

The Outlook

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Mrs. Harding Dies

TRAGEDY in the lives of those who have stood in high places has a peculiar power to make men and women understand the common heritage of humanity. Of this the death of Mrs. Warren Harding, widow of a President of the United States who was once a small-town printer, is dramatic evidence. In her life she knew the struggle of poverty, the reward of ambition, the austerity of courage, and the depths of personal disaster.

No one will know how great a part of the career of Warren Gamaliel Harding was her career. Yet it seems certain that she shared largely in building the structure of his life, that his fight was her fight, and his triumphs hers.

Upon his death she went from the White House back to the city where his career began, no longer the First Lady of the Land, but a woman who had lost a beloved companion. To her in solitude must have been borne poignant tidings of the unhappy aftermath of President Harding's career. The attacks upon her husband and some of his associates must have been doubly hard to bear, for there was nothing she could do toward the vindication or the defense of the memory of the man whose name she shared. To this personal grief was added for full measure the loss of close friends whom she and her husband trusted, in one case at least to their own hurt. She will be remembered as a gallant spirit whose failures were those of the life from which she sprang, whose virtues were those of the Nation in whose service her husband died.

Georgia and the Soviets

EVIDENCE is leaking through the boundaries of the Soviet realm that, in spite of the fact that the Bolsheviks have been in control for seven years now, all is not well within. News of the threat of famine this winter has been mingled with news of anti-Soviet uprising in Georgia and the spread of revolu-



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The late Mrs. Warren G. Harding

tion to other Soviet republics of Transcaucasia.

Well-informed anti-Bolshevist Georgian leaders watching, and to a certain degree directing, from European capitals the uprising in their native country have sent out reports which, however discounted, make clear the nature of the disturbance.

Early in 1921 the national Government of Georgia was overthrown by the Red Army, and was succeeded by the so-called autonomous local Soviet Government, really dependent on Moscow.

Georgia, however, is a mountainous and wild country for the most part, and its remote districts have never ceased to be free of Soviet rule. Even in the more accessible districts there were local revolts in 1921, 1922, and 1923.

This year the revolt assumed wide proportions. Squads of mutineers took possession of cities and villages along the railway cutting the country from west to east, expelling the Soviet authorities, and disarming some weak Red detachments here and there. The rebels were supported by Russian and Georgian work-

men and peasants. Early in September they were in control of most of Georgia, except the cities of Tiflis and Batum.

To suppress this the Soviets massed troops in Transcaucasia, and within a month the Soviets resumed control. How extensive this rebellion was and how bloody the suppression of it, it is not possible to state accurately. It is evident, however, that there was much cruelty shown in the reprisals. Incomplete lists of victims have appeared in the Soviet papers, "Pravda" and "Izvestia." It is not merely on the anti-Bolshevist reports that we may depend for the conclusion that people were executed by the hundreds.

A Revolt Against Oppression

EVEN those who as partisans of the Bolshevik Government minimize this uprising in Georgia do not deny that the uprising took place. Some of them attribute it to the intriguing of British and French interests that want to get control of ore and petroleum. Others attribute the instigation of the uprising to the Bolsheviks themselves as a method of manufacturing an excuse to get rid of more of their opponents. Of course reports of fairly normal conditions in Tiflis and Batum have no bearing upon the uprising in the mountainous region.

It is evident that various classes and groups of the Georgian population—remnants of the old aristocracy, intellectuals, Socialists, peasants, and workmen alike—have contributed quotas to the uprising and have joined in the discontent with the Soviet régime. The people there had become tired of famine, misery, and political persecutions. There is every reason to believe that there is similar discontent elsewhere in Russia, for famine, misery, and political persecution are not confined to Georgia. The Bolsheviks, however, have better control over Moscow or Kiev than over the wild Caucasus.

Suppression is not more likely to bring content under Soviet rule than it was under the rule of the Czar. With 60,000 to 100,000 Red troops massed in Georgia (for these are the figures which Soviet papers have given concerning troops sent to that country from the provinces bordering on Poland and Rumania) and with the rebel detachment

still in being in the fastnesses of the impregnable mountains, tragic conditions in Georgia serve as an illustration of the nature of control which the Bolsheviks exercise throughout Russia.

Bread for a Lean Year

AFTER an autumn of uncertainty, it begins to seem likely that the bread eaters of Europe will get a whole loaf.

A stands for Annapolis, and Annapolis stands for the cornerstone of our first line of National defense. That is one of the reasons why we asked

George Marvin

to go to Annapolis and write us an article to be the first of a group on American educational institutions and the American spirit.

Our great schools and colleges are the builders and the rebuilders of America. Each has a different contribution to make to the development of our common ideals. The commission given to George Marvin was to find the common denominator of these contributions. He has made a mighty good beginning with his story of athletics at Annapolis in this issue. There will be more to follow.

Russia's supply remains in doubt, for the good reason that few persons even in Russia can tell how much grain a cautious peasantry is hoarding away from the eyes of the Soviet crop collectors. As for the rest of Europe, the prospect of sufficient rations till next harvest allays a cause for world-wide anxiety.

This anxiety had its source, not so much in the possibility that Englishmen, Germans, or Frenchmen would actually go foodless as in the risk that a shortage

might impair the European economic recovery at the critical moment when it had at last got under way. War experience showed that well-stocked nations could continue to eat for a surprisingly long time in the face of food shortage, but that they did so at the cost of their cattle, of certain of their industries, and so to no small extent of their future welfare. The process tends to unbalance budgets and to play havoc with the cost of living, wages, and production.

The latest reckonings of the world's bread grain supplies seem to promise that Europe's bread loaf will be made without upsetting the economic house-keeping of the Continent as a whole. They indicate that Europe will indeed require two or three hundred million bushels more than the average importations of the past few years. She has a deficiency of some 170,000,000 bushels of wheat, home raised, as compared with last year, and a further deficiency nearly as great of rye. It happens very opportunely, therefore, that the United States raised this year 182,000,000 bushels of wheat above its 1923 crop—a surplus for which no one foresaw last spring any likelihood of an urgent demand. This surplus takes the place of the Canadian wheat that failed to ripen, and with some little managing it will eke out Europe's needs, and leave a bare sufficiency for the other parts of the world that import the grain.

As European bidding has made wheat dear, Europe will have to pay some \$500,000,000 more than usual for its imported supply. That extra charge will bear down hard on its foreign import trade of other sorts. But by a second happy chance, the settlement of the question of reparations under the Dawes Plan has opened the way to American credit, and several European nations have already borrowed or are in a position to borrow a large part of their needs for temporary adverse balances.

Some portions of Europe, it is true, feel the wheat pinch more acutely than others. Germany not only has less wheat than usual, but is hit by the rye-crop failure, since rye is the country's standard breadstuff. Poland, a poor country and mainly agricultural, can ill afford the loss of a year's export surplus of wheat and rye. If Russia should again have to meet a deficiency of grain in some of its provinces, the outer world