

GEORGIAN MAIL

TIFLIS.

Editorial Office: Kolubanskaia street, № 3.

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GEORGIA'S "BLIND HATRED" OF BOLSHEVISM.

TCHITCHERIN'S NOTE TO GEGETCHKORI.

"Accusations and Reproaches".

March 10. From Moscow through Astrakhan.

The Minister for Foreign Affairs, Gegetchkori, received the following note from the People's Commissary for Foreign Affairs, Tchitcherin:

"February 29, 1920. History has sufficiently justified the workmen-peasants' Government of Russia regarding the partial accusations caused by blind hatred, which the Government of Gegetchkori in its note belatedly throws at it, repeating the false sentences already denied by facts spread by the enemies of the workmen-peasants' revolution, buried by its triumphal march. The Russian Soviet Government, the only sincere friend of all small nations, who realises in reality the principle of national self-definition of the working classes of every nationality, invited Georgia to defeat definitely with joint forces the White Guards' armies of the Tsar's General Denikin, whose object is to restore the old regime and an unlimited oppression of the nationalities formerly submitted to the Tsar's Empire.

"Hostile Attacks".

"Instead of fighting for the vital interests of wide masses in Georgia the Government of Gegetchkori replied by a series of hostile attacks against the Soviet Government, as if pursuing a certain object to dig a deeper pit between it and the Soviet Government which is expressing the will of the workmen-peasants' masses in Russia. Minister for Foreign Affairs, Gegetchkori, counting the Soviet Government guilty of the conclusion of the Brest-Litovsk treaty, must be aware that the heavy inheritance left to the Soviet authority at the moment of the workmen-peasants' revolution by its predecessor, the counter-revolutionary Government of Zereteli, Kerensky and the Cadets, obstinately defending the old pu-

blic order against the working masses who struggled for their liberty, placed the Soviet Government disarmed face to face with the merciless and rapacious German imperialism. But as heavy as were the sacrifices which the workmen-peasants' masses of Russia were obliged to make, they have saved from the terrible enemy their glorious and most precious acquisition—the Soviet authority—the authority of workmen and peasants, the perpetual source of strength which has made the peace treaty of Brest a turning point leading finally to the throwing down of German imperialism and to the definite and unalterable reinforcement of the workmen-peasants' authority amidst unheard-of difficulties and trials.

Georgia's Way.

"The way that the Government of Jordania and Gegetchkori followed is not similar. The self-interested rapacious German imperialism, aspiring both to an unlimited spreading of its mightiness and to the crushing of new forces hostile to the very dominating imperialism, by an uninterrupted crafty work prepared new blows against the authority of the working masses in Russia. Availing itself of the military weakness of the new order in Russia not yet reinforced, it created new bases of counter-revolution in the bordering countries of the former Russian Empire aspiring to create a ring of White Guard centres around Soviet Russia, in order to prepare in this way its ruin. In this chain of White Guards together with Skoropadsky and Krasnov, the government of Jordania and Gegetchkori has not occupied the last place. Why was it so easy for it to come to an agreement with the Turkish Pashas in Trebizond? Why have they received such assistance on the part of the German generals and diplomats? Why, being so

merciless regarding Soviet Russia, has the German Government so carefully secured and indulged the existence of the Government of Jordania and Gegetchkori? Everybody is aware that the causes of this consisted of the Government of Jordania and Gegetchkori being one of the obedient tools of the counter-revolution for the crushing in their own country of the movement for freedom and of the workers, and for the creation of one more base in the system of progressive movement of the workmen-peasants' revolution in Russia.

Mirbach's Insolence.

"Mirbach, the representative of the Junkers, who became insolent, represented himself in Moscow as a friend and protector not only of Skoropadsky but of Jordania and Tchkeidze also. Namely, he demanded the Soviet Government to enter into negotiations first with the so-called Trans-Caucasian diet and then with the new Georgian government. Relying upon German bayonets, Jordania's government sent punitive detachments against the workmen and peasants of Sukhum, against Abkhazia, drowned in blood the people's movement in Georgia, shot workmen in Tiflis, carried on everywhere a cruel extirpating war against those who struggled for the liberation of the working masses and by sword and fire extinguished the conflagration that began to blaze, so that the times of Alikhanov's and Krylov's were as nothing compared with the proceedings of Djugeli, Djibladze and Koniev. And at the time when the working masses of the Black Sea coast, faithful to the Soviet authority, asked the Soviet armies remaining in the Kuban to help them, help was prevented from being given by the German fleet, which gave to Jordania's government the possibility through bloody punishment to abolish the people's movement on the Black Sea coast.

