

February 3, 1935.

Dear Mr. Rogers;

This week has been an active one for the City as delegates from all over the Union have been in town for the All-Union Congress of Soviets. This is the last step in a series of Congresses, starting with the City Congresses, and leading up through County (Krai, or Oblast) to the various Congresses in the different Republics, which in turn elected delegates to the All-Union Congress in Moscow. I have seen small groups of the delegates seeing the sights of the capital, in tow of a sailor as guide. This represents a great day for the out of towners, who not only have the honor of being chosen delegates to the Congress, but in whose honor many special events at the theaters are arranged. Judging from the printed speeches in the papers, the delegates listen to some very long, heavy speeches outlining the work of the various Commissariats during the past four years. No speech seems to cover less than five whole pages of the papers, and all are filled with tables of statistics. I can imagine what it must be like to listen to a whole one, but then it is a by-word among the Americans that the longer the speech, the more the Russians like it. I have read parts of some of the speeches, but find that they deal with much the same material as has appeared daily in the press as new plants were opened, and new production figures released. There is no getting around the fact that the country has taken immense strides in the past four years, and even though these have been at the expense of some huge errors, which they themselves point out, they do seem to plough ahead. If one judges by accomplishment alone, one can only praise the administration.

This open voting, and indirect method of election of delegates to the Congress has been meeting increased opposition, and yesterday appeared the announcement of a decree appointing a Committee to look into the constitutional problems involved in instituting a closed ballot, and a more direct method of electing the important delegates. How far this movement will go, cannot be foreseen by the man in the street. Voting by raising the hand has immense advantages which I presume the administration will not entirely abolish. But even with closed voting, steam-rolling is not unheard of in Pennsylvania and New York, so that few look for a real change in the machine. I note that many of the distant regions send proxies to prominent officials in Moscow for the Congress. American Companies have found how useful the proxy system is in supporting the management. Their experiences are probably not unique. But the fact remains that there is much interest about in the new changes in the voting laws, and many look for a liberalization.

My lectures in the Institute have been progressing, with some days which are not too intelligible, and others which surprise me. We have passed from feudalism in Europe to serfdom in old Russia, and the large number of new terms were confusing at the start. I succeeded in borrowing a good history at the Embassy, and after reading that, I found that the background helped a great deal in the lectures. After one lecture in which the struggle between the bourgeoisie, who had become strong with the growth of trade, and the old landowners, had been held up as an example of the Class

Struggle, one of the boys asked me whether this was pointed out in lectures in America. His question was only one of a great many which have been put to me during the past two weeks. Perhaps you would be interested in others. -Are you a member of the Party? What is your Father? Are the languages spoken in England and America similar? How many years do you have to go to school to be fitted as a lawyer? What system is used; lectures and seminars, or only lectures? Can the son of a working man get a law education? Does the government pay students during their period in school? Do you study the philosophy of law or only the practical application? What is the order of succession to the English throne? Is Kautsky read more in America than Marx? Which is more popular? Is Roosevelt controlled by the bankers? Have you come to study our law or to criticize? Do you work at the Embassy? It is rather appalling, for apparently they take ~~an~~ answers as gospel Americanisms, and it is no small burden to be representative of 120 million countrymen. Many of these millions would probably shudder to think of being represented in my answers.

The boys are very friendly and stop and talk to me in every interval before and between the two hour periods. An alert group they are, although younger than our law students, as they enter law school immediately after the equivalent of High School. Most of them are at work in some practical work while at school, and the room is full of men in the uniform of the various organizations. Some try and lecture me and tell me how wonderful life is here. Others are very human and laugh and joke, and seem entirely appreciative of the American carefree attitude as regards politics. The ones from the South seem the most sympathetic and understanding, and the quickest to grasp the meaning of my halting phrases. I have talked with other American students, and they have noticed the same thing among the southerners. Of course one reason why they understand is that Russian is a strange language to them also, and they can the more easily understand it when it is not perfect. Stories that other students have of the fear they seem to strike into the hearts of the students because they are foreigners are not substantiated by anything I have seen or experienced. Of course law is a more specialized field, and does not offer the opportunities for intrigue, which is apparently feared since the recent events. Down in the University affairs may be different than where I am. Stories circulate at any rate. Americans seem to be the most favored of the foreigners, and as I compare our history, I can see that we and the Union have so much in common. They are about in the stage of progress and development of our '90s, and one of the most interesting things for me will be to watch their growth and see whether the same evils and difficulties present themselves with the growth of production and the distribution of automobiles and radios and everything which allegedly has "pepped" up life at home to a feverish "unhealthy" pitch.

My friend in the School of Economics took me to a little birthday party a Russian student was having, and rarely have I had such a whirl of an evening. Only recently have they begun to dance here, but already many of the girls are wonders. Then they sat around with a guitar and sang Russian gypsy songs, and danced Russian dances. Home to bed at three made the next day a little slow, but

few evenings have been as glorious in any country. Those who say that the young folk of today do not have a good time and are not happy do not know of what they speak.

Oddly enough a trip skating ended in a visit to the Planetarium the other night. Every two hours the Planetarium has a different program. The building was put up to assist in the anti-religious campaign, and I am told that usually something along that theme is worked in. On the evening I went the lecture was about the various stratosphere attempts and nothing was said which could be anti-religious. I had seen the planetariums at Leipzig, Germany, and Chicago, so that I knew the usual routine, but the custom here of giving different subjects and conducting the show not as an entertainment but as an instructive lecture makes of it a very unusual evening. The Russians crowd the place every period, and after it is over ask hosts of questions. I talked to the man a bit myself afterwards, and found that he was well acquainted with the various Planetariums, built and building in the States, and with what we are doing over there, including the new great mirror cast at our own Corning Glass Works. The crowd was surprising in that there were so many young couples, obviously out on a little courting spree who chose that as their entertainment. Of course darkness, the moon and the stars are an attraction, but I hardly think they were there for that alone. I wondered how many of our young couples would dart into a planetarium or museum for a "gay" evening.

Herman Habicht tells me that he worried you by saying that I did not get enough exercise. That was most certainly so in the fall, but with the beginning of the skating season, I have been getting out a couple of times of week, and I just had the chance to buy a bicycle from a departing American, so that when spring comes I look for some good peddling in the country. At home we always had so many sports and ways of exercising that I have missed it here. I will have to make up for it this summer. Many youngsters get their exercises in the gym. classes at school. The older ones just do not exercise, or else they confine themselves to skating in the winter, which is a grand method of getting healthy but takes a great deal of time in getting prepared, going to the rink etc.

Your reforwarded first letter has just reached me. I am sorry not to have been able to let you know earlier what to do about copies of my letters. I think the system we have stumbled upon quite satisfactory: copies of letters to my brother and sister, and when you think it worth while a distribution of special letters to the whole list. A great many of the people on the list have written me directly. I regret that limitations prevent my making the letters more profound and therefore more interesting. But summer will come with the chance for personal talks.

With greeting to you all,

JNH

WSR..JNH...6

February 6, 1935.

