

# GEORGIAN MAIL

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## EARTHQUAKE DISASTER IN GEORGIA.

### THE TRAGEDY OF GORI 47 VILLAGES DESTROYED 80,000 PEOPLE HOMELESS.

In the early morning of Friday, February 20, all Tiflis was awakened by a severe earth shock. The movement of the earth, indeed, was felt throughout all Georgia. A second disturbance—this time more severe than the first—was felt about twelve hours later in the day. About the same time, the news reached Tiflis that the centre of the disturbance was at Gori, and that that town and many of the surrounding villages had suffered serious damage. Extraordinary rumours circulated—and still circulate. It was said, for instance, that there were at least three thousand victims, dead and injured. Happily, this was a mere rumour, but, unfortunately, the disaster is a very serious one. Through the kindness of Mr. G. Jordania, director of the Department of the Ministry of Justice, and member of the special government committee established for the aiding of the refugees from Gori and the Gori district, we are able to give the following facts regarding the earthquake.

#### The First Shock.

The first shock took place at 2—55 a. m. In Gori and most of the surrounding villages, stables, cowsheds and outhouses were ruined and eighty per cent of the animals were killed, but with the exception of the village of Khidistavi, the damage to the inhabitants' houses was limited to cracked walls and ceilings and broken chimneys.

Khidistavi, a village on the opposite side of the Kura from Gori and two or three versts lower down, was, however, completely ruined. Here the death roll was very heavy, forty-seven bodies having been recovered from the ruins up to the date of writing.

#### The Second Shock.

The second earthquake occurred at 2—45 p. m. This time Gori was completely ruined, as were the villages in the region. Following the first shock, most of the inhabitants had left their houses, so that the list of killed and injured is surprisingly small considering the enormous amount of material damage done. As an instance, one need only cite the case of the prison at Gori. Here there were 163 prisoners. After the first earthquake occurred these prisoners were transferred to Tiflis. During the second earthquake the prison was completely wrecked, and thanks to the foresight of the officials no one was injured.

The old fortress of Gori has been ruined, as has the Church of the Cross of Gori. Indeed, all Gori has been wrecked. For the most part, the houses have been reduced to heaps of stone and shattered wood, and those houses which have not been entirely razed are so severely damaged as to be practically past repair. In a tour through the ruined town, we were unable to count more than half a dozen houses that had escaped damage. These were two or three of the military barack buildings and a brick-built stable or two in the vicinity.

#### The Casualties.

As far as is at present ascertained (February 26) Gori and 47 villages have been destroyed. Nearly 80,000 people have been rendered homeless. Two hundred dead bodies have been recovered from the ruins. So far, 203 seriously wounded and 94 lightly wounded cases have been brought to Tiflis. As we have said, the death roll is fortunately small. As forty-seven out of the two hundred

victims were killed in the village of Khidistavi during the first shock, one dreads to think of what might have been the number of victims had the 30,000 inhabitants of Gori and the thousands of people in the other villages not been warned by the first earthquake to leave their houses and to seek the comparative safety of the open spaces.

#### Stations Destroyed.

Besides the station buildings at Gori, those at Grakali, Upliszikhe and Skra were also ruined. The railway line was damaged in several places but the bridges over the Kura were uninjured. The area in which damage was done is about 1,200 square versts with Gori as the centre.

#### Aid for Refugees.

Immediately following the news of the great disaster, a special committee for the aiding of the sufferers was formed under the presidency of Mr. Arsenidze, the Minister of Justice. The scholars from the Gori schools were sent to Tiflis to the different schools and institutes in the town. Special shelters for the refugees were established in Gori itself, Khashuri (Mikhailovo), Suram, Borjom, Sumbatovo, Tzagveri, Tzemi, Bakuriani, Kutais, Samtredi, Poti, Signakh and Telav. Hospital and feeding points were organised in all these places.

Besides special detachments of the People's Guard which were immediately sent to keep order in Gori, companies of Sappers were detailed to search the ruins for victims, to see to the salvage of grain in the wrecked villages, and to erect tents and wooden shelters for the homeless people. Many tents and shelters have already been erected, and the work of building further large sheds is being carried out rapidly.

