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SOVIET RUSSIA'S TACTICS.

Interview with Gegetchkori.

The following interview took place between a representative of the Tiflis "Vozrozhdenie" and Mr. E. P. Gegetchkori, the Minister for Foreign Affairs.

"How is General Denikin's declaration regarding the acknowledgement by the Conference of the Trans-Caucasian Republics to be interpreted?—The declaration which seems to contest the importance of the acknowledgment".

"In this declaration", said Mr. Gegetchkori, "I, personally, see General Denikin's aspiration to diminish the political and social weight of the fact of the acknowledgment of our independence by the Allies, with the object of weakening the impression produced by this acknowledgment amongst Volunteer and other Russian circles. But for us it is all the same whether we are recognised *de facto* or *de jure*. It is important for us that we are recognised.

"Important, also are those colossal political and economical consequences issuing from the very fact of this acknowledgment—consequences consolidating our international position in political and economical respects. This acknowledgment creates solid grounds not only for our relations and connections with Europe, but also for the steady relations of the European states with us, especially in the sphere of economical connections.

"General Denikin's aspiration to diminish the importance of the acknowledgment of our independence is comprehensible. On a par with his military defeat this acknowledgment meant also his political and diplomatic defeat as regards his border policy. This defeat turned out to be the keener for him as it evidently undermined his authority, which had already received a severe shock after his military and other political reverses. Under such conditions, General Denikin's attempt to present the whole matter to his co-operators in such a light as if nothing in particular had occurred, alleging that everything may yet be recovered even in the question regarding the new formations, is natural.

"But the actual conditions of the moment speak to the contrary. We recall that Denikin's Baku newspaper, 'Golos Rossii' also endeavoured at the time to present the question of the acknowledgement of the independence of the Trans-Caucasian Republics in the same light as General Denikin recently did. The identity of these declarations, made at different times, simply proves that people interpret many things not as they really are, but as they would like them to be. Under the present circumstances such declarations can hardly produce an impression on anybody".

Tchitcherin's Note.

"How is one to explain the difference between the note of Tchitcherin to Georgia and that sent to Azerbaijan, not to speak of Esthonia?"

"The difference in tone is quite comprehensible. Soviet Russia was forced to take quite a different tone with Esthonia. Closed in on all sides, she still sees in Esthonia her only means of transit for connections with Europe. Such a situation forced Soviet Russia not only to ignore the fact that there had been a struggle against her by Esthonia, but even forced her to grant Esthonia the widest privileges, including large concessions.

"The tactics of Soviet Russia regarding Azerbaijan are also comprehensible. These tactics are closely connected with the Soviet policy in the Mussulman world—not to quarrel with the Mussulmans but to form close connections with them for the consolidation of their influence in the East. Such a policy is too evident to require special comments. It is quite a different matter in the case of Georgia, where the Soviet agents hope to obtain the maximum of concessions by the decisiveness of their tone. I examine the character of the Soviet notes thus.—These notes are not to be considered as ultimatums, but rather as notes sent in the process of carrying on negotiations, the tone of which may change according to many reasons".

Batum.

"Have you at your disposal any news which can confirm the recent newspaper report referring to

General Milne's declaration that the English will shortly leave Batoum?"

"There is no such news in the possession of our Ministry for Foreign Affairs. This communication comes from a Bolshevik source, and it seems to be of old origin".

AZERBAIDJAN'S NEUTRALITY.

Khan Khoisky's Reply to Tchitcherin's Note.

"Moscow. To the People's Commissary for Foreign Affairs, Tchitcherin. The People's Commissary for Foreign Affairs, Tchitcherin, in his radio-telegram from Moscow of January 28, in spite of the existing customs for international relations, affirms that the declaration of Khan Khoisky is not in accordance with well-known facts and, in his turn, in order to deny Khan Khoisky's declarations, points out 'facts' some of which never occurred at all, and others of which are shown in a false light, which may be explained by the insufficient information of the Soviet government regarding the events taking place in Azerbaijan.

The Mountaineers.

