

herself to be in a position to declare that the decisions of this Conference will in fact be null and without effect in the absence and by the non-participation of one of the principal parties interested.

The Russian Government is also constrained to declare on this occasion that it cannot regard the preference accorded by the aforesaid governments to the counter-revolutionary governments which would replace it other than as an hostile act directed against itself and against the workmen and peasants of Russia whose will it represents.

There has also come to the notice of the Russian Government a general question, that of disarmament or the diminution of taxes which crush down the workers of all countries. The Russian Government considers it necessary to know what preliminary guaranties could be given that this disarmament will be a reality, considering that the possibility of such guaranties appears to the Russian Government sufficiently doubtful, however sympathetic the Russian Government may be with the idea of disarmament. Disarmament is even, according to the Russian Government, one of the actual consequences of the social changes in Russia and one to which those changes ought to lead. Nevertheless, in the absence of the Russian Government, no international deliberation on this subject can have any other result than the ignoring by Russia of any decisions that may be taken, from which the Russian Government, not having been a party thereto, will remain aloof.

Any policy directed toward excluding Russia from the joint resolutions of the Powers on questions touching Russia very closely and seeking to find favorable means for smoothing the conflicts which trouble the world at the present time can only aggravate the situation and complicate it with new difficulties.

CHICHERIN,

People's Commissar of Foreign Affairs  
of the Russian Soviet Federated Republic.

## The Position of the United States

SECRETARY HUGHES'S reply to the note from the Far Eastern Republic, published on September 19, is in effect also a reply to the contentions of the Russian Soviet Government and states plainly the attitude of the Government of the United States toward the whole Russian problem.

The American Legation at Peking received recently from an agent of the so-called Far Eastern Republic a request that representatives thereof should be admitted to the approaching Conference on Limitation of Armament, at which questions affecting the Far East will also be discussed.

As the so-called Far Eastern Republic has not been recognized by the Government of the United States, nor by the other governments of the world, no formal reply has been made to this communication, but the American Minister at Peking has been instructed to convey to the agent of the Far Eastern Republic informal observations in the following sense:

In the absence of a single recognized Russian Government the protection of legitimate Russian interests must devolve as a moral trusteeship on the whole Conference. It is regrettable that the Conference, for reasons quite beyond the control of the participating Powers, is to be deprived of the advantage of Russian cooperation in its deliberations, but it is not to be conceived that the Conference will take decisions prejudicial to legitimate Russian interests or which would in any manner violate Russian rights. It is the hope and expectation of the Government of the United States that the Conference will establish general principles of international action which will deserve and have the support of the people of Eastern Siberia and of all Russia by reason of their justice and efficacy in the settlement of outstanding difficulties.

## The New Order in Mongolia

IN the following edict, published at Chita on September 1, the old government of Mongolia announces its abdication in favor of the Provisional People's Revolutionary Government which has been cooperating with the Russian Soviet Government and the Far Eastern Republic in the successful campaign against the troops of Baron Ungern. The translation printed below, published by the Delta News Agency, was made from a Russian translation of the Mongolian original.

To the Provisional People's Revolutionary Government of Mongolia from the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the old Government of Mongolia.

In the third year we, Mongolians, under the pressure of the circumstances of the times, have lost our rights of autonomous government to the benefit of Chinese, the autocratic reactionaries. Last year an officer of the Russian White party, Baron Ungern, with his forces invaded Mongolian territory, mobilized Mongolian soldiers, and thus reinforcing himself gave battle and drove out from Urga the Chinese "hamins"—officers and soldiers.

In accordance with the declaration of Baron Ungern of the need of reestablishing the autonomous government by all princes and influential people, the latter, after a discussion of this question, put the Boghdi Khan on the precious throne and created the yamen of internal affairs and all the other five yamens.

In view of the fact that Baron Ungern with his forces left for the north, and in view of the weakness of our forces and the lack of armament, and also in view of the possibility of an assault by Chinese reactionaries, as early as last year an appeal for assistance was made to foreign Powers by the Boghdi Khan and many Wangs and Khans who, obtaining such assistance, established at Kiabta a people's government, which mobilized model forces, and having driven out the ghamens, laid the foundation of the state of Mongolia, fortifying the nation, and improving the conditions of masses. Urga, the capital, was occupied on the 1st, in the second moon.

After the occupation of Urga the People's Government, together with the officials of our five (old) ministries, opened free discussions, which resulted in resolving to establish immediately a new people's government in accord with the requirements of the times and the progress of the people, leaving the Boghdi Khan on the precious throne and handing all seals and documents of all ministries to the new People's Government. This resolution was reported to the Boghdi Khan, who sanctioned it, and on fifth day of the sixth moon at a joint conference the handing over of the seals and documents of the ministry of interior affairs and the rest of the ministries to the chairman and officials of the People's Government takes place. The Provisional People's Revolutionary Government of Mongolia is hereby informed of the aforesaid for its consideration in accepting the power, and at the same time the public in all localities is being informed to this effect.

By many established on the 5th day of the 6th moon, 11th year.

This rather unusual act of abdication is made more intelligible by the following dispatch printed in the London *Times* of September 23 from its correspondent at Peking.

