

THE GEORGIAN MAIL

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TIFLIS.

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Georgian Economic Resources.

(From "Orient News").

Vine-Culture.

The viticultural industry, which had reached a very high point of development in the years preceding the war, has greatly suffered during hostilities. It is, however, now being slowly re-established. There exist in Georgia 111,000 vineyards, which occupy a total area of about 65,000 hectares. The quantity of vine produced annually is nearly 15 million hectolitres, and nearly 8 million units of alcohol are extracted annually from the distillation of grape-skins. Nearly the whole of this quantity of alcohol, as well as half of the wine produced, is put on the market.

There are forty different species of vine peculiar to Georgia, some of which produce grapes of a very superior quality, such as those known by the names of "Rka-tsiteli," "Kipiapi," and "Saperavi." The last-named, which contain a great quantity of tannin and colouring matter, is very largely exported to France. For the last fifteen years the "plantation" system has been substituted for the old method of "layering" the vines. Not only are the technical processes of culture improving, but the methods of care, grafting, and treatment of the vine are being modernized.

The manufacture of wine in Georgia is progressing much more slowly. The vine-presses are primitive, the vine does not keep for long, etc., but the Co-operatives are beginning to come to the aid of private people in this respect.

Silkworms' Eggs.

A Committee has been founded for the purchase of silkworms' eggs from all parts of Georgia. This Committee, composed of Representatives of the autonomous organizations of towns and villages, of Co-operatives, and of silkworm egg proprietors, is presided over by a Government delegate. The eggs will be bought at prices fixed by the Government, and will be delivered to the central store of the Republic at Samtredi. Further, the collection of cocoons from past years must be delivered at a price to be fixed.

Alcohol.

The production of pure alcohol in Georgia was, until lately, carried on largely as a cottage industry. This

alcohol was principally obtained by the distillation of waste material left over from the manufacture of wine. The quantity varied, according to the harvest, from 5 to 8 million units of alcohol per year. Of this amount only a very small portion was consumed whilst by far the larger part was treated in factories, and then employed, after purification, in the diluting of wine.

Owing to the economic disturbance resulting from the war there has been a considerable reduction in the home production of alcohol, and this product is becoming more and more rare.

The Ministry of Supply has, therefore, been called upon to exercise its powers, and to proceed to a more effective production, by means of modern methods, in all the factories under Government control. Attention is being paid to a distillery near the station of Gomi, formerly belonging to Messrs. Sogomonov Bros, which has lain idle for 13 years. The Ministry of Commerce sent an engineer to Gomi to look over the place, and the report of this expert was favourable. All necessary material for distillation is obtainable, and after certain repairs, which can easily be carried through with local materials, the distillery can be set to work. It is estimated that about 6 million units of alcohol could be produced annually.

It should be noted that the alcohol industry is quite distinct from the production of cognac, which is carried on largely in Georgia, by means of the latest approved methods.

Sultan's Encouragement of Marriage.

The Sultan has issued an Irade for the encouragement of Turkish marriages. The Irade stipulates that May 1 of each year shall be made a formal marriage day for Anatolia and that all marriages which have been delayed for any reason shall take place on that day. Persons marrying on that day shall not spend anything upon their marriage nor will guests have to bring any presents to the new couples. Civil functionaries or Governors of Provinces must be represented at the ceremonies and the first children born of these marriages be called after the children of the Sultan, and the boys shall take the name Ertogroul and the girls Ulvie or Rukié. The Governor Generals will put upon the wrists of the first newborn child of these marriages in each province each year a bracelet in the name of the Sultan.

A SOVIET LEVY.

Village Scene in Russia.

A SWARM OF HUMAN LOCUSTS.

An English correspondent who has lived many years in Russia, and who himself witnessed the occurrences he describes, writes the following:

It is interesting to study the methods adopted by the Bolsheviks for raising money. Their system is to raise money by means of what may be termed in English a levy or contribution—the Russian word is "kontributsia"—made whenever the need arises.

