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The Esthonian Review



*A monthly literary Periodical
devoted to the interests of
Esthonia and to general
progressive topics of the day.*

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CONTRIBUTIONS.--The Editors will be pleased to consider Articles and Paragraphs of political or general interest to Esthonians, or general contributions on progressive topics of the day. While every precaution will be taken for the safe return of rejected MSS., accompanied by stamped, self-addressed envelopes, the Editors do not hold themselves responsible for MSS. submitted.

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Queries bearing the sender's full name, address, and *nom de plume* will be answered in the paper. They may be on general subjects.



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Esthonian Minister of the Interior



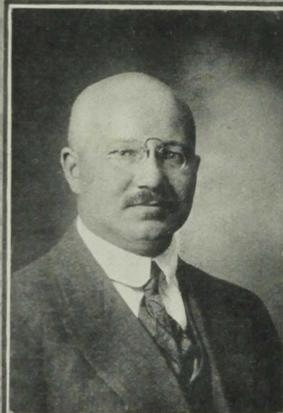
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**MINISTERS
OF THE
ESTHONIAN
GOVERNMENT**



MR POSKA
Foreign Minister

The Esthonian Review.

Founders and Joint Editors :

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Editors in Council.

THANKS !

The Editors beg to tender their thanks to the many Britishers and Esthonians who have written wishing THE ESTHONIAN REVIEW godspeed, and who are shewing so genuine an interest in the success of the publication.

It is their intention that the Review shall be acceptable not only to those readers who are directly interested in the Baltic question, either from a political, military, or from an economical standpoint, but also that its literary merits shall be such, and its interests so widespread, as to ensure circulation among the General Progressive Public.

Articles by leading Progressionists will appear from time to time, all the latest Baltic news from Reval direct will be included in the political review of the month, the latest developments in politics, literature, commerce, society and drama will be recorded, and, in addition to this, articles of general interest to thinking men and women of the day, will be included in each number. Criticisms and suggestions will be welcomed. It is the Editors' particular wish that their readers shall become active partners in the production of a periodical satisfactory to them all.

‘ESTHONIA ?——’

Until she recently distinguished herself by her heroic and successful struggle against the Bolshevik Oppression, Esthonia had carried on her affairs in so unobtrusive a manner as to keep her out of the Public Eye abroad to such an extent that many people are still in ignorance of her whereabouts and activities. For the benefit of those readers whose interest in the Baltic Question has only recently been aroused, a serial history of Esthonia's political, economical and military progress will run in THE ESTHONIAN REVIEW, the first instalment appearing in this issue.

Progress, both individual and collective, is the leading note of the present age ; a subject which makes a personal appeal to every man who has been living under the restrictions of War, and who has realised, however remotely, how the bond of Prussianism would have affected his personal liberty and the national liberty of his country, had Germany won. Esthonia has lived under this bond, and has thrown her minor weight against the overpowering majority of Germans and of Bolsheviks who have sought to undermine her freedom, and she has won her way to the point of proclaiming herself an independent Republic.

An unequal struggle appeals to the sporting spirit of the Britisher, and he has taken a keen interest in Esthonia's recent uprising against Bolshevism, for which reason this monthly record of her progress should

prove of interest not only to the participators in the Baltic Crisis, but also to those who, from the safety of their far-away island, have watched and applauded Esthonia's struggle for Independence.

* * * * *

Great satisfaction is being felt in Esthonia at the sending of a British Mission as a guarantee of support against invasion, and at the patrolling of Esthonia's coasts by British vessels. Esthonia has always placed great faith in Britain, and this official move in supplying practical help has roused fresh courage among the war-weary populace.

MR. G. B. SHAW.

We had hoped to give our readers an Article by that great British Progressionist Mr. George Bernard Shaw, in our first issue. He is unfortunately so busy with other work at present that he is unable to undertake any more articles for the moment.

The following letter has been received at this office from Mr. Shaw:—

“ 10, Adelphi Terrace, W.C. 2,
12th of June, 1919.

I am sorry to say that it is quite impossible for me to undertake even the smallest addition to my present engagements until October at the very earliest. I am heavily overloaded as it is. None the less I am obliged to you for inviting me, and hope your paper will have what success is possible in view of its geography.

G. Bernard Shaw.”

ARTS AND THE DRAMA.

Artistic, Dramatic, Industrial and Social News.—The Editors will be glad to receive notices of Artistic, Dramatic, and Social News direct from readers in Esthonia for publication in the *Gazette*, also interesting news items concerning peasant industries, handicrafts, etc. Such communications may be sent in any language as they can be translated at the *Gazette* Offices. The same applies to London readers who may be able to secure paragraphs of interest to readers abroad.

WITH COL. GORDON.

The Editor had the pleasure of calling on Colonel Pirie Gordon, and Mr. MacDuff, of the British Commission for the Baltic Provinces shortly leaving for Esthonia.

Colonel Gordon is very sanguine as to the political position, and informed the Editor that the Commission consists of a Diplomatic, Financial and Commercial Body which is leaving this country to join Colonel Tallents, who has already left for the Baltic Countries.

He anticipates a very satisfactory result from the expedition, and expressed his sympathies with the marvellous deeds accomplished by the Esthonians in combating Bolshevism and German intrigue, as well as re-establishing order and commerce.

Mr. W. H. MacDuff, Assistant Commissary for the Department of Overseas Trade, Baltic Commission, in reply to an enquiry as to whether trade can now be re-established, said that the Government intends to give all facilities with regard to tonnage and that business concerns should apply to the Department of Overseas Trade, Russian and Scandinavian Section, Hotel Windsor, Victoria Street, for queries. He also promised to supply the Editor with Government circulars which are shortly to be issued, to enable the "Esthonian Review" to keep *au courant* with affairs from a British point of view.

The Editor will be pleased to give any information to subscribers, and will do everything in his power to foster the relationship between England and Esthonia.

The Editors have pleasure in publishing the following letter which they received from Professor Piip, the Esthonian Diplomatic Representative in Great Britain. They wish to extend to Professor Piip their warm thanks for the sympathy he has so kindly expressed on the subject of the publication of this paper.

Esthonian Provisional Legation,
45, Markham Square,
Chelsea.

To the Editors *The Esthonian Review*, 129a, King's Road, Chelsea.
Sirs,

30th June.

I am following with great interest your enterprise in founding a magazine to promote the cultural and political understanding between Great Britain and Esthonia.

May I suggest that a nearer acquaintance with Esthonian national life will convince the British public that Esthonia's desire for independence is the natural outcome of all development in that country, that independence for Esthonia as for other Baltic States, is the only possible solution to the problem concerning those vast territories which formerly made part of the Russian Empire.

Any attempt to restore artificially the unity of Russia by the appointment of a Pan-Mission Government will naturally fail, and Independence is the royal road to a lasting Peace in Eastern Europe. Only by the recognition of the smaller peoples' full right to self-administration is it possible to render harmless that German-Russian alliance which otherwise would form so great a danger to all Europe and the civilised world.

May I send you my best wishes for the success of your paper, and express the hope that your publication will be as sympathetically received by the British public as it certainly will be among my own countrymen.

Yours sincerely,
(Signed) AUTON PIIP.

Political Review of the Month.

ESTHONIA OFFICIALLY DECLARED REPUBLIC.

IMPORTANT COMMUNIQUE FROM REVAL.

23rd MAY.

(The following Official Statement, telegraphed from Reval on 21st May, has reached the ESTHONIAN LEGATION in London).

On 19th May, in The Constituent Assembly unanimously accepted by all Esthonian parties with exception of the Germans, who were not present, and a Russian representative who remained neutral, the declaration of Esthonian independence is as follows:—

The Esthonian Nation considers it to be its right and duty at this turning point of the World's History as of its own National History, to declare to all civilised nations as follows:—

The Esthonians, from ancient times have inhabited the shores of the Baltic. Seven hundred years ago their independence was snatched from them by superior German forces, but the Nation has always clung to the hope of one day regaining its liberty. The World War has brought to the fore the right of self-government and has brought within the bounds of possibility the fulfilment of our great desire.

The Esthonian Nation which has been engaged in a bloody war with the Russian Soviet State for the last six months, in defence of its independence, demands a place in the League of Nations as a Sovereign State.

She has broken for ever the bonds which for two centuries have bound her to Russia.

The wrongs perpetrated under the Russian Rule have embittered the souls of the Esthonian people. The Russian Czars while fulfilling all the demands of the German Baltic Nobility, did nothing to settle the agrarian problem in Esthonia, refused Local Government, did not allow Esthonians to take part in elections, filled all posts with Russian officials, and carried out a system of Russification, by local government boards, courts and schools.

No material improvement was effected by the Revolution. The authorities left no stone unturned to prevent the fulfilment of the desire of the Esthonian people for freedom in the schools and local government organization.

The Council of Russian sailors and soldiers dissolved the Esthonian National Council and Local Government, and forbade the calling up of an army for the defence of the country.

Esthonia was sacrificed to Germany under the Brest Litovsk treaty.

The power of Germany was smashed by the heavy blows of the Allies.

The Russian Soviet Armies attacked Esthonia, bringing in their train more sufferings and misery. In consideration of this the Esthonian nation is under no obligation to respect the union with Russia.

The Esthonian people do not desire to harbour resentment against the Russian nation, but to live as friendly neighbours and in harmonious relationship, if they will leave them in peace.

Desire for power outside their own boundaries is foreign to the Esthonian people and will remain so.

The Esthonian people desire to possess in their own country the national right of ordering their own lives freely and independently. The tragic past of the Esthonian people has proved that it is capable of self-government and is fitted for the administration of an independent State.

Wretched conditions of existence have not broken the spirit of the Esthonian people. They have always known how to make the best use of their possibilities for the advancement of culture. Education is general. Every field has its individual enterprise in political matters. The Esthonians have organised Government and Local Government administration. They have shewn the greatest self confidence and mature judgment.

In the War forced on Esthonia by the action of the German Army of occupation, the people have had to face, empty handed and with disorganised forces, the better organised and equipped army of the Soviets, which simultaneously with the departure of the Germans, crossed the Esthonian frontiers.

This long struggle has been going on without interruption for the last six months with the preponderating forces of the enemy. During that time, fighting without respite, the Esthonian people have succeeded in ridding the country of the enemy, defending their frontiers, building up an efficient army, setting in order the affairs of the state, forming a Constituent Assembly of representatives elected by the people, and establishing a Government which is universally recognised. The Esthonian people have, without loss of time, laid the foundations of an independent State.

Empowered by the Esthonian Constituent Assembly, which was chosen by the people in an election based on wide democratic principles, the Government, in the name of the Esthonian Nation sends forth the sacred message to all the peoples of the earth that the above-mentioned facts express the determination and will of the Esthonian Nation, that Esthonia shall be free from all subordination to Russia within her ethnographical boundaries.

On 24th February, 1918, the bonds between Russia and the Esthonia Republic were broken. Esthonia is now an Independent and Democratic Republic.

Esthonia is fighting for its existence against Bolshevistic and tyrannical Russia, and will defend herself even to her last drop of blood.

19th May, 1919.

ESTHONIAN CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY.

POLITICAL AND MILITARY NOTES FROM ESTHONIA.

By our Special Correspondent.

The internal political situation in Esthonia, in consequence of the regular work of the democratic Constituent Assembly is quite satisfactory. There is no internal trouble, and the people are waiting eagerly for the realisation of agrarian reform, so urgently needed for the welfare of the Country. Food supplies are more plentiful, and the economic conditions much improved.

The chief trouble now for the Esthonian Republic is the international political question, chiefly the international settlement of the Esthonian position and the recognition of Esthonian independence. From the very beginning of the war, the Esthonian people took an enthusiastic part in warfare against Germany, expecting Esthonian liberty to be established as a result of victory. After Russian desintegration became an accomplished fact, it only remained for Esthonia to take the fate of her countrymen in her own hands and proclaim Esthonian independence from Russia. During the following German occupation, all attempts to persuade the Esthonians to accept the Union of Esthonia with victorious Germany were repulsed resolutely and repeatedly. The Allied victory awakened the hopes of Esthonian people for full freedom, for it is the allied policy that peoples shall not be treated merely as dead objects but that their right for self-determination shall be respected. Great Britain and other allied powers quite clearly stated that the future status of Esthonia must be decided at the Peace Conference. May we quote here the declaration of H.B.M. Government, in a letter from the Foreign Office, dated September last, wherein it was stated ;—

Trusting that the right of self-determination is really ruling the civilised world, the Esthonian people in most desperate straits, undertook to fight against Germans and Bolsheviks, with what little help could be given by the Allies, especially by Great Britain.

