

## THE EARTHQUAKE.

(Official Statement).

According to official information received by the Committee for the Aiding of the refugees from Gori, the following are the chief villages destroyed by the earthquake of February 20: Skra, Khidistavi, Okhera, Ateni, Khovle, Uplisizkhe, Kvakhvrel, Karagadji, Kheltubani, Sveneti, Tortisa, Karaleti, Medjvriskevi, Vetlomi, Ruisi, Kareli, Bónisi, Tiniskhidi, Urbnissi, Tedozinda, Kavissi, Oltissi, Gvarebi, Zedakovrisi, Doessi, Khandaki, Shindissi, Berbuki, Otarsheni, Metekhi, Grakali, Sasreti, Barnabiant Kari, Sakasheti, Avketi, Navisi, Rekha, Akhalsopeli, Zegduleti, Shashvebi, Nazreti, Akhrisi, Patara-Goredjvari, Didi-Goredjvari, and Djebiri.

In the town of Gori and in twenty of the above-mentioned villages, 100% of the houses have been damaged. In twenty-seven villages, not less than 50% of the houses have been wrecked. The inhabitants of Gori, about 35,000 people and between 40,000 and 45,000 inhabitants of the 47 villages—a total of between 75,000 and 80,000 people—are homeless.

About 80% of the whole amount of cattle in the devastated region was killed.

According to private statements, not yet officially confirmed, the above figures are far from representing the extent of the damage caused to the population. Every day, as detachments are sent to the assistance of the refugees in new places, fresh victims are reported. There is no possibility up to the present of valuing, even approximately, the damages done. One can only say for sure that these damages amount to millions and scores of millions of roubles.

## THE GEORGIAN TRANSPORT COMPANY.

## Acquisition of Motor-cars and Lorries.

The Georgian Transport Company has been notified by its president, Mr. Khoshtaria, who is at present in London, that he has acquired and sent to Georgia 20 Ford motor cars. Further negotiations are also concluded and shortly 20 auto-busses, five motor-cars and 15 motor lorries will be sent as well. The receipt of these motor-cars will allow the company to start regular communications in all parts of

the Republic where the interests of the population demand them.

At the same time, Mr. Khoshtaria communicates that he is carrying on negotiations regarding the question of acquiring two ocean-going steamships. The purchase of these would give to the company the possibility not only of regulating the sailing of coast traffic ships but would also help them to start immediate communications with Europe. This would have a considerable effect on the conditions of the local market as undoubtedly one of the chief factors in the present unsteadiness of the Georgian market is the absence of such communications.

In order to settle and regulate the business in the large workshops which the company, owing to losses, had to close three months ago, Mr. Khoshtaria is negotiating with the world-famous firm of Vickers, who will supply the managers and the chief foremen, in order to settle the business on a European scale. It is not to be doubted but that the workshops will start work in the near future. Besides the practical importance of this new arrangement, it will have the effect of broadening the minds of the workmen, as the works will be organised in conformity to European techniques.

## The New Nations' Flags.

A note from the French Minister of Marine describes the flags of the new States recognized by the Allies—Lithuania, red, white, red, horizontal; Estonia, blue, black, white, horizontal; Georgia, a crimson ground with a rectangle in the upper corner half black and half white; Hedjaz, black, green, white, horizontal.

## Esthonia and the Soviet.

The Esthonian Legation has received a telegram from the Esthonian Peace Delegation at Dorpat stating that the "Permanent Armistice Treaty" between Esthonia and the Soviet Government was signed on February 2 at 1 p. m.

An Armistice had already been concluded between the Esthonians and Soviet Russia on January 2, having for its object the initiation of negotiations on the following points:—

- (1) The independence of the Esthonian State.
- (2) The fixing of frontiers.
- (3) The military guarantees to be given by both parties.

In the agreement signed on Tuesday Soviet Russia recognizes the independence of the State of Esthonia.

## LATEST WIRELESS NEWS.

(British Service).

In the House of Commons, Walter Long stated that as far as is known there had been no casualties amongst the crews of landing parties from His Majesty's ships in the Black Sea during the recent fighting in South Russia.