"The Azerbaijan government, counting itself neutral, has sent away from Baku General Prjevalsky and all his staff, and did not only forbid the mobilisation of Russian officers in Azerbaijan in order to include them in Denikin's army, but also categorically forbade General Prjevalsky to publish in the newspapers an order calling up the Russian officers in Petrovsk. The Azerbaijan government has not only never taken steps contrary to the interests of Daghestan and the North Caucasus in their struggle for freedom and independence against General Denikin, but, on the contrary, has always by all available means supported, and still supports, the Mountaineers in their struggle. The Azerbaijan government has immutably tried to obtain the evacuation of the Denikin forces from their territory. The other statements of the People's Commissary, Tchitcherin, regarding the mutual re-

lations of the Azerbaijan government and the Volunteer Army Command, of whose ideals and real intentions the Azerbaijan government is well aware, are also unfounded.

"Independence Must be Recognised".

"Greeting in all respects the steady decision of the Soviet government to conform immutably to the principles of acknowledging the rights of nations for national self-definition, the Azerbaijan Government must nevertheless state with deep regret that in neither of the two radio-telegrams of the People's Commissary, Tchitcherin, has the clear and categoric absolute acknowledgment of the independence of the Azerbaijan Republic by the Soviet government been stated. Meanwhile, the Soviet government has already granted recognition in respect of Poland, Finland and Esthonia, in spite of the fact that the Soviet government has even carried on war with these states. Therefore the Azerbaijan government, counting it necessary and desirable to establish good neighbourly relations between the Russian and the Azerbaijan people, finds that all negotiations concerning this or any other questions can take place only after the absolute acknowledgment by the Soviet government of the independence and sovereignty of the Azerbaijan Republic has been given.

"Minister for Foreign Affairs, Fatali Khan Khoisky".

Turkey and Georgia.

The Presidium of the Georgian Constituent Assembly has received from the Turkish parliament in Constantinople a telegram stating that Turkey recognises the Independence of Georgia.

Jubilee of D. Kldiashvili.

In the Tiflis State Theatre on February 15, Georgian society celebrated the thirty years' jubilee of the famous Georgian writer, Kldiashvili. The theatre was overcrowded. Members of the Presidium of the Constituent Assembly, of the government and of many other state and public organisations were present.

EDITORIAL.

The Beauty of Tiflis.

No matter how long one has lived in Tiflis, one cannot but be continually impressed anew with the beauty of the town. The seasons change: the soft green of the Spring hills gives way to the parched grey of summer, then winter comes and all the hills are white: and Tiflis rests, as always, lovely. To see Tiflis at her best one should look down from the Kodjori road in the early morning, when all the air is cool and clear and sweet: else one should look down from the railway line between the station and Naftlug when the sun is setting beyond the opposite hills. Then there is a soft mistiness in the air and the hills take on a sudden gloom and one sees shining patches on the muddy Kura, and here and there the early evening lamps are lit, piercing the semi-dusk like flickering stars in a sky of many-coloured roofs.

Sight-Seeing.

We would say to visitors, "Come to Tiflis in the Spring", and with them we would climb the road that winds up past the Botanical Gardens on the way to Kodjori, and we would ask them then to look at Tiflis. We would point to the shining dome of the Cathedral, and to the clump of trees that veil the Palace from our sight, and to the little churches, and the dark red arsenal, and the University, and to the river, and the bridges, and the thousand other special spots, and we would watch their eyes glisten at the beauty of the scene, with its background of glorious mountains. Then we would descend the hill again. If our visitors were from the East, we would go along the Rustaveli Prospect with them, and we would show them the buildings of the town, but if our visitors were from the West, we would choose the narrow streets that lead one to the Bazaar.

The Bazaar.

Down in the Bazaar one can forget the cities of the West. For here one finds oneself in an Eastern atmosphere. Here there are the little shops with all the curious articles of the Orient. Here there are furs and skins, carpets and many-coloured rugs: here there are strange curving swords, and gleaming daggers, and ornamental silver belts and bandoliers for cartridges. Down in the Bazaar, too, one can see the silversmith at work, and the shoemaker with his rows of coloured

slippers, and the potter with his jars and jugs of earthenware, and the copper-worker whose busy tapping, clanging hammer rings out above the babel of strange tongues. Down in the Bazaar one is in the fascinating market-place of a fairy book. One can wander there for many interesting hours—and it is almost with a sigh that one finds oneself in the busy Erivanski Square again, with the nervous little tramway cars grating round three corners, and the motor cars of another world hurrying across, and the anachronism of bullock waggons that creak and squeak upon their cumbrous, weary way...

