The Red Army’s “Secret”

...Most phenomena... consist partly of physical and partly of moral causes and effects. One might say that the physical are like the wooden hill, while the moral are the noble metal, the keen blade itself.—Clausewitz.

There is no Russian steamroller. In the Red Army there is no one man who is been outnumbered. This is due to two reasons. In the first place the recruitment of the Red Army is not of one group (including that of Japan, as we must, because she immobilizes at the least half a million Soviet troops) but by about sixty million the peoples of the U.S.S.R., notably the Reichswelt attacked and has all the advantages of the attacker on a battle-front of over two thousand miles. In short, the Soviet Union is fighting the whole of Capitalist Europe is facing far more than the old Tsarist Empire ever dreamed of. A very thought of which kept the Tsar’s diplomats in a sweat of fear, the Triple Alliance of Germany, Austria Hungary, and Italy, with Rumania thrown in, stands as a unified whole. In the 1914-18 war Rumania and Italy came in with the Entente. France did not drop out, and Britain did not stand by.

This is the brutal fact which the bourgeois press does not admit. It is a fact which the “Evening Post” and the “Dominion” dare not admit. If they gave it away that the extraordi-

nary resistance of the Red Army was not due to the numerical superiority of the Allies to Blösche. Elavsky, the Red general, said this week that he would be with the embarrassing task of explaining that resistance. The only explanation is, and that they cannot face it. It is, of course, due to the superiority of the strategy and technique of and of socialist moral.

It is unnecessary to reiterate what the strategy and tactics of the Red Army consists of. That is done daily from Berlin. It is enough to say with the “Evening Standard” that the most encouraging thing about the Red Army is that British generals do nothing but bathe. The Red Army is the direct descendant of the Red Church, and the Red Church is the offspring of the Red. The Red Army is the direct descendant of the Red Church.

The key to Soviet victory (I use the word because we know now that the battle is won) is in the words of Voroshilov: “We have been defeated by Voroshilov. "Without men," he has said, "technique is dead."" But "technique in the hands of men who understand it and have mastered it is a very great force." The Red Army is the direct descendant of the Red Church. The Red Army is, like the entire Soviet people, lives and is trained in the teachings of Marx, Engels, Lenin, and Stalin.” The method of the Red Army is the Marxian-Leninist method, the method of the people. The characteristic of the dialectic method is this; that it regards all things in the world of inter-relations and movement. The opposite of the dia-

lectical consideration of things is their consideration in their isolation and fixity. As nothing is fixed and nothing is isolated this latter is a false and a dangerous attitude. Nevertheless it is the attitude of the British General Staff. But in this thinking is thinking in wholes. The Soviet strategy is a strategy of whole.

When we have realised this we can understand on the one hand why Weygand caved in when Paris was threatened and on the other hand why Deenepret of Dneiprostroi—in the building of which as a visitor has said they “seemed to be as personally interested as an Englishman is in the laying out of his garden”—was just a means, of no greater importance and no less than any other, for, in the words of the Red Army, “to bathe the Right of it.”

EdgarSnow has recognised this in a recent New Republic. "The Reds," he says, “are the first people the Allies have met with who fully understand the political as well as the military terms of how to fight a war and plotted the relation of every individual to the task of national defence and have everywhere destroyed the civilian population active combat duties.” This is only possible for a country which can—say—for instance—once again Voroshilov—that the "Workers" and Peasants' Red Army is of the same flesh and blood as its people and shares the interests of the people. Our Army is grown up with the people and has fought side by side with the people. We have a genuine revolutionary army of the people.

There is a lesson in all this. It is a lesson that was taught the world by a British Army that did not retreat and by a French Army that did not retreat—armies that were invincible just as the Red Army is invincible. The British Army of Cromwell, the Army of Danton, and of Stalin is not old—it is evergreen, but the time is getting short. It must be learnt by New Zealand and New Zealand must learn it now. The penalty of failure is the penalty of Czechoslovakia, of Poland, of Norway, of Belgium, of Holland and of France. We know what that is.

