

ALLIES' 1917 INVASION OF RUSSIA BASIS FOR SOVIETS' GIGANTIC WAR DEBT CLAIM

Sixty Billions in Reparations Originally Asked for Interference by Troops During Revolution.

The White House meeting between President Roosevelt and Soviet Foreign Commissar Litvinoff will attract the attention of the entire world. Here is the fourth and last of a series of articles clarifying the problems underlying this historic parley.

BY WILLIAM PHILIP SIMMS
Scripps-Howard Foreign Editor

WASHINGTON, Nov. 4.—Behind Soviet Russia's sixty billion dollar top counterclaim against the allies and the United States, offsetting the allies' lesser claims against the Soviet Union, was one of the most fantastic war gambles of all time.

And while the claim itself was fantastic, and was subsequently greatly scaled down, a study of the cold facts still leads to the conclusion that if the allies were justified in demanding vast reparations from Germany, Russia has some grounds at least for reparations from the allies.

For while revolutionary Russia was midway her job of settling her own domestic strife, Great Britain, France, Italy, Japan and the United States sent armies against her, occupied vast areas of her territory in an undeclared war, and attempted to overthrow the new regime.

The allies, of course, believe themselves thoroughly justified. They were fighting for their lives. They believed the Bolsheviks were bent on helping Germany destroy them. But the Soviets take another view.

The Bolshevik revolution exploded on Europe in November, 1917. The following spring, a counter-revolution broke out, led by the czarist generals Alexiev, Kornilov, Semenov, Admiral Kolchak and others.

Wilson Delays Entering

To the allies, this seemed a propitious time to join in. Since the first of the year they had been contemplating intervention in Russia. They wanted to save the large stores of war materials piled up at Vladivostok, along the Trans-Siberian railway, at Archangel and along the Murman railway leading southward from the Arctic ocean.

They also wanted to strike a blow at Germany to prevent her using all her troops on the western front. Britain, too, was afraid Germany might try to reach India, via Russia and Japan, had her eyes on eastern Siberia and the strategic port of Vladivostok.

Alone the United States was cold to the project. It wanted to win the war against Germany, but it did not want to tackle the job from the direction of Russia. For months, therefore, against a perfect torrent of propaganda, President Wilson held out against the Russian adventure, only to give in at last.

Fighting Breaks Out

Upward of 100,000 Czechs and Slovaks—former Austro-Hungarian soldiers who had made their way into Russia there to fight against the central powers for their own independence—had been caught in Siberia. They were en route to the western front to join the allies. Hostility had developed and fighting had broken out between them and released and armed German prisoners in Siberia, the allies informed the President, and unless rescued they would be wiped out.

Before he ordered an American expeditionary force to join the others in Russia, however, Wilson demanded, and obtained certain guarantees.

First Japan had to forswear any territorial ambitions in Siberia.

Second, as soon as the job was done, the allied forces, including the Japanese, would immediately withdraw.

Japan Breaks Past

Third, he made it part of the official record that when he embarked upon the undertaking he did so "not for interference in internal affairs of Russia, and not to distract from the western front," but "to protect Czechoslovakia against armed Austrian and German prisoners who are attacking them and to steady any efforts at self-government or self-defense in which Russians themselves may be willing to accept assistance."

The United States understood that, all told, a force of about 50,000 allies would be required. Of these, Japan would provide her share, or 10,000 to 12,000 men. She actually sent nearly 75,000 into Siberia, and, despite every effort to dislodge them, the last of them did not withdraw until 1925.

The Japanese especially behaved as victors in a conquered land. They and the allies broke up Soviet councils in the occupied territory, ordered new elections, then broke up the new councils, which always turned out politically as before. It was like sweeping back the tide with a broom.

U. S. Prevents War

No matter how the allies may look at it, therefore, the new Russian regime which withstood these efforts to destroy it, regarded intervention as war. Accordingly, when the allies asked for about \$13,000,000 from Russia, she replied with huge claims of her own.

Her claim against the United States is unimportant compared with what she might demand of the allies. Furthermore, should she press her claims, Washington, in turn, may counter by pointing out that but for the firm stand of the United States before and during the Washington conference, the Japanese might still be in Siberia, whence they could not be dislodged save at tremendous expense to Russia and a long and bloody war.

FIRST \$30,000 BOND ISSUE UNDERWRITTEN

Montgomery Ward Leases Building in Crawfordsville.

First mortgage bond issue on the Bischoff building, to be constructed in Crawfordsville immediately and occupied by the Montgomery, Ward & Co., was announced today by T. P. Burke, president of the T. P. Burke & Co., Inc., local investment bankers.

The issue was underwritten by the latter company as a first mortgage of 6 per cent bond in the amount of \$30,000. Dated Nov. 1, 1933, the mortgage will run for a period of sixteen years, with serial maturities beginning at the end of the initial year.

