

Edited by SCOTLAND LIDDELL.

THE BLACK HOLE OF PETROGRAD.

PRISON WHERE MEN ARE FORGOTTEN.

BRITISH IN LENIN'S HANDS.

(By Paul Dukés).

(From the "Times").

We published on December 1 a dispatch from our Special Correspondent at Revel giving some details from a trustworthy source of executions and tortures carried out by Bolshevik agents against persons suspected of anti-Bolshevik tendencies.

In the following article Mr. Paul Dukés, who recently arrived in England after a long period in Bolshevik Russia, shows how little the British subjects mentioned in this dispatch had to do with any anti-revolutionary movement, and at the same time describes the murder organization of which Zinovieff is the head.

Hitherto in writing on the under-workings of Bolshevism I have made but little reference to that aspect of Bolshevik terrorism which is generally classed as "atrocities". I have done this not because I have no knowledge of cruel and brutal deeds on the part of the Bolshevik authorities, but simply because the strongest argument that can be brought against the Bolshevik Government is the general policy of oppression, falsehood, and deception in which it indulges.

The wireless has, however, brought news of the arrest of a number of Englishmen in Petrograd on a charge of implication in "counter-revolutionary" activities. Mr. Macpherson appears already to have been shot on some such charge. In view of this danger to our countrymen it is urgent that the usual procedure taken against such suspects should be known, and, if possible, averted.

The activities of the Extraordinary Commission established to combat the so-called "counter-revolution" (by which is meant any action against, or even criticism of the Bolshevik Government) have nowhere been so extreme as in Petrograd. The British public should know that any moderating influence in the Bolshevik Government, such as that of Lenin, scarcely extends to the northern capital. Lenin, in fact, has only once been to Petrograd since

the seat of Government was removed to Moscow, over a year and a half ago.

Petrograd is entirely at the mercy of Zinovieff (Apfelbaum), President of the Petrograd Soviet and President of the former Union of Northern Communes. The separatist tendencies of the Northern Commune caused the Central Government to insist on its liquidation last spring and the retention of Petrograd as a component part of the Soviet Republic.

Sinister Figures.

Zinovieff wields dictatorial power in the northern capital. He owes his position to no administrative ability or political sagacity, for he has none, but solely to his extraordinary and unsurpassed oratorical gift. He is unrivalled in his power of appeal to the lowest passions of the mob. He is almost deified among the worst elements of the sailors, who form the backbone of the Communist Party in Petrograd, and he enjoys the devotion of non-Russian hirelings, mainly Letts and Chinese, who are employed to perform patrol duty, carry out searches, and execute the orders of the Extraordinary Commission. How great Zinovieff's influence in the Bolshevik movement is may be judged by the fact that he was elected to the presidency of the Third International held in Moscow last spring.

The Extraordinary Commission is the bulwark of Zinovieff's power in Petrograd. All through the summer he had the able cooperation of that equally sinister figure, the Lett Peters, who was till then president of the All-Russian Extraordinary Commission at Moscow, and who was sent to Petrograd to suppress the rising anti-Bolshevik tendency there. Peters openly preached the extermination *en masse* of the *bourgeoisie* as a means of uprooting the "counter-revolution". He and Zinovieff quarrelled, but the cause was simply that Zinovieff saw in Peters's rising power a rival to his own.

It is to serve as an instrument for men such as these that the Extraordinary

Commission exists, and it is to the headquarters of this institution that all suspects of anti-Bolshevik activities, or even sympathies, are first brought.

After the murder of Uritsky, over 500 representatives of the *bourgeoisie* were executed at once by this Commission, as a measure of revenge and terror, at the order of Zinovieff.

The New Okhrana.

