

Edited by SCOTLAND LIDDELL.

GEORGIA CAN AND WILL DEFEND HER STATE!

JORDANIA'S GREAT SPEECH.

WHAT BOLSHEVISM MEANS.

"GLORIOUS DEATH PREFERRED TO SHAMEFUL LIFE".

The President of the Government, N. N. Jordania, made a notable speech in the Constituent Assembly in reference to the overthrow of the late Azerbaijan Government and the arrival of the Bolsheviks in Baku.

"Citizens! In the name of the Government, I have the honour to report the following to you:

"The political clouds have again thickened around us. The nearness of Soviet Russia has gradually become a threat to our young Republic. It came near to us first of all from the North—from the direction of Sochi—and now it comes to our boundaries from the East through the mediation of Azerbaijan. The first circumstance does not arouse in us any apprehensions: no advance is possible through Darial and Gagri. But the Azerbaijan direction is quite different. The frontiers are open there, and I want today to draw your attention to this side.

"On the 27th. of this month, in the morning, we received from the Azerbaijan government a communication that the Bolshevik troops were nearing the frontiers of Azerbaijan. The government communicated that the Azerbaijan troops had commenced to fight against the Bolsheviks and they asked us for military assistance. A sitting of our Government was immediately summoned and at this we put the following preliminary question: Do the Azerbaijan people want to resist the Bolsheviks and will they take on themselves the main gravity of the struggle? In this event we would have been obliged to give them support not only in virtue of the treaty of alliance between us but also on political and moral considerations. And, really, we count the self-definition of the people, their will and their wishes the only decisive factor in the mutual relations between the nations and the immovable base for foreign policy.

"Therefore, we spoke thus: If any

outer force menaces the self-definition of the Azerbaijan nation, and if this force breaks by violence into its boundaries, this is a seditious infringement of the rights of people and we must be with this people. But if it is not so, if the nation itself, the people itself, sympathises with the entering into the country of exterior forces, then any proceedings against these forces would be, on our part, an infringement of the rights of this people and at the same time would lead to the perishing of the troops sent there.

"This, our opinion, we immediately communicated to Baku and we started to define the political atmosphere there. But by one o'clock of the same day, we received news that the Bolsheviks had already neared Khatchmaz, and at four o'clock in the evening they were at the station of Santai, near Baladjari, that is, in six hours they had covered a distance of a hundred versts. Then it became quite clear to us what the matter was and we said: The Bolsheviks have arrived there by express train, not having encountered any resistance: consequently, they have entered into the country with quite insignificant forces—with two armoured trains—by agreement with the Azerbaijan people. One could have thrown them back with the smallest force and one could have seized their armoured trains, but seeing that there was no such wish the entering of the Bolsheviks was transformed into a simple walk.

"Our doubts, as you see, have been fulfilled in full. On what were these our doubts based? They were based on two circumstances. In my opinion, the Bolshevik movement is the movement of politically undeveloped and backward people. Where there is no democracy, where there are no democratic institutions, and, consequently, where the people do not rule themselves and where they

are not involved in the political or social life, the people wait for their deliverers and governors from above—from the people gifted with a steady will and a strong hand. If we add to this the circumstance that none of the great revolutionary gains has been realised in Azerbaijan, that up to now none of the ground has been taken from the Khans and that the old agrarian relations have been kept in full—then it is quite easy to understand the discontent of the people with the actual regime and their wish to change this regime even at the price of an adventure. This circumstance prepared the social base for the Bolshevik revolution in Azerbaijan.

"But another factor of no less importance has been added to this—the national factor. And the actual Baku government declares this in its latest appeal. It proclaims the former Azerbaijan government as a traitor to the people only because it was in union with the Entente; and as the Entente had defeated Turkey and divided it, it was consequently, in the eyes of the Baku communists, the enemy of Azerbaijan also. And as the Moscow Bolsheviks are also against the Entente because Europe has not yet recognised them, the interests of Moscow and Erzeroum are joined here and a link has been made between the Russian communists and the Anatolian Nationalists.

