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Edited by SCOTLAND LIDDELL.

MINSK ENJOYING ITS FREEDOM. A TEST OF BOLSHEVISM.

VENGEANCE ON TYRANTS.

(From the Times Correspondent).

After many months of terrorization under Bolshevik rule, the persons who have been hiding for weeks in fear of their lives are emerging from concealment. You can tell them by their white faces and anxious looks. Minsk, indeed, is beginning to resume its normal life again.

Groups conversing at street corners and in the doorways of houses breathe an atmosphere of relief, and in every section of the population, Jewish and Polish shopkeepers, White Russian peasants and workmen, one finds the deep, inexpressible thankfulness at the absence from a government which, as the Tsar was always to be, the mob to all, actually exercised tyranny far greater than anything known under the Tsars.

Minsk presents an example of Soviet rule probably as favourable to the system as could be found anywhere in Russia. It is a town of over 100,000 inhabitants, where commercial and industrial interests are well represented, and it is in the centre of a prosperous agricultural district. Its Soviet was in daily telephonic communication with Moscow, and its method can be regarded as typical.

It must be admitted that the outward appearance of the town and the people does not, on the whole, make a bad impression. Food certainly exists, although the operation of the Bolshevik system—or, rather, its breakdown—has resulted in perfectly impossible prices. But when these facts are admitted there is nothing more to be said in favour of a régime which destroyed all personal liberty and made the humblest person feel that neither life nor property was ever safe.

"To a dog's death!" These words, spoken by a woman as she kicked the dead body of the Secretary of the Soviet as it still lay in the street where the man had been shot by Polish soldiers, express the bitter hatred of the people for Bolshevism. To-day the Jewness who was president of the local "extraordinary tribunal for combating counter-revolution", who signed death warrants for the miserable persons who were executed almost daily, was literally torn to pieces by the mob while she was being taken through the streets.

A single word of criticism of the Government was sufficient cause for arrest as a counter-revolutionary, and when once the victim was arrested his fate was unknown. Numbers of such persons are to-day being released from the Minsk prisons. It is known that over 3,000 have been deported to Bobruisk and Smolensk and certainly hundreds have perished. Occasional lists of persons executed were published in the newspapers; indeed, one such list appeared on the morning the town was captured.

This list contains the names of 32 persons, men and women. In many cases the charge preferred was merely that of being a dangerous counter-revolutionary. Other charges were ill-treatment of persons arrested in the revolution of 1905, being in possession of firearms, and concealing deserters. This batch of victims was marched out by night and shot early in the morning in a stubble field outside the town. Their graves are two big pits with nothing to mark them except the pieces of cord and curtain fringes with which the prisoners' hands were bound.

30 Shot in a Cellar.

Another batch of 30 was executed in a cellar in the town, the victims being pushed down the steps and shot as they went. It is stated that the executioners in each case were four German soldiers who had remained behind after the German occupation.

The Polish inhabitants say that the Bolsheviks favoured the Jews, but there are Jewish names in the above-mentioned list, and the Jews are as loud in their denunciation of the iniquitous requisitions of the Commissaries as anyone else. My impression is that Jewish influence in Lithuania and White Russia, as the administrative district governed from Minsk was called, was less than in other parts of Russia. The chief of the Soviet was Simonieff, a Russian, and one of its most influential members was a Pole.

Certainly the peasants have become rich by the sale of their produce. Their chief grievance is that their money cannot buy the things they want, for the simple reason that these things do not exist, as the manufacturing industry has broken down, mainly,

I believe, from lack of transport, coal, and raw materials. There is plenty of forest land round Minsk, yet the price of wood was 12,000 roubles. (The pre-war value of a rouble was 2s.) Other current prices are:—

Roubles.	Roubles.
Bread (per lb.) . . . 38	Salt (per lb.) . . . 100
Meat (per lb.) . . . 65	Eggs (each) . . . 10
Butter (per lb.) . . . 200	Shoes (per pair) 3,000

The rationing system has absolutely broken down. There has been one issue of bread on bread cards to citizens of the second category since Easter last. On that occasion these citizens received 1/2 lb. per head. Citizens of the third and fourth categories received none.