The Peace Conference will meet, and with this, the final settlement of Esthonia will result.

In many explanations and Memorandums the Esthonian delegation at the Peace Conference, headed by Mr. Poska, Minister for Foreign Affairs, explained the desire of Esthonian people for independence. Those explanations were most emphatically emphasised in this country by continual victories over the Bolsheviks, and finally over the Germans. The Esthonian Constituent Assembly (the democratic representation of the country), expressed once more the resolute decision of the Esthonian people, on 19th May. All these facts were explained by the Esthonian delegation at the meeting of the Baltic Commission. Nevertheless, the Esthonian question is up to the present unsettled. All the correspondence of the big powers with Admiral Koltchak has not made the situation clearer regarding the existing situation in those new States whose territories formerly belonged to the Russian Empire.

In any case it may be stated, that the Esthonian people are firmly opposed to any Russian Rule, and will fight for their Independence until their aims are realised.

The military situation of Esthonia being at the beginning of the year quite desperate, has since completely changed. After clearing their country in January and February from the Bolshevik oppression, the Esthonians have helped to organise, by means of active defence, the Russian and Lettish anti-Bolshevik units. With their help, the Esthonians were able to advance against the Bolsheviks, who, at the beginning of May, destroyed half the town of Narva with their artillery fire. As a result, the Bolsheviks were driven back to Gatshina, near Petrograd, and thrown out of all Latvia.

On the other hand, the new attack of the Germans against Esthonia, having for object the overthrow of the Esthonian democratic government, and the effecting of a Union with the Russian reactionaries, has totally failed. Now the Germans have been driven back by the combined efforts of the Esthonian and Lettish troops. Since 20th June last, the Esthonian Commander-in-Chief, General Laidoner, has renounced the supreme command of the Russian units which now form the Russian Northern Army, and is actively co-operating with the Letts to deliver the Baltic States from the German rule.

In view of the ability of such nations to defend themselves, the political future of Esthonia must be looked into in order that the existing independence of the Esthonian Republic may be recognised throughout the civilised world.

The Land of Esthonia.

Esthonia, that small country in North West Russia, is little known to our general public, although much has been written about her recently in Continental and political literature. The civic press, and to a far greater extent, the German press, has been contributed to by writers whose interest it was to prevent the real truth from leaking out. It is a well-known fact, and needs very little proof that the Baltic German nobility and the patrician Germans were the privileged ones in the country. Though they only represent from three to five per cent. of the whole population, they have exploited the Esthonians and Letts for centuries past. But there is an end to all things, and these oppressed peoples began to protest and to rise into a consciousness of the possibility of freeing themselves from the chains of slavery and obligation to German feudalism.

After the great Russian revolution their autonomy was recognised by Kerensky. As a matter of fact Esthonia was the first country to obtain the long sought-after independence. They formed an Esthonian diet which was elected by universal suffrage, but this was dispersed, first by the Bolsheviks, and afterwards by the Germans. The latter, with their customary Teutonic brutality, arrested all prominent leaders, as well as all those belonging to the intellectual classes, intending thus to frustrate the attainment of the Esthonian national aim. However, after the Germans were forced to quit the country, the Esthonians, under the most difficult conditions, raised an army of volunteers to defend their homes against the Chinese hordes of Lenin and Trotsky.

The Germans, fully realising that the exploitation of Esthonians by their Baltic brethren was doomed to failure, treacherously sold the Esthonians to the Bolsheviks, handing over to them ammunition and towns of strategical importance. The fact that the Esthonians were able to liberate their country from this Asiatic plague called Bolshevism, reflects immense credit on their powers of organisation. One could almost compare Esthonia with Eastern Verdun, as these heroes held out against tremendously superior forces, thus safeguarding the doorway of Eastern trade.

Regarding the present conditions prevailing in Esthonia, it can be stated that, bearing in mind the fact that not long ago the Esthonians had to deal with Bolshevism at home, without money or army, the conditions have remarkably improved. The Country will never give way to Bolshevism, neither will the Esthonians give up their independence. They have proved to the world that they are able to live an independent life, and to found a State on just lines. They have no intention of oppressing any nationality or class, and notwithstanding the great difficulties with which they are faced, let us hope that they will surmount them and, in so doing, receive the full support of the Allies,

The Economical Position of Esthonia.

Esthonia, being a fertile country and the farmers using up-to-date machinery and methods of fertilization, can produce sufficient material in normal times to meet all the local demands, with the exception of the demands of the larger towns, to which grain was imported from Russia in the past. In return for this, Esthonia, however, exported considerable quantities of butter, cheese and eggs to Russia, chiefly to Petrograd. Dairy farming is well developed, and the co-operative instincts of the people have made the establishment of a net of Dairy Societies and the concentration of same in a Central Union called "Esthonia," possible. This Union collects and markets practically all of the milk products and eggs in Esthonia. Besides the quantities which went to Petrograd in normal times, Esthonian egg and milk products also found markets in London, but were sold as Danish or Finnish products.

The future prospects of the Esthonian farmers are favourable, as they will be in a position to export seed and cattle for stock breeding to Russia. Of the Esthonian Exports, Flax, Timber and Spirit deserve mentioning, the former commodity was exported in large quantities to the United Kingdom.

Esthonia has Factories and Mills for cotton, paper, celluloid, cloth, rope and leather, manufacturing also chemical works and Shipbuilding Yards. The most prominent works are the Krahnholm Manufactory at Narva, the Baltic Cotton Mills, Reval, the Reval Celluloid Works (Osse and Co.), the Reval Spirit Works (Rosen and Co.), the Baltic Shipbuilding Yards, Reval (Peter Wharf Shipbuilding Yard, Ltd. (Noblesser) Reval, Bekker and Company Shipbuilding Yard, Reval, the Johansen Paper Mills, Reval, the Volta Engineering Co., Ltd., Reval, the Krull Engineering Co., Reval, the Reval Wagon Co., Ltd., Dwigettel, the Wiegand Motor Works, Ltd., Reval, and Meyer Chemical Works, Reval.

Oil shale is also found in Esthonia, and has great possibilities, as it contains more oil than shale found in Scotland. At the present moment a Department of the Esthonian Government has been established which is making researches and ascertaining the best ways of taking advantage of this wealth.

The real future of Esthonian Commerce lies in the shipping trade, and Esthonia should become a great transit country. Goods exported from and imported to the Moscow and Petrograd districts of Russia having to pass over Esthonia, it is a well-known fact that Esthonia is the only outlet for Russia to Western Europe. Of the Sea Ports, Reval is the most prominent; there can be no doubt that it will become one of the most important Sea Ports of the Baltic, as it is accessible all through the winter. The Esthonian Government contemplates establishing a free Harbour at

Reval, and the Port will be extended and improved by all modern methods and labour saving appliances. Narva is the chief timber exporting port in the Baltic and will be improved as soon as times become more normal. Pernau, Hapsal, Heinast and Baltic are ports regarding which the Esthonian Government has serious contemplations.

As a seafaring people, Esthonians have acquired a reputation. Their hardiness can be accounted for perhaps by the fact that they descended from sea-rovers, who, some seven centuries ago, even attacked the Coasts of Sweden. They can be found serving on ships of all nationalities, and Esthonian mercantile marine officers may be found attending Navigation Schools in practically all of the larger shipping centres of the world.

The question of Navigation Schools in Esthonia is receiving the undivided attention of the Esthonian Society for the Promotion of Shipping and Seafaring. The "Laevandus" was established two or three years ago by Captain Pitka, at the present moment Commander-in-Chief of the Esthonian Navy. New Navigation Schools will be established where practicable, and the old Schools will be re-organized on up-to-date and practicable lines, and a Navigation School will be opened at Reval this Autumn, which will include in its curriculum classes not only for Navigation Officers, but also for Mechanics and Engineers of ships. At the present there are six Navigation Schools in Esthonia, and taking into consideration that this number has proved to be quite inadequate, although the population is only $1\frac{1}{2}$ millions, it is clearly shewn that a large percentage of Esthonians are engaged in seafaring.

The Esthonians own a comparatively large fleet of sailing vessels, the larger of which trade with all parts of the world. However, the number of these larger ships has, owing to the fact that they were trading outside the Baltic, been considerably diminished due to the efficiency of the Hun U-boat service during the War. The shipowners who thus lost their vessels are now going in for either steamers or auxiliary motor schooners. A new firm has been established recently under the title of "The Esthonian Shipping Co.," which contemplates buying a large number of steamers and motor vessels. Of the older established ship-owning firms, the Reval Shipping Co., Ltd., may be mentioned. This firm was established in 1911, and at one time owned six steamers, but now only owns the s.s. "Kodumaa," of 1,500 tons deadweight, having disposed of the other steamers in the first years of the War. The Baltic Salvage Association, which was founded by the Baltic Barons, and the shares of which were taken up by a group of Esthonians, is now entirely under Esthonian management. It has, in the past as well as now, been doing good work in connection with the salving of vessels lost owing to Naval and Military operations, as well as vessels which have had other casualties.

The most prominent Export and Import and Forwarding firms, with entirely Esthonian capital and under Esthonian control, are the following :— The Esthonian Export and Import Co., Ltd., Reval ; Puchk and Sons, of Reval ; Flax and Grain Exporters and the Marine Trade Society ; Joh. Pitka and Co., Export and Import Merchants and Forwarding Agents, Ships' Brokers and Ships' Stores Merchants, of Reval.

JOHN IMANT.

Democratic Unrest: Its Causes and Cure.

By BEN TILLET, M.P.

(Mr. Ben Tillet is one of the best-known of Britain's Labour Leaders. His work among the Dockers has made him famous together with his exceptionally fine gift of public speaking.—*Ed.*)

The Independence of Workers must be recognised.

The thirst for independence is the main source of democratic unrest.

In political matters as in commerce that sense of increased self-reliance which is making itself felt in the individual, is fighting against the bondage of autocratic control. It is in order to gain the right to rule themselves according to their own standards that the smaller countries are breaking away and reconstructing themselves under separate Governments. In the same way the Working Man is breaking away from the old system of oppression and sweating, in order to establish his claim to an independent existence and to the privileges of earned independence. War conditions are directly responsible for awakening the spirit of independence mainly through the breaking down of social barriers, due to the close comradeship in the trenches of the uneducated with the educated classes which have fought side by side on a footing of equality, exchanging views on life arrived at in vastly differing circumstances. Also, the inflated wage standard has given the Working Man a taste of the Sweets of Life to retain which he is determined to uphold his individual value.

Altered social and economical conditions establishing every man as an important Unit of an Organised Whole, granting him individual rights and freedom to live his own life in his own way, are being demanded by all sections of the democratic public, the granting of which demand will, I am convinced, be responsible for a far better understanding between the various branches of Industry.

Improved commercial organisation, due to the value of co-operation having been learnt under war conditions, will have to be inaugurated if the present democratic crisis is to be averted. A very dangerous revolutionary tendency is active now, as I predicted would be the case directly hostilities ceased.

The Working Man demands recognition of his sacrifices, and a standard of living far higher than that obtaining before the War. If this is not granted him there will be a Revolution of greater fierceness and determination than the French one.

The effect of the Labourer having been called into the War has been to raise his sense of personal discipline by means of military discipline, and to enhance his individual efficiency through hard training, regular living, and physical development, and he has acquired a new moral outlook and an increased sense of responsibility. This added individual efficiency and new standard of living are giving the Working Man fresh views on the wage question, views more akin to those prevalent in America. He wants better conditions since War has touched him, and he means to get them. To the worker of military age, the War has been responsible for financial loss for which they now naturally want to make up. To those who have not had to leave their employ to join up the increase of wages has not been on a par with the increase of prices and cost of living, and they have had, and are having, a hard struggle to make both ends meet, a state of affairs which they are not prepared to allow to continue. Unless his independent value as a subject of whatever country he may belong to is recognised, in addition to his utility as a member of a material producing system, the trouble which is now prevalent will increase a thousandfold.

The Effect of War on Commerce and Industry as regards the Labourer.