In her maiden speech in the House of Commons, Lady Astor supported the liquor control in the interests of women and children. She vigorously attacked Sir John Rees who urged the abolition of war restrictions although he did not favour the reversion to pre-war opening hours.

Rugby Football: At Inverleith, Edinburgh, Scotland followed up its wins against France and Wales with a handsome victory over Ireland by two placed goals, one penalty goal and two tries to nothing. Scotland now leads in the International Championship with the record of three games played, and three won. The match with England has still to take place.

Constantinople, February 21. The first British battle squadron, commanded by Vice-Admiral Fremantle, arrived here this morning accompanied by four destroyers, making the most imposing array of sea power ever seen in the Bosphorus.

Owing to the French railway strike, the British aeroplane companies which run passenger services are increasing them. The Airco service is increased from one flight to four per day, and the Handley-Page company are despatching two machines instead of one. All machines are being fully loaded with passengers, mails and goods. One Handley-Page left with ten passengers. In one day over 1300 pounds of goods were sent from London by air.

Paris, March 2. The "Matin" says that a large German mail-boat which has just been delivered to the Dutch Lloyd Company has arrived at Amsterdam. The "Matin" protests vigorously against its transference as an attempt to reduce the tonnage available for distribution among the Allies. It adds that the vessel was spotted by a British destroyer as she was leaving Hamburg, but the British commander did not receive any reply to his request for instructions.

Honoured by the presence of the King and the Prince of Wales, the first rugby football match since 1914 between the Royal Navy and the Army produced a wonderfully fine struggle at Twickenham, the Navy winning by a placed goal, a goal from a mark, a penalty goal and four tries to a goal and two tries—23 points to 11.

Paris, February 24. The "Echo de Paris" states that France and Italy have decided to send warships to the Bosphorus. A message from Constantinople states that a detachment of British marines has been landed and held a route march through the city. Large crowds were deeply impressed.

## Allies and Soviet Russia.

London, February 24. The "Daily Mail" declares that the Supreme Council has agreed to resume trade relations with Soviet Russia with important reservations and says that the Soviet Government will be asked to abandon propaganda and to recognise existing loans. The "Morning Post" says that the Allies have agreed that they will not support aggressive action by Poland against the Bolsheviks, although they would support Poland, Finland and any Baltic state in the event of Red attack. It is stated that thus far the Allies are unanimous, including Millerand who was present at yesterday's council, but the real difficulty, namely, political recognition of Soviet Russia, remains unsolved, although Nitti favours full recognition.

## Snow in Jerusalem.

London, February 23. A message from Jerusalem states that the heaviest snow-storm since 1880 was experienced last week and damage to the amount of a quarter of a million was caused. The storm brought down the famous tree at Elbutmi where culprits were hanged. According to local tradition, the fall of this tree was to synchronise with the fall of the Turkish Empire and the populace are greatly impressed with the omen.

# EDITORIAL.

## "Gori Day".

Wednesday, March 3, was "Gori Day" in Tiflis. In all the streets collections were made for the relief of the sufferers from the earthquake disaster. Already special performances have been given in the State Theatre and many special concerts have been arranged in order that the Charity fund may be swelled. Many firms and private persons have also subscribed handsomely, and in Tiflis, as well as throughout the whole of Georgia people are expressing their sympathy with the refugees from Gori and the wrecked villages in the most practical way.

## An Incident.

Besides the many ladies and young students who helped to make the street collections in Tiflis, there was also a large number of young girls armed with collecting boxes. These girls were very earnest in their work, and we feel that to say anything against them would be a shame. Nevertheless, we must tell of one incident that happened to ourselves. In the Rustaveli Prospect, we were stopped by two very nice girls who asked us to subscribe to the fund. We immediately consented and took out our money from our pocket. To our horror, we then discovered that all the money we had was a hundred-rouble note of the Azerbaidjan Republic and two ten-rouble Georgian notes. We apologised to the girls but, as we handed them the hundred rouble note, we stated that they would be able to change it into Georgian money. To our amazement, they refused to take the note! They asked us to give them the twenty Georgian roubles instead. Our only comment is that we have at last encountered two super-Chauvinists... We might also add that, later in the day, we were able to add to our original subscription with Georgian notes.

