

# AMERICA WILL GET BACK LOANS MADE RUSSIA

### Russia Far From Bankrupt, But One of the Richest Countries—Government Holdings in Land Alone Inventories Over Thirty Billion Dollars—American Pacifist Worst Enemy.

(This is another of the series of articles by Charles Edward Russell, who has just returned from Russia, where he spent three months as a member of the official United States commission to the new Russian government.)

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

There is the Russian situation compressed into one incident.

A few days ago the administration decided to lend Russia another \$100,000,000.

At this all persons and newspapers in this country that secretly or openly hope the Russian democracy will fall professed great astonishment.

Then the other persons and newspapers that have no knowledge of Russia, but just can't believe actual democracy can't succeed anywhere, cheerfully echoed the astonishment.

No Chance of Loss.

What! Lend more money to Russia at a time when according to the press dispatches the last bottom has fallen out of everything? When the dreadful radicals with whom the country is filled are raging up and down thirsting for hot blood and threatening destruction?

When, it is plain, chaos reigns! Above all, when Russia is bankrupt!

That makes \$275,000,000 we have lent this nation that wails the low-pressure chorus. Shall we ever get it back? Alas! No! Let us bid a fond farewell to our money! Why does the administration thus throw the good mazzama after the bad?

But it doesn't. The administration is perfectly right in its estimate of Russia. Barring one chance, Russia is as safe a country to lend money to as there is in the alliance.

Russia Not Bankrupt.

Now see how monstrous and dangerous are the misconceptions produced in the American mind by the dismal dopers and the gloomy Guses of the British press, from whom we get nine-tenths of our so-called news from Russia.

As a matter of fact, Russia isn't bankrupt. It is one of the richest countries of the world.

It is not only rich in possibilities, but it is rich in the actual thing. It has the goods.

I don't mean that the soil is rich, although that is true. I mean that the government is rich.

It owns a vast empire of arable and timber lands.

There is no question about its ownership. The title has always been vested in the government.

Little Private Land.

Comparatively speaking, there is not a great deal of private land-owning in Russia. I mean compared with other countries. An immense amount of land is owned in common, either by the villages or by the general government.

While I was in Russian an appraisement of the government's holdings in land was just being completed.

It indicated the amazing total of sixty billion rubles—\$30,000,000,000.

Besides all this, if the government desires to confiscate the huge estates of the czar and the grand dukes, all granted from the public, it will have enough to pay the entire national debt and lay by a surplus.

It could take from these estates enough to pay the national debt and still leave the entire brood of imperial parasites, idlers and worthless, useless units enough to keep them in splendor all their days.

If it would confiscate only the crown jewels and the palace in Petrograd it would go far to wipe out all the national debt it has at present.

War Debt Light.

More than that, I am told that there was a meeting not long ago in Petrograd of wealthy men, bankers, manufacturers, exploiters, merchants and high lights in big business, what there is of it; and when they met to compare notes they found that the interests they represent could absorb, if need be, the greater part of the debt so far created by the war.

At present most of these resources are untouched by taxation. It is evident, therefore, that the assets back

of this real Russia are almost unlimited.

No one need worry about that. Also, as to chaos in Russia. There isn't any chaos.

There are elements in the newly-created political life that differ as to the details of the policy the government should follow.

But such differing elements exist in every country that has democracy. You couldn't have healthy democracy without them.

Some Confusion Inevitable.

But except for a few noisy anarchists and a handful of returned American trouble-makers, the people are unanimous for the broad principles of democracy. They don't agree about their government but they don't want to assassinate it.

A certain amount of confusion was absolutely inevitable after the destruction of one great system of government and before another could be instituted that would work with perfect smoothness in every part of this enormous country.

Such confusion always comes at such times. In the case of the United States it lasted 11 years. In the case of Russia it has lasted less than six months and is steadily disappearing.

There never was a country in the world that underwent anything like the revolution that Russia has had and six months later presented anything like the same spectacle of good order and substantial progress.

Contrary to Impression.

This, of course, is totally contrary to the impression created by the reactionary press and the reactionary foreign colony at Petrograd, but is nevertheless the actual fact.

Barring the one chance I have spoken of, the United States will get back all the money it has lent to Russia, and get it back with interest.

That chance is that while Russia is still finding herself the kaiser's supporters in this country will help the German troops to break the Russian line and crush the new democracy in its infancy.