This War has shewn the middleman to what extent profiteering can be carried on, and he will undoubtedly continue his profiteering as long after the conclusion of Peace as he possibly can. That means more sweated labour, and the only ameliorative condition possible is the abolition of the speculator and the closer association of producer, manufacturer, transporter and distributor. The element of gambling must be eliminated now that the War has shewn up its disastrous effects upon the multitude. This elimination will not only secure economy and safety, but will give a competitive incentive which we have never had hitherto. The middleman has sapped our veins white; it is only since the War that we have realised quite what a vampire he is, and how necessary it is to eject him.

Whether there will be more or fewer berths open to workers after the War is a vexed question. Reconstruction will, undoubtedly, open many fields of industry, but, on the other hand, war conditions will, in many instances,

have taught small employers that small staffs can get through a much greater amount of work than was thought possible, and they are likely to raise the wages of their existing staffs instead of adding to their numbers. The worker must be recognised as an important factor in solving the question of the country's future. His opinion must be given due weight and his efforts receive adequate remuneration—he must no longer be the slave of a system of repression, but must become a shareholder and working partner in Britain's commerce. He must be enabled not merely to worry his way through life with just sufficient bread to keep himself and his family from starvation, but he must be comfortably housed, well nourished, and given the means to afford the little luxuries and relaxations which relieve life of its sordidness. By this means he will be able to throw his whole being into his work without the spectres of unemployment, sickness and penniless old age looming up before him distracting his mind from the essential of the present. He must be recognised as a Personality with as much right to freedom as any other individual, and it will be found that the realisation of his right to live decently will render him prepared to fight for the reconstruction of his country as he has fought to free it from the menace of Prussianism.

When all is said and done, be one never so conservative and never so prejudiced in favour of class distinction, there is no gainsaying the fact that it is grossly unfair for one section of the public to live independently simply because they have acquired means from other sources than their own efforts, and that the other, because it is forced by circumstances to work for its living, should have its right of independent life taken from it and be forced to carry through its entire existence in a state of economic and political bondage.

In conclusion, I have no hesitation in stating that the moment the Labourer is recognised as a being with as great a right to independence as is the Capitalist, his self-respect will be satisfied and the Labour Question be solved.

Independence of thought and action is the nucleus of national and individual success.

When one considers the outrages against Esthonia for which Bolshevism is responsible and the tyranny and oppression from which the country has suffered under foreign rule, her determination to be independent and to fight against all odds to establish her self-government on a permanent footing is not to be wondered at. The British public will endorse its Government's action in sending naval and military support to Esthonia and will wish her all success in her spirited struggle against immense odds.

Bolshevik Atrocities.

Whereas the Esthonians are revolutionary inasfar as they revolt against foreign oppression and fight for the right of self-government, the Bolsheviks are revolutionary in that they revolt against all laws of humanity, decency and civilisation, spreading the Red Terror wherever they go, bringing death, outrage, slavery and pillage in their train, riding rough-shod over International traditions and the laws of modern warfare, and worshipping Death in the guise of social reform and Devilry camouflaged as democratic liberation.

There is a glamour of romance over an uprising of the populace which sometimes leads to indiscriminate sympathy, but sympathy with the Bolshevik methods means but one thing—the sympathiser has been misled by propoganda press and is in ignorance of the true state of affairs; in the illusion that he is upholding true socialism he is tolerating murder of the vilest type.

Without comment, we publish these photographs taken by order of the Esthonian Government for submission to the Peace Conference, and without comment we give our readers the following facts, each one authenticated.

Let him balance them with those which have influenced him towards Bolshevism, and draw his own conclusions.

CONVENT STORMED.

Reported to the "Empire News" Special Correspondent by a Naval Officer recently returned from Northern Russia.

"Our small expeditionary force, based on Archangel, acting in conjunction with Allied and Russian Volunteers, has penetrated far into the Interior, only to be left alone to face masses of Bolsheviks who were in overwhelming strength. . . . After our troops were compelled to retreat from Shenhurst, this little town was subjected to the Red Terror. In addition to innumerable people being executed and tortured to death, the Red World Reformers did the following dastardly deed:

The Convent was stormed by Trotsky's disciples, the Reverend Mother, after being subjected to the coarsest jests, was crucified. The nuns were first violated, then mutilated, and afterwards murdered, some of them being nailed to the Cross. After a couple of days of Bolshevik occupation, Shenhurst was nothing more than a slaughter house."



SCENE IN THE CELLAR OF DEATH



VICTIM WITH BATTERED SKULL

Bolshevik
Atrocities
in
Esthonia.

How
Esthonian
Hostages
were
Treated.



THE DEATH PIT



MUTILATED AND MURDERED



ESTHONIAN BOY-SOLDIER VICTIM



ESTHONIAN WOMAN VICTIM OF BOLSHEVISM

IN THE DEATH PIT OF NARVA.

The joint-editor of this paper, Mr. A. Stanley, an Englishman who has spent many years of his life in Russia and the Baltic States, has recently returned from Russia. He vouches for the truth of the following:—

“Is is beyond all human intelligence to find any explanation for the cruelties committed in Esthonia. The educated classes and people who devoted themselves to charitable work were arrested for the simple reason that they belonged to the “Bourgeoise.” They were executed without trial and mostly at sight. The place of execution was a field outside the town, in which was a large manure pit, and the scenes which were enacted there almost beggar description. Usually the victims, before their execution, were subjected to all kinds of mockery, buffoonery and coarse jests; and a priest Besbyanitzu, who, in the day was forced to clean out public lavatories, was made to strip each one of all clothing. When the time for execution came, they were placed in a line with their backs to the pit, and bound together with a rope. The firing party used explosive bullets, and often purposely shot those at the end of the line who, when they fell, pulled the remaining prisoners down with them into the pit. These unfortunate people were often afterwards killed with the bayonet, or sometimes it happened that some were missed in the darkness, were not killed at all and were

BURIED ALIVE.

Several prisoners escaped by gnawing through the ropes after lying quite motionless while the Red Guard came to finish their work with the bayonet. Six corpses were extricated from the Narva pit without any marks of weapons on them, which showed that they had been buried alive. Among these were two women.”

A certain Mr. X. who lived in Tartu managed to keep a diary while in prison, describing his experiences as a captive during the Red Terror.

On 2nd January, immediately after the arrival of the Bolsheviks, he was thrown into prison without any charge being preferred against him. Prisoners accused of criminal offences, thieves, drunkards, food hoarders, and political prisoners, were his companions. On the second day of his captivity, a newcomer arrived, his head covered with bandages. It appeared that he had reproached his sister for improper conduct and too liberal sympathies with the soldiers of the Red Army. She hit him on the head with a hammer, and delivered him to the nearest police station as a traitor to his country and as a counter revolutionary. He was naturally condemned.

No food was given to the prisoners, consequently relatives and friends brought meals to the prison doors or windows.

Mr. X.'s wife, in a letter, says :—“ After horrible sleepless nights when one heard the constant shots on the distant frozen river where the executions took place, you may imagine how glad I was to see my husband in the morning standing at the window of his prison still alive and waiting for the food I brought him.

Personally I once received a visit of the Bolsheviki in my home. It was 5.30 p.m., and they forced the front door open as I was not quick enough to receive them.”

There were many educated and interesting people in prison, who passed their time in listening to lectures and discussions given by the Professor of the local University. All those who were of better social standing were condemned to hard labour during the day time. They did their work carefully, much to the annoyance of their captors, who had no reason to complain.

Old men were always ordered to do the heaviest and most difficult work.

From the 8th of January, the prisoners were subjected to cross-examination every night. Some of the prisoners then were called away, never to be seen again. Their relatives, who brought meals on the following day, waited in vain for them outside the doors and windows of the prison.

In those days there were rumours in the town that Esthonian forces approached, and as a matter of fact from the 13th January, the distant roll of guns was clearly heard. It was a matter of speculation how the Red Guards would dispose of their prisoners who were still in captivity should they be compelled to leave the town through the victorious advance of the Esthonians.

On the 14th January, people were unable to reach the prison in order to deliver food to their relatives, as the Red Guards blocked the main street and were shooting people at sight.

Mr. X. says that on the 14th, the rumour spread even to the prison. A lady in the next cell had received this information, which was conveyed to her during the night by some relatives through the window.

“ An hour later we received orders to line up in our room. A Commissary thereupon entered the cell. He was an intelligent looking man, but his face bore signs of debauchery. In his hand he carried a list of names, and he called out the name of Bishop Platon, whom he asked to follow him.

A few minutes afterwards, we heard sounds of detonation, which appeared to emanate from somewhere below our cell. Again a few minutes later the same Commissary returned and called out the names of two Greek orthodox priests, who left the room with him, and a few minutes afterwards, the same sounds were heard.

Now we knew it was the cellar below us !

What we felt during the next half hour could hardly be described. I seemed to think a thousand thoughts at once. The remembrance of the past, fantastic schemes for escape, and pictures of my wife and children crowded into my mind. Meanwhile we captives heard our names called out one by one, saw someone disappear, and a few seconds later we heard the horrible monotonous sounds of detonation ring out again from the cellar below us.

I still see the sturdy-looking white headed Father Besjanitzky whom we used to call our Patriarch, calmly and steadily leaving his cell on his last journey. A Professor H. heard his name called out, slowly rose from his seat, put on his overcoat, and left the room with slow and deliberate steps without even once looking back. I still feel the hearty hand clasp of my friend Mr. K., who left never to be seen again. We saw them pass one after the other. . . . Minutes seemed to be eternal, and everyone of us expected to hear his name called out next. Then the Commissary came back again, called out some names whose bearers had never been amongst us. However, the room was searched for a considerable length of time, but naturally they were not found. Then a pause. We, who were left, were temporarily allowed to live. Husky voices began halting conversations. Suddenly a voice called out: "All prisoners into the passage. Line up five deep for roll call."

Slowly the order was carried out. It seemed to be exceptionally hot in the room, and the shots in the cellar rang out again. We were suddenly ordered back again into our cells, but failed to understand what this change of orders meant. An old general informed us that quite a number of people were sometimes called up for interrogation when a list of fresh names would be made out and a tribunal would thereupon decide whose turn it would be tomorrow morning.

In these fateful moments of great uncertainty I heard someone suddenly shout out. . . .

"The Red Guards are leaving."

I ran to the window. An indescribable feeling of joy passed through me; they were beating a hasty retreat. They fled in sledges as fast as the horses would run.

We stormed the doors. The Guard had disappeared, and we tumbled into the open street into the breezy winter day—free once more."

Reported by a Refugee, as published in the "Empire News," 23rd March, 1919:—

"Having myself recently escaped from Russia, I am surprised to find that there are still certain people in this country who venture to defend Bolshevism. It is a thousand pities to see that these men who, we assume, are entirely unconscious of the harm they are doing, deceive the labour

circles in stating that Bolsheviki are upholding their interests and that of the proletariat. This fallacy can easily be exposed by mere enumeration of acts of barbarism committed by them in Esthonia, which affect the working classes. The Provisional Government of Esthonia is composed of democrats in the true sense of the word who have duly been recognised by the Allies. Their leaders are all self-made men, that is to say that they emerged either from the peasantry or working circles of the towns.

