

LAWRENCE TELLS WHY TROOPS OUT SIBERIAN FIELD

Soldiers Originally Dispatched to Western Russia to Aid and Not to Fight Russians, He Says.

By David Lawrence
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Washington, Jan. 21.—Although American foreign policy is necessarily in an undefined state because of the failure of the senate to ratify the peace treaty, nevertheless the attitude of the United States government in references to Siberia on the one hand and Western Russia on the other reveals no flinching in the original purpose to aid and not fight the Russian people.

Observers have wondered about continued presence of American troops in Siberia and about inaction of the United States over the blockade and have not realized to what extent the policy of this country has been dependent upon the inclinations of Great Britain, France and Italy, in the absence of American membership in the League of Nations. The traditional policy of the department of state is aloofness instead of leadership in European affairs, and President Wilson, sympathetic from the first with the struggles of the Russian democracy, would be happy to have initiated the present proposal to open the channels of commerce to the Russian people without entering into political relations with the soviet government itself.

U. S. NOT CONSULTED
It turns out that the United States was not even consulted, but was notified after the allies reached their decision, and it is true that America was constantly urging such reopening of trade relations while the American mission was at Paris, but special emergencies inside England and France and Italy prevented unanimous action. Indeed, the reopening of trade relations was regarded as merely one step removed from the formal diplomatic recognition of the soviets and this was construed as dangerous encouragement to Socialistic and Bolshevistic elements in Great Britain, France and Italy, but Prime Minister Lloyd George reached a point in his political career where it became necessary to placate the labor and liberal groups by a resumption of trade relations with Russia, rather than go to the mat with those same elements on the policy proposed by Winston Churchill, namely, inactive support of the various anti-Bolshevistic governments, movements and factions which, while popular with the taxpayers, for, if the truth be known, it has been a costly bill the allies have paid in their support of Koehak and other would-be liberators of the Russian people. But while the United States was urging economic penetration as the single means of strengthening the Russian democracy so that the latter might emerge more wisely its own form of government, European politics interfered.

POLITICS INTERFERE
Now, by the same token, British politics has happened to place Great Britain back of a policy which has the hearty approval of the American government, the half-hearted, but nevertheless concurrent, indorsement of the French, and the shrewd and expedient support of the Italians. The latter knows that one good turn deserves another, and that the adroit prime minister of Great Britain will use all his power and influence to assist now in a settlement of the "Russo question," which is of a lot more concern to an Italian ministry than feeding Russians. So far as the United States government is concerned, it has abated not one jot its feeling of antipathy toward the soviet government, because of the latter's insistence on worldwide propaganda subversive of law and order in other countries, and in approving a reciprocal trade relationship, the department of state is pointing to the necessity of safeguarding the project so that the supplies do not go to the maintenance of Bolshevist armies, but to the relief of the Russian peasantry.

It will perhaps require an organization like the American relief expedition in Belgium to handle the trade and food problem in Russia, and there is talk of having Herbert Hoover take charge of a big international commission in which the allies and associated powers would agree to furnish food and raw materials, provided neutral commissioners and observers were permitted to distribute supplies just as they did when the Germans occupied Belgium.

FIGHT BOLSHEVISM
As for the other end of Russia, it is pertinent to explain the significance of America's withdrawal from Vladivostok and trans-Siberian railway. The Japanese themselves are divided as to the maintenance of a force in Siberia and talk of a "free hand" in Siberia is not countenanced by Japanese diplomats, who have assured our government at every turn that they are not desirous of extending their hegemony to Siberia.

On the other hand, Japanese internal problems are analogous to those of Europe. Radicalism and socialism are growing and conservative elements in Japan see the germs of Bolshevism overflowing from Siberia into Manchuria and finally Japan. Torn between a traditional devotion to the emperor, an intense nationalism and disposition to look with favor on liberalism and its co-workers, the Japanese people are being urged by different sets of political leaders to take a conservative and a socialistic view of their national development.

What more natural than to urge the stopping of Bolshevism by supporting anti-Bolshevistic movements in Siberia? Japan, therefore, was not altogether pleased with America's withdrawal from Siberia but it develops that her displeasure was largely one of wounded pride because a decision so momentous was

taken without consulting her. But this was due to an unfortunate misunderstanding. It appears that General Graves, commander of American forces in Siberia, was given by cable a preliminary statement of war department plans so that he might make preparations. He told the Japanese military officials and made public that statement before the department of state could call in the Japanese diplomats and go through the usual diplomatic process of consultation.

JAPAN IS WARNED
Japan, however, had full warning last December that as soon as the Czecho-Slovak troops were out of Russia, American forces would be withdrawn. The United States sent soldiers to Siberia for two reasons, first, to keep the trans-Siberian railway open so that supplies might be sent into western Russia in the event that a new eastern battle front were established or in the event that the Bolsheviks armed the German and Austrian prisoners and set them loose against the allies. It was against subjects of Germany and Austria with whom the United States was at war that American troops were originally sent to Siberia and, secondly, to protect an allied army of Czecho-Slovaks who had made their way across Russia to the Pacific seaboard of Siberia.

But when all the Czecho troops had gotten out of Siberia and when the Kolchak government went to pieces and the Bolsheviks themselves took charge of the trans-Siberian railway, forcing foreign troops back to the border of Manchuria, there was no longer any necessity of keeping Americans in Siberia, because inner Russia was reachable from the Atlantic side. In view of these developments the United States determined that the emergency for which American troops had been sent to Siberia in the midst of the war had passed and that so far as Bolshevism flowing into Japan was concerned this was largely a Japanese national problem and America had plenty of reconstruction of her own in the United States. Now that the situation has been fully explained, the present direction of American interest is toward western Russia and resumption of trade there rather than a military penetration of Siberia.

Suffrage Set Back By N. J. Legislature
Trenton, N. J., Jan. 21.—(I. N. S.)—The proposed suffrage amendment was given a setback at the opening of the legislature when the lower house by a viva voce vote adopted a resolution stating that it was the settled policy of that chamber that all proposed constitutional changes in the future should first be submitted to the people before the legislature acted upon it. There was no dissenting vote.

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Tumbler Holders 59c-98c Stand Soap Dishes 35c Bath Room Hooks 40c Toilet Paper Holders 35c-39c	14-Inch Yellow Bowls \$1.39 —Yellow with white bands.	4-oz. Sprustex Furniture Polish 19c	Wooden Sink Racks 45c-55c (Two sizes.)
Rotary Noodle Cutters 69c	Glass Wash Boards 65c —Gold Medal glass boards, very special.	200 Aluminum Sauce Pans, 2 and 3-quart 85c	Wooden Knife and Fork Trays 29c
Jiffy Dish Washers \$1.25		White Enamel Tea Kettles 5-quart \$1.49	Brooms 50c —A medium weight broom, made in Portland.
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