

# The Highland Park Press

PART 2

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VOLUME XV

HIGHLAND PARK, ILLINOIS, THURSDAY, JUNE 4, 1924

NUMBER 14

## Esther Gould's Book Corner

Are You Interested in Books of Fiction, Biography, Travel, or History? For lists write to ESTHER GOULD, care of The Highland Park Press.

### New Facts About Russia

"THE BOLSHEVİK MYTH"  
By Alexander Berkman  
Bonf & Liveright

Alexander Berkman was deported from the United States to Russia in December 1919. He began at that time a diary, which, unlike most of us, he kept for several years. So far as its author is aware it is the only journal kept in Russia during those momentous years 1920-1922. From this diary which was lost and searched for through several European countries and finally located in Germany in the attic of a much frightened old lady, Mr. Berkman has compiled his book.

It is the history kept from day to day events in Russia — events of immense importance. The author is fearless in expressing his opinions and uncovers many a carefully concealed fact. He has tried to give the "real character" of the period, its significant expression, its deeper sense discovered in the lives, thoughts and feelings of the people.

Mr. Berkman's feeling when he arrived on Soviet ground early in 1920, was that he was at the threshold of the Holy of Holies. He dedicated, in spirit, the rest of his life to the working out of the problem of the Revolution.

But his experience in Russia became a long disillusionment. Crass stupidity, unbelievable cruelty, absolute despotism, he found under the thin outer surface. The surface which was presented so flimsily to visitors from the outer world.

At the end of two years Mr. Berkman concludes "Dictatorship is trampling the masses under foot. The Revolution is dead; its spirit cries in the wilderness. High time the truth about the Bolsheviks were told. The whitened sepulchre must be unmasked, the clay feet of the fetish beguiling the international proletariat to fatal will of the wisps exposed. The Bolshevik myth must be destroyed."

### A Readable Play

"IT IS A STRANGE HOUSE"

By Dana Burnet. Little-Brown & Co.

There is in New York, or there was a few weeks ago, a play which was causing a great deal of discussion.

"Processional," a pageant—a passing show—of American life. Intolerance, sentimentalism, worn out illusions, animated most of the action. Every now and then in a tense moment a jazz orchestra blared forth and everyone started swaying to its resistless rhythm.

Dana Burnet's play "It is a Strange House," is an American play, a cross section of American life, but it is conceived less in the spirit of cynicism which animated the other play, more in the spirit of the visionary.

And for that reason this play is a deeper treatment of its subject, and it is more than a treatment of American life, it is life itself. Though there are references to America's social standard based on the bank account, etc., yet the "house" is the house of civilization.

There are many rooms in the house and Laura Gildercrest is not content to stay in the one assigned to her. A "Voice in the Corridor" reaches her and she goes out to follow it.

The owner of the voice is the poet Stressman and together they go thru the house with its strange variances, and at last out into the garden. A garden in which there is reality and where even knowledge is not forbidden.

There is something lovely about this play. The only way we can hope to break the absolutism of the commercial theater, our dramatists tell us is to have plays which may be read as well as acted. "It is a Strange House" is excellent reading.

Visualize that picture if you will. What it would mean. More homes, more children, more sunshine, more happiness, more health, more wholesome play. I found myself face to face with what seemed to be a miracle of Illinois.

I was in a town into which more than 200 workers, and those dependent upon them, wives and children, had been transplanted from the nation's greatest city. Moved in one body! Picked up and set down! Re-rooted!

Almost with a voice, I found, they said—"It is well." Would you have it told? My guide, the banker, Mr. Frederick Keller of Lawrenceville, Ill., pointed to a group of tall chimneys from which smoke rolled into the sunlit sky. He said:

**Industrial Achievement**  
"If you are seeking a story of great industrial achievement with human interest and heart-throb in it, there it lies beneath those stacks. I know the story but there's a better way for you to get it. We'll let the Colonel tell it to you. It's something the world should know."

We parked in front of a new three-story office building and went in. Col. James H. Graham, president of the Indian Refining Co., a tall, gray-haired man with a friendly smile, welcomed us.

So we hear from Col. Graham the intimate facts concerning a remarkable "adventure in business" which has been watched closely by business men for many months; of results more than remarkable. Before relating Col. Graham's story, however, it may be well to state a few vital facts concerning the business he heads.

The Indian Refining company has a complete refining plant at Lawrenceville covering 300 acres. It has storage for 1,500,000 barrels of oil. It employs more than 3,000 workers, 1,200 of them in Lawrenceville. It operates 1,800 tank cars a string so long that a crew of men, painting every day, needs two and a half years to get back to the first car.

**Produces Much Oil**  
The company claims, total assets of about \$16,000,000 and carries an inventory of more than \$3,000,000. Its sales run about \$2,000,000 a month. Illinois last year produced more than 8,000,000 barrels of oil and this plant refined nearly half of it.

"We felt there was something about our business that was not right," said Col. Graham. "Finally, after many conferences, there came a solution, this way—

"We had our sales offices and our general offices in New York City. Our plant was in Lawrenceville. Naturally we saw the territory close to our sales offices as our field for selling. So we bent our efforts on sales in the New England states and upper Atlantic seaboard.

