

Lusk and Hillquit Accommodated

When Senator Clayton (Silverware) Lusk proposed his law for the licensing of schools, classes and courses by the State Board of Education, he openly admitted that it was aimed primarily at the Rand School.

He had previously tried to destroy the school without the aid of new legislation, but was outgeneraled in a legal skirmish by Samuel Untermeyer who took up the cudgels for the school, altho violently opposed to everything that the school stood for.

The New York State Extraordinary Commission for the Suppression of Revolutionary Movements (it was officially known under another name but that is what it aimed to be) was presided over by Senator Lusk, and Archibald Stevenson was its brains (God save the mark).

Under the guidance of Detective Stevenson, the Lusk Committee raided the school offices in the hope of implicating the school in some of the plots to overthrow the government which were periodically scheduled to come off.

The attacks upon the school by the Lusk Committee, the capitalist press and all reactionary elements was caused by the notoriety it had gained by employing teachers who were removed from their positions on account of radical beliefs or activities.

When Scott Nearing was dismissed from Pennsylvania University for teaching the truth about the predatory interests, the Rand School invited him to lecture to its students. When he was later removed for the same reason as Dean of Toledo University the school engaged him as a member of its staff of permanent instructors. It stood by him when he was prosecuted for writing a pamphlet exposing the economic causes of war and militarism and paid a fine of \$3,000 for publishing the pamphlet.

Similarly, when Harry Dana was discharged from Columbia University because of his anti-war activities, the Rand School acclaimed him and he was provided with audiences ten times greater than were offered him by the university.

Benjamin Glassberg came to the school three years ago after losing the right to teach in the public schools of the city.

The indiscretion which cost him his job consisted in telling his students in history that the political party which was ruling Russia did not consist of blood-thirsty maniacs, but of honored representatives of the Russian workingclass.

The Rand School made it known that it was proud to have as its instructors those, whose teaching the reactionary educational institutions found dangerous to the preservation of capitalist society.

What then has happened to cause the ousting of Glassberg as a teacher in the Rand School?

The Rand School has taken the advice of the Socialist Party leadership and decided to become politically respectable.

Glassberg was teaching history and political science. His views on Sovietism, Proletarian Dictatorship, Democracy and sundry other Socialist matters are not the same as those which the school's attorney, Morris

Hillquit, entertains, and which, *eo ipso*, the Socialist Party stands for.

Strange enough, when Samuel Untermeyer volunteered to defend the school in the courts he did not inquire about the views of its administrators or teachers. It was the illegal raid upon the school that interested him.

Mr. Hillquit refused to defend the school if it retained Glassberg as instructor in those subjects which he was qualified to teach. He did not care to defend people with whose views his did not agree.

The School made it known to the public that it will not recognize the law and will fight it in the courts on the ground of the right to teach the social sciences from the Socialist point of view.

Hillquit declared that the school could only teach these subjects from the Socialist Party point of view and the school agreed to that.

This action led to the resignation of a majority of the Board of Directors as officers and members of the society governing the school, including the president and treasurer.

They were followed by other members of the Society, including Scott Nearing, who, with the exception of David P. Berenberg, is the only instructor continuing as a member of the Society.

When the Socialist Party met all the objections raised against the party at the Albany Trial at the 1920 New York Convention by editing its constitution and adopting a reformist platform and declaration of principles, Attorney-General Newton declared the party purged of its un-American features and quite respectable.

Morris Hillquit, as legal advisor of the Rand School, got the school to do the same thing that the party did last year.

The Rand School has also purged itself, and Attorney-General Newton announced that it would not be molested while the constitutionality of the law is tested in the courts. To become respectable is to insure your safety under capitalist dictatorship.

This policy has, however, wrecked the Socialist Party. The Rand School, in following Hillquit's advice, has chosen the way of the Socialist Party, which is the way of oblivion and utter disrepute with the advanced workers of this country.

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Medical Care in Soviet Russia

LIKE all the other fields of reconstruction in New Russia, the entire system of medical aid, which the People's Commissariat of Public Health received as a legacy of the old regime, had to be rebuilt on new foundations.

