

PATHFINDER



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OF WORLD AFFAIRS

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... Finland: Line Thrust

The Mannerheim Line is the one front which presents no supply problem to the Russian armies invading Finland. Last week Copenhagen newspapers, hotbeds of rumor, were reporting that the Red Army was using 300,000 men—almost the equal of the entire strength of the Finnish Army—in its attacks on the Line. Whether or not these reports were true, last week, after a two-weeks' thrust, the Red Army was beginning to crumble the Mannerheim Line.

Changing their tune that "nothing of importance happened at the front today," Russian dispatches began making impressive claims—12 Mannerheim Line positions captured one day, seven the next, 32 on another day.

The Finnish High Command, admitting that it had retired strategically from some positions, estimated that Red artillery was raining 300,000 shells a day on the Line. Behind this drumfire barrage the Russians were rolling out fresh assault waves as fast as their men fell.

As Finnish leaders cried: "They always have more men to put in. That is why we need help," Russia was reported massing an entirely fresh army for the drive which they hoped would break the Mannerheim Line.

Writing from Stockholm, where he is taking time out after almost two months at the front, the *United Press's* Webb Miller said he was astonished at world-wide impressions that the Red Army is inefficient:

"Any idea that may have spread abroad that the Russian Army is poor and ineffective in any respect does not fit the facts," he wrote. He also reported that the Finns were getting more outside aid than most persons realized.

This aid has been largely airplanes. Numerous reports have placed the number of foreign planes shipped to Finland at between 300 and 400. In Parliament last week British Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain told Commons: "We rejoice to think that the help which has been given from this country has been of real value to Finland. I am glad to say that further aid is now on the way." And last week it was also reported that Viscount Halifax, British Foreign Minister, had conferred with George Gripenberg, Finnish Minister in London, discussing increased military and economic assistance.

FINLAND

Cajander: 90 Per Cent from the U. S.

Few foreign volunteers were serving in Finland. The highest estimate placed their number at 14,000, mostly Scandinavians. Last week 200 British volunteers sailed. They claimed they were first contingents in a force expected to reach 5,000.

Meantime the United States received a slap, a thanks and a sneer for its part in the Finnish crisis. Sir Walter Citrine, head of a British Labor Party mission to Finland, told Britons upon his return that the United States was "lagging" in its aid, and that we were selling munitions and gasoline to Russia. (U. S. exports to Russia last December were \$15,500,000, a little more than one-fourth of total exports to Russia for the year. They covered mostly heavy machinery, tin, copper, oil and molybdenum).

The thanks came from Finnish ex-Premier Aimo Cajander, who reported that 90 per cent of Finland's relief funds so far had come from the United States. Of 61,319,000 marks, 54,285,000 marks were from the U. S. (The mark being worth about 1.85 cents, our relief funds totalled roughly \$1,000,000 so far).

The sneer was from Russia, which reported that the American Youth Congress had received "coldly" President Roosevelt's attack on Russia for its invasion of Finland (see page 4). The United States, said *Trud*, official Soviet labor union organ, is awaiting "a convenient moment" to enter the "second imperialist war," and is meantime "earning tremendous profits from the sale of arms with which it is preparing the ground."