With sinister irony the headquarters of the Extraordinary Commission are housed in the identical building which served as the seat of the Tsar's *Okhrana*, situated at No. 2 of the street named Goróhoyava, and the Bolsheviks have appropriated the complete apparatus of the latter institution, including a large part of the Extraordinary Commission. This is what Zinovieff meant when he said, in condonation of the extremity of brutality to which the Bolsheviks were being reduced to maintain themselves in power, that though Tsarism was bad, "the State mechanism of Tsarism was good". It is always as "No. 2 Goróhoyava" that the Extraordinary Commission is spoken of by the people.

It is to this institution that the finest educated minds in Russia have been sacrificed, for the most part on a vague and unproven charge of "sympathy with the counter-revolution". There were many who stayed to face the fury of the Bolshevik leaders when they might have fled.

One by one or in groups they are disappearing. Not only a large part of the *intelligentsia* have vanished, but those workmen also who were arrested for advocating British influence and an appeal to British workmen as the sole means of furthering the restoration of justice and liberty in Russia passed into "No. 2 Goróhoyava" and were never heard of again. When, after strikes, you ask the wives or friends of strike leaders what has happened to the latter the only answer is, "Does it not go without saying? No. 2 Goróhoyava". And no further questioning is necessary.

At the head of "No. 2 Goróhoyava" there sits a council of some half a dozen revolutionary fanatics with whom rests the final word as to the fate of those arrested on a charge of anti-Bolshevik activity or sympathy. The real power of the institution lies, however, in the hands of the "investigators", whose duty it is to examine the accused, collect the evidence, and report to the council. It is with these

people that the power lies of turning the evidence this way or that.

Corrupt Idealists.

Investigators vary considerably. There are some who are sincere though demoniacal visionaries, cold as steel, cruel, unpolluted by the thirst for money, seeing the dawn of proletarian liberty through mists of non-proletarian blood, actuated by malignant longing for revenge for every wrong, real or imaginary, suffered in the past. There are other investigators who are merely corrupt, ready to sacrifice any proletarian interest for a price, who regard their job purely as a means of amassing a fortune by the taking of bribes.

When anyone is arrested the first care of his friends is to discover which investigator has charge of his case, and if it is one of the second and more numerous category, the victim is considered lucky and steps are taken to discover through what channels the investigator may be approached. I have myself bought people off in this way, and trusted that should it be my unhappy lot to fall a prey to this institution there would be those who would leave no stone unturned to achieve my deliverance by this, the surest of all means. That I escaped this fate is due to no natural capacity in me to act the part of spy, for I had never done intelligence work before, but simply to the devotion of those, themselves Socialists and like myself ardent enthusiasts of the Revolution, who saw in me a living proof that England would not desert Russia in her hour of need.

Various methods of examination are practised by the investigators of "No. 2 Goróhoyava". When there is absolutely no evidence the method of "judgment by impression" is resorted to. This consists simply in the putting of pointed questions to the suspect. If he render hesitating replies or falter for a moment for an answer it may cost him his life, as proof of equivocation and a guilty conscience; whereas ready and satisfactory replies may result in the suspect merely being confined to house arrest or sent to a concentration camp where he can be "kept out of mischief".

Prison Horrors.

The full story of the horrors perpetrated within the walls of "No. 2 Goróhoyava" will probably never be known. There must have been hundreds imprisoned there whose records

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EDITORIAL.

Another Christmas.

We have celebrated Christmas and we have celebrated the New Year's coming, and we had thought that we could now settle down to work in peace. But, as we write, another Christmas is upon us. Christmas in Georgia is celebrated according to the old-style date—thirteen days later than the new-style December 25. And on Christmas week our printing works are closing down for two days, and our compositor is going to have a holiday, and we have been told that if we do not write an editorial immediately, the paper will have to appear without one. So here we are, without any idea what to write, and yet forced to write something—or lose our compositor's respect for ever. You remember, of course, that he does not understand English...

A Letter.

