

WOMAN OF PEOPLE WELFARE MINISTER

Mme. Kollantai Assumes Vast
Task of Restoring Order
Among Laboring Classes.

MILLIONS SICK AND MAIMED

Ambition of Remarkable Intellectual Woman Is to Establish and Maintain Home to Be Known as Palace of Motherhood.

BY LOUISE BRYANT.

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Mme. Kollantai had written 10 books on mothers and children and sociological work in general before she was appointed Minister of Welfare, which is one of the highest political positions held by a woman at the present time. Unlike most intellectuals, Kollantai was never a very active revolutionist until the revolution needed her. In other words, instead of deserting the revolution when it became an ugly class struggle and everyone else was running away, she chose that particular time to give it her most valuable assistance. It is one of the things I admire most about Kollantai. She has never been an extremist, but she believes that it is necessary to progress in a crisis to stay with the extreme radicals as opposed to the extreme conservatives.

She often disagrees with Lenin and Trotsky, but she told me herself that she would never desert the rank of the proletariat "if they made every mistake on the calendar."

When I went to Russia Mme. Kollantai was in prison. She had been forbidden to return to Russia because of certain views she expressed in her books against the czar's government. She was shut up after her return by Kerensky because she said openly that the only form of government suitable for Russia was the Soviet government, and because she was implicated in the July uprising of the Bolsheviks.

Spy Rumors Unfounded.
There was also a rumor that she was a German spy. This was absolutely no reason for this report except political jealousy, and finally because of entire lack of evidence she was released just before the democratic congress would have been commencing. She had kept her in prison anyway, since she was one of the leading delegates. It was at the democratic congress that I met Mme. Kollantai and as I watched her work in the months that followed I came to admire her more than any other woman in Russia except Spiridonova.

Kollantai is a slim little person, whose age is hard to determine; sometimes she looks 20 and again much, much older. She has a grown son. She works unflinchingly and through a persistence born of flaming intensity, she accomplishes a tremendous amount. She is one of the best women orators I ever heard. Kollantai dresses very well, which is exceedingly uncommon in Russia among women interested in revolutionary ideas.

Lives Depend on Acts.
When Kollantai took over her department she was hurled into a most terrific chaos and millions of lives depended on her sanity in dealing with the situation and pulling herself out of a carefully planned political intrigue.

Countess Panina, who had charge of the department before Kollantai, true to the principles of the bourgeoisie, had persuaded the higher employees to go on strike. It is amazing how quickly the bourgeoisie of Russia learned to sabotage from the working class. The employees hid the keys of the safes, secreted the books and resorted to all manner of mean acts.

Kollantai called them all together and quite calmly ordered them to be locked up. Early the next morning they returned the keys and the books and Kollantai called another meeting, which even the lowest servants were asked to attend.

She was very frank with them at this meeting. Russia, she explained, was bankrupt; there were little funds to carry on the work, no one was to receive even a "good" salary; she herself was to get the salary of the other commissars, which is \$10 a month. This came as a great blow to the professional social workers, who up to that time had received as much as 25,000 rubles a year. Kollantai shocked them even more by announcing that thereafter all employees should continue to be present at meetings, which would be held frequently, and that the same consideration would be given to suggestions from scrubwomen as from professional philanthropists. Everyone was to have equal chance for promotion.

Strike Broken in Three Days.
The strike was broken by her within three days.

I used to go up to Kollantai's office on the Kazanka, and she explained many of her problems to me. She was very much touched by the way some of the lower employees had responded to her appeal in this crisis. It really was astonishing how much many of these simple and uneducated employees understood about the work. And when they once realized that they were a part of the larger plan they gladly worked for 16 hours a day to help Kollantai, whom they all called "Little Comrade."

The work of Madame Kollantai covered a vast field, touching all Russia. "One of my greatest tasks," said Kollantai, "is to change the whole system in regard to the two and a half million."

ACTRESS GIVES RECIPE FOR GRAY HAIR

A Well-Known Actress Tells How to Darken Gray Hair With Simple Home-Made Mixture.

Jolee Williams, the well-known American actress, who was recently playing at the Imperial Theater in St. Louis, Mo., made the following statement about gray hair and how to darken it.

