

BAKU OCCUPIED BY BOLSHEVIKS.

THE FALL OF BAKU.

MARTIAL LAW IN GEORGIA.

COUNCIL OF DEFENCE.

We can communicate from most reliable sources that the declaration of Soviet Power in Azerbaijan is a fact, and the rumours spread in town during the last 24 hours have been confirmed.

The course of the events that took place before the new power was proclaimed in Baku may be stated as follows:

At 4 a. m. on April 27 the Soviet troops transgressed the frontiers of Azerbaijan and started an attack. Armoured trains preceded them. At 10 a. m. on April 27 information was received in Tiflis that the Bolsheviks were carrying on their advance into the country and were drawing near to Baku.

According to news received at 1 p. m., the aggressors occupied the station Khatchmas. On the morning of April 27 communications were received that at 10 a. m., April 27, the Reds had occupied the station Sungaut, and at 2 in the night were drawing near to Baladjary.

In the night of April 27-28 Soviet Power was proclaimed in Baku. The names of the appointed representatives are not yet known. It is known only that the members of the former government did not leave Baku. It is said that the Georgian Mission in Baku has remained there.

Thus it begins to be made clear that the Bolshevik troops, not over 5,000 men strong, passed a distance of over 140 versts. This, according to the opinion of military authorities, could not have taken place if even some sort of resistance had been opposed to them. The absence of serious resistance is also proved by the fact that the railway line and all bridges are secure, except 7 *sajons* of rails which had been removed.

"Groussia".

The Georgian Agency communicates the following:

According to communications received from Baku, Bolshevik troops crossed the river Seimur in the night of April 27 and proceeded to Baladjary. The Azerbaijan troops retreated. In the night of April 27-28 a Bolshevik armoured train drew near to Baku. Soviet Power is declared in Baku. Armed collisions did not take place. The chief Azerbaijan forces were at the time in Karabagh and in the Gandja region.

Georgian Council of Defence.

In view of conditions created at the frontiers of the Republic the Government has ordered the creation of a "Council of Defence" of the Republic presided over by the President of the Government and consisting of the War-Minister, Ministers of Interior and of Foreign Affairs, Commander-in-Chief of all armed forces, the Assistant War Minister, General Gedevanov, and the Chief of the General Staff of the People's Guard. General Kvinitadze has been appointed Commander-in-Chief of all the armed forces of the Republic.

According to the order of the Council of Defence, martial law has been declared in Tiflis and in the districts of Tiflis, Signakh, Telav, Bortchalo, Tionet, Dushet, Gori, Akhalkalaki.

A Constantinople message states that on the occupation of Roštöff and Novotcherkask by the Red Army the wounded officers and men of Denikin's army lying in hospital were murdered. The total number killed is given at about 3,000.

Moscow recently held a "week of cleanliness".

APPEAL TO GEORGIA.

"The Danger From The North".

To town and country self-administrations, small country units, local Staffs of the People's Guard and to the Abkhaz Commissariat.

The Northern danger has drawn near to the threshold of Georgia.

Bolshevik troops have occupied Baku without fighting and Soviet Power is declared there. Azerbaijan has opened its doors for them. This is proved by the previous agreement between Moscow and Erzerum.

Georgia, Georgian democracy and its long creative work are in danger.

The same ruin and bloodshed which ruined Russia, which is dying from endless civil war, awaits our country.

Our fate is in our hands. Our position we ourselves can save by our unanimous steadiness in respect of the enemy.

The Government has decided categorically to defend the country from this misfortune, deliver the working people from a bitter fate, and calls you and together with you the whole democracy to get on your feet and draw close around the government and the Constituent Assembly, fulfilling infallibly the orders of the government, securing order in the country and having opposed to the crafty traitors an animated steadiness and energy and by this to save the native-land from the danger that is threatening it.

The Government has already declared mobilisation, created a Council of Defence, appointed the Commander-in-Chief, declared in East Georgia a state of siege and has taken all measures of prevention.

Let every citizen and every official remain at his post, and fulfil honestly his duty.

President of the Government and of the Council of Defence of the Republic of Georgia **N. Jordania**.