Yet people have been coming here from Petrograd and Moscow in the hope of finding food, for Minsk was regarded as a land of plenty. Among these is an Englishman, Mr Frederic Wybergh, of Moscow, who arrived here with his wife on March 2, managing to conceal his nationality. These people were also found by the Poles.

Propaganda Methods.

The Bolsheviks represented General Szeptycki's force as an armed band of mercenaries raised by Counts Czapsky, Mirtky, and Ivankowicz, the chief landowners of the districts, to recover their estates. Propaganda was a strong point with the Bolsheviks. The town was placarded with posters representing the destruction of Capital by Labour, and Bolshevik soldiers threatening with the bayonet fat gentlemen in white waistcoats cowering behind cases of war munitions. In another poster the Russian people was shown floating to safety through a raging sea on a book labelled Karl Marx. Lectures were given daily in the square on the iniquities of capitalism, and a special information bureau provided a prolific supply of reports of revolutionary strikes in England, the downfall of Admiral Kolchak's army, and pogroms by Poles at Vilna.

Last week, by the way, when they were preparing for evacuation, the members of the Soviet published a proclamation declaring that they would meet the "White Terror."—that is, the advance of the Polish Army—by a Red Terror. In fulfilment of this threat the mass execution referred to above took place, and when they left they carried off a large number of hostages, many of them ladies whose husbands and sons are fighting in the Polish Army. It is hoped that the speedy capture of Bobruisk may rescue these people, since a host of similar prisoners taken from

Grodno, Vilna, and other towns have been found interned here. A number of officers of the old Russian Army, who refused to serve under the Bolsheviks, have also been released.

Another relic of former days has been saved in the shape of an ambulance presented by Lady Muriel Paget to the Russian Army. It was found among the transport captured by Posen cavalry on the Borissoff road.

The Invasion of Daghestan.

Georgian Foreign Minister's Note to Allied Missions.

Mr. Gegetchkori, the Georgian Minister for Foreign Affairs, has sent the following note to Colonel Haskell, Mr. Oliver Wardrop, Colonel Gabba, and the chiefs of the French and Greek Missions in Trans-Caucasia:

"Bloody events which may have serious consequences are taking place in Daghestan and the North Caucasus in the territory of the republic of the Mountainers of the region which is now occupied by the Volunteer Army have risen against the Volunteers and a severe fight is going on. No doubt the Commander of the Volunteer Army will undertake an attack and provoke bloodshed, destruction of villages and towns, and the abolition of whole tribes. These events will cause complete anarchy in the country which will be pernicious not only to the local peaceful population, but also to the neighbouring republics and, in particular, to Georgia to which it may eventually spread.

"The Georgian government is anxiously watching these events and cannot remain indifferent as the increasing anarchy in the neighbourhood is a serious menace to the state order and to the tranquility of the Georgian Republic. Bearing this in mind, the Government of the Georgian Republic protests against the attempts to solve this question by fighting, and asks your excellency to put an end to these bloody events and anarchy by your interference and also to take measures for the solution of the questions that are causing trouble and anarchy, not through fighting but through the realisation of the principles of the freely-expressed will of the people and of their right to self-determination".



EDITORIAL.

More Provocation.

We dealt last week with the stupid and lying Dashnak article against the British policy in Trans-Caucasia. This week we must refer to an attack on Georgia and Azerbaïdjan—this time by the Bolsheviks. We have just received a pamphlet addressed to the "working masses" in Trans-Caucasia in which the Bolsheviks refer to the "criminal governments of Georgia and Azerbaïdjan". The whole pamphlet is so false and so futile that it is not worth while publishing it. But we have one comment to make. This Bolshevik attack on Georgia and Azerbaïdjan is still another proof of the hostile attitude that these two republics have towards Bolshevism and its followers.

Bolshevik Money.

Several days ago we received a specimen of the counterfeit British bank notes issued by the Bolsheviks in Russia. Needless to say, these false notes can only deceive very ignorant people. Anyone accustomed to British notes has only to feel the Bolshevik versions to know their falseness. But we have no doubt that many of the dupes of Lenin and Trotsky have been and are being deceived. We have long known millions of false paper notes at Britain and France and America are being produced in Bolshevik printing presses, but this is the first time we have actually seen specimens.

