

Edited by SCOTLAND LIDDELL.

THE SHAH IN LONDON.**Tse Persian Ruler's Career.***(From the "Times").*

To-day the British nation welcomes his Majesty Sultan Ahmed Shah Kajar, the ruler of Persia, a country with which the British Government has long had close and friendly relations—relations which began three centuries ago, when in 1622 an English fleet cooperated with a Persian army in the capture of Hormuz from the Portuguese. Lord Curzon recently said that during the 120 years since the first British envoy went to Persia the relations of the two countries have been more close and intimate than those of any other foreign Power.

Our Royal visitor is not likely to be the subject of such eager curiosity for the man in the street as was his great-grandfather on the occasion of the first visit of a reigning Shah to this country in 1873, when many stories were current of Nasir-ud-Din's difficulties in relating his autocratic ideas to his contact with Western constitutional methods. But he is certain to win popular interest and respect when he appears in public, representing as he does the new and more satisfactory phase of the relationship between Great Britain and the ancient Empire of the Middle East.

Born on January 20, 1898, Ahmed Shah was a boy of nine when he exercised his first important duty of statecraft. As heir-apparent he added his signature to that of his father, the Shah Mahomed Ali, to the ratification of the new written Constitution drawn up by the Majlis (National Assembly) on Western lines. Within two years Mahomed Ali lost his Throne in consequence of his futile attempts to stamp out the constitutional system and to regain the absolutism of his ancestors. On July 18, 1909, Ahmed Shah, then in his 12th year was proclaimed Sovereign, his father being in *bas* at the Russian Legation. For five years the boy was under the regency, first of Azad ul-Mulk, a member of the Royal family, and after his death of Nasir-ul-Mulk, a man of European education and high character.

Strong Russian Influence.

His coronation took place with impressive ceremonial on July 21, 1914, so that he attained ruling powers on the very eve of the Great War. In the preceding five years the administration

was carried on largely in accordance with the views of the Majlis, though considerably tempered by the ominous power of Russian troops, not only in the "sphere of influence" assigned to the Tsarist Government by the Anglo-Russian Convention of 1907, but also in the "neutral sphere". The Teheran Government was most impecunious, and the country beyond the reach of Russian Cossacks was in a state of continuous turbulence.

These were favourable conditions for Teutonic intrigue, which had long been active in the region of the Persian Gulf. German and Turkish emissaries did their utmost to force Persia into open, or at least covert, breach of the neutrality Teheran had declared. The die was definitely cast by the action of the young ruler in November, 1915, when there was a close trial of strength between the hostile Powers. Torn by conflicting advice, Ahmed Shah, a mere boy of 17, took a strong stand for the Allies, and refused to leave Teheran to join the German, Austrian, and Turkish emissaries waiting for him at Shah Abdul Azim, six miles away. But further difficulties were created by the subsequent collapse of Russia, whose troops had dealt so harshly with the Persians. The situation was not secure from the Allied point of view until the overthrow of the military prestige of the Turk put an end once for all to the danger of Turkish aggression across the border.

Though the tendency of some of the greybeards in power had been to treat the Shah as little more than a figurehead, he showed through these critical years a growing capacity for statesmanship which we may expect to develop further as a result of his present tour. His personal sympathies with the Allies were reinvigorated by his steadfast and eager study of history, to which he ordinarily devotes at least two hours a day. His careful education at Teheran, mostly by foreign professors, had provided him with keys to first-hand study of the case of the Allies.

A Good Linguist.

He knows English and Russian, and talks French fluently and accurately, though with a rather clumsy accent. He has shown himself friendly to European influences, and it is known that he eagerly looked forward to his present tour as providing an opportunity to learn more of Western ways and institutions.

In appearance his Majesty is short

and stout. Though he is not an all-round sportsman, and rides but little, he is a good lawn tennis player, and has often enjoyed the game in the garden in the British Legation at Teheran. A few years back, in order to encourage open-air sports, he founded the Imperial Sports Club at Teheran, placing at its disposal a piece of Crown land. On the occasion of the opening of the club he said that he had at heart the progress of sport and the physical and moral development of his subjects. As a boy he was much attached to his father, and he visited him in his exile at Priukipo when travelling westwards last August. He has had some military training at the hands of young Persians who had been attached to the French Army. There can be no doubt of his intention to adhere to constitutional rule of the popularity he has attained, while still on the threshold of manhood, among his people.