"One can say with assurance that this national factor played the decisive role in the communistic revolution in Azerbaijan. This is clear from the fact that they have not included even one single non-Mussulman in their government and, according to our information, they intend first of all to move to Armenia in order to join the Anatolian troops. In this way, the Baku Bolshevik revolution has for its task, first of all, the banishment of the European Powers from Turkey. That which took place in 1918 is being repeated now. At that time the Russian Bolsheviks (Brest-Litovsk) and the Mussavat introduced Turkey to Trans-Caucasia and now the Azerbaijan communists are taking on themselves the role of the Mussavat. But they have forgotten one thing: the Mussavat introduced a victorious Turkey, but they, the

communists, are introducing a vanquished and torn Turkey—and, at that, not the real government of Turkey but the Erzeroum Nationalists. Under such conditions the play of the Baku communists is condemned beforehand to failure and instead of the restoration of Turkey, they may, alas, ruin Azerbaijan also for ever.

"As you see, the fate of Azerbaijan is at present connected with Bolshevik Russia and with the Turkey of Kemal Pasha. This communistic-Pashist covering characterises the present Baku leaders and they have in themselves their own defeat. We are sorry that our neighbouring republic has thrown itself away in an adventure and that it is heading for the precipice. By this, it has gone away from us and we have remained alone.

"But, Gentlemen, solitude does not always mean impotence. On the contrary, solitude often gives force. In 1918 we saved ourselves thanks to the fact that we separated ourselves in time from Azerbaijan—that is to say, that solitude saved us then from the Turkish yoke and now also only isolation from the same Azerbaijan, keeping away from her adventure and defending our own way and our own policy will save our Republic and our democracy.

"The entering of the Bolsheviks into our country and their domination over us would mean our transformation into Azerbaijan and would mean the reign of Bolshevik-Turkish imperialism in Georgia. To stand on the way of Azerbaijan and to accept her political credo would mean to bury for ever free and democratic Georgia, to tear ourselves for ever away from Europe and to fall into the claws of the fanatics of Asia. The Bolshevik invasion of our country would mean the entering of a backward order into a liberal country and the reign of tyranny instead of the domination of the democratic people. Bolshevism will do here the same as it has done in Russia—will abolish the country administrations, the town self-governments: will abolish all the institutions of self-government and civilian and political liberties, and will enthrone in their place the terrorists and the Red army. The place of free creativeness and

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EDITORIAL.

Baku.

The establishment of Soviet power in Baku would appear to be not so much a Bolshevik victory as it is a triumph of Pan-Turkism. For some time the Young Turks, headed by Nouri Pasha, have been flirting with the Bolsheviks in Daghestan. It was generally stated that the former had no love for the latter, but that they would make use of the Bolsheviks in the Turkish Nationalist cause. On the same principle of the end justifying the means, the Mussulmans of Turkestan—again under the leadership of Young Turks—entered into an agreement with the Soviet authorities. As it is more than probable that the Bolsheviks are out to further their own creed by making temporary concessions to the Mussulmans, the only question that remains to be answered is—Which of the two will ultimately succeed?

Khalil Pasha.

As far as Baku is concerned, the Young Turks seem to have scored. Reliable reports from the "Azerbaijan Socialist Soviet Republic" state that when the Bolshevik troops entered Baku they were headed by Khalil Pasha and a Turkish flag. During the recent fighting in Karabagh, Khalil played a prominent role, and the fact that he was able to get to Baku in time to participate in the Young Turk coup would seem to show that the whole event was carefully planned beforehand and that it was no sudden Soviet adventure. Meanwhile, it is rumoured that the local Bolsheviks in Baku are not altogether too pleased with the turn that events have taken, and it will be interesting to watch future developments. Russia and Turkey are traditional enemies and we fear that even under the Red flag of Bolshevism it will not yet be possible for the lion and the lamb to lie down in peace together. The lion is more likely to eat the lamb—but we do not express any opinion as to which of the two parties is the latter.

Events in Tiflis.