Dear Hazard:

I now acknowledge your letters to No. 22. I have sent a copy of No. 19 to Frank Simonds thinking it might interest him because of the reference to his son. Upon receipt of your No. 20 I cabled you as follows:

"Fully concur your number twenty greetings"

Number twenty one, which we are about to distribute, I think will prove interesting to every one receiving it.

The part of number twenty-two telling of your getting under way at the Institute of Soviet Law is both amusing and encouraging. Very glad that you are underway with your strictly professional work and that your Russian is functioning increasingly well. Dig away at getting hold of basic principles.

I suggest that the brief reference in your letter to radio broadcasting be developed some time. It is a lively subject.

I do not know whether you ever met Mr. and Mrs. Charles R. Crane's grandson Charles Leatherbee. While at Harvard he was president of the Dramatic Club and he organized a group of players from Harvard and other colleges into what became known as the University Players. After an illness of only a few days he died last week - double pneumonia. A great loss not only to the members of his family but to a large circle of friends, many of them connected with the theater.

Cordial greetings,

WSR/FC

Sincerely yours,

Mr. John N. Hazard,
American Consulate
Moscow, U.S.S.R.

WSR..JNH...1

February 8th, 1935

Dear Hazard:

Enclosed is an article on the newspaper making use of only 900 words and under separate cover a copy of it is being sent to you. We have had some difficulty in locating the publisher and from what we now learn the newspaper may be discontinued because of lack of funds to maintain it. There is a possibility that it will be transferred to London and issued by an organization that receives financial aid from the British government.

In your No. 17 I find the following sentence: "The result was that they did all their talking in Latin, which would appear to me to be probably the first instance of the use of that language in a crisis for some hundreds of years." I should say you were probably wrong. Practically all Catholic seminarians learn Latin as a living language; it is employed within the Church organization in official communications; it is often used (I believe) in diplomatic negotiations with the Holy See; until perhaps the beginning of this century Latin was thoroughly taught in many, if not most, of the Western European universities; it is even taught now as a living language in a few of our "prep" schools. (I have a young friend who was so taught in an obscure Texas school and who claims to be able to carry on a modest conversation even now in that language).

I bring up this subject merely as indicating the trickiness of such a generalization. Incidentally the word "crisis" comes close to having little more than a subjective significance. What is a crisis? To you one thing, to Stalin another, to King George perhaps a toothache.

While in this schoolmasterish mood permit me also to remark that in putting an "e" at the end of "develop" you raise an issue with Messrs. Webster, "Standard", et al.

Cordial greetings,

WSR/FC
encls.

JNH..WSR..25

February 9, 1935.

Dear Mr. Rogers;

The announcement in the papers to the effect that Mr. Hull saw no possibility of reaching an agreement over the Soviet indebtedness to the United States received a great deal of attention here. Not only was Mr. Hull's statement translated in full on the front page of Pravda, together with Mr. Litvinov's comments, but daily quotations from the American Press have appeared. Mr. Simm's criticism of the State Department, together with criticism's appearing in the Baltimore Sun, Nation, and New Republic were translated at length and rumors flew about the town. On one hand one hears that America has sold out to Japan in return for a promise to adopt a more conciliatory attitude on naval armament limitation, and then the papers print despatches from Cleveland to the effect that the steel companies and munitions firms are working overtime to fill immense Japanese orders. One hears also that the Hearst anti-Soviet campaign has been so effective that in the light of the defeat of the President in his attempt to get Senate approval to adherence to the World Court, he and the State Department felt it unwise to continue further in the teeth of a determined, organized, and effective opposition. The other side of the picture is represented by the opinion expressed far more than the others that this is only a maneuver in the International game of politics, and that after this step is fully appreciated both sides will step down and reach some compromise. Perhaps this is in the back of the minds of those who added to the despatch from New York telling of the plans to reduce the Embassy Staff, and withdraw the Air and Naval Attachés the following sentence, "It is obvious that these measures are included in the despatch (from the State Department) in order to strengthen the impression." One of the American Students tells me that the day after the announcement he was chided at his class with comments which may be paraphrased "Well, you see that now the Union is so strong that we do not have to bow to demands of your government", but not a word has even been mentioned in my Institute by any of the students as they chat with me between the hours. As far as I am concerned, therefore, to date the change in relations has had no effect. I regret that it had to be, although Prof. Harper had cautioned me that this might come, but I do not take the pessimistic attitude that a new agreement will not be forthcoming within the year.

This week marked the last sessions of the All-Union Congress, whose members were given a ride in the newly completed subway and sent back to the remote corners of the Union to tell what strides have been taken at the capital. Probably the events arousing the most general interest were those concerning defense of the country and the proposed Constitutional reforms. The Speech of the Under-Commissar of War outlining as it did the enormous efforts made to build forts along the entire Asiatic border made a great impression. The Resolution appointing a Committee to rewrite the constitution in the light of present day situations so as to provide for secret voting, equal representation of cities and country according to population, and direct elections instead of the many-stepped election of today has been heralded in the Press as a great step forward. As the next general elections are four years away, there

will be plenty of time for the Commission, chaired by Stalin to work out the new system. Foreign observers say that this move shows that the Government is not immune to foreign criticism, and that the constant jibes in the foreign press at the voting-by-a-show-of-hands system has brought about this move. I am somewhat inclined to doubt that such is the only influence, for I had heard some three months ago that large changes were to occur in the voting system and franchise. The final day was spent in hearing the report of the financial situation of the country. The Commissar for Finance produced general figures which showed a surplus for the past four years, and how the Government has been able to make the country prosper. The figures do not go into the details of showing which enterprises produce the credits and which the debits. A review of figures showing costs and regulated selling prices for some of the plants had made me wonder how these plants could continue to run at the large deficits occasioned by the setting of a fixed selling price considerably below the cost of production. The speech of the Commissar does ~~down~~ point out which units balance the budget with large surpluses. I must say that I am at a loss to understand just how the budget is balanced each year when for example, as was done this year, the annual indebtedness due from many of the collective farms which were hit by the drought was cancelled on the Government books. This represented a huge item, and together with those items from the unprofitable plants it would seem to take some highly profitable units to make up for them. Of course we hear that Torgsin stores reap a huge profit. There may be other such units. This problem has been engrossing me more and more as I live here and watch things develop. I shall rejoice when, if ever, I feel that I understand the finances of this State. Needless to state the news that the budget had a surplus has been heralded in the press. For example today's editorial in Izvestia--...."Our government budget does not know deficits. For four years the general surplus of receipts over expenditures in the combined (all-union) budget of the U.S.S.R. stood at 7,6 billion rubles. What capitalist country can boast of such success. In these same four years the budget deficit in England stood at 24 million pounds Sterling; in Germany--2,504 million marks; in the U.S.A.--10,845 million dollars." Then on the back page is a chart showing production in England, Japan, and the U.S.A. together with figures over a three year period showing production of automobiles, steel production index numbers, and number of unemployed. The reading public is treated to the most modern charts and expositions of the sorry state of the world, and those who do not take the time to read charts have pictures like the enclosed one of a hovel in Chicago, labeled "Chicago. In the background the skyline--(in the foreground) the junk heap where the unemployed seek shelter." It all leaves one pretty much muddled up the first few months, although after that one begins to realize that Sir Thomas Moore alone found a Utopia, and his was only in a book.