"M u d".

"The government of Jordania has itself summoned to Georgia

the military forces of German imperialism and has always been its obedient tool. It helped it to spread its domination in the North direction. It opened for it the way into the regions of the Mountaineers in the North Caucasus, who fought for the Soviet authority. On the occasion of the occupation and unheard-of ruin of Baku by the Turkish troops, no other than Jordania, the president of the council of the ministers, solemnly congratulated Djafarov, the representative of the Azerbaïdjan counter-revolution. Following this, with the same solemnity, Jordania's government honoured the arrival in Tiflis of Khalif Pasha, Commander of the Turkish armies. To the workmen of the mines of Tkivbuli who fought for the improvement of their position by means of a strike, Jordania's government applied cruel repressions and poured mud on them in the leading articles of its organ, "Borba". At the period when two imperialistic coalitions still struggled between themselves for life or death they mutually squeezed hands in the persons of their hired agents. When the preparation of an attack against workmen-peasants' Russia was spoken of and when the German and English hirelings on the Don carried on side by side a fight against the Soviet authority, Jordania's government also sought a union with the agents not only of German, but of the English-French imperialism. In the reports of French officers such as Chardigny, this government was looked at as one of the desirable forces for the preparation of a struggle against the Russian workmen-peasants' revolution.

English Intrigues.

"At the time when German forces concentrated on the Georgian Military Road threatening the Mountaineers who fought for the workmen-peasants' power, the English mission similarly carried on intrigues against the Soviet Power and supported by the go-

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EDITORIAL.

Bolshevik News.

For several weeks past, our letters from home have been full of fears for our safety. They have also contained the wishes that we might return home at once to be free of all danger. We could not quite understand the cause of these fears, but we do now. A month-old copy of a London newspaper has reached us, and there we read the following startling "news":

GARRISON SURRENDERS!

Tiflis and Odessa Claimed as Bolshevik Captures.

Moscow wireless messages assert that revolutions have broken out in Trans-Caucasia and that Tiflis and Kutais are in the power of the Bolsheviks.

Tiflis is the capital of the new Republic of Georgia, etc. etc.

Then the report goes on to tell about the surrender of the garrison at Odessa.... We have frequently pointed out the falseness of the Bolshevik communiqués. We do so again. And if there be any of our readers who have believed the Bolshevik reports in the past, we trust that this report about Tiflis and Kutais will shatter their faith in the truthfulness of the Soviet authorities. Their reports are just as false as their creed and as false as their constant assertions that they desire that all nations have the right to self-definition. This, as we have already written, is sheer hypocrisy if we consider the notes that have recently been sent by Tchitcherin to Gegetchkori and Khan Khoisky.

March 12.

The anniversary of the Russian revolution of March 12, 1917, was celebrated in Tiflis as a public holiday. A great procession of workmen marched through the streets with their banners flying and their bands playing. Patriotic demonstrations were made in front of the Palace, where several of the leaders spoke. But the most impressive event of all was the parade of the Georgian troops. We purposely use the word "impressive" because anyone who saw the Georgian men go past could not but be impressed. The new army is rapidly getting into shape. The physique and the bearing of the men struck one very forcibly. They marched in splendid order. We found the sight of them very pleasing in these days when there is so much unnecessary pessimism in the air. "Give us other three months", said a Georgian minister to us, "and we will show you a first-

class force". And, candidly, we can endorse the minister's words.

Discipline.

The essential in any army is discipline. Without discipline one can do nothing: with discipline one can do wonders. The breakdown of the old Russian army was entirely due to the loss of discipline. The moment the strict army rules were abolished, the regiments crumpled to pieces. An army is a machine. All the wheels and cogs must work smoothly and in harmony. They must also be well oiled—and discipline is exactly that necessary oil. Georgia's new army is disciplined. There is great hope for the future.

