

# CZAR'S REGIME WORST POSSIBLE GOVERNMENT

### New Russia's Greatest Problem Is to Overcome Wreckage Left by Old Misrule—Everything Mismanaged and Grafting Order of Day in All Departments.

This is the fourth article by Charles Edward Russell, since his return from Russia, where he spent three months as a member of President Wilson's official fact commission to the Russian provisional government.

(By Charles Edward Russell.) (Copyright 1917 by the Newspaper Enterprise Association.)

The Russians are fighting and struggling toward an advanced and stable form of democratic government, but they still have the legs of the Old Man of the Sea around their necks.

The remains of the seven times accursed old system still hamper them. They cannot do the vast amount of work that the czar style of government had nulled down upon them.

Everything corruptly done. Everything in the old autocratic government of Russia that wasn't done corruptly was done stupidly and everything that wasn't stolen was hashed.

The government, good or bad, of a nation of 130,000,000 people stretched over a continent 6000 miles wide means a colossal machine—that is to say, offices and men at work in them.

The revolution ousted the chief engineers of the Russian machine, but it couldn't possibly oust all the millions of cog wheels and pistons. Also, it could not possibly change at once the methods and plans by which these did, or were supposed to, do their work.

Worst Government on Earth. But it began to strip the cover from these methods and plans and revealed in detail what had been beyond doubt the very worst government ever known on this earth.

Everything about it was done badly except the police job. When it came to watching, overawing and terrorizing people, to spying, eavesdropping and mudslinging for pretexts to send men to jail or to Siberia, there was efficiency to burn.

Czarism was a world-beater at all that. But at carrying on the huge daily business of reasonable government it was dull, slow, lumbering, thumb-handed and half-witted. Also most monstrously wasteful and extravagant.

In the army, men in responsible positions stole the money appropriated for rifles and sent troops up to the firing line armed with nothing but sticks.

They stole money appropriated for artillery and left whole armies to be slaughtered by foes that had up-to-date equipment.

They grafted on every contract. They stole horses, supplies, boots and buttons. Their motto was, "Anything that isn't spiked down and then fetch the crow-bar to pry the rest loose."

They allowed traitors to bury in the earth the great guns that England sent to Russia's aid and German spies to overrun and poison every part of the service.

In the bureau large forces of men did little work and botched that little.

Railroad System Broken Down. Take, as one example of many triumphs of mismanagement, the matter of transportation.

About one-half of the maddening problems that the provisional government steadfastly faces come from a broken down transportation system.

Broken down by the sheer incompetence of the czar's government. When democracy came in it found the Trans-Siberian, the main artery of the Russian railroad system, doing only one-third of its normal work because of the thick-loaded or dishonest work of the old regime.

Equipment had not been maintained. The road was there, but it was woefully shy of cars and locomotives, and the old methods of operation lost one-half of the value of what rolling stock there was.

One direct result of all this was that while other parts of Russia ran over with food supplies Petrograd and Moscow were short of food. Another was that munitions and supplies absolutely required for military operations were hung up at the ports or the factories because there were no cars to load them in and no locomotives to haul them.

Surely the curse of God is upon autocracy and all its works! Surely

It is the blight and plague of mankind, for surely nothing else leaves in its track a train of evil so great and terrible.

The democratic government of Russia came in to find itself all but overwhelmed with a situation the like of which had never confronted any other government in the world.

New Regime Solves Problems. It had to fight a great and terrible war and at the same time it had to operate for the daily life of the nation a machine so rickety that it threatened every minute to fall in.

These appalling conditions it is meeting with courage and skill. Slowly, steadily, it is getting the better of them.

And here I point out one of the most interesting phases of the Russian story. You see men that have had very little experience in public affairs or perhaps none at all. Of a sudden this almost inconceivable job is thrust upon them of changing over this enormous machine and they tackle it and get away with it, learning how as they go along.

Because they have the inspiration of an ideal, they have a vision, they see something to work for a million miles beyond and above the pay envelope or a place at a murderous monarch's table. They see the whole world lighted up for a new democracy if they can make democracy go in Russia and they work without sleep and defy disease or weakness to make that vision real.

Every Day Gets Better. Every day things go better in Russia. These men are substituting order for sloppiness and efficiency for a had riot of blundering.

But they can't do it all at once. They can't wave a magic wand and exchange a punk old machine for a bright new one.

It is easy enough for people in other lands to ask why the Russians don't do this thing or that.