Everything is going well with me, and the Institute lectures are daily more interesting. The last time the class responded in what is said to be unprecedented fashion by applauding a particularly brilliant lecture of Professor Korovne explaining the beginning of unified Kingdoms in Western Europe as the fight for colonies moved on and made necessary unified action of a country if its colonial position were to be maintained.

Greetings to you all,

JMU

JNH...WSR..26

February 16, 1935.

Dear Mr. Rogers;

Major Faymonville once again included me among his guests, this time at a large reception he gave to the Military Attachés and correspondents of the capital. By some strange chance I seemed to be the only one outside this group, and was taken quite unawares for he had personally and casually suggested that I drop in around six for cocktails. I expected just an informal chat with him, and was a bit surprised to enter the room full of uniformed military aides, and high Soviet Army officers. Russian seemed to be the language of the hour and the medium of conversation for all, no matter what their nationality might be. On the one hand there was the old warrior from France with his apparently wooden leg and stiff military bearing, the rather particular English Attaché with very much of the old-bachelor look about him, the stolid chubby Finn, the young and alert young Turk, the polite young French Air Attachee, and countless others. I had some pleasant chats with some, especially the young Turkish Attaché. He is most certainly representative of the new Turkey, young, full of vigor, very European, and very aimable. Mr. Duranty having just the day before returned also dropped in, with a host of stories about America, and his new plan to write fiction which he finds much more interesting than the old work. Ralph Barnes, the Herald-Tribune man took the opportunity of congratulating Duranty on admitting that he was joining the "fiction" squad here in which Duranty had long ago placed Barnes. The new AP man, Lyons, introduced himself to Duranty for the first time, and it was quite a picture as the old timer greeted the youngster who looks no older than I. "An awfully interesting post, young man; awfully interesting!" was his greeting with a half laugh making the rest of us feel that perhaps some of the interest had worn thin for the old timer with the passing of the years. I had just read Duranty's pamphlet published by the Foreign Policy Assn. (Europe, War or Peace? - World Affairs Pamphlets No 7) in which along with his analysis of the general situation he reviews Lenin's comments as to what is necessary for the makings of a revolution, coming to the conclusion that the army is the key stone. Barnes suggested that Duranty had been a bit restrained in his comments, to which the answer was, "But you don't know the Foreign Policy Assn." I was particularly interested in Duranty's review of the strong feeling in America about the trials following the Kirov Assassination. Villard's page in the Nation of Jan. 23rd led me to believe that the feeling had been much stronger than I had ever supposed, and Duranty confirmed this belief, which we are just beginning to realize here, where we see so little American press comment.

People are still wondering why the United States balks over the debt question. They point to France who had many times larger credits due her from old Russia, and yet went ahead and made a trade treaty which is proving distinctly to her advantage. It is regrettable that the reorganization of the Consulate has been released as a story purporting to announce the closing of the Consulate General. I was so surprised that I went down there to ask, and found that all other countries find it more convenient to call their establishments in Moscow, an Embassy, with a Consular Department, the Consular officials being Secretaries in the Embassy. Now the USA is doing just that, and

the former Consuls become Second Secretaries, and the Vice-consuls Third Secretaries. The result is to put every one on the diplomatic list which has its well-known advantages. In International Law Consuls have long been denied many privileges of immunity, granted to the diplomatic delegations. The announcement from Washington, failing as it did to explain the change in its most favorable light marks another step to which people point who argue that relations between the Union and America have not been handled in the manner best calculated to remove misunderstandings. These same people also criticize our announcements relative to Japan, such as fleet maneuvers in the Pacific, Air bases for planes large enough to fly to Japan and back, and bases in Alaska. It is hard to see why it is necessary to unduly complicate relationships which are strained enough already.

Professor Korovine gave me another evening this week. As these pleasant evenings continue, I realize more and more that they are marking the high-light of the year for me. The mass of material we have covered, together with the instilling of the Soviet philosophy has been so helpful, that now I am beginning to find that I myself can usually foresee the answer to the various problems we keep running into. This time we discussed among other things the January number of the American Journal of International Law. Since he is not versed in English I have found that I can give him just a little in return for all he gives me, by reading the journal through and picking out the parts of greatest interest to the Union, and then giving him short resumés of these parts. This always starts a discussion, from which I profit probably far more than he does. His lectures at the Institute become more interesting as I proceed with my understanding of the language. Right now we are working on the 17th Century in Russia, learning what legal reforms Peter the Great instituted, and how constant intrigues were on foot to cut into the power of the Tsar. I have always enjoyed history, and I find that it adds immeasurable to one's understanding of a country. For instance Kluchevsky's analysis of the Russian Peasant in his 3 vol. History of Russia brings out the centuries in which the peasant loafed all winter when nothing could be done, and then worked harder than any other peasant in the world in the short summer to raise his crops. In centuries of development this ability to work hard over a short period followed by a complete relapse has become ingrained in the people. Today we can explain, with this theory, the phenomenal work before the "October" to build the boulevard of which I then wrote, in the short space of a week and we can further explain the slow plodding and incessant delays of the long periods of daily work between the feverishly high pitched periods. Other examples are numberless, and although at times I think Kluchevsky is perhaps carried away with his analysis, he comes pretty near the truth in many cases.

I heard more of this slow work of every-day routine when I went down to pay my call on Mr. and Mrs. Henderson, the Second Sec., and his wife. Now that Mr. Hanson has been sent to Addis Abbaba, Mr. Henderson is left second only to Mr. Wylie. Mrs. Henderson is a Latvian, small, very vivacious, and an excellent linguist, as she needs to be here. By chance the wife of the German Military Attaché was also there. Her chief complaint seemed to be with the Moscow weather and dark days, a very real complaint, especially since it does not help colds to clear themselves up, but then Syracuse, and Boston, and New Haven never had much clear weather either, so that I am quite accustomed. Mrs. Henderson regaled us with an impossible story of some work done polishing the floors of her

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apartment. The two men appeared at eleven, worked, or rather sat around a and smoked for two hours, ^elit for lunch at one, returned at four and worked another hour before leaving for the day. This apparently is such a common state of things that the Evening Moscow had a skit written about such workmen, and the Russians thought it terribly funny. Yet on the other hand, when they must work, they are able to build this subway in the shortest time on record in the world. What a land of contrasts!

I have gotten in a little skiing recently, for the announcement that there was to be a ski-jumping competition with the Finns took me out to the Lenin Hills, and while there I rented a pair of skis and took a few simple hills myself. The Russians have only recently begun to skii, but already the jumping showed signs of excellence. The locale is perfect, being as it is the place from which Napoleon first saw Moscow, and which Tolstoy immortalized in his War and Peace. Steep wooded hills lead down to the Moscow river, which is now frozen solid and makes a perfect skii race track. The government has made quite a park of this, constructing huge toboggan slides, with bumps and curves, and ski jumps, and providing a large club house in which people can rent shoes, and skis for the day, at very modest rentals (a little more than air mail to the States). Swarms of children were out trying the hills, and most of them were already wizards. The youngsters of this country are taking to sport with unbelievable ease.

