



GEORGIAN MAIL

Edited by SCOTLAND LIDDELL.

ARMENO-TARTAR TRUCE.

Banquet Following Zangezur Agreement.

Following the agreement concerning Zangezur, a banquet in honour of Mr. Ussubekov, President of Azerbaidjan, and Mr. Khatissov, President of Armenia, took place in Tiflis on November 23. Amongst those present, besides the two chief guests, were Mr. Gegetchkori, Minister of Foreign Affairs; Mr. Wardrop, British Chief Commissioner; Colonel Rhea, deputy High Commissioner of the Allied Powers; the heads of the French and Italian Military Missions; Mr. Ramishvili, War Minister; Mr. Kartsvadze, assistant Foreign Minister; General Gedevanov, the assistant War Minister; Mr. Kandelaki, Minister of Finance; Mr. Gadjinsky, Azerbaidjan minister of Trade and Industry; General Odishelidze; Mr. Evangulov, the diplomatic representative in Tiflis of Armenia; and many other military and diplomatic representatives of the three republics.

On the proposal of Mr. Gegetchkori, who opened the proceedings, Mr. Ghambashidze was appointed toast-master—"Tamada". The first toast was drunk to Mr. Ussubekov and Mr. Khatissov, and then there was a toast to Mr. Gegetchkori, Mr. Ramishvili and the Allied representatives.

Colonel Rhea drank to the glorious future of Trans-Caucasia, and both Colonel Gabba and Colonel de Nonancour expressed their wishes for the prosperity of the Trans-Caucasian republics.

In proposing a further toast, Mr. Khatissov pointed out that the former unfriendly relations that existed between Armenia and Georgia had been now changed to friendly ones and to those of good neighbours. He recalled the triumphant and enthusiastically welcome by the Armenian ministers of the first train that arrived from Tiflis at Erivan. In conclusion, he stated that the Dashnaktzutun party had categorically demanded from the Armenian government that friendly relations be settled between Armenia and Georgia. The idea of an independent Armenia raises great sympathies and Arme-

nia will do her best to realise this idea of independence.

President Ussubekov in his speech stated that he always believed that an agreement was possible, and this confidence had been confirmed by Mr. Khatissov's statements.

Mr. Gegetchkori said that no hostility existed between the republics of Trans-Caucasia, and that the bloodshed that had recently taken place was the consequence of some misunderstandings.

GEORGIA'S SATISFACTION.

Telegram to the Azerbaidjan and Armenian Governments.

Mr. Mdivani, assistant to the president of the Georgian Constituent Assembly, has sent the following telegram to the Azerbaidjan Government at Baku and to the Armenian Government at Brivan:

"The Georgian Constituent Assembly expresses the greatest satisfaction at the joint presence at the sitting of November 21 of the representatives of the Azerbaidjan and Armenian republics in the persons of Ussubekov, Gadjinsky and Khatissov, who came to the capital of Georgia in order to liquidate peacefully the afflicting armed conflicts between these republics which were fatal for the whole of Trans-Caucasia.

"It greets the parliaments of Azerbaidjan and Armenia, and expresses its strong confidence that the nations of both republics, bearing in mind the common interests of the Trans-Caucasian republics, will arrive at a final agreement and will thus lay the foundation of durable peace and union for the benefit of the democracy of the whole of Trans-Caucasia".

GEORGIA AND ARMENIA:  
A British Withdrawal Sequel.

In consequence of the evacuation of Trans-Caucasia by the British troops, the question of the neutral zone between Georgia and Armenia was again examined by the Allied Supreme Council. The representatives of the two Republics have agreed with General Beach of the British Army to allow the neutral zone to exist as formerly, with an administration half Armenian and half Georgian.

DAVID GHAMBASHIDZE.

An Appreciation.

Mr. David Ghambashidze has gone to London, and those of us who were his friends now mourn his departure. We realise that the Georgian Government could not have sent a better representative to England, but all the same we are sorry he has gone. We were to a certain extent so dependent on him. If we were in any difficulties, it was he who came to our assistance. If we wanted to know anything, it was he who furnished the information we required. He was our guide, and our spokesman, and our friend.

