

RUSSIA'S RESOURCES SCARCELY TOUCHED

Wealth of Soil, Forests and
Mines Incalculable.

WAR CRIPPLES INDUSTRY

Nation's Feebleness, However,
Seems to Be That of Infancy; Bol-
shevik Statistics Cited.

BY LINCOLN EYRE.

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PARIS, March 20.—(Special.)—Sta-
tistics, especially so unreliable a col-
lection of them as that assembled
by the bolsheviks, whose disdain for
figures is marked, are worthless in
estimating Russia's wealth at this
juncture. One cannot visit that vast
country even in these troubled times,
however, without having one's pre-
vious conception of its unplumbed
natural resources mightily reinforced.
One senses instinctively that Rus-
sia's feebleness is the feebleness of
infancy, bound, under proper tutelage,
to wax stronger with every passing
year. And the exhaustion laid upon
her by four years of war and two of
revolution seems scarcely more than a
momentary fatigue. Her limitless
forests, her untapped treasure
of mineral deposits, the incalculable
riches of her millions upon millions
of acres of untitled soil—these are
the images that recur to one's mind
even while one beholds the ruins of
her immature industrial edifice.

Obviously, virtually the only sta-
tistics obtainable on present-day Rus-
sia are those made by the bolsheviks,
and these, as I have said, are by no
means perfect. I give them, there-
fore, for what they are worth. Most
of those relating to raw material are
derived from Rikoff's report to the
all-Russian economic convention. They
must be reasonable and accurate be-
cause upon them the supreme coun-
cil of public economy is basing its
general plan of production.

Transportation Big Problem.
In the first two months of soviet
Russia's fiscal year beginning Novem-
ber 7, 1919, there was cut and corded
6,000,000 cubic zashen (a cubic zashen
equals 343 cubic feet of timber, or
half the programme drawn up by the
government to cover the country's an-
nual need. Only about one-third of
this total was transported to its ulti-
mate destination by railroad or river.
Still there is every reason to hope
that Russia will have all the fuel
she requires by the middle of next
summer, provided, of course, the rail-
roads can be kept running. And at
the moment only 200 cars are avail-
able daily for hauling wood from the
forests, in comparison with 600,000 in
1914.

Before the 100,000,000 pounds (one
pood equals 40 pounds) of coal that
are said to be lying on the surface
in the Donetz region can be carried
away a whole network of bridges and
tracks destroyed in the fighting there
must be restored.

Russia's cotton crop comes from
Turkistan, where some 8,000,000
pounds have been harvested. The
Moscow and other textile factories
require a half million pounds monthly,
but there being only two trains at
their disposal, they only get about 15
percent of their requirements. Still,
there should be close to 2,000,000
pounds that could be exported, if
seams were found to ship it to Black
sea ports.

Flax Outlook Dubious.
As regards flax, the outlook is less
encouraging. The ground sown with
flax has been reduced by about 40
percent and the harvest reduced from
some 20,000,000 pounds yearly to
less than 5,000,000 pounds, the likeli-
hood of a still further decrease be-
reaving itself, moreover, in December
and January. Stocks of flax now in
hand are only sufficient to supply
Russian industry for from eight
months to one year.

The production of linen, on the
other hand, is at a remarkably high
level. Russia needs but 2,500,000
pounds of linen and possesses 5,500,-
000. Consequently some 3,000,000
pounds can be shipped abroad. The
same is true, though in a lesser mea-
sure, of hemp, of which there is 2,000,-
000 pounds in stock and hides, of
which there is 5,500,000 pounds, of
which there is 2,000,000.

For some obscure reason—perhaps
because they have no reliable fig-
ures themselves—soviet economists
refuse to disclose the details of their
supplies of platinum, but Miloutin,
Rikoff's chief lieutenant on the su-
preme economic council, told me that
a very considerable quantity was in
the government's possession, and that
a large part of it could be exported
the moment the blockade was raised.
Since Russia controlled 95 per cent
of the world's supply of platinum,
there is no reason to doubt his state-
ment.

