

RUSSIA MUST FACE LAND PROBLEM TOO

Mrs. Dorr, in Final Article of Series, Sums Up Conditions and Answers Questions.

CZARINA'S CASE REVIEWED

Rasputin Rated Weak Tool of German Plotters, Who Delighted to Take Revenge on Members of Orthodox Church.

BY RHETA CHILDE DORR.

Twentieth and last of a series of articles telling the inside story of Russia's revolution. Copyrighted, 1917, by the New York Evening Mail. Published by arrangement with the author. This closing article will be devoted to answering questions which have come to me during the past few weeks. Some questions I cannot answer. I know too little about vast Russia's land problem to speak with authority about it. It is one of the greatest of Russia's problems, I admit, and I am sorry that I had so little opportunity to survey it. Traveling being so difficult at present, I saw nothing of country life.

I heard from the lips of half a dozen estate owners stories of devastation on the part of peasants, and they were enough to convince me that the land question is not to be solved as easily as the Tzar's claim. Their solution is simple: Confiscate all the estates, public and private, and divide the land among the peasants.

Land Values Variable.
Such a solution would be utterly unfair both to the estate owners and the peasants. A great deal of the land is unfit for agriculture, much of it is covered with forests, and much more of it is too remote from railroads to be of great value as farm land.

The old government was making commendable efforts to encourage emigration to the rich lands of Siberia, and thousands of Russian peasants have already settled there. Most of the good land bordering on the Trans-Siberian Railroad has been taken up, I was told. With a view to fostering emigration to Siberian farms, the old government a few years ago ceased to exile criminals and political men.

Unrest Spreads to Country.
Rural Russia seems to be in a condition of unrest almost as bad as the cities. A woman estate owner told me that her tenants had plundered her house and forced her to flee to Petrograd almost without clothing or personal belongings. She had a fine forest on her estate, and each year the peasants were permitted to cut enough wood for free fuel to keep their cottages warm. This year they were told that the forest belonged to them, and when she left they were recklessly burning and destroying it.

I heard many such stories, and I saw photographs of country houses wrecked and burned. I do not believe that merely dividing up the land would do it for the peasants would result well for Russia.

Women's Conduct Praised.
I have had a number of requests for more details concerning the women soldiers. One unknown friend writes that he flatly disbelieves that they exist. They do, except the 18 or 20 who were killed in battle last July. I have no official figure on the number of deaths. None was given out. Even the commander of the battalion, Botchkareva, did not know, when I talked with her in the hospital, how many were slain.

There were 250 women in Botchkareva's regiment. She had nearly 50 others as physically or morally unfit for service. Four women were put out of the regiment after they reached the front lines. These girls were insubordinate and their manner toward the men was decidedly unsatisfactory. Botchkareva lined them up one afternoon, tore their shoulder straps off and marched them to the station under armed guard.

Religion Given Place.
This will answer questions as to the morals of the women's Battalion of Death. Whatever the past history of any of the women might have been, I can testify that in the regiment their conduct was above reproach. Most of them, and the includes the commander, were very religious, and grace before each meal was sung in concert. One of the wounded women told me that before they went into battle they said the prayers for the dying.

Botchkareva's regiment is not the only group of fighting women in Russia, although it is the only one which saw action last summer. In Moscow a regiment of 2000 women is drilling under a fine lot of men officers, including a veteran Colonel. When I was in Moscow in August I saw this regiment and I met several of the 20 women who were daily being instructed in the regular school for officers. When the regiment goes to the front it will be fully officered by women.

The same is true of the 1500 women who form the First Petrograd Women's Regiment. These women were housed in the old Engineers' Palace at the end of the Sadovaya near the Nevsky, and the pick of the regiment were being trained in the officers' school. In the great yard of the palace the women were drilled daily, and very strenuous drill it was, too. The setting up exercises were not much less rigorous than those which are being given to our men in the training camps now.