April 27, 1920.

Moscow reports that the Revolutionary Committee of Petropavlovsk, Siberia, is sending all drunkards to compulsory labour.

MOBILISATION.

In order to guard the independence of the Republic of Georgia from circumstances at present created on its frontiers, the Government of the Georgian Republic acknowledged it necessary to declare part mobilisation.

With this object all reserve soldiers and militia born in 1888, 1889, 1894 and 1895 are called up to the ranks. They are obliged to present themselves immediately to the administration of the Tiflis town military enlisting department on April 30, 1920 at 10 a. m. in order to be sent to their regiments. Apart from this all doctors up to 35 years of age are also obliged to present themselves at the appointed date in the above-mentioned office.

All institutions are obliged to discharge immediately all those of their usual staff who are to enter the army. Their positions will remain open.

Tiflis Town Administration.

Georgia and Azerbaijan.

In connection with the events that have taken place in Azerbaijan the question arises: What influence will it have on the Georgia-Azerbaijan convention, according to which the parties concerned were obliged to give to each other mutual military assistance in case of being attacked by enemy forces? Competent persons assert that after Soviet Power has been declared in Baku itself military support on behalf of Georgia cannot be spoken of. Such may take place only if the Azerbaijan government, having left Baku, will organise resistance in the country to the forces of the Bolsheviks that invaded it.

"Groussia".

A Moscow message states that at a meeting of the Ukrainian Communist Party a resolution was passed in favour of uniting the Independent Ukrainian Republic with the Russian Soviet Republic.

Pravda for March 6 reports that out of 99,000 workmen in Petrograd 33,424 are sick.



EDITORIAL.

Mr. Oliver Wardrop.

All Georgia will regret with us that Mr. Oliver Wardrop has been compelled on account of ill health to leave Tiflis for two months' rest in England. Only a few weeks ago Mr. Wardrop underwent an operation. Following this he was confined to his bed for a fortnight and now, as a result of doctors' orders, he has been reluctantly forced to give up his duties as British Chief Commissioner for the time being. It is Mr. Wardrop's hope that he will be able to return to Georgia in two months' time.

Over-work.

Only those who know Mr. Wardrop personally can realise how hard worked he has been. For five and a half years he has been continually on duty without any rest. As this spell included a year in Moscow after the Russian Revolution and then duty in Bergen—where the Hun was intriguing and had to be carefully watched—one can well understand what a nervous time the Chief Commissioner had. It has been said that Mr. Wardrop is going to England for a holiday. We can assure our readers that this is not really so. Only sheer physical weakness has compelled him to give up his work amongst a people for whom he has the greatest affection.

"Love for Georgia".

We had a personal interview with Mr. Wardrop a few hours before he left Tiflis. He expressed himself to be optimistic regarding the future of Trans-Caucasia. There had been, said he, dark and cloudy moments, but he felt sure that all would come out well in the future. Finally, Mr. Wardrop gave us a personal message to deliver to the Georgian people. "Tell them", he said, "that I have more love for the Georgian people today than I have ever had. I have known Georgia and the Georgians for thirty-three years, and I have become fonder and more fond of them every year. The Georgian people are charming and most lovable". With pleasure we write this message now.

Colonel Stokes.

We hear that Colonel C. B. Stokes, D.S.O., who has recently been in England owing to a sad family bereavement, is at present

on his way out to Tiflis, where he will act as deputy for Mr. Wardrop during the latter's absence. Pending Colonel Stokes' arrival, the post is being filled by Commander Luke, of the Staff of Admiral de Robeck, the Allied High Commissioner in Constantinople, who has travelled extensively in the Near East, of the affairs of which he has a very great knowledge. Colonel Stokes is very well known in Tiflis and in Baku, in both of which towns he is extremely popular. In fact, we do not know of any other officer who is so greatly liked by all parties as is Colonel Stokes. For many years Colonel Stokes was in Persia and he is a recognised authority on the Middle East.

Kobuleti Bridge.