Grain Stocks Considerable.
One of the leading Russian agri-
cultural authorities told me there
was enough grain in soviet Russia
to provide for half of Europe after
all Russia had been fed. His asser-
tion was borne out by the glowing
accounts of Ukrainian and Siberian
harvests that I received from per-
sons, many of whom were non-bol-
shevik, coming to Moscow from these
regions. Here again, however, the sta-
tistics are wholly lacking, the com-
missaries of agriculture pleading that
inasmuch as soviet territory had been
increasing daily owing to the red
army's steady advance for the last
four months, it was out of the ques-
tion to provide accurate figures.

The soviet government actually had
in its granaries, however, in the first
three months of the fiscal year of
1919, 20,000,000 to 30,000,000 pounds
of breadstuffs, or more than one-third
the annual requirements of the en-
tire non-producing population based
on consumption of one pound per
person per day. The estimated amount
of bread required daily to feed ade-
quately those Russians who do not
grow their own grain is 18,000,000
pounds.

Metal Supplies Short.
Although Russia will eventually
have the Ural and Donetz mines, all
her metallurgical industry will re-
quire, she is well aware, the metals
at present. For manufacturing pur-
poses central Russia requires more
than 100,000,000 pounds of metal, but
in January last she had but a quar-
ter of this quantity. The great
Ural furnaces, owing to all kinds of
shortages, are yielding scarcely 40
percent of their pre-war production.
Consequently the total manufacture
of steel and iron products is only
about 20 percent of what it should be.
There are 130 metallurgical plants
in operation, including, however, the
small ones scarcely more important
than blacksmith's shops, of which 514
are nationalized. Generally speaking,
according to Rikoff, 41 per cent of
all industrial enterprises have been
subjected to nationalization. Pro-
ductivity in all the essential lines
save textiles approaches 30 per cent
of its pre-war figures. The textile

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Industry, owing first to its inability
to secure enough raw materials, and
secondly to the depreciation of its
spindles, looms and other machines, is
only 10 per cent productive.
Rikoff pointed out that unless the
situation shows radical improvement,
exhaustion of the existing raw stocks
will imply complete paralysis of the
entire industrial fabric.

Electric Plants Building.
In concluding this general survey
of the industrial situation, mention
should be made of the surprising
progress made by the soviet in their
programme for the electrification of
industries. There has been estab-
lished during the revolution at Kashi-
in the strongest electric plant in the
country, with a power of 40,000 kilow-
atts, and other power stations are
being built up with considerable rap-
idity. The pinch of the labor short-
age is felt universally. On railroads
alone 15,000 skilled mechanics are
needed. Soviets supported by the
trade unions do not hesitate to trans-
fer labor groups from one part of the
country to another, by force if neces-
sary, on the principle that workers
like soldiers, should be willing to
make sacrifices for the common-
wealth which they control.

TRAINING BILL PLANNED
SUB-COMMITTEE SELECTED TO
FRAME LEGISLATION.

Exhaustive Inquiry Promised Be-
fore Universal Military Meas-
ure Is Drafted.

WASHINGTON, March 20.—Chair-
man Kahn of the house military com-
mittee Friday selected a sub-com-
mittee to frame legislation providing for
compulsory universal military train-
ing, a majority of which is consid-
ered favorable to the adoption of a
training plan. Representatives Dent,
Alabama, and Quinn, Mississippi, dem-
ocrats, are the only selections re-
garded as unalterably opposed to com-
pulsory training.

The other selections were Repre-
sentative Kahn, California; Crandall,
Vermont; Sanford, New York; McKen-
zie, Illinois, republicans; and Olney,
Massachusetts, democrat.
These committees recently ap-
proved adoption of a training plan,
excepting Mr. McKenzie, who opposed
immediate action.