"That meant long freight hauls and we had to absorb the freight to compete with nearby refiners who got their crude oil by pipe line and tankers. That laid a heavy penalty on us.

**Problem of Management**  
"Next, there was the problem of management and policy. A sales idea might develop. Letters, telegrams and telephone conversations, over long distances, would follow. Days would pass, weeks perhaps, and it would still be argued back and forth.

"Sometimes, before a decision was reached the time to act would be gone. Delays were costly. Wire tolls between plant and office cost two or three thousand dollars a month. We decided to take the offices to the plant.

"We had in New York nearly 300 employees. Finally about 200 agreed to go to Lawrenceville. Our rent in New York cost us \$62,000 a year. We built a permanent office building in Lawrenceville, on the refinery grounds, for less than that and have no more rent to pay.

"Our workers were moved, household goods and all, at our expense. They have liked it. They found better working conditions, light, fresh air, fewer distractions. About seventy-five per cent of those who left New York are still with us. We sent fifteen per cent back because fewer persons could do the work and do it better. The other ten per cent returned for their own reasons.

**Men Buy Homes**  
"Men are buying homes who could not have bought them in New York.

**STOLEN IDOLS**  
His strange adventures of Geoffrey Ballston, following his theft of a famous Chinese idol with whose jewels he hoped to retrieve the fabled fortunes of his house.

By E. PHILLIPS OPPENHEIM  
\$2.00 at all Bookstores  
Boston: LITTLE BROWN CO. Publishers

### MORE FACTS ABOUT STATE OF ILLINOIS

#### LAWRENCEVILLE PLAN

**Tells of How 200 Workers and Families Were Transferred From New York to Illinois and Benefits**

BY LESTER B. COLBY  
Illinois Chamber of Commerce  
"It would take 1,000,000 persons out of New York City and replant them in smaller communities of the nation!"

Many own motor cars who could not hope to have them before. Children are being born who would have been denied existence in the tumult and tension of a great city. There are more marriages, more golf, other outdoor sports. More health and more happiness.

"I believe that we cut down, in tangible and intangible expenses, \$250,000 a year. And more—we found when we had our sales offices here that there was a great field for our products close at hand. It was the old story—seeing the nearby market.

"So we sold more of our goods in Illinois, Indiana, western and southwestern Ohio. Shorter freight costs, more profits. Rolling stock back quicker."

Col. Graham talked on for an hour, delighted with his experience, pleased with his results. Finally I said to him:

"May I ask you one question, a pointed one?"

He replied that I could. I said: "What did the first twelve months in Lawrenceville do to your balance sheet? That's what will interest business men."

And right there Col. Graham swung into motion. His eyes danced. He replied:

"In twelve months our balance sheet was improved \$1,500,000. And let me tell you something. If every company now maintaining general offices, and sales offices, in New York City, that ought to be somewhere else, would move those offices back where they belong, back where employees could own their homes, breathe fresh air, have better working conditions, light, room; back where general officers and sales force could be close to the producing end, back to plant and source of supply, it would take 1,000,000 persons out of New York City and replant them in the smaller communities of the nation."

So is the history of Illinois being written daily in the record-pages of business, industry, development and growth. So must the wise men of the east, seeing, turn west—

"Not without their wondrous story, Illinois, Illinois."  
Can be writ the nation's glory, Illinois, Illinois."

Here is room, opportunity. It is to visualize the story of Illinois that the Illinois Products Exposition will be held in Chicago next October, a great exposition at which only Illinois-grown products may be displayed.

(This is the third of a series of articles on "Re-Discovering Illinois. Another will be published soon.)

**CONSERVATION OF PARKING SPACE**  
**Motorists Urged to Exert All Effort to Make Room for Cars of Others**

Conservation of parking space as an important step in the betterment of local motoring conditions is being urged by Charles M. Hayes, president of the Chicago Motor Club.

Good parking space is being wasted by the very motorists who need it most, he declares.

Through greater efficiency in the use of available space, he says, it would be far easier to park cars in the down-town section of the city and everybody would be immediately aided.

"A rule suggested by the American Automobile association should be valuable to local motorists," Mr. Hayes explains. "Don't leave your car until you are sure that you have not overlooked any opportunity to accommodate another car. Sometimes your car will be the one that is in need of the spare space. Lack of familiarity with local ordinance is one reason for the present waste of available space. Too many drivers leave their cars too far away from street corners and fire hydrants. They want to play safe, but do not realize this feature is taken care of in the ordinance relating to such matters. They should find out just what the regulations are and then obey them, but not throw in a lot of good space for good measure and thereby inconvenience someone else in the bargain.

"The most wasteful practice is the annoying habit of leaving the rear of the car a foot or two away from the curb. This is plain carelessness, and ought not to be tolerated any more than driving all over the road. The parking hog even goes so far as to cause others to inconvenience everybody while trying to make use of the spaces which would otherwise be easy to get into."

The young women may not need the higher education, as the bachelors say they are already Masters of Arts. Anyway the kid element believe in the principles of the Declaration of Independence, and are applying the same in their relations with their parents.

**FOR DRY CLEANING & DYEING RUG CLEANING & CURTAIN STRETCHING THE RELIABLE LAUNDRY PHONES 178-179**

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