Before Ghambashidze came from London, things were not altogether well. There had been misunderstandings—not many, of course, but quite enough. None of us spoke Georgian; few of us spoke Russian; and few Georgians were able to speak our own language. Misunderstandings were inevitable. We British and Georgians were on separate islands, shouting at each other across a gulf of doubt that not even the best interpreters could bridge. And then came Ghambashidze, big and stout and with an everlasting genial smile. A Georgian of the Georgians, of course, but one who spoke our mother tongue. We understood him, and the years that he had spent in London had taught him to understand us. He was pro-British (Who that has lived in England for some years is not?) but above all he was pro-Georgian. He taught the two peoples to know each other as never they had done before.

Ghambashidze was a sort of local Admirable Crichton. Only the various Georgian ministries can realise the work he did. He had a finger in every pie. He was here, there, and everywhere. Our one complaint was that he was not always "here". Some days before he left Tiflis, Ghambashidze mourned to me that he had lost his reputation for punctuality. "Some of the British officers", said he, "turn up half an hour late for their appointments with me because they say that in any case I will be at least an hour behind time". This, too, was inevitable. Ghambashidze had very much to do much to do. Sometimes he would

be on his way to keep an appointment when he would be asked by someone else to do some little thing. He would do it—and turn up late in consequence. Fortunately, we understood, and we forgave.

If foreign diplomats came to Tiflis, Ghambashidze would be at the station to welcome them to the town. If Allied Generals departed, Ghambashidze would be there to see them off. Missions who went to Baku found Ghambashidze quite indispensable. It was he who welcomed us all to the Georgian Club, and in the summer months it was he who was the life and soul of every British gathering there. If one wanted a reserved coupé to Batoum or Baku, Ghambashidze was the man to ask. It was he, too, who got us lodgings in the town. But there were other things he did of more importance. Thanks to Ghambashidze, there is now a postal service between Tiflis and Batoum, and through Batoum to all places abroad. One cannot enumerate the many things he did.

We will all miss Ghambashidze. We all appreciated him immensely, and the fact that he has gone on an important mission to London simply proves that the Georgian Government is with us in our appreciation of his worth.

S. L.

NEW AZERBAIDJAN CABINET.

After a ministerial crisis which lasted for several weeks, the following cabinet has been formed in Azerbaidjan under the presidency of Mr. Ussubekov:

- Prime Minister and Minister of the Interior . . . . . Ussubekov.
- Minister for Foreign Affairs — Khan-Khoiski.
- War Minister . . . . . Mekhmandarov.
- Public Instruction . . . . . Kaplanov.
- Ways and Communication, Posts and Telegraphs . . . . . Melik Aslanov.
- Justice . . . . . Khas Mamedov.
- Charity and Public Health — Rafiev.
- Trade and Industry, Supply and Finance — Mamed Hassan Gadjinsky.

It is intended to appoint Melik Aslanov as Labour Minister in addition to his already onerous duties.





## EDITORIAL.

### Unsettled Questions.

Just as during the war the most important front of all the fronts was that on which one was, so today to those of us who happen to be in territory whose future status has not yet been decided, the most important questions that the Peace Conference has to deal with are those concerning the particular country in which we are. It happens, therefore, that we are much more interested in the settling of Trans-Caucasia than we are in the continual disputes regarding Fiume, and the future of Azerbaidjan and Georgia seems of greater importance to us than the squabbling over Smyrna. And it is for this very reason, as well as for the desire that all parties should have fair play, that we feel we must protest more and more each day against the incredible amount of ignorance and mis-representation that exists abroad regarding the new Trans-Caucasian states.

### Unknown Territory.

Of course, the maps are very often to blame. New editions are badly needed. Azerbaidjan, for instance, appears on any Middle East map not as a Trans-Caucasian republic but as a province in the North-west of Persia. Georgia is seldom marked; instead we see the names of the Georgian provinces—Tiflis, Kutais, etc. And in a standard English encyclopaedia we find that there are sixty-nine lines devoted to Georgia, U. S. A., and only three and a half to Georgia in the Caucasus. But all this is as nothing compared to the statements ascribed to Mr. James Gerard which we have just read in "Obnovlenie".