One afternoon, into a fair-sized Russian village drove a number of country carts, carrying a detachment of the Red Army, complete with its machine guns and the inevitable Kommissars. After the manner of the Reds dispositions of patrols and machine-guns were promptly made, so as to ensure the complete submission of the villagers, all of whom were ordered to stay in their houses till further orders. Meanwhile the Red troops installed themselves as comfortably as possible, in the best quarters that they could find, as uninvited guests of the inhabitants. There was no question of payment or Government compensation for food and accommodation supplied, and woe betide the unfortunate householder who failed, with alacrity, to supply all the wants, food, wine, if any, clothes, service, &c., that the troops might think fit to demand.

A proclamation was issued to all the villagers, that there would be a contribution on the morrow and following days, and preparations for this were set in hand. The procedure was simplicity itself. Firstly, the necessary protective arrangements, such as disposition of patrols and machine-guns, were made, so as to obviate any chance of resistance. The possibility of resistance was, indeed, small, seeing that there was not a firearm in the village, except, perhaps, an old shot gun or two. Secondly, search parties were detailed, each consisting of four soldiers, of whom one had to be a man with a smattering of knowledge of reading and writing, a qualification possessed by few.

Wholesale Robbery.

The following day the work began. Search parties were allotted so many houses apiece as their sphere of action, and acted as follows: On arrival at a

house, one soldier was left at the door as a sentry. One herded all the inmates of the house into the backyard, where they were compelled to remain till further orders. The other two, one of whom was the man of letters, then set to work on the searching and cataloguing of the contents of the house. The objects principally in demand, besides cash, were food, especially flour, and clothing, including boots. The residents would be brought in and questioned as to the whereabouts of their belongings, cash, &c. Cowed as they were, they probably spoke the truth, but they were not believed, and the searchers took good care to satisfy themselves that nothing had been overlooked. It was in vain for a peasant to protest that his few roubles were all he had with which to keep his family alive—that mattered not—that his small stock of flour was all he had to feed six hungry mouths for the next month, that the warm clothes were what his wife had just finished making up for the little ones for the coming winter. Such trifles as these could not be considered.

Thus went on the work of the agents of the Soviet Government, heedless of the anguish of the peasant and his family, accompanied by the obscene and blasphemous comments of the soldiers of the self-styled "Workmen's and Peasants' Red Army".

After a couple of days, the inventory work was completed, and the Kommissars decided how much of their finds they would take. This decided, they issued orders to the villagers to have the articles demanded ready packed on carts by a certain hour; the carts and their horses and drivers to be provided by the village, free of charge, and to accompany the troops as far as might be required. This might involve the retention of the carts for anything from two days to several weeks, during which time the drivers had to find their own and their horses' food. At last, comparably to the departure of a swarm of locusts, the Red Army left the village, leaving behind them the stricken peasantry raising their voices in a strange mixture of foul imprecations on the Reds and of thanks to Almighty God that their lives had so far been spared.

EDITORIAL.

Unfair Criticism.

In this week's "Georgian Mail" we publish an article by Prince Levan Melikov in answer to one published in the "Morning Post" by that paper's correspondent in Batoum. Prince Melikov protests very rightly against the misleading statements made by this correspondent, who confesses in one of his articles that he only made "a short journey through the country". This, of course, may serve as an explanation, although it can hardly serve as an excuse. In the article which we print this week no mention has been made of one passage of the "Morning Post's" correspondent's writings. Writing from Batoum on January 1, he says, "One may suppose that before very long the adventure of a Free and Independent Georgian Republic will be liquidated". Less than two weeks later, the Supreme Council in Paris recognised the *de facto* independence of Georgia. So the correspondent was wrong in his prophecy, just as he was wrong in many of his "facts".

Press Difficulties.

Because several unfair articles have appeared in the "Morning Post" regarding Georgia, one is apt to accuse the paper of being hostile to the Georgian Republic. This is not really so. A special correspondent is sent by his editor to a foreign country. Naturally, the editor trusts him—otherwise it would be useless to employ him. If for some reason or other, the correspondent forms a wrong impression or is given wrong information, the editor at home is not to know that. He trusts the writer, and the article will duly appear in his paper. This is poor consolation for the country that has been misrepresented. It is perhaps more consoling to know that correspondents who write unfairly or who misrepresent facts do not hold their jobs for long. The British Press is just—but it is most severe.

First Impressions.

