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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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Joint Editors and Founders :

A. STANLEY,
R. STANLEY EDWARDS-SCOTT,
to whom all communications should be addressed.

Offices : 129a, King's Road, Chelsea, London, S.W. 3. Phone: 360 Kensington.

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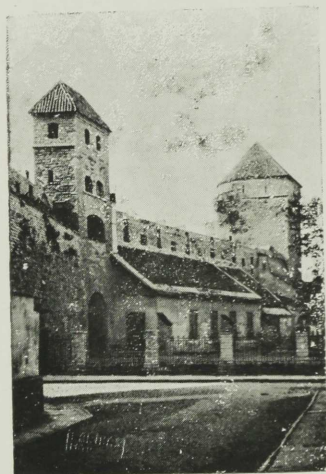
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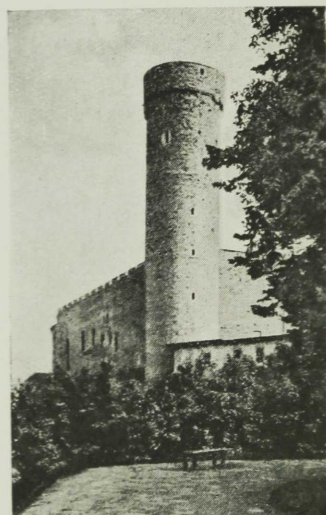
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Queries bearing the sender's full name, address, and *nom de plume* will be answered in the paper. They may be on general subjects.



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VIEWS OF
REVAL.



The Esthonian Review.

Founders and Joint Editors :

A. STANLEY and R. STANLEY EDWARDS-SCOTT.

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Editors in Council.

The "Review" Abroad.

Negotiations are on foot as a result of which the Editors hope that their readers abroad will, in the very near future, be enabled to buy copies of THE ESTHONIAN REVIEW on all the principal kiosks and bookstalls in Paris, Boulogne, Calais, Rome, Berne, Lucerne, Brussels, and most other important towns on the continent. Copies of the REVIEW may now be obtained in Paris from

*M. Arthur Toupine,
201, Boulevard Periere,
Paris xvii e.*

and in Boulogne from

Mr. F. Merridew, rue Victor-Hugo No. 60.

An Interesting French Review.

The Editors would recommend their readers interested in the Baltic question to read the REVUE BALTIQUE, published fortnightly in Paris, under the able editorship of M. Arthur Toupine. A free specimen copy of this publication may be obtained from this office on application, and subsequent copies are procurable from the same source at 1/- per number. The *Revue Baltique* deals with the political questions of the Baltic States, and contains articles from the pens of leading writers.

"Igor's" Serial Article.

In this number, the Editors offer their readers the first instalment of "Germany and the West Russian Government," a noteworthy article by "Igor." This should prove of especial interest, as it throws new light on Germany's plans. The article will be concluded in the December issue of THE ESTHONIAN REVIEW. "Igor's" work is of particular interest as he was one of the few Britishers who, besides having lived in Finland during the period he writes of, has a first-hand knowledge on interior political happenings, both in Finland and in the late Russia.

Special Feature.

The Editors have pleasure in announcing that THE ESTHONIAN REVIEW will, in future, include a special monthly Parisian feature, which they have had the good fortune to secure from the pen of a leading French writer on Artistic, Literary and Social events. This feature will commence in the December issue.

IMPORTANT.—*Earlier Publication next month.*

In order to avoid the Christmas rush, and so ensure prompt delivery, arrangements have been made for THE ESTHONIAN REVIEW to be published on the 20th instead of the 25th of next month. Copies should be ordered beforehand to avoid disappointment, and advertisements, contributions and communications for publication in the December issue should reach this office by the 27th of November at latest.

Photographs and Reproductions.

The Editors will be glad to receive photographs or reproductions, if possible with accompanying blocks, on subjects suitable for publication in THE ESTHONIAN REVIEW.

Refugees from Bolshevism.