Christmas time is the time of good-will and peace, etc., so we do not wish to revive old troubles. We have had more stones thrown at us than bouquets of flowers, but now we have to record the receipt of a very charming letter from a lady reader. Incidentally, no one could have blamed her if she had heaved a brick at us—instead of heaving a sigh for us. Many weeks ago, in our editorial, we referred not very kindly to a visit we had had from a young lady who wanted a situation in the British staff. Her English was—well, we shall say not perfect, but she assured us (if you remember) that if she could work in a British staff office for a few weeks her English would improve. This we treated as a joke. But it was no joke for the young lady. She was very determined—so much so, indeed, that she has actually left Tiflis and is now working in a British office. And she sends us a Christmas letter, excellently written, excellently spelt, and, as we have said, very charmingly phrased. We acknowledge it herewith with thanks. But—we hope readers will never send registered letters to us again, because we had to go a long way to the post office and we had to prove that we were we, and not an imposter, and we had to produce papers of identification before the careful post office man would give us the letter. As a matter of fact, the only papers we showed were some bills made out in our name, but they sufficed...

Passports.

This reminds us of some incidents where passports were de-

manded and where those challenged had to resort to guile to produce something to meet the occasion. We know of one English officer who was in Russia during the war and who produced an Income Tax demand form as his official papers, and was immediately allowed to proceed. We could tell of many such curious incidents, but the latest one will be sufficient. Captain Gudiev, the military governor of the town of Baku, will, we know, forgive us if we tell a story against some of his men. It is briefly this: A British soldier was out late one night... The police asked him for his papers. He had none, but he remembered the army label fixed at the top of his trousers, where the size, number, etc. were stated. He lifted up his tunic and pointed to this label and the astonished police were satisfied. Indeed, one of them expressed his admiration of this secret and secure place for the passport, adding that although a man could certainly lose an ordinary passport very easily, it was a difficult matter for him to forget his trousers.

False Bank Notes.

A few weeks ago we announced in this paper that the British authorities had received samples of English pound sterling notes, "Made in Sovdepiā". It has been known for some time that the Bolsheviks, not content with printing millions of their own false roubles, had turned their attention to the counterfeiting of the paper money of other countries with the object of flooding the world with such imitations so as to discredit the value of the real notes. Now comes the news that the Azerbaijan authorities have discovered a false British bank note which was bought in the Baku bazaar in the ordinary course of money-changing. These false British notes are very good imitations, but, as we have pointed out, they are unlikely to deceive anyone accustomed to handling British money. We again warn our readers against the existence of counterfeit money.

Pigs.

According to the "New York Times", pigs were the cause of the world war. The paper then goes on to tell of a disagreement between Austria and Serbia some years ago regarding the import of pigs. Finally, the report ends that "there is no doubt, pigs caused the war". But why drag in a story about the import of innocent animals? Why not simply leave

the one line as it is—"Pigs caused the war"? This is what the world has already known for some years now, only a stronger word for "pigs" is generally used.

France Versus England.

For some time there have been all manner of rumours regarding friction between France and England. And only a few weeks ago we heard the alarming news that France and England were going to fight. "A Franco-English Battle" was the dreadful news that came from Europe, and from these four words whole chapters of war were manufactured. Of course, the promoters of the Carpentier-Beckett boxing match were to blame. Now we are quite prepared to hear of a great British defeat and that France has challenged the United States to fight. The former is already a fact; and in these international "fights" poor Great Britain seems to be without hope.

S. L.

RE-BIRTH OF PERSIA.

Lord Bryce on Turkish and Russian Neighbours.

The Persian Foreign Minister, Prince Firouz Nosret-ed-Dowleh, was the principal guest at the Persia Society's banquet at the Savoy Hotel, London. Lord Lamington presided, and the guests included Syed Ameer Ali, Sir Hugh and Lady Barnes, Lord Bryce, Sir Harry and Lady Box-Ironside, Sir John and Lady Cadman, General Sir Alexander Cobbe, V.C., D.S.O., and Lady Cobbe, Sir Harry Foster (Consul-General of Persia), Emad-ul-Molk and Lady Molk, Hussein Khan Ali Mirza, Emtazmel Molk, Sir John Rees. Admiral Sir E. J. W. and Lady Slade, Sir Percy Sykes, and Sir Francis and Lady Younghusband.