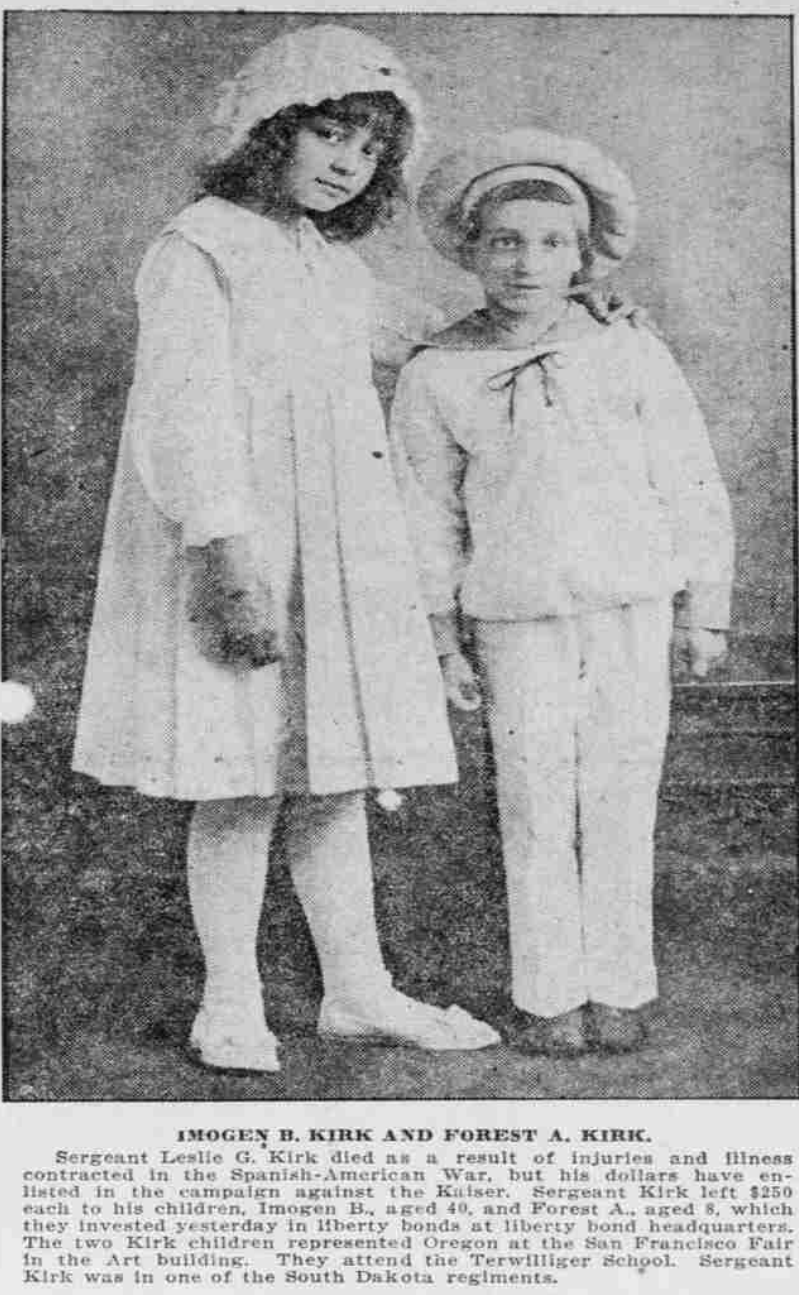
Mounted Scouts Attractive.
I saw these women often, and the day before I left Petrograd, August 25, I saw them riding away to their camp near one of the fighting fronts. They were a fine-looking regiment, hard as nails, and very enthusiastic. Their 30 mounted scouts were especially attractive.

All three of these regiments were formed, manna, to a great extent, financed by the women of the intellectual classes. Red Cross women were very active in recruiting and in collecting money for the regiments. One of the women most interested in the Moscow regiment had just received permission from the War Ministry to recruit another women's battalion in her native Siberian city, and she was about to leave Moscow for that purpose when I saw her. Botchkareva was also about to be sent to Siberia to recruit women to fill up her command.

It is not intended to form very many women regiments. Between 10,000 and 20,000 women was the desired number, I was told. There is no intention of supplanting men by women. It is simply intended to send regiments of women soldiers all over the battle fronts to encourage, shame, inspire and, if necessary, to lead the demoralized men into the fight.

The women are offering themselves as a sacrifice to the beloved country. They expect to die, and their simple, whole-souled, almost religious devotion to the cause of liberty and democracy is so wonderful that I cannot find words to express what I feel about them. I can only repeat that a country

CHILDREN OF SPANISH-AMERICAN WAR VETERAN BUY LIBERTY BONDS.



IMOGEN B. KIRK AND FOREST A. KIRK.

Sergeant Leslie G. Kirk died as a result of injuries and illness contracted in the Spanish-American War, but his dollars have enlisted in the campaign against the Kaiser. Sergeant Kirk left \$250 each to his children, Imogen B., aged 46, and Forest A., aged 8, which they invested yesterday in Liberty bonds at liberty bond headquarters. The two Kirk children represented Oregon at the San Francisco Fair in the Art building. They attend the Terwilliger School. Sergeant Kirk was in one of the South Dakota regiments.

that produces such women cannot be permanently crushed.