The People's Commissariat of Public Health laid down the following primary tasks: to strengthen and develop the hospitals and other medical institutions; to make these institutions freely accessible to the population at large; and, finally, to raise the quality of their service.

Everyone knows the condition in which Russia found itself at the moment when the Soviet Government assumed power.

Exhausted by prolonged war which caused an economic breakdown in all domains of industrial life, and torn by civil war and blockade, Soviet Russia confronted almost insurmountable obstacles in the way of the organization of medical aid to any adequate extent.

Triumph with Flying Colors

We need only mention the shortage of medical personnel caused by the war. Even before the war Russia had insufficient physicians. The shortage of medical supplies is also well known.

In spite of all these difficulties, the Soviet authorities came out of their struggle with flying colors.

This is shown by the results, as they can be seen at this moment (March, 1921) on the basis of the official data.

The total number of hospital cots in Soviet Russia is 320,000.

This does not include 250,000 beds in temporary hospitals and barracks taking care of epidemics.

The significance of these figures is clear when compared with the 180,000 hospital beds which was all that Czarist Russia (including Poland, Finland, Lithuania, and the Baltic states) could boast of.

In all provincial capitals and in most district towns free dispensaries have been installed.

In the large centers medical aid for emergency cases has been placed on a very solid foundation.

There are stations equipped with ambulances and all necessary supplies from which physicians can be called at any hour to go to the scene of an accident.

Work for Free Medical Aid

The Commissariat of Public Health is making progress in its efforts to put the principle of free medical aid into practice thruout the territory of Soviet Russia.

Because of unattractive conditions of life in the Russian villages only persons exclusively inspired by the idea of serving the people had gone into this work.

There had developed, however, a type of an idealist "country doctor" who does not seek any material advantages and who considers it his moral obligation to aid the people with his knowledge.

The history of the Russian medical profession is full of examples of such idealists.

To a certain extent every country physician was really a martyr, doomed to hard, scantily paid work in an atmosphere of arbitrary political rule and ignorance.

As a result of the economic disorganization which was caused by the war the conditions of the country doctor could not improve, but, with the spread of epidemics, became even more difficult.

Nevertheless, in this field, too, the Soviet Government has accomplished a great deal. New dispensaries have been opened and new medical districts formed.

As a result, there is now a hospital district for every eight to ten thousand of rural inhabitants, whereas under the old regime the proportion was often as high as 84,000.

The change is even more conspicuous with respect to the radius of service of the rural hospital district.

At present a district serves a radius of from five to seven miles, whereas formerly it had to reach as far as 62 miles.

Free Treatment at Home

Special attention has been paid to the organization of free treatment at home. For this purpose, Moscow and her suburbs have been divided into 76 districts, averaging 12 to 15 thousand people to one physician, with a total of 96 physicians.

The Commissariat of Public Health has succeeded in furnishing these districts with only 78 physicians. Prior to 120, these physicians made 74,395 visits, maximum 13,142 visits per month, (the maximum in February, 1920, and the minimum in July, 1920).

In the districts of the province of Moscow on November 1, 1920, there were 304 medical institutions (including 27 dispensaries) with 18,340 beds, including 4,440 for epidemics cases. The above number includes two special institutions—a physical therapeutical hospital and a diagnostic institute.

These institutions altogether accommodated 24,948 patients during August, (8316 beds), and gave advice, on the average, to 285,067 persons monthly.

Health Resorts and Rest Homes

In addition to all these activities the Soviet Government is developing the health resorts and establishing rest homes on the same principles of accessibility and service without charge.

In the Moscow district there are already 50 general and special (for consumptives, nervous diseases) sanatoria, which accommodated during the 10 months of 1920 18,425 persons, including 825 children. This number also includes 10,172 workers. In the course of the year 10 new sanatoria have been established.

The results achieved in all these lines bear witness to the energetic zeal with which the work of the Commissariat of Health is being carried out, and give ground for hope that finally the most natural and legitimate right of every citizen will be granted to him, namely, the right to receive from the state free medical aid of skillful physicians.