First-hand news has been received from Reval, and it confirms that the bulk of the mutilated and tortured people are workmen, peasants, artisans and other members of the perfectly peaceful population, as well as women and children. The bodies of these unfortunates have been photographed by the Esthonian Government, who forwarded these proofs to Paris to be put before the Peace Conference. (See illustrations.—*Ed.*)

After the Bolsheviki had to retreat from Tartu (Dorpat) it was found that 250 people, amongst whom 80 women, were massacred. They were kept, until their execution, in the building of the German Credit Association. On 14th January, an ill-famed Bolshevik was expected in that town to examine the prisoners. However, fate decided otherwise. When on the morning of that day the Esthonian troops victoriously approached the town, the prisoners were called out to be taken to a cellar. One of these unfortunates had requested to be permitted to bury his mother, who had just died, and was told he would soon be with her. He did not grasp the actual meaning of the words—but put on his overcoat and made himself ready to go. His fellow prisoners did not dare to tell him the ghastly truth. Soon afterwards they were led to their place of execution—a cellar which was only lit by a candle. Lined up against the wall they were deprived of their clothes and boots and valuables and their underwear was all that was left to them. They were murdered by hatchets, hand grenades and explosive bullets. The hatchets were taken from a butcher, who had his shop in one of the adjoining houses. The market women and people in the street, grasping the situation, gathered round the building, and when the Bolsheviki were compelled by the sudden arrival of the Esthonian troops to stop their devilish work, the crowd broke into the building to release the remaining prisoners. The sight of the cellar was an indescribable one. The floor, the ceiling and walls were sprinkled with blood. Pieces of brains clung to the walls. On the floor were two halves of a skull, lying in one corner on a wooden box was the candle still throwing its light on the horrible scene. One of the Esthonian victims was the Bishop Platon. Bishop Platon, son of a peasant teacher, had been arrested previously by the Germans, for he stood up for the proletariat and for the independence of Esthonia. He unfortunately was taken ill with influenza and had to remain in Tartu. After his recovery when taking a short walk with Deacon Dorin he was arrested by Bolsheviki, and although he had

opportunities to escape, he refused to do so, and quietly awaited his execution. Comforting his fellow prisoners, he went bareheaded to the cellar to be killed by an explosive bullet. His body, afterwards recovered, was stripped of nearly everything. The bullet entered his head through the right eye and passed out through the back, tearing away a part of the skull and brain. He was sprinkled all over with blood. The Priest Bleive was found next to him, lying on his right side, and to such an extent was he mutilated, that he could only be recognised by his beard and hair. The same case was that of the Priest N. Beshanitski, who had been killed by an axe blow. The teacher Schwarz had first his wrists broken, and then his head smashed. An officer had his shoulder straps nailed to his shoulders. Dispenser Willberg was next on the list to be executed, but was the first to be released by the arriving troops—one can imagine his emotion.

Until this time the Bolsheviks usually used to break the ice and throw the body into the River Emayogi (Embach), thus imitating the methods adopted by the Germans when they were in occupation of the town. On the night of the 9th of January, twenty unfortunate prisoners were marched through the city. A prisoner, an artisan named Kipast, when passing his house, called out good-bye to his wife. He was immediately put to death by a stroke from the butt end of a rifle. In Narva, a number of women were shot for "sabotage" when refusing to disclose the hiding places of their husbands. At Rakwere (Wesenberg) amongst the women who were shot was Miss Bogdanowa, a red cross nurse. The Lutheran pastor, Pinker, administered to and buried the condemned whilst awaiting his own turn. Dr. Luig, who, in spite of the Bolshevik advance, had remained in Rakwere, where influenza raged, was likewise executed. Before leaving that town, the hostages, including women, were compelled to dig their own graves, were lined up and shot after being undressed. One of the condemned, a cabman, Moustroms, fainted and fell into the grave just before the squad fired. When he regained consciousness, the Bolsheviks had left, and he emerged out of his own grave to the light of the sun. The ex-Prime Minister's sister-in-law, Mrs. Paets, was to be removed with her four children to Marianburg. Her four-year old daughter was crying bitterly in her arms. The guard ordered the child harshly to stop that noise, but she continued to sob. The infuriated brute thereupon bayoneted first the child and then the mother and son, killing all three. The two other daughters succeeded in escaping into the wood during the panic which had broken out.

I think that the above related instances will bring home to our people that we are dealing with Asiatic fiends, and one can hardly expect these murderers to introduce benevolent social reforms. It is significant that all the socialists have turned their back to Bolshevism, and it is wonderful to see that small nation of Esthonia fighting against odds for attaining its ideal

which is self-government. The beloved ex-Prime Minister, Mr. Paets (whose sister-in-law had such a tragic end) had fought and suffered for his ideal, having been arrested under the Czar regime, by the Germans and Bolsheviks in the early days, but fortunately is now safe in Reval.

Taken from the British Government Report on Bolshevik Atrocities in Esthonia.

Further Supplementary Reports.

“ On the 25th December, the Bolsheviks shot the steward, Karu, the foreman, and the housekeeper, Sitau, of the Kiltsi estate. Before death, the victims were cruelly tortured. Besides these, the author, Woldemar, Rosenstrauch, and three other persons were shot.

According to the report from the leader of an attacking squadron, Lieutenant Jakobsen, the Bolsheviks murdered two brothers, Hendrik and Hans Kokamal, of Piksaare, on the 26th January. They crushed the head of the former by two blows of an axe, and shot the latter. Besides this, they robbed the victims of their clothes and boots and tore their linen, which, being bloodstained, was useless to them.

In Sagnitz, in the Walk district, the head forester, Hesse, and the book-keeper, Wichmann, were shot by the Bolsheviks. As well as the graves of these two victims, seven more were discovered at the same place.

The Blood-Bath in Walk.

Bolshevism raged more in Walk than anywhere else, as the Bolsheviks remained longest in power there. The number of persons murdered by them is great, but not definitely known. At all events they are estimated at from 350 to 450. Besides, 600 to 700 persons were carried off by the Bolsheviks. From the report of the inhabitants of the district, these unfortunates were murdered on the way.

The murders were committed in the same manner as elsewhere. The unfortunates, who belonged to different classes of society, were arrested on all sorts of pretexts, kept prisoners a few days, and then, in groups of twenty to thirty, led out of the town to the place of execution, where graves were already prepared for them. Every night, twenty to thirty persons were executed without examination or trial. Before being shot, the victims were tortured in every possible way. All the bodies bear marks of many bayonet thrusts as well as gun wounds. The skulls are shattered and the bones broken. Even after death, when the bodies were stiff, the Bolsheviks hacked off the arms and legs and broke the bones of their victims.

The Bolsheviks have instilled such terror into the hearts of the local inhabitants, that they dare not even talk of the Bolsheviks' deeds, and, therefore, it is difficult to obtain a true report of all their atrocities in Walk.

An Esthonian soldier of cavalry was taken prisoner by the Bolsheviks and was to be executed in Walk along with many others. The Bolshevik bullets which killed so many of his comrades, did not hit him, and he succeeded after the murder to escape from the common burial-place. He describes one of those terrible blood-baths in the following manner :—

“ They took our caps, coats and cloaks. Thirty-five armed Bolsheviks surrounded us in order to prevent any attempt at escape. Our hands were bound behind our backs. Besides this, we were fastened in couples, and then each pair joined by a long rope, so that we marched all attached to the one rope. Thus we were led to death. As I protested against this barbaric treatment, the Bolshevik officer struck me twice on the head with a riding-whip and said, ‘ Shooting is too good for you, your eyes ought to be put out before death.’ At the word of command, the Bolsheviks fired a volley. The bound group fell to earth. I also was pulled down by the others, though I had not been hit. The Bolsheviks fired four rounds on the fallen. Fortunately, I again was missed. Then the executioners fell upon us like wild animals to rob us. Anyone who still moved was finally killed by bayonets or blows from the butt-ends of rifles. I kept as still as possible. One of the Bolsheviks took my boots. Another looked at my stockings. ‘ Good stockings,’ he murmured, and pulled them off.”

It is reported from Werro :—

The rapidity with which the Esthonian troops occupied Werro saved the lives of more than 200 people. There were 183 persons in prison, for whom a similar fate was intended as befell those in Dorpat on the 14th January. The lists were already made out. But the Red Guard took flight at the approach of the Esthonian troops. Only the warders remained behind, and they opened the prison doors. Altogether some 100 people were to have been shot in Werro near the Russian cemetery, Kaseritzschen lake, and Kirrumpah redoubt. On the arrival of the rescuers many of the graves were not yet filled in, and a number of bodies lay exposed in the snow. Several women were also shot, and especially ghastly was the murder of Frl. Irmgard Kupffer. The following are the names of people who are known to have been murdered in Werro :—Barber Kuns, Solicitor R. Pihlak, House-owners Kond and Wierland, Forester Matson from Erastwere, Pastor Sommer, and Hr. Wreemann. The names of most of the victims are unknown, for the greater number did not belong to Werro, but had been carried off there from the neighbouring villages and shot. The Bolsheviks also kept secret the number and names of their victims.

It has already been mentioned that, according to the Bolshevik newspaper “ Tooline,” a number of counter-revolutionaries were murdered in Werro on the 14th January. Now information is brought by Merchant P., of Polwa, who was led to death with the above-mentioned victims, but who

escaped the massacre. He reports the following:—"The twenty-four men who were condemned to death were led to a lake. There they were ordered to undress and to run home. The victims obeyed, but scarcely had they turned their backs when the Bolsheviks fired a volley at them. P. saved himself by throwing himself on the ground in good time. The Bolsheviks, thinking he was dead like the others, went off. Then P. got up and went away. Three or four victims saved themselves in this way, whilst the others were fatally shot by the Bolsheviks."

A few days after the retreat from Dorpat the Bolsheviks shot three people, namely, Takk, Waltin, and Antzow.

According to later news, the following people were shot by the Bolsheviks:—Steward Hansen, of the Arral estate near Odenpah, with his son, and Herr Seen, the owner of Saarjerw, in Polwe.

It is reported from Walk that, among others, the Bolsheviks shot Police Inspector Koch, and the former Ensign Rudolf. They carried away the following persons:—Pastors Wuhner, Uns, Janes, Michelson, Priests Protopopow, Sirnis, and Merchant Wassili.

Bolshevik Effect on Esthonia.

Of late, the Daily Press gives us more and more information regarding the Bolshevik Terror, which is dragging Europe into anarchy, and into inhuman excesses.

According to all statements made by unbiassed refugees and, it is interesting to note, amongst them, Radical Socialists, Bolshevism is something inexplicable—the action of lunatics, who can hardly be expected to become benevolent world reformers. They can only be described as criminals, since they have selected the soil of human suffering as their means of self enrichment.

But perhaps their daily increasing atrocities will cause the cup of patience of allied and neutral governments to overflow. Those governments which have not yet been affected by this Asiatic pest, which leaves its devilish marks on civilisation and culture, will perhaps act now. The more innocent blood is shed—the oftener the Hydra of Bolshevism indulges itself in

sanguinary saddism—the sooner mankind will recognise that the time has arrived to exterminate this evil monster. Unless we can anticipate that this will take place in the very near future—unless Red Russia, that pool of filth, be subjected to the most severe disinfection—the asphyxiating gas of Bolshevism will throw the world into agonised convulsions.

But what will the world look like then?—a world's commune? Have we not yet heard of all the pleasures derived from the Petrograd Commune, the very Commune which has lowered humanity to the level of infuriated brutes? which is a nightmare, and has driven women and children to the depths of despair? Are we to follow their example?

There is a small nation, probably the most democratic on earth, which has excavated itself after seven hundred years of serfdom and exploitation by alien lords. The population, with their social and democratic tendencies, have turned away from Bolshevism. That nation is Esthonia. A country with a population of hardly more than 2,000,000 people, but with an area larger than that of Switzerland, Belgium or Denmark. This race akin to the Finns, but alien to the Slavs and Teutons, has become a nation of heroes. The land was in the throes of German occupation, the Bolshevists had overrun nearly three-quarters of Esthonia, and yet it seems, as if by miraculous or superhuman force, they have succeeded in surviving all this and forming a Government elected by general suffrage on a democratic basis. But before they were able to organise their internal affairs, they liberated their country by gathering together peasants, workmen, students and schoolboys, for the formation of a glorious army, which liberated their land from the red foe.

I hardly need to draw the attention of the reader to the fact that it would have been quite impossible to form an army during the days of revolution—days when the conception of freedom and liberty were being mutilated and preached from various quarters—had it not been for this wave of patriotism which had overtaken these men. It would be only natural for Esthonia to clamour for peace. after all the sacrifices made during the World War. But the Asiastic forces of Trotsky compelled Esthonia to accept the challenge, and to again shed blood and tears for the sake of humanity.

The workmen and peasants who all unanimously supported the action of their Provisional Government, are surely able to judge what Bolshevism means. Whether Bolshevism really defends the proletariat as some of our papers try to make out, or whether the reports of the various executions of workmen are frauds. They realise that Bolshevism amounts to nothing more than pure militarism. They have come into contact with the agents

of Lenin and are acquainted with their unscrupulous methods. Compelled, therefore, to choose between two evils, they must choose the lesser. They know that in such times they must put their private interests behind those of the country. They know also, only too well, that wage earners and peasants are those who suffer most, since the wealthier classes managed to emigrate in time.