The Second Collective Farm Congress has been in session this week. It is a revelation to see the pictures of the delegates sitting at the tribune. More typical back country Russian types could hardly be found, and many of them give speeches in their native dialects to the huge crowd, telling how the Collective Farms have bettered their own lives. One can easily imagine the psychological effect this chance to visit the capital and sit in the seats of the mighty, and talk about yourself must have on the delegates who will probably go back filled with enthusiasm to push the program along. It is a wonderful (true sense of the word) change from the old days, when the peasants were kept right on the estates, and never had any say, or any hope of saying in the development of the policy under which they were to live. Of course one cannot help but realize that the awe-inspiring proportions of a trip to Moscow, and a speech in front of the leader himself probably coveys any spirit to find fault, but one questions whether it is wrong to permit people to think they are sharing in government when they really are not as declare so many critics. I suppose it is better to start with something, and as education advances, and the need for such strict discipline disappears enlarge the share the peasants have in running things than to deny them everything, merely because to permit too much might put the wrench in the machinery. But any one can vagarize on this argument to his heart's content.

My regards and greetings to you all ,

Very sincerely yours,

JNH

February 23, 1935.

Dear Mr. Rogers;

The highlight in the news during the past week has been the opening of the International Chess Tournament, known to the initiated in this particular case as a "Masters' Tournament" inasmuch as the winner does not receive the title of Champion of the World. But this limitation does not make the event any the less important in the eyes of the Russians, for all the great players of the world are assembled for the 24 day session, with the exception of the World's Champion, who happens to be a White Russian, living in Paris. Like most Americans I had been inclined to consider the tournament in the same light as a six-day bicycle race at home, and about as important, but as the newspapers continued to feature the event, and as it is on every one's tongue, I grasped the opportunity a friend gave me to go and see a session. The Government has put the affair in the huge Museum of Art, in ~~the~~ ^{the} high columned halls ~~of which~~ have been set raised platforms on which stand the tables and great high-backed gilt chairs with red plush cushions and backs, looking as if they might have formerly been a banquet set in the Kremlin. Behind the tables are duplicates of the chess boards, some 10' x 10' in size, on which the cards representing the various pawns etc. are moved, so that at any moment the large crowd seated and standing in front of the platform can see what is going on. Players waiting for their opponent to move walk about the hall, or glance at other boards. Capablanca, Flor, Lasker, and the rest, champions of nearly every European Country are there. As I know little or nothing about chess, the interesting feature for me was the watching ~~of~~ the famous players, and more especially the crowd. A Russian crowd is never quiet, but here they achieve what approaches complete silence, sitting in rapt attention as each play develops.^(?) Of all games, chess ^{most nearly} approaches being the national game of this country. Even little boys ten and eleven play it, and are often so good as to be able to play a board in one of the tournaments where an advanced player plays ten or twenty boards at a time. Although not a popular game with girls or women, it has so swept the men of the country that a chess hero becomes an unusual figure. Perhaps it is not risky to point out that the game itself is indicative of the Russian temperament which loves to plan in the abstract and work out things on the board, a trait which calls forth from H.G. Wells in his Experiment in Autobiography (p.697) considerable comment on the incessant planning for the future without completion of the plans of the present. Mr. Wells seems to me to have overlooked many of the plans which have been completed, and he goes on the assumption that many of the ones he does consider will fall through in operation, as for example his comments on the subway, and new buildings, and assumption which is perhaps unfair before the subway even goes into ^{operation} operation, but it is true, and the Russians themselves recognize it and comment upon it, that this people is composed in large measure of intellectual theorists and chess-player types who need ^{to} somehow (and how I could not say) the practical ability of the Anglo-Saxon or the German, his half-brother.

Some of the Russian boys took me to a lecture in English on Alexander Pope. It is one of a series being given in the International Library dealing with different periods of English literature.

The lecturer was a Professor of (Eng) literature in the University, formerly educated at Cambridge University, being the son of a wealthy manufacturer. He has, since the revolution, given himself wholeheartedly to the new State. His English is perfect English-gentlemen's English with the same accent, the same dropping of words into the throat at the end of the sentence. I enjoyed the lecture immensely, and chatted with him a bit at the end. Some two hundred people crowded into the reading room of the Library which has quite a collection of books in all languages, usually of a revolutionary or political nature, as well as current newspapers and periodicals from all over the world. I have had a reading card there for some time, and drop in occasionally. The audience sat in rapt attention, and seemed to grasp it all. One of the boys with me teaches English in the classes for the officers of the army. It seems that English is now required for officers of the army, although judging from my contacts at Major Faymonville's the use of English has not yet pushed up to the older men. Perhaps the young ones can use it. To my queries as to why our language should have been chosen, I was told that it is now almost universal, and provides a medium of communication even with Japanese and Chinese, which is necessary in the Far East.

Mr. and Mrs. Bess, correspondent for the Christian Science Monitor, and his wife invited me to dinner during the week. They inherited Mr. Chamberlain's former quarters, and thus have what is said to be one of the only "houses" in Moscow. Every one else in the foreign colony lives in apartments or rooms, or quarters their government provides them with. For ten years Mr. Bess was a correspondent in the Far East, and brought with him his Chinese boys when he came here a year ago. The house is furnished with Chinese things, and all in all makes one of the most homelike places in town. Both Mr. and Mrs. Bess may be grouped in the more quiet element in the capital. Although a native of Iowa, he already has much of the reserve of a Bostonian. Perhaps one's paper has something to do with molding one's character. The evening was pretty much given over to the Far East, as a Mr. Paine(?) Vice-Pres. of the American Bank Note Co. in charge of the Far Eastern Division was also in town, having come to town for a few days. Apparently the (Gov't) is anxious to learn a bit more about the production of note paper. The (Amz) Bank Note Co. is apparently allowed to sell the paper only to the U.S. Gov't, as in shipping it elsewhere, there is the danger that some sheets may be stolen, and thus make easier counterfeiting. But the (Co.) does provide notes already engraved in America and shipped all over the world. Their last order here was for the Kerensky (Gov't). We were told that the paper used must be different in different climates. For instance the paper in the notes made for the Dutch East Indies must be strong and able to keep its shape in spite of being almost constantly wet, not only because of the damp climate, but because it is carried on perspiring bodies of natives. The Company makes most of the paper for China, even to the paper twenty-cent notes. There the paper has to be made to withstand the hot dry climate of the interior. Mr. Paine told many stories of counterfeiting, a subject which has always interested me. China is notorious for this art. Not only are Chinese bills counterfeited but they also work on foreign currencies. This latter problem has long been a sore spot in the law. In spite of the famous case of Emperor of Austria v. Day and Kossuth (Eng. 1861) which granted an injunction forbidding an engraver to make up in England notes to be used in Austria, for the most part countries have not been interested

in counterfeiting of foreign currencies within their borders. This practice reached such proportions that the Geneva Convention of 1929 against Counterfeiting of Foreign Currencies was signed, but like many another International Convention it has not been generally adopted. The Soviet attitude on counterfeiting is rather different from that in other states. In other states if anything is done, it is done on the basis of a suit brought by the injured foreign state, and the offense, if any, is only against the state whose currency is being counterfeited. The Soviet attitude approaches the problem on an entirely different footing. Any act which endangers the position of the Union is punishable whether directed to that end or not. The counterfeiting of foreign currency may cause serious difficulties to arise between the Union and a foreign State. For example we see that Hungary's harboring of persons doing acts which injure a foreign government caused the utmost international friction. Whereas counterfeiting is not as dramatic as plots to assassinate, it is believed to be a possible source of friction. Thus the counterfeiter of foreign currency within the Union is jeopardizing the international standing of the Union, and is therefore subject to punishment by the Union, for a crime committed against the Union, and not alone for an act hostile to the foreign state.

