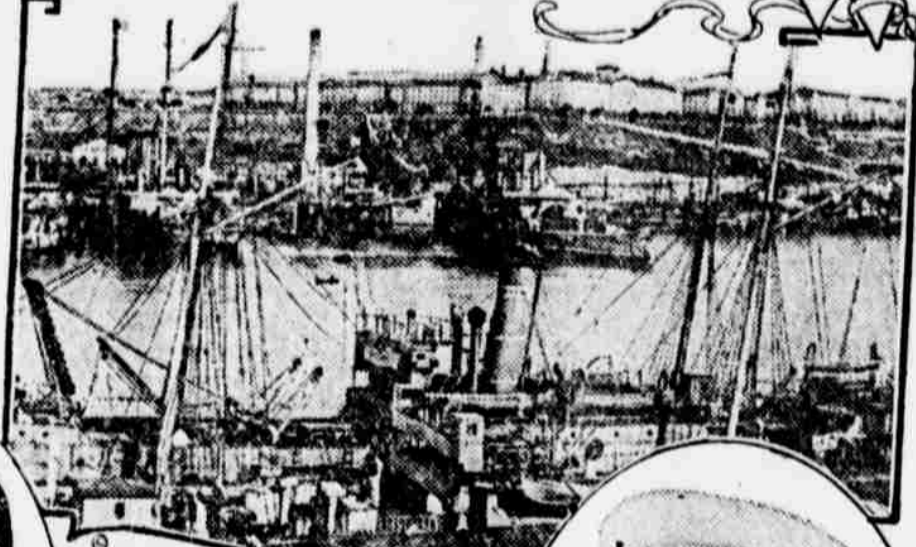


WRANGEL - Man of the Hour In Russia?



GEN. BARON PETER WRANGEL



SEBASTOPOL, Wrangel's Headquarters



KERENSKY



KOLCHAK



A COSSACK

GEN. BARON PETER WRANGEL is the new name that has come up out of the Russian welter. The man, his personality, his announced program and his opportunity unite to raise the question: Is he the man of the hour?

Many names have come up out of this same Russian welter since the Romanoffs fell. And many of these names have passed. Kerensky came up—and passed. Denikine came up—and passed. Now comes up Wrangel. Will this anti-Bolshevik leader in South Russia stay—or will he pass like these other foes of the Red menace?

The long and losing struggle of the Russians against the dictatorship of Lenin and Trotsky seemed to have collapsed with the fall of Kolchak in the north and Denikine in the south. Then flashed forth Wrangel in the south and the struggle was renewed. Now the French government has recognized General Wrangel as the head of the de facto government of southern Russia. America has given notice through the note of the secretary of state to the Italian ambassador that it will not consent to recognize the soviets as the government of Russia. And the United States has been making inquiry to settle for itself what this General Wrangel represents and what he purposes to do.

General Wrangel leads what may be called the fifth great White Russian crusade against the Red soviet government of Moscow. The world was startled to read that he had emerged from his stronghold in the Crimea, coincident with the demolition of Red armies by the Poles, and had thrust his fresh forces eastward across the straits of Azov on to the bolshevik mainland of the north Caucasus and had occupied the great Donetz coal basin, 350 miles to the north.

Then General Wrangel announced plans for reorganization of his forces into two armies and one independent corps. The first army will hold the northeastern front and will be commanded by General Gutepov, whose headquarters will be at Melitopol. The second army will operate in the province of Kuban and will be led by the famous Mongolian general, Ulagata. The independent corps was holding the line of the Dnieper river. This reorganization is the first step made in preparing for the co-operation of all Cossack forces.

"Various Cossack expeditions we have sent to Yeksk and other points in Kuban and the Don territory are advancing eastward, being heartily supported and joined by local Cossacks," said General Wrangel. "Our navy is now restored to a point where it can effectively support our troops in any possible sea action, and consequently, the time is propitious for giving the Don, Kuban, Astrakhan and Terek Cossacks the organization needed for utilizing their unlimited resources against their oppressors."

"The Cossacks have men, foodstuffs and animals sufficient for a long fight, and the spirit with which they have joined the expeditions sent to help them indicates they will soon hold all important ports and railways to the Georgian border."