## Georgian Transport.

The news that Mr. Khoshtaria, the well-known Georgian millionaire, sends from London is very welcome in Georgia. The means of transport is one of the most vital necessities of any country. The acquisition of a fleet of motor-cars and motor lorries should do much to facilitate the present problem of transporting food and raw materials in Georgia. Further, the purchase of two steamers will enable Georgia to open up her

own communications with western Europe. Two steamers are not many, but they are a beginning. Other ships will be bought later on. But two ships sailing from Georgia with raw materials and returning loaded up with manufactured articles can do very much for Georgian commerce.

## The Third Soviet Note.

This week we publish in full the text of the third note sent to the Azerbaidjan Government by Tchitcherin, the Bolshevik Commissary for Foreign Affairs. We can sum up its contents in one word—Bolshevik. Tchitcherin makes much of the alleged "contradictions" of Khan Khoisky and the acts of the Azerbaidjan Republic. To point out such contradictions, says he, is the legitimate practice of any government. As people are more important than mere governments, according to Bolshevik assertions, we take it that we also have the right to refer to any contradictions made by Soviet Russia. We find, for instance, that the appeals of Tchitcherin to Azerbaidjan and Georgia to commence joint action against Denikin are in direct contradiction to the much repeated Bolshevik boast that the Red Army is strong enough to conquer all the world. And we find that the reiterated mention of Soviet Russia's recognition of the rights of all nations to self-definition is flagrantly contradicted by the Bolshevik attempts to force their creed on the people of Azerbaidjan and Georgia, both of whom have already chosen their own democratic governments and both of whom have already decided on their future road of politics and progress. Azerbaidjan and Georgia are already self-defined. It is for Soviet Russia to put its words into action and to recognise the self-definition of which it continually speaks.

## Six Months' Palaver.

We are further enlightened by Tchitcherin's note as to the negotiations between Soviet Russia and Estonia. These, he writes, lasted six months and were very "complicated". But we have no information as to which side was the cause of the protracted palaver. As far as the Trans-Caucasian Republics are concerned, the matter seems to us to be a very simple one. We would suggest—humbly, of course—that Soviet Russia's government be asked one simple question—"Do you recognise the right of nations to

self-definition?" The answer, of course, will be the word, "Yes"—unless all past notes and declarations are contradicted. Then a further brief note might be sent to Comrade Tchitcherin—"Very well. We, Azerbaidjan and Georgia, have defined ourselves". And there the matter should be at an end. But perhaps the answer to the question would be the word, "No"... One would then have to begin all over again—but one would, at least, know Soviet Russia's real attitude.

S. L.

## Lord Curzon on America and Turkey.

In the course of an important speech in the House of Lords, Lord Curzon, Secretary for Foreign Affairs, said that he emphatically endorsed the step taken by Viscount Grey in writing his now famous letter to the *Times* explaining his experiences as envoy in the U. S. and his view of political tendencies in America. Lord Curzon said: "The letter was not submitted to, nor was it written under the inspiration of the Government. The noble viscount on his return from the United States did indeed tell me that he proposed to place his experience before the British public in that way, and I warmly endorsed the suggestion."

"The problem with which the Conference in Paris has had to deal", went on Lord Curzon, "has been the settlement of a world torn by the agonies and swept by the horrors of more than five years of war. In the course of this war new forces have been found, and in the settlement of affairs new principles have been called into being which are recognised now by us as never before having been used in the settlement of international affairs."

"The authors of the peace treaty have done their best, and time will show whether they are right or wrong. Not one of the authors of that treaty would claim for it anything secure and I expect that a very great deal of it will have to be changed as time goes on."

"The treaty with Germany has now been ratified and we have resumed diplomatic and trade relations with her, and if Germany shows disposition and faith enough to fulfil the conditions of the treaty, we shall do our best to help her to fulfil her obligations, and to resume her place among civilised nations".