"Anyone can prepare a simple mixture at home, at very little cost, that will darken gray, streaked or faded hair, and make it soft and glossy. To a half pint of water add 1 ounce of bay rum, a small box of Barbo Compound and 1 ounce of glycerine. These ingredients can be bought at any drug store at very little cost or any druggist can put it up for you. Apply to the hair twice a week until the desired shade is obtained. This will make a gray-haired person look 20 years younger. It does not color the scalp, is not sticky or greasy and does not rub off.—Adv.

MINISTER OF PUBLIC WELFARE IN RUSSIA, BOLSHEVIKI GOVERNMENT.



ALEXANDRA KOLLONTAI.

tion maimed soldiers who are absolutely destitute. If they could feel that they are in some way helping to support themselves it would add so much to their general happiness. As it is, they don't receive enough money to exist decently; they live in filth and beg for crusts. When I took over the department the highest pension paid to these dependents was 20 rubles a year (about \$15 in normal times).

Expensive Budget Required.
"By cutting down salaries and stopping all kinds of leakage," she continued, "I managed to bring it up to 216 rubles. But even that does not touch what it should be. I believe that the minimum for entirely incapacitated soldiers should be at least 2400 rubles a year. To do that would require a budget of 4,900,000,000 rubles."

"This two million and a half million does not include the sick and wounded, of which there are 7,000,000. And there are 350,000 war orphans in homes alone, and 200,000 deaf, dumb and blind, besides all the insane and the delinquents."

One way Kollantai quickly secured money for immediate needs was by placing an exorbitant tax on playing cards, which had to be purchased through her department. She increased the price from 30 rubles for a dozen decks to 250 rubles. Strangely enough, as soon as playing cards became such a luxury the demand increased notably. One of her dearest ambitions for years has been to establish a home for convalescent mothers, which is to be known as the Palace of Motherhood. On Kollantai's suggestion, the Bolshevik government passed a measure providing for free care for 16 weeks for mothers during and after confinement. Even after they leave the home they can go back if they are not well, and they are required to work only four hours a day in the factories for the first month after returning to work. This applies to all women, whether married or single; illegitimacy is not recognized any more in Russia.

Mother's Care State's First Debt.
The Bolsheviks believe that this care of mothers is one of the first debts of the state.

The founding homes are a terrible problem. Russia was famous for the slaughter of infants, mostly through starvation and neglect. Only 15 per cent of the children in public institutions survive as a rule. Madame Kollantai has arranged a plan whereby children are taken care of by peasant women in their own homes, where they are treated as members of the family, but she has not had time to carry the plan into effect.

One day when I went to see Kollantai a whole long line of soldiers in old uniforms were standing outside her door. They had come as a delegation from one of the old people's homes. Kollantai explained their situation. "They are very grateful," she said, "because they have a new interest in life. I have removed the people who used to be over them and turned their institutions into little republics. They come in every day now and express their gratitude. They elect their own officers and have their own little political fights; choose their own menus."

I interrupted her. "What would that consist of in the present day?" I asked. Kollantai burst out laughing. "Surely," she said, "you must understand that there is a great deal of moral satisfaction in deciding whether you want thick cabbage soup or thin cabbage soup."

And this was the whole secret of Kollantai's success, that she allowed other people to make their own decisions.

Kollantai spoke to me about American assistance only two days before I left Russia. She hoped she said, that trained people interested in her work would come to her aid. There is such a pitiable lack of everything necessary. Surgical dressings, for example, have to be used over and over again and good doctors are not to be found. (To Be Continued.)

Army Orders.

SAN FRANCISCO, April 27.—The following orders were issued by the Western Department of the Army here today:

A board of medical officers to consist of Major Harry A. Snoddy and Captains William H. Payne and Gordon MacTracken, Medical Reserve Corps, is appointed to meet at Fort Worden, Wash., to examine Private Lester D. Peterson, Coast Artillery Corps, Puget Sound, to determine if he is afflicted with any form of mental disease.