#### Technical Committees.

A number of technical experts have already visited Gori in order to see what can be done in the

matter of re-building the town. One of their chief tasks is to study the effect of the earthquake on the various houses and to see what can be done in the way of reconstruction so that no such similar disaster will be likely to occur again. A party of geologists is also studying the character of the earth disturbance.

#### Jordania's Visit.

Most of the Georgian Ministers have already visited Gori and district since the earthquake On February 26, Mr. Jordania, head of the government, accompanied by Mr. Ramishvili, Minister of the Interior, Mr. Lordkipanidze, War Minister, Mr. Arsenidze, Minister of Justice, and several other members of the Constituent Assembly and government officials, left Tiflis in a special train for the devastated district. Mr. Jordania specially visited Khidistavi and Gori, and personally inspected the damage and made enquiries regarding the housing of the sufferers. Many of the temporary shelters were also inspected by him.

Mr. Oliver Wardrop, the British Chief Commissioner in Trans-Caucasia, paid a special visit to Gori on February 24.

Some of the elder schoolboys are assisting the People's Guard to watch over the wrecked houses. The elder scholars of technical schools are also assisting the technical experts in their work.

A committee of jurists is enquiring into the losses of the refugees.

Many of the richer Georgian people have taken batches of refugees into their own homes. In some cases as many as twenty refugees are being looked after by one family.

Collections will be made throughout Georgia on behalf of the refugees. The different workmen and government officials are arranging to give a proportion of their wages and salaries to help the homeless folk.



# EDITORIAL.

## The Earthquake.

Less than two months ago, all Georgia rejoiced over the recognition by the Great Powers of the Republic's Independence. Today, all Georgia is in mourning. The terrible earthquake which has devastated Gori and the surrounding district is nothing less than a national disaster. It is no mere local affair. Forty-seven villages have been destroyed and 80,000 people have been rendered homeless. This—at a time when Georgia is putting her house in order—is sheer tragedy. The sympathy of the whole world will go out to Georgia in her great sorrow.

## Brave People.

As we mention in another column, one cannot but be impressed by the bravery of the suffering people. There is tragedy in their faces, but there is none of the fear that one has so often seen stamped on refugees. Rather there is resignation and a brave determination to start afresh. The Georgian government is doing all it can for the unfortunate stricken people—but, even more important than this needed help, is the fact that the people are determined to help themselves. Without this, no government help would be of much avail.

## Organisation.

At a time when all Georgia is in need of supplies of almost every kind, the additional burden of supplying 80,000 people with the necessities of life makes Georgia's task a very hard one. At a moment's notice, all these people were placed in need of aid. The fact that the officials are coping successfully with their difficult duty will be to their everlasting credit. Hospital and feeding points have been established. The People's Guard is keeping law and order. Sapper battalions are working among the ruins tidying up where tidying up is possible. Others still are erecting great wooden sheds for the housing of the homeless folk. In many towns and other villages, refuges for the sufferers have been arranged, and the very important question regarding the education of the children has been settled by the transfer to Tiflis of hundreds of scholars. The most serious difficulty is the matter of material. The people want work—but the scarcity of the raw stuffs prevents them being given the employment they ask.

## Bolshevik Pamphlets.

To the Bolshevik, nothing is sacred. We find the local Communists taking advantage of this national disaster for the sake of propaganda. They do not go so far as to lay the blame for the earthquake on the shoulders of the Georgian government, but they have issued their base leaflets telling the people that the Bolsheviks can save them, that the Georgian government can do nothing, and so on. Than these stupid, lying pamphlets at a time like the present, nothing could be more base or more unprincipled. As we have already said, a visit to Gori is sufficient to convince one of the efforts that are being made by the government to help the people of Gori and the surrounding district.

## Jordania's Interest.

On February 26 Mr. Jordania, head of the government, went in a special train to Gori. He visited several of the villages in the vicinity and made an exhaustive tour of the town itself. Mr. Jordania personally inspected the work that is being done for the people and in many ways showed his deep sympathy and keen interest in their welfare. The people everywhere received him with warm smiles, forgetting their own miseries in the pleasure of welcoming the head of their government.

