

STATION: LIPHOOK 2 MILES.
TELEGRAMS: PASSFIELD.
TELEPHONE No.: PASSFIELD 6.

A2 / 3401

PASSFIELD CORNER,
LIPHOOK,
HANTS.

September 11th 1941

My dear Ruth

I was so glad to get your letter; I had been thinking of writing to you. I am grieved to hear of the extravagant claims of the Income Tax on your realisable Income. G.B.S. had a cheque for £23,000 from America which represented a big income all of which went in British Income Tax plus the American, so he sadly observed that he was collecting money for the government. We are also in somewhat of a financial difficulty owing to the fact that we lost all our books which brought us in a welcome addition to our income, in the great fire of December 29th 1940. Like you we are deprived of some current income but as authors who are still producing we can charge a considerable sum of our annual expenditure free of income tax as producers. We are hoping to make up this deficiency by a re-issue of the second edition of Soviet Communism from the remnants of a cheap edition which is still available; and I have been exhausting my aged brain in writing a forty paged Introduction which I hope will sell the book.

I do not know whether you get Picture Post, but in this & rather new week's issue there is a photographed description of the aged Webbs shocked/ with letter press by Bernard Shaw. I was very much amused/by the terrible picture of myself as a "thinker" which exactly represents my present state of mind! I understand the Tatler has also photographs.

About the Russian campaign. Of course I am no judge of military matters but it seems to me pretty clear that the German Army is going to get bogged in the U.S.S.R. during the winter and the Red Army will meanwhile be bringing out reinforcements and possibly by the summer will be able to expel the German army from Russia and create civil war in Germany. What we shall do if Germany collapses heaven only knows! Making a durable peace will be a long process; and what I fear is that the British and American will think that they ought to decide but without acknowledging the U.S.S.R. as equal partners and who will be even more justified as having won the war than we shall be.

I am glad you are happy in your present home. I am afraid neither of us can afford the necessary facilities of visiting each other. We seldom use the motor car expect to meet friends who come to see us.

P.T.O.

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We had a visit from C.P. Trevelyan yesterday. He is a very old friend and a distant relative of ours and he is a very staunch upholder of soviet communism. I hear from my nephew, Stafford Cripps, that he has become a great friend with Staling and has a very great admiration for him as an utterly unpretentious man and a whole-hearted organiser of victory.

I read European Spring by C. Booth but I have not yet read Occupied Territory by Polly Peabody; but I will get it from the Times Book Club. There are such a number of books that have to be read at the present time. The last number of the Anglo-Soviet Journal is extremely interesting.

Always affectionately yours,

Bevin

P.S. I will send you a copy of this new edition of Soviet Communism the end of this month or the beginning of next, and you can pass it on to anyone you think would be influenced by the new Introduction describing the constitution of the Soviet Union. What about your son in the Foreign Office? Part of the Foreign Office is very reactionary and really shares the opinion of Moore Brabazon - that the two armies had better be left to destroy each other!