It is an old story now, but it is one that can be told again... Once upon a time there was an Englishman who went on a visit to Dublin. When he arrived in that town he drove in a cab to his hotel. The driver of the cab had a red beard. The porter who carried his luggage from the cab to his room in the hotel had also a red beard. The Englishman immediately sent a telegram to his wife telling her that he had arrived safely, and adding the news

that "all Irishmen have red beards". Now, some correspondents are like that traveller. They form their impressions after a few hours in a country—what is worse, and more serious, is that they write them down. We know, for instance, of a special correspondent who spent half a day in Tiflis and who wrote a very hostile political article about Georgia for one of the world's most famous newspapers. But this was the only such article that he wrote, because on his departure from Tiflis, Fate, in the person of a little louse, bit him—gave him typhus and drove him sorrowfully home...

Bias.

Apart from the danger of wrong first impressions, there is the further danger of receiving prejudiced information. The great desire of any correspondent is to get news. And to get this news he is apt to be too trustful. If he is unable to get "copy" for himself, he will very often accept gratefully the news given him by kind informers—with their own axes to grind. A Batoum Russian's views on Georgia are probably biased. A Mussulman's opinion of Armenia most certainly is—as is an Armenian's criticism of Azerbaidjan. There is no wrong in being biased—one must see both sides of every picture—as long as one sticks to facts. As a simple illustration: We can say that we hate the heavy rain showers we have in Georgia in summer. Another man—a farmer, for instance—can say that he likes these showers very much. Our opinion is biased—because we think of the difficulty of, say, taking photographs in the rain. The other man's opinion is also biased—because he is thinking of his crops and cares nothing for cameras or summer clothes. No one can blame us for our opposite views. But neither of us must say that the rain in Georgia in summer is coloured bright red and that the streets and pavements are scarlet after a shower... Georgia does not mind fair criticism. But very rightly she complains of mis-statements of fact.

A Georgian's Return.

Nineteen years ago, David Abashidze, a young Georgian, emigrated to America. There he commenced in business and in a short time became a rich man. Today he is the chief director of several well-known American firms. Now, as a multi-millionaire, he has returned to his mother-

land, ready to assist her in her new-born liberty. Mr. Abashidze recently arrived in Tiflis and his mission is to arrange commercial relations with Georgia and to supply the new Republic with various goods. One of Mr. Abashidze's first acts was to give a large sum of money for the relief of the refugees from Gori.

S. L.

The "Morning Post" and Georgia.

Reply to "A Special Correspondent".

The fact that the mails from Western Europe bring us news so very irregularly is the reason why this article is being written at what may seem to be a very late date. Nevertheless, I am writing it in order to protest against the very unfair and partial article which appeared in the "Morning Post" of January 24 under the heading of "Georgia's Claims: Interview with the Minister for Foreign Affairs".

This article was written from Batoum from the newspaper's "special correspondent". The state of affairs in Georgia at the time of this correspondent's visit to Tiflis was entirely opposite to that which he has written of for the benefit of the readers of the "Morning Post".

Let us begin at the paragraph where the writer makes a statement which will amaze equally both friend and foe of Georgia. "The ancient independence of Georgia", he writes, "is more in the sphere of legends than in that of facts". This is hardly worth commenting on, as anyone at all acquainted with history knows that Georgia existed as an independent state more than two thousand years ago, from the time that King Parnaos of the Kartlos dynasty in the year 302 B. C. took his seat in the ancient capital of Mzkheth (twenty miles from Tiflis). This date is also the date of the foundation of the present Georgian alphabet.

Another statement of this correspondent to the effect that peace and order in Georgia were maintained chiefly by foreign forces and diplomats is also not quite correct. The first Bolshevik rising in Tiflis—the attempt to seize the arsenal in the late autumn of 1917—was suppressed the same day—and there were no foreign forces in the country with the exception of the semi-Bolshevik Russian army retreating in disorder from the Caucasian front. Similar disturbances which took place in the country owing to Bolshevik propaganda from outside had no results but were immedi-

ately stopped by necessary measures.

After the departure of the British troops in August of last year the Bolshevik agents started their propaganda with renewed vigour. This was the most dangerous moment for Georgia. Risings took place in several districts, but thanks to the common-sense of the people, who themselves arrested and handed over to the authorities the propagandists, and to the prompt action of the Government, an immediate stop was put to this attempted beginning of anarchy. The leaders of the rising were tried by court-martial and the chief culprits were shot. All through this period the Georgian troops, both the army and the National Guard, showed their loyalty.

