

SIBERIA LAND OF CONFUSION AND TURMOIL

Country Is One of Many Governments but Allies Will Strengthen and Solidify All Parties Into a Unit Against Bolshevik and German Prisoners.

(Staff Correspondence.)
HARBIN, Manchuria, Aug. 1.—“Go to Siberia! Write full particulars of situation there!”

In Mukden, Manchuria, I got that cable from my home office in the United States. I had been on my way to Peking. But—people ordered to Siberia always go. I went! Out of contentment into chaos.

All day I traveled northward over the fertile Manchurian plain in one of the world's finest trains, the South Manchurian express, pride of Japan's colonial railway management. Under the bright sun the Chinese farmers worked—six, eight, ten to a field. How peaceful that pastoral scene was!

An American Outpost in Siberia

By evening confusion and haze began. At Chang-Chun, half way to Harbin, the rain was a flood. Through it I grasped at a straw, a man in khaki, outpost of America, lieutenant in the American railway engineers corps serving in Russia.

At midnight I was on “Russian soil”—a Russian railway coach under Russian sovereignty. The lieutenant had fought a way for us through the noisy, twisting mass of Chinese, Russians and Japanese jamming the dimly-lit Chang-Chun station platform. In the coach he had seized a compartment for us—fought for it.

It was almost pitch dark inside the coach. We couldn't see the lieutenant's face as we bade him goodby. A tallow candle, high in a lantern frame, cast just enough light to reveal two bare bunks. No pillows! No bedding! Plenty of dirt!

Japanese Order Ends; Russian Anarchy Begins

We locked the door, folded our wet raincoats into pillows, wrapped in blankets the lieutenant had given us, and lay down. Japanese and Korean trains had never been even a minute late. This train, made up here, was starting more than a hour behind time.

Japanese order had ended. Here began the Russian-run Chinese Eastern railroad, link in the Trans-Siberian. The coach was Russian, and Russia was anarchy.

Pounding at the door awakened us three times. Twice it was passport examination. Heavily bearded Russian officials scowled over our papers. Something was wrong. They spoke no English, I no Russian. We would be arrested? Or just thrown off? They handed back the passport. Safe again!

Then other passengers tried to force their way into the compartment. We pushed them out by force, locked the door against them, and kept it locked, no matter who pounded. Chinese Work Between Firing Line

By dawn the train had crossed the Sangari river and was stopping 10 minutes to half an hour at every wayside station. At each stop most of the passengers got out and walked up and down in groups, talking, like conspirators.

Fine forests bordered wide valleys, wet but now sparkling in the sun, where big herds of cattle grazed. The Chinese farmers were still busy. I have since seen them work between the rifles of opposing forces. But a strip each side of the track was Russia, which is not working, and hours late we dropped down on Harbin—Russian city in the heart of the Chinese province of Manchuria, then the only quiet spot in Russia or Siberia, then the only haven from soviet rule and therefore crowded with refugees.

Now Harbin is more than a “safe port” in the storm of revolution. It is a military base, today. Here intervening troops of the allies are starting their operations against Bolshevik and armed German prisoners. Most of the trains just now, from Chang-Chun to Harbin, are troop trains, carrying Chinese or Japanese troops on the first stage of their journey to aid the Czech-Slavs wipe out Germanism in Siberia.

Harbin the Fighting Center

In Harbin today diplomats agree on and military staffs plan army campaigns in Siberia. Orders for military stores are being sent, and arrangements made to receive and forward them. Here General Horvath, governor of these Russian areas, through his position as head of the Chinese Eastern railway, proclaimed himself provisional ruler of Siberia, and from here he sent his army to Grodekovo, on the Manchurian-Si-

berian border, half way to Vladivostok, to link up with the Czech army which captured Nikolok after taking over Vladivostok.

It has been hard to keep track of the different “Siberian governments” I have seen arise in the last few weeks. It is still hard to determine just what will be the scope and who the head of the new order in Siberia now forming out of these various factors.