The British Policy to Russia.**Non-Intervention Decided On.**

London, November 18.—In the House of Commons Sir Donald Maclean, leader of the Independent Liberals, raised the question of Russia. He said that he perfectly recognised that a policy of absolute neutrality was now impossible. At the present moment we had honourably fulfilled our engagement towards Russia. He was opposed to intervention in the internal affairs of any country. Though Bolshevism was not Democracy, nevertheless it was not our affair.

Lord Robert Cecil declared that there was only one hope for Europe, namely the re-establishment of Russia. There ought to be no hesitation as to the policy to be adopted. Our policy was non-intervention after having fulfilled our obligations to our Ally.

Mr. Henderson, leader of the Labour Party, stated that the League of Nations must become a league of all peoples. The Labour Party was against intervention in the affairs of Russia and demanded that there should not be given to Russia either money or troops, either material or diplomatic aid.

A commission of experts ought to be nominated by the League of Nations to visit Russia and this commission should have upon it representatives of the different groups of the Labour movement as well as of the Government.

Bolshevism is Not Liberty.

Mr. Lloyd George answered in the name of the Government. He combated the idea that Bolshevism meant liberty for the workers. He had always been of the opinion that peace could have been obtained if both the Bolsheviks and the Anti-Bolsheviks had all laid down their arms, but neither of the parties was willing to consent. The policy of the Government was above all opposed to any Allied military intervention in Russia.

We could not assume the responsibility of furnishing financial means for an indefinite civil war in Russia, and our first thought must be for our own people. There were three claims at present for British intervention in foreign fields: one in Russia, the second in Armenia, the third in the Baltic Provinces, where there were still German troops. Could it be said that Great Britain was the only Power obliged to see to the execution of the Peace Treaty? He could not assume such a responsibility.

"I do not fear Bolshevism", he concluded. "In any well-governed country, Bolshevism must be combated everywhere by sympathetic justice, by sowing confidence amongst all classes rich and poor, as well as among those who are neither rich nor poor. I have no fear of the Bolshevik revolution. But I hesitate before a mad adventure in a country where the conditions are unknown and where catastrophe has met every Empire and every army which penetrated there".

He added that we desired the re-establishment of confidence and credit on the Continent. We wished for American co-operation, but if America decided not to participate with us, then we and the other nations of Europe must support the burden as we had always done.

Georgians in Italy.**Banquet in honour of the Mission at Rome.**

The "Temps" wires on November 4 from Rome: "The Italian Minister of Trade and Commerce gave a banquet in honour of the Georgian Mission, which is headed by M. Sabakhtarashvili. Besides the Minister of Trade and Commerce, Ferrari, and the Assistant of the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Count Sforza, high officials of all the Ministries and prominent representatives of the most important branches of commerce were present".



EDITORIAL.

Bolshevik Weapons.

The success of the Bolsheviks has been due almost entirely to the power of the printing-press. Propaganda and paper money have been—and still are—their strongest weapons. Millions of pamphlets from their arsenal have accomplished what mere fire-arms never could have done: millions of false currency notes have triumphed where cannon and rifle would have failed. Bolshevik finance is very simple. There is no question of a gold reserve; no thought is given to the future. As long as there is paper and as long as there is ink, the funds of Soviet Russia are assured. The Bolshevik budget for the first six months of this year shows a deficit of 30,353,000,000 roubles.

False "Bradburys".

The money question will be one of the most difficult problems that the future Russian government will have to solve. Not only have millions of paper roubles been issued from the Bolshevik printing works, but also, as was announced recently, the paper money of other states has been counterfeited in large quantities, the amiable idea of the Lenin-Trotsky firm being to flood the world with such imitations in order to affect adversely the value of the genuine notes. Bolshevik "Bradburys", as a matter of fact, have already found their way to Trans-Caucasia. They are remarkably good imitations. An "N" with the middle stroke running upwards from left to right seems to be the only fault in the design, but there is something in the feel of the paper which is hardly likely to deceive any Briton.

"Wealthy" Prisoners.

For some time past the authorities of Azerbaidjan and Georgia have been actively hunting the Bolsheviks. They have not concerned themselves very much with the workmen dupes of the Soviet leaders, but they went after the big game—the agents and the agitators and the commissars. Almost daily arrests have been made, and a characteristic of each arrested man was the large amount of paper money he carried with him. The sum of twenty million roubles was found on one small group of Bolsheviks captured in Georgia, and a few weeks ago we ourselves were present when the Azerbaidjan police arrested a suspected agent at Evlakh station who had three million false Nicolai roubles in his suit-case.