The papers have been filled with news of America ever since the failure of the diplomats in the realm of debt negotiations. Yesterday appeared an article dealing with the proposed legislation in six States and in the Federal Congress as well, directed towards the outlawing of the Communist Party in the U.S.A. I am more than surprised, for I had no idea America had reached such a stage in political thinking. I imagine the bills have the support of only a minority, but if they pass, I shall feel the need more than ever of renewing my contacts with America this summer to find out what is going on over there. The enclosed cartoon of Hearst, appearing in Izvestia is characteristic of the press comments here.

Your numbers 6 and 7 arrived, together with the copy of the American World. My teacher wishes me to thank you for her for the trouble ~~to~~ you went to to track it down. It is going to prove most useful, but we regret that its continuation is so doubtful. I shall some time go into the question of radio broadcasting, when I find out more about it. The death of "r. Leatherbee must be a great shock to Mr. Crane. Although I never knew the young man, I have heard about him, and realize what a real loss this is. It is hard to understand how he could have succumbed so quickly. Your remarks in No. 7 which you term "schoolmasterish" are more than welcome. Spelling has gone to pot, as I advised you in an earlier letter. I note that in last week's letter it is particularly bad, with a "there" instead of "their". Too much American speed on the machine and little thought on the letters wreck havoc, and last week was especially bad since I shared the horrible February cold with the other members of the city. It had us nearly on our backs, and only now am I feeling myself. Generalizations are perilous, I agree, and I shall try and keep them out in the future in spite of their attractiveness in letter writing. Do write me again with other comments. I need the occasional checking up I always got and expected in the States.

With all good wishes,

Very sincerely yours,

JNH

WSR..JNH...8

March 1, 1935.

Dear Hazard:

I now have your Nos. 23-24-25.

A couple of stray ideas: I suggest some time, months hence, that on the basis of your then extended experience you write what would be a primer of advice to Americans who undertake the study of Russian. Referring to the middle section of your No. 25, I wonder if you have completely disabused yourself of your American presuppositions as to the nature and functions of money. It is quite possible to use monetary terms as a more or less arbitrary means for making quantitative measurements, as is frequently done in the case of interdepartmental transactions within a large corporation. In any event, money and money terms must have very different significances in a country such as U.S.S.R. as contrasted with this country where profit-making is a predominant motive.

Dr. Bowman, whom you met as one of the trustees of the Institute, has been elected president of Johns Hopkins University. An honor to Bowman but one carrying with it a hard task, as Johns Hopkins (save the Medical School) has been slipping for twenty years or more.

Cordial greetings,

WSR/FC

Mr. John N. Hazard,
c/o American Consulate,
Moscow, U.S.S.R.

2028

JNH...WSR..28

Moscow,
March 27 1935.

Dear Mr. Rogers;

For one evening I thought myself back in the United States, for the first time in my five months here. The showing of an American Movie in the little movie theater at the Embassy happened to come on a free day, and I grasped the opportunity to refresh my American point of view. As a matter of fact I was surprised to find how far I had unconsciously drifted away from the background of my training in America. To be sure the picture, the "Gay Divorce" does show America ~~at~~ its gayest, and most superficial, and pointless angles and does not really present as fair a contrast to life here, as could be done, but the fact remains that I came away pretty much surprised with myself, and rather wondering how much I will find that I have changed when I get home this summer. The picture was only one of several which have been shown in the superbly equipped little hall at the Embassy. They were all brought here by the American Companies for showing at the International Kino Festival, just coming to an end in the big theater of the city. The Festival had been arranged in connection with the Fifteenth Anniversary of the Soviet Kino Industry. Films from all countries of the world were brought and displayed, including films from China, and many of the famous directors and actresses also came. Our Companies sent as their contribution films which included, Cleopatra, The Kid from Spain, Viva Villa, Little Women, The Gay Divorce, Gentlemen Are Born, Three Little Pigs, and several minor comedy strips. They were chosen, I am told, by the American firms for their artistic value and demonstration of movie technique. It is perhaps to be regretted that in most cases they only served to accentuate the idea already in the minds of most Russians that America is on its last legs and struggling along under the burden of a dissipated bourgeois ruling class. After the showings to the picked groups down town, the American films were again shown at the Embassy, thus giving the American colony their first home entertainment. The Soviet Kino Industry has been praised in the press for its successes of the past few years, and the whole city points to "Chapayev" with great pride. Izvestia has run a cut of the poster displayed in New York as the film enters its sixth week on Broadway, and a long article quoting at length from the favorable reviews of the critics. There is added a touch when the article goes on to say that one paper (not mentioned) attacked the film, and was so ridiculed by the other critics that the dissenter then attacked the rest of the press in large headlines saying that the American Press was furthering Soviet propaganda in America. I myself have been to several of the films as the opportunity arose. There is no doubt about the excellency of Chapayev, although the rather poor copy of it I saw deprived it of some of its merit. It ran in all the theaters of the city when it opened. This means a considerable showing, for there is a theater on every major square of the city, and that means on ^{about all} the cross sections of the A and B Boulevards which are cut by the streets radiating from the Center. These theaters vary in excellence, from the most attractive to the most barnlike and disgraceful. Performances are scheduled at regular hours, and the audience must buy a numbered ticket well in advance to be sure of a seat. For those who come early there is an orchestra playing in the lobby. Most of these are rather good Jazz Orchestras, which play not only American Jazz, but a ^{much} ~~most~~ more classiciz-

