

RUSSIAN SOVIET LOOKS FOR HELP FROM AMERICA

By Hal O'Flaherty
Special Cable to The Journal and the Chicago Daily News.
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Stockholm, April 14.—Soviet Commissioner Krassin is now in Stockholm with a score of experts, typists and interpreters, all of whom are on their way to England to discuss commercial relations. In an interview today M. Krassin said that soviet Russia looks for material aid from America in the coming period of reconstruction. Sitting with his wife and two daughters who have been living near Stockholm the dignified Russian seemed extremely glad to reach surroundings which must be exceedingly pleasant compared with those existing in Russia.

"The actual work of reopening commerce eastward," he said, "cannot begin until I have seen and talked with M. Litvinoff in Copenhagen, but when once we get started we expect to keep heavily laden ships moving towards Russia. Principally we need railway supplies. We want all kinds of rolling stock, locomotives and materials for repairs. Next to this pressing need we want clothes and woven materials. In exchange we will move considerable quantities of grain, leather, flax, furs and minerals from Siberia to Estonia and Finland."

HAVE GOLD TO BUY
"In the course of the past year we have restored 35,000 railway bridges and repaired 5000 kilometers (3100 miles) of track, but the situation is still far from satisfactory. We are willing to pay immediately for railway goods in gold. Our gold reserve was recently largely increased by the deposit of funds formerly held by Admiral Kolchak."

"So far as Scandinavia is concerned, soviet Russia looks to the metal industries for the greatest help. We are willing to ship gold immediately to Sweden if she will deliver locomotives to us. When we reach England we shall begin negotiations at once for locomotives and to have England refrain from interfering with our constitution."

Two things struck me in this interview: First, that M. Krassin really has behind him large supplies of gold with which to pay for supplies, and, second, that he has an understanding of the real economic conditions. Like almost everyone coming from Russia he wants to make it appear that the country is well to do, but other sources of information refute his optimistic statements. While he laid emphasis upon the immediate necessity of repairing the railroads, he did not imply that the system of communications was on the verge of an absolute tie-up nor did he let it be inferred in any way that everything vital to the country was on the verge of falling to pieces.

EXPECTS PEACE WITH ENGLAND
With regard to the coming meetings in England he appeared to be absolutely certain that he would reach a successful conclusion with profit both to England and soviet Russia.

Easter Spirit Is Felt in Berlin Half an Egg Allowed Each Tot

By Gordon Stiles
Special Cable to The Journal and the Chicago Daily News.
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Berlin, Germany, April 14.—In spite of revolutions, in spite of fears of the clutching hand of anarchy and in spite of disturbing reports coming in from outlying sections of the country, the air of Berlin was permeated with the Easter spirit. The celebration began on Good Friday, with the German men and women parading the streets in true holiday style, in the golden sunshine bathing the city. Business was practically suspended and was not resumed until Tuesday, for Easter Monday is a great day here. The florists' windows were ablaze with color, while the universal bunny was to be seen everywhere.

LIKE PRE-WAR DAYS
This Easteride was the nearest pre-war Easter Berlin has seen since her cohorts embarked on their great and ruinous adventure. For the first time in many months, rooms can be had in the big hotels, as nearly everybody went out of town on Friday for the week-end. One gratifying feature of this Easter was the effort made by the Americans and English to alleviate in a measure the sufferings of the children in the hospitals. To this end the egg markets were raided for miles around and the available supply of eggs bought up

and sent to the various institutions, where children are among the patients. It is estimated that each one of the under-nourished youngsters received at least six eggs—more than they had seen before in years. It was impossible for the hospitals to buy eggs for the patients, as the price runs from 2 to 3 marks (normally 50 to 75 cents) per egg, and funds were not available.

EGGS ARE SCARCE
In the charity hospitals which I visited I found not only the patients, but the staffs delighted with the unusual gifts. One superintendent told me that presents of eggs had been so rare that the number received in the last six months would work out at half an egg per month for each child. All the children were very happy over the treat they received.

The American and British women still in Berlin were greatly pleased at the success of their gentlemen friends in cornering the egg market. Because of the exchange rate, only foreigners can afford to indulge in such an expensive charity, but one look at the happy faces of the recipients was more than an ample reward for the effort.

General sentiment expressed by farmers from Eastern Washington and Northern Idaho indicates that the delegates of the farm unions to meet at Spokane will not ask congress to continue a wheat guarantee.