Bolshevik Notes.

The interchange of notes between Tchitcherin and the Foreign Ministers of Azerbaijan and Georgia still goes on. In this week's "Georgian Mail" we publish Khan Khoisky's reply to Tchitcherin, and the text of a further note which Gegetchkori has received. As we have already said, the lengthy Bolshevik notes and all their references to dead and past history seem to us to be very unnecessary. The crux of the whole matter is the word "self-definition". Either the Bolsheviks believe in this principle—or their assertions are untrue. If they believe that the nations have the right to define themselves, according to the stated wishes of the people, there need be no further words to be said on the matter. Georgia and Azerbaijan are self-defined. Let Soviet Russia recognize their self-definition.

A Grumble.

We enjoy the Opera and it is a real pleasure for us to attend the Tiflis Opera House. The artistes are excellent and the whole presentation of the various operas is extremely good. With the singers, the orchestra and the scenery, we have no fault to find. On the contrary we have nothing but praise. But... We have much to grumble about regarding what seem to us to be the weary and unnecessary delays. A few nights ago we went to hear the Opera, "Dni Nashei Jizni". The performance began half an hour late. Then the first *entracte* lasted for over an hour! The result was that by the time the curtain rose on the third act it was already after 11 o'clock, and we were compelled to leave the theatre without witnessing the last two acts. The Tiflis audience was wonderfully patient. We marvelled at it, until

we were suddenly reminded that we, too, were patient. But our patience has its limits. Hence this grumble...

The Earthquake.

Subscriptions towards the fund for the relief of the sufferers from the earthquake disaster in Gori and district continue to arrive. Most of the foreign missions in Georgia have donated sums of money for the refugees. In this week's number we report that the British Government has sent, through Mr. Wardrop, a cheque for a thousand pounds sterling for this deserving charity. This sum is roughly a million roubles, and the receipt of it is particularly pleasing to Georgians and British alike. And what is almost as important as the money itself, is the sympathy that King George and his government have expressed towards the Georgian people in their distress

S. L.

THE EARTHQUAKE.

King George's Sympathy.

In a letter to Mr. Gegetchkori, the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr. Oliver Wardrop, British Chief Commissioner in Trans-Caucasia, has communicated that he was charged by His Majesty's Government to express the King's deep sympathy with those who suffered as a result of the earthquake which recently occurred in the district of Gori.

Mr. Wardrop enclosed a cheque for one thousand pounds sterling from the British Government towards the relief of the refugees. At the same time, Mr. Wardrop sent fifty pounds as his own personal contribution towards the relief fund:

GREAT BRITAIN AND GEORGIA.

The Speaker's Telegram.

Mr. Gegetchkori, the Minister for Foreign Affairs, has received a letter from Mr. Oliver Wardrop, British Chief Commissioner in Trans-Caucasia, in which the latter sends his greetings to Mr. Gegetchkori, and begs that the following telegram sent by the Speaker of the House of Commons be communicated to Mr. Lomtadize, the chief assistant of the President of the Constituent Assembly:

"In the name of the House of Commons, I want to thank you for your hearty address and friendly feelings which we share entirely. I am glad to avail myself of this occasion in order to assure you that the British Parliament and people share the just satisfaction of the Georgian people regarding the recognition of Georgia's Independence".

The Question of Batoum.

Mr. Wardrop's Note

The following communication from Mr. Oliver Wardrop, British Chief Commissioner in Trans-Caucasia has been received by the Minister for Foreign Affairs with regard to the question of Batoum.

"To his Excellency, E. Gegetchkori, Minister for Foreign Affairs. Your Excellency, the State Secretary of the Minister for Foreign Affairs of His Majesty has informed me that a decision has been made at the sitting of the Supreme Council that Batoum be occupied for the time being by a garrison consisting of British, French and Italian troops".

The chiefs of the French and Italian Missions in Trans-Caucasia have sent similar communications to Mr. Gegetchkori.

"Wrong Interpretations".