"The Master Forger"

In this connection we cannot do better than quote an article we have just read in an English periodical. It says the following:

"The *Times* has told the story of the latest and most diabolical of Lenin's plans. He hopes to destroy the value of money everywhere by forging the bank-notes of all nations and distributing them broadcast. Experts differ as to the practicability of the scheme; but it is, at any rate, clear that wholesale forgery conducted by experts with the resources of a Government at their back is capable of causing considerably more financial confusion than those limited frauds on the currency which are sometimes perpetrated by gifted but misguided individuals. The Russians, too, are specially likely to have faith in the project, because they have themselves had some very unpleasant experiences of the danger.

A Napoleonic Device.

"A remarkable case occurred in 1812, when Napoleon was preparing his Russian expedition.

In that year the Paris Prefect of Police, on the strength of information received, raided a secret printing office. Having forced his way into it in the face of resistance, he discovered a factory of spurious bank-notes, seized the plant, and arrested the men who were operating it. But then came the surprise. The Minister turned up, pointed out that the notes were not French but Russian and Austrian and explained that the business had been started under his own auspices, at the Emperor's orders, in order that the French army might have the means of purchasing supplies when it invaded the enemy's country. The story became public property some time after the Restoration, when a firm of Hamburg bankers sued Savary, the Minister in question, for the value of some of the notes which had been paid to them by his orders.

The Russian Rouble Case.

"Another story which Lenin and Trotsky may have in their minds is that of the famous Russian rouble case of 1879. For eight or nine years before that date provincial Russia had been inundated with forged notes of low value—mostly three-rouble notes. It was an to be suspected that the Bolsheviks was not in Russia but in London, and Scotland Yard eventually ran the offenders to earth. The forgers were caught, in the midst of their plant, in a house at Tulse Hill; and their principal agent in the circulation of the notes was arrested in a public-house in Holloway. It is interesting to be able to add that he was the nearest thing to a Bolshevik that the Victorian age could produce, being no other than the Pole Dombrowski, who, for a while, commanded the Communist army in Paris in 1871. In 1869 a Paris jury had acquitted him of a charge of forging notes; but an English jury convicted him in 1879, and his sentence was ten years' penal servitude.

How a Bank was Closed.

"Most of the victims of this last forgery were poor Russian peasants of the Ukraine. The banks were not deceived, and did not suffer. To find a case in which a bank not only suffered from forgery but was put out of business by it, we need not go farther than England; the institution in question being the defunct Cheque Bank. By a system of marking cheques—"not more than L5", etc.—it was made impossible for any client to draw out of the bank any more money than he had paid into it. The

bank, having thus protected itself, guaranteed the cheques; and customers were consequently able to take them on their travels, instead of the troublesome circular notes, and cash them anywhere as they went along. For a while all went well. Presently, however, it was discovered that the cheques were being counterfeited in Germany—and counterfeited so well that the cashiers themselves could not distinguish the spurious from the genuine article. The examination of the signature was, of course, an empty formality in view of the guarantee given to the bona-fide holder for value; and there was nothing for it but to put up the shutters before any more mischief was done.

The L5 Note.

"Bank-notes, of course, are much harder to counterfeit than cheque-books; in some cases because of the elaborately engraved designs; in other cases on account of the unique character of the paper on which they are printed. In the case of our own L5 notes, it is the paper which is the safeguard; and the only way of surmounting that difficulty would be to steal some of the paper from the mill. The feat was once accomplished by two rascals, named Buncher and Burnet; but the discovery that the stock was deficient put the paper-makers, the Bank, and the police on the alert, with the result that the offenders were traced to Birmingham, caught red-handed, and got twenty-five and twenty years' penal servitude respectively.

A Specialist in 1,000-franc Notes.

"All the great banks in the world have their stock of stories of the kind; and we may next recall one told of the Banque de France. The time was the reign of Louis Philippe; and the forger bore the appropriate name of Gatebourse. He did not content himself with forging notes for fifty or a hundred francs. Thousand-franc notes were his speciality. In a single month he contrived to place 1,500 of these in circulation; and the value of 1,500 1,000-franc notes is L60,000. He was no miser, but lived in grand style on his ill-gotten gains, frequenting the best society, and even succeeding in insinuating himself into the intimacy of the governor of the bank which he was robbing! The governor confided to him one day, at a dinner-party, that these forgeries were so adroit as almost to defy detection, and that the bank would soon find itself in difficulties if a means were not found of stopping them. Gatebourse impudently offered his assistance in clearing up the mystery, and received a promise that he should