Lord Bryce, proposing the health of the Prince, said Persia had shown by her schools of intellectual, religious, and philosophical thought that her stock of rejuvenescence was not yet exhausted. It was Persia's strength and independence that Britain looked as one of the assets of the British future in the East. They were glad Persia was to be delivered from the constant danger of an unscrupulous neighbour and malignant enemy. The Turk had always been a dangerous enemy to Persia. They had had another neighbour, who had ceased to be dangerous, and he ventured to say that Russia had no business on the south side of the Caucasus. They wished nothing but good to Russia, and hoped she would regain order and prosperity, but he believed people south of the Caucasus would be better off managing their affairs themselves than under the overshadowing power of an immense State in the north.

ARMENO-TATAR COOPERATION.

Georgian Foreign Minister's Proposal.

On December 31 E. P. Gegetchkori, Georgian Minister of Foreign Affairs, sent to Erivan to Khatisov, Minister of Foreign Affairs, the following telegram:

"In your telegram of December 30 you have communicated that the Mussulmans of Ordubat and Nakhitchevan have started military operations against the Armenian Gokhtan. At the same time Vekilov, the Azerbaijan Diplomatic representative in Georgia, has sent me a copy of the telegram sent to you by the Azerbaijan Minister of Foreign Affairs, in which he says that he had received communications concerning the opening of hostile actions by the Armenian Government on December 21 this year against the Mussulmans of the Zanghibassar region.

"In view of the opening in a short time of a conference of the Trans-Caucasian Republics, which is to solve peacefully all contestable questions, the resumed bloodshed and hostilities in the contestable regions undoubtedly create obstacles for the establishment of good relations between the nations of Trans-Caucasia, so necessary for further political prosperity and economical development of the Trans-Caucasian Republics. In order to stop immediately the useless bloodshed I find it expedient that you and the Azerbaijan Minister of Foreign Affairs come to Tiflis for a special conference for the purpose of discussing the actual conditions and working out an agreement in order to remove the clashes between Azerbaijan and Armenia in the above regions. On my part I propose to cooperate in such an agreement and also to give lodging for the conference.

Gegetchkori, Minister of Foreign Affairs."

Mr. Gegetchkori has sent a similar telegram to Baku to Khan Khoiski, Azerbaijan Minister of Foreign Affairs.

New Georgian Ministries.

At the evening sitting of the Constituent Assembly on December 31, Mr. N. N. Jordania, the head of the government, announced that Ministries of War and Justice have been formed. Mr. G. Lordkipanidze has been invited to be Minister of War, and Mr. R. Arsenidze to be Minister of Justice. Formerly Mr. N. Ramishvili carried out the triple duties of War Minister, Minister of Public Instruction and Minister of the Interior.

THE HORRORS OF BOLSHEVISM.

RIGA UNDER THE REDS.

A WOMAN'S EXPERIENCES.

(By Countess Ludmila O'Brien de Lacy).

On January 1, 1919, the Red troops marched into Riga. The order was given to receive them on the main Alexander Street with flowers and enthusiasm. The order, I suppose, was executed. There is an old Russian saying, "Give a trough and the pigs will appear". The trough was there and the pigs rejoiced, no doubt, but on the town there lay a general air of consternation.

