

The Oregon Statesman

"No Favor Sways Us; No Fear Shall Awe."
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Should We Recognize Russia?

NEWS that American industrial concerns like Ford Motor Company, Radio Corporation of America, General Electric, Duponts, and others are making contracts involving millions of dollars with soviet Russia provokes a consideration of present and prospective policy of this government toward Russia. For over ten years Russia has been the Ishmaelite among the nations. Not since the Jacobins of revolutionary France baptized their motto of "Liberte, Egalite, Fraternite" in the blood of thousands of suspected aristocrats, has a country been so universally execrated as has Russia. The United States for ten years was gripped with terror lest the seeds of bolshevism find soil on this continent. As a result Russia has been hated, feared, lied about, damned without mercy. This attitude is very much the product of our war-time hysteria, our spearing of "pro-Germans," suppression of wobbles, and stifling of liberty of speech under the regnancy of 100% patriotism. The accumulating hate and fury which the sudden suspension of hostilities through the armistice diverted from the Kaiser and Germany, were broken upon Russia.

Our policy toward Russia was determined very largely on the basis of false and inadequate information, on propaganda, and on false hopes. We can now recall in the period through 1918, 1919 and 1920 the recurring prophecies that the soviet government was about to fall. Now Kolchak was piercing to success through Siberia, now Denikin from the Caucasus and Ukraine and Yudenitch from Estonia were threatening Moscow and Petrograd. The United States, which had recognized the first revolutionary government in Russia within two days, withheld its recognition of the bolsheviks, living in the hope that these rumors would prove true, the usurping communists overthrown and legitimacy, if not of blood royal then of conventional republican principles, be restored. Time passed; intervention failed; counter-revolutions failed; White Army invasions failed; the harassed commissars rode out the storm, and by blood and terror fastened their grip on Russia from the Baltic to Vladivostok and from Archangel to the Black Sea. But the United States withheld recognition. More time passed; the soviet consolidated their power, entrenching themselves firmly in authority, ceasing wholesale murders, revamping their communistic program to meet the exigencies of the time. Twenty-one powers of Europe and Asia extended "de jure" recognition of the soviet republic and five more "de facto" recognition—all the great powers of the world except the United States.

The popular support of this policy of non-recognition has been due to abhorrence of the violence attending the soviet revolution and the communistic principles which its leaders have espoused. Yet the traditional practice of the United States has been to extend "de facto" recognition to any new government provided it was in effective control of the state. Thus in Washington's administration Citizen Ganet was received as minister from France regardless of the "legitimacy" of the government he represented. Henry Clay voiced American policy accurately when he said:

"Whatever form of government any society or people adopts, whomever they acknowledge as their sovereign, we consider that government, or that sovereignty, as the one to be acknowledged by us. . . . As soon as stability and order are maintained no matter by whom, we have already considered and ought to consider the actual as the true government."

This policy of "de facto" recognition became the established American tradition. True Secretary Seward deviated from it, but afterwards the policy was reaffirmed and generally accepted by American and European powers. President Wilson's non-recognition of the Huerta regime in Mexico on the ground that it was founded on force and violence, marked a radical change and one easily leading to manifold complications.

The reasons which the state department has advanced for refraining from entering into diplomatic relations with Russia have been 1st, the charge that it is the active disseminator of poisonous doctrines; 2nd, its repudiation of the war and pre-war debts of Russia; 3rd, its confiscation of private property of Americans and American corporations held in Russia at the outbreak of the revolution. As to the second and third points Russia has repeatedly made overtures for recognition through negotiation with reference to these conditions. Secretary Hughes brusquely refused to negotiate. At first Russia would acknowledge only the pre-war debt; set up counter-claims against the United States for damages of our participation in the intervention of 1918-1920. In October, 1926, Leonid Krassin, soviet envoy in London, went so far as to declare that his government was prepared to drop its counter-claims and acknowledge its debt to the United States in full, if only negotiations were opened. It would seem therefore that the financial differences could be adjusted as a condition to recognition, in view of the repeated attempts of the soviet government to open up negotiations.

So far as the spread of Russian propaganda is concerned Cherin, commissar for foreign affairs, addressed President Coolidge in 1923 inviting negotiations "based on the principle of mutual non-intervention in internal affairs." In other words Russia may feel as much danger from propaganda from the United States as we do from Russian communism. Certainly there would be more money available to finance that propaganda from the United States than the reverse.