—JASWIN.

THE RED ARMY'S "SECRET"
That Bright and Precious Jewel

"...Thirdly, they respect the right of all peoples to choose the form of Government under which they will live; and they wish to see sovereign rights and self-government restored to those who have been forcibly deprived of them." So ran the declaration of Roosevelt and Churchill. And then I remembered an Act called the Government of India Amending Act that was hurried through the British Parliament in September, 1939, in the short space of eleven minutes. It gave the Viceroy of India power to override all Indian Constituencies. No self-determination, no freedom of opinion here, but power "to arrest without warrant, and impose penalties for breaches of regulations, to include death or transportation for life."

The Partition of India. A country which constitutes three-quarters of the total population of the British Empire, four-fifths of the overseas population of the British Empire, and more than one-half the total colonial population of the world. A censorship that is progressive and exclusive, and only occasionally does news leak out. "News is, ‘this India has now one million men under arms.’ ‘There are 1,000 officials of the Congress Party in jail.’ The composition of the Congress Party is interesting. It proclaimed before the 1957 election that "it stands for a genuine democracy in India, where political power has been transferred to the people as a whole, and the Government is under their effective control. Such a state can only come into existence through a constituent Assembly, elected by all suffrage, and having power to finally determine the Constitution of the country." And even with a limited franchise of 151 million voters the Congress won absolute majorities in six states, a total of 715 seats. Even the Conservative "Times" said: "The Party's proposals have been more positive and constructive than those of most of its opponents. In the agrarian and political contest, the non-violent majority has been unexpectedly successful, it put forward an extensive programme of rural reform. The Party has won its victories... on issues which interested millions of Indian rural voters and scores of millions who had no vote." It is a veritable referendum of the national will for independence and social advance.

It is not surprising that the Indians are suffering imprisonment. Yet it is an extremely dangerous situation for the British Commonwealth of Nations. Dangerous in that this huge reservoir of power is being dissipated, unwilling to carry on a war for the purpose of protecting a democracy that it does not possess.

Axiom Japan has not been slow to capitalise this disunity. In her southward drive into Indo-China, her encouragement of the nationalist claims of Thailand and the conscious military moves to outflank Singapore and to obtain a land base for pressure or attack on India through Burma. India has always figured largely in the Japanese dream of Empire.

For these reasons alone it is urgent that drastic and far-reaching reforms should be made in India immediately to give four-fifths of the British Commonwealth of Nations a democracy to fight for. For "that bright and precious jewel of Churchill’s glitters only in the pockets of those who receive India’s £38,000,000 yearly tribute to British finance."

B.

"SALIENT" STAFF

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Staff Editor for this issue:
M. L. BOYD.

NO PRIZES OFFERED

1. Re-arrange correctly the following couples:
   Jo Pound
   Norma Yontz
   Marie Fletcher
   John MacCreary
   Pat Hildreth
   Nellie Johnson
   Lela McAlister
   Glen Wiltse
   Hubert Withfode
   (a) Benevolent.
   (b) Benevolent.
   (c) Benevolent.

2. What does M. L. Boyd look like when sales:
   (a) Benevolent.
   (b) Benevolent.
   (c) Benevolent.

3. Who is the most insignificant person in the world:
   (a) Jim Witten-Hannah.
   (b) Lindsay Nathan.
   (c) The Boss.
   (d) Gurth Higgin.

4. Why has Dennis Hartley given up drinking:
   (a) Love
   (b) The Oxford Group.
   (c) Measles.
   (d) Any other reason.

5. Why are the ears of a certain person red in the vicinity of the official party at the Sports Club Ball?
   (a) He is the V.U.C. football captain who was so intoxicated after the dance for the A.C. visitors that he took the wrong girl home and doesn’t know it yet.
   (b) He is the president of the S.C.M.
   (c) He is the Majestic is a grand place to cut loose on. Do you think one should be frank about it, or retire into a Corner?