General Wrangel has announced his program to be the establishing of a new government for all of Russia founded upon democratic principles and ideals. His statement to France is as follows:

- 1. In the first place, in establishing a permanent Russian government, south Russia will give to all the Russian people the opportunity to choose the form of government desired by free vote.
- 2. The south Russian government guarantees political and social equality and security to all Russian citizens regardless of their descent or religion.
- 3. The land will be turned over to those people actually engaged in its cultivation and all property already turned over to the peasants during the revolution will be regarded as legally held and titles will be issued to them. This reform already is being carried out in territory now held by the armed forces of south Russia.
- 4. Special protection will be afforded the laboring classes and their organizations.
- 5. The south Russian government will endeavor to unite the new governmental formations of Russia under a broad, democratic federation based upon mutual interest, primarily of economic nature.
- 6. Economically the government will attempt to establish a constructive force in Russia founded upon the principle of private initiative.
- 7. The government will assume all foreign obligations contracted by the former Russian government.
- 8. All debts will be paid, dependent upon the fulfillment of a program of economic reconstruction.

Who is this Gen. Baron Peter Wrangel who has flashed so brilliantly upon the world's eye? An official report received at Washington says he is but thirty-nine years of age; that he is of German descent; that his immediate ancestors came from the Baltic provinces.

The truth is that he is a member—and apparently a worthy member—of a remarkable international family which traces its origin to the nobility of the Baltic states in 1200. There have been branches in Sweden, Germany and Russia. Of the Swedish branch the most famous was Admiral Carl Gustav Wrangel, who commanded the Swedish armies in the last campaign of the Thirty Years' War. Of the German Wrangels the best known was the old Field Marshal Graf von Wrangel, whose military career was long and illustrious. Among the Russian members of the family there is that explorer who gave his name to Wrangel Island off the north coast of Eastern Siberia and who is linked with America through his services as governor of Alaska.

Gen. Baron Peter Wrangel, the subject of this sketch, began his career in the Russian army in 1901, enlisting in the Norse Guards regiment as a private after having been educated as a mining engineer. He left the army a year later, following promotion to a lieutenancy, but re-enlisted upon the outbreak of the Russo-Japanese war, in which he was twice promoted for bravery. Subsequently he was graduated from the General Staff academy and at the outbreak of the World War was a captain in command of a cavalry squadron.

For distinguished service with this command he was decorated with the highest Russian military order—the Cross of St. George. Promotion to the rank of colonel followed; he was appointed an aide to the czar and later became commander of the First Trans-Baikal Cossack regiment, with which, in July, 1916, he captured an entire battalion. He was then made major general.

As a division commander and later as commander of a cavalry corps he continued with the army until the disorders of the revolution had completely undermined its morale. Then, with many other Russian officers, he fled to the Caucasus. He was arrested by the bolsheviks and narrowly escaped execution. The story is told that he escaped only through the heroic devotion of his wife, who followed him to prison and obtained his release after persistent appeals.

In the summer of 1918, with the growth of the volunteer anti-Bolshevik army, he got command of a brigade under General Erdel. His chief fell ill, and Wrangel, succeeding to the command, attained the liberation of the whole of the north Caucasus and the Terek state. He was promoted to the rank of lieutenant general and given command of the Caucasian army.

Then came his test of strength with the commander in chief of the volunteer army, General Denikine. Under Denikine, Wrangel commanded the right wing of the southern armies. He made the brilliant capture of Tsaritsin on the Volga and later, when it was too late, took command of the central armies, which had been beaten on the front nearest Moscow. When Denikine gave up the struggle and departed, he formally handed over command of the southern armies to Wrangel. As Denikine had previously acknowledged the Kolchak government, Wrangel stands as the successor of that government, which the United States desired at one time to recognize, but whose weakness prevented.

General Wrangel now holds that part of Russia rightly included in the government of Taurida. His left is protected by the wide sweep of the Dnieper as it turns southwest from Ekaterinoslav, past Kherson to the Black sea. His line to the east reaches the Sea of Azov at about Mariupol, and beyond that stretch to the east the vast territories of the Don Cossacks, hard fighting foes of the bolshevik regime and all it stands for. To the south of the Don Cossacks are the territories of the Kuban Cossacks, who fought with Denikine against the Red armies, but later deserted their chief by the thousands when they felt that their cherished rights were being sacrificed by that leader. Wrangel has for its chief base Sebastopol, the great Russian fort, and he controls all of the Crimea with its half dozen good harbors and railroads connecting them and running north toward the heart of Russia.