## Charity.

In our next number we hope to be able to give particulars of the assistance rendered by other states to the suffering Georgians. Already several large sums of charity money have been voted by foreign and neighbouring countries. At the time of going to press we have no definite information on this subject, but we hope to be in possession of the complete figures within a few days.

## Georgian Aviators.

According to "Borba", the Georgian War Ministry will open a four-months course for the instruction of aviators during the next few weeks. This is a new and a very important step. Aviation has progressed during the war to an extraordinary state of excellence and proficiency. Every week now one hears of new records in the air. Only a few months ago, it was the late Sir John Alcock who made a non-stop flight across the Atlantic. During the last few weeks there

has been the news of the flight to Australia from England by Captain Ross Smith—who has been subsequently knighted by King George. Already air routes, as stated in an article in this number, have been planned to link up the out-lying portions of the British Empire with the home country, and for a long time now there has been a series of commercial machines flying daily from England to various places on the Continent. As a war weapon, the aeroplane will be supreme in future, but it is the commercial value of the machine that is the most important at present. We confidently predict that in the near future an aeroplane service between Georgia and the European countries will be something more than a mere dream.

S. L.

## GORI RUINS AND REFUGEES

BY  
SCOTLAND LIDDELL.

Gori, February 26.

Gori today is a town of wrecked houses and homeless folk. It is a town of mourning. There is a bright sun, almost spring-like in its pleasing warmth. Nature is smiling serenely, calmly. She is in a repentant mood. To see her smile reflected gladly on all the hills and in the valley and on the swiftly running stream, one might forget how cruel, how awful she can be. But... Here are a thousand ruined homes and thirty thousand refugees.

Nature smiles mockingly. But there is awe in the air. One feels it—one is in a town that has died. Yet more than all, one feels the impotence of man. Old Mother Earth trembles—and all these buildings strongly made of stone and iron and binding lime by man topple to pieces like a frail house of cards at the feeble touch of a baby's tiny hand.

Gori is dead. True, there are refugees in the ruined streets. True, there are sappers working amid the wreckage. True, there are mounted police on patrol duty. But otherwise the town is lifeless. There is no grey, homely smoke curling upwards from house tops. There is no laughter from happy children at their play. There are no shops—there are no craftsmen busy at their trade. There is silence, save for the ring of the sapper's pick and spade and the clack of the patrol's horses' hoofs.

Today, I have seen thousands of refugees. I saw them in the

villages. I saw them sitting patiently on their bundles on the platform of the wrecked station. I saw them in the queues before the feeding points. And I saw them in the rough, crude shelters they had built in the gardens and open spaces near their former homes. Some of these shelters had been made with fallen wood, some with branches and rugs, some with bricks and matting, and some were canvas-made. On the muddy ground by the entrance to these shelters were heaps of salvaged goods. Here were odd chairs, and ornaments, cooking utensils and lamps, a gramophone, an old-fashioned cradle and many curious objects pathetic in themselves. Here were, too, women nursing their children in the open air, or cooking on oil stoves. And all were very bravely "carrying on".

The courage of these people impresses one. They have lost their all. They are homeless. But they have not lost hope. They do not complain. "It is God's will", they say resignedly. They are wonderfully patient. "Give us work", is what they ask. And many of them with an admirable proud independence refuse to leave their ruined town and have already started to make their way afresh.

This morning I walked from the railway line through a muddy vineyard to the village of Khidistavi. Down by the river's edge the willows were already showing faintly green, and in the vineyard the reddish buds were already beginning to peep out from the dead-like branches of the grape. In the village itself, no house had escaped destruction. Forty-seven people had been killed—one did not know but that still further victims lay beneath the piles of fallen stone. Amongst the fruit trees the villagers had made rough shelters of branches and maize straw and tattered rugs. Here and there, as in Gori, there were the sad heaps of household goods recovered from the ruins. Amongst the fruit trees in Khidistavi the villagers were commencing life again. And all around them were the vines with the reddish buds that told of resurrection after seeming death...