be recommended to the King for a decoration if he succeeded in doing so. A day or two afterwards, with still greater impudence, he presented one of his own forged notes in person at the bank counter; but there happened to be one little detail of which he was ignorant. It was the custom of the bank to pin notes of that value together in packets of ten. As there was no pin-prick anywhere on Gatebourse's note, he was detained for inquiries; and the inquiries resulted in a trial and a life-sentence. In England, until a comparatively recent date, such forgers were hanged; and the records of a French court relate that, in 1347, a couple of coiners of false money were drawn to the place of execution on hurdles, and there boiled first and hanged afterwards".

The Future Russia.

What will be the financial situation of the future Russia? It is difficult to realise the havoc that the Bolsheviks have wrought. They have issued hundreds of millions of Bolshevik paper roubles; they have counterfeited the Nicolai money; and, as we have stated, they have produced millions of false foreign notes. As yet we see no light whatever regarding the straightening-out of the financial tangle. Georgia's money is guaranteed by Koltchak's Government. But what government has guaranteed the issue of Denikin money and Yudenitch money and Siberian money? Russia is in a hopeless mess—a mess that, we fear, will never be quite cleared up in our day.

October in Georgia.

They tell us that this is the best month to be in Georgia. The weather is certainly ideal at present. There is an autumn sun and there is an autumn crispness in the air. Tiflis will soon be her old gay self again. The theatres have re-opened after the summer vacation: folks are returning to town from the country; orchestras are playing in the restaurants and the round of social gaieties has started. We know from past experience that Tiflis is a fine town to be in during the winter months. And we know that it is difficult for any foreigner to feel homesick here. Georgians are indeed a happy-minded people, as General Cory has said.

Lost—David Ghambashidze!

It may seem impossible to those who know of Mr. David Ghambashidze's size and popularity to state that he is lost. But we really believe he is. We have hunted for him all over the town—but without success. We want to speak to him, but we cannot find him. If



this should meet his eye, (and everything that concerns Georgia somehow or other always *does* meet his eye) we appeal to him to come and see us. The fact is that without Mr. Ghambashidze, we ourselves are lost. He is to us, as he is to every British and American officer in the Caucasus, a guide, philosopher and friend. Everyone wants him on every occasion. We have our difficulties: we have some needs: we require some help—and always we say, "It's all right. I'll ask Mr. Ghambashidze about it".

So, please, Mr. Ghambashidze, come and see us whenever you can!

The Tiflis—Baku line.

A few days ago we were in Baku Like Tiflis, Baku is perfectly orderly and peaceful. The train service is excellent. On our journey to Baku the train was absolutely punctual. We arrived at the scheduled time. The same punctuality occurred on the return trip. And hereby hangs a tale. A friend of ours wanted to meet us at the station. Our train was due soon after 3 o'clock, and at that time we promptly arrived. There was no one to meet us, and we went home. Three hours later our friend turned up at our address, after having gone to meet us at 5 o'clock, "as the train was always late". The moral is that although trains may be late, and this is inevitable considering that the customs examination at the frontier is not a matter of time that can be definitely fixed but is of necessity a more or less elastic affair, it is best to turn up punctually. If the train is late, it is not your fault. But if you are late, the blame is yours and yours only. Considering that the Georgian railways have suffered from the neglect occasioned by the war and that few repairs have been possible during the past five years, the service is very good indeed. Incidentally, we got quite a thrill to find the Baku station decorated with flowers and branches of trees: but this was not for us. It was in honour of General Harbord's visit to the town.

S. L.

The Shah on Tour

The Shah of Persia will go to Belgium at the beginning of November after the return of the Belgian Sovereigns from America. He will stay for a few days in Brussels and will then visit the Belgian battlefields, proceeding to Antwerp and probably to Liège also.

THE OCCUPATION OF ODESSA.

CHEERS FOR THE BRITISH: GUARD OF CHINESE CONVICTS.

The following telegram has been received from Reuter's special correspondent at Odessa under date Aug. 25:

Troops belonging to the Volunteer Army without guns have landed and occupied Odessa. The Russian cruiser *Kagul* has been rechristened *General Kornilov*. The Russian destroyer *Pospeshny* effectively bombarded the Bolsheviks in the open country.

