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ARMENIAN ATTACK ON BRITISH POLICY.

"English intrigues in Trans-Caucasia".

In "Aiasiani Ashkhatavor" ("Armenian Workman") the Erivan organ of the Dashnakz'tun party, an article has been published under the heading of "English Intrigues in Trans-Caucasia". This article, following as it does on the evacuation of Azerbaijan and Georgia by the British troops, is so typically Dashnak and so typical of the mischief-making section of the Armenians, that we publish it here in full.

The article reads as follows:

"They accuse us often that we occupy ourselves too much with politics and pay no attention to supply and poor law which is very harmful for our young Republic. This accusation comes from British sources and has the aim to make us give up our demands which the Armenian people defended during recent years by their own struggle. The authors of these gossips want also to discredit our Government and to show before the public opinion of Europe that the Armenians are not capable of self-government, untractable and only impede with their endless demands the Allies' business in Trans-Caucasia. But the accusers forget that the Armenians of Karabagh, Zangezur, Sharur, Nakhichevan and Kars will be secured only in case they will be joined to their native land.

"The representatives of the English Command undoubtedly know that the so-called Azerbaijan Republic not only does not assist the Armenians living in its boundaries in the re-establishing of their economy but even tries by all means to evacuate them and to destroy all the remaining Armenian population. They know as well that the Tartar-Kurdish bands in the Surmalin and Kars regions are occupied only with the wish for Armenian massacres. Consequently, if the English politicians are our friends, for the re-establishment of the economy of the Armenian people, they must unite into a whole all the separated parts of the Armenian Republic, by which action they can preserve the remains of the Armenian people from hunger and epidemics.

"The British Command has lately obstinately endeavoured to annul the whole Armenian question, having forcibly separated from Armenia Karabagh and Zangezur (820,000 Armenians), Sharur, Nakhichevan (70,000 Armenians), Lori and Akhalkalaki (175,000 Armenians). The British Command has really bought Armenia into a crucial situation: over 500,000 Armenians are under threat of danger.

"It is not to be believed that the British Generals in Trans-Caucasia act not in accordance with their Government. Undoubtedly they are fulfilling the projects which are fore-designed by the whole of the British policy. During, many months the Commanders-in-Chief of the British forces in Transcaucasia, Generals Thomson, Walker, Cory, and Beach have carried out according to

the instructions of their Government secret negotiations with Azerbaijan leaders about the formation of an independent Azerbaijan under a British protectorate. Their aim is clear: they want to create an obstacle for the advance of Russia towards the South and establish a connection with Persia by sea and land. A better opportunity could not be found. No matter if through the realisation of this project a few hundred thousands of Armenians perish. In order to reach their aim they did not consider their means.

"The British Command has allowed the Turkish agent, Doctor Sulthanoff, to destroy Armenian villages in Karabagh, made difficult the transport of supplies for Armenia and the return of the refugees to Kars, deprived her of mazut and of the possibility of making use of the guns and ammunitions of Kars, in order to transport all these from Armenia and supply "little Turkey"—the Azerbaijan Republic—with necessary technical means.

"At the same time, through their policy in Sharur, Nakhichevan and Kars, they supported the Kurdo-Tartar troubles, creating a hell in our country. Intending to reinforce their situation in Trans-Caucasia the British Command started talking about the critical situation of Armenia, pretending to defend our interests as well as our existence. Meanwhile there were no British troops in Armenia—not even one company. They were staying in Tiflis, Baku, Gori, Poti and Batoum. Our request about sending to Armenia even a small British detachment was made in vain.

"However, European public opinion is sure that the British defend the frontiers of our young Republic. They are not aware that "little Turkey"—the Azerbaijan Republic—is extending her states at our expense, banishing and killing thousands of Armenians.