The following official communiqué has been issued by the Ministry for Foreign Affairs:

"In view of the wrong interpretations which have lately been in circulation in the press and in society with regard to the mutual relations of the Azerbaijan and Georgian Republics regarding the question of Batoum port, I count it expedient to communicate that as is established from the exchange of opinions between our special mission and the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Azerbaijan Republic there are full grounds for believing that the governments of both Republics will succeed in finding common language for the solution of this question satisfactorily for both sides.

"Diplomatic representative of Georgia with the Government of the Azerbaijan Republic G. Alshibaia".

Allies' Debts to Britain.

According to the declaration of Mr. Austen Chamberlain in the House of Commons, the indebtedness of the Allies to Great Britain, not including the latest loans, may be represented as follows:

	Pounds Sterling.
Russia	568,000,000
France	470,500,000
Italy	470,000,000
Belgium	86,500,000
Serbia	20,000,000
Greece, Portugal, Roumania, and others. }	51,000,000
Total:	1,666,000,000

TCHITCHERIN'S NOTE TO GEGETCHKORI.

(Continued from page 1).

vernment of Gegetchkori, assisted the counter-revolutionary movement in the whole of the Caucasus. The fall of German imperialism did not call forth an alteration in the very system of policy of Jordania's government but only replaced its former counter-revolutionary protector by another one, namely, the Entente. The gallows of the towns of the Kuban or of the North Caucasus and the well-known mass (omission) which prove the martyr death of Red Guards, fore-strugglers for the Soviet Power, whom Colonel Zereteli delivered to a kindred soul—government of Denikin. The unheard-of heavy conditions of captivity, under the Red Guards who fell into the hands of the government of Jordania and Gegetchkori were received by the Russian Soviet government and at the time being enough eloquent materials were communicated to Tiflis. Such is reality covered in the wireless-telegram of Minister for Foreign Affairs, Gegetchkori, with phrases so little conforming to it.

What the Soviet Values.

"The workmen-peasants' Russian government in spite of everything hoped that the government of Gegetchkori would not dare to renounce a struggle jointly against the common enemy of the Russian and Georgian peoples' masses. Instead of this, Minister for Foreign Affairs, Gegetchkori, replied to the Soviet Government by a series of accusations, reproaches and attacks full of hatred. When the Russian Soviet government hoped on its part for proceedings directed against the Tsar's restoration, Minister for Foreign Affairs, Gegetchkori, replied—expressing the hope that the Soviet Government would find a language admissible for it. The Soviet Government values not the language but the proceedings of the Government of Jordania and Gegetchkori, from which will depend the relation to it of the Russian Soviet Government. No. 432. People's Commissary for Foreign Affairs, Tchitcherin".

AZERBAIDJAN AND SOVIET RUSSIA.

KHAN KHOISKY'S NOTE TO TCHITCHERIN.

"In the wireless telegram of February 21 Tchitcherin, People's Commissary for Foreign Affairs, points out that in his wireless telegrams of January 14 and February 1 Khan Khoisky, the Minister for Foreign Affairs, avoided to give a straight-forward reply to the certain concrete proposal of the Soviet Government regarding an immediate conclusion of a military union for joint actions against General Denikin. Meanwhile in both wireless telegrams I pointed out quite clearly that the Azerbaijan Republic as a neutral state counts it inadmissible for herself to interfere in the sphere of struggle of the Russian people in their task of arranging their inner life. Herewith I added that the Azerbaijan people will raise their arms unanimously only when somebody makes an attempt on their independence and the integrity of their territory. Further, the People's Commissary, Tchitcherin, points out that in his second wireless telegram Khan Khoisky, the Minister for Foreign Affairs, takes up a new position and brings forward the claim of previous absolute recognition of the independence and sovereignty of the Azerbaijan Republic by the Soviet Government. Meanwhile in the concluding phrases of both my wireless telegrams one and the same idea has been expressed, namely, that the Azerbaijan government, recognising the necessity of the establishing of good neighbourly relations between the Russian and Azerbaijan people, is ready to enter into negotiations regarding these but only based on the full recognition of the sovereignty of the Azerbaijan Republic by the party carrying on these negotiations. In view of the numerous solemn declarations of the Soviet Government concerning the immutability for it of the principle of recognition of the right of the people for national self-definition the Azerbaijan government could not believe even for a moment that the position taken up by it and based on the same principle could be the cause of a dispute or objection on the part of the Soviet Government. Meanwhile the Azerbaijan Government was greatly astonished to know from the wireless telegram of the People's Commissary, Tchitcherin, of February 21 that the recognition of the rights of the people for national self-definition is in reality for the Soviet Government not an absolute principle, not depending on this or other condition or advantage, but an act which may