This position of the Wrangel armies gives them great strength to hold off an enemy or to launch an attack. Their ports are on "warm water," always open to trade. Sebastopol is only 200 miles from Constantinople. The allies have in the near east large military stores, as Lloyd George announced in his speech to the house of commons. The soviets, in their various proposals to restore relations with Great Britain, have insisted upon surrender of Wrangel's forces, thus admitting the correctness of the British prime minister's characterization of Wrangel's movements as "formidable." Furthermore, the Communist central committee in Moscow telegraphed to all its branches on July 10 of this year:

"His (Wrangel's) offensive has already caused the soviet republic great difficulties. Each success of the general, even the most modest one, deprives Soviet Russia of great quantities of grain, coal and oil, and spells a spread of starvation, destitution, lack of fuel and destruction of transport. The Communist party should understand that a liquidation of General Wrangel's undertaking is an absolute necessity for Soviet Russia."

As a fighting force the new army will depend mainly on the Cossacks. It was Denikine's failure to hold the allegiance of these warriors, coupled with endless dissension behind his lines among his politicals, that wrecked his hopes of overthrowing the soviet.

Wrangel's arrangement with the Cossacks allows for their complete independence in their domestic and civil affairs. According to an agreement made on April 13 of this year the Hetman of the Don Cossacks recognizes Wrangel as highest military chief in return for this autonomy and Wrangel agrees to consult the Hetman on all negotiations with foreign powers on questions pertaining to Cossack troops and territories.

Thus Wrangel begins by avoiding the great mistake of Denikine. He seeks co-operation of all foes of the bolsheviks, but not domination over them.

"My slogan is," he said, "with whomsoever you please, but for Russia."

He has before him the lesson of the shattering of Denikine's hopes, in whose campaigns he played a brilliant part. What the causes of that failure were, he himself has put thus:

"Summing them up, it may be said that strategy was sacrificed to politics, and those politics were no good at all. Instead of uniting all the forces that made it their aim to combat bolshevism and instead of pursuing one Russian policy, without any party affiliations, there was a Volunteer army policy, a sort of private politics whose leaders saw in all that did not bear the stamp of the Volunteer army enemies of Russia. They fought the bolsheviks, and they fought the Ukrainians, Georgians and Azerbaijanians. And it would not have taken much to have started war with the Cossacks, too, who composed half of our army and with their blood cemented the connection with the regular troops on the battlefield."

The territories of the Cossacks were engulfed in the sweep of the Red armies toward the Caucasus. They represent still, however, according to their spokesman in Paris, V. A. Kharlamov, a force of "several scores of thousands" of fighting men.

As for the attitude of the Cossacks toward bolshevism rule, M. Kharlamov says:

"The democracy of Europe should remember this: The Cossacks are unable to accept the soviet regime; they are organically incapable of becoming Communists. The Cossacks are in their overwhelming majority thrifty farmers. There is no such thing as a Cossack proletarian in existence. The Cossack is by nature an individualist, holding very dear his personal liberty. Not in vain did the revolution affect the Cossacks. They are going to defend their freedom, their rights and liberties with all their might."

IMPROVED UNIFORM INTERNATIONAL SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

(By REV. P. H. FITZWATER, D. D., Teacher of English Bible in the Moody Bible Institute of Chicago) (80, 12th Western Newspaper Union)

LESSON FOR OCTOBER 17

JESUS BEGINS HIS GALILEAN MINISTRY.

LESSON TEXT—Matthew 4:12-25
GOLDEN TEXT—Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.—Matt. 4:7
ADDITIONAL MATERIAL—Mark 1:38-45; Luke 5:1-11
PRIMARY TOPIC—Jesus Chooses His Disciples
JUNIOR TOPIC—Jesus Teaching and Healing
INTERMEDIATE AND SENIOR TOPIC—The Call of the First Disciples
YOUNG PEOPLE AND ADULT TOPIC—Jesus enters upon his mission.