During the past six months, in which Georgia has not been occupied by foreign forces, civil life has made great improvements. Owing to this, various foreign companies have started commercial negotiations on a big scale. To the ports of Poti and Batoum now come ships flying different European flags, and a regular passenger steamship service has been established between the Georgian ports of Gagri, Soukhum, Poti and Batoum and the ports of Italy and France.

As regards the question of Batoum, in which town, according to the correspondent, "there is more criticism of the Georgian policy than there is in Paris", one can only say that although Batoum is not yet rejoined to Georgia the population of Mussulman Georgia (Batoum) has more than once unanimously expressed its will to be joined to Georgia. This desire has been expressed through the Mussulman National Council as well as by vote at the elections of March 2 this year in Batoum when even part of the Russian population of the town voted for the Georgian candidates. The latter received sixty per cent of the votes, whereas the remaining forty per cent of votes were shared by the other parties—Russian, Greek, Armenian, Polish, Turkish and Jew. I presume that this is a proof that need hardly be commented on.

I would like, in conclusion, to express the hope that the "special" correspondent of the "Morning Post" was merely a casual one, and that a person who has abused the courtesy of an interview in order to misrepresent many facts and hinder a whole nation in its just aspirations will not repeat his very partial and very unfair attacks.

Levan Melikov.

March 11th 1920
Tiflis, Georgia.



LIST OF WAR CRIMINALS.

21 of the Chief Offenders.

The *Echo de Paris* states that the list of Germans who are accused by the Allies of committing war crimes includes the following:—

Ex-Crown Prince Rupprecht of Bavaria.
For deporting many inhabitants in the North of France.

Duke of Wurtemberg.
Commander-in-Chief of the Fourth German Army; for ordering massacres of the civilian population at Namur and other places.

General von Kluck.
Commander of the First Army; for murdering hostages at Senlis and shooting civilians at Aerschot.

General von Bulow.
Army Commander; for setting fire to villages in the Ardennes and shooting civilians.

Field-Marshal von Mackensen.
For burning villages and ordering executions among the civilian population in Rumania.

Baron von der Lancken.
For the murder of Miss Cavell and Captain Fryatt.

Admiral von Capelle.
For ordering submarine outrages.

Field-Marshal von Sanders.
For permitting massacres of Armenians and Syrians.

General Stenger.
For ordering no prisoners to be taken.

Von Ostrovsky.
For looting and for murdering 103 civilians.

General von Lesny.
For executing 112 civilians at Arlon.

The Brothers Niemeyer, of Holzminden.
For outrages against British prisoners of war.

Major von Gortz.
For acts of cruelty committed at Magdeburg prison camp.

Lieutenant Rodoger.
For acts of cruelty at Ruhleben.

General von Cassel.
For acts of cruelty at Doberitz prison camp.

Major von Bulow.
For the destruction of Aerschot, and for shooting 150 civilians.

General von Manteuffel.
For permitting the slaughter of civilians at Louvain.

Lieutenant Werner.
Commander Valentiner.

Commander Forstner.
For sinking hospital ships.

The *Echo de Paris* points out that the ex-Kaiser and the German ex-Crown Prince, who are not included in this list, will be the object of special proceedings.

Britain's Rich 50,000 Paying Super-tax.

The income tax and super-tax together accounted for nearly half of Britain's Inland Revenue in the past year, according to the official report just issued. The way in which the war burden is being faced is shown by the fact that all incomes of over £40,000 pay half or more to the State. Super-tax was paid last year by nearly 50,000 persons. Excess profits duty, and the munitions levy paid by firms whose increased income is due to special war conditions amounted to £28,000,000.

Bolsheviks offer Peace.

Terms of Proposals.

A Washington telegram says that according to an Associated Press wire the Soviet Government of Russia have again offered peace to the Great Powers, engaging themselves to apply a fully democratic policy and to convoke the Constituent Assembly, promising to recognise the Russian debt up to 60 per cent and to pay the interest fallen due, and finally declaring themselves ready to grant guarantees and give concessions of mines to Anglo-American companies.