"In the English Parliament, Lords and Gentlemen speak of Armenia, give promises and are sorry that the solution of the Armenian question is postponed. Public opinion in Europe is not aware that in the presence of British officers and soldiers the villages of Karabagh were plundered and the people killed; that under the same conditions on the Evlakh-Slusha road hundreds of travellers—Armenians—as well as scores on the Baku-Tiflis railway line have been murdered; that in Elisabetopol the Armenian population is being destroyed day by day under the Turko-Azerbaijan yoke, and that the peasant Armenians in the districts of Nukha and Aresh are already destroyed. They are not aware that with the permission of General Shuttleworth, the well-known murderer Enver Pasha and other Turkish agents are walking freely in Tartar districts of Transcaucasia, organize robber hands and are the leaders of the policy aiming at the annihilation of Armenians.

"May we not ask then: what is the value of the announcements made by British High officials in favour of Armenia and the

Armenian people? The disenchantment of our people is not to be expressed. Our policy in favour of the British for so many years is destroyed. Our hopes have not been realised. We are left alone, and having no support we are to save our people from ruin through our own forces".

"Armenophobe"

Now that is precisely the kind of article that we have for some time been protesting against, and because of our protests we have been called (by the Dashnaks) Armenophobe. That is precisely the type of mischief-making lies that cause so much of the present unrest in the Caucasus.

This time it is an article written against the British: more frequently anti-Georgian and anti-Tartar articles are the daily fare.

That Armenia has a case, and a good case, is all too true. If the Armenian press and the Armenian propagandists would only stick to the truth they could produce such evidence as would gain for them the sympathy of the whole world. But by a campaign of lies they are in danger of losing the support of other countries.

It is almost unnecessary to state that the article we have just quoted is absolutely untrue. The statements made are so ridiculous that it is almost a waste of time to trouble about contradicting them. Nevertheless, we will deal with some of the points in question.

"Occupied with Politics"

We do not know whether the British have ever accused certain Armenians of being too much occupied with politics or not, but they might very well have done so. Too much talking and too little doing is a failing not confined to Armenia alone. Some of the Armenian political discussions remind us of several incidents in Russia in the summer of 1917. At this time various committees of Poles and "White Russians" met daily and discussed the future of Poland and White Russia—forgetting the fact that both these countries were at that time in German occupation. One could only compare it to a man who discussed with his cook what he would like for supper when his house was on fire.

Instead of urging their fellow-countrymen to live in peace with their Tartar neighbours and to await such a time as the peace Conference would

settle the many questions in dispute, many Armenian leaders, Dashnaks and others, incite the people against the Mussulmans. They have a foolish idea that wherever there are Armenians there must be Armenian laws and none other. And their dreams of the future great Armenia so far run away with them that they have the idea of an Armenia with an outlet on three seas—the Black, the Caspian and the Mediterranean. If such an Armenia as they have in mind ever be established, there would be a population of which only three per cent or so would be Armenian!

So then, assuming that the accusation of being too much occupied with politics and too little occupied with putting more pressing matters right was ever made, we can pass it by admitting its truth.

"Not capable of self-government"

That there will be a future independent Armenia has already been announced, so that the accusation that the Armenians are not capable of self-government (if ever made) would simply be a matter of opinion and not one that would affect the future of the country. It is certain, however, that the Armenians cannot exist by themselves: even Armenians must admit the necessity of having a mandatory power to look after them.

The "so-called" Azerbaijan Republic.

The words "so-called" are typically Dashnak. The sneer is so cheap and so nasty that we can pass it by. But we cannot pass by the statement that Azerbaijan is trying to destroy all the remaining Armenian population in her boundaries. That is absolutely untrue. The case of Karabagh proves this. For some time this district was in great unrest. Agitators urged the Armenians to die rather than submit to Tartar rule. Fortunately, the local Armenians have made an agreement with Azerbaijan and the Karabagh Tartars and Armenians are now on excellent terms. The local Armenians have agreed to be under the rule of Azerbaijan: many of them are serving in Azerbaijan government positions; and there is, we are informed on the best authority (by Armenians), a state of peace and order in Karabagh such as has never existed before.

The British never "forcibly" removed Karabagh from Armenia: it was separated geographically as it was. The British never took Nakhichevan away from Armenia: nor did they take away

(Concluded on page 2).

EDITORIAL.

"Ashkhatavor".