THANK YOU

As this is the last issue of "SALIENT!" for the year I take the opportunity of publicly thanking all those both on the staff and off it, who have helped to produce "SALIENT!" this year. In particular I should like to thank Mr. Witten-Hannah, who has done much of the layout and proof-reading, in addition to reporting and editing the Sports Page; Mr. Taylor and his assistants of the Civic Press, who have given us much help and good advice throughout the year; and Mr. M. L. Boyd, our guest editor for this issue.

M.S.G.

THE EDITOR

Dear Sir,

It has been brought to our notice that Mr. L. Nathan has been publishing under the name of a Communist. We wish it to be known that Mr. Nathan has not, and never has had, any connection with the New Zealand Communist Party, and that his views are obviously not those of our Party.

For SALIENT, Wellington, N.Z.

Executive, C.P.N.Z., ELLA STEWART.

41 Ghuznee Street, wellington.

PLAN FOR ACTION

With the exceptions perhaps of Frederick the Great and General Banneker, it can be reckoned that throughout two thousand years of warfare the majority of successful armies have been created by communities relatively free and more democratic than their opponents. The one way to secure an easy peace, for they will in the end, is to develop an autocracy. Modern war makes voluntary understood, and thinking discipline, and elastic tactics based on initiative and independence, more valuable than ever before. The realisation of these facts has induced the military and political authorities in Britain and Australia to include an educational scheme as part of normal army training.

Such schemes have as their deliberate objects "Education in a wider sense, tending to raise the level of general intelligence and to develop those qualities of mind and character which go to form an efficient disciplined and capable army." The object is to practice in self-expression with a view to clear thinking and accurate statement of generalisations and study for self-development; and the study of modern world problems. This is the kernel of the whole scheme.

The machinery for working it is something as follows. It is controlled by a civilian Director of Education Services. Each unit has an educational officer whose duties are:

1. To advise the commanding officer on educational matters.

To personal knowledge of officers and men to ascertain as fully as possible the educational needs of the unit, and to interest himself generally in the life and work of the station.

To make himself acquainted with local educational resources such as local technical classes and personal will to undertake part time instruction, classes under local education authorities, study of libraries, etc.

To prepare from time to time a programme to meet the needs of the unit.

To undertake personally as much as possible of the instructional work.

To be available to give advice on educational matters.

To be responsible for proper use and care of educational accommodation, to provide necessary supplies, and to maintain a reference library.

The above scheme is on a voluntary basis except that the C.O. may make attendance compulsory if necessary for service efficiency. It is also regarded as part of a man's training and not as entertainment.

Some similar plan is urgently needed in New Zealand, particularly for those units permanently mobilised and to a lesser degree during the three months' Territorial training.

THE TURTLE

The turtle lives 'twixt plated decks, Which practically conceal its sex. I think it clever, and quite useful, In such a fix to be so fertile."—Ogden Nash.
POVERTY AND PROGRESS

“The Most Important of Arts”

The social services of any community are of great importance to anyone who wishes to judge its standard of civilisation. It is, therefore, of the greatest importance to those who care for the higher causes, that it is able and willing to provide for the basic needs of those of its members who, for various reasons, cannot earn their own living. Dr. Sutch’s new book “Poverty and Progress in New Zealand” (producible for 5/- from Modern Books. Woodward Street) outlines the development in this country of such services as education, pensions, hospital and unemployment relief and enables us to judge how far and for what reasons New Zealand has progressed in this sphere.

The development of a system of social services—from charitable relief for a few of those who were sufficient to the right of a universal system of temporal goods, chaste, and of good conversation—towards the imposing structure of a system, has gained meaning only when it is related to the life and development of the society in which it has occurred. As Dr. Sutch points out it was the breakdown of the older charitable relief in the depression of the eighties and the consequent suffering and discontent that led to the reforms that gained New Zealand the reputation of being a Pacific Utopia at the beginning of this century. In the same way the legislation of the Labour Government in these matters was the result of the misery and bitterness of the inadequacy of social services during the last depression.