Happily, our first news about the Kobuleti Bridge outrage is not so serious as we had feared. The bridge can be repaired: the work of repairing it has already been commenced. The only difficulty passengers from Tiflis to Batoum have to put up with is to walk from the Tiflis train across the bridge to continue their journey to Batoum in another one. The novelty of the experience, we hear, is sufficient compensation to most of the travellers for any inconvenience they have to suffer. It is hoped that the Tiflis-Batoum trains will be running direct in a few days' time.

B a k u.

At the moment of going to press, the news has reached Tiflis that Baku has been occupied by the Bolsheviks. The first news was on April 27 when it was reported that the Bolsheviks had crossed the Azerbaïdjan frontier. Then suddenly, on April 28, came the news that Baladjari had been taken, the railway line from Baku to Tiflis thus being cut. Following this it was reported that President Ussubekov had handed over the power to the Bolsheviks. All telephonic communications have been stopped, so that, as we write, we have no further news.

The Lost Tribe.

In a recent number of the London "Times", there appeared an article by a correspondent who wrote of Scotsmen in the Caucasus. At first we thought that the article referred to us and our fellow-countrymen, but we found that it was about a lost clan who

came somehow to the Caucasus four hundred years ago. In this number of the "Georgian Mail" we publish an article by "Londoner" of the London "Evening News" dealing with this tribe and its descendants.

Ubiquitous Scots.

We confess that we are not at all surprised at the news. During the war in Russia, we met on one occasion in the trenches a Colonel of the Russian Guards who was a member of the old Scottish family, Crichton. Colonel Crichton told us that his family had been in Russia since the time of Peter the Great. His name appeared in Debrett's. He himself had never been in Scotland, but it so happened that we ourselves had played in our childhood's days amongst the ruins of Crichton Castle in Mid-Lothian—the former Scottish seat of the Crichton family. On another occasion, when we were travelling in the interior of China we met a solitary white man—an engineer from Glasgow—who had lived alone amongst the Chinese for many years. Later on we met a Trappist monk from a monastery in the centre of China and we were not a little astonished to find that he also was a Scotsman. We shall be very grateful to any of our Georgian readers who can give us further information regarding the Lost Clan in the mountains near Batoum.

The Scottish Language.

The derivation of words is a very interesting study. At the time of the Jacobite rebellion in Scotland many Scotsmen left their native country for the hospitable shores of France. Later on they returned. Today, the French influence on the Scottish language is still very apparent. We need only cite a few words as instances. "Bonnie" is obviously a corruption of the word "bon"; "asshet" (plate) is from "assiette"; "grosset" (gooseberry) is from "groseille"; "dour" is from "dur" (hard), and so on. We have studied this question seriously. Many words we have been unable to trace as to origin. One of these is the word "gin" (if pronounced with the "g" hard). Only a few days ago we discovered in Tiflis that the Tartar word for "if" is "gina". Now—How did that word reach the Caucasus?—Or, perhaps, one should say, How did that word reach Scotland?

S. L.

MR. OLIVER WARDROP.

British Commissioner's Departure from Tiflis.

Mr. Oliver Wardrop, the British Chief Commissioner in Trans-Caucasia, who, on account of ill-health, has been ordered by the doctors to have two months' rest in England, left Tiflis by special train at 10 o'clock on Monday, April 26, night.

Many Georgian Ministers and officials, including Mr. Gegetchkori, the Foreign Minister, Mr. Ramishvili, the Minister of the Interior, the Mayor of Tiflis and the chiefs of government departments assembled at the station to bid Mr. Wardrop farewell. All the British officers in Tiflis were also present, including Commander Luke, who will act for the time being in the place of Mr. Wardrop, Major Daly, the chief of the British Staff in Tiflis, and Major Pinder, the acting British Consul.

On arriving at the station, Mr. Wardrop, accompanied by General Gedevanoff, inspected a guard of honour which was drawn up on the platform. At the same time, a military band played the Georgian hymn.

Later, in the reception room, Mr. Gegetchkori proposed the health of Mr. Wardrop. This was enthusiastically drunk. In reply, Mr. Wardrop drank a toast to Georgia, and a further toast to England was proposed and drunk amid cheers.