Gori is dead—but Gori will rise to life again. Forty-seven villages are ruined—but they will spring up once more from out the wreckage. Man may be impotent when Nature rises in her wrath, but man is brave. He may be crushed to earth—but always he will rise to fight again. As long as he has hope in his heart, nothing can conquer him.

The people of Gori have Hope and they have Faith...



## BATOUM.

### Georgian Official Communiqué.

The following official communiqué has been issued by the Georgian Government:

"Owing to exterior circumstances, the region of Batoum—an organical part of Georgia—has been separated from the former Georgia. The Georgian government is quite sure that this injustice will be removed and that Batoum and its region, which are in historical, ethnographical and economic respects an indivisible and organic part of Georgia, will be given back to Georgia as an autonomic part.

"Until, however, the inflexible will of the population of the Batoum region itself as well as of the whole republic are realised, the enemies of Georgia, who, availing themselves of the actual unclear situation, are carrying on their work in the Batoum region and are spreading different rumours among the people, will continue to carry on an agitation against Georgia and will create panic.

"The government has received reliable information that both on the frontier of the Batoum region and within its limits armed bands are gathering and individual persons are inciting the population against Georgia. The Georgian Government declares categorically that it will enter the Batoum region without any hostile intentions against anyone, but conforming to the steady will of the people for the settling of quiet and order. It will defend with equal justice and care the peaceful population of whatever nationality or religion. The Georgian Government will take all measures in order that life in the region be settled on grounds guaranteeing its free, cultural and economic prosperity.

"No force can alter this resolution of the Georgian Government.

"The Georgian Government calls upon the peaceful population of Batoum and the Batoum region not to follow the preachers of anarchy and disorder, but to rid themselves of the armed bands".

### British Cross-World Airship Combine.

#### Great Developments Soon.

Early this spring experiments are to begin embracing the British scheme of passenger airship travel. It is understood that with this object, a Combine is proposed of the four big firms of Vickers, Beardmore, Short and Armstrong Whitworth. The Combine will purchase from the Government all suitable airship material not required for military and naval purposes.

The first experiments of the new venture will be the running of Airship services between the north east coast and Scandinavia and Holland, the west

coast of Scotland and the North of Ireland, and from the North of Ireland to Liverpool. These experiments will enable the Combine to ascertain the actual requirements for a commercial airship transport.

This done, big developments are foreshadowed, including transatlantic and cross-world services. Regarding the type of ship to be employed, the present plan is for vessels of 3,500,000 cubic feet capacity to carry a cargo of fifteen tons of passengers and mails for 4,500 miles at a cruising speed of sixty miles an hour increasing to seventy-five miles when required.

Two other types of airships contemplated are small non-rigid vessels for wealthy travellers fitted up much like yachts to carry two or three passengers and larger craft for general transportation.

It is asserted that the passenger vessels will be the last word in comfort and luxury with upper and lower decks connected by lifts.

Details of the Transatlantic scheme are already under consideration, and it is stated that a scheme for running a bi-weekly service between London and New York is proposed. It is understood that the question of providing subsidiary companies in order to combine in the form of mail-carrying contracts is part of the scheme.

The long distance routes and length of journey being considered are from London to New York 2 and a half days, to San Francisco 4 and a half days, to Cairo, 1 and a half days, to Colombo 4 and a half days, to Nairobi 2 and three quarters, to Capetown 5 and a half.

### HOW A SPY WAS WATCHED.

#### Carl Lody's Intercepted Messages.

The *Morning Post* reveals some interesting facts about Carl Lody, the German spy who was shot in the Tower of London after trial by Court Martial during the early part of the war. Lody was sent to England after the British had swept all pre-war German spies into internment camps. He travelled as an American with a passport taken by the German Foreign Office from an American wishing to return home from Berlin.

Lody travelled to Scotland and within a few days sent a telegram to Stockholm which put the authorities on his track. His cycle trips round the great naval base at Rosyth were all watched. He then came to London and his investigations into anti-Zeppelin measures were all known to the authorities and his messages sent to Stockholm were all intercepted.