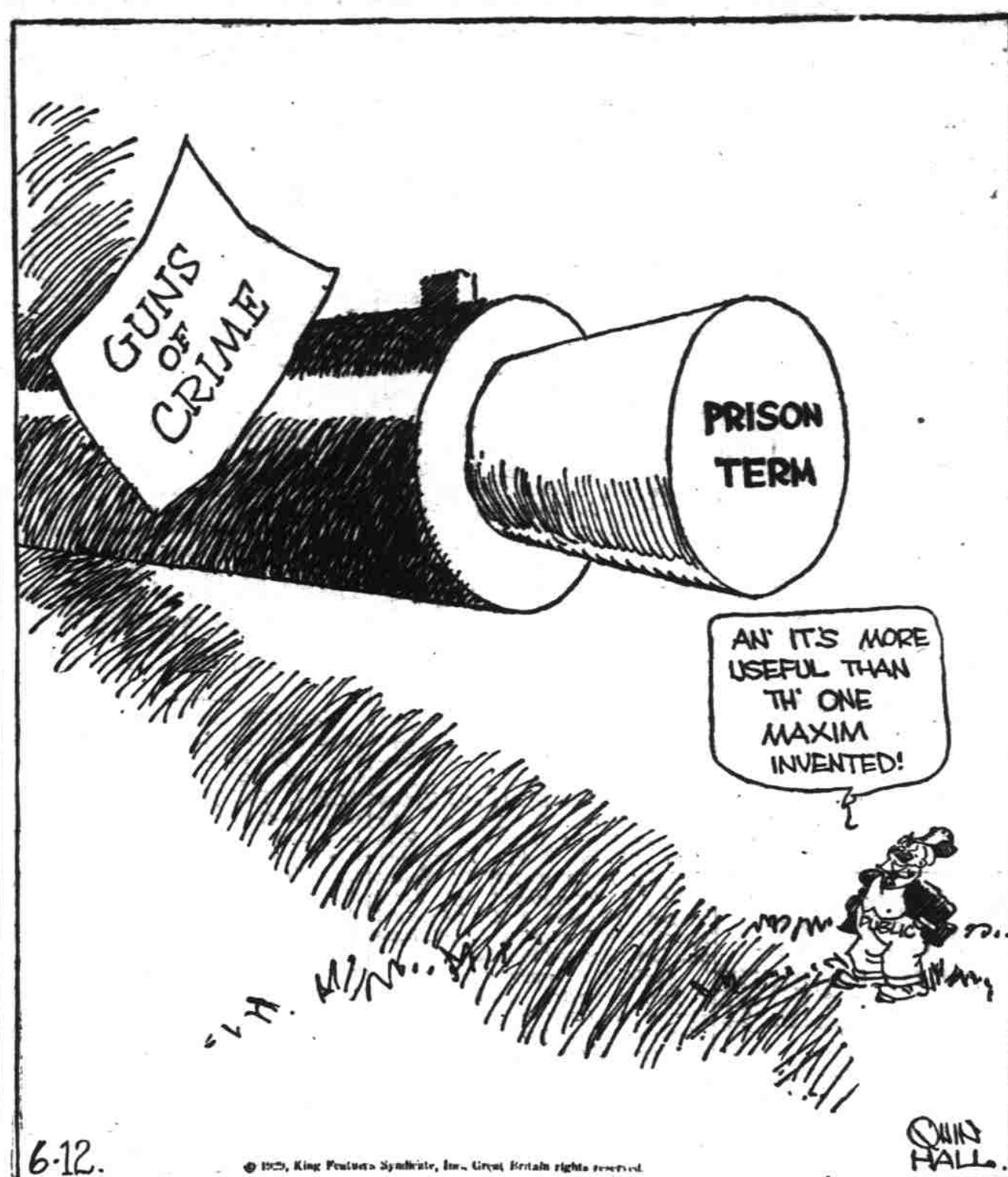
We cannot but feel that much of the claim of Russian-financed communism has been fictitious, a "red herring across the trail." Moscow has been charged with all the misdeeds formerly laid to German spies. The cry of "bolshevism" has been the "stop, thief" ejaculation of many interests seeking to divert attention from themselves.

Communism is an idea, an economic poison as we verily believe. But the idea circulates without regard to such artificial barriers as non-recognition. There are communists, both tame and violent in this country; and we have adequate laws to subdue their violence. After all, the major defence against communism must be the success of the American idea. Believing in that as firmly as we do, we ought to be equipped, supported as we are by ample legislation, to maintain American institutions without shivers.

Summing up, non-recognition of Russia is distinctly in violation of America's traditional policy in international affairs. Non-recognition surely obtains no money and no promises of money from Russia; it secures no restoration of confiscated properties of American individuals and corporations. Non-recognition does not keep out Russian propaganda and gold for financing it, if we are to believe the testimony of the agitated anti-Russians.

Recognition would conform with American traditions in international relations; would restore in part at least the an-

Another "Silencer"



6-12.

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BITS for BREAKFAST

By R. J. HENDRICKS

A suggestion—

Not from President Doney, either: There is room for amendment by well to do Salem people who think the special annual prizes given to Willamette students are not sufficiently inclusive.