All present then went on to the platform to see Mr. Wardrop off, and as the train steamed slowly out of the station, the band again played.

Communist-terrorists Arrested.

At one o'clock in the morning of April 26th, the headquarters of a band of Communist-terrorists, headed by Panteleimon Kvinradze, was discovered on Voznesensky street. Wigs, bombs, mausers, 46,000 roubles in cash, and many documents were found. The documents will be published later.

General Damiano Pistolesi, who during the war commanded the Italian expeditionary forces in Albania, is dead.

Mlle. Bolland, a young Frenchwoman, has succeeded in looping the loop several times at the aviation school at Crotoy.

Two schooners, built in Edmonton, Canada, are to be disposed of to the Eskimos on a trade-and-barter basis, raw furs being taken in exchange.

It is reported from Madrid that the Minister of Foreign Affairs is requesting the Chamber to make a grant of 300,000 pesetas in connexion with Spain's representation on the League of Nations.



SCOTS IN THE CAUCASUS.

THE DISCOVERY OF A LOST CLAN.

(From the London "Evening News").

There is a lost tribe in the Caucasus. At least they were lost for some four hundred years until a Scottish gentleman found them "after a few days walking in that mountainous area" round about Batoum. The Scottish traveller, who tells his tale in *The Times*, would have "ethnological students" go back with him to Batoum and seek out the tribe again.

Ethnological students may be all very well in their way. But if I were looking for lost tribes, I would rather take Sir Rider Haggard with me. In the matter of Lost Tribes he is the chief of our authorities. Ever since I was a boy he has been discovering them, mysterious white races tucked away behind the mountains, living according to their customs of old time. It is true that Sir Rider Haggard has a habit of discovering his Lost Tribes in Africa, a continent with wide fields for the sport. Yet he is no narrow specialist; he might be persuaded to start for Batoum with the Scottish traveller. I am sure that he would make a novel more entertaining than an ethnological student's report, which would be full of pages with figures of the measurement of skulls.

Meanwhile I have nothing but what the Scottish gentleman brought away on his first visit. I learn that these lost tribesmen live in a mass of huts, like a great bird's nest, perched on a flat among the crags. They have blue eyes and red hair. They wear kilts of Caucasian carpet stuff. "One of them seized a curious instrument, made of hollowed sticks and a great pig's bladder", and began to play on it. At the droning noise the tribesmen began to dance. They danced the Highland fling.

They danced the fling of the Scottish highlands and not of the Caucasian highlands. Though they spoke a jargon of Georgian and Tartar, their speech had words of Gaelic in it. When the traveller sang them some old Scottish airs they listened with delight, sometimes joining in the song.

A Lost tribe! They were a lost clan from Scotland. The traveller was told that they had landed at Trebizond some four hundred years ago or more, and that they had worked their way northward until they came to those congenial mountains. When I think of it, I am more than ever eager that Sir Rider Haggard should be the first to hear all their tale and tell it me.

Indeed it is wonderful enough. I should like to go with Sir Rider Haggard. Even that matter of the kilt

puzzles me. I had always believed that the sort of kilt which is a mere petticoat is something less than four or five hundred years old and there are Scottish antiquaries who are on my side. And those old Scottish songs? The traveller, you will remark, can sing old Scottish songs of the fifteenth century, else the clan would never have joined him in singing them. They must have been very old songs indeed, older than any in your Scottish songbook, and Gaelic songs at that, so that the clansman might understand them.

But these are lesser mysteries. What puzzles me is that here you have a tribe of Scotsmen living in foreign parts and yet not prospering above the fortunes of the natives of the country. This is a thing not easily imagined. We Englishmen, men of a tribe which has many Scots settled in its towns and lands, have come to believe it in the nature of things that Scotsmen should direct our affairs, lead us and order us, taking justly a director's fees. We have never met with Scots content to live apart with the bagpipes for solace. I should like to seek out those highlanders in the Caucasus.

The Londoner.

Italy and Constantinople.