Meanwhile we have had two Bolshevik incidents in Tiflis. The first took place on May 1. In the procession organised by the Georgian workmen there suddenly appeared two motor lorries flying red flags and bearing inscriptions on their sides—"Three Cheers for Soviet Power". The occupants of the lorries—about forty or fifty men and women—threw pamphlets amongst the crowd calling upon them to overthrow the de-

mocratic government and to establish Soviet rule in its place. The results of this demonstration were pleasing. The crowd pulled the occupants of the motor lorries from their places, soundly thrashed them before the militia marched them off to prison, tore down the red flags, wiped out the inscriptions, hoisted the Georgian colours instead and the lorries proceeded merrily on their way amid the loud cheers of the crowd. The next evening a party of Armenians entered the military school and attempted to seize the power there. Thanks to the resistance of the young soldiers, most of whom were unarmed, this attempt was immediately repulsed. Two of the Armenians were shot dead on the spot, one was wounded and three were arrested. The following day these last were sentenced to death by court martial, and the sentence was immediately carried out. The Georgian soldiers and people have once more clearly shown that they look upon Bolshevism as the enemy of their state and that they are capable of dealing severely with all those who make attempts against their independence.

Fighting at Poiil.

At the moment of writing there is fighting going on at Poiil, the frontier station between Georgia and Azerbaijan. An official communiqué issued by the Georgian General Staff says: "In the region of the Red Bridge (on the river Khram) fighting against the Azerbaijan regular army is going on (May 5). In the direction of Poiil on May 4 the enemy, a company strong, began to surround our advance posts near the Poiil Bridge after sunset. On May 5, at 3—30 a. m., an armoured train of the enemy drew near to the bridge. The train consisted of trucks and passenger waggons. The enemy commenced to fire on our guard posts with guns and machine-guns. Our troops, according to orders received, retreated across an auxiliary bridge built under the main bridge. From the other side of this our troops opened fire with guns, machine-guns and rifles. We were then compelled to blow up the bridge". Railway communication with Azerbaijan has thus been completely cut off.

Georgian Comments.

In this week's "Georgian Mail" we publish extracts from the leading articles of the principal Georgian newspapers in reference to the Baku events. These opinions may justly be said to express

those of the Georgian people. They are one and all strongly indignant at what they call the "perfidy" of Azerbaijan. Even now the whole series of happenings seems almost incredible. The coup took place at a time when the Conference of the three Trans-Caucasian Republics was sitting in Tiflis and when there were actually negotiations going on between Azerbaijan and Soviet Russia regarding the sale or exchange of oil. We were all deceived, so that although we confess that our opinions of the past few weeks have turned out to be wrong we do so without any shame.

Armenia.

An ultimatum has already been presented to the Armenian government demanding that the Armenians evacuate Karabagh and Zangezour immediately and that the passage to Azerbaijan territory of Turkish troops under the leadership of Mustapha Kemal Pasha be permitted. The Armenians have refused to submit to this demand: an official reply has already been sent. So that here again interesting developments are to be expected. Armenia is able to raise a considerable army but it is doubtful if she will be able to hold out against a possible attack from two sides. The eyes of the whole world are now turned on Georgia and Armenia. The next few weeks—or perhaps we may say the next few days—will be vital ones in their history.

The Foreign Missions.

A day or two after the arrival of the Bolshevik-Turkish forces in Baku, the Polish Mission and the lady members of the American Near East Relief organisation left Tiflis. No British officer or civilian, however, left the town, although there were actually rumours afloat that the foreign missions had departed *en bloc* for Batoum. These rumours were probably due to the fact that the train in which the American workers left Tiflis displayed, besides the American colours, the British, French and Italian flags. Why?—Heaven alone knows. It was certainly all very thoughtless and all very foolish as it was so grossly misleading and might well have caused a panic amongst the local people who were naturally under the impression that the Allies were deserting them in their hour of need. It is perhaps unnecessary to add that the British, French and Italians are still here *in toto* and that they will remain here unless some very serious and unforeseen event occurs.

S. L.

JORDANIA'S GREAT SPEECH.

(Continued from page 1.)

movement will be occupied by the bayonet. Bolshevism will abolish the agrarian reform, will abolish the private ownership of land which will provoke collisions and bloodshed amongst the peasants and by this will throw the whole nation into civil war, will disperse the Constituent Assembly and in its place will settle several persons as is now the case in Baku. In a word, Bolshevism will deprive Georgia of the creativeness of spirit, will tear from her all that she has created, all that in which she has displayed her creative political talent, will take possession of her soulless dead body and lastly, will throw her either to Moscow reaction or to the Turkish Pashas.