ed form of Jazz, which is known as Russian Jazz. It reminds one of the Jazz Symphonies now and then played at home, and is interesting because of its unusual musical arrangements. Other pictures which have made great hits during the past few weeks are "The Youth of Maxime!" and "Merry Youths". The first is to my mind the best picture I have seen here, for it is not only artistically more interesting than Chapayev, but it shows the life of the steel worker before the Revolution, and when one finishes seeing it, it is hard to repress a desire to ~~wring~~ ^{wring} the necks of the Whiteguardists. I suppose that because of its propagandist character it will not be shown in America, but it goes a long ways in interpreting the hatred with which these people view a whiteguardist. But not all the pictures have propaganda as their motivating force. "Merry Youths" is said to be the first picture having nothing to do with the Revolution or with propaganda. It is just a pure slapstick American comedy, with lots of extremely catchy Russian songs which have caught the imagination of the town. We are told that there will be more of this sort as time goes on. Foreign movies used to be presented some years ago, when the Soviet Industry was in its infancy, but today there is not a foreign film on the screen, with the exception of an ancient reel of Tarzan. The expense of purchasing foreign films apparently keeps them out. At least that is the reason generally given. As a result of the festival one French film has been purchased, and is announced as a film for the near future. The Press in criticizing the films at the Festival has been very critical of American films, although only discussing the artistic and technical details. A young American, Curtiss, studying in the Kino Institute says that Eisenstein feels that American directors overlook many of their best opportunities, and notes that in Viva Villa, there is no use made of the landscape, nor do the directors see the effects which can be found in filming at the right time of day when the shadows are interesting. You will recall that Eisenstein's one American Film, "Thunder Over Mexico" made great effects out of both of these natural features. Mr. Curtiss has had good luck, he tells us, in his work at the Institute, largely due to the fact that he knows Eisenstein. It is another case showing the importance of coming here and acquiring ^{an individual} an individual who is a leader in the field you wish to work in. Without it, far too many doors are closed. I have been lucky in finding in Prof. Korovine such a similar sympathetic person.

Unfortunately I could see only one of the films at the Embassy as I can only go on Free-days, one of which happened to fall on March 1st. February presents some difficulty for this system of the calendar, for there is no 30th, to be the free day. Thus they put the free day on the 1st of the next month. As you know when the old calendar was departed from, at first they instituted a five day week, which meant only four days of work, and one day of rest. This was such a short work week that everything was always closing down. Then they decided to stagger the free days for people, so that things would always run, but it also meant that every one had a different free day, and families who worked never could get together for a general day in the country. Popular dislike of the system resulted in its abolition, and thereafter they instituted the six day week, now in force, with a free day after each five work days, and every one has the same free day, with the exception of ^{some} some of the big stores, which stay open on the free day to facilitate shopping and close the day after the free day, much the same as the Louvre closes on Monday after being open on Sunday. The free days are now on the 6th, 12th, 18th, and 24th, and 30th of every month. For those

months which have 31 days, the last day of the month is a work day for all but educational institutions, and in those there is an additional day off. Needless to say there is rejoicing in a family with children when a long month comes around. February with 28 days is treated as I have explained above. You can see that with a free day coming every sixth day instead of every seventh, there are a good many days when no work is done. But they make up for this by having almost no holidays. Except for the "October", and May 1st and Lenin's Death day, there are no days free from work, not even New Year's Day. Our system of a holiday nearly every month, and half holiday on Saturday adds up to about the same amount of free time. I need scarcely have gone to such lengths with this detail, but it used to puzzle me at home, and perhaps the mechanics of the six day week will prove interesting to you. It is at times humorous to see how thoroughly the single word "shestinefka" meaning six day week, has replaced the old word for week. In an amateur play I saw at the Djerjinsky Club purporting to be the time of Henry IV in England, one of the lines reads "Two six-day weeks ago, I saw you with my wife!" Old Henry would have had quite a surprise.

During the past week, Vishinsky, the Ass't State Prosecutor gave a lecture at my Institute. He was the judge in the Metro-Vickers Trial, and more recently drew up the indictment of the Kirov slayers, et al. He is said to be the moxpiece of the ~~Department~~ ^{Communist} Department of Justice, and is most certainly the man the people most often see, and read about. He is an old Menshevik, very much of the gentlemanly, and cultured type, not nearly as foopoding as I had let my imagination picture in view of the services he has performed. His lecture, on French Jurisprudence, was not in itself interesting to me, at least not as much as seeing this rather famous man himself. Seeing people in the flesh always personalizes the news for me, and makes it so much more interesting. Previously in the week one of the young Professors had given a few comments on bourgeois ideas of property and had rather joked about and criticized our Pres. in his attitude and swing to the right. He said that the efforts the Pres. had made to help the workers were almost nothing, and that if he went further he would be kicked out. Afterwards several students expressed surprise to me that such criticism has been made of the chief of another state, and asked me whether I was offended. They seemed to think the Prof had gone far, and their attitude was interesting in showing that they had not lost all feeling for international courtesies, as many of our writers would have us believe. Likewise after one of the lectures one of the girls started talking to me about the opportunities for women at the bar and bench at home. Of course Harvard Law School has none, and Yale has only a few, and even such attempts at legal education for women as the now-famous Portia Law School in Boston leave us without many women lawyers, and still fewer women judges. I tried to crawl out by suggesting that perhaps the girls at home would rather take up different careers more in line with their outstanding capabilities, and also that there was some reason to believe that the women were fitted very nicely for work in the home, and should not leave the up-bringing of their children to institutions alone. She was somewhat shocked, and said that if girls did not want to be lawyers, and do everything the men do, including working on the subway, they did not know what they ought to want. Too many

years of bourgeois influences had, in her opinion, perverted their true sense of values and desires. I have been trying to keep away from the girls at the Institute, for they always go at me in a militant way, as if I were the person to whom they could express all their hatred of the capitalist class, and as if I were in some measure responsible. The boys are a great crowd, treating me just like another human being of any class, and keeping away from argument which all know can do little to clarify the situation. But the girls are a different story. Perhaps one commentator was not so far wrong when he suggested that when ^{in 1917} ~~they~~ lost religion, the energy and mysticism inherent in ~~women~~ ^{them} needed a new religion, and so they took up the new banner with an unseeing and unhearing fervor. I should be inclined to say this was a little harsh, but it is true that the two groups in my Institute certainly use different tactics in talking with me.

During the past week, I happened to meet Prof. Heber Harper, of Columbia. He is here under Mr. Duggan's Institute to map out the possibilities of study in the Soviet Union for foreign students. Apparently the Institute is already equipped to give advice to any student who wishes to proceed along his course abroad in many other countries, but no one has as yet made a study of opportunities here. Prof. Harper will prepare an exhaustive report of all Institutes here to which American students might come. In addition he will act as the American Director of the Summer School which will have its second year this summer, after a rather doubtful start last year, if I may believe current reports. The Prof. is a very kindly man, friendly, anxious to hear all that he can, and apparently without prejudice one way or the other. He tells me that he knows Mr. John Crane very well. I shall look forward to putting him in contact with many of the American students here so that he can get some first hand pictures of what study here is like, and the problems faced.

An early spring seems to be around the corner, for it has been quite warm, and nearly all the snow has melted. It is a welcome sign to most of us, and we hope that a second winter will not soon be upon us. By the time this reaches you spring will be here for good, and with it I am hoping that I shall have a chance to see you over here as is rumored.

All good wishes,

JNH

[What this is interesting for the last?]

March 4, 1935

"I am awfully grateful to you for sending me copies of the Moscow letters from your student John N. Hazard. They are very interesting and illuminating. If you have his later letters multigraphed I do hope that you will send copies of them.