Rome April 2.—In his speech Signor Nitti, the Premier, declared that Italy seeks no territorial conquest, and that she supports the maintenance of the Turk at Constantinople. "Italy desires to get", he said, "the raw material which the Orient is able and ought to produce. Italy will require a guarantee of the freedom of the Straits. As regards Constantinople, she will ask a position equal to that of France and England". The Government received a vote of confidence by 250 to 195.

Wireless Telephony Works from England to Rome.

The *Daily News* publishes a description by Signor Aldocassato, the London Correspondent of the *Messaggero* of Rome, describing the successful achievement of a new stage in the development of long distance wireless telephony.

Signor Cassuto, from Chelmsford, was able without a hitch to dictate messages of 500 words to a shorthand-writer writing at a station outside Rome.

This is the first time that wireless telephony has been used as a means of communication between nations for Press purposes.

KOBULETI BRIDGE.

Two Arches Destroyed.

The news of the blowing-up of the bridge over the Kintrishy River, near Kobuleti station, which we received last week at the moment of going to press, has fortunately turned out to be less serious than we had supposed. It was at first thought that the bridge was damaged beyond repair; subsequent information is that only two arches were destroyed and that the work of repair has already been begun and should be completed in the near future.

Communication with Batoum has already been re-established. Passengers have to transfer from one train to another, completing the short distance between the two trains on foot as no train can yet pass over the damaged bridge.

The Director of the Department of the Ministry of Ways and Communications, Engineer Tchichinadze, wired on April 23:

"Batoum, British Railway Bureau, to Major Rouse and to all the chiefs of the Georgian Railways. I have given orders for the immediate starting of the repairing of the Kintrishy bridge at the 78th verst (one verst of the station Kobuleti towards Tchakva) carrying on the work day and night unceasingly and referring all the expenses to the account of the British authorities in the Batoum region who did not take due measures for the guarding of the bridge, and who impeded the Railway authorities in themselves guarding the bridges and the line in the boundaries of the Batoum region with the assistance of the railway militia. All the expenses of repair will be presented to you for payment. Therefore I ask you to appoint your representative to be present at the work in order that no misunderstandings will take place when the accounts are rendered".

The Presence.

An infinitesimal flaxen-haired atom sat in a puddle before the Highland Arms Hotel, splashing itself and its clothes and shouting for glee. Beside it stood a dignified turbaned figure, pleading earnestly in Hindustani.

"Huzoor", it said, "listen to the word of thy servant and rise; her honour thy mother will upbraid if she see thee there. And behold, even tomorrow thy servant must leave the Presence and set forth again upon the black water; shall he go with a downcast face because the Presence has taken cold?" All this it said and much more, and the Presence continued to wallow with callous joy.

Then on the doorstep of the hotel appeared the bit redheaded nursemaid from Morayshire, who had recently joined the party. "Eh, Sahndy", she cried, "get oop oot o' that this mennis, ye bahd boy". And Sandy rose.

"Punch".

NEW STAMPS FOR COLLECTORS.

Many Plebiscite Issues.

To the many novel types of postage stamps evolved during the past 12 months must now be added a considerable group represented by the category "Plebiscite Stamps". Such stamps have appeared under the auspices of the International Commissions in Thrace and Slesvig, and similar issues are appearing in Upper and Eastern Silesia for use during the plebiscites there.

The plebiscite postage stamps of Upper Silesia are nine in number, ranging in value from 2½ pfg. to 5mks. They bear evidence of German origin. In Eastern Galicia plebiscite postage stamps are to be issued by both the Poles and the Czech-Slovaks. The Czech series is already in circulation, and the Polish issue is momentarily expected to make its appearance. Charity postage stamps for the relief of repatriated prisoners of war are to hand from Hungary in three denominations and designs, each of which is sold at a premium upon its postal value.

Coincident with the dispatch of reinforcements to the French Army in Cilicia a new series of occupation stamps has been brought into use in that region in the form of Turkish fiscal stamps overprinted "Occupation Militaire Française—Cilicie", and new values in piastres.

In consequence of extensive thefts of supplies of the current pictorial stamps of Abyssinia, between Berne and Adis Abeba, it is announced that the whole of the stocks remaining in the hands of the Ethiopian postal authorities are to receive an additional control mark without which none will be valid for postage.

