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 HOME NEWS

FEDERAL.

Why should one trouble about the U.S.S.R.? They were not going to invade Switzerland. But one had to remember that it represented one sixth of the entire land surface of the world with a population of 175 million. What was very important was that although Russia had always been as big as that, it had never hitherto had a government which organised it from end to end right into the desert and the Arctic Circle. What was more was the fact that Russia was not troubled with the anomaly so common to all Western Europe and all the Dominions, that the next generation was falling off. The U.S.S.R. had the largest birth rate. The annual increase of population was 3½ million a year, as much as the whole of Europe put together. One might expect, of course, a very unhealthy population. Under the Czar the death rate had been a very large one. It was still large but had been reduced by at least one third in the last twenty years since the Revolution. The infant death rate which was the best test had been halved. They had got rid practically altogether of cholera and typhus and had greatly reduced enteric fever. There was still a lot of malaria but generally speaking great strides had been made for health and greater strides still, in education. Before the war the vast masses outside the cities had been illiterate and with something like 150 separate races, some of whom were cannibals in an actual savage state, many had not even an alphabet. But now they all were got to school and in all 25 million children were attending school, even those that had had no alphabet. In about 40 cases an alphabet was actually found, a Latin alphabet and not a Slavonic alphabet..