Berlin to Name Yank Prisoners.
AMSTERDAM, April 27.—A Berlin dispatch says that the names of the 183 Americans whom the Germans report they captured in the recent battle at Seicheprey will be published in the Gazette des Ardennes, a German propaganda organ published in French.

QUESTION STILL UP

Labor's Indorsement of Car-men's Action Uncertain.

MATTER IS MUCH DEBATED

Circulation of Petitions in Favor of
Jitney Regulation Causes Dis-
cord in Ranks of Cen-
tral Labor Council.

For the fourth time within as many weeks delegates of the Central Labor Council Thursday night at their regular meeting will consider a resolution bearing on activities of the Car-men's Union in circulating petitions which placed the jitney regulation ordinance on the municipal primary ballot.

The question of indorsing the action of the carmen has been discussed at the last three meetings of the Labor Council with much bitterness. On two occasions the Car-men's Union openly threatened to withdraw from the council if not given the consideration deemed its due.

The original resolution was referred to the executive board of the Labor Council at the next subsequent meeting. It was reported back with the approval of the labor leaders. Despite this verdict of the executive committee, a stormy debate over adoption of the resolution attended its introduction on the floor.

Substitute Measures Offered.
Substitute resolutions were offered. Consideration of these tended somewhat to mollify the opposition when the resolution as presented was voted down. Last Thursday the whole subject was again reopened, when a vote on the original proposal was demanded. There was sharp debate over the matter, though cooler heads among the carmen announced disapproval of any move to withdraw from the central body.

As the debate reached the crucial point, when men of both sides who had as their proposal was ready for a vote on the question, Otto R. Hartwig, president of the State Federation of Labor, took the floor and made an impassioned appeal for consideration of the best interests of all factions concerned. He suggested that the resolution once more be referred to the executive board. Just as this proposal was ready for a vote and the temper of a majority of the delegates forecasted its defeat, an amendment substituting a committee to be named by Chairman Oscar W. Horne as the body to reconsider the whole problem was made and carried. The council then voted through the amended motion. Thus it comes about that the issue is still undecided and is once more to come before the general body.

Committee Action Expected.
The committee named to investigate the matter and make a recommendation, presumably of a resolution covering the vexed situation in some acceptable manner, is composed of Mr. Hartwig, Secretary E. J. Stack, of the council; W. G. Fray and Delegates Taylor, Haughly and Shaw.

Clauses of the resolution which engendered most of the bitter debate in the ranks of labor the past three weeks are these: "Resolved, That we express our confidence in the integrity and well-meaning purpose of the streetcar men of this city, believing as we do that they understand and appreciate traffic conditions and problems better than it is possible for us who are not directly connected with such operations, and as they have seen fit to join with their employers in presenting a measure to the people aimed at the regulation of jitney traffic which they have given just and proper reasons for so doing; therefore be it further resolved, that we approve of the action of the streetcar men in co-operating with their company, whom we acknowledge as being fair to organized labor, in presenting a measure aimed at the regulation of jitney traffic in the city of Portland, and we urge upon all members of organized labor in the said city of Portland to render whatever assistance and support is necessary to place such measure in the right light before the public that it may receive their indorsement and support at the coming election."

Pioneer Dies at Tacoma.
OREGON CITY, Or., April 27.—J. P.

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Fifth and Alder Streets

Watkins, an Oregon pioneer, died suddenly at Tacoma, Friday, April 25. His daughters, Mrs. J. C. Pollanz, of West Linn, and Mrs. J. R. Johnson, of Clackamas, received news of his death Friday.

Mr. Watkins was born in Indiana, and was 75 years of age. At the outbreak of the Civil War, Mr. Watkins enlisted in Company E, First Oregon Infantry. At the close of the war he returned to Oregon City to make his home, and resided there for many years.

Mr. Watkins is survived by the following children: Albert Watkins, Portland; J. O. Watkins, Astoria, Wash.; J. P. Watkins, Portland; J. H. Watkins, Monroe, Wash.; Mrs. J. C. Pollanz, West Linn, Or.; Mrs. R. Johnson, Clackamas, Or.

G. A. KYLE IS RELEASED

PORTLAND ENGINEER, CAPTIVE IN CHINA SINCE MARCH 5, FREE.

