

RUSSIA

For some months past, the news permitted to filter through the censorship of Petrograd, indicated that affairs were not going well in Russia. The fact that famine prevailed in some of the towns and cities showed, at least, the lack of proper organization ; for Russia is the greatest wheat producing country in the world and yearly exported millions of bushels of it, but since the outbreak of the war this exportation was impossible, so that the surplus harvests of three years are still stored in her granaries. With such an abundance of foodstuff within her own territory and yet famine stalking through the land, clearly indicated the absence of a paternal government whose duty it would be to have sufficient vision to attend to the wants of the people in having the fruits of the abundant harvests so distributed over the country that famine would be impossible.

When Rumania entered the war on the side of the Allies it was expected that she would be subjected to an attack from the Central Powers, but that Russia would bring to her aid sufficient forces to resist it. The attack, indeed, swiftly came, but in the assistance rendered there was disappointment and the result showed that there was either no concerted action on the part of the Allies for the safeguard of Rumania, or that Russia failed in her professed help ; and the Rumanian campaign turned out disastrous to that country, detrimental to the cause of the Allies among neutral nations, and to the great advantage of the Central Powers. Thus what had appeared as a clear index to the ascendancy of the Allies was by either lack of foresight on the part of her statesmen or by failure of Russia to do her part, turned to their disadvantage.

Again, there were rumours of a separate peace being entered into between Russia and Germany and this seemed unintelligible to an outsider, because the mobilization of the Russian army was put forth by

Germany as the immediate cause of the war, while Russia claimed it was done for the protection of the Slav States, and with this objective still unaccomplished, and Germany holding possession of a large Russian territory, how could Russia, who had called the other nations to her aid, now forsake them and relinquish the War? All this indicated that "Something is rotten in the State of Denmark"—and the explanation of it has come to us in the Russian Revolution.

We look upon this phase of the Russian affairs as a forward step made by the democracy of the nation. It was surely coming in Russia, as the Duma or parliament of the nation obtained in 1905 pointed out. The forward sweep of democracy is worldwide and national boundaries will not retard it, in fact the present war has accelerated its movements. The quickening of men's spirits and the rapid breaking of old associations and conditions incident to war, rapidly advance democratic movements, for the democracy then lives and moves in the realization of a new found power greater than they ever dreamed of.

The patriotism of the people of Russia can be relied upon in ridding the country of a foreign foe, and the new government that has broken the chains of serfdom, will be slow to accept the advances made by the statesmen of the Central Powers who seemed to have dominated the councils of the dynasty just overthrown.

The citizens of Russia are confronted with a double task,—the complete re-organization of the internal affairs of the Empire and the successful prosecution of the war. The second task is dependent on the first and its effectiveness will be foreshadowed by the success or failure of the former. In this, however, Russia does not differ much from her Allies, excepting that among them the power is exercised by the representatives of the people, and revolutions assume the form of cabinet crises.

Should Russia, in the hour of her trial, find

among her statesmen true patriots with breadth of vision, a new era has awakened for her. She needs no new lands to be acquired in order to plant her colonies, for she has within her borders the richest grain growing plains in the world of which only the rim has yet been touched. Religious freedom which must be included in all enlightened government and the everlasting banishment of the Vodka, which in the past contributed so largely to enthrall the peasantry, would change the face of the empire and give it new life and freedom. Thus considering her present vast population, her high birth rate, and the immense extent of her territory, under enlightened and progressive government cultivating the arts of peace and civilization, her future destiny looms big on the horizon.

UNITED STATES.

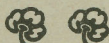
The severing of diplomatic relations between the United States and Germany and the simultaneous discovery of German intrigue in Mexico and Japan threatened to extend the war zone to America. The immediate cause of this rupture was the reassumption by Germany of her unrestricted submarine campaign. This very seriously interfered with the commerce of the United States for since the outbreak of the war she had found an easy and ready market among the allied nations; but now Germany in retaliation for the blockade that is carried on against her undertakes a counter one by means of the submarines. Hence American transatlantic commerce is either tied up in her home ports or exposed to destruction by submarines should they attempt to run this new blockade. This state of affairs is annoying to an industrial nation that has been profiting largely by the prevailing war prices and that is now mostly concerned in calculating her monetary loss occasioned by this rude interference with her peaceful trading. She is the greatest neutral nation in the world, but yet it cannot be

argued that it is in the defence of the violated rights of neutral nations that she now threatens to go to war, for these rights were violated at the very outbreak of the war and the United States then entered no formal protest. It is rather that she regards these submarines as so many bandits ready to prey upon her commerce and that it is her duty to defend her interests against such attacks by arming her merchantmen which amounts to increasing her police force in a manner most suitable to the exigencies of the peril. It is, however, a perilous stop for the United States to enter the present war. The president who at this juncture would declare war against Germany should in his own person represent the ideals of the nations, and the cause which would move him to such action should find a patriotic response in the hearts of all his subjects. It is difficult to think that, in President Wilson the average American citizen finds his ideal of chief executive.

The American nation is pre-eminently an industrial people; the ambition of her citizens is to become captains of industry, and animated by such motives they have become energized to a high degree, swift to act, undaunted by obstacles and fascinated by the element of chance in their undertakings. It is therefore foreign to their mode of thinking and manner of acting to behold their chief executive calmly seated in the White House as he was wont to be of yore in his Collage Sanctum, writing disquisitions on the speculative aspects of questions that are moving the world and burning the hearts of men. Again, the call to arms on the side of the Allies, would be resented by the numerous citizens who trace their origin to the countries included in the Central Powers and who, although citizens of the great American Commonwealth, have never forgotten the fatherland or lessened in their attachment to it. Equal hostility would be found in a still larger number embracing the Irish-Americans, who either themselves or their ancestors left Ireland to seek freedom in America, carrying with them the experience of cruelty and tyranny backed

by the tradition of centuries. To these the proclamation of England fighting for the rights of smaller nations sounds as empty cant, and this the more in view of the recent inexcusable executions in Ireland and the tragic fate of Home Rule. The Jews who controlled such large mercantile interest in nearly all the great cities of the republic, and more particularly in those of the east, would have clear remembrance of ill-treatment received at the hands of Russia, and would now decline to enter into an alliance with her.

It would appear that the re-election of President Wilson indicated that his pacific policy was indorsed by the majority of the people as the one most expedient in the present crisis. It is not a policy of principle and high sense of justice, but one of expediency and compromise; nor is it calculated to enhance the position of the United States among the other nations of the world, nor furnish her own citizens with lessons of sacrifices made for justice sake, which contribute so much to the future moulding of the ideals of the nation. The entry of the United States into the war would not greatly benefit the Allies, as with the exception of her fleet, she is unprepared; but on the other hand it would be fraught with the gravest dangers to herself, both from within and from without.



These are riches—A woman proud to call you son; a man proud to call you brother; a girl proud to call you husband; a child proud to call you father; a few others proud to call you friend.

Everything to which men continue to give thought and attention, which they make and remake in the same direction, and with a continuing desire to do as well as they can, grows beautiful inevitably.

Great thoughts know no remorse and great art has never to repent.