Nuorteva's Alleged Arrest in Russia

STORY appears in the Times yesterday from Berlin which on its face bears so many evidences of improbability as to warrant at least suspension of judgment or even complete rejection of the story. It is said that Santeri Nuorteva, formerly connected with the Soviet Bureau in New York, has been arrested on charges of treason which "will probably be followed by Nuorteva's execution." It is said that Washington B. Vanderlip, the California capitalist, became suspicious of Nuorteva's activities and sent a complaining letter to enin. The letter was followed by an early morning raid upon Nuorteva's coom, when "documentary evidence of alleged espionage and treason against the Soviet" was discovered. Muorteva is also reported as having been a purchasing agent of the Soviet Bureau in New York, having "ordered millions of dollars' worth of locomotives in Philadelphia, rails in Pittsburg and grain and farm machinery in Chicago." It is now believed in Russia that Nuorteva "was the leading anti-Soviet spy in America and Russia."

In the abnormal conditions that prevail in Russia it is hest to discount stories of this kind. From several sources it has been reported that Nuorteva is in jail, but this has not heen finally verified. The impropability of the story above is apparent for a number of reasons, among which are the following:

Nuorteva from the very beginning refused

Nuorteva from the very beginning refused to support a big faction of the Finnish Socialists under the leadership of the exiled Labor Premier, Oscar Tokoi, who proposed to join the Allies in Siberia against the Soviets. Correspondence passed between the two men, in which Nuorteva endeavored to persuade Tokoi from his mistaken course, the former taking the position that the German-Finnish reaction, which had massacred thousands of Finnish workers, would be recognized by the Allies whom Tokoi proposed to join. This the Allies actually did, the blood-stained Finnish Government established with the aid of German bayonets being recognized by all the allied powers today, while the Soviet Government is still placed beyond the pale.

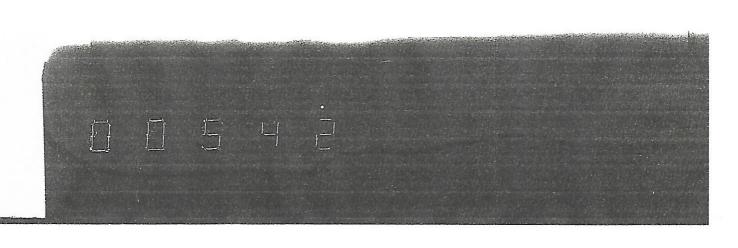
Nuorteya took the initiative in establishing a bureau in New York to present the claims of the Labor Government of Finland. After it had been overthrown with the aid of German conscripts he opened a bureau to present the claims of the Soviet Government in the United States. Later Ludwig Martens was appointed by the Soviet Government as its representative in the United States and Nuorteva turned his office over to Martens and served as advisor to the latter. Nuorteva made frequent visits to Washington in the interest of Russia and was arrested on one occasion by order of an official of the State Department.

Nuorteva was never the purchasing agent of the Soviet Bureau. Furthermore, the statement that Nuorteva was arrested upon information supplied by an American capitalist is so in conflict with what we expect of a government representing rural and urban workers that we find it impossible to believe it. This aspect of the story reads something like the planting of evidence against the strikers at Lawrence some years ago and its "discovery" by the authorities after the agents of the manufacturers had given the "tip." An American correspondent aware of this practice in the United States might easily hit upon a similar idea and stage it in Russia.

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All of Nuorteva's activities in the United States are in direct contradiction to this Berlin story and the rumor that he is a spy is incredible. During his work here in behalf of the former Labor Government of Finland and later in behalf of the Soviet Government Nuorteva's health was impaired. There is little doubt that by this work his life has been shortened and to credit the Berlin story of the Times in the face of all the facts is atrocious to say

the least.



Vanderlip Said to Have Exposed Him to Lenin, Who Caused His Arrest.

Red "Inquisition" Said to Have Bared a "Gigantic Plot" to Undermine Bolshovism.

Copyright, 1921, by The Chicago Tryung Co BERLIN, May 25.—Santer! Luor ova formerly Secretary of the Soviet mestor in New Yorks, has been arrested and islied in Moscow by Lenin's order. The charge against him; is treason, which will probably be followed by Nuorteva's exe-cution.