Speaking of the League of Nations, he said: "Those who have studied the events of the past years and who desire a solution of the diverse complex problems, have arrived at the conclusion that the essential structure of the League of Nations is necessary, not only to assure us against the

repetition of past horrors but also to guarantee us in the pacific regulation of affairs which we are trying to bring about. I feel fully the power of the League, of which the authority will act in a salutary fashion for the solution of the various problems, and I am convinced that the spirit which has characterised its debates is not only a happy augury for Europe but also for the entire world, to which it promises to open a new era".

Regarding the delay in the Turkish peace, he said that it was due entirely to a desire to give America an opportunity to play that part in the future settlement of those regions, which had been expected of her. It was the hope of Europe that that country, whose unselfish and whole-hearted entry into the war, did so much to determine the issue, should share in the practical working of the principles of which she had done so much to secure the triumph. That was not a selfish desire on the part of Britain—it was an unselfish and sincere wish.

"I hear of Powers who are stated to have the desire to acquire more territory, to rule more people and to get new openings and avenues for trade" he concluded, "but I believe that every one of the Great Powers of Europe would voluntarily surrender the greater part of their individual ambitions in these respects, if they had any, to have invited America to come in and bear her share of the burden. We should have welcomed her as mandatory of the whole Empire of Turkey".

## Churchill on British Military Situation.

Winston Churchill enumerated the factors of uncertainty in the Middle East, for instance the termination of our responsibilities in Constantinople, but he decided to take an optimistic view and to provide for the reduction of garrisons in the Middle East in 1920-1921 to half their present strength. The Irish garrison was 35,000 against 25,000 before the war. Instancing the possibilities of the air force, he drew attention to the Somaliland campaign and proposed to apply the same principle to Mesopotamia where the air force would be the principal agency in the control of military forces and navy action as auxiliaries. Germany could not become formidable for a number of years, while France and Belgium who were organising large military forces were bound to Britain by ties of friendship and interest which would probably be embodied in military arrangements, therefore temporarily there was no imminent danger in Western Europe but the time might come when the revival of the military strength of Germany or of Germany and Russia combined would necessitate drastic revision of arrangements.

# AZERBAIDJAN AND SOVIET RUSSIA.

## THE THIRD NOTE OF TCHITCHERIN.

In its wireless telegram of November 2, the Russian Soviet government having in view the vital needs and real interests of the Russian and Azerbaidjan people addressed to Azerbaidjan a concrete proposal regarding the immediate conclusion of a military agreement in order to defeat with joint forces the armies of the white Guards in the south of Russia at the moment when the Tsar's general, Denikin, and the Volunteer Army are continuing to act as the deadly enemies not only of the Russian Soviet Republic but also of all the small nations that were included in the former Russian Empire.

### Proposal Ignored.

"Khan Khoisky, the Minister for Foreign Affairs, in his reply has quite ignored the certain concrete proposal made by us to his Government regarding the starting immediately of joint actions against the common enemy, but at the same time he has pointed out the principle of non-interference in the inner affairs of Russia, as if to say that he counts the struggle between Soviet Russia and the supporter of the Tsar's restoration—Denikin—a question foreign to Azerbaidjan and one not touching the vital interests of the working masses of Azerbaidjan.

"The Minister for Foreign Affairs, Khan Khoisky, declared that his Government was ready to enter into negotiations concerning the establishing of good neighbourly relations between Russia and Azerbaidjan, shutting his eyes to the fact that the struggle against those who aim at the definite abolition of all the conquests of the Russian revolution, the supporters of the Tsar's restoration, is not yet finished and that the task of carrying on this struggle to its end stands before the Soviet republic as well as before all the nations that were included in the former Russian Empire.

### "A New Position".

"In his latest telegram of February 3, the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Khan Khoisky, has already taken up a new position. He is, however, again inclined to avoid giving a straight-forward reply to the concrete practical proposal of the Russian Soviet government. In this wireless telegram, Khan Khoisky claims in the first place the absolute recognition by the Soviet government of the independence and sovereignty of the Azerbaidjan Republic before the latter will enter into any ne-

gotiations either regarding the establishing of good neighbourly relations or in respect of any other questions, including that concerning joint military actions against Denikin.