We publish on the front page this week the remarkable attack on the British policy in Trans-Caucasia by the Armenian newspaper of the Dashnaktzutun party. We call it "remarkable" on account of its exceptional falseness, even at a time, and in connection with a paper, in which so many false reports appear. If the Dashnaks are the friends of Armenia that they declare themselves to be, we can quite well understand how every decent-minded and intelligent Armenian today must be saying fervently, "Save us from our friends!"

The Power of the Press.

The press is all-powerful. Yet there are moments when all clean journalists who are jealous of the reputation of their profession regret the power that newspapers have. This is such a moment. If the article in "Ashkhatavor" had circulated no further than Erivan, all would have been less bad; but like an evil stench it has spread much further than the place of origin. Tiflis papers have reproduced it, commenting bitterly against it. It has also appeared in Baku and Batoum. It is on its way to London and New York—as an example of the class of article that one type of Armenian paper thinks fit to publish. This will please the Dashnaks—but it will not please the decent sections of Armenian society, and we shall be greatly surprised if the article does not come back like a boomerang to hit the Dashnaks very hard.

Lying Provocation.

The certain outcome of this anti-British pack of lies is that much of the Armenian propaganda, consisting of alleged outrages, etc., will be discredited in future. So that the article is very much more anti-Armenia than it is anti-Great Britain. But when anti-Georgian articles and anti-Tartar articles are published the effect is materially more serious. The armistice had hardly been arranged before Armenians were fighting Georgians; the peace terms had hardly been signed before fighting was going on between Armenians and Tartars. So that here we find a "new" nation fighting with both of her neighbours—largely on account of false propaganda and lying provocation.

Our Appeals.

For some time we have been humbly appealing to the local press to alter its policy. That we have been impartial, every Tiflis journalist knows. There was a time, indeed, before we got to know each other, when the Tiflis papers and ourselves growled at

each other every time we met. Briefly, what we have advocated all along is that the present policy of the press should be to bring the various peoples to a peaceful understanding for the time being. The best Georgian propaganda, for instance, is Georgia herself. Azerbaijan is the best propaganda for the Tartars, and a peaceful and orderly Armenia would be the best advertisement that Armenia ever had.

Georgia Today.

Take the case of Georgia today, for example. Georgia is at peace. No other part of the former Russian empire is so orderly. That is excellent propaganda. Actions speak so very much louder—and so very much more convincingly—than words. Mere verbal propaganda would say that Georgia is capable of self-government. The position of Georgia today proves to all the world that not only is she capable of self-government but she is actually being self-governed successfully and peacefully.

A Recent Article.

In a recent article of ours which our friend the editor of "Sakharvelo" published in his paper, we contended that there had been, and that there still was, too much "Denikin" in the Georgian press. By constantly talking about the "Denikin Danger", we said, Georgians themselves had done more to advertise Denikin and to raise him up in the people's minds as a very great man, than all the pro-Denikin propaganda could have done. We argued that Denikin, with all his faults, was a patriot who was fighting bravely against the enemies of Russia—and Georgia and, indeed, of civilisation. "Leave him alone", we wrote. "If he is your enemy, the constant shouting out against him will not improve matters; whereas if he is not your enemy, you may very well make him one". And we concluded our article by saying that instead of crying out "Denikin", the local press should shout out "Georgia". The local press should not make such a fuss about "losing their independence" but should go ahead and consolidate the independence that is already theirs.

Armenians and Tartars.

Similarly, we argue that the real and only proper policy for the Armenian newspapers at the present time is to do all they can to cause Armenians to live in peace with their Tartar neighbours until such a time as their future status will be decided by the conference in Paris. Nothing can be gained out of the local strife that is going on in various parts

of Armenia today. On the other hand, very much harm can be done, and certainly many lives can be lost unavailingly. We have seen so many instances of Tartars and Armenians living together on friendly terms that nothing will convince us that the two peoples cannot go along together in peace and harmony. We are positive that only a stupid and evil provocation is responsible for the racial troubles in the South Caucasus today.

Constant Agitation.