A workman in Boston writes that he cannot understand why the French officer I spoke of resented being approached by Russian soldiers who did not even touch their caps to him. "Why should they touch their caps? Are officers little gods and so much above the rest of humanity?"

That is not the reason why soldiers should salute their officers. The salute is not an admission of inferiority on the part of a soldier. Officers salute each other, please take notice. The salute, as General Pershing recently said, is a symbol of alertness, intelligence, readiness. It is an admission of leadership, and it means that the soldier knows his job and is ready to carry on to the finish. Lastly, the salute is a part of army courtesy. The spirit back of the refusal to salute officers is the principal cause of Russia's ruinous plight today.

Czarina Not Convicted.

Many letters have begun either the first or second paragraph with the words, "Don't you know?" I have indignantly been asked if I did not know that the Empress of Russia was a German spy; that she was responsible for sending to certain death more than a million soldiers, etc.

No, I don't know this. Neither do I know that she was an immoral woman, the slave of the monk, Rasputin. I don't even know that the former Empress forced the Czar to buy five of vicious dogs to certain death more than a million soldiers, etc.

I never saw the former Empress. I don't know her. I see no reason for believing that she was a German spy. History will examine the evidence in her case, and there may be such documentary evidence that she will be branded as the world's betrayer of her country. I was told by a man very near Kerensky and the government that no documentary evidence to that effect was forthcoming.

The former Empress was a German by birth, but she had an English mother. Her sister, the Grand Duchess, told me that they had always spoken English to their mother, and Mme. Virobova told me that the family at Tsarskoe-Selo often spoke English, and never spoke German.

As for the immorality charges, I agree with Mme. Virobova that they are very easy to bring against any woman and very difficult to disprove. I would never make them unless I had absolute proof, and even then I would not unless I had 10.

Rasputin Much Overrated.

Rasputin, in answer to queries, is another actor in the drama who will have to be judged by the historians. I firmly believe that Rasputin was a dark force very much overrated.

I have no doubt that he was a wicked, deceitful, plotting creature, a monster of sensuality, an impostor and an all-around bad lot. That seems to be settled. But I cannot find much evidence that he was anything more than a tool of the German plotters, whoever they were.

He exercised great influence, but it seems to me that almost everything he did was out of personal spite. He demanded the suppression of a newspaper that attacked him, the removal of a Minister who insulted him. His principal activities were against men in the orthodox church. Here he was about as venomous as a rattlesnake. An obscure monk, he killed him with pride and joy, a humble bishop, to unhook a priest, to influence appointments.

Rasputin had a small, mean mind, and his egotism was colossal. Of course the women fools at court who flattered and deferred to him, perhaps worse, fostered this egotism until it reached the limit of inflation. But Rasputin, I believe, will live in history more as a scandal than as a menace to Russia. He was a menace also, because a bad, weak man is always a danger to a nation, and he was a bad strong one. The weakening is almost sure sooner or later to fall into the hands of plotters and criminals, and the uttering of the directing power becomes as dangerous as a rabid animal.

Socialism Not Deserved.

Last of all, to those questions which usually began, "You call yourself a socialist, but..." I have to reply that anyone who thinks I am unapathetic to the Russian revolution, or to the masses of the Russian people, has read these articles with prejudice. I care a great deal for the freedom of Russia, and I have great sympathy with working people everywhere. I believe the world is for the many, not for the few. But I see no advantage in taking all the power out of the hands of one class in the community and giving it to another class. I think too much power rests now in the hands of the rich. But that power is abused, less by the rich anywhere than it is now in Russia, where the

poor—or the comparatively poor—have taken it over.

I am just as much of a socialist now as I was when I went to Russia—and just a little more of an anarchist. I believe that the next economic development will be common ownership of the means of production and the administration of all departments of government for the common good of all the people. The lesson of Russia is plain: intelligent, clear-sighted preparation for that next development. Beginning with the youngest children, we must educate the next generation in order to create in the United States a thinking working class which will accept responsibility as well as demand power, and into whose hands we can safely confide the destinies of the Nation.

NEWSPAPER MAN SUICIDE

L. E. Moffatt Ends His Life at Salt Lake City.

SALT LAKE CITY, Oct. 27.—The body of L. E. Moffatt, former news editor of the Herald-Republican, Salt Lake City, was found in a lodging-house today, the man having taken his life by slashing his right wrist and dying from loss of blood.

Moffatt returned here about six months ago, after an absence of several years. He was once city editor of the Salt Lake Tribune. He stated a few weeks before his death that he had been on the editorial staff of the Evening Telegram, Portland, Or., and the Denver Times.

According to a friend, Moffatt many years ago was a practicing physician. He was about 45 years old.