Before framing a training bill the
committee will make an exhaustive
investigation. Mr. Kahn announced,
and its report is not expected to come
before congress until next session.

WILSON AGAINST REVIVAL
(Continued From First Page.)

the republican reservationists on the
other hand appeared to feel quite sat-
isfied with themselves while making
material for the republicans to an-
swer that argument that Woodrow
Wilson and his followers may put
up in a third-term campaign or to
elect some other administration dem-
ocrat to the presidency on the treaty
issue.

Republicans to Make Issue.

It is generally agreed that an ef-
fort will be made by the president to
inject the treaty into the coming cam-
paign, but republicans declare that
they and not the president will make
the issue on which the campaign will
be fought out. Senator Walsh, dem-
ocrat of Montana, always loyal to the
president until yesterday, dis-
played more wisdom as to the future
than any of his party colleagues in
or out of congress.

He reminded them that the repub-
lican party was not compelled to be
bound to such an issue as the treaty
and that his party must expect to
have its entire administrative record
of the last eight years placed on trial.
It is recognized by leading dem-
ocrats in Washington outside the White
House, that the treaty offers the poor-
est sort of campaign issue.

Democratic Voters Desist.

They say frankly that Mr. Wilson is
out of touch with the country and that

the democratic voters have been
turning rapidly against the ratifica-
tion of the treaty without the dotting
of an i or the crossing of a t, as de-
manded by the White House.
The bulk of the letters from dem-
ocrats everywhere bearing on the
treaty have either demanded that
their senators vote for the treaty with
reservations or that they vote to kill
it as an undesirable contract. A let-
ter signed by a large number of
Georgia democrats to Senator Hoke
Smith gives some conception of how
democrats in the south are feeling.
This letter asked Senator Smith to
permit his name to go on the pri-
mary ballot, setting forth that a large
number of democrats in the state were
being denied the opportunity to vote
their actual sentiments.

No Candidates Liked.
The writers said that the bulk of
Georgia democrats were without any
opportunity to support a candidate
for president of their liking, because
the only candidates entered were
Attorney-General Palmer, supporting
everything President Wilson had done,
and Senator Reed of Missouri, op-
posing every act of the president.
They said they could not support
Palmer and thus give sanction to Mr.
Wilson's autocratic conduct and they
could not vote for Reed who had not
approved what good there was in the
present democratic administration.

One interesting feature of the final
rollcall on the treaty was the manner
in which practically all of the dem-
ocratic senators in the west, all elected
in the last few years with the ex-
ception of Chamberlain of Oregon,
on a pledge to uphold the hands of
Woodrow Wilson, threw off the White
House "collar yesterday" Only one,

Johnson of South Dakota, obeyed the
White House command and he is one
of those who was expected to change
his vote had there been an oppor-
tunity to reconsider.

Nugent Is Last to Quit.
Senator Nugent of Idaho was one
of the last to quit the president, and
it was equally surprising when Pitt-
man and Henderson of Nevada and
Walsh of Montana declared their inde-
pendence. Philan of California was
compelled to break away from the
president some time ago on a Shan-
tung reservation and on the Irish
question.

Phelan, anyway, is now the real
head of the democratic end of the
Hoover campaign in California. He
is depending on Mr. Hoover to be to
him in the campaign this year just
what Woodrow Wilson was to him
when he won in 1914.

Despite any efforts of the presi-
dent to keep the treaty issue alive,
public interest is expected to sag and
die out. With the pre-convention con-
gress of both parties getting in full
swing it may be expected that politi-
cal and business will from now until
next June constitute almost the sole
topic of interest.

Direct Judge Election Proposed.
WASHINGTON, March 20.—A res-
olution proposing a national amend-
ment for direct election of federal
judges was introduced Friday by Sen-
ator La Follette, republican, Wiscon-
sin. It was referred to the judiciary
committee.