The streets were full of people with bags and baskets storming every kind of foodshop in their endeavour to bring home as much food as possible. Prices rose every hour. Lucky were those who could pay the fantastic sums demanded and lay in a store, because a few days later all shops were "nationalized" and closed, and the markets were empty. There was much talk about large Government shops of the future, where every working man and woman for wonderfully low prices would get all the necessities of life and the "bourgeois" nothing. Meanwhile "bourgeois" or not, it was impossible to buy a pin or a potato. If you did buy anything it had to be done in strictest secrecy. Here are some of the prices:—A pound of onions 50 roubles, a bottle of milk 8 roubles, a pound of butter 60 roubles, a pound of black cornflour 30 roubles. The peasants had no faith in Soviet money and would sell only for Tsarist roubles. A peasant told me of a rather quaint bargain. He had consented to sell a pig to a Red Guard for Soviet money, on condition that the pig should be entirely enveloped and hidden in sheets made of banknotes. But of course everybody could not pay such prices and the majority of the non-communistic population was literally starving.

On a Bench.

I saw a decently dressed gentleman sitting on a bench in a square with an empty basket in his hand, dead from hunger. Such a sight was not uncommon. We fed on unpeeled potatoes and black flour boiled in water, and even that was hard to obtain. There were four categories of bread-cards, which were supposed (leaving the *bourgeoisie* nearly breadless) to supply the working class with about 1/2 lb. per day. But in reality, except the communists, very few ever received the bread due to them according to their cards. To get it one had to stand hours in an endless queue, and it was almost uneatable when you did get it. There were people's kitchens. Queues of several hundreds of shivering hungry people stood hour after hour in the frost or rain to receive a plate of watery soup for 50 roubles.

The streets looked dismal; all the shops were closed, and hungry-looking people, shabbily dressed, hurried along with a haunted look on their thin faces. The only richly dressed women were the "communist battalion", who walked about with guns, acting partly as a kind of police, partly as spies, taking a particularly active and ferocious part in domiciliary visits and arrests. I never saw such malignant, low, truly wicked faces as those of these "gallant Red Amazons". Nobody was safe anywhere.

To dress a little smarter, to present a little more civilized appearance, a mere smile even, was enough to be arrested or sent to fulfil some dirty work or dig graves for the "anti-Revolutionists" who had been shot. When there was a rumour of the White troops advancing a decree was issued forbidding the *bourgeoisie* to smile in the street, this being regarded as showing an unseemly joy. One of my pupils, a young student, walking one evening with a lady and smiling as young men generally do in ladies' society, was actually arrested, and only set free in the morning after having given the particular commissary 400 roubles. It was rather an expensive smile.

Decrees and Requisitions.

If we had little bread, we had many decrees. Every morning we woke in horrible anticipation of some new form of "freedom" in store for us. One day there was a decree forbidding anybody to possess more than three chemises or shirts, four towels, three sheets, &c. Constant domiciliary visits by night were the result of this decree. Having found rest in sleep from a day of work, hunger, and mostly fruitless, exhausting efforts to get some food, you woke with a start, hearing a fearful banging at your door; opening it, you saw before you several "Red amazons" and "Red soldiers".

My room was a modest one in a modest flat. My neighbour was a teacher like myself. The two remaining rooms and the kitchen were occupied by our landlady, her mother, and her four children. They were very poor. Often had I seen these children crying bitterly with hunger. We had none of the hateful bourgeois, but it did not help us much—we had the night visits all the same.

One of them lasted from 2 in the morning till 9. Every single thing was turned topsyturvy and when "the benefactors of the people" left, having eaten all they could find to eat, and taking away nearly all our clothing, our rooms were a sight. I could not photo-

graph them as my Kodak had long ago been "nationalized". Very rude and rough to begin with, the searchers became more amiable as the night wore on. They made themselves at home in the kitchen, drank our tea with our sugar and made pancakes from flour and fat they had found in the neighbouring flats. They invited us to join the feast, but we declined, saying we had no appetite at night.

Another day we woke to find a decree ordering us to leave our rooms within 12 hours, and forbidding us to take anything away but a small bundle of clothes. All the furniture had to be left. Whole streets were turned out of their lodgings, which were then partly occupied by different "Red" institutions, officials, and commissaries, partly left empty.