"The Minister for Foreign Affairs refers to the recognition of the independence of Esthonia by the Soviet government and expresses his regret that a similar clear and categorical acknowledgment of the recognition of the independence of the Azerbaidjan Republic has not been stated in the wireless telegrams of the Soviet government. The Minister for Foreign Affairs, Khan Khoisky, is mistaken in affirming that the Soviet republic and Esthonia were in a state of armed struggle at the moment when the recognition of the independence of the latter took place. This recognition is an inseparable part of a large treaty which was the result of long and complicated negotiations, which lasted in all nearly six months. The recognition of the independence of Esthonia, the result of the application of the fundamental principles which the Soviet government never goes back on regarding any nation, was, however, connected with the settling of many conditions defining the mutual relations between the Russian and the Esthonian republics. Following this, a similar recognition cannot be separated from a whole series of complicated private questions.

### Soviet Principles.

"In its wireless telegram of January 23, the Russian Soviet government declared once again that, regarding Azerbaidjan, it will immutably apply the general principles on which its relations to all nations are based, and reminded the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Khan Khoisky, of its numerous declarations concerning its recognition of the principle of the right of the working masses of all nations to self-definition, and of the numerous facts of the realisation of this principle by the Soviet authority. The Russian Soviet government then stated that the proposal made by it of joint action against the Tsar's general, Denikin who is bringing ruin to the independence of Azerbaidjan, had not yet been answered by the government of Khan Khoisky. The position taken by the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Khan Khoisky, in his wireless telegram of February 3, does not alter this matter.

"Minister Khan Khoisky believes that our indications of the contradictions between his declarations

and the proceedings of his government are not in accordance with the customs of international relations. The Russian Soviet government is compelled to turn this reproach aside referring to the fact that if on the part of one government such a contradiction exists in respect of another government, the pointing out of it is always an important element in the international proceedings of the second government in respect of the first. The aspiration of the Russian Soviet government was that the practical proceedings of the government of Ussubekov and Khan Khoisky regarding Denikin should not step away from the declarations regarding an obstinate struggle against the latter enclosed in the telegram of Minister Khan Khoisky of January 14. Our proposal made a month and a half ago concerning an immediate practical agreement in the matter of joint military actions against Denikin is just aiming at this. This is a problem of the present moment that cannot be postponed and the attempt to connect the reply to this question with the complicated negotiations regarding different questions, which refer to the mutual relations between the people of Soviet Russia and Azerbaidjan, is equal to the avoidance of the fulfilment of the task of the present day.

"However, as in its wireless telegram of January 23 the Russian Soviet government repeated its former proposal, the proposal still remains and the Russian Soviet government still hopes that the steps that have been taken will not remain unsuccessful.

"Commissary for Foreign Affairs, Tchitcherin".

## ISLAM AND BOLSHEVISM: A Clear Denunciation.

A note on Bolshevism has been issued by the Central Committee of the Moslem Theological Academies. It says:

The attention of those statesmen who are deciding the destinies of the nations is at present chiefly engaged by the Bolshevism question. It is the duty of Islam, whose function it is to direct the opinion and to reflect the sentiments of a great proportion of the human race, to proclaim its attitude to all Moslems and to the world in general.

"Be the principles upon which Bolshevism is based good or be they evil, the fact that their application is harmful to humanity, to social life and to the individual rights of property, makes it quite impossible for them to be in conformity with the principles of Islam. From the beginning of Islam up to the present day attacks upon

life and property—robbery, massacre, pillage and rape—have always been held in abhorrence and our sacred literature not only condemns but in many cases even imposes penal sentences upon perpetrators of these reprehensible acts.

"In other words, Islam requires happiness, tranquility and general progress. It therefore forbids the taking of the property or life of others and ensures most emphatically the rights of individuals and of communities. It is consequently the ruling of Islam that every individual should have the absolute right to dispose of his property whether during his life-time or by will after his death.

"The attitude of Islam may therefore be summed up in a few words by saying that it is the interest of the Moslem religion and the sacred duty of the Khalifat, which embodies its strength and influence, to oppose Bolshevism as a danger which threatens civilisation, justice and right".

## German War Criminals.

London, February 23. A telegram to the "Times" says that the Allies have decided to propose that the Germans try a selection of typical war criminals whose guilt can be overwhelmingly proved and they will regard Germany's action in this matter as a crucial test of her attitude towards the peace treaty.