Thousands of people of all classes are surrounding the building of the *Chreszychaika* (torture-house) asking for news of their relatives and friends.

The number of those who have been murdered is not yet known even approximately. The Bolsheviks took with them groups of hostages. The personnel of the *Chreszychaika* comprise Letts and Chinese as well as a negro who has been arrested. With the departure of the Bolsheviks the price of bread immediately fell from 150 to 30 roubles a pound. The commanders of the British warships walking in the streets of Odessa are cheered by the crowd with shouts of "Thank you, British".

The Sebastopol naval forces assembled on August 22 sixteen miles south of Odessa. On the 23rd at dawn the transport *Marguerite* disembarked troops of the Volunteer Army without being observed by the Bolsheviks. These troops were divided into groups which marched along the coast capturing the enemy batteries. Other detachments pushed further into the interior and then advanced towards the town of Odessa.

I was with one of these detachments which had several skirmishes with groups of Bolsheviks who always took to flight after firing a few rifle shots in disorderly fashion. A Bolshevik battery of six three inch guns was surrounded and captured with its horses, the gunners fleeing without firing.

Our detachment arrived at the edge of the town of Odessa at nightfall and bivouacked near the central prison in which there were between 400 and 500 hostages including ex-officers and two ex-generals over 70 years old, as well as workmen and members of the middle classes. The troops desired to make an assault on the prison at all costs but the project was abandoned, the commanding officer being unwilling to run the risk of heavy losses. It was known that the guard of the prison numbered 300, two hundred being Chinese convicts, with several machine guns and the possibility of receiving reinforcements.

On the following morning we discovered that the guard had fled, leaving the hostages safe and sound. Our march was continued towards the middle of the city, the inhabitants coming out of their houses *en masse*, cheering

and kissing their liberators upon whom they showered flowers.

A Bolshevik battery which fired on the troops did not cause a single casualty among them, but set fire to the synagogue which was completely destroyed. The destruction of the synagogue made a deep impression on the native population who saw in it a pre-figuration of the coming downfall of Bolshevism. No excesses have been committed against the Jews.

I spoke with workmen who expressed their joy at the overthrow of Bolshevism, the cessation of the persecutions and horrors and the prospect of food at possible prices. I hoped to get some information from the local Trade-Unions concerning the Bolshevik regime, the Volunteer Army and British aid, but I was told everywhere that the Trade-Unions had ceased to exist under the Bolshevik regime and had not yet been reconstituted.

The cruiser *General Kornilov*, ex-*Kagul*, moving to the north of Odessa, bombarded the railway behind the town on which there was a Bolshevik armoured train. The railway line was cut by this bombardment.

The Bolsheviks pillaged the British Consulate General.

Cholera is raging in Odessa. Two hundred cases were registered last week.

The Anglo-Persian Agreement.

Prince Firouz, the Persian Foreign Minister, in an interview with the *Daily Express* correspondent at Montreux in Switzerland given on behalf of the Shah, said:—"I cannot understand European reports that Great Britain in August last created a 'protectorate' of Persia. That is entirely incorrect and untrue. It was Persia who took the initiative and asked for Great Britain's help because Persia was helpless and in a state of infancy. Small bands of brigands who invested the country had destroyed commerce and squandered lives. The Government, practically without troops, guns, rifles, and money was helpless to restore order and was only able to retain authority in a few of the principal towns. We want Great Britain's natural wealth to support us, and we should also welcome American capitalists and French instructors. French is the first foreign language taught in our schools'".

Wolf Bureau states that German Government has as yet not received an invitation to take part in Washington Conference.

THE WEEK'S NEWS.

The flight of German workmen from Lodz to Berlin is going on. The latter city is already dangerously overcrowded.

The Dutch press is occupying itself with German and Austrian documents, referring to the preliminary history of the war and published at Vienna. "Algemeen Handelsblad" accuses German politicians of frivolity and stupidity.

German wireless reports strikes in Germany of metalworkers and seamen. Regarding the action of Erzberger against Helfferich on account of insult it is now stated that according to the law the Imperial Government cannot prosecute, Erzberger himself being a member of the Government.

According to Finnish reports, the Russian Soviet Government has made an offer of peace to the Ukraine, being willing to acknowledge the independence and neutrality of the Ukraine.