The black Republic of Haiti is to be provided, under American intervention, with a complete new series of national postage stamps.

The calculations of Dr. Georges Brunel, of the French Academie, show that 2,547 separate and distinct varieties of new postage stamps were issued all over the world in the year 1919.

The Bolsheviks and the Berlin Coup.

A Geneva message says that South German papers expose a plot between Von Kapp, Trotsky and Lenin to spread Bolshevism in Germany and capture Berlin.

The week before the recent *coup d'état*, an important meeting was held at which three Russian Bolshevik officers arranged with Von Kapp to aid a campaign with this object. They were sent direct from Moscow and Von Kapp was asked by the Russians to keep quiet till July when the Bolsheviks, after defeating the Poles, would enter Berlin.

HARBORD'S REPORT ON ARMENIA.

Pro's and Con's for Acceptance of Mandate.

General Harbord's report on the United States mandate for Armenia was introduced in the Senate. A résumé was added to the report, wherein all considerations for and against acceptance of the mandate are examined.

I. Considerations for Acceptance of the Mandate.

- (1) Insuring of peace to the whole world.
- (2) Assisting the cause of humanity.
- (3) Satisfying the wishes of the Near East nations who prefer American administration to any other.
- (4) The fact that each Allied Great Power, since it does not receive itself the mandate for Armenia, prefers America to be the mandatory.
- (5) The consideration that, after some time, the revenues to the mandatory will cover the expenses, and thus enable American capital to make a profitable investment.
- (6) The fact that, if America refuses the mandate, international interests, always conflicting in Turkey, will obtain new force under the Turkish regime.

II. Considerations against Taking of the Mandate.

- (1) Grave interior affairs of the United States.
- (2) The fact that intervention of America in the affairs of the Old World diminishes the effect of the Monroe Doctrine.
- (3) The fact that America in no way took part in the present grave situation of the Near East.
- (4) The fact that Great Britain, Russia and other great powers are disappointed in the regions. England, however, has of course the experience and means for establishing a just and stable control over the country.
- (5) The United States cannot pursue for a long time a uniform foreign policy for the present Congress cannot bind by obligations any future Congress.
- (6) The necessity to advance big sums of money at first, while commercial revenues will then be insignificant.

In connection with this report, President Wilson addressed the following statement to General Harbord: "The United States has indeed undertaken the obligation to regulate several questions of foreign policy touching very strongly the interests of the United States, independent of domestic affairs of the utmost importance. But American intervention in Armenian affairs

will demand from 100,000 to 200,000 soldiers. The United States can undertake such a burden only after preliminary agreement with Great Britain and France, and after definite approval by Russia and Germany, especially on questions concerning Turkey and Trans-Caucasia". The expenses of intervention for the first year are figured at 275,000,000 dollars.

SECRET HISTORY.

Ludendorff's Plan Against Holland.

FRESH REVELATIONS.

BRUSSELS, March 7.

The Foreign Affairs Committee of the Belgian Parliament, which has been discussing for some weeks past important problems such as that of Luxemburg, the Dutch-Belgian Treaty, the Rhine provinces, and the status of the restored territories of Eupen and Malmédy, will assemble next week for the purpose of considering the navigation of the Scheldt in time of war. I venture to call the attention of the members of this Committee to some interesting revelations which have recently been made by Captain Count von Hertling in a book which has made its appearance in Berlin, "Ein Jahr in der Reichskanzlei" (A Year in the Imperial Chancellery).