The ordeal of Esthonia, however, does not end here. The Baltic German Barons, who, in a true Teutonic manner exploited the Esthonians for centuries, tried to sacrifice their land and people to Germany, by offering a dukedom to the head of the Prussian junkers. But when Prussia was defeated and no hold was left to them, since they had been the first to condemn Russia at the very moment it became a victim of German plotting, they fled either to Germany, Sweden or Finland. There they again began their work. We know of the Coup d'etat in Libau, in which the names of Von Stryck and Von Nolken were implicated, and we now hear of a Baltic Barons Battalion under the command of Von der Golz, sticking a knife in the back of Esthonia !

They have occupied important strategical places, have destroyed bridges, have shot civilians and when requested to withdraw their troops they commenced to fight with dum-dum bullets and poison gas. They have done credit to their Hun inclinations. We know very well what their intentions are. It is their insatiable desire to reconquer their lost position, which enabled them to suck the blood of an ambitious and industrious nation.

This crime of bleeding Esthonia must be stopped. We must demand that from the League of Nations, if we are to respect and support them, influence the men who act as High Judges of small nations, in order that Esthonia, a victim of vampires, should be protected. If Germany still intends to shed blood for the purposes of annexation, and renders help to traitors, it must be crushed so that at last we shall be able to have peace.

Britain has taken the first step toward crushing Bolshevism, by her practical recent action in giving Esthonia help in her hour of need, and it is on Britain that Esthonia pins her faith.

By NEUTRAL.

Britain's Interest in Esthonia.

By SIR PARK GOFF, M.P.

Sir,

In sending a mission to Esthonia, and ships to defend her coasts, Britain has shown strategic foresight. It is as essential to us as to the Esthonians that Reval, the chief port of Esthonia, should be in the hands of the Esthonians and ourselves, as it is the door to Baltic Trade.

For many years the German Baltic barons have had so great a grip on Esthonian legislation and commerce, that practically all the most important legislative and commercial posts have been divided between Foreign settlers to the exclusion of Esthonians. The land has been so crowded with Germans that one-fifth of the Esthonian population have been forced to emigrate during the past 50 years, because there was no means of making a livelihood. The struggle against oppression which ended in the declaration of Esthonia's independence, put a stop to German supremacy in the country. And now the German barons are moving heaven and earth to regain possession of Reval. They declare that they must have this port because otherwise its trade will suffer. Esthonia, on the contrary, has pointed out that this is not the case as she has no policy of annexation, and is willing, in consideration of being left in peace to rule her own country to sanction free transit through Reval, as the only advantage she wishes to gain through control of Reval is the employment of Esthonian instead of foreign labour, so that her citizen-emigrants may return and settle in their own country, in the certainty of finding work.

IF REVAL FALLS INTO GERMAN HANDS OR INTO THE GRIP OF THE BOLSHEVIKS, BALTIC TRADE WILL BE CLOSED TO BRITAIN.

This event would be very serious for Britain which has an extensive trade in flax, timber, pit props and hemp with the Baltic States, all of which transport has to go through Reval. Let Reval pass out of Esthonian hands, and this trade stops automatically.

While Esthonia has to rely on Russia and, as a buffer between Russia and Germany, tolerates Poland, she hates Germany, and places immense faith in Britain. With memories of the happier times through which she has lived while under Swedish rule she welcomes the advent of any protector who will rid her of Bolshevik and German domination. The Esthonian race is as staunch as it is slow. Once a friend is made, Esthonia will serve him faithfully and devotedly through all time. Her friendship with Britain long since commenced, has been sealed by Britain's practical intervention on her behalf in her struggle against Bolshevism. This alliance is likely to spread to Finland, which is on very good terms with Esthonia and Great Britain, and ready to accept their friends as her own.

Esthonia desires Reval to be a free port, and with the Port of Helsingfors the capital of Finland in the North, and Port of Reval, the capital of Esthonia in the South, they together can command the entrance to the Baltic and the Gulf of Finland.

A second Mission under Colonel Talents has been sent to Esthonia by the British Government, and Colonel Percy Gordon is soon leaving with a Diplomatic Mission to Reval. This friendship between the two countries will have a lasting effect on the development of commerce, on which, in these days of reconstruction, depends the greatness, both of Britain and of Esthonia.

To those whose bump of locality is not abnormally developed, a glance at the map will at once prove the enormous importance and strategic geographical position of Esthonia to-day, which may have a most important and far-reaching effect on the problems of the future.

Faithfully yours,

(Signed) PARK GOFF.

Civilization without Money, Barter or Credit.

By QUESTALL.

About thirty years ago a few thinkers in different countries, some of whom are now world-renowned, were forcibly struck with the idea that there were worlds of thought beyond the ken of that period, and virtually beyond the power of language to depict, save by reading between the lines, words, and letters. Beginning with philosophy, this revolution soon extended to other branches of knowledge; but in my limited space I shall have to keep within the bounds of the economic world, a branch which now dominates men's minds more than any other.

The population problem, the first to be attacked, was formulated in these words: "Tell me what you eat, and I can tell you what land-area you draw on for your food." The same formula applies to all articles of consumption; but food was regarded as the most vital necessity for which the "economic animal" had to struggle. As it was impossible to ascertain what each inhabitant consumed and wasted, science stepped in, making up for the defects of statistics, by working out food rations which would be ample to sustain healthy adults, or their equivalents in consuming capacity. With regard to the land areas of the United Kingdom and their average production, statistics were complete, however. By a simple calculation adjustments were made, when it turned out that this country could, without importing any food, feed 200,000,000 people. The pressure of the population was not, therefore, against food, but against land monopoly, whereby ample food-cultivation has been made difficult or impossible.

The cause of this blockade is the money system, hindering access to the land direct and also, indirectly, to its products; and the heroes of the system have been those people, or their ancestors, who have acquired the knack of amassing money. Gold, a useless thing in itself, is valued on account of its scarcity and the wealth of talk which it entails; and it can, therefore, only measure valuable commodities when these are brought into a scarcity in relation to gold, so that this precious metal, if it can really measure anything, can only indicate existent amount of poverty, monopoly, or slavery.

The questions now are whether vital commodities, things directly and absolutely necessary for health and strength, should be measured at all, and whether *abundant* wares can be measured. Also the question arises as to the quantity of labour needed to produce the vital utilities. Experiments have proved that, roundly and on a yearly average, one hour a day expended

upon one-third of an acre of land, would be ample to produce the dietetic essentials of a healthy adult, averages being reckoned with in all these calculations, and that the labour required to produce other necessaries than food is almost a negligible quantity. Is there *voluntary effort* enough to satisfy one's normal and healthful desires, labour thereby being abolished? Yes, provided each receives the full products of his efforts, or the equivalent by means of exchange.

Exchanges are effected by a simplified system of double-entry accounts, only one book or ledger being needed, wherein the average quantity of effort embodied in a commodity (or service) is stated in connection with the name of the producer, all exchanges being made on this basis by simple transference from one account to another. The extraordinary simplification is largely due to the fact that customers are dealing with one another, instead of with a central shop as is the case in ordinary businesses. This system of exchange has been thoroughly tested and never found wanting, the chief advantage being that people without money to be expended as wages have been able to obtain the help desired.

No line need at present be drawn between necessities and luxuries, because in all cases the producer receives the full products of his efforts, or their equivalent in exchange, and may continue to receive them so long as there is abundance of land for all: otherwise the producers and consumers of luxuries would have to curb their energies and desires.

This sociology as a whole, its basic sciences are health, language, and mathematics, has recently received the name of *Mellondism* (from the Greek words *Mellos* and *dios*), the idea being that our present actions should be guided by their effects upon future generations. To this end, mutual freedom is necessary, so that Mellondists can only operate isolatedly or (so far as exchange is concerned) in free groups. Society cannot be transformed with one swoop, all not being equally ripe for any change, and compulsion would violate the spirit of freedom. The War has created hordes of unconscious Mellondists. The conscious groups are not propagandists, but they are always pleased to meet people who are more or less in their way of thinking.

Codes and Cryptograms used during the War.

By R. STANLEY-EDWARDS SCOTT.

Pricked Messages.

While the Defence of the Realm Act was in force it was a criminal offence, punishable, in some cases, by imprisonment to send code messages, of however innocent a nature to foreign countries, and a special staff of experts was employed by the authorities to detect and decipher code messages in correspondence leaving Britain. Most of the code-writings found were of a perfectly harmless nature, and often consisted of love-messages written in ignorance of the Order, by bashful swains who did not want their love letters to be devoured by the Censor's prying eye. The methods used were some times very ingenious, and it needed a live man, used to his work, to discover that there was any code concealed in an apparently straightforward letter.

A favourite method was to prick tiny dots in or under certain letters in the text, which, if read consecutively, gave messages. These were sometimes so neatly done as to be quite invisible until the paper was held up to the light. The book and magazine posts have been known to harbour messages of this kind, which fact resulted in the prohibition for transmission abroad of all literature except such as was posted direct from the publisher. A figure or group of figures was, in most cases, placed in an inconspicuous position on the wrapper, or under the inscription on the flyleaf. This gave the page on which the message had been pricked with a sharp pin, and all the addressee had to do was to read it.

Scratched Semaphore.

German dictionaries have harboured book code, the message being mailed on three separate sheets of paper, the figures on which referred to words.

A variation of the same idea has been found in sailors' letters. Most people know the Semaphore Alphabet used in Naval and Military signalling—this has been introduced into apparently straightforward letters by ingenious seamen who, using certain straight strokes of letters in the text as "stems" for semaphore signs, have made the "arms" of the semaphore from these stems by lightly scratching the paper with a sharp tool, the result being a perfectly legible message very difficult to detect by the uninitiated.

Secret Ink in Letters.

By holding an apparently innocent letter in front of the fire messages written in secret ink and quite invisible when the paper is cold have been discovered. Their presence was sometimes indicated by a black dot in one corner of the letter, or by the lines of the text being particularly wide

apart. They were generally written with a clean quill pen dipped in milk, in the juice of an onion, or in lemon juice, or would be produced by the use of certain chemicals. The first three liquids came out a dark brown when heated, and acid ink generally produces vivid blue characters. Secret ink messages have been found not only between the lines of letters, but inside carefully opened and restuck envelopes emanating from German Prisoners of War in British Camps.

A Prearranged Code Method.

A clumsier method is by the use, by both sender and addressee, of two exactly similar pieces of sheet tin with slits cut in them at intervals, large enough to allow of a word being written. The first page of the letter containing the message was quite straightforward except that figures were introduced showing on which line of the page the square of tin was to be placed to give the code. In writing the message, the cut tin was placed on the second or third page and the words of the message were written one in each slit. The sheet was then removed and the page was filled up with "blinds," *i.e.* words which embody the code words into a sensible sentence but have no bearing on the message. If introduced into a long letter any slightly cryptic tone made necessary by the difficulty of filling in the spaces to make sense, was likely to pass unobserved and, provided the code-words and "blinds" were both written before the ink had time to dry and crowding of words was avoided, the former will not stand out. To read a message of this type it was necessary to place the addressee's tin sheet exactly level on the line indicated by the sender.

Words with Ulterior Meanings.

If the two persons intending to correspond in code knew approximately on what subject their secret communications would be, they sometimes arranged a collection of words or sentences which in their letters would have ulterior meanings. These words or sentences were then embodied as neatly as possible in the text and could be made to appear quite innocent.

For example :

Willie means Germany.

ill ,, lost.

well ,, gained.

lately ,, the figure 1.

double ,, the figure 2.

really, indeed, very, severe, all mean the figure 0.

"Last week" means "this month."

The name of an illness,

say "pleurisy" stands for the word "men."

"pneumonia" stands for the word "guns."

By this means the following sentence is embodied in a chatty type of letter : —“ I am sorry to tell you that poor little Willie has lately been really very, very ill indeed. Last week he was in the grip of pleurisy and of a very severe attack of double pneumonia. He is slightly better now, but we are still anxious.” And this contains the message, “ Germany’s losses this month were 10,000 men and 200 guns.”

This is one of the most difficult codes to use successfully as the introduction of figures, particularly of sufficient “ o’s ” is complicated, but its value lies in the fact that even if discovered it cannot possibly be deciphered without the key.

Codes in Drawing.

The Government prohibition of picture postcards and drawings for transmission abroad was the result of faintly traced maps and plans being found on the background of apparently innocent pictures. This was easily accomplished by photographic faking or by skilfully executed pencil work, and was likely to pass unnoticed when examined with the naked eye.

Musical Codes.