His next work was in Liverpool watching ocean liners being changed to auxiliary cruisers and all his messages home were intercepted. Going aboard for Ireland, he nearly gave himself away when challenged.

One message of Lody's which was not intercepted, was an account of the passage through England of the mythical Russian troops, describing their beards and general appearance.

He was arrested at Queenstown, Ireland, with overwhelming evidence against him in his possession, including copies of his messages to his superiors. He died bravely and wrote a letter to the commanding officer of his prison guards in which he said: "I feel it my duty as a German Officer to express my sincere thanks and appreciation to those who were in charge of my person. Their kind and considerate treatment has my highest esteem and admiration".

### THE NEXT WAR

#### No New Explosives But Other Terrors.

One of the Paris *Journal* representatives has interviewed M. Turpin, the inventor of melinite, on the progress that could be realised in what concerns explosives. The effect of the powder known as gunpowder was all that could be desired. It is entirely transformed into gas and heat and leaves no residue at all.

"The terrible effects of some of the shells I composed are mostly due to the spontaneity of the detonation. Still I don't think that the whole sum of energy developed by the mixture have used could ever be exceeded, as neither the elements nor the laws of combustion would allow it".

Concerning poison gases, M. Turpin does not believe that further results can be reached. The danger they present mostly lies in the amount used, as the persistency of the effects would make precautions taken against them of no avail. Flying machines are much more to be dreaded, as they are now real long-range guns that do not fail to hit a target hundreds of kilos distant from their military base. M. Turpin concluded that monster aeroplanes and certain applications of electricity are the factors that would cause real surprises in the next war.

### FRANCE'S FOREIGN POLICY.

#### New Premier Gives Some Explanations.

The *Petit Parisien* gives the following information: M. Millerand, the French Premier went on Wednesday afternoon, as he had promised, to give the Foreign Commission some explanations relative to the foreign situation in general, to France's Russian policy and in particular to the conditions of the execution by Germany of the different clauses of the Versailles Treaty.

M. Millerand examined the Articles of the Treaty one by one and showed that the Allies will find in the Treaty the arms they require to ensure its

execution and make Germany respect it. He added that the French Government was determined to pursue the execution of the Treaty and compel Germany to fulfil her engagements.

After M. Millerand had supplied this information several members of the Commission asked him questions. M. Briand wished to know if negotiations had been engaged in with a view to insuring economic and financial solidarity among the Allies. The Premier answered that negotiations had been engaged in with this object.

In what concerns German coal the Premier admitted that the supplies were far short of the amount promised but he said that the Germans had alleged transport difficulties as an excuse for this delay.

The Premier then proceeded to examine France's Russian policy. He declared that he would adopt M. Clémenceau's policy and that France would not treat with the Soviets. He added that this attitude corresponded to the decisions reached in November 1919 with the Allies' full agreement. Finally, he said that in case the nations near Russia were attacked by the Soviets, the Allies would give them assistance, as they had already done in the case of the Poles.

### AN ASYLUM FOR THE EX-KAISER.

#### Possible Exile in Dutch East Indies.

Sir Auckland Geddes, Secretary to the Board of Trade, is reported to have said in a speech: "The Government intends to get the ex-Kaiser out of Holland, put him on his trial and if condemned, to have the penalty carried out. But if on the basis of international law Holland definitely said "No" and that she intended to provide an asylum for him within her territory, then we must say that he could not live on Dutch territory in Europe and she would be asked to put him on some island belonging to her outside Europe".

In an interview with the *Daily Chronicle's* Berlin correspondent, Kautsky, the German writer who has so fiercely denounced the ex-Kaiser's pre-war diplomatic methods, suggested that "Holland might be asked to remove Wilhelm to one of the Dutch East India islands".

Holland possesses several islands in the Malay archipelago, the largest of which is Sumatra.

The Ambassadors' Council studied the further letter to Holland about the extradition of the ex-Kaiser. The *Petit Parisien* says that the document is vigorous but does not indicate the measures to which the Allies will have recourse in case of refusal.