The transport of German prisoners of war from England via Rotterdam began on September 24, amounting to 300 a day.

Czechs at Vienna demand that twelve elementary schools be handed over to them and expense be borne by the municipality.

Lieutenant Sodem, a Swedish aviator, has flown without a stop 1400 kilometres from Ystad in South Sweden to Haparanda in six hours in a new Swedish army machine.

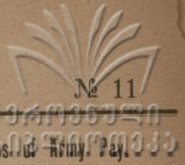
The last colored French troops have left from Toulon for Africa.

Foch and Clemenceau will shortly visit America.

The Italian Government in agreement with the Italian Red Cross will send supplies to the civil population of Fiume should the town council ask for such.

A general meeting of Goethe association in Weimar was opened on September 28 by President Von Rhein-daben with an address declaring the prime duty of all Germans to be the reconstruction of the mental activities and exertions to replace the materialistic tendencies of today by Goethe's old idealism.

According to "Vorwaerts", Ludendorff has resolved to devote the entire profit from his book to German soldiers mutilated in the war. Net profit of this book is supposed to amount to about twenty million marks owing to high honorarium of American edition.



Pershing's Farewell to France.

In an interview with French journalists, before leaving for the United States General Pershing said: "At this moment of departure my thoughts go back to the time of my arrival in France a little over two years ago. There were not many of us then: I had under command a small group of officers and a few thousand troops. It was the advance guard of our army. Since that time American soldiers have regularly landed by hundreds of thousands on your shores. Many have found their last sleep beneath the soil of your country, others have now gone back to their homes.

"It is not easy for peoples belonging to different races and countries to understand one another, and yet the Americans have everywhere felt and appreciated the charm of your land. They know today the most beautiful places in it—they have spent their leaves in the Pyrenees and in Savoy.

"The American soldier has, moreover, conceived a real admiration for the peasants of France whom he has met in their ruined homesteads; and truly a man can have no other feeling when he sees with what courage the French are beginning life anew in the midst of these devastations.

"All this belongs to the past but it is on this past that must rest the foundations of our future relations. On leaving you I can only voice one regret:—the French people knows us only as mere visitors and momentary guests: it does not know American family life, and I hope that many of your country men will come over and appreciate all its sweetness on the spot.

"In bidding farewell to France, which I have learnt to love so dearly, I have the certainty that as time passes our thoughts will go back more and more to these days of comradeship, difficulties and struggles which have cemented so close a bond between our two peoples".

A journalist asked General Pershing at what moment in the war he had felt the greatest emotion.

"The most poignant moment", he replied, "was when I read the news of the Armistice. It was the end. We were on the verge of Victory".

General Liman von Sanders.

A Rome message states that a British warship has arrived there with the German General Liman von Sanders as prisoner on board.

General Liman von Sanders was in command of the forces in operation against the British at the Dardanelles, and subsequently in Palestine. His name is on the Allies' list of those to be tried, the charge against him being that he ordered massacres of the Armenians and the Syrians during the war.

GERMANY'S THREE PAT'IS.

The *Daily Mail* correspondent sends the following account of the temper of the German nation at the present time.

Germany, defeated and at present utterly broken, has three courses open to her, he says:—

1. She can fold her hands and go under.
2. She can cherish hatred and hope of revenge.
3. She can learn and unlearn from her colossal failure.

At present sections of her population are pursuing all three courses, but those who follow the third, perhaps the most thorny path, are few. The obvious path is that of the sulks, the shan't play of childhood. The destruction of ships and airships is an illustration of this attitude. Individually it represents the suicide of the ruined gambler. Collectively it is the fatalism of the East, whereunto—but this lesson is still to learn—the Germans are partly morally related.

Too many Germans—both workmen and middle-classes—won't work. They have ceased to care about the country. "I pictured it differently, our substitute Germany", said an old woman of Weimar when Ebert was made President.

Most pictured it differently, and because it does not correspond to their picture they throw up their hands and seek to smuggle themselves and their remaining fortunes across the frontier, and if they cannot get out they just go under.