A clever code was invented by an expert with the object of illustrating how easy it is to transmit messages in manuscript scores, a considerable number of which leave the country in possession of touring vocalists and musicians and form a necessary part of their paraphernalia. Anyone with the average knowledge of musical notation could use this code, and by the introduction of “ blinds ” could embody a lengthy and dangerous message in a perfectly harmonious and genuine looking musical score. The code message is introduced into the treble clef only. All semi-quavers, rests and dots, and all minims above top G were blinds. Crochets from middle C to the A above the treble clef represented the letters A to M and the same notes in quavers stood for N to Q. Minims from B below the treble clef to 5th-line-F represented figures from 0 to 9. The message could be put in a song or in a pianoforte solo. In the first case the accompaniment was a “ blind,” and in the latter so was the left hand. It was easily possible to conform to the rules of harmony and musical composition and by the introduction of groups of “ blinds ” to spread the message out so that it could not possibly be detected.

Cryptograms.

There have been countless cases in which no attempt has been made to conceal the presence of code in correspondence, and actual cryptograms, *i.e.* signs and figures representing letters have been openly used. A favourite cryptogram is known as the “ dotted angle.” If a double cross is drawn

as for the children's game of noughts and crosses, and then a St. Andrew's Cross, the key to the code is ready. One dot in the first angle represents the letter A, two dots represent B, and so on, straight across and down the double cross, two dots in each angle till the letter R is reached, then the same method is followed on the St. Andrew's Cross till the end of the Alphabet. This is a very elementary and easily deciphered code, but a large number of correspondents used it. The sliding alphabet was another popular code. The alphabet was written first on a sheet of paper, and then on a long strip. The A on the strip was placed under that letter on the sheet which was to represent A and the letters read from there. Thus suppose G is to represent A the message "come home" will read IUSK NUSK. A tiny letter is generally put at the top of the sheet to indicate which letter is A. It is possible to decipher this and other alphabetical codes without the key, by establishing through the study of a page of English print, which are the most frequently occurring letters in the language, then presuming that those signs which occur most frequently in the code messages are respectively these letters, fill in the spaces by guess work until the message is complete. The fact that there are few letters used together, such as double O, double S, etc., facilitates the guesswork. In English E is the most frequently occurring letter, and O, S, T, N follow it in order of frequency.

Figure Codes.

Figures were sometimes substituted for letters, 1 representing A, 2 B, and so on. This method was also used with the sliding scale so that 1 might represent any letter from A to Z by pre-arrangement. Decorative signs and cryptograms of any kind could be substituted for letters, and these could only be deciphered by anyone not in possession of the key by the method mentioned above. The deciphering of codes is a fascinating study in which there are certain fairly distinct rules to work on which render it less difficult than it appears at first sight.

When it is realised that the codes and cryptograms described in this article are only some of the simplest, and that far more complicated and more difficult of detection have been used by spies and suspected persons through the ordinary letter post during the War, it will be realised that the much-abused censorship of outgoing mails has not been such a very unnecessary waste of public funds as some people imagine.

Causerie.

The Drama in London. (A brief enumeration of London Theatrical doings for readers abroad.)

There has been such an influx of musical comedy and reviews on the London stage during the past few years that a "straight" drama and particularly a drama with any pretensions to being designated a "classic," was quite an event. Either the fact that the uncertainty of international issues has made the public more serious, or that they are tired of an unrelieved diet of trivialities must be responsible for the past few seasons change of program, for Shakespeare, Rostand, Ibsen, Brieux, Shaw, Sheridan, Drinkwater, Yeats, W. Somerset Maugham, Anatole France, and Cosmo Hamilton are now being, or have recently been played in London Dramas and Comedies, such as "Twelfth Night," "Cyrano de Bergerac," "L'Aiglon," "Caesar's Wife," "The Lost Leader," "School for Scandal," "Pygmalion," "Importance of Being in Ernest," "Abraham Lincoln," and "Player Queen" drawing crowded and enthusiastic houses. In addition, social plays such as Brieux's "Three Daughters of Monsieur Dupont" and "Damaged Goods," Ibsen's "Ghosts," "Rosmersholm," and "The Knife," as well as various cinema productions, dealing with Social Problems, have been given at various London theatres, as many as three at a time, and have had extraordinary successful runs.

The Russian Ballet is at the Alhambra, and bookings are complete for weeks ahead; The Covent Garden Opera season is in full swing; Sir Thomas Beecham is rehearsing at Drury Lane (at the time of going to Press) for a season of Light and Comic Opera; and the Carl Rosa Opera Company is running simultaneously with Covent Garden. Famous dramatic actors and actresses now in London, include Miss Ellen Terry, who is playing in "Romeo and Juliet," with Miss Doris Keane, Mrs. Patrick Campbell, who recently finished her production of the "Thirteenth Chair." Mr. Robert Loraine, whose "Cyrano" is as faithful a representation as it is possible for an Englishman to give of a typically French character, Miss Marie Lohr, whose performance of the Little Duke in "L'Aiglon" is perfectly magnificent in its combination of pathos and drama, Mr. Arthur Bouchier in "Scandal," and Miss Eva Moore in "Caesar's Wife." The cast for the Russian Ballets includes Mesdames Karsavina, Lopokova, and Tchernicheva, and Monsieur Massine. At Covent Garden many of the world's best singers have been heard this season, including Destinova, Edvina, Matinelli, Dinh Gilly, Lapaz, and Melba, in addition to members of Beecham's English Company, including Rosina Buckman, Mignon Nevada, and various others.

The production of great Dramas, Operas, and Comedies is on the increase rather than on the decrease, and there is a noted improvement in production,

setting and playing on the London stage, which, if it continues, should raise the English theatre from a mediocre level, which were remarkable for a country so great, and place London among the leading cities of Europe from a dramatic point of view.

London Concerts.

The cessation of hostilities has been followed by the return of many favourites to the London platform, who have not been heard for some time. Huberman's recent recital was received with acclaim,—he is playing better than ever and is a great favourite in London—Cortot, that inimitable pianist, has also given a recital recently, and is to give another very shortly. Piano-forte recitals in a darkened hall have been introduced by Mademoiselle Jehanne Chambard, a novelty which has greatly enhanced the effect of her exquisite rendering of modern French music. She goes to Paris shortly, and will return to give further London recitals in the autumn. Pachmann has emerged from his partial retirement, and has been greeted with his usual ovations. Madame D'Alvarcz' song recitals have been the events of the season. Her halls are always packed, and each group is followed by a veritable clamouring for encores. Curiously enough she is not at Covent Garden this season, a fact which has given rise to much controversy and disappointment, as most people were hoping to hear her as Amneris in "Aida."

Anne Thursfield bids fair to become one of the most popular among British Lieder singers, her coming recitals are looked forward to in musical circles, for she is a very great artist, beautifully trained, and has the gift of creating "atmosphere." Mark Hambourgh has unearthed some new "futurist" items, which he has been performing with considerable success. This type of music suits him. Rosing's recitals have been given before crowded halls, and Melsa, the Russian violinist, whose technical brilliance is his outstanding feature, has been playing a great deal of late. Mr. Peter Upcher, a recently demobilised British soldier, gave the first concert of his own composition on 26th June, at Wigmore Hall. Sapiro conducted, and the composer was interpreted by Phyllis Lett and Viola. There is distinct promise about the young composer's work which, though at present it is rather banal and undeveloped, has occasional bursts of real inspiration. The originality and poetic feeling which characterised the notes written in explanation of each song, led one to hope for something better than the songs proved to be. As his work stands now, Mr. Upcher will undoubtedly make a hit as an English ballad writer, but we feel that if he could once be persuaded that such work as is shown in his "Spring Sorrow" as his real bent, the composer should make an artistic as well as a popular success as a Lieder writer. We shall watch his progress with interest.

All the principal halls are booked up for matinees and evening concerts to the end of the season with so few vacant dates that the postponement of a performance is practically impossible.

Post-War Education.

By QUEN.

REFORM.—It is in the air and in the Public eye; The world reeks of Reform.

The boy being accepted as father of the man, it is Educational Reform which is the basis of all economic success. First and foremost, the child must be recognised as an individual—one who must take on his shoulders even in boyhood, the responsibilities of citizenship—and a sense of responsibility is the keystone of true Education. There is no better example of how youth should not be brought up than our present Board School system. The child is dragged unwillingly to school for certain set hours, during which rudiments of unessential subjects are ground into him in an uninteresting manner by inefficient teachers. Then, after school, he is lost sight of. He does not know why he goes to school, except that it keeps him out of the way at home, and is one of the dull things in life that have to be done for the good of his soul.

Undeveloped individuality is one of the crying omissions of the old-system education. There is nothing that cannot be done with a boy if he is taken early enough and guided in a human and imaginative way. Boyhood throbs with romance, curiosity and energy, three essentials of success in any enterprise. If education is presented to him in the light of a business investment on which he will draw the interest the moment his apprenticeship is served, he will throw himself into it with vim and eagerness, simply because he feels that his books form stepping stones to a definite end, and are not merely an impediment to the playground. Boys are not taken sufficiently seriously, their points of view and individual tastes are massed together and crammed into the conventional mould of organised routine. In school all goes well—this massing together of intellect facilitates management—but take the boy out of the school and he is helpless to act on his own initiative—an atom separated from the main machine, useless as an independent agent, and broken off from the necessary controlling mechanism to set it in motion. We want Citizens, not perfectly controlled dependent parts of a well-oiled engine. Plenty of good followers of a lead are always available in every country, but this War has been an example of the scarcity of leaders in politics, the services, and commerce. A boy shewing even a spark of individuality (and there are at least 40 per cent. of such in every school) is priceless as a national asset. If educational reform is to be thorough, such boys must be sought out and developed as leaders—developed regardless of cost, regardless of labour, regardless of the

inconvenience of individual tuition. They must be sought out, cultured, and developed the moment their professional inclinations shew along what lines they can be most successfully trained.

An objection, of course, is the shortage of available teachers, but this may be overcome in the same way as the Boy Scout movement has overcome the shortage of leadership, that is, by co-operation among the boys themselves. The elder boys, or those most intellectually developed, take charge of the younger and coach them, thus helping their fellows and developing their own powers.

The subjects dealt with in modern schools need thoroughly sorting out, subtracting from, and adding to. In former years, before Europe was devastated by war, each human life was perhaps less precious to the community. Now, every boy counts, as every man has to take upon himself a larger share of the reconstruction of his country. He has to be pushed forward at fever pressure to take his place in the ranks, but, he has to be pushed forward scientifically, not by cramming with promiscuous information all of which he can acquire with greater ease and less waste of time after his vital education has been completed, but by destinating him for a certain career early in his school days, and training him for it as quickly as it is possible to train.

Europe is in a critical position and drastic measures must be taken in this most essential of reforms. Men have been killed and there are none to replace them until those boys now labouring through useless tasks are prepared along commonsense lines to carry on.

To fill the present breach, we shall have to use very young leaders, and to produce these leaders we shall have to sort and condense the subjects taught even to our twelve-year-olds, making a definite plan for their future career and forcing the authorities to supply every possible thing which can help in the rapid attainment of the goal, *i.e.* to turn out an army of specialists ready to start immediately on the reconstruction of the country which their brothers died to save.

Esthonian Literature.

By P. SELVER.

The first Esthonian book, a Catholic catechism, was printed in the year 1517. It was followed at intervals by similar devotional works, including the first complete translation of the Bible in 1739, but no original or national literature in the stricter sense of the word, was produced until the beginning of the 19th century. Owing to the unfavourable conditions under which the Esthonian people lived, this literature developed slowly and precariously, so that the century was nearly at an end before any notable progress had been made. Realism was introduced by the novels and short stories of Eduard Wilde, whose poetical counterpart was K. E. Soot, the first to employ *vers libre* in Esthonian. In 1905, a group of writers, known as "Noor Eesti" (Young Esthonia), was formed, with the object of raising the standard of Esthonian culture, on the model of the more advanced European literatures. They also aimed at improving the Esthonian language, and their work superseded the less skilful efforts of the previous literary generation. The most prominent member of this younger group is Gustav Suits (b. 1883), who, both as a poet and a critic, is distinguished for his delicate style. F. Tuglas has written short stories of a local character, and also excellent criticism, while Willen Grunthal (b. 1885) is a poet whose powers are revealed most strikingly in verses describing the natural scenery of the Esthonian Islands. He is credited with having exerted a creative and enriching influence on the Esthonian language. The Esthonian Literary Society (Eesti Kirjanduse Selts) was established in 1906 with more definitely popular aims, and it now contains over one thousand members.