As we state in the next column the constant agitation against the Mussulmans and the reiterated, and very often false and exaggerated tales of Tartar cruelties, and the incitement to revenge only lead to certain bloodshed. The peasants are innocent. The pity is that they are always the victims, whereas the real culprits escape unharmed.

The "Free" Press.

There is freedom of press in Armenia. But freedom of the press does not mean that one can write freely on any subject irrespective of its truth. The ideal press would be the clean press that would exist honourably and justly as the voice of the nation. There is freedom of press in Georgia, but a wise government sees to it that the freedom is not abused. Many local newspapers have overstepped the mark at times and have been promptly closed down as a penalty. A good press should be responsible for a good government; and a good government should see to it that we have a good press. All this is to say that it will be interesting to see what action the Armenian government takes against "Ashkhatavor". The Armenian government knows very well how false the allegations against the British command are. If the Armenian government takes no steps against the paper that published these allegations, are we to infer that it is because the government is in agreement with the Dashnaks and their lying statements?

S. L.

ARMENIAN ATTACK ON BRITISH POLICY.

(Continued from page 1).

Akhalkalaki. And regarding the statement that there are 320,000 Armenians in Karabagh and Zangezur, and 70,000 in Sharur and Nakhitchevan, and 175,000 in Lori and Akhalkalaki, it would be interesting to know the exact figures of the Mussulmans there.

"Secret Negotiations"

The statement that there have been "secret negotiations" with the Azerbaijan republic about the formation of an independent Azerbaijan under a British protectorate is quite false. The writer of the article certainly must have

known so, but that did not prevent him from publishing the lie.

It is also a deliberate lie to say that the Kars guns and ammunition were given to Azerbaijan—"to supply her with the necessary technical means". Azerbaijan did not receive so much as a single bullet.

Finally, one cannot find words to express the deliberate untruth of the statement that hundreds of Armenians have been killed on the road from Evlakh to Shusha in the presence of British officers and soldiers, and that Enver Pasha is walking about freely "with the permission of General Shuttleworth".

Ex uno omnes.

When one considers that similarly false and wholly exaggerated articles such as this anti-British one are being published daily, one finds the real cause of most of the Armeno-Tartar trouble. The constant publication of false news: the reiteration day by day of lying tales of wholesale massacres; the ceaseless whining about "our poor martyred people"; the sneering at and reviling of the Mussulman and all the references to the saving of the people by "our own forces" so work up the poor peasants that they occasionally attempt what they call "reprisals" against their Mussulman neighbours. Unfortunately for the innocent Armenian peasants, they usually come off second best.

One can understand very well how violent is the agitation against the Tartar when one reads the Dashnak abuse of the British—"the friends of long years". The pity is that so much of this false news finds its way abroad. Only a few days ago we received a British wireless message from England in which a great massacre of Armenians by Tartars in the Kars district was reported. This wireless message went all over the world. There was not a single word of truth in it as we here know very well. It is simply another instance of the false propaganda which is of so much propaganda as it is stupid and criminal provocation.

We have many Armenian friends and we hesitate to say a single word which would hurt their feelings, but the fact remains that the Armenian in the Caucasus is generally disliked. That is his own fault. It is also a fact that in other countries he is generally sympathised with. That is due to his own propaganda. But there is a great danger that he will lose the world's sympathy if the Dashnak campaign of lies continues. If such false statements and declarations continue to be made by Armenian provocateurs there may come a day when the most truthful statements regarding the sufferings of Armenians will not be believed.

There is an English proverb—"The pitcher which goes too often to the well gets broken".

Finally, what has the Armenian government done regarding "Aistani Ashkhatavor" and its ridiculously lying and mischief-making provocation?



BRITISH AID TO BELGIUM.

Review of Work Done.

Mr. Herbert Samuel, the British High Commissioner in Belgium, whose mission is about to terminate, received representatives of the Belgian Press, and gave them an account of the present situation.

He said that in order to assist Belgium to make purchases in the United Kingdom, without causing a further depreciation in the value of the franc, the British Government, at the request of the Belgian Government, opened a credit of L 9,000,000 last December.