The People's Market.

Two Sundays ago we visited an altogether different scene. We went to the Deserters' Market not far off the Tiflis railway station. And here we found ourselves in the Petticoat Lane of Georgia. In this place there are rows and rows of little wooden booths where one can buy cakes and sweets and boiled ham and steaming fish and raw meats and poultry, alive and dead, and vegetables and fruit: boots and shoes and overcoats and hats and suits of clothes: glasses and dishes and lamps and cutlery: ornaments and trinkets and cheap jewellery: old iron, rusty horse shoes, nuts and bolts, the steam gauges of a traction engine, and even the empty sugar ration tins of departed British regiments. One can but marvel at the rusty rubbish that evidently still can find a sale.

"Second-hand".

But even more interesting than the little stalls are the people who hawk their goods in the open spaces. Here, for instance, was a man with a whining little puppy dog. Here was a woman with an old-fashioned watch and a thin gold bangle. Here were men with single pairs of boots, or some linen collars, or else a jacket or an overcoat. Here was a youth with a guitar, and here was another with a balalaika—prospective customers were strumming trial tunes. Sometimes it was a samovar that was for sale, or else a sword, or a pair of field-glasses; or even some articles of ladies' underclothing, very intimate, were dangled before the eyes of an unblushing, shameless public. It was all very interesting—but much of it was very sad. Many people—refugees from the land of Soviet rule—were in the muddy market seeking to sell

some personal belonging in order that food might be bought... One could see them there amongst the busy crowd—while gramophones hissed out their husky, mocking tunes from a nearby booth, proclaiming to the passers-by that they, too, were for sale...

Rumours from Abroad.

When the "Voice of the Workman" cried out its venomous words some weeks ago (its swan song, as it turned out to be) we also shouted loudly in reply. We deplored, as all true Georgians do, that such mischief-making, pestilential sheets should ever come to shame the printing-press. And we condemned the stupid rumours that circulate disturbing peaceful people's minds. Now to our surprise and sorrow we find just such a rumour in no less great a newspaper than the "New York Herald". Under the heading of "Allied Troops to the Caucasus?" the American Near East Relief's "Near East News" gaily publishes a translation of an article which appeared in the "New York Herald" on January 20 and which was reprinted in the Georgian "Sakartvelo". According to this, "it is rumoured in official circles of Great Britain that the Supreme Council has decided to act on the directions of the Allied military authorities and to send troops to Georgia and her neighbours". Then, after stating that the number of anti-Bolshevik forces in the south is hardly 50,000, and that Georgian troops, although well-dressed, have neither ammunition nor supplies, the article goes on to say, naively, "Two hundred thousand disciplined Allied soldiers will help them a lot".

And More Geography.

Comment is unnecessary, although in justice to the "New York Herald"—to which eminent journal we shall be eternally grateful for a very pleasing *critique littéraire* of one of our books—we must confess that the words "help them a lot" are probably a paraphrase of the original passage, due to a re-translation. The article goes further. "The Independence of Georgia and Azerbaijan", we read, "was recognised to create a buffer state between Turkey and Soviet Russia". But what about Armenia? Has the "New York Herald" not read the famous appeal issued to the American people by Mr. James Gerard, formerly United States ambassador in Berlin, in which he said, "Only a narrow strip of Armenian land separates the Bolsheviks from the Tartars, Turks and Georgians?" We now await

announcements that the recognition of the independence of Finland was granted for the purpose of creating a buffer state between Soviet Russia and Scotland: that Poland was recognised to keep the Bolsheviks out of France: and that Siberia will be given full independence in order to prevent Soviet Russia and America becoming a United State.

S. L.

Georgian Manganese Industry.

Four hundred thousand poods of manganese were transferred from Teliatury to Poti in January last. One million poods will be sent to Batoum and Poti this month. On February 20 two ships are due to arrive at Poti, the "Cosmos Volga" and the "Bumromero", which will take 500,000 poods. After the departure of these ships, four others are due to arrive.

Allied Aid to Trans-Caucasian States.

