

# RUSSIAN CHAOS DUE TO GERMAN SPY KNAVERY

Pro-Germans From America Defame Uncle Sam to Russian Workmen— Lies Spread by German-Controlled Press and by Pro-Kaiser Agitators on Street Corners.

(This is the third of the articles written by Charles Edward Russell, who spent three months in Russia as a member of the official Root commission appointed by President Wilson. These articles contain the fruits of Russell's observations in his dual capacity as reporter and government investigator.)

(By Charles Edward Russell.)  
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If you are an American, of course you hope that Russia will be active and strong on the battle line, delivering a punch for the allies.

Sometimes it looks from the day's news as if Russia was about all in and had no more punch to deliver.

But let me tell you something about that.

The case of Russia is never so bad as it is painted. You can always discount about 71 percent of all the gloom and old blue stuff you read about it.

**Discount the Gloom.**  
In the next place, for what is left of actualities gone wrong there is always a perfectly good reason, and when you come to know it you see that nothing could be otherwise and there isn't much to worry about.

All the existing situation in Russia—the real situation, I mean; not the nightmares dreamed by the Blue Line Boys—is the natural result of the old regime or the forces that overthrew it.

Take this matter of a halt in the Russian military activities. Here are some facts about that not generally known in this country and yet facts that ought to be pondered by every American.

To begin with, the Russian temperament, which is warm, kindly, generous, and sympathetic, stirred by the first of enthusiasm caused by the revolution, threw the door wide open and called the German propagandists and three-fourths of Russia's ablest men have come from just that source.

**Human Limit in Trickery.**  
To get a propaganda—you do not well understand what that is unless you have been in Russia and seen it at work, in a general way it is the present human limit in cunning, good, trickery, and sinister, underhanded methods.

It is an enormous organization, it has thousands of agents in Russia

and the United States, it is very ably directed and it works with tireless industry.

Its object is by covert agitations, schemes and press control to save Germany from the defeat that awaits her on the battlefield.

In the United States it manifests itself by starting slogans and instituting demands, cunningly calculated to embarrass the country and hamstringing the government, such as "Tell Your Peace Terms!" and "Our Liberties are in danger!" In Russia it took immediate advantage of the strong, generous, benevolent emotions aroused by the revolution to preach the doctrine that the Germans were the Russians' loving little brothers and would you really go out to shoot your brother that loves you?

**Spread It Thick Over Russia.**  
This did an immense amount of harm. They spread the flub-dub thick over all Russia, and millions there were that fell for it. The Germans own newspapers, presses, news bureaus, distributing agencies, men, women and machines in every part of Russia. They made the country resound with the agitation for peace and good will to murderers.

I will give you an illustration. There is in Petrograd a great level sandy plain called the Field of Mars, formerly the drill and parade ground for soldiers. It is now the free speech exchange and mammoth safety valve for all the oratory and hot air in Russia. On any Sunday you can find there from 50 to 100 meetings in full blast, orators splitting the innocent air with fiery darts of eloquence and thousands of amateurs getting from their chests the thoughts that have oppressed them these many years.

There, also, I have seen the German agents at work by the scores, going from meeting to meeting, preaching sedition and the lovely traits of the men that put Edith Cavell to death.

"Why should we fight the Germans?" is the burden of their song. "The German workingmen are our brothers. Let us make war against the capitalists in all nations but let the Russian workingmen and the German workingmen be a band of brothers together. We have shed enough blood for the capitalists that made this war merely for their own profits. Let us throw down our arms and refuse to fight any longer against our brethren."

**Defame Uncle Sam in Russia.**  
About one half of the men that were talking this were former residents of America, persons with American citizenship papers and American passports, and the particular delight of these was to defame the United States, cover it with slanders and lies and warn Russians against looking upon us as a democracy.

"The common people of America are worse off and more oppressed than you ever were under the czar," is a favorite declaration of these persons, followed by: "I am an American and I ought to know."

The United States and Great Britain would then be blamed for the war and the food shortage, the high prices of necessities and the lack of coal.

This kind of thing incessantly repeated by thousands of adroit speakers and scattered by the millions in pamphlets, posters and newspapers was certain to have a profound effect.

The casualties of the Russians un-

der their incompetent, dishonest imperial government of thieves and grafters had been 7,000,000. No wonder a skillfully prepared peace program looked good to the rest.

At the same time the German agents were turning a trick on the battle front that for audacity and deviltry has not been equalled anywhere.

### Why Army Blew Up.

The Russian soldiers, of course, shared in the universal rejoicing when the old corrupt government fell.

The Germans now appealed to them with handbills and circulars declaring that the first result of the revolution was to be the division of all the land in Russia among the peasants and workers, but as the division would be made at once every peasant must hasten home or he would not receive his share. Some of these announcements had a semi-official appearance and all seemed to be authentic.

As soon as the news ran along the trenches whole regiments threw down their arms and bolted for home. The railroads were speedily packed and congested with a vast horde scrambling frantically to get into range for all these good things.

For weeks every train moving from the front was a spectacle the like of which has never been seen on this earth. Men rode on brake beams, couplers, air pipes, door steps and the roofs of cars. Hundreds fell off and were killed.

When they had made their way home they found, of course, that there was no distribution of land, and not likely to be one.

It was this exodus, purely the work of German agents, that figured in the dispatches as the "wholesale desertions on the battle front." It shattered discipline, scooped the inside from some of the lines and paralyzed military operations. Altogether it was worth more to the czar than a victory on the field and almost as much as a pacifist speech from a Yellow Streak in the United States senate.

### Free Speech, Free Press.

You will want to know why the government tolerated these naturalized Americans that were active disseminators of treason, the German press agents on the front and the rest of this perilous scull-duggery.

The answer is that with the coming of the revolution speech and the press became absolutely free in Russia and at first this was supposed to include freedom to overturn the government and betray the country to Germany, if anyone so desired.

The wise men of Russia have learned better since. They have learned or are learning that when democracy is fighting for its life with a power like Germany, remorseless, ruthless, savage and cunning, bent upon absolute domination of the world, all other considerations must for the time being wait upon the supreme necessity of rescuing liberty.

It is a wholesome lesson. We might take some wads of it in the United States.

# OWEN ADVOCATES "WORLD UNITY TO FIGHT GERMANY"

WASHINGTON, Aug. 24.—In the first speech on the general subject of the war and prospects of peace delivered in the senate since the publication of Pope Benedict's peace proposals, Senator Owen of Oklahoma, declared that the fact that the pope, with the approval of Austria and apparently with the approval of Germany, proposed "simultaneous and reciprocal diminution of armaments," seemed to promise that the Teutonic autoeracy was coming to its senses.

"We will help them reach a condition of sanity," he added, "by multiplying our war efforts and by coordinating every nation in the world in this struggle against the world domination of the Teutonic powers."

The senator spoke in support of his joint resolution proposing an international government and police to maintain peace, end competitive armaments and the ambitions of military dynasties. He said it would be madness for the world to temporize with the Teutonic "conspiracy to destroy the democracies of the world."

"Seven-eighths of the people of the world," he continued, "are at heart opposed to the ambitions of the Prussian military autoeracy and the Unit-

ed States should strenuously take steps to induce every neutral nation to combine with the entente allies in making war on Prussianism.

"The destruction of Prussian militarism may come in one of three ways—first, by consent of the military leaders before physical destruction

comes; second, by the will of the German people before physical ruin ensues; third, by the physical force of the military powers of the entente allies.

"The third means would be more costly in life to all nations, but will be applied if necessary."

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