Apart from their modern literature, the Esthonians possess a national epic, the "Kalewipoeg," consisting of nearly 20,000 verses. It was published between 1857 and 1861 by F. R. Kreutzwald, who, by uniting some 2,000 variants of a primitive tradition into an organic whole, performed the same services as Lonnrot had previously accomplished for the Finnish "Kalevala." There is also in existence a vast quantity of Esthonian folk-lore. It has been collected chiefly through the efforts of Dr. J. Hurt, who succeeded in obtaining 45,000 old songs, 10,000 legends and stories, 52,000 proverbs, 40,000 riddles and 60,000 items of popular superstitions. Only a fraction of the material has hitherto been published. Besides this, over 8,000 folk-melodies have been preserved in a permanent form by a society of Esthonian students.

Esthonian Folk-Tales and Legends.

Leisure-hour Topics for Men and Women.

The characteristics of a people are generally illustrated by the legends and folk-tales in which they believe. Esthonian peasants are highly superstitious and have a wealth of legends, folk-tales, folk-scngs and charms against evil, peculiar to themselves. Most of these are collected in a two-volume publication by W. E. Kirby, entitled "The Hero of Esthonia," published by John C. Nimmo, 14, William Street, Strand.

For the benefit of those readers interested in Folk-life we reprint the following typical examples. Note the wealth of colour and native simplicity of the following ;—

Charm against Snake Bite.

Thou beneath the bridge, the smoothe wood
 Under juniper, the rough wood,
 Thou the arrow in the willows,
 O thou challenged gold-adorned one!
 Earthy coloured, liver coloured,
 Rainy hued and hazel coloured,
 Firebrand hued and cherry coloured,
 Do not thou in secret bite me,
 Nor attack me unsuspecting,
 Do not bite me when I heed not.

Esthonian Folk-Tales—The Spider and the Hornet.

"Once upon a time some boys burnt a hornet's nest because the hornet stung them so badly. Then the hornet went to God to complain that the boys despised His gifts, and scattered broken victuals about the fields. But God objected that she had no witnesses. So she went to the King of the Spiders and made him return with her to God, who asked if he had seen the boys scatter food about the fields. But the spider said it was not their fault as they had no table to put their bread on. Then God praised the spider for telling the truth, and condemned the hornet for telling lies and hating her neighbours without a cause. He then struck her on the back with his staff, and cast her down from Heaven to Earth so that she broke in two with the fall. But he let the spider down with a cord because he had spoken the truth. Since then the spider has had a net and a web by which he can climb up and down as he likes, as on a cord ; but the hornet still retains the pinched-up body which she got when falling from Heaven, but is fat enough at both ends."

The Blue Spring.

"At the foot of the Villina Hill, near the Church of Lais* is a swamp where rises a spring of water called from its colour, the Blue Spring. It is said that the spring can produce rain or drought, and thus cause dearth or plenty. In time of drought three widows of the same name must go to the spring on Sunday, during service time, to clean it out and to enlarge the opening. Each must take a spade, hoe, rake, a cake of bread and a hymn book with her. But if too much rain falls the spring must be closed to a mere crevice, and this is at once efficacious.

One day, three widows named Anna, opened the spring too wide, when a dreadful rain spread over the country. Sometimes it has happened that women who were about to clean the spring, have failed to finish during church time, and it has been fruitless. Another time the people wished to find out how deep was the spring. They let down a stone with a long cord, but drew the cord up without the stone. They then let down a kettle filled with stones, but, to their horror, they drew up a bleeding human head instead. They were about to make another trial, when a voice cried from the depths, 'If you attempt this again you will all sink !' So the depth of the Blue Spring is still unknown."

* In the neighbourhood of Dorpat.

The Resurrection.

(From the unpublished MSS of *Ansomardi* (Colonel P. A. Pitka) translated by John Imant. The translation has been kept as literal as possible in order to preserve the character of the narration).

The leaseholder of Sootaguse cattle farm was extremely fond of feeding and drinking and his wife no less so. Both were comfortably fat and red faced, both were good and sympathetic people, although one of their weaknesses was to shout in a high tenor voice at their servants.

"It is impossible to get a better feed anywhere than at Sootaguse," said the landlord of the Kasetohu Tavern, to a tavern full of guests, and he knew what he was talking about, for had he not been present for the last twenty odd years at family festivities at the cattle farm, including celebrations of Jaan, Mardi, and other members of the Sootaguse household?

"Master is celebrating after effects," said the farm labourer, in answer to the tavern landlord's inquiry every second day after some Sootaguse gala.

"How does he celebrate them?" asked some ignorant person who overheard this.

"Mh—Hm—Why he took calves to Riga," explained the farm labourer.

"Uh—Um—When does he return?"

"Not before to-morrow at all events, although he is still fully soaked from yesterday."

Feasts and merry making at Saotaguse were given frequently. The mistress always had a goose, a turkey or a pig especially fed and prepared, also all kinds of other good things in reserve. The master could always produce an inspiring variety of liquids ranging from home brewed ale to wines and more bitter and stronger drinks. Last year he received from a friend who was managing an estate in Russia "Naliuhka" (home made fruit liquer with a liberal quantity of spirit added) and this year the master had decided to make some himself of oranges, cherries and other fruit. As his old man-servant Jaan certified, it was turning out well. "It's so good that in drinking the tongue wants to go with it into the stomach," said Jaan licking his lips and keeping his right eye on the Naliuhka while with the squinting left eye looking at his master. "Therefore, Jaan, be careful," warned his master.

"But are those cherry stones still any good?" enquired Jaan, changing the subject. "Well, they will do for the refuse heap at all events," answered the master, and began, with Jaan's help, to bottle the precious liquid.

This happened in the morning.

In the evening, returning from inspection of fields and labourers, the master found the mistress in tears.

“ Now what’s happened ? ” asked he. “ All my dear geese—dead—poisoned by your horrid Naliuhka—my dear, poor, good geese,” answered mistress sobbing. The master entered the kitchen to investigate matters and was solemnly informed by Jaan that the geese were dead. Old Madli was sitting on the kitchen steps wiping her eyes industriously with a corner of her pinafore, whilst on the floor nearby were lying the geese. Two big ones and nine small—all in a line like soldiers lining up for inspection. The master felt one, kicked another, pulled a third by its feet, a fourth by its wings—but they were all dead—not a sign of life left.

“ Sorry ! ” muttered the master, and noticing that they were extremely fat, soft, and well fed, repeated “ very sorry ! ”

No wonder he was sorry, for so many delicious mouthfuls to go with the home-made Naliuhka intended for his birthday, which was rapidly approaching. “ Should the feathers be plucked—I don’t suppose the geese will be fit for eating will they ? ” enquired Madli. “ Of course, have the feathers plucked,” answered the master, “ and call some farm labourers’ wives to do it.” He took a last longing look at the deceased fat geese and went to his room. Four farm labourers’ wives were left to pluck the geese and by midnight all of them were lined up on the corridor floor—less their feathers—and, as Jaan stated, looking surprisingly like children just out of a bath. The doors were closed and locked to prevent cats or dogs meddling with them, and the farm people retired to bed. “ Mistress most probably wishes soap to be made of them—they are so fat,” thought Madli and went to bed in the kitchen.

Early in the morning she was awakened by the quacking of geese. “ Time to get up ” thought Madli, “ geese want feeding.” But at the same time she remembered the geese were no more. “ What can they be,” she thought in alarm, “ surely the spirits of dead geese—ghosts of prematurely deceased geese—good God in heaven I must be dreaming ”—“ Siuks, siuks, siuks ” was again distinctly to be heard from behind the door leading into the corridor. Poor Madli was terrified. She pinched her fat, stubby nose with a coarse hand and bit her thumb to make sure she was not dreaming, but pain in the thumb and pain in the nose made it clear to her that she was quite awake.

“ God’s son, holy cross ! What can it mean ? ” The noise in the corridor was getting louder and louder, and pulling her bed clothes over her head in terror, Madli screamed “ Jaan—Jaan ? Don’t you hear it ! ” Old Jaan, sleeping in the far corner of the kitchen, thus rudely awakened from his sleep at last answered dreamily, “ What—what the devil are you whining at ? ” “ Don’t you hear Jaan—in the corridor—ghosts of the

geese have returned.” Jaan sat up in his bed, scratched his neck, and then his head in amazement, for he could distinctly hear the chorus caused by the geese in the corridor. “The devil take it,” exclaimed Jaan, and climbed down from the top of the oven which served as his bed. “You look, I am afraid,” advised Madli from under the bed clothes. Jaan slowly approached the door and stretched his hand to open the door while Madli tried to dig as deeply as possible into the bed clothes, keeping at the same time one eye uncovered with which she followed every movement of Jaan. After a few moments hesitation, Jaan suddenly opened the door and Madli’s heart stopped beating in suspense. The mysterious sounds of geese in the corridor assumed deafening proportions, and several bare and featherless geese appeared in the doorway. Jaan took a step backwards in alarm and for a minute transfixed with terror, exclaimed with the force and expression characteristic of Esthonians the word “Kurrat” (Estonian for “Devil”) and with one movement with his foot slammed the door. A few minutes later Jaan knocked at his master’s bedroom door. “Well—what is it?” exclaimed the master’s drowsy surprised voice. It had never before happened that a servant had awakened him in the morning, he always awoke with the servants. “Terrible thing happened” said Jaan from behind the door. “Well—what? Surely not the horse?” asked the master, remembering his best horse had looked rather out of sorts the day before.

“Oh, no, master. It happened with the geese.”

“Well—what happened to the geese?” interrupted the mistress, whom the conversation had awakened.

“They have been resurrected.”

In a moment both master and mistress were in the kitchen. The door into the corridor was opened, and they beheld before them an army of naked geese in all their humiliation. A crowd of featherless white bodies on thin legs with small thin heads like skulls, decorated with two small round eyes and long naked necks—approached their master.

It now transpired that the landlord of the tavern had not done the Sootaguse farmer justice—for not only had human beings obtained at Sootaguse the best quaff of wine, but also the geese had drunk to the extent of fainting. Taking a Napoleonic pose and sternly glaring at his featherless army of still drunken geese, the master commanded “Off with their heads !”

Facts about the History and Descent of Esthonians.

A MONTHLY FEATURE. *By* JOHN IMANT.

Esthonians occupy the late Russian Provinces of Estland, North Livonia, Isles in Moon Sound, and the Esthonian parts of Pskov and Petrograd districts. In area, this territory is more than 47,500 square kilometres, and has a population of about one-and-half millions, of whom 90 per cent. are Esthonians, 2.4 per cent. Germans, the remainder comprising Russians, Swedes, Letts, Poles, etc. 74 per cent. of the population live in villages. The capital of Esthonia is Reval, a prominent Port in the Baltic. Of the other larger towns may be mentioned Tartu or Dorpat (Youriev) possessing an ancient university, Pernau, and Narva manufacturing and commercial towns; Arensburg and Hapsal, well-known watering places; Fellin, centre of flax production; Rakwere (Wesenberg) centre of cement industry.

Until quite recently, historians were content that the Esthonians and Finns were descendants from the Mongolian Races, the most energetic propagandists of this theory being the German historians, as this gave the Germans a logical basis for arguing that the Esthonians, belonging to the Mongolian race, were an inferior people, quite uncultured and incapable of authority or of even the slightest degree of self-government, thus deserving the serfdom to which they were subjected until some fifty years ago, under the Baltic German Barons and outland owners. Later researches have, however, proved that the Esthonians, as well as the Finns, belong to the Indo-Arian race. Their language is closely related to the Finnish language, the difference being the same as between the Swedish and Danish languages. In ancient times the Esthonians were notorious as sea rovers, and are described by Professor Weule and Dr. Girgensohn as "the piratical Esthonians who flourished until comparatively recent times."