There is just one little point at which I think he is misinformed in his letter of January 13. He intimates that the rule of celibacy prevailed among the clergy of the Orthodox Church. According to my understanding quite the contrary was the case. A priest could not be ordained unless he was married. Priests moreover were noted for their large families.

Sincerely yours,

(sgd.) GEORGE S. COUNTS

Moscow,
March 9, 1935.

Dear Mr. Rogers;

"The great capitalists fought under Hamilton at the Continental Congress, whereas Jefferson in advocating states rights and a weaker central government was advocating the cause of the petty bourgeoisie. The first great President of the United States, George Washington, in receiving this position was placed by the great property owners who could count on his support of their cause as one of the country's greatest property owners himself....The primary cause of the Civil War was the struggle between the free traders of the South who wanted to save the markets for their cotton and buy cheaply in foreign markets for their plantations, and the protectionists of the North who wanted to protect and develop their industries. Slavery was primarily the emotional excuse for the war covering up the real issues. The complete system of different terms for President, Senators, and Representatives was evolved to make impossible any mass attack on the property owners in any one election. This protective feature was enhanced by the checks and counter checks of the Constitution. The Versailles Treaty was not ratified because the great merchants and monied classes had found that their future lay in the Pacific and South American areas and so they did not throw their support on the side of the President, and let the emotional elements of America must not meddle in Europe win the day." Such are typical sentences from the brilliant lecture on the History of the United States and its governmental structure. Of course many are not new to one who has some idea of the economic approach to history, but others did startle me a bit. In all fairness I hasten to add that I have seldom heard as fine a summary, filled as it was with entirely accurate details, even down to minute points which one would expect only an American to know, and told in a way not in the least scornful or ironical. Fortunately I had the opportunity a few days later to go over the material with the Professor and make certain that I had fully understood the explanation. Two days later a similar lecture on the organization of the State in Great Britain brought forth equally interesting theories. The students sit in rapt attention and every time a good story or anecdote is handed down about England or America they are not long in nudging me or turning around and winking.

The regular course lectures, as interesting as they are, do not give as happy a picture of the students as do the evening informal entertainments. I have been down to two. One was on Red Army day, celebrating ~~seventeen~~ fifteen years of organized activity of the Army. Speech after speech retold personal adventures on various fronts in the Revolution, and later in China. The Corps Commander distributed sharpshooters and nursing medals to students who had passed the regular tests, and the students joined informally in many popular army songs. But this evening was not as much fun as one a few nights ago in which Vishinsky, newly elevated to the position of Prosecutor of the R.F.S.F.R., spoke, followed by an evening of home-made entertainment, including songs, poems, school orchestra, violin solos, and native dances by students from the

different republics. After this followed a regular American dance, which came too late for me to stay, having as I did a very full day ahead of me ~~the next morning~~. The general lack of close attention, and joking among the students would annoy any one used to the respectful silence we demand in auditoriums at home, but it is a by-word that for generations the Russians have rarely given a performer a chance, and they are still living up to that principle. The performers never seem to mind, and the students have a whirl acting just as they please, so all concerned would seem to be having the best kind of a time. I took the American who is in the School of Economics, as we were allowed to bring guests, and we both had a very good time, being warmly greeted by various students who have become my friends during the past month.

VOKS(All-Union Society for Cultural Relations with Foreigners) is famed for its receptions, a description of which can be found in that mud-slinging book of Muggeridge's "Winter in Moscow." As they almost never have anything on law, which might bring me an invitation, I grasped the opportunity one of my friends gave me to be his guest at a reception given on the occasion of the fifteenth anniversary of the State Jewish Theater. A goodly crowd of some two hundred correspondents, theater people, and diplomats were on hand in the palatial quarters of the Association, formerly the home of a rich merchant. The director, ^{of the theater} a short stocky Jew gave a speech in which he emphasized the fact that for the first time we see in a single title the word State juxtaposed to the word Jewish. He emphasized the difficulty in finding Jewish literature which could be produced. All the old literature and plays were written from the point of view of a down-trodden people, and now the theater wants plays in the new spirit, that of a victorious equal people. Theater critics here tell me the plays which are the most effective are still the old Jewish classics, for those the actors do best. Then followed the famed supper. Tables piled high (and there is no other word for it) with cold meats, chicken, caviar, sausages, fruits, salads, pies, cakes and wine lay behind the closed doors. I was told that the staff of the organization numbers 100, and special kitchens prepare the delicious food for the foreign guests who as often as every night a week may crowd the place for various events. One who has lived with the Russian people cannot but feel that perhaps it would be more in keeping if good but not too plentiful food were served and the attempt to outdo the world, or perhaps show the visitors that everything may be had here were abandoned in favor of showing a truer picture. But then VOKS must know what best favors their cause. Few organizations continue doing a thing for a long time if it is not for the good of the cause. After the supper the actors, sang songs, danced Jewish dances, and acted some scenes from their plays. The last scene was from Shakespeare's "King Lear" which is now having great success on the boards. The Hebrew made it almost impossible to understand, but the acting was so fine that words were hardly needed. The theater is only one of several theaters operated by National Minorities, such as the Gypsies, Latvians, etc. As theaters provide me with a chance for language study, I have not gone to these other theaters using their own languages. But from all sides I hear only praise for the various national groups doing this artistic work.

Professor Korovine gave me another evening. Our progress through Prof. Hudson's Casebook has proceeded so well that now we are nearing the end. I feel encouraged in that I can now usually guess what the Soviet Law is on many a point, but I feel so often the discouraging embarrassment of having to admit that some Marxian principle was not taught me years ago. But apparently others are to remain as unenlightened as I, for Dean Furness's statements joking at the absurdity of the Yale News's demands for a course on Fascism and Communism sound the doom for such a course for at least some years to come at Yale. One wonders what the harm is in giving a person a chance to learn the great movements of the age. Few causes have ever prospered by repression of their antagonists. No matter what one believes, he has a right to know the other sides, and as likely as not he will not change his opinions anyway. Another movie at the Embassy, Gentlemen Are Born, gave me a chance to see once again in such a vivid way the very real problems now facing the young college boy in America. It is a harrowing picture, and leaves one with a sense that something is wrong. Wouldn't we all cheer if we could feel that any one for certain had found the solution?

Everything continues in the best of shape for me. Sometimes I feel a bit upset when I cannot understand all that is said to me. But that has been a chronic state for the past five months, and there is no answer except more work, all of which is interesting and especially palatable when it takes the form of listening to lectures at the Institute.

With all good wishes, I am,

Very sincerely yours,

JNH

MOSCOW
March 16, 1935.