"Gentlemen, we will not admit this. We cannot admit this. We cannot transform ourselves into the traitors of our own people. We will remain immovably and steadily at our glorious post. We are not alone. "The whole of Europe—without difference of parties and directions—is with us. Europe or Asia?... This question is being put before us now concretely and I repeat today what I said from this tribune on January 14: We choose Europe—the democracy of Europe.

"Gentlemen, the Government has already started the organisation of self-defence. It has established a special council of Defence, proclaimed mobilisation, appointed the Commander-in-Chief, proclaimed Eastern Georgia under martial law, asked for a fund for self-defence, and taken all preliminary measures. We are ready for the struggle. Our army and guard and all our democracy are with us. We will show to the world what self-defence means—the defence of one's frontiers, one's regime, one's liberty.

"The Bolsheviks have become accustomed to easy victories. Here, on our frontiers, they will understand for the first time what heavy defeat is. We are not against negotiations with them and the establishment of good neighbourly relations, but if they do not wish this, if they touch our holy of holies, if they menace our frontiers, then the democracy of Georgia will prove to the whole world that it can not only build a state but that it can also defend it: that it has the talent not only of political creativeness but also of the struggle for liberty. Then the moment will come when we all, and you all and the whole nation will say decisively what our people for centuries have said: 'We prefer a glorious death to a shameful life'."

Jordania's great speech was frequently interrupted by loud cheering, and at its close the President was accorded an enthusiastic ovation.



საქართველოს
პრესის ცენტრი

GEORGIA AND RUSSO-TURKISH COUP.

THE FALL OF BAKU.

"Triumph of Turko-Pan-Islamist Forces".

In a leading article, "Borba" says: At the moment of the negotiations with Azerbaijan, at the moment when an official Azerbaijan delegation is being sent to the government of Soviet Russia, when all the circles of the Azerbaijan Republic openly declare their wish of establishing normal relations with their Northern neighbour, the Bolshevik troops without any proclamation of war, transgress the Azerbaijan frontier and move to the capital of the country.... As if there had never existed not only that so-much-puffed declaration by the Bolsheviks of the right of nations to self-definition, but even Tchitcherin's recent notes in which he solemnly declared that the Soviet authority had no intention at all of interfering with the inner life of Azerbaijan! The real value of Bolshevik principles, the political honesty of the leaders of Bolshevik policy and their real intentions regarding the Trans-Caucasian nations are being once more revealed before the whole world.

The Baku events have revealed once more those means by which the Bolsheviks endeavour to realise their devices. The means of their "victories and surmountings" are, first of all, not their own forces. The Bolsheviks, as if intentionally mocking at the principle of self-definition, moved their troops over the Azerbaijan frontiers. But they did not and could not conquer Baku. It is ridiculous to speak of the seizing of the Azerbaijan capital, when several thousand soldiers of the Red Army and two or three armoured trains transgress the frontier, when the rear of these "aggressive" forces is entirely unsecured, and on the flanks the Soviet army is "guarded" by different robber bands bought at a conforming solid remuneration.

Bolshevik power in Baku is the result, on one side, of the inner ruin of Azerbaijan; on the other side, of the triumph of the Turko-Pan-Islamist forces in her boundaries.

We have always said that our Republics may develop only as the states of organised democracy. But the process of the organisation of democracy in Azerbaijan was being endlessly and artificially detained. Agrarian reform has not been realised. The question of the organisation of democratic organs of local self-administration has not passed the stage of conversations and kind wishes. The people's masses have

not been involved in the organical life of the Republic. And therefore there may come such a situation that, in spite of the sane people's instinct which prompts them for the defence of their independence, they remain indifferent spectators of the fact how, faced by the coming danger, the government cannot for weeks organise itself: how the troops, before the Bolsheviks who concentrate their forces, throw themselves into the brother-killing Armeno-Tartar war.

The people remain silent. And when the people remain silent, what room for the "work" of adventurers of all kinds! And the present "Soviet power in Baku" is the triumph of the adventurers from the Pan-Turk camp. Only lately they wrote: "At whatever price we must let the Bolsheviks avail themselves of the Azerbaijan territory for their struggle against the Entente". They dragged Azerbaijan to submit to Kemal-Pasha by way of temporary submission to Narimanov.