Give them a chance and they will do whatever can be done by human agencies and do it well, because they are carried along to achievement by the greatest power in the world, which is the faith and feeling of democracy.

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## DOUGLASS POSTMASTER INDICTED AS SLACKER

PORTLAND, Aug. 25.—George W. France, postmaster at Ten Mile, Douglass county, was indicted today by the federal grand jury, under the federal espionage act, on the specific charge of attempting to influence young men not to enlist in the army or navy.

Some time ago the alleged activities of France were reported to United States District Attorney Reames, who sent special investigators to Ten Mile. About two weeks ago France was arrested, brought to this city and lodged in jail, where he still remains.

## TODAY'S MARKETS

Chicago Wheat. CHICAGO, Aug. 25.—Wheat: September, opened \$2.12; closed 2.11 1/2.

Pear Market. New York—35 cars California Bartlett, \$2.93.

Chicago—California Bartlett \$2.75.

Philadelphia, \$2.95.

Portland Livestock. PORTLAND, Aug. 25.—Hogs: receipts 275; steady.

Cattle receipts 41; steady. Sheep receipts 3; steady.

Portland Butter. PORTLAND, Aug. 25.—Butter at record price; higher. City creamery prints, parchment, wrapped 47; cartons 48; butter fat 46 1/2-48; cube extra 41 1/2; prime firsts 29 1/2; firsts 28 1/2; dairy 22. At retail print butter is 55c a pound, \$3.95 a brick.

Portland Grain. PORTLAND, Aug. 25.—Wheat—No quotations. Car receipts, wheat 4; oats 1; hay 7. Cash quotations August delivery bids.

Oats No. 2 white feed \$51; barley standard feed \$48; barley standard break \$49; bran \$26; shorts \$27.5.

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# NEGRO TROOPS REMOVED FROM SCENE OF RIOT

### Colored Mutineers Entrained From Houston for Columbus, N. M.—Thirty-four Soldiers Charged With Murder by District Attorney—Charges Pending Against Others.

HOUSTON, Texas, Aug. 25.—The negro soldiers of the Twenty-fourth infantry who Thursday night took part in the shooting in the streets that killed 17 persons early today were taken from here and started toward Columbus, N. M. Among them were the 34 men charged by District Attorney John H. Crooker with murder.

The entire 633 members of the battalion which came here four weeks ago to guard Camp Logan during construction were entrained at day-break and shortly after the train section bearing them steamed westward without incident.

With the arrival today of Major-General George Bell, Jr., investigation of the shooting was scheduled to begin.

The departure of the negroes appreciably lessened the tension in Houston, altho from the hour the authorities took firm hold of the situation there had been little fear of any serious trouble.

Charges Pending. Major K. S. Snow said that while no charges had been preferred against the more than 100 men who marched thru the San Felipe district shooting right and left, they might be "very serious." The contents of his official report to Major-General James Parker at Fort Sam Houston, San Antonio, were not given out. In an interview, however, Major Snow said that conditions on Thursday night approached mutiny.

There was shooting in the camp before the men marched to the city, he said, and he pointed to a bullet hole in the frame of a shack as proof. This shooting was indiscriminate, however, the major said, and he did not believe any of the bullets were directed at him. He was unarmed as he went among the negroes commanding them to remain quiet.

No Drinking Among Men. All the statements conform in the declaration that there was no drinking and that the trouble began over a report that Corporal Baltimore of Company I had been shot by mounted officers.

The body of Captain Joseph W. Mattes, Battery A, Second Illinois field artillery, who was killed while riding with a police officer to the scene of the shooting, was sent to his relatives in Illinois today.

All but three of the men who took part in the shooting have been accounted for.

## CHANCELLOR VISITS ARMY HEADQUARTERS

AMSTERDAM, Aug. 25.—A Berlin official dispatch received here says Chancellor Michaelis has visited headquarters and presented Emperor William with a report. Some Berlin newspapers say the visit is connected with Alsace-Lorraine.

## PRESTIGE

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# FIRES DEVASTATE MONTANA FORESTS; FIGHTERS EXHAUSTED

BUTTE, Mont., Aug. 25.—The forest fire situation in western Montana has grown increasingly alarming. Fire fighters are desperate from continued efforts. Hundreds of men have become exhausted not alone from the arduous labor in attempting to head off the fires, but in moments of danger, from their toll in seeking places of safety for themselves.

This is a summary of the condition given out here today by E. A. Gardner of the local forestry office. This turn for the worse in the fire situation was brought on when a strong wind began fanning the fires along the mountains late yesterday.