The Government of India had agreed in principle to the opening of a similar credit for Belgian purchases of raw material there, and both in the case of India and in the case of certain of the British Dominions, the specific proposals of the Belgian Government were being awaited.

With respect to imports into Belgium of raw materials, three months ago the position was not very satisfactory. It had greatly improved since then.

The supplies of wool were as ample as the country could absorb, with the exception of particular qualities of which there was a shortage all over the world.

On the export from the United Kingdom of ordinary steel, copper, machinery, tools, and a great number of other commodities, there were no restrictions of any kind.

Great Britain had sent to the devastated areas of Belgium, as a free gift 600 head of cattle, 500 pigs, and a quantity of poultry, which had already been distributed among the farmers of those districts, while 800 sheep would follow shortly. The export of horses, other than pedigree horses, could be effected without restriction.

In regard to exports from Belgium, the Board of Trade had made every effort to meet the representations of Belgian interests. Many modifications were made in accordance with their wishes.

Delegates representing the great glass industry of Belgium had visited London and returned satisfied with the concessions which they had received.

All through the devastated regions the British Army Transport had gladly given all the assistance in its power in bringing back refugees to the farms and villages where they had their houses before the war.

The development of the port of Antwerp was being actively assisted.

A large part of the war booty within the zone of the British Army had been sold at moderate prices to Belgian purchasers.

In a variety of industries British firms were entering into combination with Belgian groups, providing each other with fresh outlets for trade, and lending each other valuable financial support.

The British Government, anxious to promote in every way commercial enterprise in co-operation with Belgium, had appointed First and Second Commercial Secretaries to the British Legation in Brussels.

100,000 SPORTING GUNS.

Birmingham Firm's Bold Enterprise.

A courageous bid for the world's trade in sporting guns is being attempted from Birmingham, one of the traditional homes of the industry. During the war the Birmingham Small Arms Company supplied the forces with thousands of rifles per week; now their plans are practically complete for an attempt upon the markets of the British Empire and abroad with a new 12-bore hammerless double-barrelled shot gun. The scheme has involved a vast reorganization of plant, and the provision of a complete equipment of machine fixings and tools, not to mention the careful deliberation over the design of the gun itself.

For the first time in the history of the sporting-gun trade in Great Britain mass production is to be tried. Factory space has been allotted and other preliminaries arranged for an initial output of 100,000 complete guns. Manufacture will begin in September at the rate of between 2,000 and 3,000 a week, and the number will be augmented as necessity arises. All the guns made between the time of the first deliveries and the end of February next will be absorbed by orders already booked, which, in addition to the requirements of home customers, have arrived in unexpected bulk from France, Belgium, Spain, Italy, the Balkans, Scandinavia, Denmark, and the United States. It is not likely that this bold venture will escape challenge by foreign competitors. A spirited reply will doubtless be forthcoming from Belgium, but on this occasion it is believed the British product will have the advantage of a three months' start.

While British mechanical talent has set the world's fashion in sporting guns, the home trade has never adequately exploited the product of its brains. There has been a prevailing belief that a factory-made gun must be a monstrosity, and it is true that hitherto various examples of shot gun made in quantity have been given outlines and qualities displaying ignorance of the gun-making art, and also of the requirements of the shooter. In the present case, the firm decided to allow the gun-maker to dominate the design, the machinist being confined to his proper function of reproducing it.

The enterprise of the Birmingham Small Arms Company does not ignore the interest of the existing trade, the accumulated experience of which it has gathered to its aid. The barrels and action of the new gun will be supplied to members of the trade at a low price, in order that individual makers may lavish upon the processes of completion the skill for which they are famous. But henceforth it will be unnecessary to devote costly labour to processes

which can be better performed by machinery, and hand work can be concentrated on duties where its efforts may command the highest reward.

The new gun, which is priced at 7 guineas, carries no elaborate decoration, but in the matter of balance, crispness of trigger-pull, wear-resisting power, smooth working, and beautiful lines it is claimed to be equal to the hand-made article. The best features of all types of guns, and several improvements, have been embodied in the design, while the metal is massed where it is wanted—in the action and breech ends.