And now they triumph. But is it for long? For how many days and weeks will the "Soviet Power" remain in Baku under the anarchy which will be born there as well as everywhere at the sharpening of the national enmity which has been brought by the Bolsheviks to Trans-Caucasia?

But long as the Bolsheviks remain in Azerbaijan—one week, one month or two, a serious and responsible moment in life comes for Georgia.

The events in Baku will not give anything new to the conscience of our democracy. Even without them it knew well how far it may believe the Bolshevik words, what are the real intentions of the Bolsheviks in Trans-Caucasia.

It knows that the Bolsheviks aim, next to Baku, at Tiflis, that only the strength and organisation of the people may save Georgia from invasion and ruin.

But the democracy of Georgia has no ground to look with fear at the near future.

The organised people's masses of Georgia cannot be taken by bare hands as have been taken the dissipated masses of Azerbaijan where in front of the Bolshevik armoured trains not a single *sajen* of way has been removed. One may not even think that the Bolsheviks can deal a somewhat sensible blow to our Republic with those insignificant forces with which they started their "attack" on Baku. And amongst the Georgian people there are no traitors who would sell their country to please Kemal-Pashas.

Besides, now, after the capitulation

of Azerbaijan, there has disappeared for the Georgian democracy that diplomatic dust which blinded the eyes, disappeared that visibility of union which formally impeded the concentration of the thoughts and wish of the people on the defence of the country.

The Georgian democracy and the Georgian people are faced by the fact: Georgia is alone. But side by side with this fact stands another one: Georgia alone may give worthy resistance to all those who make attempts on its independence...

Two enemies of Georgia menace it from Baku: imperialism of the Bolsheviks and imperialism of Young-Turks. And face to face with both enemies, with a full conscience that they are not frightful to the compacted people, all the live forces of the country must be ready for the defence of all that has been obtained by years of struggle and streams of blood.

The danger is actual. But it is not frightful. It is necessary only to fight decisively and mercilessly against every riot, every intrigue of the enemies inside the country. It is necessary to gather immediately around the tried leaders who, with the unanimous support of the people's masses of Georgia, will manage to realise, with a steady and sure hand, all the necessary measures for the defence of the Republic from the blows of the imperialism of the Turkish Pashas and Bolshevik adventurers who dream to tread upon Georgia.

"GEORGIA ALONE".

(From "Ertoba").

No war has taken place and no defence: the Bolsheviks came in such a way as passengers usually come in express trains. They came unimpeded: the elements sympathising with them were prepared.

But the revolution of April 28 has some positive results for Georgia. Our actual position reminds us of that in which we were two years ago, when the Turkish army advanced in the direction of Trans-Caucasia. Georgia was in a hopeless state: it was clear for it that not all members of the Trans-Caucasian Republic looked in the same way at the enemy—one of them sympathised with the latter. The leading Georgian party was aware that with such Allies the defence was impossible and it was decided to organise Georgia's defence separately. All remember how salutary this resolution proved to be.

When the Bolsheviks drew near, Trans-Caucasia did not represent one state but Georgia was bound to other states by friendly treaties. But now has occurred the same as two years ago: some elements in Azerbaijan secretly sympathised with the enemy and cleared the way for him.

Today, being deprived of its ally, Georgia is aware that only its own forces and the consciousness of the population regarding the necessity of self-defence can save it from the exterior enemy.

Perhaps our position is better now: our hands are free, we can organise our defence conforming to our interests only. Such a position has always been for us more favourable.

And if Soviet Russia will not take into consideration the will of our people it will see that these people can meet the enemy and repulse him as they have repulsed every enemy that menaced the independent existence of their democratic native-land.

"A NATIONAL STANDARD".

(From "Groussia").

The Moscow Bolshevism becomes gradually a pure national doctrine and carries on Russian state policy. Such are the natural results of every revolution. We must be aware of this and must not believe that the Bolsheviks carry really an international standard and bring salvation to all. Their red flag is a national standard: they acknowledge this themselves, saying that "Bolshevism is restoring great mighty Russia and carries on a struggle against its enemies".

