

prunkt ostarii

Certain answers given by the M. S. D. to the questions put by the Central Committee. (28.3.04).

I beg to answer question N° 3<sup>x</sup> as follows: a) that our department in its present form, being adopted to the affairs united closely with the territory of Poland & Lithuania, takes ~~no~~ under its consideration, as instructed, ~~by~~ any events happening outside that territory only in such a case when they reflect on the ~~the~~ numerical strength of troops situated in the military districts of Warsaw & Vilno. b) Present war resulted in a slight diminution decrease of the number of troops, which decrease is not yet finally known; it resulted also in two other things which ~~would~~ <sup>cannot</sup> be numerically represented, namely: in certain decrease of the consciousness of unity among the troops, and, - in a slight increase of the spirit of opposition among the officers. c) All our datas ~~are~~ are of no importance to Japan - as far of course as Japan does not interest herself with the events in Poland & Lithuania, and it is doubtful if the publication of ~~these~~ these datas could be harmful to Russia in military aspect. d) As to datas ~~possessing~~ <sup>being</sup> a real value to both belligerent parties, such datas may come to our hand only occasionally and <sup>in this aspect</sup> the activity of the military int. dep. in its present form, cannot be considered as systematic ~~and~~ ~~being~~ or fruitful. -

\* Question N° 3: "Can you, at the present condition of the m. i. d., supply facts useful to Japan and harmful to Russia?"



According to the point N<sup>o</sup> 5 I beg to give the plan and budget of a special agency observing the movements of the Russian armies outside the territory already being under supervision. But I must point out that although M. S. D. had to elaborate a plan on the supposition that financial means are unlimited, yet we have been compelled to limit ~~on~~ the territory <sup>which is to be</sup> under observation to the part of the Russian Empire up to the Lake of Baikal; it ~~has~~ ~~been~~ ~~had~~ <sup>has been</sup> necessary because all data ~~coming~~ <sup>coming</sup> from Eastern Siberia to our knowledge, make us suppose that constant and systematic observation cannot be extended further eastward.

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Considering transport powers of the Siberian Railway we must first of all look at the rupture of the Railway on the Baikal lake. The government tries at present to complete the railway and fill up the gap. When this task will be finished the transport ~~power~~ <sup>capacity</sup> of the railway will be changed and therefore the adversary of Russia ought to observe especially this gap near Baikal in order to meet changed conditions of transports.

The Siberian line, being so long and build in different times consists with parts having different transport capacities. More weaker parts of the line will feel very soon ~~under~~ the unusual pressure of increased traffic and this will compell the government to organize special depôts for passing men and military goods. Such a depôt have been already established in Irkutsk, where weaker part of the railway line begins, - and such military depôts will be established in other parts, ~~and~~ if the war is to proceed.

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Turning to the observation of the movements of the troops towards Manchuria it is necessary to remark that the Siberian railway represents a perfect



point for observation. A person making ~~the~~ observations is, other conditions granted, not likely to make any mistake, because every soldier carried in the trains is undoubtedly destined to strengthen the armies in Manchuria. And as the line from Taira\* to Irkutsk (1502 verst) is the only line in that direction, careful observation of that line excludes the probability that anything proceeding to the East will escape the attention of persons observing. To have the most efficient control of the railway, it would be necessary to establish the points of observation in the most weak spots of the line, i.e. in the spots <sup>or near the spots</sup> where will be established military depots.

Supposing that it is done, it would be necessary to create ~~the~~ means of communication between our agents and our head-office where all data would be brought together and worked out. The use of Post office being impossible it would be necessary to have two messengers travelling continually between Irkutsk and Warsaw; it would be desirable that these messengers will have certain understanding of railway-engineering what will enable them to observe general conditions of the railway and special arrangements made by authorities occasionally to strengthen the efficiency of the railway. A third messenger always at hand for special purposes + emergency case would be necessary.

The above is to be considered as a base of the plan of the supervision

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\* Taira - the station being the junction of <sup>the main Siberian line and of</sup> following lines of communication: Taira-Tomsok (82 verst), water-line Tomsok-Timmen (8-10 days of journey), railway-line Timmen-Yekaterinburg-Perm (771 verst), water-line Perm-Kazan-Nijninogorod (3-7 days).



4.

of the Siberian railway and of movements of troops along that line. According to that we consider that the organisation of the supervision ought to consist with:

- 1) Observation point in Idkutsk served by two men, one of whom is to have railway-engineering knowledge in order to follow the process of the construction of the line round Lake of Baikal;
- 2) at least two observation points on the line Taiga-Idkutsk in weaker spots of the line;
- 3) messenger-service of three men two of whom ought to understand railway-engineering.

Supposing, that absolutely correct observation of the line may be impossible owing to the impossibility of having agents in required spots of the line, to the too-strict supervision of the line by the authorities etc., it would be necessary, in order to complete above plan of supervision, to extend our organisation by establishing in spots westward some collecting and controlling agencies which would complete informations collected in the East.

The most important of such spots westward is Toms on the line Taiga-Novgorod. Toms There are in Toms chief offices and the management of the Siberian railway, where all informations as to the condition of railway and transport of troops on the railway are concentrated. At the same time Toms is much nearer to Warsaw (1500 mts. nearer than Idkutsk) what will have makes possible that all news may come in a shorter time.