## FEEDING PARIS.

### Municipal Council and the Bread Shortage.

PARIS, Feb. 2.

The wheat and bread situation is so serious here that the problem has been specially considered at a meeting of the Municipal Council, and though no actual decree has been passed on the subject, it has been virtually decided to reinstitute bread tickets. It is expected that shortly the price will have to be raised from 50 centimes for the 2lb. loaf, as it is at present, to 95 centimes or probably a franc. Even at this rate a heavy Government subsidy will be necessary, as in view of imports the real cost of bread works out at 1.50fr., or nominally ls. 3d. for the 2lb. loaf.

The chief reason for the situation is the falling-off of land under cultivation. Thus, whereas in 1913-1914 there were 13,000,000 acres under winter wheat, this year there are only 9,200,000 acres. Many factors contribute to this, but the principal one is the lack of fertilisers, which it has not been possible to distribute owing to lack of transport. The authorities are considering what measures should be taken to relieve the situation, and it is hoped that it will be possible to organise French agriculture so as to make it possible to bring 600,000 acres under spring wheat.

## ARMENIAN AGGRESSION.

### MUSSULMAN ORGANISATIONS' Address to Georgia.

The following address has been issued by the Mussulman organisation in Tiflis to Georgia and to the representatives of the great European Powers:

"We, the representatives of the Mussulman public organisations in Tiflis, count it our moral duty to inform herewith the free democracy of Georgia, in the person of its government, as well as all the representatives of the great European Powers of the following:

"The extirpation of the Mussulman population of the Kars region, organised by the Armenian government, is being carried on at the present time. The events that began towards the end of January are being continued up to now. The Tiflis newspapers, communicating this, do not by far state everything that is taking place there. A whole series of delegates has arrived from the arena of these sanguinary orgies to protest before the whole of the civilised world and to ask for help in the name of the population which is perishing quite innocently. The Mussulman organisations in the Georgian boundaries cannot remain indifferent spectators of such facts and, deeply sympathising with their suffering brethren, join their voice to their just protest.

#### Events in Kars.

"Drawing, on our part, the attention of the representatives of the Allied Powers to the events in the Tchaldyr, Aghabinsk and Zaroushad districts of the Kars region, we count it expedient that the Armenian government make an immediate effort to stop the aggressive actions against the Mussulman population.

"It is necessary to point out to the blind leaders of the Armenian policy that they will bring about the perishing of their own people in the ocean of national enmity and blood in which they want to drown all the Mussulman regions.

"In November last, an agreement of peace between Azerbaijan and Armenia was signed by the Minister-Presidents of both republics. One of the clauses in this agreement says that from the moment of signing neither of these two governments must submit by force of arms the regions which had not recognised their authority up to that moment. Immediately after this act of friendship, however, the Armenian troops started to devastate the Mussulman villages in Zangezour, then in the

Erivan province, and now in the Kars region. When one asks—Why is it done?—one always hears the same answer from the Armenian government: "Turkish agents incite the population against us and we are forced to quell them".

"This trivial argument is quoted in the present case also, even despite the fact that the deputies of the devastated regions seek for defence in Georgia and do not appeal to Kemal Pasha who, being on the very southern border of the Kars region, could also, and perhaps even better, assist them. Was it then Turkish agents who prompted them to address Georgia?"

"This continual reference to Turkish agents and the perpetual wish to make them the culprits of their (Armenians') own cruelties, cannot close our eyes to the real causes of the events that are taking place.

#### Armenian Villages

"The Armenian government loses sight of the chief obstacle to the creation of its projected state—There is no territory where the Armenian population is the prevailing one. The Armenian villages are almost everywhere dotted here and there amongst the Mussulman masses. Naturally, it is necessary to prepare a place in which to settle the Armenians in their "future native-land". Hence the monstrous plan of the leaders of the Dashnak party has been born—the extirpation of the Mussulmans and the filling-up of the cleared spaces with Armenians, emigrants from Turkey.