The Soviets have also proposed peace to Czecho-Slovakia.

What Lloyd George Said About Turkey.

In his important statement in the House of Commons regarding the policy of the Peace Conference towards Constantinople, Mr. Lloyd George, referred to his speech of December last in which he said, regarding the Dardanelles that "the gate-keeper would not be the same" and that "there would be a different porter at the gate".

He now added: "That will be fulfilled in the letter and in the spirit". The Dardanelles would be internationalised and neutralised.

Public Parade of Profiteers.

Curious Pillory in Bulgaria.

A Berne message from Sofia says: The Bulgarian authorities are employing new methods against usurers, blackmailers and profiteers. A placard is placed on the back of every one condemned of these offences, inscribed, "I am a usurer, blackmailer, profiteer", and with hands chained behind the back he is paraded through the streets and the market place. The public exposure, which recalls the medieval pillory, is said to be producing good results.

FACE RESTORING Wonders of War Surgery.

From the "Morning Post".

Very cruel was the lot of those who came out of the war with their faces shattered beyond human semblance. Heroes they were, and deserving from their fellow-citizens glances of pride and admiration. Yet—such is the weakness of our human nature—the average man could not look at them without an instinctive repulsion. Very comforting it is now to know that surgical science has come to the rescue, and in the great majority of cases can restore these men to a good appearance. The man with nose or mouth or chin blown away with shrapnel can have his face reconstructed; the airman or the infantryman victim of flame-throwers whose face has been burned away is a more difficult case. But even for him much can be done.

I have just come from Queen's Hospital, Sidcup, where this great work of mercy is carried on. I have seen the surgeons at their tasks; have examined cases in various stages of reconstruction, and know that nothing more wonderful has been given to humanity than this triumph of man's science over man's malignity.

Some Marvellous Cases.

Surgical details are not suitable for publication in a lay paper. But a broad indication may be given of the principles of this work of reconstruction.

A case has had his lips blown away, and his face is a sight of horror. On the operating table a long strip of skin and flesh is lifted from his chest and attached to his face. At its base this strip is left adhering to the chest, and keeps its old blood circulation. In time it grows healthily on to the face and the man goes about for some weeks with a tube of flesh running up from his chest to his face. When this is growing well on the face the connection with the chest is cut away and the flesh that has been added to the face is shaped into a lip. Perhaps some of the jawbone has been blown away. Bone is taken from the hip or elsewhere and grafted into the face to make a new jaw.

No operation—or rather series of operations, for usually several are necessary—is exactly the same as another, but all follow the general principle of taking bone or flesh from where it can be taken without injury to the body and transplanting it, still living, to a new site.

A man with his chin completely blown away has had a large piece of flesh taken from his upper thigh and transplanted on to his arm. The next step will be to transplant it from the arm to the chin. Then, within this bed of flesh, a bone will be grafted, and he will be a man again in face. In the

case of a man with his upper lip and his lower nose destroyed, it was certain that a good deal of ugly scar would be left. So the new flesh for the lip was taken from the back of the scalp. The man's new lip now has a strong moustache, which will hide the scar and what is left of the nose disfigurement.

Making New Noses.

New noses are built in various ways, one of which is by transferring cartilage from a rib to the forehead, and, when it is growing healthily there, carrying it down to make the nose. One case of complete destruction of the nose has now a nose which is indistinguishable at a distance of five yards, and on close inspection shows as a somewhat fat and slightly scarred feature.

Queen's Hospital, Sidcup, was opened in 1917. It has many months' work yet to do, for sometimes a facial reconstruction takes a year to carry through. It is under the joint control of the War Office and the Red Cross, and Colonel Colvin has been in command since its opening. The chief surgeon "reconstructors" now are Major H. D. Gillies, R.A.M.C., and Major Gilbert Chubb, R.A.M.C. (the former was associated with the work at an earlier hospital at Aldershot). In 1918 and 1919 Queen's, Sidcup, was a truly Imperial hospital, with British, Canadian, Australian, and New Zealand sections, but the Dominions' sections have now been demobilised. But it still has many hundreds of patients, and will have for some time to come, for early war cases are now being sent in by the Ministry of Pensions.

Constant. as Capital of the League.