Reasons for Progress.

But the evidence in this book leaves one with little doubt that New Zealand has built up today a system of social services equalled by very few other countries. At the same time it is rather difficult to understand why this should be so. One can hardly regard it as the result of a naturally highly developed moral, cultural or political consciousness on the part of the typical New Zealander. As Dr. Sutch points out, we might be rather unlikely as described as one who thinks “that H. G. Wells is a scientist, Cezanne is a coretiste, and that Marx had brothers.” Nor does it seem altogether reasonable to ascribe it to the peculiar inspiration and genius of New Zealand politicians. A fact which is of obvious importance, however, is that those interested in the welfare of the poor, who have opposed progress in social services are less fortunate than their counterparts in other countries in having neither an established church nor an arisocracy which can lend to the status quo the sanctions of the Scriptures and Debrett. However, it might be possible to see in this from too rosy a picture of the future of colonial civilization—Gregy’s description of the “paradise” of New Zealand. Bill of 1882 as “a blow at Christianity itself, a blow at the family, an attempt to break up the individual a part of a great Communist society,” has a depressingly contemporary ring.

Axe or Poultec?

A section of the book which should be of particular interest to the general reader is that dealing with the depression of the early nineteen thirties and the efforts to deal with the unemployment problem in that period. Dr. Sutch’s account of the advent of the crisis is extremely clear and his description of the disastrously inadequate methods of relieving the sufferings of the unemployed is both convincing and grim. One may hope that the events of the depression have been sufficient to drive home the lesson that the unemployment problem is the result not of the wickedness or laziness of the unemployed but of the system under which we live.

This raises the question as to how far social services can be an alternative to reform in the economic system and whether or not the application of hot potatos may, under certain conditions, be a somewhat inadequate substitute for the axe that must be laid to the roots of the tree. There can be no clear-cut answer to such a question, but it is obvious that no official social institutions, however suited to human needs, can obviate cases of individual hardship which must be met by social services. On the other hand, when those institutions fail to fulfil their purpose it is no longer sufficient to endeavour to soften the suffering they cause—we must break them, or they will break us.

H.W.

AUBTAIN

"Nem siroz de swoja doro przep orazyn."

As a general rule this fact you’ll find,
That everyone, man or woman,
By nature hard by nature kind,
When ever so slightly alcoholized
Is ever so much more human.

When Augustus had beaten his foes
And punished sought to apportion,
As he balefully glared at the prisoners’ line,
Ovid gave him a bowl of Falernian wine,
And his charge was dismissed with a caution.

Henry the Eighth, though hale and blustery,
Rubbed round, and tuffy.
On erring wrens was a tribe of white,
Till Catherine gave him the genuine kind.

And made him an excellent hobby.
Ivan the Terrible, one dark night,
A Circassian sought to smother,
But the girl was really rather bright,
She mixed him a spot like gelignite.
And he sent her home to her mother.

Robert B. Semple was hard to please.
With opinions seditionally hearty,
And altogether a bit of a cheese.
Till they hushed him up in Bellamy’s,
—Now he’s joining the National Party.

The Fuehrer Adolf may seem severe.
His philosophy seems rather strict.
But as General Booth remarked last year,
He hasn’t brought up on Red Top beer.
So you can’t be too dogmatic.

An axiom, then, this seems to be.
Be open to all and read a sadistic Turk or benign Chinese.
When ever so slightly out on the town.
Is ever so much more pleasant.

—Tom-Ho.

Buy “Spice” 1941.

OBITUARY

At Wellington, September 17th, 1941 (suddenly), Victoria, dearly loved eldest daughter of Marie Bent and George W. Turner. (Auckland and Dannewirke papers please copy).

The gates of heaven opened wide,
And in walked Viki.

LAMBS

I saw a lamb
Upon a tree;
I looked at it
And all day long
The lamb obeyed
Just stood and stared.
I wonder why,
I cannot tell,
The lamb obeyed.
But neither of us
Cares a dam.