### An American Appeal.

In an appeal to the American people, says the report, Mr. James Gerard, president of the "American Committee for the Independence of Armenia" says: "The responsibility for the horrible tragedy which is now taking place in Armenia rests with Great Britain and France as well as with America. Many Americans think that our interest in Armenia is roused by a feeling of philanthropy and that we only sacrifice a few dollars in order to supply food to several thousand famished Armenians. Meanwhile, America and the Allies are indebted to Armenia, because without her Russia could not perform her military operation in the Cauca-

sus and the Turks could have joined the Turanians inhabiting both shores of the Caspian Sea. At the present moment our duty is to help Armenia.

### "Two Million Georgian Bolsheviks".

"Three millions of Azerbaidjan Tartars, being tools in the hands of the Turks, have joined two millions of Georgian Bolsheviks with the aim of dealing a blow to Denikin, from the rear. Lenin and Trotsky have arrived at an agreement with Talaat and Enver. Only a narrow strip of Armenian land separates the Bolsheviks from the Tartars, Turks and Georgians. Consequently, if we refuse to help the Armenians, as we have helped other nations, both great and small, we shall have to face two inevitable facts: either we shall have to conclude peace with the Turks and the Bolsheviks and restore the horrible Turkish power, or, having exterminated the defenders of civilisation, we shall have to send to the East numerous troops in order to fight the Bolsheviks and the Turks".

### The New Armenia.

The statement regarding two million Georgian Bolsheviks is too ridiculous to merit further comment. Mr. Gerard might possibly have been misinformed. But there seems to be no excuse for him in the matter of his astonishing geographical mis-statements. It is certainly not helping young America's geography to shift Armenia from the South Caucasus to north of Georgia, and to make the "narrow strip of Armenian land" run parallel to the Rostov-Petrovsk railway line! But even this is not quite what he has done—for the Bolsheviks are much further north than that, and it is really unfair to General Denikin to take from him the credit of having kept the Bolsheviks back.

### French Profiteering.

The wireless news that we receive each day is usually remarkably dull and uninteresting. But occasionally we receive some gems of news. A few days ago, for instance, there was a report of a sitting of a French government commission on high prices. This particular meeting dealt with those of furs. Apparently many scores of fur shops have recently been opened in Paris and the government has taken steps to regulate the prices. "While furs

are admittedly uneatable", says the report, "the government authorities point out that they have become practically necessities, firstly, because this winter's fashion dictates that they be used in large quantities, and, secondly, because French women in winter now wear knee skirts, transparent silk stockings and the extreme *decolleté*, which render it absolutely necessary that the remaining portion of their bodies be clad in fur". Meanwhile, in the Caucasus there are thousands of Armenian and Mussulman refugees who are practically naked.

### Peace in Zangezour.

In another column we refer to the banquet given to Mr. Ussubekov, President of the Azerbaidjan Republic, and Mr. Khatissov, President of Armenia, following on the agreement which terminated the recent hostilities in the Zangezour district. It is not for us to discuss the relative merits of Azerbaidjan and Armenia, but we fully agree with the telegram sent by Mr. Mdivani, in the name of the Georgian Constituent Assembly, that the greatest satisfaction is to be expressed at the cessation of the strife which, at the present time, might well have proved fatal for the whole of Trans-Caucasia.

### A Suggestion.

A week or so ago we went to the Artistic Theatre to see a version in Russian of Oscar Wilde's drama, "Lady Windermere's Fan". We enjoyed the acting and we have little to criticise in this respect, unless it is to say that English society people are not really so cold in their greetings to each other as they were made out to be, and that the percentage of monocled men on the stage was very much too large. But we would like to make a suggestion. Could not the management see to it that all doors are shut from the moment the performance begins and that only in the entractes they be opened? During the first act people kept coming into the theatre from all parts, with the result that the first act was unheard by us (and we were it the second row of the stalls) owing to the noise they made and owing to the "ssh's" that came to them from all parts of the house. Incidentally, we were very cold, but not nearly so much so as Lady Windermere must have been in the second and third acts. No wonder the poor lady had a cough!

