angeles residence to an unannounced address, which it was learned today in Atlanta, a suburb of Pasadena. Her friends said she was seeking rest and seclusion.

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OLD WARSHIPS OFF
NEXT NAVY BUDGETNot One Dollar Is to Be Spent,
Is Promise.

ANNAPOLIS MEN TO GO

Most of First Class Are to Be
Turned Back to Civil Life in
June, Is Declaration.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Feb. 19.—(By the Associated Press.)—Congress will spend one dollar for the upkeep of next year of old warships that are unable to contribute to national defense, Chairman Kelley of the sub-committee on appropriations, which will frame the new navy bill, announced today.

Opposing the appropriation of \$350,000,000 asked by Secretary Denby, Chairman Kelley declined to indicate what might be cut from the navy's estimate. By carrying out his program of "junking worthless vessels," it was intimated by the chairman's associates, however, that the figure would be reduced to \$10,000,000 or possibly \$20,000,000.

"I believe that congress will be willing to furnish the necessary men and money for that part of the navy which has a military value," Mr. Kelley declared.

Many Ships Held Worthless.
"But there are scores of ships costing millions every year which are worthless. I am not going to vote to keep these old ships in commission, nor will congress, unless it can be shown that they can contribute to our national defense."

Asked how he stood on the question of turning the 540 members of the first class at Annapolis back to civil life in June, Mr. Kelley said:

"It may be hard, but the first class will not be commissioned. We will have to be conservative in cutting down the personnel and in this emergency we cannot swap men for boys. Some of the first class may be taken in, to give a sprinkling of fresh life and energy, but with the wholesale reductions necessary, the class will have to go. Its members have received a fine education. Their loss will be more sentimental than financial."

Old Rule Is Discussed.
The impression was gained from the chairman that he believes a larger number of destroyers could be laid up than the 100 mentioned by the secretary of the navy.

"The old rule called for four destroyers for each battleship," he said. "We are to have 15 battleships, and by applying this rule we might get along with 72 destroyers in active commission. An enormous saving can be effected by junking old and worthless ships, especially some of the older cruisers," said Mr. Kelley. Take the old Olympia, for example. Last year the cost of her operation was \$1,179,000. There is a fine sentimental demand to save her, but she ought to be put some place where there will be no such tax burden. Just go down the line and you will find other old hulks costing millions of dollars that are not worth a tinkering's dam for defense purposes."

Mr. Kelley said, however, he wanted to emphasize that there would be no ruthless cutting of appropriations, and that new ships which really make up the treaty navy would be kept in full commission.

GOLFERS TO HEAR PASTOR

Wireless to Carry Sunday Morning Sermon to Links.

CHICAGO, Feb. 19.—Special facilities to care for the spiritual welfare of church members who are addicted to playing golf on Sunday mornings will be installed by the Dixmoor Golf club.

Summit of Fujiyama Reached.
TOKIO, Feb. 19.—Major Ode Lees, a British balloonist and polar explorer, has just completed a trip to the summit of Fujiyama, the celebrated mountain in southeastern Japan, and it is asserted he is the first European to have reached the top of the mountain in winter. The mountain is 12,365 feet above sea level.

New Minister at Grants Pass.
GRANTS PASS, Or., Feb. 15.—(Special.)—Rev. and Mrs. F. Gordon Hart have reached this city from Garfield, Wash. Rev. Hart has accepted a call to the pastorate of the Bethany Presbyterian church here. He occupied the pulpit for the first time last Sunday.

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FARM CONDITIONS BETTER

LOANS REPAYED TO WAR FINANCE CORPORATION.

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Orderly Liquidation Is Reflected
in Recent Repayments, Director Meyer Declares.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Feb. 19.—Improvement in agricultural conditions is beginning to manifest itself in an orderly liquidation reflected in recent repayments to the war finance corporation in connection with its loans for export, agricultural and livestock purposes, Managing Director Meyer Jr., declared tonight in a formal statement.

From January 1 to February 15, inclusive, he said, a total of \$15,233,000 has been repaid to the corporation, of which \$3,200,000 represented repayments of loans made under the war powers of the organization. Of that sum, he added, \$163,000 was repaid on cattle loans and \$3,571,000 on railroad and public utilities loans. Repayments of export advances, Mr. Meyer said, totaled \$7,641,000 of which \$520,000 was from exporters, \$735,000 from co-operative associations and \$2,646,000 by banking institutions. While \$3,693,000 represented liquidation of export loans financed through Edge law bank acceptances, repayments on account of agricultural and livestock loans, he continued, aggregated \$3,571,000, of which \$2,847,000 was repaid by banking institutions, \$347,000 by livestock loan companies and \$447,000 by co-operative associations.

"All repayments have been voluntary," Mr. Meyer said, "and a considerable part of the total represents repayments before due dates."

BANK ROBBERS AT PRISON

Shelby Murdock and James E. Burgstadt "Dressed In."

SALEM, Or., Feb. 19.—(Special.)—Shelby Murdock and James E. Burgstadt, who pleaded guilty in the Portland courts last Friday to participating in a bank robbery, arrived at the penitentiary last night. Murdock is under sentence of 25 years and Burgstadt 18. Neither had anything to say upon arrival at the prison.

After being "dressed in" the two were assigned to cells.

Germans Expect U. S. Buyers.

BERLIN, Feb. 19.—(Special.)—Leipziger is preparing to entertain a big delegation of American buyers at the spring fair, many big American department stores and import houses already have reserved hotel accommodations. Gimbels Brothers have reserved 15 rooms. Others are held for representatives of Filene, Boston, the Emporium, San Francisco, and Scruggs & Vandervort of St. Louis, Woolworth and others.

Franchises Given Stage Lines.

SALEM, Or., Feb. 19.—(Special.)—The so-called franchise committee of the city council held a meeting here last night and granted franchises to the several stage lines entering Salem and making their headquarters at the new terminal station. It was said today that the central stage terminal now is handling about 1600 persons daily. Approximately 45 stages arrive and depart from the terminal each 24 hours.

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Our "Family" Is Growing Fine

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You Can Buy on Easy Terms and Get Attractive Returns

Under our easy-payment plan you can acquire some of this stock by paying \$10 down and \$10 a month thereafter, and your partial payments will draw interest at 7% till your contract is completed.

By purchasing now at 96 you will secure 7.3% returns on your money, and dividends are payable every three months.

Besides furnishing you an attractive opportunity for putting your money to work here at home it also provides an easy and systematic savings plan which should appeal to every thrifty person.

This stock has priority as to assets and earnings over all the common and preferred stock now outstanding, and no stock having preference over this issue will be created without the consent of the holders of a majority of this class of stock.

Ten Dollars is all you need to start.

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