

[Russia]

It is impossible to settle any nation, even one like Russia so determined to keep her formula untouched by outside influence. She cannot do it. It is practically an economic situation already. To accomplish her purpose she asks immense sacrifices from her people that have been given with almost a religious fervor. But no amount of rallying to these ideas leaves these views entirely untouched by the outside. They sacrifice - yes. Labor - yes. But the women want silk stockings - the men began to demand publically clothes, such as tourists wear, something besides formula in the art. It is the human aspiration, appetite cropping out. It cannot be entirely quenched - cannot be kept down. What Russia is trying to do is to treat the human forces as if they were entirely controllable. It would be like treating nature as if you could always depend upon her. Nature refuses to give us crops year after year. She rises and destroys by fire and earthquakes, avalanches to our cities and countrysides. Men in the mass are like that. You cannot press too long their aspirations. They must have outlets. That is why in my judgment it is so much cheaper to let men talk freely their revolutionary ideas than it is to attempt to suppress them. England in her attack has the right notion. Whatever attempt we make in government, whether it is self-government as in the United States or government by a oligarchy as in Russia - by a dictator as in Italy, this depends in the long run upon the knowledge of the human forces and the way you give them opportunities to express themselves.