S. L.

GEORGIAN-ARMENIAN AGREEMENTS

### "An Example for the Three Republics".

The following telegram from Eriwan has been received by the heads of the governments of Georgia and Armenia:

"At a solemn dinner arranged by the Armenian government in honour of the Georgian representatives, the most sincere pleasure was expressed following the conclusion of the agreement of lasting peace between the two neighbours, Georgia and Armenia. All present hope that this will be a link joining both republics and a pledge for the favourable solution of all questions of interest to Georgia and Armenia. Let the agreement already arrived at be an example for the solution of all contestible questions between the three republics.

"We hope that the independence of the young Trans-Caucasian republics will shortly be acknowledged internationally and that the heads of the Georgian and Armenian governments will do their best in order to collaborate for the welfare of all republics.

"Long live Georgia and Armenia!

"Long live the democracy of Trans-Caucasia!"

"The deputy Minister President, Sarkis Araratian.

"General Karalov, diplomatic military representative of the Georgian democratic republic".

### "Absalom and Esther".

#### Benefit Performance at State Theatre.

A Benefit performance in honour of the well-known and talented Georgian composer, Z. Paliashvili, will take place at the State Theatre on December 2, when his successful opera, "Absalom and Esther", will be presented for the twenty-fifth time.

The interesting and poetical libretto of the opera, written by Mr. P. Mirianishvili, is founded on an old Georgian legend.

During the stay of the British forces in Tiflis, "Absalom and Esther" was greatly liked by officers and men alike, and it is to be hoped that the theatre will be crowded on December 2, and that Mr. Paliashvili will gain the appreciation that he so thoroughly deserves.



## The New Free Finland and Russia.

The Government of Finland is about to conclude an agreement with General Yudenitch relative to measures for co-operating against the Bolsheviks. Commenting on this, the *Temps* notes with satisfaction that this will entail close relations, military and commercial, between Russia and Finland.

A Helsingfors correspondent gives the following further information. The Finnish Government desires to co-operate with General Yudenitch in order to contribute to the final defeat of the Bolsheviks, but it wishes first to conclude a political agreement with the Russian anti-Bolshevik Government and to gain the assent thereto of the Allies. The agreement concluded last June between Yudenitch and General Mannerheim, then President of Finland, is considered null and void on account of the delay of the Russian representatives at Paris in defining the ethical and political conditions of Finland's intervention.

The *Temps* says that Finland is now pursuing three principal aims (1) the recognition of the independence of Finland by Russia (2) financial aid to cover all the expenses of the expedition (3) the cession to Finland by Russia of the Petchinaja territory and of a large part of Karelia.

(Note: Finland was annexed to Russia in 1809 and though nominally autonomous was in fact deprived by autocratic Russia of many of its privileges. Previously it belonged to Sweden, Karelia is the S.E. part of Finland which was annexed to Russia in 1721).

## The Ex-German Cables: Movement for Allies to keep them.

French Peace Conference circles are advocating the foundation of an international commission in order to distribute among the Allies the supervision and management of the cables seized from the Germans.

When the armistice was signed, France, Britain and Japan after an exchange of views decided that the German cables should be considered booty of war and should be retained by the Allies. This point of view was not admitted at that time by America and a temporary agreement was reached whereby the Emden-Vigo, Emden-Azores, Monrovia-Rome, Constantinople-Constantia cables were placed under the control of the British, the Emden-Azores and Teneriffe-Pernambuco and Emden, Brest, Azores and New-York cables reverting to the temporary direction of the French, while the Japanese control all the Far East German cables.

This situation obtains at present but the French are desirous of having a final settlement of the status of the former German cables. The French sentiment is that the cables should be apportioned among the Allies, France retaining definitely the cables which she is now operating.

## NO TRANS-ATLANTIC PHONES YET AWHILE.

Paris, Tuesday.—“We shall have transatlantic wireless telephony before we have telephone cable lines across the Atlantic”, said Mr. C.G. Dubois, President of the U.S. Western Electric Company, in an interview.

“One can telephone the 3,000 miles between New York and San Francisco because on land wires you can have loading coils and repeaters and other apparatus at stations every few miles. But with Atlantic cables for telephoning you would have either to dispense with that or incorporate these necessary accessories in the cable.

