

Sparks from the Finnish Peace

"THE MORAL is to the physical as three is to one." On the basis of this Napoleonic ratio the Finnish army of free citizens could well have withstood the army of collectivist slaves had the relative numerical strength of the two countries been somewhat less than forty-five to one. David slew Goliath. But Goliath had only one life, while the Soviet Commissars could, and did, sacrifice many thousands of lives at the altar of their greed for power.

Against such odds the bravery and resourcefulness of a free people was not enough. But social history must evaluate the struggle between Finland and Russia as a victory for the smaller nation; for, had its people also been a product of a slave economy there would be no Finland to-day. Again the chronicle of events yields an accolade to liberty.

* * * *

The aftermath of this rape of a small country directs our attention again to the cause of the war—the hunger for natural resources. Almost immediately upon the conclusion of the peace, commentators stressed the fact that Russia might now direct its attention to the purposes for which Germany enticed her into the war. Now German technicians might go to work on the land of Russia to extract the many things needed for both the German army and her home economy. Now Russia and Germany could cooperate in squeezing oil out of Rumania, food products and minerals out of all the Balkans.

It seems peculiar that the importance of land to a war economy should be so readily recognized while in peace times the tendency is to overlook land and to stress such inconsequentials as money, technological improvement, control of capital and political planning. War certainly points up the fundamentals.

* * * *