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Other points westward are: 1) Samara, situated in direct vicinity of the great railway bridge on Volga, which represents the only connection between European and Asiatic railways; there are here chief offices of the Syzran-Tschelabinsk line (officially called: Samars-Zlotoust line); - 2) Perm, being the end of the European system of water-lines (Volga-Kama) and the beginning of the line Perm-Ekaterinburg-Timmen, united in Tschelabinsk (by the line Ekaterinburg-Tschelabinsk) with the main Siberian line; here are chief offices of both these lines, which have are of the first importance in relation to transports to the East, as they are the only two lines uniting the European with the Asiatic Russia; the first of these lines as representing the uninterrupted whole, has greater importance than the second.

Passing to the organization of the service in Europe itself, it is necessary to remark that, as <sup>it</sup> was already mentioned, the present organization of the M. S. D. is adapted neither to dealing with the news concerning the East nor to verify these sometimes interesting news which happen to come within our reach. In order to extend the service, and to systematise all news received and to adapt them to the purpose stated at the beginning, ~~it is considered~~ we consider as necessary:

a) to <sup>appoint</sup> establish an agent in St. Petersburg who would be acquainted with marine & navy business and who would collect informations relating to Russian marine operations;



- appoint
- b) to ~~establish~~ another such agent in Briga or Liban.
- c) to have two agents whose function will be the collection and verification of news concerning the movement of troops to the East, which would be incoming through agents in St. Petersburg and Briga (Liban) as well as through known sources in the Eastern parts of the European Russia.
- d) to appoint a special reader of the greatest possible amount of the Russian provincial newspapers, in which again and again are given informations indicating the movement of all locally situated troops.
- e) as the incoming informations will require critical ~~de~~ elaboration and expert-work, it would be necessary to <sup>appoint</sup> ~~designate~~ one of the members of M. S. D. to do this branch of work especially.

Considering all above facts and conclusions we put following scheme of the organisation adopted to the above designed purpose:

1) Observation point in <i>Ishtok</i> with two men	2 men
2) Observation point in <i>Touck</i>	1 man
3) Two observation points on the <i>Liberian line</i>	2 men
4) Postal organisation	3 "
5) Points in <i>Samara and Perm</i>	2 "
6) <i>St. Petersburg</i>	1 "
7) <i>Briga or Liban</i>	1 "
8) Reader of papers	1 "
9) Agents collecting information	2 "
10) Centralisation of material	1 "

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together 16 men



The expenses on the establishment of the above organisation, i.e. on the detailed exploration of the Siberian railway and some of the above mentioned places, on the recruiting & settling agents etc. will come to no less than 8 thousand of roubles. The organisation being established, current expenses will be as follows:

first point	monthly	800 r.
2-nd	"	400
3-rd	"	300
4-th	" (taking 3 journeys Irkutsk - Wladiwostok & back, single ticket 64 r.)	884
5-th	point, monthly	400
6-th	"	300
7-th	"	250
8-th	"	200
9-th	"	600
10-th	"	300

together 4.434 roubles.

To the above current expenses it would be necessary to add an average of 2.000 roubles a month for bribes, entertainments, gifts etc.

So that for the establishing of the above organisation it would be necessary to have 8.000 r.

and afterwards the monthly expenses would come to 6.434 r.

613	800
12	7.716
1286	8.516
645	
9716	



According to the point N:6 I beg to ~~submit~~ <sup>give</sup> plan and budget of a special agency observing the movements of Russian troops outside the territory already being under supervision but within the boundaries of European Russia. I must point out, that ~~is~~ as a similar plan including Siberia is already given. I omit ~~not~~ the enumeration of motives, which make the Department to propose this or another line of conduct. ~~But~~ I must remark at the same time that the data as to the movement of the troops in Europe have not sufficient value as long as the conditions of transport on the Siberian line are not if only more or less determined. Consequently in <sup>the</sup> present plan ~~some of the necessary preliminary labours~~ <sup>the provisional</sup> the exploration of the Siberian railway is accepted as one of the indispensable preliminary labours.

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After the exploration of the Siberian railway it would be necessary to establish the points of observation in two towns - Samara and Perm; if the last town would be difficult to make the use of, then it would be necessary to establish an agent in Nijni-Novgorod in order to have under observation combined railway & water lines Volga - Perm - Timmen - Jonsk - Taiga; or perhaps still better it would be to have such agent in Kazan, as it is reasonable to suppose that men and war material from Northern provinces which can go to the East not via Kazan are already used by the government.

Controlling and helping-points for the above chief points ought to be established in Penza, as a first ~~junction~~ junction on the line Syzran-



9.

Viazna, and in Buzaiefka on the line Moscow-Kazan, as Buz-  
iefka is a junction of the main line and branch-line to Syzran on  
Volga.

In order to maintain the communication between these four points  
and Warsaw two messengers will suffice, and their having any  
technical knowledge, as it was the case with messengers on the Siberian  
line, is unnecessary.

Points 6, 7, 8, 9 & 10 of the former plan ought to be maintained here  
in their ~~total~~ <sup>full</sup> extent.

In view of all said here the budget given under the <sup>question</sup> ~~point~~ the 5<sup>th</sup> ought  
to be diminished by positions: 1, 2, 3. Point the 4<sup>th</sup> ought to be dimi-  
nished by ~~half~~ half owing to the decreased expenses of travel and possibility  
of having messengers without any technical knowledge. Two new  
points (Penza, Buzaiefka) will come to 400 a month, so that savings  
affected in comparison with the former plan will amount to 1542 roubles  
per month.

So that budget will be:

The exploration of the Siberian railway & costs of organization - 8,000 r.

Monthly expenses - 2892 r., what after addition of extra-expenses  
of 1500 r. a month will come to 4392 roubles.

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