The Big Helway forest fire above Hot Springs, believed under control two days ago, has burst forth with renewed fury. Not only have flames crossed the crest of the Bitter Root range in Montana but they are

running down the eastern side and threaten many small ranches and settlements. The more serious fire to life and property is that in the vicinity of Seely lake where several scores of men had a narrow escape when the flames jumped the Clearwater river, licked up the camp of the fire fighters and forced the men to flee for their lives.

At Salmon Lake, a few miles down the Clearwater from Seely lake is located the summer camp of Former Senator W. A. Clark, one of the finest mountain homes in America. For years this property has been developed and beautified. It is valued at more than \$100,000. If the fire continues down the Clearwater this property will be menaced.

## Patriarch of Lisbon Expelled From City

LISBON, Aug. 25.—Cardinal Anthony Mendes Bello, the patriarch of Lisbon, has been given five days by the Portuguese government to leave the capital. A decree issued today forbids the cardinal to reside in Lisbon or the suburbs for one year.

# MARRIED MEN TO BE EXEMPTED FROM NEW ARMY

WASHINGTON, Aug. 25.—President Wilson has written Secretary Baker expressing a view that the drafting of married men who are the heads of families should be carefully examined to avoid it, if possible, and expressing the view that single men should be taken where it is possible.

As the president is empowered by the draft law to make the regulations under which it will be carried out, the effect of his letter to Secretary Baker is to throw his influence toward a more liberal policy for exemption of married men than heretofore has been pursued by the provost marshal general's office.

It is no secret that the president's opinion is in open conflict with the interpretation at present placed on the law by the army officers who are administering it. They contend that as the history of the law shows that

Congress voted down amendments to exempt married men, they have not legal authority to exempt them except on the grounds of dependency alone.

President Wilson's view, as forecast in his recent letter to Senator Weeks, is that the taking of married men and heads of families should be avoided at least on the first draft.

The forest fire smoke hanging over the city and valley will not be dispelled, it is claimed, until there is a fall of rain for an hour or so. The few drops of rain that fell this noon aroused the hope that more would follow and clear up the atmosphere so that the beloved hills surrounding the valley will again become visible.

Tourists visiting in the city complain that their trips all thru the northwest have been spoiled by the forest fire smoke, which seems to be everywhere, shutting off their view of the scenery.

DEO FOR CRACKED and CHAPPED HANDS. Dennis Eucalyptus Ointment. AT ALL DRUG STORES. TUBES 25c JARS 50c

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## CHALMERS POWER, SPEED and STABILITY PROVED

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Traveling farther and faster than any human being has ever traveled on land, sea or air in 24 hours, Joe Dawson in a stock Chalmers Speedster Chassis has smashed all Speedway records by covering the astonishing distance of 1898 miles in a twice-around-the-clock race against time on the Sheepshead Bay Speedway.

The old twenty-four-hour record was 1819 miles, held by a Hudson. Chalmers bettered this wonderful mark by 79 miles.

The old one-hour mark of 77 miles, also made by a Hudson, the Chalmers bettered by six miles.

The 100-mile record, also held by a Hudson stock car, is 80 minutes, 21.40 seconds. Chalmers covered this distance in 8 minutes, 11.23 seconds less time.

The 12-hour mark of 923 miles made by a Hudson was bettered by the Chalmers which ran 957 miles in 12 hours—34 miles farther.

The contest Board of the American Automobile Association has approved and accepted these performances as official records. The trial was made under its supervision and was timed with the automatic electric timing device.

Great as was the performance of the Hudson in establishing such wonderful marks, the achievement of the stock Chalmers Speedster chassis was all the more wonderful, particularly because of its motor piston displacement of 224 cubic in. This test of endurance is conclusive evidence of the economy of the small, powerful Chalmers motor.

1898 miles in 24 hours—that is approximately the distance from Chicago to San Francisco.

In the first hour the Chalmers covered 83 miles; in the twenty-fourth hour over 81 miles; and for the entire distance the average was 79-1/12 miles per hour.

Any engine that can travel at this terrific speed day and night for 24 hours on a day that averaged 90 degrees in temperature and without the slightest mishap is certainly an engine to marvel at.

For sheer endurance, for ability not only in speed but in sustained speed, this performance is without equal in history; and yet it is a regular stock Chalmers engine.

Come and see the Autumn and Winter Chalmers—there are eleven of them.

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