The Allied Supreme Council has decided to take all the necessary measures to aid the populations of Georgia and Azerbaijan under the same conditions as those under which assistance is now given to General Denikin. The representatives of the two Republics had explained that they were resolved to stop the Bolsheviks but that they needed arms and ammunition.

Ex-Enemy Children in English Towns.

Bradford's Experiment.

England's generosity has been touched by the need of the children in Central Europe. In addition to numerous philanthropic organisations providing relief, direct action has now been taken by Bradford, (Yorks) which has decided to transport at least 1,000 children from the famine areas to Yorkshire.

Bradford is a comparatively small city but had business relations with the Central Empires before the war. The local Municipal Council has started the scheme. Official invitations to citizens to take one or more children for at least 12 months will be issued. Children visitors will be admitted to schools, medically attended by official doctors and carefully watched by Municipal officials.

Bradford has splendid records showing the progress made by poor and ailing children under similar methods, and records will be kept of the small children of our former enemies to ensure their proper treatment. The proposal has aroused much enthusiasm and suggestions of extension to other places are being discussed.

LATEST FOREIGN NEWS.

(British Wireless Service).

Marriages in France.

The number of marriages has greatly increased in France. On Saturday, February 14, 98 couples went through the marriage ceremony at one of the Paris mayoralties. This is the highest number celebrated on one day in Paris this year, being double that of the marriages celebrated on the corresponding day in 1914.

Anglo-French Relations.

London, February 16. Prior to his departure for France, Millerand told a Reuter's representative that he would be returning to London in about a week's time. He added that the conversations in London had made a good beginning. "Relations between England and France", he said, "could not be better. There is complete understanding between us. Our business will be completed in about a fortnight. Meanwhile, be assured, all is well. The sky is clear. There are no clouds".

War Criminals Note.

According to the "Times" the Supreme Council has drafted and despatched a note to Germany regarding German war criminals. The "Times" says, "While it maintains the principle of the right of the Allies to insist upon the execution of the terms of the peace treaty, and declares that the present instance cannot serve as a precedent, it modifies considerably the demands originally put forward, waives the claim for the surrender of the criminals and leaves the German Supreme Court at Leipzig to judge the crimes with which they are charged".

British Honour for Dunkirk.

The British have honoured the town of Dunkirk by deputing Admiral Sir Roger Keyes, Commander of the attack on Zeebrugge, to confer in His Majesty's name the Distinguished Service Cross on the town. Dunkirk was the base for the British naval operations against the Belgian coast. The expedition for the putting of the "Vindictive" into Ostend sailed from Dunkirk. The port was used as the advanced base of the British navy for four years, and also as the base of the naval air service which performed prodigies of valour against the Germans on the coast. The Germans dropped 5092 aeroplane bombs, 2411 shells and 11 Zeppelin bombs on the port, to which England acknowledges an eternal debt for steadfastness. Dunkirk is regularly used by large numbers of British merchant seamen and by means of a British fund a Merchant Service club and Seamen's Institute is to be erected as a permanent memorial. This scheme has the warm support of King George and Earl Haig.

Baltic Trade.

There has just terminated the visit to London of Ernest Galvanauskas, the prime minister of the *de facto* government of Lithuania. Galvanauskas went to London on a mission embracing both economic and political problems and in an interview with the "Morning Post" has detailed the steps already taken and still to be negotiated in getting the infant state on its feet. Briefly, the British government has formally approved of a plan whereby Lithuania regarding her financial and commercial developments works in close connection with and receives assistance from a large London banking group. The plan will be completed by similar arrangements with Esthonia and Letland just about to be concluded. It is, however, quite incorrect to surmise that Britain through this arrangement obtains a monopoly in the matter of Baltic exports of raw material and supply of the Baltic with imports of manufactured and finished products. Galvanauskas and the members of his mission are emphatic in their assertion that the arrangement is not a monopoly in any sense of the term, declaring that this group is to act only as agent in the sale of exports and the purchase of imports in and to any market in the world. For instance, the Lithuanian prime minister asserted that supplies urgently needed for Lithuania were of such a character that it was obvious that England could not supply them all. Lithuania needs manufacturing and agricultural machinery, all manner of railway equipment and rolling stock, electrical machinery and appliances, petrol, coal, oils, fats, furniture, clothing, and every conceivable sort of manufactured products. As far as Lithuania is concerned, these supplies can be purchased in any market in any nation.