Two months ago Baron Ungern, with the White Russian band which captured Urga in February, sought to invade the Far Eastern Republic [of Chita] and was smashed at Kiakhtha, not by the Chita troops, but by the regular Red Army from Irkutsk, operating under orders from Moscow. The remnant of Baron Ungern's force was dispersed in Mongolia, and a Japanese detachment escaped eastward.

The Red Army then occupied Urga, where a Red Mongol Government was installed. The Premier and Foreign Minister

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is a *ci-devant* Lama, formerly teacher at a Russian school, and the Minister of War is a local butcher. In each department are Buriat nominees of Irkutsk who advise measures consonant with the best bolshevist practice. The Hutukhtu remains as the spiritual head, but has no political power.

Only 2,000 Russian troops remain, and these are sufficient with the local revolutionaries to maintain the power of the Red Government. The Government professes communism, and confiscates huge numbers of horses and cattle belonging to the princes, who, of course, bitterly oppose the new regime. Enormous quantities of rifles, machine-guns, and ammunition have been imported and paid for with the confiscated property of the princes. It would appear that Moscow regards Mongolia as a province of Russia.

Urga is peaceful and orderly, and the Reds conduct themselves reasonably except with regard to confiscations. Foreigners and their trade are respected. The revolutionaries declare their intention of abolishing the state religion, and will not allow another Hutukhtu after the present one has drunk himself to death. \* \* \*

Chang Tso-Lin, who was liberally supplied with funds by the Chinese Government in order to recover Mongolia, has pocketed the money and given up the expedition. Mongolia looks as if it has been totally lost to China. Further trouble is inevitable, for the nomad princes, whose flocks and herds are being forcibly taken, are bound to endeavor to reassert themselves.

## Gold in the Far East

**T**HE following laws of the Far Eastern Republic governing the gold-bearing areas of Eastern Siberia have been received from the Dalta News Agency under date of Peking, July 29. The Constitution of the Republic was printed in the International Relations Section on September 14.

In accordance with Art. 43 of the Constitution of the Republic, the Government of the F. E. R., annulling the old laws, has declared:

1. All gold-bearing areas in the territory of the F. E. R. under exploitation or otherwise, as well as the former imperial gold-bearing areas in Nerchinsk district, are hereby declared the property of the Republic.

2. All rights to the ownership and exploitation of areas mentioned in Art. 1, under agreements and titles granted previous to promulgation of this law, shall be null and void within three months from June 15, 1921, the date of promulgation of this law.

3. The right of exploitation of gold-bearing areas granted under the "Rules for Private Exploitation of Gold Mines," to be promulgated, reserves the title to former owners of the areas.

Former owners and concessionnaires of gold mines and areas not yet under exploitation are obliged to make a written declaration to the local mining departments of their desire to continue operations in mines or to start such operations where the work has not yet been commenced within three months from the date of promulgation of this law.

The absence of such declaration within the specified time will be considered as renunciation of the rights of the former owner or concessionnaires of mines or gold-bearing areas.

For persons residing outside the boundaries of the F. E. R. the time for making the above-mentioned declaration is extended to six months from the date of promulgation of the present law.

4. The owner of a gold mine which was exploited by a lessee, if the former party desires to exploit the mine, has a priority under the present law, but he must compensate the lessee for all improvements made and installed by the latter in the mine.

In case both the lessor and lessee of the mine are unable to agree as to the price to be paid for the improvements, such price will be set according to paragraph 5 of the present law.

In case the owner should refuse to operate his mine according

to "Rules for Private Exploitation of Gold Mines" this right is automatically transferred to the lessee of the mine.

5. In case the former owner or the lessee of a mine refuses to continue operations in his mine according to "Rules for Private Exploitation of Gold Mines," and in case the Government shall be desirous of acquiring the improvements and machinery of such mine, the former owner or the lessee must be paid the value of improvements made by them in the mine, according to the valuation of a commission appointed by the local mining department and including representatives of the Department of State Control and representatives of the owner or the lessee of the mine. Exception is made in regard to the buildings and hydraulic installations which pass to the Government of the F. E. R. without compensation.

The commission shall estimate the value of improvements according to their actual value, deducting a suitable amount for depreciation.

The movable property not directly connected with mining operations, or any other property not required by the Government, must be removed by the owner of such property within a year from the date he relinquishes his right of operating the mine. Otherwise such property becomes the property of the Republic without compensation.

6. Gold mining enterprises which have become the property of the state during the revolution may be returned to former owners or lessees for exploitation as a concession by special decrees of the Government of the F. E. R., which will be published in the official organ of the Government.

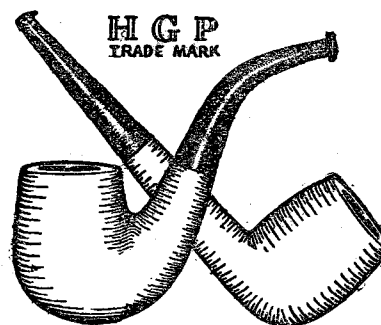
(Signed) Chairman N. MATVEV, for Government.  
PETROV, for Council of Ministers.

## Contributors to This Issue

FRANK GODWIN is an American journalist resident in Japan.

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