

## Russia Still Needs Our Help

By I. AMTER

THE American Relief Administration has discontinued its parcel service to Soviet Russia, and has officially announced that it will continue the feeding of children only for a short period. It states that the particular needs of Soviet Russia are manufactured products and credits.

This is true. Soviet Russia needs credit—and if granted that will immediately throw her vast industrial energy into the shops and turn Russia into a beehive of work. Perhaps Baku oil, after which the world is scrambling and of which the United States is in such great need, will bring Soviet Russia credits. A sage prophet would even forecast that oil will bring about the recognition of the Soviet Government.

But until this happens—and indeed while it is happening—Soviet Russia will still have her hungry millions. Yes, there are seven or eight millions Russian workers and peasants—men, women and particularly children, who are hungry and must be helped.

There is NO famine in Soviet Russia. The crops of last year banished famine from the land. But the years of blockade and of civil war and particularly the famine itself have so undermined the Russian people in certain sections of the country—not only the Ukraine, Central Russia and the Vo'ga—that help must be continued.

The introduction of the New Economic Policy furthermore makes it impossible for the Government to take supplies from one part of the country to the other except on the basis of purchase. During the period of military communism, the State requisitioned supplies and despatched them to wherever the hunger was greatest. Today the Government collects a tax. In addition, it is carrying on a tremendous task of relief of the consequences of the famine that far outdoes everything that the A. R. A. and all other bourgeois relief organizations in the world together did for Soviet Russia. This work the Soviet Government is continuing.

Undoubtedly hundreds in every part of the country whose health and strength have been weakened by the long suffering, will die as a result of insufficient nourishment. This is expected, and will especially be the case during the spring and till the next harvest. How the harvest will turn out is also a matter of question. If there is sufficient rain, the crops may be good.

But there will not be record-breaking crops. On the contrary—there was not enough seed sown. There are no cattle, few horses. Many of them were slaughtered during the famine. There is little agricultural machinery. A dry summer would be disastrous.

Against this, Soviet Russia is exporting grain. The Cooperatives are engaging in the trade with the express intent of procuring farming machinery for the peasants so that they can raise better crops this year and all other years. This is a *sine qua non* for the restoration of economic life, until credits are granted. Russia had always been an exporter primarily of agricultural produce, from the sale of which she was able to procure the necessary manufactured products. Russia's farming methods have always been primitive. But this year even these primitive means—the primitive plow drawn by the ox or horse—are wanting. Hence machinery must absolutely be supplied.

Mining machinery also is needed, to raise the coal and ore so necessary for the rehabilitation of the heavy industries. Russia needs a forest of tractors. The Soviet Government has taken the matter seriously in hand and is making provision for the manufacture of thousands of tractors per year.

And who are the sufferers at the present time? They are the hundreds of thousands of invalids from the imperialist and civil wars—men distributed all over the country, in the little villages where they and their families are hungry. There are hundreds

of thousands orphaned and abandoned children, many of whom are still homeless, uncared for. There are still seven or eight millions hungry people in Soviet Russia, as stated to me officially.

The peculiarity of the situation is its dimensions. There are hungry people in all countries. Last year, whole villages starved in Russia. There were no favorites. A spectre traversed the land and whoever could not flee was doomed. This year in the villages there are peasants who have plenty, and other who have little. It is these latter who must be helped.

With the ceasing of all other aid, it becomes doubly, trebly, manifoldly the task of the working class, and particularly of the workers of America, to increase the help to Soviet Russia.

The children's homes must be supported. The number of them must be increased. Their equipment must be improved. More and more of the homeless, orphaned children must be provided for by the workers.

Fleets of tractors and harvesting machinery must be supplied.

On them depends the ability of Soviet Russia to surmount the enormous difficulties that face the young Government and will continue to face it till capitalism is forced to compromise with the Workers' Republic—compromise for the sake of Baku oil, and give the Russian workers and peasants machinery and credits.

THE WORK MUST GO ON.

### JOIN THE CANNONS OR TRACTORS DRIVE

There is a rumor among well-intentioned friends that Russia no longer needs our assistance. This rumor is false and unfounded. It must be stopped at once.

Russia does need our help! As the writer of the above article points out, there are seven to eighth millions people hungry in Russia. And he is there at present.

In addition to the tremendous task of caring for these people, Russia is faced with the barking bulldog imperialists on the outside—they who are ever ready to pounce upon her and tear her to shreds.

The insignificant British ex-spy worded it well when he voiced the sentiment of world imperialism: "Bolshevism is in Russia to stay unless outside nations interfere and break it up with a food and other blockade."

Every day the newspapers carry evidences that the enemy is willing to "interfere and break it up with a FOOD AND OTHER BLOCKADE."

Were it not for the fear of what the farmers and workers of all countries would say and do, they would have done so long before now.

Withholding support from Russia during these trying days is tantamount to helping the enemy.

Workers and Farmers of America! We Appeal to You. Help us Help Russia. Upon You Depends Russia's Peace and Economic Rehabilitation.



A poster referring to the All-Russian Agricultural Exhibition taking place between August 15 and October 1, 1923