A Forced Descent.

As we recently announced—and as everyone, indeed, knows—a Bolshevik rising was planned to take place in Georgia on October 24. After the fall of Vladikavkaz and the occupation of that town by the Volunteer Army, many Bolsheviks escaped and took refuge in the hills. From time to time they came down to the lower ground to hold up trains and motor-cars. It was long known that they were preparing a revolution, so that when it actually did occur the authorities were prepared, and although the rebels managed to seize some of the government buildings in several small towns their success was very short-lived. After about an hour they were defeated. Many of the leaders were captured and shot on the spot; others returned to their hiding-places in the mountains. But winter is here now, and the higher lands are covered with snow so that the Bolshevik bandits have been forced to descend to the plains. The Georgian military and the Georgian police have been patiently waiting for them, and not many days ago some of the chief criminals have been arrested. These included the well-known robber, Laliashvili, and the notorious murderer, Philip Makharadze, who will be charged with the death of a British army doctor in Tiflis in April of this year, and with the attempt on the life of General Baratov, at whom two bombs were thrown in September.

The Expenses.

With the downfall of Makharadze, many important documents have fallen into the hands of the Georgian authorities. These documents, which include cashiers' books and several letters relating to money, dated from July 29 up to October 31 of this year, throw a considerable amount of light on the financial side of the Bolsheviks' activity in Trans-Caucasia. One learns, for instance, that the Bolshevik "expenses" during these three months amounted to four million roubles. One also learns the source from which this money was received. In a letter sent from Astrakhan one reads that "Comrade Rogov left on October 22 carrying with him three millions of Nicolai money". Another letter tells of a second "comrade" who carried a similar sum, and there is a promise that more millions will be sent in three days' time.

"Special Purposes".

Apart from the expenses of four million roubles for three months, as entered in the cashiers' books, the Bolsheviks had evidently further large sums which were used for "special purposes". In the minutes of the sitting of the "Caucasian Provincial Committee" on October 27, there is the following: "Payment from the funds of Tchabiev: 1) 1,300,000 roubles given to the staff at Gikalo. 2) 1,000,000 roubles to X. is to be confirmed".

Provincial Organisations.

The largest sums were given for "military technical purposes", for the "work of the party", and for all sort of "help". From the following list one can see how liberally the provincial organisations were supplied with money in three months:

117,000 roubles to the Batoum organisation.

165,000 roubles to the Sukhum region organisation.

185,000 roubles to the provincial committee of Tiflis.

390,000 roubles to the provincial committee of Kutais.

Workers' Wages.

For the equipment of the "Communist Red Army", Comrade Vasso received 100,000 roubles. Assistance of several thousand roubles each was also given to a number of "comrades" whose names are duly entered in the books. As far as wages were concerned, the Soviet workers had little of which they could complain. The ordinary rank-and-file workers received 3,000 roubles each per month, but this has now been increased by forty per cent. Unfortunately, there is no exact record of the sums received by the leaders, but it is evident from a perusal of the documents that these men could spend whatever they wished and that their expenses were never detailed.

Subsidised Press.

Finally, there are some interesting references to a local newspaper, since dead. This paper was the organ of the so-called "Internationalists", and it consistently defended the Bolshevik policy. One learns the reason now, because there is abundant evidence that this paper was subsidised with Bolshevik money. Truly, one might well say that the Bolsheviks have gained all their victories on paper!

S. L.

The Peace Conference Packing up.

Paris, November 14.—American sources here say: The announcement made yesterday that the American Peace delegation will leave France for America in the first days of December has caused a *furor* in Paris not only in U.S. Hotel Crillon circles and among Americans, but also among the various Peace delegations representing other Powers.

The Great Powers had never believed that the Americans would leave. It is reported that the steamship *George Washington* will be reserved for the Peace Commission for December. Every day huge boxes of documents and papers are carried out of the Hotel Crillon and sent to Brest, and the hotel is now about one third full.

Members of the Commission make no secret about their determination to be home for Christmas and not even the signing of the Hungarian Treaty will keep them in Paris for the holidays. Arrangements have already been made that the American Ambassador, Mr. Wallace, shall represent the United States in the signing of the Hungarian Peace Treaty if that ceremony is performed after the Commission has left.