BOLSHEVIK HORRORS.

Torture House Worked by Chinese.

The following telegram has been received from Reuter's special correspondent at Ekaterinodar:

I have had a conversation with Dr. Robinin, the principal medical expert who was present at the opening of 11 graves in which the bodies of the victims of the Bolsheviks at Ekaterinodar had been interred.

The number of victims is estimated at 1,000. A favourite form of execution was to smash the head with heavy hammers of which specimens stained with blood have been found on the Ekaterinoslav *Chrestyehaika* (torturehouse). Some of the victims had their sides smashed in while others had the bones of the feet smashed to bits. A great number had been flayed, many had received shots in the head, while other bodies bore marks of bayonetting. The ears of one woman had been completely cut off.

One officer escaped miraculously. He had been placed in line with others who were to be shot but he was not hit. He fell and pretended to be dead. The victim next to him received a shot in the head and the officer's own face and head were bespattered with the morsels. When the Bolshevik came to give the *coup de grace* to the wounded, he passed this officer by with savage gestures muttering that it was not worth while soiling good steel with the blood of a dead dog.

The chief of the *Chrestyehaika* at Ekaterinoslav was a workman named Voliavka. It was the second *Chrestyehaika* administered exclusively by Chinese.

Dr. Robinin added that the principal posts in the Soviet administration were occupied by Jews of whom many were quite young men and women. The murders reached their height just before the evacuation of the city by the Bolsheviks and pillage on a large scale began. Even the furniture of houses was pillaged.

THE WEEK'S NEWS.

Feisul had a conference with Lloyd George at Downing Street, General Allenby and Lord Curzon also being present. In a signed article in a London evening paper Feisul says: "There are certain questions associated with our affairs which have direct European importance while others can only be answered by people of Mahomedan faith. Caliphate question, for example, must be decided by Moslems themselves. A very serious point which is of European concern has do with the establishing of unity amongst Arabs; they must not be divided by different influences. I feel confident the Allies will not revert to a policy of colonisation but on the contrary will maintain strict regard for the principles for which they fought, namely, principles of justice and right. My chief aspiration is, to bring about political unity, in Arab-speaking provinces and to remove all European designs which may be directed at colonisation". Speaking of the campaign against Turkey, Feisul said: "Thousands of Syrians in the Turkish Army joined me. As my troops took forty thousand prisoners it may be assumed they contributed their share in the successful termination of the war".

The Paris 'Temps' in an article on the situation in the Near East says action must be taken without delay, but it adds that French opinion categorically disapproves of troops being sent to Asia Minor.

Messrs Pashitch, Trumbitch, and Smodkaka, have returned to Belgrade from Paris and it is hoped their arrival will end the Cabinet crisis which has been undergoing for weeks, causing incalculable mischief to the country.

Athens telegram says that after the Bulgarian treaty has been ratified by the Chamber the Government will disband all reservist classes now serving and the army will return to a peace footing. Greek Govt has already taken measures for disbanding men.

Haji Hussein Kaina, notorious Persian brigand, who for years has held up town of Kashaan on Teheran-Spalvan road and looted caravans has just been tried in Teheran and publicly executed.

The Italians who raided the Yugoslavs in Dalmatia are now being held in check by American marines landed from a destroyer.

Vienna telegram to Paris says Austria on account of disastrous condition of food and fuel supplies intends to declare herself bankrupt and to place her Government in the hands of Allied Missions now in Vienna.

BOLSHEVIST BRUTES.

BRITISH SUBJECT STRIPPED AND FLOGGED.

"To no effect I assured them of my ignorance—at every answer the whips were laid on my back with increasing force, causing me to faint away. But for an almost miraculous intervention I would certainly have been flogged to death. When I had received 30 strokes or so, a Commissary entered the room, and turned out to be a former barber who had known me in old times. Luckily he recognized me at once and interposed on my behalf; thanks to him, my tormentors desisted.