It is an elastic list, capable of almost indefinite extension, to say nothing of expansion.

Dr. Mary Hammond says: "Thin women never made history." That is merely a broad generalization. Thin women have made as much history as their sisters of greater corposity. They have merely required less room in which to make it.

"Twenty years ago agricultural thought was focused on making two blades of grass grow where one grew before. Today the problem is, What shall we do with the extra blades?" Make it a different kind of blade and be patient. Increase of population will do the rest.

The index man on the Oregonian places the broadcasted dispatches from the Byrd party in "Little America," Antarctica, with

the foreign news. That is incorrect. That is America. It belongs to the United States by reason of discovery, and the higher right of occupancy. Ask any Oregon pioneer about this, who has first or second hand knowledge of the 1844 cry of "E-40 or fight" and the long wait that attended the settlement of the boundary question in 1846.

Percy Willis and Charley Litchfield were boys together in Salem. Percy was possessor of a litter of fine pups. He had a lot of wood to store away in his father's basement. His father was Col. Leo Willis, who was also the father of Mrs. Edgar B. Piper, wife of the gifted editor of the Oregonian, to whose memory it is proposed to dedicate a chair of journalism in Willamette university. Percy Willis made a proposition to several neighbor boys that he would pay each of them with one of his pups, if they would help him put in the kind of blade and be patient. Mr. He must have a strain of old Scotia in his veins. He took the pup question under consideration, and proceeded to look for a possible purchaser of the pup. He found a buyer, and took the job. Now the youthful Percy, when he

grew up, rose to the rank of colonel in the United States army forces and is now on the retired list and lives in Portland. He is the owner of fine business property in Salem. Charley Litchfield (Charles L.) has long been in the railway mail service. He has now the Portland-Seaside run, and lives in Portland. His son, George Kenneth graduated with the class of 1929, on Monday, and he was awarded the Coloney Percy Willis prize of \$25, which is granted annually to the Willamette student who shows the highest standard of all around service in and for the institution. Kenneth has been a fine student, well worthy of the prize and the distinction it confers. There is another coincidence. The day of Kenneth's graduation was the 26th anniversary of the marriage of his father and mother.

In the Bits for Breakfast column a few mornings ago mention was made of the address in 1884 of Hon. F. O. McCown at the annual meeting of the Oregon Pioneer association, in which he told of the covered wagon immigration of 1852 and related that the McCown family settled in the Hardscrabble district at what was called Needy, Clackamas county—named because of the needy condition of the family when it arrived there and unloaded its scant belongings in a brush patch under a big fir tree. J. S. Vinson was another immigrant with his family in the train that brought the McCowns "the plains across." Mr. Vinson was the first postmaster of Needy. Mrs. E. J. Swafford, whose home is at 190 South 17th street, Salem, was one of the Vinson girls. The Aurora colony, where it began its settlement at that town in 1856, soon spread its broad acres clear out to the Needy neighborhood, when it had become far from needy in respect to the necessities and comforts of life. Mrs. Swafford, as a girl, attended public school there with the Giesy children, among them being the present Dr. A. J. Giesy, leading and widely known physician of Portland.

A Salem scion of old Scotia says dredgers were invented by Scotchman who let a sixpence fall into the harbor.

Also that the Granite City was so called by a Jew who found Aberdeen a hard city to live in.

Old Oregon's Yesterdays

Town Talks from The Statesman Our Fathers Read

June 12, 1904

Salem cigar dealers and proprietors of refreshment parlors are astir over letters received by all calling attention to section 1988 of the state statute which makes the Sunday open cigar store a violation of the state law. W. P. Drew signed the letters.

Between 400 and 500 persons heard the recital given at the First M. E. church by the 30 young students of Miss Beatrice Shelton.

A delightful juvenile party was held at the A. W. Mize home in the Liberty neighborhood, honoring the birthday of Little Miss Katie Mize.

The Salem Military Band, under the leadership of Prof. Willis E. McElroy, will give an open air concert in Marion Square this afternoon.

SUBSCRIPTIONS CLOSED

WASHINGTON, June 11 (AP)—Secretary Mellon announced today that subscriptions for the issues of 5-1-8 per cent treasury certificates of indebtedness were closed at the end of business today.

Opinions of Marion County Editors

Reducing Officialdom

About one to every twenty-five inhabitants of this land is a public official. There is a call for disarmament in the world. The demand for this is becoming more insistent, from good citizens as well as criminals. Hatred of public officials has been harbored by criminals, fined or incarcerated, or both. It probably has never occurred to those breaking the laws that if they would live as they should and cease overstepping the line they would get their revenge on a large army of the erstwhile enemy. The federal, state and municipal forces would be materially reduced. The criminals, upholding these felons in their jobs, are thanked by being sent to jail.—Woodburn Independent.