In 1918, Lenin used these words to describe the cinema. Since that time American directors of the U.S.S.R. have raised this art to such a level that Sergei Eisenstein, on the fiftieth anniversary of the Soviet film industry, was able to write: "An immeasurable gulf divides our films, as a manifestation of culture—a new, unprecedented Soviet film culture—from those of capitalist countries, where the cinema ranks in the same class as dope, alcohol, horse-racing, and the sensational press.

Let us examine this statement in respect to the recent Soviet films screened in Wellington.

Perhaps the most popular film with the general public was "Song of Youth." This was described on the credit titles as a documentary. This was scarcely correct. In documentary, we expect to see more than a bare record of facts, such as this film was; the documentary art is known as the "Creative interpretation of Reality." "Song of Youth" was more an example of nestlemade spectacle, but this was brought to its highest level.

The "Circus" was an attempt at a film in the "stupendous super-colossal all-singing dancing spectacle" class. As indication of Soviet technical ability, it was completely successful, and had in addition the great merit of providing a series of fascinating sequences. However, the film did leave one with the impression that the director and cast felt that the task that they had been given was somewhat beneath them.

In 1925, Stalin wrote: "The Soviet power expects of you new films which, like "Chapayev," will glorify the greatness of the heroic deeds which attended the struggle for power of the workers and peasants of the Soviet Union—pictures that will mobilise the people to carry out new tasks, and which will remind people of both the achievements and the difficulties of the great construction."

"Chapayev" does just this, and yet one cannot avoid some disappointment with it. Here is one of the greatest heroes of the Soviet Union depicted in a film which has won the applause of millions in every part of the world. But, since 1924, when it was made, Hollywood has turned it into a formula for producing Westerns "epics," and as a result, it has lost much of its forcefulness and freshness of treatment. It somehow lacks just those touches which could make one wildly enthusiastic about a character of whom one was previously almost ignorant.

"Peter the First" was by far the best of the films. It was directed by P. Petrov, Honoured Artist of the Republic, and is based on a biography by A. Tolstoi, who was recently awarded the Stalin prize for the film. Although a costume picture with a "tragic" ending, it is a funny, well produced film, a fashionable dress ball, as do so many of the English and American productions. The treatment of a similar theme. The whole film has a ring of "lighthearted" which perfectly recreates the music of Peter and gives it its own particular treatment, but there are one or two loose ends which can scarcely be explained, otherwise, it is possible that incompetent script writer of the dialogue had something to do with it.

Possibly the significant thing about Soviet film production is the fact that the films are made by the conscious application of certain theoretical principles, which have been carefully worked out by the directors. Although there are isolated directors in the U.S.A. and other countries who produce excellent films, it is no case done by the application of a system which they are able to communicate to others. Pudovkin has attributed the remarkable fertility of Soviet film theory to the shortage of film stock immediately after the revolution, giving the directors an enforced leisure time in which to think. Whether this is or is not the reason, the fact remains that the majority of cinematic innovations during the past few years have originated in the Soviet Union.

G.A.E.
SPORT

The Rugby 1st XV finished a good season well when they followed up their win against Auckland by beating Canterbury 9–3 at Christchurch last Saturday. The forwards put in a good performance in a wet ground, and victory was finally forced by two tries in the last five minutes.

We trust that the Tennis Club, which is starting the coming day on Saturday, 20th September, will have an equally successful season. A Yankee Mixed Doubles Tournament will be played at 1 p.m. and everyone, Tyro and Blue, is expected to enter. Entrance fee is 1/- and afternoon tea will be provided.

Stories of the Chateau Reunion last Saturday night, remind us of the successful ski-ing trip to Tongariro National Park which was run by the Tennis Club. A party is now being organised for a Xmas trip to the Godley Glacier, which is immediately north of the Mt. Cook district. The peaks of the Godley system afford all classes of alpine work, including ski-mountaineering. Mt. D’Archiac is reputed to be a more difficult climb than Cook, but there are also many interesting peaks within the territories of and that they can be taken in getting such students into jobs.