L. E. Moffatt was a copy editor on the Evening Telegram for several months about four and a half years ago, coming here from Salt Lake City and Denver. He was considered a brilliant newspaper man, being widely read and apparently educated for the practice of medicine. He was a rapid workman but frequently gave evidence of being in ill health.

So far as is known Mr. Moffatt had relatives in this part of the country and was not related to George H. Moffatt, who in 1925 was publisher under contract of the Evening Telegram.

TROOP TRAIN KILLS MAN
Farmer in Buggy Struck at Railroad Crossing.

EUGENE, Or., Oct. 27.—(Special.)—Edwards Billings, 49 years of age, a farmer residing near Springfield Junction, was killed at a railroad crossing at that place today when a buggy in which he was riding was run over by a special troop train. He lived only a few minutes after being thrown more than 60 feet by the force of the collision. The buggy was totally demolished, but the horses escaped injury.

The accident occurred at a blind crossing. Billings made his home with his sister, Mrs. Frank Alexander. He is also survived by his mother, Mrs. M. Billings, and brother, Thomas Billings, of Springfield; a sister, Mrs. Thomas Carney, of Walterville, and a brother, Kate Billings, of Bend.

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WORLD LIVESTOCK SUPPLY IS SHORT

Meat Problem Promises to Be More Important Than That of Wheat.

WAR IS DEPLETING HERDS

Food Administration Turns Its Attention to Beef, Pork and Mutton Production—Rare Opportunity Offered to Farmers.

OREGONIAN NEWS BUREAU, Washington, Oct. 27.—With the wheat situation fairly well in hand, with prices fixed for this year's crop and next, and with the wheat growers generally realizing the duty imposed upon them of continuing to "do their bit," the food administration is now turning its attention to the livestock problem, a problem which promises to be even more important than the wheat problem.

It has been pointed out by Mr. Hoover that after the war wheat production in the United States will naturally fall off as normal production is resumed in countries that today are producing far below their normal crops. In the matter of livestock, however, a different situation is developing. The world is using up its livestock much faster than it is being reproduced; the fighting nations of Europe are making heavy inroads in their herds and flocks, and the United States, responding to the call of Europe, is depleting its livestock to a point that has become dangerous.

Chance for Farmers Shown.
It is to counteract this tendency and to encourage an expansion of the livestock industry in the United States that the food administration is now calling attention to the opportunity which confronts the American farmer and stockgrower.

In a discussion of the livestock situation, Mr. Hoover frankly says: "I regard it with even more concern than the bread situation." He points out that the nations of Europe are compelled to slaughter their animals to an extent far beyond their annual production. Europe, he shows, is eating its animals, reducing the production of fodder and increasing the acreage of bread grains, at the same time increasing its importation of meats, which can be most economically shipped than wheat or flour.

Livestock Supply Decreasing.
There has been a tremendous decrease in the number of cattle, sheep and hogs, not only in Europe, but throughout the world. Since the war began, and this decrease, Mr. Hoover asserts, will go on as the war continues. It is true, in the matter of beef, that the allies can be fed, but the encroachment into the herd, support themselves without any consequential expansion of imports from the United States for a time, but there will be a

Europe must preserve its milk herd, for Mr. Hoover asserts that the "vital existence of a nation depends upon its supply of fresh milk." It is being undesirable to slaughter milk cows, Europe must rely upon North America.

Hog Problem Serious One.
The hog problem is regarded by the food administration with the deepest concern, but not without hope. There were more hogs raised in the United States last year than during the years before the war, but the rate of slaughter increased faster than production. "Increased production of pork fats can be accomplished more rapidly than the production of pork products, and on a much more widely extended scale," says Mr. Hoover. "An increase in pork fats can also be made more rapidly than an increase in vegetable fats."

Profit in Hogs Promised.
With a vastly increased feed crop in the United States, estimated at 1,000,000,000 bushels more than last year, but with no corresponding increase in the number of animals to be fed, farmers will be driven to raising more animals to consume the feed now on hand. With low-priced feed and a high price for pork products, it is to the vital advantage of every farmer to raise hogs. Sheep have been diminishing steadily since the war began. "We produced in 1916," according to Mr. Hoover, "only 35 per cent of the wool that we used. In providing uniforms for millions of men the world is using more wool than ever before in its history. We have never before seen such wool prices as exist today."

Mr. Hoover does not look so much to the Western ranges as to the small farms of the East, South and Middle West to increase the number of sheep, and it is to the small farmer that his appeal is mainly directed.

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COAL PRICES FIXED

Quotations Announced for Several Middle States.

