

HOW THIS COUNTRY SHOULD REGARD RUSSIA

"Long-Standing Friendship" Superficial, Says Oscar S. Straus.

Under the Surface, He Explains, is Russian Feeling Against Great Britain—Never America's Friend.

Oscar S. Straus, who was twice Minister to Turkey, was asked yesterday to give his views regarding the relations between this country and Russia. He said:

"No one can read without a shudder of horror the reports of the fiendish outrages at Kishineff on the 19th, 20th, and 21st of April upon the unoffending Jewish population of that city by a mob which was officially incited and officially protected.

"The London Times states that the number of Jews killed—men, women, and children—was between 60 and 70, and the number of those seriously injured—men, women, and children—is estimated at about 500. Most of the Jewish workshops, stores, and houses were ransacked and pillaged, and the greater part of a community of 30,000 has been rendered homeless and penniless. These crimes have been committed in Christian Russia by a Christian rabble, supported and participated in by Russian officials.

"This barbaric holocaust which has taken place in a populous city of 140,000 inhabitants appeals for redress not to the Jews throughout the world, but to the civilized world; not to those professing the religion of the slaughtered, but to those professing the religion of the slaughterers; it is a crime against civilization and Christianity as well.

"Only a few days ago we read with some elation the humane ukase of the Czar, which indicated that a new era was about to dawn upon the Russian Empire. Since then how has that humane and pious rescript been interpreted? New invasions have been made upon the liberties of the Finns; new restrictions have been placed upon all religions not of the Orthodox Church. Movements toward appropriating Manchuria, though temporarily denied, yet sure to be made effectual. Lastly, the blood-curdling tragedy at Kishineff.

"Whenever Russian horrors reach American ears we constantly hear about the long-standing friendship between Russia and the United States. If we look beneath the surface, which is so necessary when Russia is concerned, we will find that, underlying courtesies to our naval officers and profuse diplomatic professions of friendship, will be found a purpose to accentuate hostility toward England. Let us for a moment see on what basis that friendship rests and in what manner it has been manifested.

"Under Catharine II. a scheme was formed, in 1779, when we were in the most trying period of our revolutionary war, for giving George III. effective assistance against us, on condition that the English aid Russia in renewed attacks upon the Turks. A part of this programme was that the Island of Minorca was to be ceded by England to Russia as a station for the Russian fleet in the Mediterranean and as a rendezvous for the insurgent Greeks. This project was drawn up by Catharine's chief adviser, the licentious Count Potemkin, for presentation to the British Ambassador at St. Petersburg, but through the adroitness of Count Panin, Catharine's Minister for Foreign Affairs, who favored the French interest against the English, this scheme fell through, thereby causing the Empress to adopt the anti-British policy—armed neutrality. This fact is referred to by Sir Edward Creasy in his history of the Ottoman Turks, as well as by Eaton, who was an intimate of Potemkin.

"The nature of Russia's friendship for us at this period, when we were most in need of the friendly offices of foreign nations, is disclosed by Benjamin Franklin, who was then in Paris as one of our Commissioners to negotiate peace with Great Britain. He describes with what friendly satisfaction Russia had learned of the recognition of our independence by the States-General of Holland. I quote from his Journal (Franklin's Works, edited by Bigelow, vol. 8, page 89):

"This day (June 9, 1782), says Franklin, 'I received a letter from Mr. Dana dated at St. Petersburg, April 29th, in which is the following passage: "We yesterday received the news that the States-General had on the 19th of this month acknowledged the independence of the United States. This event gave a shock here, and is not well received, as they at least professed to have flattered themselves that the mediation would have prevented it and otherwise brought on a partial peace between Britain and Holland."

"Franklin adds: 'It is true that while the war continues Russia feels a greater demand for the naval stores and perhaps at a higher price. Or has the project lately talked of some foundation—that Russia and the Emperor intend driving the Turks out of Europe?'

"Mr. Francis Dana was at this time our accredited Minister to Russia. He remained there about two years, asking to be recognized by Catharine, but the Empress refused to receive him or recognize the independence of our country—and this, too, although nine months before the preliminaries of peace had been signed. At last Dana, in September, 1783, being unsuccessful in his efforts to induce Catharine to receive him as the accredited representative of a friendly power or to have Russia recognize the independence of our country, obtained permission from Congress to return home.

"A cause for gratitude on the part of the United States to Russia is to be found arising out of the following circumstances:

"It will be remembered that Russia was the dominant power in the so-called 'Holy Alliance,' whose purpose was to dominate the American Continent and especially to crush the spirit of liberty in South American republics. By reason of this friendly attitude of Russia and her allies towards the Republics of South America and the United States, we are indebted for our far-seeing Continental policy, known as the 'Monroe Doctrine.'

"But we hear much of Russia's friendly attitude toward us during the civil war and of her sending several warships to the Atlantic and to the Pacific with 'sealed instructions.' Much has been made of this. That it was a benefit to us is quite true. But has any one disclosed what those 'sealed instructions' were and has any one a right to suppose that they were for any other purpose than to offset England, or, in other words, that her relations towards us, even during the civil war, were anything more than moves made by her upon the chessboard of European diplomacy purely and only as counter moves to England?

"The Russia of to-day has nothing in common with the United States, and she would, if she could, caviar our Declaration of Independence out of existence and wipe liberty from the face of the globe. The graphic forecast of her policy by England's greatest diplomatist, Stratford Canning, is verified in our day.

"Rome of old extended its sway by conquest, but wherever its eagles flew the arts of civilization followed. The Russian bird of prey has no such commission. It turns indeed toward the sun, but the shadow of its wings is blighting and moral desolation closes upon its flight."

"Let not a false or misplaced gratitude check the humane sympathies of America for the despoiled Finns, the persecuted Christian Stundists, and the oppressed and massacred Jews."

DROUGHT AND HEAT WAVE.

Drought and heat continued to oppress this part of the country yesterday, and the effects of it began to show themselves in the quality of vegetables displayed in the public markets, and which, the truck farmers say, will soon show a much greater deterioration if present conditions are not relieved. Premature straw hats blossomed out here and there along Broadway and the wearers were in such evident comfort that jeering tongues were stilled.

Viewed from the bay and rivers, the city took on a regular hot-wave aspect. There has been a record of .15 of an inch of rainfall for thirty-three days.