In view of our geographical position we must regulate first of all our relations with Russians in the North and Mussulmans in the South. We belong to the Eastern people. This is the task of our policy. But at the same time we will acknowledge no enslavement. The political independence of small nations is at present a holy historical acquisition and our neighbours, Russians and Mussulmans, must recognise this.

The role of Germany, says the paper further, was precisely to conciliate our claim of independence with Russian and Turkish policy, guaranteeing us from attacks from South and North.

Such are our points of view—ideas, certain and clear and always the same. The Commissaries are undoubtedly aware of this and if they really want

to enlighten the national self-consciousness in the East they ought first of all to recognise the independence where it already exists.

Everything depends now upon the character of the Russian policy. Following the way of recognitions and agreements it can really lay a foundation of new amicable building, and, on the contrary, by means of former violence can cause such a general war and such chaos that compared to this every cultural imperialism, even the most hard, will seem to represent happiness.

“Perfidy”.

The declaration of Soviet Power in Baku was not the result of unexpected events. We thought that the governors of Azerbaijan having signed an agreement were quite sincere, but we were mistaken! Not only in their capacity to understand the events but to be honest and sincere neighbours.

All that took place now in Baku looks like a comedy that was prepared in secret beforehand. It is clear now that at the time when the sittings of the Trans-Caucasian Conference took place the leaders of Azerbaijan were preparing a blow from behind to the people who have always been their sincere and uninterested friends.

When the name of “Azerbaijan” was not used we have always been their steady defenders—at the time when rights and justice were so often broken by the Caucasian governors.

It even occurred that the Georgians were the only defenders of muslimans: *there were no others and they themselves did not dare.*

The actual leaders of Azerbaijan ought to be aware of all this. Our paper has always endeavoured to develop the Georgian-Azerbaijan friendship, and it is painful for us to acknowledge that the actual Azerbaijan governors by their perfidy have for ever dishonoured themselves before the eyes of all Georgians.

Of course, such a moment could occur in Azerbaijan but they ought to have informed us of it. And it would have been still better if Azerbaijan had not entered into any conventions but declared openly that they do not represent a sovereign state but are the vassal of Turkish Pan-Turks and are obliged to follow their instructions.

Time will pass and the Moscow-Erzurum adventure reinforced even by Azerbaijan will have no results and all the performers of this historical triumvirate will face a broken dream. Then, perhaps, having tasted the fruits of the Soviet adventure, Azerbaijan will want to make friends but it will be too late. The stretched hand will remain in the air, because the word “perfidious” will be steadily fastened to it.

“POLITICAL SHORT-SIGHTEDNESS”.

(From “Slovo”).

The Baku events were previously prepared and the blow was directed along the line of lesser resistance. The Bolsheviks endeavoured to turn away the watchfulness of the Trans-Caucasian people by their alleged peaceableness.

The strange behaviour of the pro-Turkish “Itikhad” and “Ekhrar”, the activity of Bolsheviks, the avoiding of responsibility by the dominating party of Mussavat and the deliberately delayed Cabinet crisis preceded the easy success of the Bolsheviks and the taking of Baku.

This had been reached not owing to the real force of Bolsheviks but owing to the political short-sightedness of one part of the Azerbaijan governors and the pure Asiatic craftiness of the other.

The Azerbaijan government did not understand that force and steadiness of small states are based on inner organisation and steady solidarity of all classes and groups of the population and on the acknowledged devotion of all citizens to the existing state-order. They took no measures to organise and reinforce all this.

Instead of this the Bek-Mussavats headed the authority, and the former police-bureaucratic administration was secured in the country. The agrarian reform was not realised. The principles of right and justice were trampled on. Whole groups of foreigners were put practically outside the law. The Azerbaijan government did not want to make friends with both neighbours but endeavoured by means of intrigue and bloody violence, committed against one part of the population—the Armenians, to widen their dominions. Much more so serving openly the interests of Young Turks’ imperialism they resumed their bloody attack against the Armenian people at the moment when their military forces were needed for the defence of the native-country against the North danger.