The best houses were always taken, of course. Passing before one of them I saw pictures, mirrors, china, and other possessions flying out of the window. "Take it, it is the property of the 'bourgeois', therefore it is yours", cried an enthusiastic Bolshevik, flinging one thing after another to the passers-by. In another house I saw a Red Guard, "a pride of the revolution", cutting a magnificent antique tapestry to use it as a handkerchief. It is certainly true that most of the Bolshevik leaders are Jews, but in common justice I must say that in my experience I have seen as many arrests and requisitionings taking place among the Jews as among the Christians. Their faith did not seem to protect them from the common lot of the ill-fated "bourgeois".

Turned out of your room, you were not allowed to choose a new one, but obliged to take the abode assigned to you by the "lodging committee". It was never a good one, of course. It was either damp or cold, always very dirty, two or three families sometimes put into one room, sometimes even in the immediate neighbourhood of the typhus barracks. I have known families with small children who were forced to change rooms in winter three or four times. You continually met parties of frightened and haggard-looking "bourgeois" dragging themselves from house to house with such small remnants of clothing and household utensils as were left them by the "Red brotherhood".

So great was the number of deaths, especially from spotted typhus, fostered by enforced dirtiness (there was no soap), hunger, and all kind of privations, that at the churchyards there was a queue of people waiting for their turn to bury their dead. The Red newspapers (no others were permitted) did not mention such a thing, of course, but I had good opportunity of knowing this, as for one time I helped in the town typhus-barracks, where the nurses were overwhelmed with work. The Red guards when they died were borne to their last resting-places in vivid red coffins. These coffins looked exactly as if they had

been dipped in the blood which their owners had shed.

Highly unpleasant was the position of people employing servants. Luckily I was not among them. You had no right to dismiss any of the servants, however bad, rude, or dishonest, without the permission of the "Servants Soviet", which always fined the employers enormous sums or imprisoned them. Those who could not afford to face the justice of the "Servants Soviet" had to be prepared for every kind of humiliation.

I heard a cook say to the daughter of the house, a very nice and highly cultivated girl, "Now, Miss, it's our turn; you shall sleep in my room and I will have yours". When I next called the cook was installed in the girl's room, receiving one of her friends, a Red guard. A parlourmaid in my presence addressed her mistress in terms of such a nature that I hesitate to repeat them. Hallporters enjoyed the special favour of the "Soviet Government". They were expected, and often justly, to give much useful information about the political opinions of the tenants. They were nearly always transferred from the porter's lodge to one of the best flats of the houses, and every tenant had to win their favour under the fear of being reported as an anti-revolutionist. And woe to such! Under different pretexts, and often without any, there were continued arrests.

Thousands of people, men, women, and even school children, were thrown into prisons to be starved and ill-treated in the best cases, and too often shot, not seldom after torture. A young officer I had known as a boy, Prince Meshersky, before being shot at Kieff had his Cross of St. George nailed to his breast, the nails, one after the other, being driven into the flesh.

"Down with Parents".

The Bolshevik education policy was rather quaint. Anybody could be admitted to the high schools. No matter how faint were the applicant's ideas about reading and spelling, his wish to be a student was a sufficient guarantee of his abilities. Age was no objection. The types coming in and out of the doors of the Temple of Science were quite remarkable; girls and boys under 15, old men about 60, crowds of people of all ages and conditions. Many entered thinking it a novel entertainment, but more hoping that the student's certificate would protect them from being forced to sweep the streets and from other effects of the "Red freedom".

The pupils of the elementary schools, even the very youngest classes, were ordered by the "Schools Soviet" to elect delegates to form "school committees", who could dismiss the teachers if they chose or criticize the way of teaching. The sister of one of my pupils, a child about 12, once returned home earlier than expected. On

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were forgotten and who were left to die. I have known many cases of people inquiring after their kin and receiving no answer because all records were lost. Yet they knew their relatives had been interned there.

