

SOVIET RUSSIA

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TABLE OF CONTENTS.

	PAGE
Editorials	1
Incentive to Effort	2
Kolchak the "Democrat" Fleecing his Subjects, By Max M. Zippin	3
Literacy in Russia	6
Political Propaganda and Educational Activity	13
The Committee of State Constructions, By Arthur Ransome	14

	PAGE
Exposing the Powers of Darkness, By V. M.	16
Two Accusations	18
The Russian Fronts in June	19
Russian Prisoners of War in France	20
Press Comment	21
Jew-Baiting in Siberia	22
News from London	23
Reading Matter on Soviet Russia	24

It is announced that the Council of Five in Paris has instructed the Allied legations in Helsingfors, Finland, to encourage the Finnish Mannerheim Government to participate in an attack upon Soviet Russia.

Waiting through long years of Czarist oppression, the Finnish people hailed the Russian Revolution as their hour of deliverance. They seized the opportunity and threw off the intolerable yoke of Czarism, only to fall under the equally intolerable yoke of Prussian imperialism. German trained officers led the White Guards of Mannerheim against the Finnish Revolution; and the Mannerheim dictatorship, completely under German domination, drove the protesting people into war against the Russian Revolution. And now this same Government is to be incited by the Allies to assist in the attempt to restore the Russian despotism which was the source of the past miseries of the Finnish people. Torn and exhausted by bloody revolution and by starvation, the masses of the Finnish people, desiring only peace to secure their own freedom, are to be driven to attack the Russian Revolution, their only bulwark against the return of their oppressors.

Even among Finnish conservatives there are many who, knowing the nature of Kolchak and the purposes of his monarchist imperialist adherents, see in present events the threatened extinction of all Finnish hopes. If Kolchak should succeed, he would restore the Russian empire to her old position as the oppressor of all peoples lying within her ambitious reach. The Powers in their note to Kolchak made recognition of Finnish independence one of the conditions of their support. Kolchak refused to commit himself to any such recognition. And now the Allies are not only extending their support to Kolchak, but are even coercing the reactionary Finnish Government to support him.

Moreover, while the "support" of the Allies, we are told, is to be restricted to supplies and munitions, the Finnish Government is to be asked to hurl the bodies of Finnish men and boys against Russian men and boys with whom they have no quarrel and with whom they have all interests in common. Finnish blood is to be spilt, Finnish manhood, unutterably exhausted, is to be driven once more into unwilling battle.

And what shall one think of a League of Nations, erected in the name of democracy and peace, whose first act is to incite a small, weak people into a war which, if successful, would fasten once more upon their backs the worst tyranny the world has ever known?

And what can be expected of Finnish aid to Kolchak? Kolchak, retreating eastward, is to take Moscow. Finnish troops are to aid in the capture of Petrograd, about which the Estonians and "loyal" Russians have been so long "closing in," only to be discovered suddenly in full retreat.

But what if Petrograd were captured by these troops which are at present exhibiting such haste to withdraw from its vicinity? What then? Petrograd is only Petrograd, and behind Petrograd lies all Russia. What would avail all the Finns that Mannerheim can press into service for such a campaign? The French and Italian and English peoples have expressed in unmistakable terms their unwillingness to undertake any campaign against the Russian revolution. Their Governments, willing enough, perhaps, to support Kolchak with supplies and munitions, do not show any determination to force their own troops into this impossible enterprise. But what the great powers themselves will not undertake, Finland is to be encouraged to attempt. The Finnish army, a mere handful in the vastness of Russia, is to be hurled into the breach in vain at-