“There is such a weak current used in telephony compared with telegraphy that I have heard it estimated that a Transatlantic telephone cable would have to be a huge affair as big around as a man's body, without counting the outside covering. And loading coils and repeaters would have to be laid with the cable.

“Another thing—there is not enough demand for trans-Atlantic telephoning to support it. There is not as much telephone business between Chicago and San Francisco as had been expected.

“With the perfection and speeding up of telegraphic cable lines and improvements people will not pay the tremendous high rates which telephones would have to cost across the Atlantic”.

## Clemenceau to Retire.

M. Clemenceau has decided definitely to retire from political life. The Premier's decision is made public in a letter declining the offer of the Radical caucus of the Lower Rhine department held at Strasbourg to contest the seat formerly occupied by Gambetta.

M. Clemenceau writes: “My dear countrymen, I find no words to express how deeply your offer to succeed Gambetta at the head of your electoral list has touched me. I would accept with pride the high honour of representing the chief constituency of Alsace in Parliament, were it not that I am warned by many signs that the hour has come for the rest I have not enjoyed for a long time. The age I have reached, to see the immense joy of victory, and my state of health compel me to retire from political life. Nevertheless I shall be pleased to remain the moral representative of Alsatian interests to the best of my strength and ability.

Very affectionately yours,  
George Clemenceau”.

## Mackensen Interned near Salonica.

The Associated Press reports from Salonica that Field Marshal Von Mackensen is interned near Salonica awaiting trial on the charge of wanton destruction of property in Roumania.

## U. S. and Turkish Mandates.

In a leading article in the *Matin*, M. Lauzanne makes one more appeal to America to accept a Constantinople and Armenian mandate. He says: “America is a great reservoir of energy. It holds the secret of doing things on a grand scale and doing them quickly. It has youth, power riches and efficiency.

“It would be a tremendous thing if America, having given us her army, her money and her materials, would give us this example. And what an example it would be if America accepted the Constantinople mandate. Here is a city, one of the most marvellous in the world, which after twenty centuries is still a sink of corruption. Yet with its harbour and hills it could be made the luminous centre of Europe.

“All that would be needed would be American engineers and constructors. A Hoover or a Davison would suffice and America has many Hoovers and Davisons. If America will accept, then it can say it has rendered an incomparable service to humanity and has played a grand role in the world. It will, as the youngest democracy, have given a lesson to other nations of the world. We say to our friends in America—“If George Washington could speak he wouldn't hesitate. Above all egotistical ease he would place duty. And he would say—serve humanity even if the task is far away and not an easy one”.

## Turkey's Preparations for the Peace Terms.

A telegram from Constantinople to the French Press says the Turkish Government, thinking the Turkish delegation will soon be summoned to Paris, has established a Commission especially appointed to study the German, Austrian and Bulgarian treaties, and to prepare the defence of Turkey's rights before the Conference. Three sub-commissions have been constituted to study the financial, judicial and military questions, and the members of these commissions will be appointed members of the delegation of advisers and experts.

The Ministry of Commerce has presented a report demanding the prohibition of the importation of objects of luxury.

## The List of Germans to be Handed Over.

The *New York Times* says that the Allied Supreme Council has appointed a commission to make a final draft of the Germans to be listed as charged with war crimes, which list will be handed the German Government with the demand for their surrender immediately the peace treaty comes in effect.

## French War Office

The French War Office has received through various diplomatic agents of foreign Powers applications for six hundred officers in foreign armies desirous of taking up courses in the Military Schools of France and also for certain periods with the different corps of the French army. This is the greatest number of applications ever recorded and the papers are pointing it out as a vindication of the French school of strategy as opposed to the German.

## Germany's Experience of Bolshevism.

New York, Saturday.—The German reply to the Allied note inviting Germany to participate in the blockade of Soviet Russia, as published in the German press, opens as follows:

“To the Note of Marshal Foch—No. 1849.