London, Feb. 25.—In the House of Commons a Member asked whether the Council of the League of Nations would consider the question of making Constantinople the Headquarters of the League. Mr. Hamar Greenwood replied that the Council would presumably await the conclusion of peace with Turkey before considering the suggestion.

Two memorials on the Constantinople question each signed by over a hundred Members are circulating in the Commons.

Wilson and Turkey.

A message from New-York states that President Wilson expects the Allies not to conclude a definite settlement about Turkey without his approbation.

ODESSA DURING THE EVACUATION.

CHAOS AND CORRUPTION.

By a British Merchant.

Our firm having a considerable quantity of merchandise in Odessa I was requested to go there and endeavour to get this away before the city was evacuated again. All sorts of rumours were afloat that the Bolsheviks were not far from the city and that not many days would elapse before the place would be abandoned by the Volunteer Army. With some other British business men I took passage by the "Palacky" and after a tedious and rough journey with three calls en route we reached Odessa on Jan. 29.

A blizzard of snow delayed our entry into the Port and when we finally managed to creep in, the harbour was beginning to freeze over. At last we moored to the quay and some of us went ashore to have a look round. All seemed quiet but we were advised to be aboard before dark. The next day I went ashore with my luggage and after some difficulty found a room in the International Hotel,—about as cold and cheerless a place as one could wish. But one soon learns not to expect much comfort at such critical times. Fuel did not exist and no warm corner could be found anywhere. Food was also scarce and servants seemed disinclined to do anything for the customers.

As there had been a good deal of snow and the thermometer stood below zero, all wheeled traffic had disappeared and sleighs or "Sankies" had taken their place. Life in the streets seemed more or less as when I had left it three months before. Cafés and restaurants were always full and no one seemed to give a thought to the danger threatening the city.

The "Neetchevo" Spirit.

The "neetchevo" spirit was prevalent as usual and everyone seemed callous or apathetic and gave no thought to the morrow. I noticed a good deal of drunkenness in the streets among the Russian military and no orders from H.Q. had any effect. The attitude of the Russian military was indeed what astonished everyone. The city was crowded with smart-looking officers in the company of the fair sex, spending money right and left, and their leaders were unable to prevail upon them to go and do their duty at the front. It is said some 40,000 of these men were knocking about Odessa and yet did nothing to stay the advance of the Bolshevik rabble.

The result is that the war-weary men at the front are disgusted and have a pretext not to obey orders. It was quite clear from what I heard that they would put up no resistance and I was assured that their one

thought was to get into the city and start looting and blackmailing the *bourgeoisie* and Jews. On all sides one heard of the bad feeling against the latter who are supposed to be one cause of the *debacle* in Russia. Of course, however, the bulk of the wealthy classes had skipped from Russia, seeing the coming storm, and only the poor classes have been left behind to the tender mercies of the Bolsheviks.

Labour Difficulties.

Learning soon after my arrival in Odessa that the city was doomed, I had no time to lose in getting to work and shipping our goods. Fortunately a little steamer which had been promised us was still in port as delay had occurred in discharging her cargo from Constantinople. There were two outstanding difficulties before me,—one the fear of the port freezing in hard and then the dock labourer question. These men, mostly Bolshevik and who only a few months ago had behaved notoriously badly, were demanding exorbitant prices to work at all. It is said that dock labourers were making 20,000 to 25,000 roubles per day, when the monthly wage of a Customs House guardian was Rs. 3,500. This money was mostly spent on vodka during the night, and so by the next day the men were not very amenable to reason nor inclined to work hard.

On the second day of my arrival I had a trial lot of four carts sent to the steamer's side. Thanks to the presence of two of our naval craft near by, these were loaded safely. Unfortunately that evening these two ships had to move away as the ice was getting too thick, and then our troubles started. The following day another four carts were sent along, but the workmen were already in a different mood—perhaps because that night some shooting of officers has occurred in the town.

Their terms were so unreasonable, I had to send the goods back to the depots. For carrying the cases from each cart about 15 yards, Rs. 20,000 cash down and notes without any holes or creases were demanded. I consulted with our Consulate and was recommended to see the Captain of the Port, who told me not to agree to the men's demands and to get the steamer's crew to load the cases. He would send military to back us up.

Bribery.