The King in a 'Bus.

King George has just taken his first ride in a 'bus. He did so to commemorate the patriotism and enterprise by which thousands of London 'buses were sent to France at the beginning of the war when Great Britain was short of military transport. London omnibuses played a magnificent part in the war. One of these buses which saw service at Antwerp, Ypres, the Somme, and Amiens, returning home in running order in 1919 and which is now on its former route, drove to Buckingham Palace filled with drivers who had all seen war service. The King received the men, examined the memorial brass plate on the 'bus and took a seat in the vehicle.

Foch's Tribute to Haig.

Marshal Foch has paid a graceful tribute to Earl Haig in sending a con-

tribution to the fund which is being raised to present the historical estates and mansion of Bemersyde in Scotland to Lord Haig in recognition of his brilliant leadership of the British armies. Marshal Foch writes, "I have been anxious to give as far as possible one more proof of the sentiments of profound esteem and close attachment which bind our armies and which I attribute in quite a special degree to the glorious Commander-in-Chief of the British Armies, Field-Marshal Douglas Haig".

The America Cup.

Sir Thomas Lipton's 23-metre yacht, "Shamrock", is being fitted out at Southampton for the voyage across the Atlantic. On arrival at New York she will be used in a trial race with the Cup Challenger "Shamrock 4". She is expected to leave the Solent about the end of March. A picked crew for "Shamrock 4" will leave about the middle of April in charge of Captain Turner, who has acted as sailing master for many years to William Burton, the well-known amateur, who will sail the challenger in the Cup races. Trials are expected to start on or about May 1 and continue daily until the date fixed for the first Cup race—July 15. The recent statement that extensive alterations are to be made on the challenger is officially denied.

Lloyd George's Tribute to Clemenceau.

London, January 22.—Mr. Lloyd George paid a glowing tribute to M. Clemenceau's services at Tuesday's meeting of the Allied Supreme Council, in the course of which he said:

"I shall always regard it as the greatest honour of my life that I have been privileged to participate in the work of this Conference so ably presided over by so eminent a statesman as M. Clemenceau. He is aware of the intense feeling of esteem and admiration which the whole of my country entertains for him, and my regret at the thought that in future he will no longer be one of us, is greater than I can express.

"I request that a motion be recorded in the day's minutes recognising the inestimable services which M. Georges Clemenceau, President for more than one year of the Supreme Council of the Peace Conference, has rendered to the cause of peace and for the impartiality and sagacity with which he presided over our deliberations. We, his colleagues, desire to express to him our unalterable esteem, and our hope that in his peaceful retreat he may live long enough to see his incomparable efforts bear their fruits for the glory of France, and the renewed prosperity of the entire world".

Balfour on the World's Future.

Mr. Balfour, speaking on the future of Europe, said: "Although peace has brought many benefits, it has not brought all that was expected. Nevertheless I am persuaded that it is not the fault of those who represented us at the Conference and I have sufficient faith in the future to believe that the efforts conscientiously begun and loyally carried out will, in spite of the faults that can be found in them, manifest their results even within the lifetime of the oldest amongst us, and certainly our children will be able to see that they contained in them the germs and the hopes of a new future for Europe and that the tragic difficulties of the past will never return.

"The misfortunes of the world have not come from kings or ministers or politicians or publicists or Press, but from the weaknesses, vanities and prejudices of man and woman. We must not attempt to heal this evil by simple rectifications of frontiers, but we shall be able to find the remedy if to these rectifications we can add the eliciting of a more reasonable spirit among the democracies of the world.

"I believe that people have done a very poor service to human progress by making facile and cheap criticisms and by saying that human nature never changes and that if international political crimes have been committed in the past there is therefore no use in trying to diminish them or mitigate their importance. This is not the true lesson of history. Whether human nature changes or not, society changes and we can find innumerable cases in which ideas have become more humane, nations more civilised, order easier to maintain and crimes and violence more difficult to commit. If that has been accomplished in one country, it can also be accomplished between the different countries".

Inventor of Poison Gas Awarded Chemistry Prize.