Otago University made preliminary investigations and the possibilities of the scheme were discussed with the Otago branch of the National Council of Primary Producers. The outcome is a questionnaire which students will be asked to fill in shortly to investigate the numbers available and the employment of students in the job they want where they want it.

This scheme will provide an opportunity for all students to earn some good money in the vacation. At the same time we will be doing a valuable job of work. It is important that the country’s primary produce should be made available for export as soon as possible. The seasonal nature of much of the work to be done in achieving this creates a serious problem in the labour market during the few months of the summer. Now, with so many of our seasonal workers doing an even more important job elsewhere, all students who give a hand for a few weeks during the vacation will be doing a national service. Think about it then and if you can handle a hale-hack or drive a hay rake be in to help the country and earn some money.

W.

HARRIERS

Record rainfall put the Silverstream course in terrible condition for the Dixon Trophy event on August 2nd. However, Kevin, crack Auckland representative and twice winner of the individual title, and Ted Dorman of Victoria were unfortunately unable to start. Frank O’Flynn took the lead from the jump, and Canterbury and Victoria runners dominated the early stages of this 61 mile race, but off the road Otazo moved to the front, with 4th place going to Coombs challenging O’Flynn for first place. O’Flynn gained a good lead over heavy country near the end of the first lap, and was able to win by 35 seconds in 41min. 4sec., very fast time for a heavy course. Dick Daniell and Peter de la Mare finished the first lap closest together, running 9th and 10th, with Giff. Rowberry 11th. Coming round the back of the course Rowberry moved up, and the three Victoria men passed the front. Canterbury runners to finished 7th, 8th and 9th. Ian Morton made a desperate attempt to pass Marshall (Otazo), but failed in a thrilling finish, thus giving the Dixon Trophy by one point in the closest contest since the inception of the race.

STUDENT LABOUR

With the drain on labour available for seasonal work caused by the war, the employment of students in the long vacation has become sufficiently important to warrant an attempt at organisation. Last year the position regarding supply of labour for seasonal work was acute, and with every change of students being worked this year, the labour division of the department of manpower has approached N.Z.U.S.A. for co-operation in making an inquiry into available student labour. It is hoped that if there are sufficient students free and willing to do seasonal work over the vacation, some organisation might be of use in their being taken in getting such students into jobs.

Discussions Groups

A number of Discussion Groups are to be formed to meet during the vacation in “Salient” Room. Subjects include: “Religion and Society,” “The Modern Novel,” “Contemporary Poetry,” “Causes of Fascism,” “Post-War Reconstruction.” Meetings will not begin until after final examinations, but a preliminary meeting of those interested will be held before the end of the term. See the main notice-board for further particulars.

CRICKET

Would all present or intending members of the Cricket Club who will be available for the whole or even part of the coming season please add their names to the list on the notice-board or leave a note in the rack for one of the following:

A. V. O’Brien, Club Captain.
N. N. Y. Olson, Secretary.
H. D. Bray, Treasurer.

The subscription for 1941 will be 1/6 per Saturday. This means that if for part of the season you will be in Camp, or for some other reason, cannot play, then you will not be losing anything. As you will be asked to pay only for the days on which you actually played.

Overseas Students

At the Special General Meeting to be held on Thursday 18th September, the project of forming a Committee to send parcels to students serving with the Forces overseas will be discussed. We anticipate that this scheme need only be suggested, to make with your whole-hearted support. Hence the Executive would be grateful if everyone would help the Committee to be set up in the following ways:

1. Send on to the Secretary of the Students’ Association immediately the names and addresses of any students or ex-students you know who are now serving overseas.

Collect for us any mailing wrapping paper, string, newspaper for packing, and tins such as cocoa tins, etc., for packing sweets. Receipts will be placed about the College shortly for these articles. Watch the notice-boards.