"M. Regier was again brought in and stripped of all his clothing. In spite of my pleading he was pressed face downwards on the table and amid execrations and howls of "Where is your money?" "Where are your gold and diamonds?" the *nagaikas* were laid on his bare back with ferocious violence. This continued for five minutes or more, and then the poor old man was flung into a corner, bleeding from the terrible strokes, and black and blue all over. He and I were left alone in the room, the Bolsheviks going out and locking the door behind them. I sprinkled some cold water over his face, and he recovered somewhat and was able to speak in gasps. He had little thought for himself, and spoke mostly of my plight on his account. For himself, he said he felt sure death was near, and there was no hope for him. He gave me certain verbal messages to his son, who managed his Odessa business, and then seemed quite resigned to his fate, which he anticipated would be a dreadful one.

"Our persecutors eventually re-entered the room, and I was taken for the night into the adjoining corridor. I was suffering such pain that I could not sleep. Soon I heard fearful shrieks from M. Regier, his torturers being again at him. I next saw a sailor passing through with a bare sword, and my fears of some new form of torture in store for my employer were soon justified. I heard awful screams and deep groans mingled with the foulest language and oaths from the assassins.

"The lady housekeeper was now brought into the room, and from the scraps of talk I overheard I gathered that she also was to be flogged with *nagaikas*. This proved to be so, and I shall never forget those night hours of shrieking.

"I did not see M. Regier again. He was kept under arrest until finally shot at night with a revolver, about a week later. His body was taken outside the town limits at daybreak the following morning and thrown stark naked on a dung heap, where it lay exposed for several days, no one being allowed to remove the remains for burial. When eventually recovered the body had been partially devoured by dogs.

"The barber Commissary saw that I was released after giving me a lecture

on the enemies of the people and the iniquities of the *bourgeoisie*."

The following account of the flogging and murder at Mariupol of Mr. Peter Regier, a Russian shipowner, and well known in English shipping circles, a man of over 70, is told by Mr. Herbert Wills, the English correspondent of the firm of Peter Regier and Svorono Bros.:

When the Bolshevik irregulars invaded Mariupol they broke into private dwellings, pillaged shops and stores, and often brutally maltreated the inhabitants. They demanded a "contribution" of 75,000 roubles (L 7,500) from M. Regier, among others. As the banks had removed from Mariupol, it was impossible to pay these "contributions," and "defaulters", M. Regier with them, were arrested and confined in the Custom House buildings pending payment, many of them being flogged. M. Regier was later removed to his own home, where Mr. Wills found him surrounded by a crowd of soldiers and sailors.

"I was received", Mr. Wills continued, "with cries of 'Here's the manager!' and was then peremptorily ordered to state my business, upon which I informed M. Regier that I had been promised 30,000 roubles (L3,000) in cash, and perhaps more, that evening or the following morning at latest. In the meantime the whole house was being ransacked, and the Bolsheviks confronted M. Regier with the silver plate, wearing apparel, various war loan and other shares which they found in the safe, asking him ironically whether he expected to take all this with him to another world. With every discovery of some article M. Regier, notwithstanding his years, was repeatedly struck with *nagaikas* (Cossack whips).

"Then my turn came. M. Regier was taken from the room and I was left alone with the Bolsheviks. I was made to strip, or rather my clothes were dragged off me. The pockets were ransacked, and the ruffians fairly howled with fury when they examined my passport, calling me an "English blackguard" and worse, and saying, 'We know how to deal with such as you for what your nation is doing to Russia'. They stamped and spat on the passport. In vain I repeated that I had no politics. I received the reply that I should be sent to join "General Dukhoin's staff", by which they meant that I should be killed without mercy. I was then asked where M. Regier kept his gold and valuables, and on my replying that I had no idea, was roughly seized and laid on a table, when two of the ruffians began to belabour me with *nagaikas*, asking me at intervals whether I would reveal the hiding-place.

THE FUTURE OF TURKEY.

Indian Moslems' Protest.

A memorial on the Turkish question, extensively signed by Hindu and English, as well as Moslem, subjects of the King, has been sent to the Prime Minister. The signatures include the Aga Khan, Mr. Ameer Ali, Sir Krishna Gupta, Lord Headley, Sir Abbas Ali Baig, and Mr. Aftab Ahmed (India Council).