“The German Government has the honour to submit the following answer: The German Government has constantly proved by word and deed that it is fully aware of the dangers involved to the culture and economic life of all countries by the spread of Bolshevism. The German Government in our own country experienced anarchistic uprisings of not inconsiderable proportions and has successfully quenched them. It has been appreciably the gainer by the experience as to the causes and the spread of Bolshevist currents and in consequence of these experiences considers it her duty to say that the measures proposed by the Allied and Associated Powers against Bolshevist Russia do not seem to answer the purpose intended”.

## Swedish Socialists and Bolshevism.

At a great meeting in Stockholm, M. Branting, the Swedish Socialist leader, spoke vigorously against Bolshevism in a debate on “Democracy or Proletariate Dictatorship”. The Left Socialists in vain attempted obstruction. The resolution which was voted with an overwhelming majority stated that “Social Democracy is the only means of arriving at the realisation of democratic ideals” and denounced Bolshevism as a universal danger.

## How Pending Peace Problems will be settled.

Paris, Monday.—The work of the Allied Supreme Council and the Peace Conference is about to be finished and the matters that are unsettled after December 1st will be settled directly through the Foreign Offices of the various Powers and in the case of the United States through the government at Washington.



## Results of the Swiss Elections.

The *Petit Journal* gives the following details of the Swiss elections. It appears that: 1: The socialists have won a few more seats than they had in the old National Council and that they now have 30 seats. 2: A new party is constituted which elected 27 delegates at the first attempt, called the Agrarian party. 3: The formerly all-powerful Radicals who before had 108 seats out of 189 are now reduced to 63 seats. 4: The Catholic centre and the Conservatives have held their ground but have gained no advantage. 5: The Democratic Liberals have two seats less which they lost to the extremists of the left. No evolution to Leninism is to be feared.

Nevertheless the overthrow of the Radicals presents a grave question as, before, the Government was absolutely stable but this will no longer be the same as the Radicals now only command one-third of the National Council. Now the Agrarians and the Socialists will claim a share in the Executive Council.

## 2,073 Candidates for 508 Seats.

The number of candidates for the 508 seats in the Italian General Election is 2,073.

## Tolstoi's Daughter Arrested.

By an order of the Extraordinary Commission of Moscow Mile Alexandrine Tolstoi, daughter of the great Russian novelist, has been arrested on the charge of relations with the Volunteer Army.

## Germany to Pay for Scapa Sinking.

The Allied Supreme Council has decided that Germany is to be asked to hand over a certain number of battleships, floating docks, cranes and a few more articles belonging to the material of the fleet in compensation for the prejudice caused to the Allies by the destruction of the German ships at Scapa Flow. This demand has been inserted in the protocol addressed to Germany accompanying the final documents to be deposited.

## Ex-Kaiser's Party Losing Ground.

The *New York Times* hears from the Hague that a representative of the Netherlands Government has informed a correspondent that the ex-Kaiser's party is losing ground while monarchistic supporters of the ex-Crown Prince are increasing their number and activity in Germany.

## N.W. Russia Recognises Finland.

A Helsingfors message to the *New York Sun* says that the Prime Minister of the North West Russian Provisional Government has sent to the Finnish Minister of Foreign Affairs a note officially demanding military assistance in order to capture Petrograd and agreeing to recognize the Finnish Government.

## Skoda Factories for Poland.

A Warsaw message says that the Czecho-Slovak Government has declared its readiness to deliver to the Polish Government the Skoda factories (one of the most important ex-Austrian armament factories) and their war material.

## German "Penetration".

The Danish police have arrested about 20 German Socialists who had crossed the frontier with false passports or without any. Several Germans resident in Denmark and some Danes are implicated.

## Anti-Bolshevik Campaign in U. S.

A Washington message says that America is organising a great campaign against Bolshevik agitation and large numbers of foreigners are expected to be deported shortly.

## U. S. Loan of 50 Millions to Poland.

A Warsaw telegram says that Poland has obtained a loan of £50,000,000 from American banks, repayable in 20 years, at 6 per cent.

## Cost of Living in France up by 161 per cent.

Figures issued by the French Labour Ministry show that the cost of living in France went up to 112 per cent above the pre-war cost during the first three months of the current year and is now 161 per cent above the pre-war cost.