Count von Hertling acted as Adjutant to his father, the Chancellor. At the beginning of 1918 the great "peace offensive" of the German armies appeared to have achieved a considerable success, and Amiens and Arras were being threatened by the Imperial forces. Ludendorff was at the height of his power. He was not afraid of adding another to the long list of his enemies. On January 21 the Chancellor, von Hertling, was at Grand Headquarters at Spa. His son says:

As usual, after dinner we had been playing at whist. My father had gone to bed. Colonel von Winterfeldt, delegate to the Government from the High Command, Herr von Radowitz, and I stayed up for a while discussing the general situation. At about eleven o'clock there arrived from Berlin an urgent telegram for the Chancellor. Herr von Radowitz, the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, opened it. This telegram was a communication from Herr von Kühlmann saying that the High Command was in favour of invading Dutch Flanders. The pretext for this extraordinary and unexpected proceeding was that English aviators were constantly flying over neutral Dutch territory, and that the Dutch Government was not in a position to prevent them. The High Command considered that it was time

to cease negotiations and proceed to acts. Herr von Radowitz read this strange telegram, and asked Colonel von Winterfeldt to communicate at once with the High Command over the telephone. This was done, and we received the reassuring news that in any case the High Command would do nothing without the formal consent of the Government.

What Might Have Been.

It appears then that the Government shrank from supporting the project. It was aware that the policy of an intensified submarine warfare had brought about America's declaration of war, as to which it had no great reason to be self-satisfied. Nevertheless, it is established that Ludendorff looked upon the invasion and occupation of Dutch Flanders as a necessity. It would be doing a great injustice to the Dutch Government to suppose that it would not have considered such a step as a violation of the neutrality of Holland. Holland, then, would have been compelled to fight, and her assistance at that moment would, of course, have been extremely valuable to the Allies.

FRENCH HOUSING PROBLEM.

Indignant Artists Form "Soviet".

PARIS, March 22.

People are crying out for lodgings here as in England. The question has been taken in hand by the Paris municipality. It is proposed to spend the sum of 1,700,000,000f. (nominally L.68,000,000) over a term of years on housing. There is a great shortage of building materials and labour, but 1,476 new two-roomed workmen's flats will be erected as soon as possible, with another 950 to follow a little later. These will be built in the centre of the city and near the fortifications. It is quite probable too that many half-finished buildings destined for the wealthy will be requisitioned for the workers.

With the object of increasing accommodation a large number of miniature skyscrapers have been appearing in Montmartre much to the disgust of the artistic world who dwell there. All the artists have formed a little parliament to discuss the matter. The parties in this parliament bear titles such as "Montmartrois", "Cubistes", "Sauvages", "Dadaistes", and "Gassieristes", representing the various schools to which they belong. Some of the extremists are so enraged at the new eyecores of construction which are appearing that they want the artistic colony to decamp *en bloc* to Marseilles. As soon as this communist parliament reaches an unanimous decision the municipality will no doubt officially receive its complaints.

FOREIGN NEWS

An Army order has been issued in France, making football compulsory.

Sailings between Zeebrugge and Hull are to be resumed in May.

Aerial traffic will commence in June between Stockholm and Helsingfors.

Captain Zanni, an Argentine airman, has flown across the Andes, landing at Santiago.

The population of Belgium on December 31, 1918, was 7,555,576, females being in a majority of 735,10.

Three hundred tons of food for the use of British and Danish prisoners in Russia have recently passed through Finland.

A law has been passed for the establishment of an Inter-Allied Colonial Exhibition in Paris in 1925 and the creation of a permanent Colonial Museum.

Twenty-eight thousand bales of Australian wool have been unloaded at Antwerp by two steamers, constituting the largest wool cargo received since the Armistice.

According to a Madrid message, the Queen, while driving in the city, met a priest going on foot to give the last sacraments to a workman, and insisted on his taking her car while she walked.

A proposal has been put before the Polish Government by the British Admiralty to send 50 young Polish officers to England for the purpose of completing their education in the British Navy.

Frozen mutton has increased 100 per cent in price during the last year in France.

After a resolution had been passed expressing sympathy with Soviet Russia and the Hungarian Bolsheviks, the Norwegian Workers' Congress at Christiania came to an end.

Musk ox and reindeer are to be bred for food purposes on some of the northern islands of Hudson Bay.

Three Japanese Army airmen, piloting two Sopwith and one Salmson aeroplanes, have succeeded in accomplishing a flight from Tokyo to Seoul (Korea).

Experiments will be carried out by all the naval seaplane stations in the Toulon region to ascertain whether seaplanes and dirigibles may be used to locate shoals of fish.