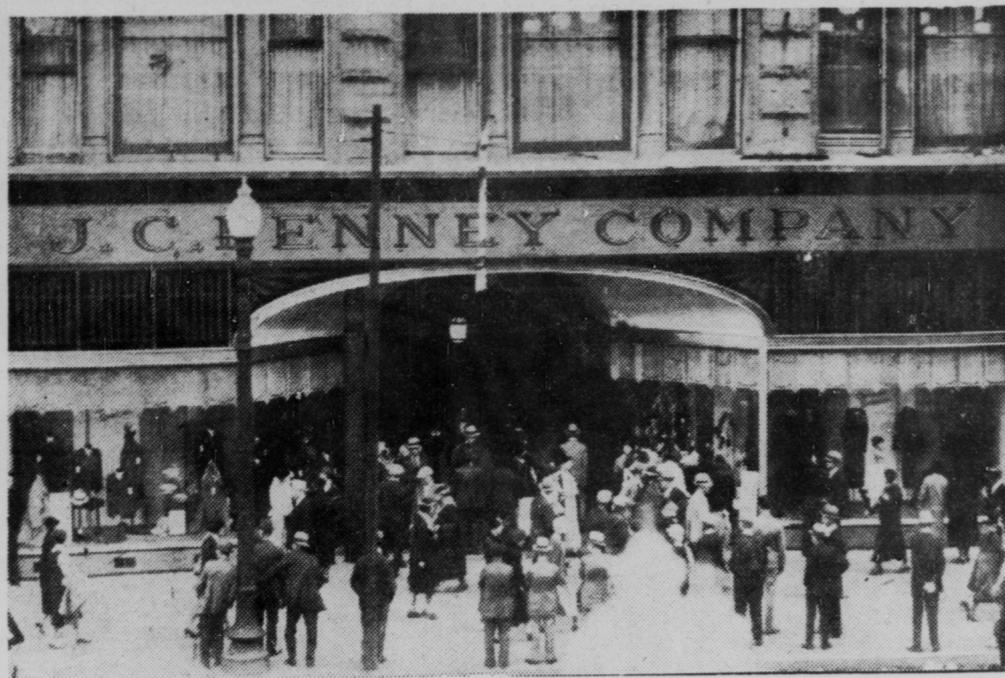
These payments will amortize the issue gradually and more than 50 per cent of the bonds will be retired before the final payment. The building was leased for thirty-five years at a substantial annual rental.

PLAN ARMISTICE DAY CELEBRATION



Plans are being made for observance of Armistice Day, Nov. 11. The committee in charge, left to right, is Charles R. Michael, department commander, Veterans of Foreign Wars; Harry M. Franklin, United Spanish War Veterans; Mrs. A. E. Berry, of the American War Mothers, and Frank A. White, Hoosier Legionnaire editor.

NEW J. C. PENNEY STORE THRONGED AT OPENING



Crowds thronged the three floors of the new J. C. Penney store, which opened yesterday. The building has been completely redecorated and presents merchandise of every description. The second floor is divided into ready-

to-wear departments, set apart in individual shops for convenience of the customer. At one side is a shop for infants, another for older girls and a "Treasure Island" department, where boys' clothing is displayed.

The local store is the newest of the more than 1,400 included in the J. C. Penney chain, scattered throughout practically every state in the United States. The first of the Penney stores was opened in 1902 in Kemmerer, Wyo., a small mining town.

SCHOOL BUDGET CUTS OPPOSED BY MOTHERS IN HEARING ON LEVIES

Reduction of \$137,072 Proposed to State Tax Board by Miesse; Mayor Sullivan Defends Civil City Figure.

Protests in behalf of hundreds of Indianapolis mothers against reductions in the school city budget, and suggestions for a total slash of \$158,307 in the school and civil city budgets, were laid before the state tax board yesterday in a public hearing.

Governor Paul V. McNutt, however, asserted that the plan for handling liquor after repeal had not yet been perfected. He still is awaiting an opinion from Attorney-General Philip Lutz Jr., which is forthcoming shortly, it was said.

Mr. Lutz's opinion has been forecast as giving the administration wide powers in handling the liquor business through rules and pronouncements by Paul Fry, state excise director.

Mr. Fry said he would make whatever regulations the Governor sees fit.

The excise director explained the recent removal of beer importers into a bonded warehouse here on the grounds of better refrigeration, rather than possible liquor storage.

Importers here are William E. Clauer and John W. Burke, operating as Hoosier Brewery, Inc., and State Brewery Company.

RAHKE IS ARRAIGNED ON LOTTERY CHARGE

Suspect Pleads Not Guilty Before Court.

Emil Rahke, 51, of 4146 North Meridian street, alleged lottery operator, was arraigned in criminal court yesterday morning before pre trial Judge Alexander Cavin, after Judge Frank Baker had disqualified himself.

Rahke was charged with operating a lottery and gift enterprise on complaint of Edward H. Little, 5109 Park Avenue. Little alleges Rahke sold him a lottery ticket for 20 cents June 3.

Rahke pleaded not guilty after a motion to quash the indictment filed by his attorney, Harvey Grubbs, was overruled by Judge Cavin. No date has been set for the trial.

After hearing the protests, the tax board announced that separate hearings on the budgets would be conducted next week on dates to be announced later.

Mr. Rahke interrupted at this point to declare that school city reductions mean one of two things.

"Either we close the schools in March, or teachers must go unpaid," she asserted. "Indianapolis does not want the stigma of unpaid teachers that is attached to other cities," Mrs. Balch asserted.

In answering to questioning by Mrs. Miesse, Mayor Reginald H. Sullivan, defending his budget as one of the best municipal budgets in recent years, declared he is not in favor of a special session of the legislature.

"You never can tell what a legislature is going to do," the mayor asserted. "The budget is made up—it is a good budget—and the legislature in special session might take away funds we need vitally."

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