At times there have seemed to be five of them:

Siberia's Five Governments

- 1—The Horvath government.
- 2—The autonomous Siberian government, or “Derber government,” named after its first premier.
- 3—The Vladivostok government, which for a while claimed the support of the allied consuls at Vladivostok.
- 4—The western Siberian provisional government, first announced to have chosen General Alixeff as its generalissimo.
- 5—The Czech-Slavs, on whose sensational military successes, one of the most electrifying campaigns of the present war, which I am describing in a later story, all the new Siberian units have been built up.

But it is my judgment that, when all the rumors in this hotbed of rumors are sifted, things simmered down, with allied intervention, to the Horvath group, accused of being somewhat reactionary, and the autonomous Siberian government group, accused by Horvath of being too radical and socialistic.

So great and so general Russia's disorganization, even here in comparatively settled Siberia, that without allied intervention these two factions would probably have remained at sixes and sevens, pulling in opposite directions, until the results of the Czech military successes, the actual, factual basis of the hope for a new Siberia, had fallen down in the crack between them and been lost. Even today full Siberian unity has not been achieved. But—

Why Intervention Now Is Timely

The chief timeliness of allied intervention lay in this:

It came at the psychological moment to summon the Horvath crowd and the autonomous Siberia faction to unite with the intervening allied troops and the Czechs, and present a single front to the Bolshevik and armed German prisoners who are the mutual enemy of all these Siberian camps.

Only outside force could have amalgamated Siberians, even when the Czech-Slavs presented them their release from Bolshevism on a silver platter. On that basis and toward that end the present campaign is being conducted.

TACOMA PAPERS INCREASE PRICES

TACOMA, Aug. 31.—All the Tacoma newspapers today announced an increase in price due to the rising cost of publication. The Morning Ledger and Evening News Tribune increased from 2 to 3 cents per copy.

HUNS CUT OUT BABIES' HEARTS



Reproduction of a photo received from a Yank in France, showing French children with their hearts cut out.

(By Newspaper Enterprise Association.)

KANSAS CITY, Mo., Aug. 23.—The Huns in France do cut out babies' hearts before their mothers' eyes.

Pictorial proof of this ruin atrocity has just been received in Kansas City from a Yank in France.

He is Sergeant Claude Cox, 13th railway engineers. He sent the picture to his father, S. P. Cox.

Sergeant Cox writes: “The enclosed photo shows another of the methods of ruining children

that the atrocious Hun has found a favorite pastime.

“The picture was taken a few hours after the city was in the hands of the enemy and retaken by the French.

“I have seen the mother and grand mother many times, and each of them was horribly treated.”

From their own lips, he adds, he has heard the story of the Huns' brutality in torturing and killing the two babies before their very eyes.

TWO INJURED IN DOUBLE MIX-UP OF BIKES AND AUTOS

A double mix-up between two bicycles and their riders with two cars in which Fay Diamond and Rollen R. Dunlap were injured occurred this noon at the intersection of East Main street and South Central. Considerable excitement was caused by the accidents.

Mr. Diamond was riding his bicycle east on East Main street and as he approached the intersection witnesses say that he was not looking ahead but had his head turned and was shouting something at Homer Elwood who stood on the sidewalk. Just at that time William Bergen, west bound in a Ford car, was turn-

ing into South Central. He had sounded the usual warning signal, witnesses say, and when he saw that Diamond did not see him managed cleverly to bring his car to a stop. Diamond crashed into his car and was buckled up beneath it. He was badly bruised and his clothes were torn but he otherwise escaped injury.

Rollen Dunlap, who is about 18 years old, was riding his bicycle in the rear of Diamond, and just as the latter was about to collide with the car, managed to swerve to one side around the car just in time to collide with the car of Mr. Elwood, the jeweler. He was knocked under the car and the wheels passed over his abdomen and hips. Chief of Police Timothy carried him to the office of Dr. Sweeney who at once took the injured boy home at 222 North Central in an auto. Dunlap suffered no broken bones but it is feared internal injuries may develop. He was resting easy this afternoon.