Dear Mr. Rogers;

Early in the week our wolf-like police dog began lying about the floor gasping for breath, and we smelled faint traces of gas around the lavatory and steam pipes. Going on the proven principle that the way to get things done is to shout "wolf, wolf!" a call was put in to the gas factory telling them that we were dying and to rush right over. But, as was expected, nothing happened. Then our neighbors across the street had to move out of their house at night, and others began complaining. In hopes that it might become an international issue and therefore under the jurisdiction of the Foreign Office we called up the Turkish Embassy next door, but they told us that they were all right over there, which led our janitor to suggest that perhaps Turks did not know the difference anyway. Then the boy in the house began having trouble with his heart. This time we called again, and were in the position of having to say, "Comrade, this time we aren't fooling, we are dying!" In some few hours an inspector came around, but as we had made ready for him, and closed all doors and windows to make the gas so obvious that even the most unwilling would have to admit that there was a "slight smell about", he ordered out the digging gang. The only theory was that the old main which supplied the gas street lights, out of use for the past two years since the introduction of electricity, had broken. The two men began digging at two spots where joints were concerned. All night and day for three days they kept at it. The ground was frozen so solid for three feet that a pick made no impression, and they had to drive iron chisels into the soil with sledge hammers and chip out the frozen hunks bit by bit. You can imagine the pleasure we had in the meantime. Have you ever gone to bed with the feeling that there was a better than fifty-fifty chance of not waking in the morning? I caught myself thinking whether it would be better to set the alarm for two-hour intervals to be somewhat sure of waking up before the gas grew strong enough to overtake me, or to open the windows wide and take a chance on pneumonia or the wild boys. An icy home this was for those three days, as some of the windows were never made to open and to insure our safety the window in the bath room was kicked out, making a shower an experience reminiscent of the North Pole. The third night and shades of the Dartmouth disaster sapped my morale, and I welcomed the opportunity to go to a friend's for the night. The next day at noon, the break had been found, so large that the gas when ignited made a good sized flame like a burning gas well. Apparently the frozen ground had cut off escape to the surface and it had been forced along water pipes and telephone cables into the adjacent houses. Back home I came, so much the wiser as to the manner of getting things done and with some hectic memories of a good scare. You can see prowling wild boys, but you can't see gas.

During the past weeks I have been having a very worth-while opportunity in working with the Legal Adviser at the Embassy on a translation of the Civil Code which he is making. As it has been some fifteen years since he practiced in England, quite naturally, many legal terms have escaped his

memory, and I have been trying to assist him in putting the Code into statutory language. The rule is "accuracy before elegance," and resolves many an argument. The Civil Code contains most of the laws which interest Americans, such as the law on agency, contracts, insurance, inheritance, wills, building leases, guaranty, loans, banking, mortgages. etc. Although most of it came into Soviet Law through the Swiss Civil Code which served as a model, I have been surprised to find how much of it is like the Common Law. Such changes as have been made, usually in favor of greater privileges and security for the State and State organs are of course to be expected. By comparing the translation with the original, one can get a very good course in legal Russian, and needless to say I have profited far more by having the opportunity to do the work than he has by my advice.

Codes have been the subject of some of the lectures at the Institute, as Prof. Peretersky has been taking that part of Prof. Korovine's course for him. Prof. Peretersky, although a Professor of the old school, is an outspoken advocate of the new. A stocky, shaved-headed, somewhat pompous man, he delivers a lecture filled with excursions into witty comments on life, history, and problems in general. He has been tracing the origin of the Code Napoleon, and its influence on European Codes. Then he followed this with a lecture on the German Code, and one on the old Czarist Code, and he promises a review of the development of the Common Law in England as the final lecture of his series. At first his Russian was somewhat hard to get, as he drops the last word of every sentence into his ample waistcoat, but most of the time I can get the general theme. Following his lectures usually come those of a course by Prof. Dotsenko on the Introduction to Soviet Law. Prof. Dotsenko provides a real contrast to the other Professors. A young, active, fiery communist he sails right along, challenging every idea of the past, even the ideas of his contemporaries. After hearing him point out one idea after another presented by his colleagues on the faculty as sheer "foolishness", I began to wonder whether it was only because of my conservative training that I was a bit surprised at these attacks in such startling unsweetened terms. But I was not long to wait for my answer, for amid the barrage of written questions passed up as the hours proceed was one--"Don't you ever make a mistake?" The class howled. But he was not in the least disturbed, and explained that according to dialectic materialism the mistakes of his older colleagues were naturally due to be uncovered as time rolled on, and in the future it was highly possible that mistakes in his reasoning and ideas would be uncovered. One day he appeared on the platform in a khaki skiing jacket. Although no one expects a professor to dress up here, it did seem a bit surprising to see that costume. Once again a question went up, "Why are you wearing a skiing jacket to lecture?" His answer was that the room was terribly cold, as it was, and in fact always is, so cold in fact that I always sit in my coat. But I noticed that the next time he appeared with a regular suit. Such is the way people can criticize, and the way they make use of

this privilege. One cannot help, after the first shock to one's conservative nature, enjoying this simplicity of conducting the general course of life. Outspokenness is the pride of the Union. It is found in ^{nearly} everything, even in foreign politics, as witness for example, Litvinov's remarks to the Japanese Correspondents. They asked him for opinions on the proposal made by Japan for a demilitarized area in the Far East. The Commissar snapped back with the answer that such had not proved a guarantee of peace in the past, and if Japan really wanted to do something which would insure peace in the future, she might better concern herself with signing the Non-aggression Pact.

Concern is being shown among the Colony due to reports that the telling arguments for the increase in the American Army by 40% ~~was~~ that such was needed to be ready for the growing unrest at home. The foreign chatter was only thrown in as a screen, it is said. If such is really true, America has moved a long ways in the past six months. In recruiting another 40,000 men, one wonders where they will find that number who would not be in sympathy with the restless elements, which I suppose are in large measure the unemployed. The recruits would in all probability be taken from the unemployed, or the C.C.C., who are really "unemployed" under a different name. Most certainly they are aware of the condition of the unemployed as one of the principle tests for suitability is a family at home which needs some type of support. Any one who fails to take into consideration the necessity of class consciousness in recruiting an army has not learned the lesson Lenin long ago repeated, and which is used to exclude from this army even the most fervent communist if his antecedents did not come from the workers or peasants. To be sure it may be possible to train class consciousness out of an army, as for example in the case of the Swiss Guards, the British Indian Army, and the Garde Mobile in France, but The Czar learned that there comes a time when even the Cossaks refuse to fire! It took the Marines to drive the bonus army out of Washington. If reports are true, the regular army refused to fire. Perhaps the college type of man which is said to be the backbone of the Marines has felt enough of the depression to realize that even his class is not permanently on the elevated plane of assured employment.

Your No.8 has arrived. I shall be glad to pass along to any one who is interested my experiences in learning Russian. I am afraid that my first reaction if any young hopeful were to ask me what to do, would be to say, don't study it just for the fun of studying a language, but if you want it as a tool for some other work and are willing to do some very exhausting and back-breaking spade work, then I will be glad to give a few hints. As to money in the Union, it is true that it has a very different significance from elsewhere, but the comments I made on the budget, are in my opinion, applicable to the idea here, for they concerned only the problem of arithmetic, i.e. if the budget is balanced, that is - comes out even, and since we know some items which are producing red figures, what are the black figures which cancel them out? I am delighted to hear of Dr. Bowman's new position. He is a forceful man, and one who should do much in helping the University along.

Sincerely, JNH.