be the result of complicated and long negotiations regarding many other questions. People's Commissary, Tchitcherin, speaking of the recognition of Esthonia by the Soviet Government declares that this recognition is an inseparable part of a large treaty which was the result of long and complicated negotiations lasting in all nearly six months and that the recognition cannot be separated from a whole series of private questions. If the recognition of the right of the people for self definition represented for the Soviet Government an immutable principle evidently it could not depend upon complicated and long negotiations regarding any question, the results of which may be different, because a principle in order to be realised does not require negotiations and must not be used in order to receive one or other equivalent. On the contrary it loses the character of a principle and becomes a tool for influencing the negotiating party, i. e. the tool of which the imperialistic Powers have often availed themselves. We must point out also that People's Commissary, Tchitcherin, passes over in silence the full recognition of Poland and Finland by the Soviet Government. Regarding the former this recognition did not depend on these or other negotiations. The Azerbaijan government expressed twice and expresses now its readiness to enter into negotiations with the Soviet Government for the establishing of good neighbourly relations between the Russian and the Azerbaijan people according to the principle of sovereignty of both parties but up to now this desire has not yet been answered by the Soviet Government. Because of this the Azerbaijan Government asks you to give a certain answer: Does the Soviet Government wish according to the stated principle to enter into negotiations with the Azerbaijan Government?

"March 7, No. 1531. Minister for Foreign Affairs, Khan Khoisky".

An Old Gang Move in Germany.

The national Association of German officers which professes to regard German atrocities as non-existent proposes to issue, even before the trial of the war criminals at Leipzig commences, a lengthy document defending "our honourable army leaders, brave comrades and faithful officials" against "calumnies".

Petrograd's Fears and Hopes.

Several officers who have escaped from Soviet Russia have arrived at the station of Perkiarvi (in Finland). One of them left Petrograd as late as December 18th. Being asked as to what took place in Petrograd during Yudenitch's advance, and what truth there was in the rumours about the disorders which were said to have broken out in the city, this officer drew a creepy picture of Petrograd life during those days of hope and disappointment.

"The population", he said, "crushed by two years of terror, now raised their heads. Even the most despairing regained their spirits. Everybody was only awaiting the signal to attack the hated Communists, and had the Whites but entered the suburbs, a revolt would have broken out in the centre and the outskirts of the city. Not only were private groups, numbering several thousand members each, organised for a rising and supplied with arms, but the workmen were also ready for a decisive revolt, and whole units of the army were only waiting for the signal to turn their weapons against the hated Communists. The position of the Bolsheviks in Petrograd itself was even more critical than at the front. Yudenitch's advance and the attitude of the population towards it was like a thunderstroke to the Bolsheviks. They not only lost their confidence in the military security of Petrograd, 'the soul and brain of the revolution', but the unmistakable behaviour of the inhabitants during these days of anxiety opened the eyes of the blindest and even those most drunk with power. Against all expectations, the terror was not increased in Petrograd, either during or after Yudenitch's advance. Notwithstanding the desertions en masse from the Red Army, the passage of the Red soldiers into the ranks of the Whites, and the surrender of whole military units, the Bolshevik papers published articles full of official optimism. Even the discovery of the conspiracy of the National Centre did not lead, as many feared, to attempts at instituting a new massacre among the officers. On the contrary, the leaders of the military policy of the Soviets tried to burke the facts which were of such deadly significance for them, and, lest the prestige of the officer class, established by draconic measures, should suffer, criticised these facts from a pacific point of view, saying: 'Notwithstanding the treachery of some who were bought with English gold, the majority of the officers serve the Soviet power honestly'.

The escaped officer is convinced that not only the Red Army, but the whole of the Soviet system in general holds its ground in virtue of mutual distrust and the fear of betrayal, and the grip on the food supplies, maintained by the Soviets.