All things considered, and time being very short, we decided to make an attempt and to follow his instructions. Next morning four carts were sent along and military posted on each. I

went ahead to advise the commander of our steamer and ask him to let his men load up. The carts soon hove in sight, but accompanied with a large number of labourers looking anything but pleasant. Once alongside, the crew evidently were undecided whether to approach the carts and gave time for a discussion to start between the labourers and military guard, which I tried to stop by photographing them. Presently, to my surprise, a Russian officer came up to me to ask how much I would give him to persuade the labourers to start loading. This was a "bit thick", and as the workmen appeared to be on the point of a free fight over something, I determined to tackle the question myself, as our Custom House man considered it wiser to keep away. I asked for someone who could speak German as I know no Russian and two labourers approached. I explained that I was the last person to think of interfering with the labourers but the military had been brought as the men had been so unreasonable the day before. I said I had it in my hands to load the goods or not and that if they would fix a price per cart which was within my means, I was still open to negotiate.

Pilfering.

After some more violent discussions the workmen came up to me, held up ten fingers and said that if I did not pay, the carts could not go away as Odessa would be soon badly in need of our tea and matches. Disgusted, I held up five and ultimately a compromise was arrived at and 700 roubles per cart settled the matter, and the men ran off like children to start their work. My troubles, however, were not ended; the men kept on deliberately dropping the cases, bursting them open and the pilfering became so serious that I had to bring out my camera again. Finally I caught my officer friend hard at it. I rushed up to him and he excused himself by saying that he was saving the packets which were on the ground. I told him he ought to be ashamed of leading such a bad example and that he should shoot anyone pilfering. "Oh", he said, "you want me to shoot any looters". He then shouted to his men that they were to fire and a dozen of them immediately started firing their rifles in the air. This alarmed everyone so much and came at such an inopportune moment that I ordered work to stop. So much for that day's loading.

By luck the next day the British war craft came back again with the aid of a powerful ice-breaker and we were able to load the balance of our goods—only just in time as the developments in the town had caused the authorities to decide to evacuate the place.

As early as 6 p. m. that evening there was a good deal of firing at one point of the town and by 11 p. m. several shops in the main thoroughfares had been looted. Next day all

shops were closed, and the city took on a tragic appearance. Groups of military with armoured cars and machine guns were posted everywhere. Sleighs and carriages had disappeared from the streets as the military were requisitioning. This made the position of refugees, now in a regular panic to get away, almost hopeless. Porters, hand carts etc. were asking exorbitant prices, and as the refugees had to be on board by nightfall, the sights one saw were terribly distressing.

Guarding the Refugees.

During the last evacuation to months ago, it appears that most of the refugees were robbed of the greater part of their valuables when they were within the dock gates. This time, thanks to an excellent measure taken by the British Navy, no such thing occurred. Posted at intervals right along the route were British marines fully armed and all passed off in a most orderly manner. Great credit is due to the British Naval Authorities for this.

On Feb. 4th the British subjects were advised that the city was to be evacuated. Of course the sights at the sides of steamers can only be realised by those who witnessed them. People had but a few hours to abandon house and home and to prepare for a very doubtful and hopeless future. But it is extraordinary how the Russian can adapt himself even to such misfortunes.

With some British friends we found ourselves, together with about 900 refugees on an Italian-Lloyd steamer the "Hapsburg" chartered by the British Government. We got out of Odessa with the aid of the ice-breaker at 10 a. m. on Feb. 6th—and again only just in time for twenty-four hours later the harbour works and steamers were being shelled with disastrous results. A captain of a steamer who left some hours after us had the greatest difficulty in getting away, leaving his anchor and chain behind him. He says that he saw the inhabitants flocking down to the quays which later were shelled.

Industry Reviving in Poland.

The Polish Press Bureau says that industrial activity, paralysed by the war, has now entered upon a rapid development in Poland. Numerous factories have resumed work and the jute industry is in full activity. Six cloth factories are working purely for the Army. There are also a certain number of new manufactories in existence, one of which is producing porcelain on a large scale. French and Polish capitalists have established at Lodz a large cotton factory to oppose German imports.

A large meeting of social organisations was held recently in the Warsaw Town Hall to discuss the question how to defend Polish Society from Bolshevism.