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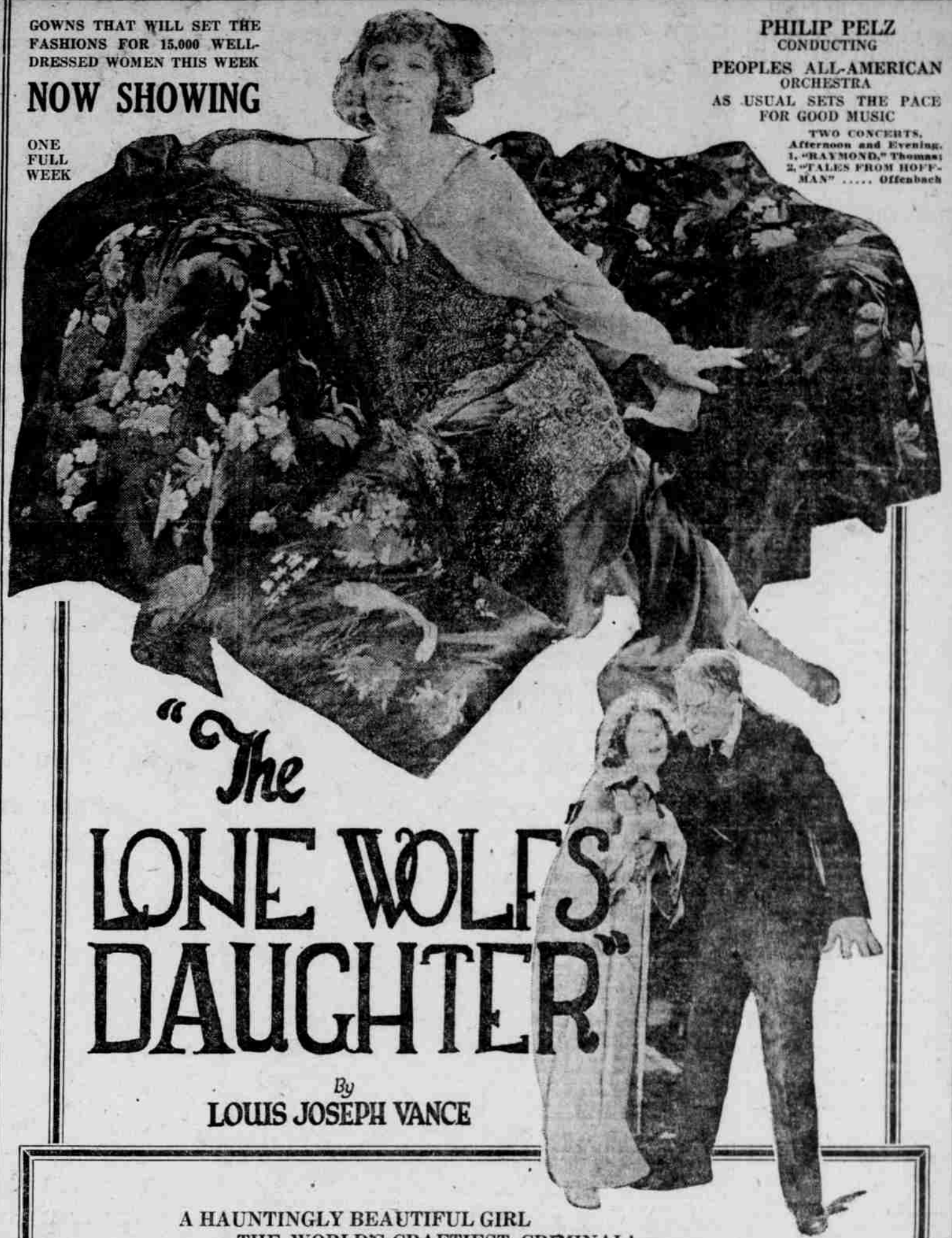
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