

## TROTSKI SEES PEACE BY REDS ON CHRISTMAS

Declares Soviets Are Making  
No Preparations for Fu-  
ture Fighting.

### CONSTRUCTION IS BEGUN

MOSCOW (By Wireless to Berlin), Dec. 21.—Soviet Russia will have its first peace Christmas this year since the creation of the soviet form of government. This was the message sent to the outside world today by Leon Trotski, people's commissar of war. Trotski has just returned from South Russia, where he directed military operations on the Crimean front. He says that Russia is facing an approaching future fighting all the energies of the soviet, he said, are now being turned toward the economic upbuilding of the country.

(Note.—According to press dispatches from Constantinople, soviet Russia has embarked on a new war in Persia, using troops that crushed General Wrangel's anti-Bolshevik army. Constantinople reported that the Russian Reds had invaded northwestern Persia and were advancing on Tabriz, overrunning all opposition.)

### ENEMY ROUTED ON ALL SIDES.

Seated in his office in the building of the Supreme Revolution War Council, Trotski dictated the following statement:

"To the situation on the fronts I may say that at this moment we have no active fronts. In the South we have eliminated Wrangel. In the West and Southwest we have eliminated Petrus and Balachovitch. In the Far East we have routed the legions of Semanoff. This is the first occasion in the last three years that the military situation in Russia has given way to tranquility. There is no fighting anywhere at present."

"The military reports from the fronts deal only with the reorganization, with the newly liberated districts and with the enumeration of booty captured by our armies."

"How long do you expect this period to last?" Trotski was asked. He replied:

"In this regard you ought to look for enlightenment beyond the boundaries of soviet Russia; in those official headquarters where great combinations now that we have offered amnesty to the Wrangel crowd, and in view of the utter hopelessness of their undertaking."

"Russian peace, however, was not wished in Paris and London. The result has been that after a bitter struggle and immeasurable losses Poland got less than we had been offering her. Wrangel's adventure in south Russia swallowed up some tens of thousands of lives and a few billions of francs. The result is that Wrangel's forces were annihilated."

"What do you regard as the chief problem of the moment?" Trotski was asked. He responded:

"The economic problem. You know

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### UNABLE TO DEFEND RED'S MAD REGIME.

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### RUSSIA WITHOUT WAR PROFITEERS.

"We have no bankers in Russia, no capitalists, no usurers, who, in strict conformity with all the rules of modern civilization, feverishly enrich themselves during war at the expense of others. We have no professional parliamentarians who once in five years make the exploited masses vote for one or the other of the existing bourgeoisie parties. All legislative bodies in our country are subject to the Congress of Workers and Peasants which meets every December in the person of thousands."

### RAILWAY TRANSPORT IS IMPROVING.

"We are restarting the big metal factories in the south. Railway transport is improving. The attention of the country is being directed from questions of politics to war to economic questions. We are very much interested in international trade. Still more we would like to be left in peace. In this condition we could pledge ourselves not to unsheathe the sword in the future."

"What are your purely military problems?" Trotski was asked.

He replied: "We wish to decrease considerably the numbers of men in the army but at the same time increase the fighting ability of the army. The capitalistic press has fed its readers fancy stories about the reputed disintegration of the Red army, about Comrade Budyenny's betrayal and so on. There still may be in Europe some numskulls who believe such tales as these. As a matter of fact during the operations against Wrangel the Reds reached a new level of courage and strategy, as well as in heroism. The Russians showed themselves good fighters. Our infantry in particular scored a great success. Among the many trophies captured from the Wrangel forces, we did not find anything that we did not already possess."

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### GEORGE TERMED AS UNLUCKY PROPHET

"What about the Caucasus and the Near East?" Trotski was asked.

Trotski replied: "Our policy there is the same as on the Donets and the Narova—the districts where the Red Russians fought. The Poles, the men of the capitalist countries regardless of their (thousand pardons) blockades in questions of revolution and Socialism ought to understand that our profoundest interests—political, economic and cultural—demand a policy of peace and intense work."

"Any word about the predictions of the early collapse of the soviet regime?" Trotski was asked. He replied:

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### Chicago Detective, Doing Guard Duty, Held Up by 4 Men

CHICAGO, Dec. 21.—In an effort to combat the crime wave which has swept Chicago since the advent of cold weather, wealthy citizens have employed private detectives to guard their homes.

Roger Gale, Pinkerton detective, while patrolling the street in front of the home of Cyrus H. McCormick, harvester king, last night, was held up by four men. Gale, firing from his pocket, wounded and captured one, who gave the name of John Johnson. The others escaped.

that I recently returned from the Donets basin, where I, together with a commission sent by the council people's commissioners, studied conditions in the coal and iron field. We learned that the metal industries and the coal mines in the Donets basin are now beyond danger, either from the side of the Caucasus. It is quite possible to double or even treble the production of coal within the next few months. I am convinced that the measures taken by the government guarantees satisfactory results.

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