With Medford trade in Medford made

MAN POWER BILL SIGNED BY PRESIDENT

(Continued From Page One.)

and otherwise qualified for arduous duties of soldier life, are to be taken first.

Youth in their eighteenth year will be placed in a separate group, the war department has announced, to be subject to a special educational program and will not be called until the supply of other available men in the new classes is exhausted. This does not mean that their calling will be long deferred, however, inasmuch as it has been announced that all men in the new registration accepted for general service will be under arms by June 30, 1919. The man power bill makes no specific provision for separate classification of 18 year old boys and war department plans for their treatment have been made on executive initiative.

Idle Men Rounded Up

Altho the “work or fight” clause which would have affected striking workmen was taken out of the bill before passage yesterday, Provost Marshal General Crowder has planned to apply vigorously existing regulations relating to idle men or those engaged in non-essential employment to the newly registered men.

The man power bill was signed today by presiding officers of the house and senate and sent to the White House for the president's signature which made it law. The president at once signed and issued the proclamation carrying the new draft provisions into action.

After citing the law and stating the regulations for registration, the

president's proclamation read as follows:

President's Proclamation

“Fifteen months ago the men of the country from twenty-one to thirty years of age were registered. Three months ago and again last month those who had just reached the age of 21 were added. It now remains to include all men between the ages of 18 and 45.

“This is not a new policy. A century and a quarter ago it was deliberately ordained by those who were then responsible for the safety and defense of the nation that the duty of military service should rest upon all able-bodied men between the ages of 18 and 45. We now accept and fulfill the obligation which they established, an obligation expressed in our national statutes from that time until now. We solemnly purpose a decisive victory of arms and deliberately to devote the larger part of the military man power of the nation to the accomplishment of that purpose.

Praise for Youth

“The younger men have from the first been ready to go. They have furnished voluntary enlistments out of all proportion to their numbers. Our military authorities regard them as having the highest combatant qualities. Their youthful enthusiasm, their virile eagerness, their gallant spirit of daring, make them the admiration of all who see them in action. They covet not only the distinction of serving in this great war but also the inspiring memories which hundreds of thousands of them will cherish thru the years to come, of a great day and a great service for their country and for mankind.”

Turn of the Older Men

“By the men of the older group now called upon, the opportunity now open to them will be accepted with the calm resolution of those who realize to the full the deep and solemn significance of what they do. Having made a place for themselves in their respective communities, having assumed at home the graver responsibilities of life in many spheres,

looking back upon honorable records in civil and industrial life, they will realize as perhaps no others could, how entirely their own fortunes and the fortunes of all whom they love are put at stake in this war for right and will know that the very records they have made render this now duty the commanding duty of their lives. They know how surely this is the nation's war, how imperatively it demands the mobilization and massing of all our resources of every kind. They will regard this call as the supreme call of their day and will answer it accordingly.

Only a Portion Called

“Only a portion of those who register will be called upon to bear arms. Those who are not physically fit will be excused; those exempted by alien allegiance; those who should not be relieved of their present responsibility; above all those who cannot be spared from the civil and industrial tasks at home upon which the success of our armies depends as much as upon the fighting at the front. But all must register in order that the selection for military service may be made intelligently and with full information. This will be our final demonstration of loyalty, democracy and the will to win, our solemn notice to all the world that we stand absolutely together in a common resolution and purpose. It is the call to duty to which every true man in the country will respond with pride and with the consciousness that in doing so he plays his part in vindication of a great cause at whose summons every true heart offers its supreme service.”

The motor car in which the Belgian minister of finance was returning from a visit to the front accidentally overturned. The minister was injured in the leg.

For the first time in the history of Sweden, a deputation of Laplanders waited on the king recently to lay certain considerations and decisions before him.

SUNDAY **DAGE** MONDAY

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