## The Prince of Wales.

It is within only the last two or three years that the Prince of Wales has really been "discovered". He does not advertise; he is no seeker after notoriety. Before then the public knew nothing of his character—they knew of him only as the King's oldest son, a good-looking fair-haired boy. His intimates knew him merely as a charming companion with a tremendous zeal for keeping himself physically fit and an embarrassing courage in the hunting field which carried him over the stiffest of fences.

Then the war came. The Prince was in the Guards and he went away quietly to join his battalion in France. The work of a junior in a Guards regiment is none too easy. He took his chance of a violent death and laughed disconcertingly at danger. His duties, however unpleasant, were done with exuberant enthusiasm, efficiently and quietly. His men watched him critically. Officers were judged by their personal qualities and not by their rank. The Prince was no exception, save that his station, if anything, made his men more critical. He passed all the tests with flying colours. He considered his men's comfort and safety before his own; he was entirely fearless, he had tact and comradeship.

During that period—of which people in Britain at the time knew nothing—the Prince was supremely happy but for one thing only—he was not allowed to lead his men "over the top". To do so was the zenith of his ambition and its denial was the sole occasion on which he questioned the order of a superior officer. "But why can't I go, sir?" he asked his Colonel. "Even if I do get knocked out I've got plenty of brothers!"

A period on the Staff followed his experiences as a regimental officer. At the Headquarters of the 4th Army, commanded by Sir Henry Rawlinson, he showed himself possessed of that grasp of detail combined with breadth of vision which go to make a good organiser. But he seized every available chance of getting back to the trenches. He was still constantly to be seen exploring a new front line or gazing into the enemy's territory from an artillery observation post. He became immensely popular with the men. It was a common sight to find him the centre of a laughing party of muddy Tommies, telling funny stories and exchanging very frank opinions in army colloquialisms of war hardships in general. "There's no swank about him—he's all right", was the British soldiers' judgment. They paid him no tribute as a prince; they gave him their hearts as a man.

The effect of his war experiences has been very apparent since the Prince returned after the Armistice was signed to take a more prominent share in public life. It at once became obvious that he intended to make his own the

cause of the soldiers and sailors who had served in the war. He never lost an opportunity of stimulating the gratitude of Britain to these men. His personal influence began to grow with extraordinary rapidity. People found something very charming about his speeches—a pervasive sense of humour, a readiness of wit and a way of turning a phrase that added force to his facts. This young man had something to say and he knew how to say it. A few of the cynical wondered at first who was writing his speeches for him. It then became known that the one thing the Prince could not do was to make a speech from notes—that, indeed, he spoke best when his speeches were quite unpremeditated.

He has a personality, this Prince. He is essentially human, his sympathy is ever ready and his judgment of men and things quick and penetrating. And he has withal an individual charm, a mixture of modesty, ease of manner and courtesy, which impresses all whom he meets. His smile is a great gift—a frank, genuine affair born of his ready humour. There is nothing set or studied about it—it is a man smiling and not a Prince.

Within a few short months this young man has become a new force in international politics. He has rapidly developed an influence which is far beyond that accorded merely to his station in life.

The Prince's tour of Canada and the United States was, as Mr. Lloyd George said, "not merely a triumph but an opportune triumph". Certainly his few days in the United States did much to ensure the continuance of good relations between the two great English-speaking powers. His stay in Canada was a remarkable personal triumph. He intends to tour the whole Empire, or, as he prefers to call it, "the partnership of free nations, the British Commonwealth". Shortly he goes to India to inaugurate the new epoch of constitutional government there. He will go to Australia and then to South Africa. "It is not so much what you learn about the world that is valuable in travelling" he has said, "but what you learn about your own country".

## JAPAN AND GEORGIA.

### Independence Recognised.

Mr. Gegetchkori, Minister for Foreign Affairs, has received the following telegram from Tchkeidze, the president of the Georgian Delegation in Paris:

"We have received the following letter of February 7: 'The general secretary of the Peace Conference has the honour to notify the president of the Georgian Delegation that the Japanese Government has communicated that it joins in the declaration according to which the British, French and Italian governments have recognised Georgia as a *de facto* republic'.