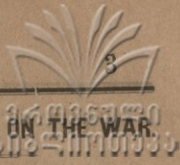
The few experts and special attachés who will remain in Paris are preparing to transfer their head-quarters from the Hotel Crillon to the Embassy.

Washington as New Centre.

Washington will become a centre for delegations of small nations who will congregate there after the present Peace Conference breaks up. Representatives of the Balkan States and other newly created nations are already making arrangements to proceed to the United States to establish their head-quarters in the American capital to keep in touch with future activities which may affect their countries.

The Greeks may decide to send Venizelos to Washington to discuss the Thrace question which will not be further discussed in Paris. The Polish delegation will go to Washington to bring pressure to bear on the Americans for American help to Poland, and the Czecho-Slovaks and Yugo-Slavs are both arranging to have delegations in the American Capital to watch over their particular interests. The Italians and Roumanians are contemplating the establishment of propaganda bureaux in America as they both assert that they are misrepresented in the United States and do not wish to forfeit American goodwill.

The various questions still to be discussed will go through Foreign Office channels and will be transmitted to the various Embassies for Ambassadors to discuss. The little nations' delegations believe that in Washington they will be kept informed as to what propositions are being discussed on the problems which affect them.



Lord Reading on the League of Nations.

London, November 12.—Lord Reading, Lord Chief Justice, has made to a representative of the *Times* an important statement on the League of Nations which appeared yesterday opportunely on what Lord Reading describes as the anniversary of "the day that brought the submission of the Germans and the defeat of militarism, and above all of the day which saw the triumph of justice".

Lord Reading says: "When the world was rocking in the giant struggle of the last five years, the thought recurred again and again with ever-increasing intensity that some means other than the killing and maiming of men and devastation of territory should be found to settle international disputes.

"Now that the war is over one must strive to make these views prevail. Women who have suffered so deeply from the horrors and sacrifices of war should not need persuading to exercise their moral zeal in the work. The League is the hope of humanity.

"The League Covenant does not set out with the intention of banishing war from the earth although if the public help is rallied and held, even that may be accomplished in the time to come. The Covenant aims rather at allowing time for passions to cool and for reason to intervene".

The Reduction of Armaments.

Regarding the material benefit to be expected from the League, Lord Reading continues: "We have won the war but the effort was costly. We must husband our resources. Armaments must be reduced. To make the reduction effective there must be an agreement between the nations and an observance of the conditions. No way to this goal can be found if the League of Nations fails. We should revert to ruinous competitive armaments and possibly to conscription. By lessening the risks of war we may reduce armaments to limits commensurate to the probabilities of war. In other words our insurance against war will cost less. Of course, no responsible Government would reduce beyond the limit of security. There can be no gamble with the safety of the nation, but the more the League of Nations grows up, the better becomes the prospect of diverting expenditure to profitable and beneficial channels".

The Work of the League.

Dealing with the prospects of the League, Lord Reading said: "These will largely depend on the League's early efforts. During the next few years in all probability it will deal with the unsettled problems referred to it by the Peace Conference on with the problems arising out of the decisions of the Conference. Vastly important as these mat-

ters will be, a greater test will come later. The sound of guns and casualty lists will be too vividly remembered for some years, for some years the exhaustion of nations and their need of recuperation will be too pressing, to permit of war. If meanwhile the decisions of the League Assembly or Council have created confidence in its desire and determination to do justice towards nations without fear or favour but with a single propose of checking the reign of might, then the League will have made mighty strides forward and will have built the surest foundation for our future establishment.

Smaller nations have to be satisfied that they can appeal to the League Tribunal in the belief that justice will be done. Then the League will have secured a truly important result. If certain smaller nations acting together in the League are resolved that it should not become a conference actuated by selfish national interests and seeking political advantages but remain an association of nations animated by a spirit of justice and unselfishness, seeking peace and international co-operation, the future of the League will be assured".

Lord Reading concludes that just as in Great Britain there is confidence in the decisions of the courts caused by long years of honoured traditions, so it is to be hoped that a similar spirit will animate the League tribunals and bring the representatives who are to sit thereon into high esteem among the nations.

Mr. Keeling.

Helsingfors.

From a private source I am informed that Mr. Keeling has been seen in prison of Moscow, and that the Bolsheviks propose to bring him to trial.