SOME CHANGES ARE MADE

Upward Revision of Figures on Bituminous for Mines in Central Territory Is Expected Early Next Week.

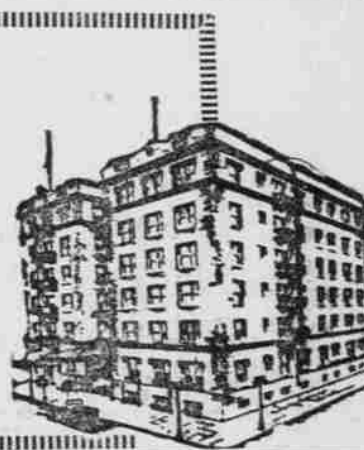
WASHINGTON, Oct. 27.—The fuel administration announced today a scale of bituminous coal prices for Michigan and made price changes in certain fields of Montana, Arkansas, Illinois and Missouri. The Michigan prices are: Run of mine, \$3.15 a ton; prepared sizes, \$3.60; slack or screenings, \$2.20. The Montana prices are: Prepared sizes \$3.50, instead of \$2.95; slack or screenings, \$1.50 instead of \$2.45. Illinois prices are: McLean Coal Company, Bloomington, prepared sizes, \$4 instead of \$2.65; slack screenings, \$1.70 instead of \$2.15. These prices have no connection with recommendations made in a letter to President Wilson yesterday by Fuel Administrator Garfield concerning proposed increases of prices at the mines of bituminous coal as a result of increased wages. Michigan prices were not fixed by

President Wilson in the order of August 21 fixing prices generally. Changes in Montana, Arkansas and Illinois, as announced today, raise the prices on prepared sizes but reduce those on slack or screenings.

Besides these changes it is regarded as probable that some revision upward of prices of bituminous coal at the mines in the central competitive territory will be announced Monday or early next week.

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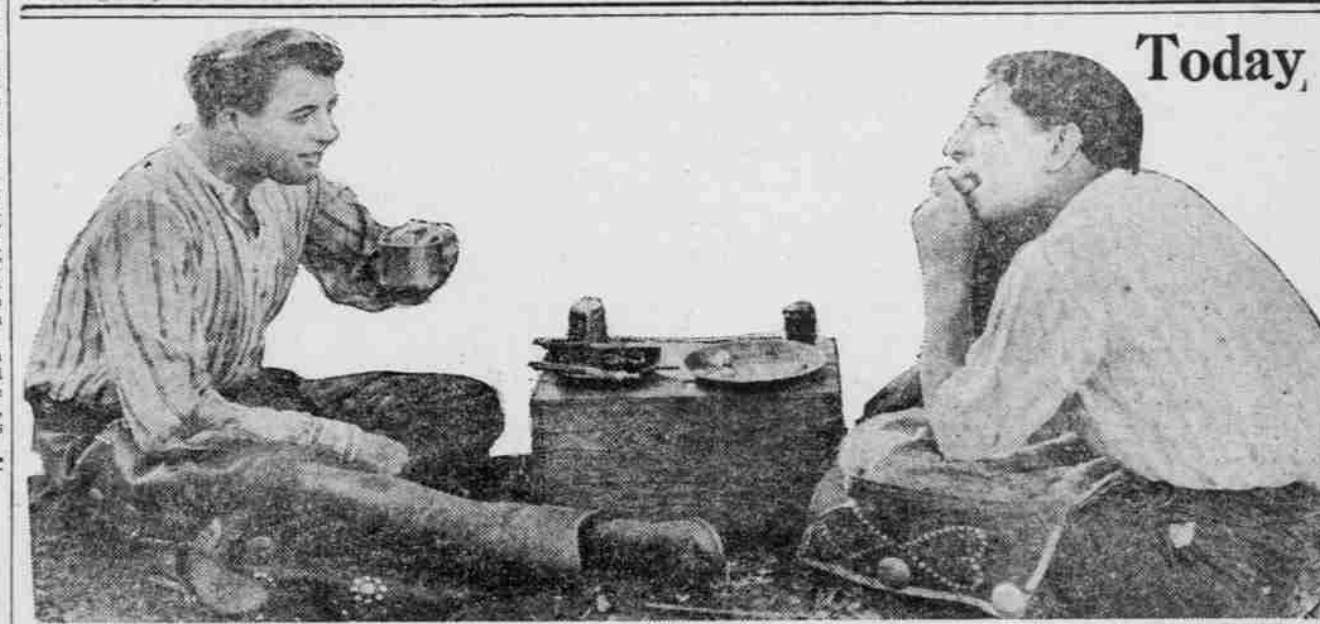
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