## A Way of Helping Austria.

Sir Auckland Geddes, President of the Board of Trade, in an interview states: "The position in Austria is far worse than in Germany. Unfortunately the prospect of any speedy recovery of the foreign trade of Austria-Hungary is remote, and the problem which we have here to face is that of giving these people sufficient to live upon while a slow and difficult recovery takes place.

"I may mention one plan that is now being canvassed whereby Austria may be helped towards recovery. This is a method of sending raw materials or semi-manufactured goods to work up, receiving payment by retaining for herself a portion of the final product. This could be done in the case of wool, for example, by British manufacturers sending wool to be spun into yarn or yarn to be woven into cloth, giving instructions to Austrian manufacturers to deliver the goods direct to the customer and authorising payment by means of the retention of an agreed proportion of goods. No other system appears likely so speedily to overcome the obstacles of depreciated currency and collapse of credit.

## Trade with Russia.

"The various departments of the British Government have been considering means of giving effect, as far as British trade is concerned, to the Supreme Council's decision regarding exchange of goods between the Russian people and Allied and neutral countries. A number of points have been put to representatives of the Central Union of the Russian Cooperative Societies who are proceeding to Moscow to discuss with their colleagues the practical working of the scheme. Until the result of this mission is known, it will not be possible to make any announcement as to the procedure to be adopted by British traders desiring to participate in the scheme".

The opening up of trade with Russia, in the opinion of Sir Auckland Geddes, should have an appreciable effect on the exchange position with America. The relief of grain supplies will diminish dependence upon the United States and thus produce an improvement in the rate.

## "Camouflaged" Germany.

The Abbé Weterlee, the veteran deputy of Alsace-Lorraine, in a speech before a large audience in Brussels put the Allies on guard against a Germany, which, he said, was now camouflaged as a republic with crocodile tears, but was still pan-German and without regret for the past. He said that it should never be forgotten that Alsace-Lorraine and Belgium are the advanced guard of Latin civilisation.

## Ireland's Large Moderate Vote.

The results of the municipal elections in Ireland are now nearly completed and disprove the claim of Sinn Fein that it represents 75 per cent of the Irish people.

The elections were fought strictly on party lines and under a system of proportional representation tried for the first time on a large scale. The results give a true reflection of the country.

Both the Sinn Fein and the Ulster fanatics are shown up as less influential than they claimed to be and the true strength of the moderates is evidenced. Thus far the count has been completed in 1,470 districts and only a few more are to be heard from which will not affect the general result.

The 1,470 districts voted as follows:

Sinn Fein . . . . .	422
Unionist . . . . .	297
Labour . . . . .	324
Constitutional Nationalist . . . . .	213
Municipal Reform . . . . .	86
Independent . . . . .	128

It should be explained that the Reformers and the Independents are nearly all either Constitutionalist or Unionist and Labour is about equally divided between the Sinn Fein and Nationalist parties with a few Unionists in Ulster.

The result thus shows that instead of representing 75 per cent of the people of Ireland as claimed by the Sinn Feiners their party represents less than 30 per cent; while Ulster, which it was claimed, was all Unionist, has returned only 225 Unionists of a total of 560. Even Dublin City returned only 42 Sinn Feiners of a total of 80 members and Belfast only 37 Unionists of a possible 60. Derry City was equally matched with 20 each of Sinn Fein and Unionist members.

## Volcanic Field Discovered by Aeroplane.

The Cairo to Capetown flight is progressing favourably. Dr. Chalmers Mitchell, the Zoological Secretary who is a passenger in a Vickers-Vimy machine, has telegraphed to the *Times* that he has observed a volcanic field, the existence of which was previously unknown.

A similar type of machine, called the *Silver Queen*, crossed the Mediterranean in a night flight, taking fourteen hours in the jump. When it is remembered that Sir John Alcock only took two hours more than that to cross the Atlantic, some idea of the conditions of the atmosphere over the Mediterranean can be gained. The officer in charge of the machine that did this feat said that the flight was an unforgettable nightmare. He struck a storm off the Greek islands and was tossed about for one hour and half. This is the first time this jump from Italy direct to the African coast has been done.