Russian Refugees Entering Roumania.

The Roumanian Government has authorized a large number of refugees from Southern Russia to enter Roumania. They will be sent to different localities in Bessarabia. At the same time the Government has taken financial measures to prevent the consequences of the affluence of roubles.

The Man Who Killed the Tsar.

The murderer of the late Tsar of Russia is now in the prison of Warsaw. He was lately visited by the representative of the *Matin* who gives the following account of the prisoner (says the *Pravda*):—

Posredniti does not look particularly criminal. He received me with his hands in his pockets and with an infantile smile on his lips. When my quality of pressman was disclosed to him, he looked very pleased to have the visit.

"I did not kill the Emperor," said he without any preamble.

"You are not accused of having been personally in command of the party who carried out the execution," replied the police officer present at the interview, "but simply of having complied with the orders of the Soviet Government."

"I was at Ekaterinburg at that time, professing my science which is medicine..."

"Oh," said the police officer, "of course, a Bolshevik medical officer! We all know what that is..."

"Anyhow," pursued the officer turning to the Parisian correspondent, "this is not the only crime he is charged with. This person's story is as mysterious as it is horrible beyond expression."

And in the presence of Posredniti, who displayed the most complete indifference, the police officer briefly related the almost incredible story of the past of a murderer whose name will, undoubtedly, be mentioned in Russian history for generations to come.

When 16 years of age, in 1905, he was a member of the military section of the Polish Socialist Party. Soon after that he was attached to the Public Safety Service of the Imperial Russian Police (Okrana), where he won rapid promotion by betraying his best comrades and delivering them to execution. Later on he became the public executioner at Lodz. It is proved by the lately confiscated archives of the Okrana that this human beast had sent to death during one year alone 50 persons not accused of the slightest crime.

He was, however, compelled to abandon Warsaw on account of a hideous crime committed in conjunction with one of his accomplices, a woman with whom his relations were suspect. He settled down at Tomsk, in Siberia, serving as a doctor in a military hospital there where his main qualifications were those of a maker of invalids. His speciality consisted in crippling young men (on payment, of course) eligible for military service, by cutting off either two or three and sometimes four fingers of the right hand or piercing their ear drums. This, however, was finally discovered and he was put in prison.

During the first Revolution when the gates of the prisons were opened, he recovered his freedom, like so many other criminals. Posredniti did not remain long inactive. In October, 1917, he succeeded in gaining the friendship of a young Russian medical officer named Skriabine. One night the latter was enticed by the former to take a walk along the Neva when he was cowardly assassinated by Posredniti who thus got possession of his identity papers. He started a new life with Skriabine's documents and soon offered his services to the Russian Red Cross. This new trick, also, was discovered and he was again imprisoned but got free once more, owing to the outbreak of the Bolshevik revolution.

Posredniti-Skriabine went immediately to join the new rulers of Russia at the Smolny Institute, became a very trustworthy member of the Bolshevik family, and was sent to the Imperial prisoner for the purpose of supervising "his doings". In his new quality of Chief Gaoler he assisted at the murder of the Imperial family and he himself organised everything concerning the proceedings.

After he had thus completed his mission it was decided that the Moscow Government should dispose of him. He was accordingly posted to Poland as Chief of the Bolshevik Propaganda Service on account of his manifold relations there. He did not leave Minsk, where he lived as a Bolshevik Commissary, until that place was captured by the Polish Army. Soon after his re-appearance in Warsaw he called on the military authorities and expressed a desire to join the Polish Army as a medical officer. While waiting a satisfactory reply, he led a reveller's life spending tens of thousands of marks a night, when at last he was recognised by some of the Socialist Party and was arrested in a first class restaurant in the middle of a champagne orgy. On search he was found wearing a shirt which had formerly belonged to the Emperor.

"I am keeping this shirt as a souvenir," he replied to the detective when he was caught.

Posredniti who listened to this account of his life, shrugged his shoulders and addressed the Parisian journalist as follows:

"Just tell your paper that I want to return to Russia and be tried there. There I've got a wife whom I prefer to the *fiancée* I've got here."