Historical reasons are urged for consideration to a country which has suffered more than any other in the last two centuries "from the cupidity and intrigues of her Christian neighbours". No breathing time has been allowed her for the task of domestic reform, yet her inability in this respect is made a ground of attack against the national character. It is claimed that no nation has been more tolerant than the Moslems of Turkey to the followers of other creeds. The design of the Peace Conference is said to be to "pen in" Turkey within the plateau of Anatolia, without any outlet to the sea or means of access to markets of the world except through the favour of implacable enemies.

The memorialists protest on behalf of the whole of India. The Moslems there "feel overwhelmed with the sense of a great calamity, and take little or no interest in the proposed constitutional reforms". There is a bitterness of feeling which cannot be regarded without the gravest anxiety. Their interest in the preservation and maintenance of the Ottoman sovereignty over Constantinople and the regions in respect of which the Prime Minister himself gave the Mussulman world a solemn pledge is not, as has been alleged, newborn and factitious. It has grown in intensity as the danger to Mussulman interests and to Turkish independence has grown.

The Prime Minister is reminded that the great victories in Asia which brought about the collapse of the Central Powers were achieved by the valour of Indian soldiers, including the best of Moslem soldiers. Is it fair and right that their views "should be set aside in favour of those whose territorial ambitions have been aroused by the secret treaties, but whose part in the defeat of Turkey has been insignificant?"

The German Government has ordered the discontinuance of the practice of hoisting flags on "Sedan Day" on the ground that it is a demonstration in favour of the old régime.

One of the examples of the tension existing between Belgium and Holland is the action of the Hague Municipality in recalling exhibits en route to the Brussels Exhibition.

EVE OF THE COLLAPSE

How the Germans Went to Pieces.

A German White Book has been published at Weimar containing all the documents relating to the period from August 13 to November 11, 1918, in so far as they refer to the peace offer of October 3 and the Armistice agreement of November 11. A summary of the principal documents down to October 3 was published in *The Times*. This carried events to the early days of October, when, after General Ludendorff had telephoned to Berlin the draft of a Note to America, Prince Max of Baden had protested that a peace action under pressure of military distress meant the loss of the German Colonies, Alsace Lorraine, and part of Poland. Hindenburg, however, had replied that the Army Command insisted on its demand for an immediate offer of peace, and the Note was dispatched to America. Prince Max still thought the dispatch of the Note premature, and determined to find out "how things were at the front". At this point the Reuter telegram summarizing the documents broke off. The concluding part of the telegram, since received, is as follows:—

The idea of Prince Max and the Secretaries of State obviously was that General Ludendorff, owing to his nervous breakdown, had come to an exaggerated conclusion as regards the situation at the front. The result was a conflict with the Supreme Army Command which ran right through all the negotiations till October 26. Dr. Rathenau's plan of a *levée en masse* was discussed but rejected.

Following President Wilson's reply on October 5, General Ludendorff at a conference held on October 9 represented that Germany was not obliged to accept all the demands, but he gave only vague replies to the question of how long the Army could hold out. On President Wilson's second reply on October 15, opposition broke forth on all sides in the Army. The Supreme Command wanted to break off the peace attempts.

At three sittings on October 17, the White Book says, General Ludendorff spoke more hopefully, but was evasive as to the possibility of holding out for three months or preventing a break through. Following President Wilson's third note of October 23, Generals von Mudra and Gallwitz arrived and asked for a last attempt to show that Germany's position was not so bad as was pointed out, but the attempt to prevent a separate peace by Austria failed, and the news of the armistice with Turkey followed.

The rejection of the armistice, the White Book adds, was impossible. Since the Allies had agreed to President Wilson's 14 points as the basis of peace, the German people considered the war as terminated. Wherever an attempt to delay the conclusion of the armistice was suspected the troops rose up against it. All differences with the supreme army command were dropped. On November 11 the armistice came into force.

According to the Bolshevik papers, Petrograd is threatened with a dearth of petroleum and fuel supplies since General Denikin has cut off all connections with South Russia.