With their peace chatter and treasonable peace councils, their maneuvers in congress to cripple and discredit the government, their transparent demands for the stalling of peace terms, and their widespread organizations of disloyalty, they have already done much to weaken Russian resistance and enable the kaiser to advance.

Pacifist Worst Enemy.

If they keep on they will have him in Petrograd and Moscow.

In that event, of course, it will be goodbye to our money. Also to many other things, infinitely dearer, including democracy in Russia and armies of young American lives.

That is the result of which the work of Mr. LaFollette and his company is tending.

I can do no more and no less than to tell you the facts as I found them in Russia.

The American pacifist is Russia's deadliest enemy and the kaiser's most powerful and efficient ally.

## GERMAN EFFORTS TO CREATE FASHIONS FAIL

AMSTERDAM, Sept. 1.—In response to the old demand throughout Germany for a new mode of women's clothing that shall be entirely German and absolutely independent of Paris, the Manich Wieland has brought out, after long preparation, a special supplement entirely "German Fashions," containing a series of colored designs "absolutely German in inspiration and elaboration."

The supplement has attracted wide attention in the German newspapers, but almost without exception the criticism is adverse. The Berlin Tageblatt says: "The illustrations might well be taken for caricatures. The body from the waist upward appears far too short and humpy, the lower part is padded to appear as an enormity. Bulging pockets; hats too small or too large, falling over one ear, wide outstanding collars and other absurdities complete a figure from which any rational man would turn with loathing."

The Tageszeitung and other papers declare that if this is a fair specimen of German genius for designing ladies' fashions, German women far better depend as in the past on Paris.

### REGULAR SESSION OF MEXICAN CONGRESS BEGINS

MEXICO CITY, Sept. 1.—The extraordinary session of the Mexican chamber of deputies, which began on May 1 adjourned formally last night. The regular session of the Mexican congress begins tonight when President Carranza will read his message.

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# BERLIN PRESS CALLS WILSON A WAR BAITER

### Controlled German Papers Resent Differentiation Between German Government and German People—Autocracy Defended and Democratization Condemned

AMSTERDAM, Sept. 1.—President Wilson's reference, in his reply to Pope Benedict's peace proposals to the German autocracy as distinct from the German people, is commented upon unfavorably by the German press. The Tageblatt of Berlin says: "President Wilson speaks of democratization of Germany, which we also desire, but it is an internal question and one we consider forbidden territory for foreigners, as a condition of peace."

The Lokai Anzeiger says: "The whole fallacy of President Wilson's argument is clear from the sentence in regard to the freedom of nations which are themselves to decide their own fate. President Wilson will not give us freedom to decide for ourselves, but would take it from us."

Same Answer to Come.

The Morgen Post says: "The German people will not fail to return the answer which already has been made once by the president of the reichstag with the unanimous accord of the members of the parliament, which is elected on the basis of the most liberal franchise in the world. This time, however, the answer will be clearer, much clearer."

The Vossische Zeitung says: "Probably President Wilson does not know anything about the declarations of General Soukhomlinoff (former Russian minister of war, now on trial for treason), and of General Junuschkewitch (former chief of the imperial general staff of Russia), concerning the real proceedings which led to the outbreak of the war. Otherwise he would have changed his tactics."

Called War Afliter.

The Lokai Anzeiger says: "The president of the United States is again differentiating between the German people and the German government, and President Wilson is again harping upon the alleged struggle between democracy and autocracy. This is wholly in keeping with his nature, since he discarded the mask of a peace friend. President Wilson apparently is striving to outdo Premier Lloyd-George as a war-baiter. The former professor of history knows full well that peace never will come if our foes decide to wait until their assumptions have been realized."

Is Non-Committal.

"President Wilson was anxious on this occasion to be non-committal," says the Volks Zeitung, "for if he had said yes to the papal note, that would have meant that he was taking leave of ambitious plans of his own, while if he had said no he would have unveiled openly his activity as a pro-longer of the war and would have angered the friends of peace in the United States who constitute a majority of his electors. He finds a good way out of this quandary by railing at the ruler of Germany and by rejecting every peace treaty which does not

# GOVERNOR CHANGES MIND AGAIN ON HUNTING SEASON

Sportsmen are puzzled to know where they are "at." Governor Withycombe has changed his mind so many times that it takes a mathematician to figure out whether the hunting season is closed or open.