38 New British Warships.

Mr. Walter Long, First Lord of the Admiralty, stated in the House of Commons that the warships now under construction were one battle cruiser, 9 light cruisers, 2 flotilla leaders, 8 torpedo boat destroyers, 13 submarines, 2 aircraft carriers and 3 auxiliary ships.

Bankruptcy of the Bolsheviks.

192 Billion Roubles Deficit Last Year.

Figures showing the enormous deficit in the Soviet budgets are given by a Polish engineer just returned.

He gave statistics showing that for the first six months of 1918 the revenues of the Soviets were 2 billion roubles, and expenditure seven billion; for the last half of 1918 receipts were 12 billions, expenses 29 billions. In the first half of 1919 receipts 28 billions expenditure 80 billions; in the second half of 1919 receipts 18 billions, expenditure 170 billion roubles.

He said that the railways are in ruins and there is almost a total lack of locomotives. From the 1st of Nov. 1918 to the 1st Sept. 1919, ten thousand railwaymen died of typhus.

Stocks of raw material are, according to him, now exhausted and the factories are inactive or destroyed. Russia's stock of flax, he said, totalled 528 million pounds in July 1919, but oil had been extracted from the flax, destroying its value for seed, and so there will be a shortage of flax this year.

Comic Soviet Art

Much has been said about the efforts of Lounacharsky, the Bolshevik Minister of Education, to stimulate the growth of art in Russia, but very little has been heard of the success of these efforts. Some interesting details are supplied by Professor G., of the Academy of Arts in Petrograd, who has succeeded in escaping from the Republic of Lenin and Trotsky. According to this professor, who is himself a well-known artist, the whole of the domain of Art has been placed under the control of a Council of seven members. Four of them are apostles of futurism, and therefore this school offers the best prospects in a pecuniary sense. Its earnings have been considerably augmented by a rule established by the Council, according to which all pictures which pass through the official jury are to be paid for at the uniform rate of seven thousand roubles each. Whether the artist has devoted months of assiduous labour to it, or whether it is a daub which has taken a few hours to paint, the recompense of the artist is the same. It is comprehensible that with such encouragement the number of artists has increased rapidly. Many people, who before the welcome dawn of Bolshevism had never held a brush in their hands, now declare themselves champions of the artistic development of the proletariat, and are paid at a fixed rate for their geometric figures and fantastic compositions.

Allies to buy in Common.

The economic section of the London Conference is continuing to examine the economic situation and is trying to find remedies. According to the *Matin* the last sitting was very important and the Allied delegates established a plan for the economic and financial reconstruction of Europe, the larger lines of which may possibly be known in a week or so. It is most probable that the U. S. will adhere to the programme agreed upon.

Elaborating this information the *Petit Journal* says that the economic section has studied means for combating the high cost of living and an agreement has been made upon the general lines of certain positive measures to be taken. As, however, the resolutions adopted have also political consequences, they have to be submitted also to the political section of the Conference.

The English papers say that the decisions taken imply unity of action by the Allies and the putting into force of a plan of buying in common or by agreement so as to avoid competition in the world market.

Trotsky's Special Train.

An eye-witness, describing the special train of the chief of the Red Army, says that it consists of fourteen cars and two powerful engines. It is supplied with a wireless installation capable of receiving communications from Naueim, Lyons, and London. As soon as the train arrives at a station it is at once connected with the telephone system. The wireless telegraph works night and day. One of the most interesting fittings of the train is a printing office which prints Trotsky's paper "On the Way". The greatest curiosity, however, is the car of the Imperial garage, which contains six motor cars, two of them being Poqueurds, and a most powerful French car which belonged to the Tsar. The "popular" Trotsky is well protected against any attacks by misguided persons. The escort on the train consists of a whole company of machine gunners, numbering 250, and his creature comforts, not to say luxuries, his devotion to which is the subject of Lenin's derision, are well provided for. The train contains a library and a dining-car, and the great Communist, we may be sure, does not suffer from any food shortage.

Conscription in England Ceases on March 31.

Mr. Winston Churchill in the House of Commons stated that conscription would end on March 31 next. The new army would be composed entirely of volunteers and would amount to 220,000 officers and men, excluding Indian troops.