LEASING OF SHIPS FROM GERMANS BY AMERICANS LIKELY

By William E. Nash
Special Cable to The Journal and the Chicago Daily News.
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Berlin, April 14.—From well informed sources I learn that the trade relations between Germany and the United States are growing brighter every day. Not only are there reports of the purchase of the Hamburg-American line by the United States shipping board, but according to Munroe Curtis, an attorney for several American shipping firms, the British are "striving for the same thing with respect to the North German Lloyd line. The Germans themselves are also said to be chartering a large number of boats in Scandinavia. These fly foreign flags but load cargoes at Hamburg and Bremen."

SALE OF LINE DENIED
At the office of the Hamburg-American line I gathered that the company had little intention of selling to Americans, but was considering leasing certain subsidiary routes to them. Herr Fischer Cuno, one of the leading directors, sailed Tuesday from Norway for New York. There are certain countries like the United States and Japan with which Germany cannot legally trade as yet. In order to enter these fields she may be willing to lease her shipping rights to foreign concerns.

"Besides our chartered tonnage we are building ships as fast as we can," said Herr A. G. Gurdell of the German-American Economic union to me. "According to the terms of the Versailles treaty we must deliver 200,000 tons of

scans, but was considering leasing certain subsidiary routes to them. Herr Fischer Cuno, one of the leading directors, sailed Tuesday from Norway for New York. There are certain countries like the United States and Japan with which Germany cannot legally trade as yet. In order to enter these fields she may be willing to lease her shipping rights to foreign concerns.

shipping to entente nations in excess of what we keep for ourselves."
Herr Gurdell, who lived for some time in New York, speaks English fluently. He is a director of an organization to promote the resumption of friendly relations between Germany and America. "The enormous depreciation of the mark certainly hinders commerce, but does not absolutely stop it," he continued. "We must always buy foodstuffs in the United States. In exchange for this you would be astonished to know how much we have been exporting."

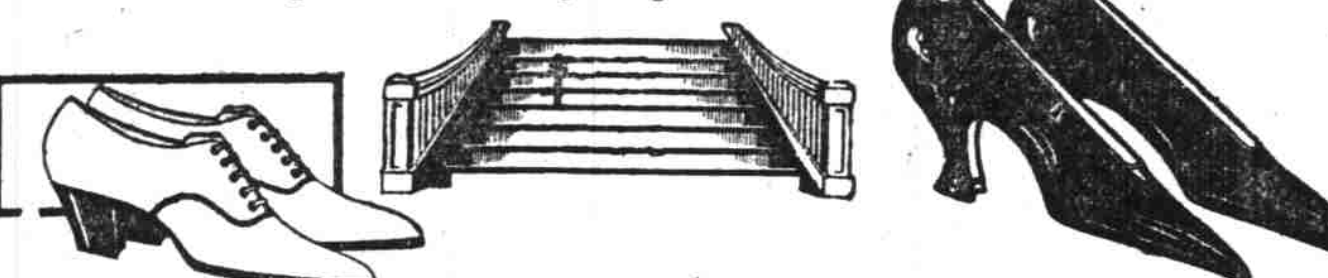
INDUSTRIES RECOVERING
"Here are the bills of lading for two

Italian vessels which recently arrived in New York with large cargoes of German cutlery, china, instruments, toys and so on. We are even shipping some textiles. Last 100 German merchants bought 75,000 bales of cotton in New Orleans at a moment when the exchange stood at 20 marks to the dollar. The raw material was brought to Chemnitz and Pilsen and manufactured into clothing which is now selling in the United States at 10 marks to the dollar. That is rather turning the tables against us in the exchange market. However, the fact that the mark is in a better position now than it was a month ago shows that our commerce is improving."

In February the dollar brought 100 marks but now it brings only 70. Probably this is due among other circumstances to the large purchases of German municipal bonds in America. Munroe Curtis, who has traveled over the length and breadth of Germany in the interests of his American firms, believes that the industrial situation here is improving steadily. Until the Kapp revolution occurred everyone was working both in the fields and in the factories. Even now there are only certain regions like the Ruhr district and parts of Saxony which are still in perturbation.

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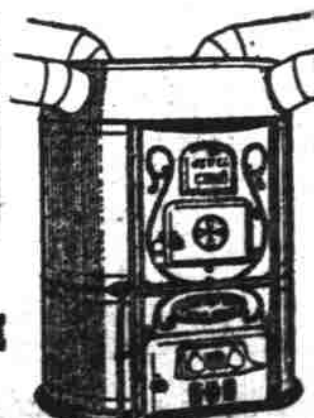
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