I. The King His Own Herald (vv. 12-17)

1. The reason for (v. 12). The news of the imprisonment of John the Baptist caused Jesus to forsake Judea and go into Galilee. The fate of John he accepted as foreshadowing his own. Because of this, he withdrew from the metropolis and went to the remote regions where his work would attract less attention. When the people willfully reject the truth and attempt to do violence to the messenger, he should turn from them unless specially directed otherwise.

2. To whom the proclamation is made (vv. 13-16). The people in Capernaum. This was done in fulfillment of a prophecy in Isaiah 9:1, 2. These people did not enjoy such privileges as those around Jerusalem. This was one of the darkest and most corrupt of the provinces, and now it is getting the light first. This foreshadowed the present age when the grace of God would reach out to the Gentiles. But this is just like the Lord. He did not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance. It should be our business, like the Master, to go to the most benighted souls with the message of light and life.

3. His message (v. 17). "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand." This is the same kingdom which John the Baptist and the Old Testament prophets proclaimed. It means the Messianic earth rule of Jesus Christ. This is not our message, for ours is the gospel of the finished work of Christ. We should call upon men to repent and believe the gospel of Christ's death for their sins and resurrection for justification. The time is coming when heralds will again announce the coming of the kingdom, and the King himself will come forth from the heavens to establish his mediatorial kingdom. For this we pray when we intelligently say, "Thy kingdom come."

II. The King Summons Servants to His Side (vv. 8:22)

1. His command of authority (v. 19). He did not use arguments, but issued the mandate. The King's voice is authoritative. To command is the King's prerogative, not to argue or entreat.

2. The station of the servants called (vv. 18, 21). They were men of lowly birth—fishermen. God chooses the foolish things of this world to put to shame the mighty, that no flesh might boast before him (1 Cor. 1:26).

3. They were called to definite service (v. 19). "I will make you fishers of men." He had previously called them to be disciples (John 1:36-42). He now called them to service. This call, then, was not the gospel call to sinners, which is always "Believe on me," but the call to service, of those who had already heeded the call to discipleship. The qualities which made them good fishermen—patience, bravery to face the storm and the night, the perseverance which toiled all night though no fish were caught, would make them good fishers of men.

III. The King's Triumphant Progress (vv. 23-25)

He went the whole rounds of Galilee teaching the Scriptures, preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing all manner of diseases. He did a threefold work:

1. Teaching the Scriptures in the synagogues (v. 23). The revelation of God needed to be explained. This is what he was doing at Nazareth (Luke 4:16-22).
2. Preaching the glad tidings of the kingdom (v. 23). The King who was present and was heralding his own mission was ready to establish his kingdom if they would have been willing to receive him.
3. Healing all manner of diseases (v. 23). There was no form of disease which he could not cure.

Learn the Lesson.

Therefore, let us be patient, patient; and let God our Father teach us his own lesson his own way. Let us try to learn it well and quickly; but do not let us fancy that he will ring the school bell and send us to play before our lesson is learnt.—Charles Kingsley.

Mischievous Makers.

I have heard it said that spies and saboteurs have done more mischief in this world than the poisoned bowl or the assassin's dagger.—Schiller.

That Nagging Backache

Are you tormented with a throbbing backache? Suffer sharp pains at every sudden move? Evening find you "all played out?" Perhaps you have been working too hard and getting too little rest. This may have weakened your kidneys, bringing on that tired feeling and dull, nagging backache. You may have headaches and dizziness, too, with annoying kidney irregularities. Don't wait. Help the weakened kidneys with Doan's Kidney Pills. They have helped thousands and should help you. Ask your neighbor!

A Nebraska Case

Joel Kitzmiller, prop. of carriage and paint shop, 200 O St., Auburn, Neb., says: "For years my back was in bad shape and I suffered severely from kidney trouble. My kidneys acted irregularly and the secretions contained sediment. My back ached constantly and I felt anything or to stop over caused severe pains. I used Doan's Kidney Pills and they gave me splendid relief."

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She hadn't been particularly interested in the fight for woman suffrage through the years of her useful life, but had devoted herself loyally to domestic pursuits in the service of her employer. However, when informed that women were to have full rights to vote, she announced: "Well! I'm going to read up on all the men who are trying to be elected and find out all about 'em and who's the best man before I vote for him—but it ain't goin' to be no Republican."—Indianapolis News.

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