

## Tells of Horrors He Saw in Making Way to U. S. Freedom.

Paul Voronaeff, young Russian evangelist, came to Washington yesterday to paint a dark word-picture of the persecution to which his father and other clergymen have been subjected in the Soviet Russia.

The purpose of his visit here, Voronaeff said, is to lecture and to appeal to members of Congress to help him rescue his parents, who now are exiled in a Siberian concentration camp because they preached the Word of God. He will describe their plight tonight at 8 o'clock at the Foundry M. E. Church.

The Voronaeff family, parents and five children, is pathetically scattered. That this is so is due to the evangelical zeal of the father, the Rev. John E. Voronaueff, once president of a union known as the "Christians of the Evangelical Faith."

### Came to U. S. in 1911.

The Rev. Voronaeff, his wife and Paul came to the United States from Russia in 1911. At that time Paul was 6 months old. In this country, two other children were born—Alexander and John, jr.

In 1921 the clergyman-father went back to Russia with his family to try to stem the atheistic tide in the new republic. He carried on his missionary work for nine years, according to Paul, but in 1930 he and 10,000 of his fellow evangelists were arrested and exiled to Siberia. Three years later Mrs. Voronaeff also was banished from Odessa.

Two other children had been born, Timothy and Hope, but according to Paul, the mother was torn from them by the Soviet police.

The American Red Cross, working through the Russian agents at Geneva, managed to send Alexander and John, jr., the American-born children, to the United States. They raised \$1,500 through religious organizations to bring Paul and Timothy and Hope to this country.

### Tells of Mass Deaths.

Paul said yesterday that the money was, in effect a "ransom."

"I was arrested several times," Paul said, "because I was the son of a Christian minister, and forced to work in Siberia. In January, 1933, I was forced to work 14 hours a day burying the corpses of women and children who perished from starvation. With three other fellow Christians, I dug a common grave for 398 bodies."

At times, he said, he was on the verge of starvation.

"I was chewing my leather belt," he said, "having no bread, and digging up roots and weeds in the fields, boiling them into a mash to eat. Sometimes I used the bark of trees for food."

His only thought now, Paul said, is to raise enough money and obtain sufficient influence to "ransom" his parents and reunite them with the children in this country.

And some day, he said, he hopes Russia will be made safe for ministers of the Gospel. When that day arrives, he said, he plans to go back to Russia and carry on the work which his father started.

Blocked due to copyright  
See full page image on  
microfilm.

Post Staff Photo.

PAUL VORONAEFF.