On August 15, the day the deer season opened, the governor announced that he would not close the season, at the request of the state fire warden. The next day he announced that he would and declared the season closed from August 21 to September 1.

Then on August 29 came the announcement that the season would remain closed until rain relieved the situation. Troops were ordered to patrol the forests and hunters were likely to get a soldier, who had been given orders to shoot on sight suspected arsonists.

On August 30, District Game Warden Walker received the following from State Game Warden Shoemaker:

"The governor's proclamation closes all the hunting seasons all over Oregon until re-opened by proclamation. The order is now in full force and effect. Proclamation re-opening the seasons will not be made until a general rain prevails throughout Oregon."

On August 31, though not a drop of rain had fallen, the governor changed his mind again and the state game warden wired deputies as follows:

"The governor has explained that his proclamation closing the hunting season affects only the timbered areas, and that the open seasons are not affected except in the forests. All other seasons which are now open or which may be opened within the next 30 days are not affected."

Consequently the popping of guns began early Saturday about Medford as the dove season is open. As a matter of fact, few sportsmen are paying any attention to the governor's proclamations—there are too many of them and he might have changed his mind again since last heard from. It has been a case of in again, out again, so much that it will soon be gone again Flanagan, for this year.

## LIBERTY BONDS TO BE OFFERED OCTOBER 1

WASHINGTON, Sept. 1.—The next Liberty loan campaign will be launched October 1, according to present plans of the treasury department. It is expected that the issue will be for about \$3,000,000,000 and that the subscription will close November 1.

contain the German people's guarantee.

The Boersen Zeitung thinks the German people will not permit themselves to be driven into a dangerous internal conflict by its enemy, adding:

"This is the object of the entente, which sees in the weakening of our eternal front the only prospect of victory. This hope will be wholly disappointed."

# SUMPTER ASKS HELP FOR PEOPLE OF BURNED CITY

The people of Sumpter, Oregon, recently destroyed by fire, have issued an appeal for help in rebuilding the city and relieving distress and suffering. The mayor and relief committee have sent out the following appeal:

"Sumpter, Ore., Aug. 27.—Friends: We are appealing to you for financial help for fire-swept Sumpter. Every business house, with their stocks, ranging up to thousands of dollars, has been destroyed; nearly 50 homes with all the contents of clothes, bedding and furniture, have been lost completely. Churches, lodges and public halls have been wiped out, and little or no insurance was carried, owing to the extreme high rate charged, and at that difficult to get. Light and water plant out of business, our people are facing the winter with from six to ten feet of snow for months. Last year snow began November 1st. It will soon be here. Fuel is a grave problem. The impression unfortunately has gone out that Sumpter is not in serious need. It is and help must be had at once to prevent further and acute suffering.

The total losses, carefully compiled by the committee appointed by the mayor of the city, reaches over \$200,000. Hours of painstaking work results in the fact that from \$7500 to \$10,000 will be required, after cutting relief to the bone, in order that the situation may be relieved. We appeal for help to you and your people. Please take the matter up at once, that your help may be of great good. The governor has appealed to the state, but the response is not such as we feel the people should give. Kindly make all remittances to the Citizens National Bank, Baker, Oregon, which will receipt for all sums sent. Will you not come to our aid at this time?

Respectfully,  
DR. C. E. EDWARDS,  
H. E. HENDRYX,  
REV. R. C. LEE,  
Committee.

"Make your checks, drafts, etc., payable to the Sumpter relief fund."

## ELEVEN MILLION GOLD FROM ALASKA IN YEAR

SEATTLE, Sept. 1.—The United States assay office in Seattle received during the fiscal year ending June 30 last gold bullion from Alaska and Canada valued at \$11,193,000. The district sending the largest shipment for the year was Nome, \$2,790,000. The Iditarod sent \$1,532,000 and is likely to make a larger showing during the present year, \$800,000 of Iditarod bullion having arrived in Seattle last night. Yukon territory sent \$1,441,000 to the assay office, mostly from the Klondike, where dredges are busy. South-eastern Alaska sent \$1,302,000. A rich strike is reported on Harris creek, in the Kuskokwin country. All the Alaska gold seekers are excited over the prospect that at the close of the war Siberia will be opened to American prospectors. The country is known to contain much placer gold.

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