"All the proceedings of the Armenian government have had this for their object and it is to this that the Dashnaks have always been aspiring. Have not hundreds of Armenian villages been ruined in the Erivan province for this? Is it not for this that hundreds of thousands of Mussulman women and children have been forced to flee to Azerbaidjan, leaving behind them the ruins of their homes and the dead bodies of their murdered husbands, fathers and brothers?"

"We ask the representatives of cultured Europe and of free Georgia—"How long will you remain silent witnesses of such a method of creating 'Great Armenia'?"

"When the 'blood-thirsty Sultans' in despotic Turkey started persecutions against the Armenians, voices of just indignation were heard from all the corners of the world for the defence of the sufferers, and the civilised countries found the means of influencing the oppressors. And now, when the democratic Armenian republic, headed by the socialist party, is carrying out its sanguinary deeds, the innocent victims of its regular

army cannot even find access to those from whom they want to ask for help.

"Stating that an increasing indignation exists amongst the masses of the Mussulman population, and foreseeing the consequences, sad for the whole of Trans-Caucasia, to which such a policy of the Armenian government will inevitably lead, we categorically insist on the necessity of bringing pressure to bear on the Armenian government in order to make it change the line of its policy".

(Signed) "A. Zeinalov, deputy of the Society of Countrymen of the Kars Mussulmans, M. Seidov, deputy of the Society of Countrymen of the Erivan Mussulman, A. B. Narimanov, representative of the Mussulman nation".

### A STATEMENT BY TIRPITZ.

#### Official British Contradiction.

Admiral von Tirpitz's memoirs recently published contain a statement, wholly contrary to fact, to the effect that British naval officers attached to Admiral Togo's Staff during the Russo-Japanese War took an active and important part in the decisions of the Japanese Command in action.

As this allegation reflects on the professional reputation of a most distinguished Japanese Admiral, the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs has, at the request of the Admiralty, informed the Japanese Ambassador that it has the unqualified contradiction of his Majesty's Government.

### The Most Famous War Criminals.

The names of two of the ex-Kaiser's sons the Crown Prince and the Prince Eitel Friedrich, appear on the French list of German war criminals to be surrendered, together with the names of Generals Von Kluck, Hindenburg and Ludendorff. The complete list at first included 1200 persons, but this number was ultimately reduced to about 900.

The Ambassadors' Conference in Paris examined the text of the letter demanding the criminals, which will be handed to von Lersner, head of the German delegation who is taking the place of the German Chargé d'Affaires who has returned temporarily to Germany.

In handing it the Allies will probably remark that they could have put a much greater number on the list if they had wished to bring to justice all the Germans culpable of acts contrary to the laws of the war.

### Russia's Big Stocks of Grain

Answering the Express doubts of Allied business men that Russia contained any considerable stocks of grain, M. Stalinski, the noted Russian economist and editor of the newspaper, *Pour la Russie*, gave the following facts touching on Russia's economic resources. He said "Pre-war Russia exported hundreds of billions of wheat, let alone her other exports. It isn't logical to suppose that even in view of the devastating effects of the war and Sovietism the immense Russian granary is completely void to-day.

"Economists who point to the excessive prices and the scarcity of grain on the Russian market as proof of the rarity of that commodity do not take into consideration the fact that the Russian farmer prefers to hoard his crop and refuses to sell it for the paper money of the Soviets, which is not worth the paper on which it is printed. This in fact is the attitude of the Russian farmers which explains the penny of grain on the market.

"The best proof of the billions of dollars worth of various commodities, that actually exist in Russia is the fact that the union of Siberian cooperatives exported to America in the past year 1500 thousand dollars worth of flax and other commodities. The total business of all the Russian Co-operatives with America last year amounted to half a billion dollars".

### Births Increasing in Paris.

The number of births in Paris has increased very satisfactorily. There are now an average of 163 a day as compared with 72 a day in the corresponding period of last year.



## CHURCH OF ENGLAND

### SERVICE

SUNDAY MARCH 14

(4th Sunday in Lent)

Matins and Holy Communion 11 a. m.

At the house of the British Chief Commissioner, Sergievskala 13.

All British and Americans are invited.

H. THOMPSON.

Chaplain to the Forces.