** Mr. Keeling, a trade unionist, went to Russia as a newspaper correspondent. He entered the country last July from Estonia in company with M. Goode, who has since returned. Both were stopped when a day's train journey from Moscow; Mr. Goode afterwards going to Moscow with Mr. Keeling's credentials. These were declared by the Soviet Government to be worthless.

Awards to Large Families.

The French Academy has fixed the conditions by which next year 90 endowments of L1,000 each are to be made to French families with the largest number of children. For this purpose the Academy has at its disposal the Cognac endowment of L90,000 annual rents. Already 12,000 poor families with at least nine children living have applied. Some have over 20 children living and many have double the limit fixed. Stepchildren are ruled out.

THE FRENCH PRESIDENT ON HAIG.

Tribute to Scotsmen.

M. Poincaré, the French President, who was installed as Rector of Glasgow University, referred eloquently to the traditional Franco-Scottish amity, and paid a moving tribute to the indomitable gallantry of Scottish soldiers and assured them of France's gratitude.

Referring to the fact that Field Marshal Haig is a Scotsman, President Poincaré said: "Field Marshal Haig embodied during this long war all the finest qualities of your nation, I saw him in the most tragic hours, present at times at important conferences where he gave proof as much of his clear-sightedness as of his mental energy.

"I was at his head-quarters with the King on the eve of the last British offensive. He explained to us his plan and pointed out his aims on the map with a mastery precision. On the morrow, everything he foretold was realised, and all had happened in the order he had intended and at the very time he had fixed.

"This strategic science is accompanied in your celebrated fellow-countryman with a spirit of resolution and disinterestedness of which I am glad to recall two striking examples. In 1916, the French army was defending Verdun against the German rush with a tenacity which filled the whole world with wonder and respect, but it suffered enormous losses and despite its courage it was obliged to yield ground little by little and the enemy drew nearer to the walls of the town. General Joffre, General Petain and General Nivelle were all three convinced that it was urgently necessary to help Verdun by attacking on another point of the front. A Council of War was held under my presidency to which Marshal Haig came with willing courtesy.

"We requested him to support the great operations which our Staff was preparing on the River Somme. He readily agreed to do so. He gave indeed the faithful assistance he had promised and Verdun was saved".

Danish Red Cross Members Arrested.

A Denikin wireless message states that the chiefs of the Danish Red Cross Mission in Kieff have been arrested by order of General Denikin's Government. Information had been received that the chiefs were acting as agents of the Austro-German Soviet in Kieff, which had worked in full contact with the Russian Soviet. The arrest was preceded by a search of the premises occupied by the Danish Red Cross Mission.

HINDENBURG ON THE WAR.

Germany Might Have Won.

The *Hamburger Nachrichten* publishes an interview with Marshal Hindenburg. Hindenburg says that he cannot understand how Ludendorff's unpopularity arose, since he (Hindenburg) bore the whole responsibility for all military decisions. Uncertainty, he added, was one of the main elements of war. If there were no uncertainty there would be no war at all, since the result could be mathematically ascertained. The war had certainly been hard but it could have been brought to a favourable end by putting forth every effort. History would some day impartially state why it was lost. No doubt as to the causes of the sad end existed to-day for him, who in central command had the requisite survey of all the factors contributing to it. Hindenburg concluded by expressing confidence in Germany's future if it learnt the necessary lessons from this war.

Death of Countess Tolstoy.

The *Krasnaya Gazeta* of November 6 announces the death of Countess Sofia Andreievna Tolstoy, widow of the great writer, at Yasnaya Polyana on the 4th inst.

** The Countess Sofia Andreievna Tolstoy was one of three daughters of Dr. Behrs, a Russian of German extraction, who resided in Moscow and whom Tolstoy seems to have first known in 1856. In his diary for that year he mentions that on a visit to the Behrs's country house "the little children served us. What dear, merry little girls". Little more than six years later he married the second of these girls. It was a struggle for him to summon up courage to propose. He wrote in his diary, August 26, 1862 (old style): "Ugly mug, do not think of marriage; your calling is of another kind". Something like a thought-reading seance went on before the proposal of marriage, which was made by letter and accepted. The marriage took place a week later, on September 23, 1862. Their first son, Sergius, was born in 1863, and altogether the Countess bore her husband 13 children in 26 years. The couple retired to Yasnaya Polyana, the Count's estate. Tolstoy was a devoted husband, as the 656 letters by him to his wife and published by her bear testimony. Yet with it all, there had been a growing estrangement of a spiritual kind on Tolstoy's part which led him in November, 1910, to flee from Krasnaya and to die from illness brought on by exposure. As far back as 1879 he had written a letter to his wife, to be handed to her after his death. In that letter he describes the torment he suffered from the discord between his life and his beliefs, and declares his intention to leave her.