The chief Esthonian fortress, Lindanisa, stood on the site of the present Reval, whence sea roving expeditions were despatched, also from the Islands of Dago and Oesel. The Danish coastal inhabitants lived in constant dread of these adventurous people until about the beginning of the 13th century, when King Waldemar II and his troops successfully attacked and took the fortress of Lindanisa, destroying the fortress and laying the foundation of Reval. The Esthonians, however, did not consider themselves defeated or subdued, and on being invaded by the Germans in the 13th century, they put up a continuous fight for liberty, lasting for thirty years. But, as they were scantily armed and were consequently no match for armoured and well-armed Teutonic Knights, they were ultimately vanquished. Nevertheless the Germans had to build strong fortresses and retain considerable garrisons, for time after time the Esthonians rose against them and could not be subdued even by bloodshed and tyranny. In fact, the Germans did their utmost to break the spirit of these people, only succeeding in making them even more stubborn and, instead of destroying their patriotism, intensifying it, and increasing their hatred for the barons. In 1567, Esthonia was occupied by the Swedes, under whom they were comparatively happy until 1710, when Esthonia and Livonia passed from the Swedes to the Russian Tzar Peter I, who required an outlet to Western Europe for his country. Peter the Great accomplished this with the help of the German nobility, who existed in Esthonia, and who did not in the least approve of the democratic tendencies of the Swedes. For these services of the German nobility, the Russian Tzar established Baronial Landtages in the Baltic, in whose hands the central self government was placed; these bodies had immense powers and what powers they did not possess, they were allowed to annex whenever they felt so inclined. They treated the original inhabitants cruelly, and never missed an opportunity of humiliating them. As serfs the Esthonians had no means of retaliating, and had to be content with nursing hatred for the Germans generation after generation. The younger generations were told in the scanty hours the serfs had for leisure, of their past independence, of the glorious adventures and of the bravery of their forefathers and they were reminded of the past tyranny of the invaders, and pointed out the need of continuation.

In Alexander III's reign, the Esthonians sent a Delegation to the kind-hearted Russian Tzar, with the intention of putting their grievances before him ; this Delegation started on foot for Petrograd, but were on the way overtaken and brought back by the Barons. They were taken to Reval under guard and were publicly flogged in front of the present Town Hall. Members of this Delegation who did not die, were maimed by the cruelty of the flogging, but regardless of the severity of the punishment of the first Delegation, the Esthonians continued organising several Delegations, some of which met with the same fate as the first. Finally, a Delegation reached Petrograd. It was difficult to gain an audience with the Tzar, but by perseverance and natural boldness, they at last gained their end, and presented their petition. This is the more remarkable owing to the fact that these uneducated peasants travelled several hundreds of miles and even their spokesmen could hardly speak Russian. Owing to the organised and thorough persecutions and humiliations the Esthonians had to endure from the Germans, they grew a sullen people, but did not lose their capabilities or hope. Their language and legends remained, although their war songs disappeared, and their folksongs became full of melancholy, which melancholy, even at the present time, characterises their music.

Up to very recently the most fertile and cultivated land was in the hands of a small group of German nobility, and the poorest of the land was held by the natives, from whom the former exacted heavy rents for the use of uncultivated plots.

During the Revolution in 1905, appalling devastations took place, the Baltic Germans taking advantage of the fact that the Government would make good the damage caused by the revolutionaries, and punish the culprits. They burnt their own estates and demanded the execution of innocent Esthonian peasants against whom they had no grievance. Consequently large numbers of absolutely innocent Esthonian peasants were shot, hanged or at the best flogged. Russian troops were ordered to scour the country and punish anyone the Barons suspected. The word of a Baron being sufficient even for securing the execution of any Esthonian. It was also owing to German treachery that on a certain Sunday in 1915, over a hundred Esthonian citizens were shot down without warning by Russian troops commanded by officers of German extraction, when they gathered in the market place, after leaving church, to discuss the political position, having obtained leave to do so from the Russian Governor. Amongst those killed on that day, women and children predominated.

It is of interest to note that notwithstanding the tyranny, cruelty and humiliation these people had to undergo, statistics prove that the percentage of educated peasants now exceeds that of most of the European countries, and even forty years ago it would have been practically futile to search for illiterates amongst them. Taking into consideration all the restrictions levied upon them by the Russian Government and Baltic Barons owing to their nationality, and, in the former case, also to their religion, it is remarkable that the percentage of Esthonians with higher education at present compares most favourably with that of the long-civilised countries of West Europe. This is even more astonishing if it is borne in mind that they were not admitted into the Russian Civil Service nor allowed to take commissions in the Russian Army as officers, until very recently, whilst even in the beginning of the present war commissions in the Russian Navy were not granted to them. Only by overcoming serious obstacles could they gain admittance to the Universities.

During the war with Germany, 15 to 20 per cent. of the Esthonians called up for Military Service received commissions in the Russian Army owing to their higher grade of education, and those Esthonians serving in the ranks were chiefly occupied either with technical work, or with other duties entailing responsibility. Famous regiments like the Siberian Rifles, Cossack Regiments, etc., had a high percentage of Esthonian soldiers and officers who preferred fighting with these noted regiments to other line regiments. It may further be mentioned as an illustration of their fighting abilities, that ninety-three Esthonians out of three hundred serving in the 269th Russian Infantry Regiment received in the course of the first two years of the war with Germany, St. George's Crosses (equivalent to the British Victoria Cross) for bravery.

The Germans and Russians continually tried to Russianise or Germanise the Esthonians, but the only effect of this was to make the Esthonians good linguists, as even the uneducated classes can, in most districts, speak three languages, viz. :—Esthonian, Russian and German ; whilst on the south-eastern frontier where the Esthonians come in constant touch with Letts, they can also speak Lettish.

According to the resolution of the Russian Provisional Government of the 12th April, 1917, in place of the above mentioned Nobility Landtages, the Esthonian National Diet was established on the basis of universal suffrage, and was elected on the 8th July, 1917, Consequently the Landtages of German nobility in Esthonia, Livonia and Oesel were free from local administration and self-government. The National Diet was obliged to elaborate final Esthonian Constitutional Laws, and consequently elected and established a Government for the country. Up to this time, the Esthonians and their representatives in the National Diet were absolutely loyal to Russia and only desired to become a State in the Russian Federation.

In November, 1918, the Bolshevist Revolution took place, bringing with it inevitable anarchy in Russia, which rapidly spread also to Esthonia. To cope with this danger, the Esthonian National Diet proclaimed the independence of Esthonia on the 28th November, 1918. Moreover, the disorganised and demoralised Russian Army made it impossible to expect any help from Russia, and the Esthonians were left to defend themselves against Germany. It was further decided to create a constituent assembly basing this decision on their rights of democratic representation of the whole of the Esthonian population and on the principle of self-determination of nations recognised by the Russian Provisional Government. It did not take long, however, for the rapidly spreading Bolshevism to take root in Esthonia, compelling the staunch and organised Esthonian troops to retire (before the superiority of numbers of the Russian Bolshevistic troops in Esthonia to Hapsal) district, where they put up a desperate fight against the Bolsheviks on one side and the Germans on the other, making headway against the former and checking the latter. This time, however, the German Barons decided to appeal to Germany for troops to occupy Esthonia, and made a proposition to this effect to the Esthonian Government and Esthonian leading political parties. This proposal was indignantly rejected, and it was pointed out to them that no need for the introduction of German troops existed, as the Esthonian Government had succeeded in overthrowing to some extent, the domination of the Bolsheviks, and were rapidly establishing a satisfactory state of order in the country. On 24th February, 1918, the Provisional Government of the Independent and Democratic Republic of Esthonia was finally formed, and Mr. Paets elected Prime Minister. Upon the renewal of hostilities with Russia, Germany sent her troops across the Moon Sound and occupied the whole of Esthonia. The Esthonian troops were powerless to retaliate in view of the supremacy of the German troops in numbers as well as arms ; the situation growing desperate, the Esthonian Government was deprived of its power. The Esthonian troops were powerless and were promptly demobilised by the Germans, and Esthonian newspapers suppressed. Many of the Esthonian politicians were arrested and shot, and prominent Esthonians, including Mr. Paets, the Prime Minister, and Mr. Peet, the Minister of the Interior, were arrested and deported to Germany. The German requisitions of food and other products took the form of armed robberies and fights took place in the country between Esthonian and German troops, which too often resulted in the Esthonians who took part in them being arrested during the night and disappearing. Esthonian schools were closed, and after some delay were converted into German schools, the German language being compulsory.

Meantime the German Baltic Nobility were extremely busy agitating in favour of a personal union of the Baltic provinces to Germany, but failing to gain the consent of the people, they set about doing it without their consent, for which purpose fictitious ballots and elections were organised.

This state of affairs lasted up till the signing of the Armistice and the outbreak of revolution in Germany, when the German troops commenced to evacuate Esthonia. They took with them

all the rolling stock, and in fact worked in such a manner, that in the public buildings even electrical instruments were removed. They left Esthonia disorganised and unarmed, suffering severely from their requisitioning and plunderings, at the mercy of the advancing Russian Bolshevists, who took the offensive on the Narwa frontier. Speedily organised and scantily armed detachments of Esthonians were sent out to defend the Esthonian frontiers, and in the fights ensuing, the Germans refused to take any part. Whenever they got to close quarters to the Bolshevists, they simply handed their arms and ammunition over, and were allowed to go unharmed. At this time, however, the Esthonian prisoners of war were being tortured by the Bolshevists, cases having been proved where prisoners had been blinded by having their eyes stabbed out with bayonets. In the end of December, 1918, Bolshevists were only about 25 miles from Reval. Soon after this the Esthonians succeeded in procuring arms and ammunition from the British, and having declared a general mobilisation, were able to take the offensive. After serious and desperate battles, the Bolshevists were soon thrown out of Esthonia.

Although the Esthonian army has succeeded in clearing certain extensive districts of Russia from the Bolshevists, they still have a dangerous time before them, for with the great Bolshevist Armies on one side, and now the treacherous German Regiments on the other, only by great exertions can they keep their country untouched.

JOHN IMANT.

Queries.

Queries on any subject of interest to readers of the REVIEW will be answered in this column.

*A.J.S. (Liverpool).—*1, The prices quoted for Advertisements in this paper are £10 per page per month and pro rata ; 2, The paper circulates in England, Esthonia, Paris, and various Neutral Countries.

*Enquirer (London).—*The address of the Esthonian Provisional Legation in London is 45, Markham Square, Chelsea, S.W. 3.

Anglo-Russe.—Articles and Advertisements for this paper must be in the English language, or permission for its translation enclosed with copy.

Esthonian Literature.—The following books should help you in your study of Esthonian matters :—" The History of the Lithuanian Nation and its Present National Aspirations," by Kunigas Antanas Jusaitis ; " Independence for the Lithuanian Nation," by T. Norus and J. Zilius (issued by the Lithuanian National Council in the United States of America. B. F. Johnson, Publishers, Inc., Washington, D.G., 1918) ; " La Lituanie sous le jong Allemand," C. Rivas (Librairie Centrale des Nationalites, Lausanne, 1918).

Club.—No ; at present there is no club of the nature you describe. It is proposed to start an Anglo-Esthonian Club in London if sufficient people express their willingness to join (see announcement under " Classified Advertisements "). If the scheme develops I will communicate with you.

Esthonian Legends (Paris).—We are sorry to tell you that " The Hero of Esthonia " is out of print. It was by the courtesy of Messrs. George Routledge, who have taken over the business of Mr. Nimmo, that we are enabled to reprint extracts in this number.

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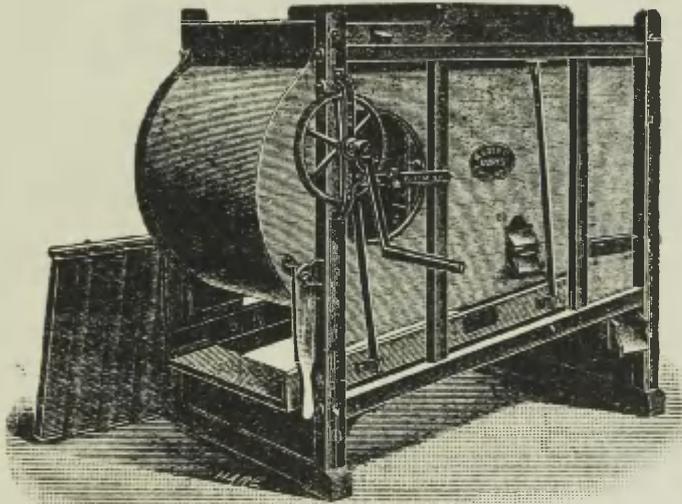
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