I once overheard the story of a professional propagandist who had been employed formerly at "No. 2 Gorohovaya". He was boasting to some other Communists that he had participated in the executions in that institution, and said the following forms of torture were frequently practised:—

Feeding the captive on nothing but salt herrings for considerable periods at a time, without allowing him to drink.

Firing blank cartridges in close proximity to the captive during interrogation with a view to terrifying him into giving confused replies.

Flogging; and
The insertion of hot needles below the nails.

Besides this first-hand information, I have heard from the relatives of numerous victims of the Extraordinary Commission that torture of some sort or another is resorted to by that institution as a means of eliciting information. It is with considerable reluctance that I draw attention to these revolting facts, knowing that in civil war excesses are inevitably committed. But serious danger faces our countrymen who are arrested on a charge of active "counter-revolutionary" work.

I see the suggestion made that some English residents in Petrograd were connected with intelligence work in Russia. I deny this emphatically. Not only was the assistance of any Englishmen quite unnecessary to me, my work being purely observational, but I should not in any case have invited such assistance, knowing full well the consequences which follow when suspicion falls even on perfectly innocent people. I lived as a Russian, and my aim was to obtain solely Russian views.

A Government Duty.

Mr. Macpherson was arrested in the summer for no other reason than that he was working on behalf of the Committee for the Relief of the British Colony in Petrograd. Advantage was apparently taken of the fact that he became a Russian subject before the war to shoot him. The existence of a relief committee for indigent British subjects was not tolerated by the Bolsheviks, and permission to continue this work after Mr. Macpherson's arrest was refused, in spite of the fact that the British colony in Petrograd is in frightful need.

The large majority of British subjects remaining there are women. There are also many children, and there is an Old Women's Home where some 60 old ladies of ages varying from 65 to 80 still drag on a miserable existence. In spite of the prohibition to carry on relief work for these people, I believe some Englishmen took their lives into their hands and, seeing

the British Government would or could not do anything for them, continued surreptitiously and under conditions of unimaginable difficulty and hardship to raise means to afford the so necessary relief. This is the only "counter-revolutionary" activity in which any British subject still left in Petrograd could possibly have been engaged.

It is the duty of the British Government to do all in its power to secure the immediate release of these British civilians. I do not for one moment trust the sincerity of the Bolshevik envoys, whose ostensible aim is to secure the necessary exchange. I believe the Bolshevik Government will only as a last resort release this considerable number of British subjects other than soldiers who, in some cases, have purposely been given special treatment in view of prospective exchange. The testimony of these men and women to the actual conditions of Bolshevik rule would be the truth, not served up to honoured guests whose credentials mark them as holding *bona fide* pro-Bolshevik sympathies.

And as for those of our countrymen who may at this moment be imprisoned at the headquarters of the Extraordinary Commission, the most urgent measures must be taken to ensure that the same fate shall not befall them as is meted out by the Bolsheviks to their Russian victims.

Armenian as State Language.

The Erivan parliament has decided to make Armenian the state language of the Armenian republic. It will be the compulsory practical language for the army, government and public institutions.

The use of foreign languages in government offices will be limited by special laws. The government and public institutions will be obliged to take forcible measures during the next six months, says a local newspaper, to see that Armenian becomes the state language in their official business.

Germans and Bolsheviks.

Travellers who have arrived in Rostov from Moscow report that several representatives of the German General Staff, General Pumhausen, Major Kasler, and Lieutenant Von Gelsler, have arrived in Moscow. Their coming is the result of a secret agreement. The Bolsheviks, it is said, have promised to cease their propaganda in Germany and the Germans have agreed to resume their help. It is further reported that the Germans have begun to send military specialists to the Bolsheviks.

Captain Scott of the "Cosmos" company has informed us that the sole representative of this British trading company in Georgia is Mr. G. Bridse. Captain Scott himself is attached to the head office of the company in London.