MONARCHIST DREAMS.

Devotion to the Kaiser Idea.

(From the "Times" Berlin Correspondent).

"The poor Kaiser!" (*Der arme Kaiser!*)—one often hears the words from high and low alike in Germany to-day. A few days ago I caught them as they fell—inadvertently—from the lips of an "Excellency"—a titled diplomatist who has occupied some of the most dignified and responsible positions in the gift of the German Foreign Office. I have repeatedly heard them uttered with a sigh by persons of both sexes employed in humbler callings. "I hope they won't try him", said a Berlin saleswoman to me, adding naively, "because, even if he is to blame for the war, he's not the only one!"

I was surprised on entering a shop in the Friedrichstrasse to find that picture-postcards of the Kaiser and his family were one of the chief constituents of the stock-in-trade. I bought several as a curiosity of present-day Berlin. One of them represents the Kaiser with his two elder sons looking out of a frame of oak leaves. Be neat are crossed swords and other martial emblems, and the words:—

Burschen heraus!

Lasset es schallen von Haas zu Haas,
Wenn es gilt für's Vaterland
Trenn die Klingen dann zur Hand
Und heraus mit mut'gem Sang,
Wär' es auch zum letzten Gang,
Burschen heraus!

TRANSLATION:

Out Boys!

From house to house re-echo the noise;
When the Fatherland's at stake,
Faithful your blades in hand you take;
Out—let your cheery song resound,
Were it 'e'en for the final round—
Out Boys!

Both Kaiser and Crown Prince are "out" indeed, in a sense very different from that intended by the writer of the verse. But will they remain out for good and all?

Many are asking the question to-day when there are increasing signs of a "reaction". There is no doubt that the days of the Hohenzollern splendour are regretted by large sections of the population, and these not exclusively the privileged classes. There are multitudes who never think of blaming Wilhelm II, for this change, and whose only reflection is—How different and how much happier things were under "the poor Kaiser!"

But though I have met many who pity the Kaiser I have never met one in whose opinion he could by any possibility be restored to the position he has lost. As Kaiser or King he is *erledigt*—done with, disposed of once for all. The matter stands otherwise as regards the question of monarchy or republic, and he would be a bold man who would venture to say that a restoration is out of the question. Six months ago the revolution held the field. It was successful, and nothing succeeds like success—but then the

converse is also true, that nothing fails like failure, and the revolution has failed to satisfy, or even to appease, the hunger of the masses for the lost prosperity. Consequently there are mutterings and discontent, and the revolution and the present Government are blamed for what is in reality not their fault but the fault of the nation as a whole.

There is, of course, always the difficulty that there is no claimant with prestige to set upon the Throne, for if the Kaiser is impossible the Crown Prince is even more so. One still occasionally hears the eldest son of the latter mentioned as a candidate whose selection might perhaps not be beyond the pale of practical politics. It is not likely, however, that a monarchist counter-revolutionary movement, or *Putsch*, as it is called, will be successful in the immediate future, and were one to be attempted it might be grievously disappointing to those by whom it would be made. It would certainly mean civil war.

America's Future Army.

General Pershing's Suggestions.

At a joint meeting of the Military Committees of the Senate and the House of Representatives, General Pershing recommended the creation of a Regular Army large enough to provide against sudden attacks and to meet international obligations on the American continent and elsewhere.

He estimated that this force should not exceed 300,000, thus disagreeing with the War Department's recommendation in favour of an Army of 500,000. He further recommended the creation of a "trained Citizen Reserve", to deal with any emergency that might arise.

He also urged the nation to keep abreast of other countries in the development of its Air Service—

Over 3,500,000 Demobilized.

The War British Office states that during the week ended October 29, 56,181 officers and men were demobilized and discharged from the Army, this being at the rate of more than 8,000 a day.

The total number discharged since the Armistice to that date is 150,875 officers and 3,427,340 other ranks.