The fall of Baku was the result of the anti-democratic, reactionary cruel inner policy of Azerbaijan as well as of its open serving of the foreign imperialistic plans of Pan-Turkism. How far conscious and deliberate this was the near future will show: the behaviour of the Azerbaijan troops that were far from Baku and the advance of the Turks in the South-West direction.

Gandja and Lenkoran also will probably show no resistance to the Bolsheviks because the same conditions are there.

Azerbaijan deceived the Georgian democracy and now Georgia is facing the danger which it had foreseen and of which it had warned its neighbour. The conditions are here entirely otherwise. The social-democratic Georgian

government has done everything in order to realise the best ideals and create steady and free statesmanship. The enemy will not find here confusion, impotence and crafty perfidy of the authorities or the separation of the latter from the people and perfidy of the people’s masses.

The Bolsheviks would find here mighty moral and material power. They could not justify their attack.

We still hope that they will stop before this power, especially if they will see that Georgia is on its guard. If they attack, Georgia will rise as one, join its experienced leaders and will defend by its body the real acquisitions of revolution and of two years of creative work.

The Georgian democracy does not look for a struggle but it will fulfil its duty.

NEWS IN BRIEF.

Serbia has decided to reopen diplomatic relations with Germany.

A law has been promulgated in Cairo declaring aerodromes a State monopoly.

Arrangements have been made at Delhi to celebrate the King’s birthday on June 5.

The Legislative Council at Delhi has passed a Bill creating a Red Cross Society in India.

Arab tribes have made further raids on British convoys on the Upper Euphrates and have caused some casualties.

Enormous quantities of arms and ammunition seized from the Turks in Constantinople were recently discharged at Malta by the British steamer Mercedes.



CHURCH OF ENGLAND SERVICE

SUNDAY, MAY 16.
(Sunday after Ascension Day).

Matins and Holy Communion 11 a. m.

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

All British and Americans are invited.

H. THOMPSON.
Chaplain to the Forces.

THE RUSSO-TARTAR DOMINEE. Constituent Assembly’s Appeal.

“Sons of Georgia!

“The enemy is drawing near to the boundaries of our country.

“At the hour of the greatest danger your mother-land is calling up all its citizens to self-defence.

“Russian-Tartar Bolshevism, clad in a Bolshevik mantle, threatens our country.

“Irritated, starved bands of Russia, ruined by inner troubles, vainly hoping to restore defeated Turkey, in an impotent attempt to beat down civilised Europe, are entering into a union with the Erzurum Pashas—the historical enemies of our country.

“The Georgian people are aware that during two years of its independent existence Georgia has never made an attempt to seize foreign territory, to impose a yoke on any neighbouring people.

“Around us, in countries bordering us, blood was shed in torrents and riches created during centuries were destroyed. During this period our people, exhausted by the terrible war, gradually straightened their backs, guarded and secured former riches and created new ones.

“Our small country represented a steady stronghold not only for its sons, but here also those who came from other countries found shelter.

“To us came the Bolsheviks, who were defeated by Denikin’s troops, and to us also came the supporters of Denikin pressed by the Bolsheviks. From Armenia crowds of Tartars who had suffered from pogroms came to us. With us the Armenians who were persecuted in Azerbaijan found shelter.

“But during these two years no Georgian refugees have been seen in neighbouring countries.

“Those who came to us from the hell of war and anarchy kissed the ground of our peaceful country, calling Georgia—Paradise.

“At present Russian-Tartar bands have the intention to ruin Georgia, to transform it into a hell, to involve our people in a war against Europe.

“Neighbouring Azerbaijan has broken the friendly alliance with Georgia and throws itself in an abyss of anarchy.

“Georgian people will not do this.

“They will not sell their native-land, democracy, freedom: they will not turn their back to Europe and their face to Asia: they will not exchange culture for ignorance, or democracy for despotism: they will not allow the waves of anarchy to swallow them up.

“The Constituent Assembly believes deeply that all Georgian people without distinction of nationality, creed or principles, the whole democracy, the glorious and experienced armies and People’s Guard, will close their ranks around the Constituent Assembly and government and will steadily defend the freedom and independence of Georgia.

“Long live free independent Georgia!

“Long live self-defence!

Constituent Assembly”.