The Talent Contests

The talent contests started at the Elsinore theatre in Salem last week. These contests were organized for the purpose of discovering latent talent in out-of-the-way communities and also to bring about a better community spirit. Last year proved to those who worked so earnestly for the project that their labor was not in vain. At every performance new and clever ideas were manifested and numbers surprisingly good were given. The very fact that an appearance before a large audience in a large theatre tends to allay all nervousness in future stage work is ample reward to urge the younger generation to take part. Every community in Marion county should avail itself of this opportunity and send a competing representative to the contests. It advertises your town and is one of the many mediums whereby we may sell Oregon to Oregonians. We hope to see every club in the county on the program and exhort those who have not as yet entered to do so now. Acts of any kind are acceptable and these contests are open to young and old.—Hubbard Enterprise.

SO WE ARE FOXY

But, anyhow, the Statesman is in better odor in the street bus franchise matter than is the Capital Journal. When the franchise was first proposed the Capital Journal lit on it all spraddled out and savagely tore it limb from limb. It fairly frothed at the mouth while exposing the villainy of it. Evidently the Capital Journal has been "seen" since that time, for it is now using the very soft pedal on the bus franchise matter. The Statesman, on the contrary, was foxy enough to hold its peace in the matter until the "seeing" was accomplished, and now can consistently, as usual, espouse the cause of those interests opposed to the interests of the general citizenship, while grandiloquently pretending to be much interested in the general welfare, and can enjoy with the rest of us the spectacle of the Capital Journal frantically trying to scramble back to its yapping place on the bank after making a small splash and getting its feet wet. Well, probably big advertising contracts are desirable, but the Press gets quite a kick out of not having any, nor wanting any. Money is good, but independence and a clear conscience are better to sleep with.—Hollywood Press.

Here and There:

Terse comments on Events, Local and Abroad, in the Current News.

Radio must serve to develop good will of the general public and not as a direct selling medium in the opinion of the country's leading advertising experts. When a musical program is unpleasantly intermingled with constant radio advertising, the listener soon turns the dial and shuts out the program and a consequent bad feeling toward the advertiser. Printed messages convey the best sales arguments and the radio is only supplementing, never displacing them.

The Scotch people of Salem will picnic at the Fairgrounds June 26 and there are bound to be some close races during the festivities.

Raskob will continue as chairman of the national democratic committee. He should. Any man who can reduce a post-campaign debt deserves the job. If he could bring about the election of a democratic president in 1932 his would be the world and all that's in it.

Nothing in the world counts for as much as a sound body and a clear mind. Willis Freer shot and killed his mother in Portland on Monday and then killed himself. Despondency, a form of insanity, was the cause. First the mother and then the son felt that poverty threatened them; the result was mental instability. Yet all around the Freers were people who were poorer and more destitute all finding something to live for.

Agriculture must be placed on the basis of prosperity and kept there, says ex-Governor Frank Lowden in addressing the graduates of the University of Oregon. And there the problem is left. Everyone wants agriculture successful and prosperous but no one can "solve the problem" any more than anyone can make all professional men successful or bring unified prosperity to the lumber trade.

Everyone wants to help the farmer but no one knows exactly how to go about it.

Editors Say:

STRANGE, WHAT?

Wouldn't it seem strange to some of the veterans of the old time torch-light parades for William McKinley and the full dinner pail and higher tariffs if they should come back ten or 15 years from now to find that group which we know as Wall Street and perhaps the entire republican party shouting for free trade? Wouldn't it seem stranger still for some of the descendants of Bill Bryan and the democratic party in its hey day to be found shouting for more and more protection?

The gift of prophecy is not in us, but we get a quiet temptation to say that something is going to happen when in New York financial publications and the utterances of national leaders in finance and commerce we find repeated warnings against putting American tariffs too high. But we are finding those rumblings and warnings and they go to indicate that times do change.

Here on the coast where we have industries just budding and

resources just approaching development, we are far from ready to make rapid concessions to the thought that the time has come even if in pure theory we may admit that the time has come for freer trade. Nevertheless, the economic changes that are in the making are significant.

As we have become more and more a manufacturing nation and a trading nation we must have wider outlets for our products. We cannot get far without some exchange of commodities with other nations. We cannot raise tariff barriers indefinitely without finding other people shutting their doors to what we may want to trade. Changes are coming, changes which may alter profoundly the policies of great parties or the politics of great numbers of people. The best we can hope for is that they will not come too rapidly.—Eugene Guard.

WHY NOT "GO THROUGH"?

The distinguished editor of the Corvallis Gazette-Times says he hopes the Portland tunnel project goes over. Wouldn't it be better if he had said "goes under"?

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