No Details as to Method of Getting Out of Clutches of Bandits in Province of Honan Yet Learned.

NEW YORK, April 27.—George A. Kyle, of Portland, Or., the American engineer, who, since March 5, has been held captive by Chinese bandits in the province of Honan, China, has been released, according to advices to the State Department from the American Legation in Peking, forwarded to the State Department by the American Consul here. Two other Americans and a Chinese engineer had been previously freed.

The message to Kyle's employers here gave no details of how his release was brought about. Kyle was chief engineer of the Siemens-Carey company and was making a survey for 2600 miles of railroad when captured with E. J. Purcell, another engineer, and a Chinese assistant. Later H. J. Love, a Virginian, employed by the British-American Tobacco Company, was seized. All were reported liberated except Kyle, who was said to be held as a hostage for the return of a relative of one of the bandit chiefs captured by Republican troops.

The Siemens-Carey company offered a reward for Kyle's liberation, but the time limit for its acceptance having expired April 15, a cable from Peking said a general military pursuit of the bandits had begun.

Kyle, on April 13, sent a message to friends in China, stating he was "well and kicking," intimating that he was not being ill used. On March 11, a few days after Kyle's capture, the State Department in Washington requested the Chinese government to take immediate steps to obtain the release of the Americans.

MARSHFIELD IS BEEFLESS

Many Tables Today Are Short of Customary Roast.

MARSHFIELD, Or., April 27.—(Special.)—Half the Marshfield families who usually have roast or boiled beef for Sunday dinner will have no beef tomorrow. A beef famine struck the city this morning about 11 o'clock and held throughout the day. Consumers were offered veal or pork, but many, because they could not obtain beef, bought no meat.

All the markets were affected. One dealer obtained two quarters from some source late in the afternoon and it was soon sold. The supply became exhausted through failure of a carload to arrive, due over a week ago.

PORTLAND MINISTER HELD

Rev. Malcolm Edmundson Arrested at Camp Fremont, Cal.

SAN FRANCISCO, April 27.—F. P. Webster, of the Department of Justice, who has been working under the personal direction of John W. Preston, United States District Attorney, on the co-related Hindu and neutrality cases, late today arrested Rev. Malcolm Edmundson, of Portland, Or., at Camp Fremont.

Government officials were extremely reticent with regard to the arrest. The prisoner was booked en route to the office of the United States Marshal here and on his arrival was lodged incommunicado in the city prison.

Ex-Portland Resident Dies.
Word reached Portland relatives last night of the death yesterday at Blanca, Ar. and the Baker Herald and only resident of this city. After spending nearly two years in a sanitarium at Salem, Mr. Potts went to Colorado two

weeks ago. He is survived by a widow, living at 180 East Sixty-seventh street North. Funeral and burial will take place in Colorado.

BRUCE DENNIS IS HOPEFUL

La Grande Man to Devote Time to Committeeman Candidacy.

Bruce Dennis, of La Grande, candidate for Republican National committeeman, arrived in the city yesterday, and will devote a number of days here to his candidacy. Mr. Dennis is editor

and publisher of the La Grande Observer and the Baker Herald and only recently resigned as secretary of the State Council of Defense.

"The voluntary expression received from many Republicans has been very gratifying," said Mr. Dennis last night, "indicating that Republicans are taking active interest in this office this year."

Henry Watterson Improved.

LOUISVILLE, Ky., April 27.—Physicians attending Henry Watterson, editor of the Courier-Journal, say there is hope for his final and entire recovery, though it will be a long time yet before he is out of the hospital.

"Here Comes the Bride"

to Aronson's— the Mecca for Wedding Silver

—A wonderful place, indeed, to buy for Spring brides, and happy are they whose wedding silver comes from Aronson's.

—Here are exclusive patterns in sterling flatware and hollowware—beautiful examples of the silversmith's craftsmanship.

—Also there's a host of new arrivals in Sheffield hollowware, modestly priced. Let us show you these treasures.

Diamonds of surpassing loveliness are these—our values at \$25, \$50, \$75 and \$100 are the talk of fair ones everywhere. We show exquisite stones, running into hundreds.

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