Из Виктории во Владивосток: канадская экспедиция в Сибири: 1918-1919 гг

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Canada's intervention in the Russian Civil War

- Archangelsk: “Elope Party” 500 Canadians
- Murmansk: “Syren Party” 600 Canadians
- Baku: “Dunsterforce” 41 Canadians
- Vladivostok: “Siberian Expeditionary Force” 4,192 Canadians
“Hands Off Russia” protest meeting
Victoria, British Columbia, Canada, December 1918
Canadian conscripts marching to ship, Victoria, December 1918
Pushkin Theatre

Canadian force headquarters
27 October 1918-5 June 1919
Shkotovo
April 1919
Diary of
Rfn. Sidney Rodger,
'A' Company of the 259th
Battalion

Communique No. 5
2.30 p.m.
April 18, 1919

Shikotan

Proclamation issued by the
Farmers & Workmen Volunteers of the
Province of Prinoshaya.

We farmers who aim to affect the
revolution of farmers & workmen
issue the following Proclamation
We do not recognize any Allied
Command because the Japanese

English, French, Italian & American
Governments are endeavoring to bring
against the Great Russian Revolution
which marks the beginning of
liberty, for the working classes of
the whole world profiting by the
state of affairs in Russia the
allied countries with
false promises of not interfering
in the internal affairs of the
country have invaded our
“We demand that you evacuate our territory and go back from where you came. If you will not submit to this order we will not give you one inch of the railway which we have built with our very blood.”

-Gavrila Shevchenko

Commander-in-chief of partisan detachment
Proclamation to Allied command, Vladivostok
April 1919
Railway bridge destroyed by Partizans, 1919
What Are We Doing Here?

(By an Amateur Guesser)

The Canadian in Vladivos-tok counts that last day lost wherein he has not heard a rumour about going home. Some days he is informed that the transport will sail in two months; on other occa-sions a pessimist raises the bid to two years. At Egrencnelit you find a chap keeping his trunk ready packed against a sudden warning for Canada. At Gourn-taal there's a man who believes that some of us will get to Van-couver some day if we're not too old to stand the voyage. No harm being interested in the general subject of getting home again, but the bald fact appears to be that none of us know anything about it. We'll have to leave it up to the Peace Conference.

None of us are supposed to dabble in Russian politics. Which is mightily fortunate, on the whole, since only those of us who started life as Russians could make head or tail of this complicated maze of poltical thought. Two or three parties are about all the average Canadian can digest. Twenty-seven are beyond comprehension. This is not a political treatise, for reasons just stated, but merely a contribution to the argument that goes on nightly in every barracks in this neck of the woods. The theme is: what are we doing here (except just surviving), and why did we come, and when will we go home?

It was simple enough at the beginning. Something had to be done to divert the atten-tion of Germany on the east front so that Foch could mop them up on the west. The Russian Bolsheviks were, and are, a pro-German organisation, so it was well within the prov-inces of the Allies to attack them. Britain was too much occupied to spare troops for Siberia, so she turned to Canada in her hour of need—and here we are, representing, with a few Imperial troops, the British Empire in the Russian Far East. And in the meantime the armistice came into effect, the Hun had had enough of fighting, and the Russian situation took on an entirely new aspect. For there was no longer need of an eastern front against Germany. The Canadian force that started out to be an active fighting unit against the Bolsheviks and Germans remained to be a cog in a diplomatic machine. And it is now the duty of the Peace Conference to decide what the next move is to be, withdrawal from the country, further watchful waiting or a campaign in Russia.

spreading their doctrines in every coun-try in the world, hoping for widespread sympathy. There is a mad dog running loose among the nations, and it would seem to be the duty of the nations to handle it as mad dogs usually are handled.

It is well to remember that in the early stages of the war Russia practically committed suicide to sever the Allies on the west front. Her troops, many of them inadequately armed, were hurled against the Hun in immense numbers, and there was slaughter such as perhaps the world had never seen before. If latterly her fighting power was paralyzed by internal intrigue, the British must not forget Russia's generous man-yoning to the end. Something must be done to save the remnants of Russia's best from the murdering, torturing hordes who showed their true character in the sack of Perm. That is the true view of the question. Another, less altruistic, is that these can never be full peas in the world while Bolshevikians rule in Russia.

Although they have done little or no actual fighting, the British forces in Siberia have certainly accomplished something for the Russian cause. There has been a moral effect, at least. Well-informed Russians admit that withdrawal of Allied troops would give the signal for a new outbreak of Bolshevism in Siberia. There would be another old carnival of blood. No man with a collar and tie would be safe. The able, the educated, would be massacred. That is the Bolshevist way. Withdrawal would be regarded by the best of the Russians as a terrible calamity. The Bolsheviks, growing at once to bring to light those hidden stores of rifles and machine guns, would welcome it.

Of course, it is difficult to see how the Russian problem will right itself for a long time to come. Actual crushing of the Bolshevists armies, disarmament, creation of a trustworthy army and navy—all these things would seem to be neces-sary before the Russian Parliament could safely carry on. That must be decided at the Peace Conference. It is unlik-able that the Allies should dictate to Russia what her future form of govern-ment is to be. Russians must work out the salvation of Russia. But there is need of a helping hand while the Bolshevist mad dog is abroad, and somehow or other, it seems very likely that the Allies will do their part.

This is one version of things, merely a contribution to that endless debate which makes up so large a part of Siberian Nights Entertainments. It does not answer one question: how long will we stay here? That matter is still on the nose of the gods.
Canadian baseball team, Vladivostok, 1919
Gymkhana, Vladivostok, 1 May 1919
Canadian barracks at Gornostai, outside Vladivostok
Canadian barracks at Vtoraya Reychka, Vladivostok
Sex trade workers

“Kopek Hill”
Vladivostok
“The Morgue”
Виртуальная выставка и Цифровой архив

Исследуйте забытую историю о 4200 солдат Канадских экспедиционных сил в Сибири, которые в самый разгар русской революции совершили военный марш с канадского западного побережья во Владивосток.

Данная повесть содержит сюжеты английской, французской и российской военной истории, а также описание мятежа в Виктории в декабре 1918г. Цифровой архив снабжен поисковой

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