The Goeben Handed Over; British Crew Placed on Her.

Mr. Walter Long stated in the House of Commons that the battleship *Goeben* had been surrendered by the Turkish authorities and partially repaired. A skeleton British crew had been placed aboard and every precaution had been taken to prevent her being scuttled.

Beer or Bolshevism; the U. S. Problem.

The *Daily Mail* New York correspondent gives the following description of the effects of the No-Drink Law in the U. S.

"An increase of unrest, of Bolshevism, in the number of drug takers, and in crime figures, followed the coming of Prohibition in the United States", says the report of investigators, who, under the auspices of the association opposed to National Prohibition, have made an inquiry into the conditions of eleven Western and Middle Western States since July 31 (the "thirstyfirst") when wartime Prohibition started.

All the extreme Socialists, the I. W. W. groups (Independent Workers of the World) and other extremist organisations, are earnestly advocating Prohibition, it is stated, because the leaders find it is driving into their ranks those who in normal times were lawabiding trade unionists.

Intelligent working-men are repeatedly heard to express the opinion that the labouring classes regard Prohibition as class legislation, because rich employers have been able to collect hoards of liquor which it is impossible for the working-men to do. They are obliged to go without or to drink "wood alcohol" or other poisons.

A New "Graft".

The report says that a new entry has been added to the police list—"deaths due to drinking wood alcohol". In the Western States, it added, 60 per cent of the inhabitants are brewing beer in their own homes, while everywhere corruption in politics is gradually increasing since a new kind of "graft" has been developed.

In Denver, Colorado, the investigators say that they discovered that officials are winking at the importation into the State of Colorado of £800,000 worth of whisky. The police in this State report that cases of excessive drunkenness have trebled since July 1, and that radicalism (the extreme Labour movement) is consistently gaining ground.

Exactly similar conditions have been found to exist in Utah and Montana. A leading physician in Butte, Montana, told the investigator that "in my judgment this Prohibition is a curse which is leading straight to the devil". As a result of it he said incalculable damage was being done to life and health. The I.W.W. leader at Spokane, Washington State, said that "a few months of Prohibition is doing more to help us than years of organisation could have achieved".

At Seattle a judge of the Superior Court, a deputy-sheriff, an ex-officer of the Legislature of the State of Washington, and several other officials were found on trial charged with conducting a whisky ring.

Mr. Gompers the U.S. Labour leader in an interview said:

"I have always contended that the foisting of Prohibition on this country was a blunder, a blunder charged with danger and loaded with the possibilities of disaster. The present is a most unfortunate time to upset the country by an invasion of personal liberty. By adopting Prohibition we have changed wrecking the social and economic fabric of the nation. We have changed the habits of the workmen. That is what has happened. We have upset the man and unsettled him. Uproot one habit, uproot others.

"The man, hitherto satisfied to labour during the day and go home at night to talk and read, has become discontented and restive. Instead of sitting down to his pitcher of beer he goes out into the street and meets other men restless and unsettled like himself. They talk together of their grievances and there are sparks and sometimes fire. I believe Bolshevism in Russia began with Prohibition".

Mr. Gompers went on to describe how Bolshevik apostles are using Prohibition to draw into their ranks foreign-born people in the United States who have been accustomed to the use of beer and light wine. They say, "That is what Congress has done for you". It was a constant source of irritation, for these people, said Mr. Gompers, and placed them in a receptive mood for the deadly propaganda that was to follow.

The New York Federal Grand Jury have filed their bill against five former Government agents and two saloon proprietors charged with evading the provisions of the Prohibition Act. Government agents are charged with accepting huge bribes on several occasions to guarantee the protection of various proprietors engaged in selling liquor.

U. S. Air Service.

To lift aviation in the United States Army out of the "shameful position" into which it has fallen since the Armistice, Senator Wadsworth, Chairman of the Military Affairs Committee of the Senate pleaded for a separate Air Service. At the same time he protested against the refusal of an appropriation of £3,000,000 demanded for military aeronautics. He pointed out how far the United States had fallen behind France and England, both of which countries had recognized the commercial value of aviation.

Trotsky's Garage.

From Moscow comes the information that the celebrated Tchudoff Monastery in the Kremlin (founded in the 14th century), from which the nuns were evicted last summer because the Lettish guards found it excessively troublesome to open and shut the gates for the nuns, has now been turned into a garage for Trotsky's motor-cars.