The second path is uphill and zig-zags to revenge upon everybody, the ex-enemy and supposed traitors. There are plenty to follow the leaders by this track. Professors, schoolmasters and preachers trained forty years on the Hohenzollern lines find this way easy. So the Pan-German League has had noisy and frankly enthusiastic support for its Sedan day meeting in Berlin. It has been a florid admixture of "revanche" motive and anti-Semitism.

There is a third way to learn and unlearn, but you cannot unteach this generation. It is a matter of a decade, and in Germany there is a demand for a crop that shall ripen overnight.

Allied Warning About Negotiations with Bolsheviks.

A telegram received from Reval states that the Allied representatives have notified the new Baltic States that their independence will not be recognised by the Peace Conference if they negotiate with the Bolsheviks.

The Last German War Documents

German Paper Accuses the ex-Kaiser of Criminal 'Imprudence'.

The last German documents relative to the origin of the war will be published this month. The documents relative to the period extending from the Serajevo murder to the declaration of war will be issued first. Professor Schucking and Count Montgelas have been appointed to prepare the publication of these documents. Professor Mendelssohn Bartholdy will be responsible for the publication of all other documents that might refer to the history of the origin of the war.

The German Press comments on the new Austrian Red Book just issued on the origin of the war are characteristic. The *Berliner Tageblatt* writes that these revelations demonstrate the criminal imprudence of the former German Government, and that of the Emperor who promised Austria the unconditional assistance of Germany and overlooked the consequences of an engagement of this kind.

The *Frankfort Gazette* says:—"Vienna was incited to immediate action by the German Government who did not see that, instead of such encouragement, Vienna needed to be taught moderation. The German Government is responsible for this and this responsibility is all the more serious as a strong war party was known to exist in Austria".

The members of the Conservative Party look on the revelations it contains as an expression of what they always believed. They maintain that the German Government was decided to venture on the war by Vienna diplomacy, and they charge Bethmann-Hollweg among all the German statesmen with the greatest responsibility for letting the intrigues of the Austro-Hungarian statesmen deceive him.

The papers of the Left too maintain the responsibility of the Austrian foreign minister but observe that this does not in the least lessen the responsibility of the German statesmen or that of the German Emperor. On the contrary the passiveness of German policy at such a time only increases that responsibility.

German Forgers of Russian Money Caught.

The Roumanian Press Bureau announces that a large aeroplane fitted with two motors was compelled to land in Bessarabia near Hotin. The Roumanian military authorities seized on board three hundred million roubles and all the machinery required for the printing of banknotes. The passengers, four German officers, declared that they had intended to go to Prussia.

New Rates of Pay.

Increases all round: 2/9 a day for a recruit.

The new rates of pay, half pay and retired pay for officers and men of the British Army have been issued.

According to the new scale the Lieutenant receives L305, and with 2 years seniority L448. A Lieutenant after 7 years service receives L503.

A Captain receives L622 and after 15 years service, L667.

A Major after 5 years service receives L868.

The pay of a Lieut.-Colonel commanding is L1,242.

A General Officer Commanding, First Class, receives L4,288.

The fore-going rates are for married officers. Unmarried officers receive approximately L70 less, and there are special rates for officers of Technical Corps.

The new rates will not be taken into account in the assessment of gratuities.

Rates affecting Non-Commissioned ranks provide for a daily payment of 2/9 to the recruit on enlistment, with increases for proficiency and length of service after 2 years.

A First Class Warrant Officer will draw 14/1—a day, which is approximately the pay of a Captain during the early part of the war.

Poland's Stolen Property.

A Polish commission will shortly leave Warsaw for Germany to claim the machinery taken by the Germans during the occupation of Poland.

Poland to Build a Navy.

The Polish Government has completed its schemes regarding the establishment of the fleet which will include 4 cruisers and 12 torpedo boats. These plans will be put into execution immediately after the ratification of the Peace Treaty.

The total personnel is estimated at 3,200 ratings and 150 officers. Admiral Porembski, formerly of the Russian fleet, who commanded a cruiser during the Russo-Japanese war, will be appointed Chief of the Ministry of Marine.

(Note: Poland has an outlet to the Baltic at Dantzig but as this is an international port, her warships could not be docked there. She hopes however to get the port of Memel).

A despatch from Rome announces that the King has signed a decree relative to the electrification of the Italian Railway System. The expense will be 800,000,000 lire (about L 32,000,000).

After an absence of five years King Peter returned to Belgrade.