The Swedish Academy is violently attacked by French savants for awarding the Nobel prize for Chemistry to the German who invented and developed asphyxiating gas for the German Army, Doctor Haber, who with Herr Fischer was attached to the Great General Headquarters of the German Army throughout the war in charge of poison gas and flamethrowers.

Dr. François Helme, a leading French savant, bitterly attacks the Swedes for honouring the man who invented, perfected and worked out the use of the deadly mustard gas, chlorine gas and other mortal fumes. Helme accuses the Swedes of manufacturing gas masks for the German army during the war after the Allies began using asphyxiating gas with such deadly effect.

CHEERS FOR EX-KAISER.

Ludendorff Praises Militarism.

BERLIN, Nov. 26.

On Monday General Ludendorff made a pro-militarist and pro-Prussian speech at Potsdam garrison church, on the occasion of the commemoration by the German National Party of fallen German soldiers. Cheers for the ex-Kaiser were raised.

Yesterday a great monarchical demonstration took place at Potsdam before the house of the former divisional chaplain and Court preacher, Dr. Vogel, at whose house General Ludendorff is staying. Many hundreds collected, and General Ludendorff went to the window and spoke belauding militarism and the Prussian spirit. The crowd sang "Heil dir im Siegerkranz", and raised cheers for Ludendorff and the ex-Kaiser, and opprobrious cries against the Government.

Reichswehr soldiers wearing steel helmets were stationed at the house.

Berlin, Nov. 26. — A number of clergymen celebrated All Souls Sunday in a peculiar manner. At a memorial service at the Garrison Church in Berlin, a clergyman prayed for "Our Kaiser", and hoped that other days would soon dawn for the Fatherland. A pastor at the Heiligen Geist Chapel, Berlin, preached a sermon attacking the present Government and demanding the return of the Monarchy.

Good Prospects for British Trade.

London, Jan. 16.—There seems no doubt of the fact that given a fair measure of industrial peace, Great Britain will do tremendous things in trade during the coming year. A naked and tattered world is aching for British goods of every kind, and it only remains for us to make and deliver them. On all hands the prospects for a huge trade revival are of the brightest. We have been working very hard on building ships, and there is every prospect of our soon having the wherewithal to carry what we make.

America is most distinctly not going to swamp Britain in the industrial fight. We are told that many of the markets that the U. S. gained during the earliest years of the war when we were too busy to trade are already slipping back into our hands, and that in South America we are much enlarging our sphere. The Rolls Royce company is invading the U. S. and is going to put up a big factory there to supply Americans with the best-built car in the world—a product in which only the finished article counts, and not the quantity turned out. The £800,000 required for this new factory was oversubscribed by the American public in about five minutes. All round, the omens are as good as they could be.

Britain's Offer of £100,000 to Foch.

The Paris Press refers to an offer made some time ago by Mr. Lloyd George concerning Marshal Foch but only now made public. During one of M. Clemenceau's visits to London, Mr. Lloyd George, it is stated, informed the French Premier of the satisfaction which he and the British Government would feel if the French Government would allow Britain to express its thanks to Marshal Foch who led the Allied Armies to victory by making him a gift equal to that voted to Lord Haig, namely £100,000.

This offer, M. Clemenceau declined on the ground that it was not the custom in France to honour victorious generals in that way, but thanked the British Government for its intention Mr. Lloyd George naturally did not push the matter but informed Marshal Foch of the proposal. The latter replied that he was much touched at this expression of British feeling, and that though he would not have accepted the gift for himself yet if it had been for him to decide, he would have been glad to take advantage of Britain's generosity and to distribute the money among French war relief organisations.

Austria in Pawn.

Austria wants a hundred American millionaires to loan a million each and in return the Austrian Government will pledge as security various castles, palaces, shooting boxes, game preserves, chateaus, owned by the ex-emperor and other members of the Hapsburg family. Besides this the government will offer museums, public buildings, fortresses and other government property as security until the loans are paid off. Doctor Paul Zifery is now in Paris trying to arrange the loan. He said that his government would give everything it possesses to obtain funds to obtain bread to save the population from starvation.

Output of British Oil-wells.