## Nurse Cavell's Cell as a Museum.

The Belgian Court of Justice has decided to set apart the cell occupied by Nurse Cavell in the St. Giles Prison as a museum. Nurse Cavell's clothing, books and other articles have been collected there. A commemorative tablet has been placed on the door of the cell.

## The Protection of Armenians.

Paris, November 11.—Colonel Haskell U. S. A. has arrived here and will give details of the military situation in the Caucasus and the measures to be taken to protect Armenia against the attacks of neighbouring States.

## Bolshevik Disorders in Bavaria.

A Berlin message says that the Bavarian peasants have decided not to send any more food supplies to towns where Communist (Bolshevik) disturbances are fomented. They will join the local Guard and, if necessary, they will march against the towns where disorders are reported to have occurred.

## Poulet Makes Fast Stages on Way to India.

Poulet, the French airman, who is flying to Australia has now crossed the Mesopotamian desert by following the course of the river Euphrates as far as Basra, the port at the head of the Persian gulf which served as a base for the British Army in Mesopotamia. He had intended to stop, if necessary, at Basra to replenish his petrol supply, but instead of doing so, he continued straight on to Bushire where he landed at the British Air Depot.

The airman covered the 506 miles from Bagdad to Bushire in 6 hours and 50 minutes. During the flight a temperature of 33 degrees centigrade was registered at a height of about 3,000 ft. and 23 degrees centigrade at 5,500 ft.

At 6 o'clock on Nov. 7, Poulet left Bushire on his way to India, skirting the Persian gulf, his next intended stop being Bandar Abbas. Up to present Poulet and his mechanic Benoist, who are flying a Caudron Biplane fitted with Rhone motors, have covered considerably more than 3,000 miles.

## ARMENTIERS RISING FROM ITS RUINS.

Armentieres is rapidly rising from its ruins. As compared with 30,000 inhabitants before the war, it has now 10,000 housed in rough shacks. A complete plan of reconstruction has been drawn up and the town will be a large well-planned modern city.

## A Deserter to The Bolsheviks.

Captain Sadoul who went in September 1917 to Russia as a member of the French Mission and who, after the mission left, remained there and joined the Bolsheviks, has been condemned to death by a unanimous vote of the Paris Court Martial on the charge of deserting to the enemy.

## Progress of Reconstruction in France.

The French Minister of Public Works has just returned from a visit to the devastated regions. He found the reconstruction work progressing in a satisfactory way and the restoration of the St. Saviour Station at Lille is complete. The large halls of this station had been entirely destroyed by the withdrawing Bavarian Army. Most of the halls have been rebuilt in ferro-concrete. Over 350 railway stations had been destroyed like the one at Lille but now they are all in a condition to be used again.

At the time of the armistice the lines had been damaged along 33,000 kilometres, 1,180 bridges no longer existed; 17 locomotive deposits and the large workshops at Terguierand Heilens had been rased on November 11th 1918. The lines have now been repaired and the services re-established in most of the stations. Of course trains are not run in France as regularly as in pre-war times, but the service is greatly improving.

The roads had been destroyed along 48,000 kilometres in the ten Departments that suffered most from the war. They are now mended along 12,000 kilometres. Groups of civilians and military workers numbering 9,000 have thrown 80,000 cubic metres of stones on the roads, the cargo of over 3,000 goods trains. 300 rollers were used to compress these stones.

## MELTING DOWN SILVER COINS: 5 ARRESTS IN PARIS.

With the arrest of five speculators, the silver coin change crisis seems to have passed in Paris. The police arrested five men whom they detected purchasing silver coins from street car and autobus conductors, waiters etc. The trail led to a banking firm which after the silver was melted received it. One of the bars weighing fifty pounds still showed the faint print of a two franc piece.

The profit seems inadequate for such involved transactions as the bar of silver seized represented the nominal value of the five thousand francs and the intrinsic value of the silver a mere six thousand nine hundred and ninety francs.

The crisis is not over, however, as the Auteuil race course administration has informed the racing public that field attendants must be provided with the correct change of the entrance fee two francs.

## "Safe Aeroplane" Competition.

The French Aero Club is considering the question of offering a prize of 500,000 francs to the airman who invents a machine heavier than air which offers the greatest security for starting in flight and landing.