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being questioned, she answered:—"Our French teacher was four minutes late. I am the class delegate. I told the class to leave the school. We found it a slight upon our dignity to have to wait". Perhaps it was a result of a similar system that there was in Kiev a procession of children bearing a banner with the strange motto, "Down with parents".

Travelling in "Red republics" was a painful business. I remember a journey from Kiev to Moscow. Paying for your ticket did not entitle you to any sort of place, everybody being at liberty to squeeze in as best they might. With the help of some of my former patients (I had been a nurse at the front before the Bolshevik Revolution) I squeezed through one of the unglazed windows to the upper berth of what had formerly been a smart sleeping car. Now the stuff covering the seats was cut and stolen away, and the horsehair underneath sticking out. Still I considered myself lucky when I was stretched out on this prickly couch. A throng of Red soldiers sat, lay, and stood about, spitting and smoking foul tobacco and using fouler language. In the middle of the night I heard a man say: "Why is this bourgeois woman lying, while we are sitting? Let us pull her down". He seized me by the feet, but another took my part and I was left in peace for the time being.

In the Red republics we knew nothing of what was going on in the world. The Red papers contained, besides numerous decrees, flaring descriptions of the "certain advent of the world revolution" and profuse abuse of "English robbers", "French thieves", and "American frauds", who wanted to put "their murderous and dirty heels on the sparkling crown of the people's liberty". And so forth. One could not help wondering whence the "special correspondents" of these wonderful Red papers took their choice vocabulary. "Times".

War Prisoners Hidden in Germany.

A telegram from Dijon to the *Presse de Paris* reports the arrival there of a volunteer of the 1920 class, named Louis Boucher, who had been a prisoner in Germany and had been sentenced to 10 years' imprisonment for attempting to escape. He was discovered in prison at Danzig as the result of investigations made by a commission of French officers.

Six other French soldiers, it is reported, were also found. All of them were unaware of the fact that peace had been concluded.

LATEST FOREIGN NEWS.

A German mine has stranded at the mouth of the Mokau River, New Zealand.

Legislation is proposed in Brazil to regulate exports and combat the high cost of living.

East Indians in British Guiana have formed a league to protect their interests there.

Sao Paulo (Brazil) has asked the Industrial Bank to sell its stock of three million sacks of coffee.

Owing to the threats of extremists' workmen, the Vulcan Works, at Sagebiel, near Hamburg, have closed down.

Belgian Socialists rejected by 1,416 votes to 146 a motion opposing the participation of Socialists in the Government.

Swiss syndicalists started the publication of a new Socialist newspaper, *La Lutte Syndicale*, on January 1.

Sixty per cent. of the children of school age in Jamaica do not attend school. Legislation is being sought to introduce compulsory education.

Special facilities have been offered to returned soldiers of the British West Indies Regiment to proceed to Cuba for work in the sugar industry there.

The two women candidates in the Paris municipal elections were both badly beaten, one getting 390 votes to her opponent's 2,434, and the other 74 votes to 4,029.

Prince Wilhelm, the second son of the King of Sweden, intends to take part in a scientific expedition to Central America, to make archaeological and ethnographical researches.

General Smuts has stated that he intends placing £35,000 sterling in the Estimates for advertising South Africa overseas. Public bodies are expected to subscribe an additional £15,000.

On the occasion of the signature of the Peace with Bulgaria, enthusiastic peace celebrations were held in Athens. The city was belaguered, and the Royal procession was greeted with enthusiasm.

Letters are now accepted by the French Post Office for Austria, Poland, Czecho-Slovakia, Yugo-Slavia, Estonia, Turkey, Letland, and those parts of Russia not administered by the Soviet régime.

Owing to the lack of fuel in Petrograd 10,000 citizens have been conscripted to cut timber. Fourteen of the smaller hospitals have been forced to close for lack of firing.