Oil was first struck at Hardstoft in Derbyshire on May 27th last and has continued to flow steadily since. Up to the end of the year, 1900 barrels, one barrel equalling 35 gallons of crude oil, had been obtained. Eleven drilling sites have been selected, seven in Derbyshire, two in Staffordshire and two in Scotland.

The results so far obtained at Hardstoft have been satisfactory. At a depth of about 3000 feet the daily production of oil averages 35 barrels and in some of the borings there is a show of oil. It is considered rash to indulge in visions of Great Britain becoming a great oil-producing country, but there is a fair hope of a limited home oil output on a commercial basis.

German Battleships in Deplorable Condition.

The Interallied Naval Commission of Control under Admiral Charlton, which has gone on the battleship *Malaya* on a visit of inspection, principally to ensure the carrying out by Germany of the Naval terms of the peace treaty, has now completed its inspection at Wilhelmshaven.

Reuter's special correspondent on the "Malaya" telegraphs that the Germans seemed to be impressed with the importance of getting on with the work, and there is every reason to believe that they will do their utmost to carry out their obligations. They stated that the eight battleships to be delivered to the Allies were ready, but inspection showed that they were in a deplorable condition, having been completely neglected since the signing of the armistice.

The Commission carried out a most thorough inspection of the German naval resources including a torpedo-boat harbour, floating docks, the artillery depot, the torpedo depot where some 2000 torpedoes are awaiting destruction and various fortifications and uncompleted warships which are to be destroyed.

New Uses for X Rays.

New uses have been found for X rays recently and promise to be of great interest. It has just been demonstrated in London that X rays will show whether a painting has been made over a previous one. The alteration of one female figure in an oil painting hundreds of years old was discovered in this way. Aeroplane material on which the aviator's life depends, reveals defects traceable by no other means under X rays. Welded joints passed as perfect display cracks and faults in the metal. Knots and worm holes hidden in the centre of the wood are revealed. The finest piece of foreign matter can be located in the human body and its progress watched till the exact moment arrives for operation. A man was known to have a bullet in his heart. An operation was proposed to save his life, but the X rays showed that it was doing no harm as it was merely lodged in a muscle and he is now regularly at work. The splendid scientific research now going on promises boundless improvements on these lines.

Germany's War Casualties 7,250,000.

A Munich Socialist after examining the official German documents has prepared a new estimate of the German war losses, putting the killed at 1,700,000 and the total losses including missing and prisoners at 7,250,000.

Haig Gives up His Command

His Time to be devoted to Ex-Service Men.

Field-Marshal Earl Haig relinquished his command of General Headquarters in Great Britain on Jan. 31, when it came to an end after four years existence as a war measure. He will devote himself for the time being to the interests of the officers and men who fought in the war and who need assistance.

The Secretary for War, Mr. Winston Churchill, writes to him: "I write by the desire of all my colleagues on the Army Council to express to you on their behalf our enduring sense of the illustrious services which you have rendered to the British Army in war, and of the great assistance which you have given to the War Office and to the Government during your tenure of the post of Commander-in-Chief of the forces of Great Britain. It is a source of keen satisfaction to us, and to me personally, to know that though you will be for the time being enjoying a well-earned period of leisure, your gifts and experience remain at the disposal of the British Army and of the State."

Turkey and the Moslem World.

The *Taswir Eskiari* says that since the Turkish question came on the tapis again, Britain has drawn towards herself the attention of the world, and adds that it is known that the preponderating role which will be played in the question of the Near East will be taken by Great Britain. After expressing this opinion the paper says: "If the Turkish problem were purely Turkish, Great Britain would long ago have dictated her conditions to us, but the Turkish question is also the Moslem question. All Moslems have solid bonds with the Khalif and any injustice done to us will have repercussions in the entire Moslem world. If it is desired to prevent the descent of the Bolsheviks into the Orient and to oppose to them an impregnable rampart, an understanding must be made with the Turks and the world must work for the moral and material regeneration of Turkey."

Possible Increases in World's Postage.

The Postal Union Conference, which was postponed from 1914, is expected to be held this year at Madrid. The Spanish Government is at present examining the question. Various countries will submit proposals for the increase of international postage. Switzerland and Sweden suggest forty centimes for letters and twenty centimes for post-cards.