One of the subscribers to this REVIEW, a British medical man, who was recently attached as ship's surgeon to a vessel bringing refugees from Russia, relates the terrible experiences these people have lived through at the hands of the Bolsheviks.

Returning a fortnight ago from Archangel, he had several hundred refugees on board, among them nearly 250 suffering from nervous prostration due to shock and starvation. Many of these were wealthy people who, in order to keep their personal possessions from the Bolsheviks had cleverly concealed valuable jewellery about their persons, wearing it for months before their release, and suffering great privation rather than sell out, had opportunity presented, for the almost valueless rouble. It was no uncommon sight on board for wealthy landowners, whose estates had been burnt or confiscated, to walk about literally in rags, with hundreds of pounds worth of jewellery, now safe from unscrupulous hands, hung about their necks, fingers and tattered clothing. Sables worth hundreds of pounds, fox furs, and gems were exchanged for food and a bottle of whisky worth under £1 sterling.

Appeal of the Baltic Provinces to the Western Democracies.

Esthonia, Latvia and Lithuania address themselves to the Allies and to Public Opinion. The Democratic Baltic States have fought for their liberty, and not for the annexation of foreign territory. They desire only to liberate their respective peoples, and in so doing to fulfil the principle of self-determination.

It is not their intention to intervene in the internal affairs of Russia.

At present they are prepared to enter into pourparlers with Russia, but in order to safeguard their future, they earnestly request the great democratic States to control the fulfilment of the treaty should peace be concluded.

(Signed)

POSKA, *Esthonian Foreign Minister.*

PIIP, *Esthonian Representative in London.*

MEIEROWITZ, *Latvian Foreign Minister.*

ZAUNIUS, *Deputy Foreign Minister of Lithuania.*

DECLARATION OF THE BALTIC CONFERENCE.

The following declaration has been made by the Conference of the Baltic States :—

A section of the press of Western Europe severely condemns the decision of the Baltic States to enter into peace negotiations with the Russian Soviet Government, which is an obvious proof that public opinion there is insufficiently informed as to the actual circumstances. In acquiescing to the proposal of the Soviet Government, the Baltic States have acted in accordance with the principles approved by the Peace Conference, in convoking the Conference of the Prinkipo Islands, and in trying by conventions to put an end to the shedding of blood, and to guarantee to every nation the rights for which it fought. Soviet Russia was the aggressor. The Baltic States stood on the defensive. If however, the Soviet Government has renounced its war aims and has declared itself ready to recognise the complete independence of the Baltic States, the latter, being desirous neither of extending their frontiers nor of meddling in Russian affairs, have in consequence no reason whatever to carry on military operations, seeing that the Bolshevist Government is in a position to propose and to give the necessary guarantees for the fulfilment of its promises. The possibility and the manner of fulfilment can only be elucidated by pourparlers. Nevertheless, considering the real character of the Bolshevist Government, the Baltic States can only conclude peace on the condition that their internal life be guaranteed against the propaganda of Bolshevist Russia. The Governments of the Baltic States also believe that the Great Allied Powers and Associates, having promised at different

times to do all in their power for the establishing of peace in Eastern Europe, will help them in the task they have undertaken, and will not refuse their counsel to the Baltic States nor the lending of their aid through the medium of the League of Nations, nor in other ways, that the guarantees given be observed. It is necessary to state, in order to avoid misunderstandings that the Baltic States in fighting for the independence of their countries and the integrity of their frontiers had no illusions about the designs upon their independence of those who might conquer the Bolsheviks, but who were a greater menace to the liberty of the Baltic States than the Bolsheviks themselves.

We fear the menace of a new war, and the Baltic states have neither the desire nor the will to precipitate its approach, and this they would do by acting on the principles of Koltchak and his adherents in Western Europe, and by continuing the struggle against Soviet Russia.

Edmund Burke's "The Rights of Man."

By M. L. ETTINGHAUSEN.

While looking through a collection of original English Autograph Manuscripts, I was fortunate enough to find the original manuscript of a work by Edmund Burke, the famous statesman and orator of the eighteenth century, dating from about 1795, on "The Rights of Man."

At a time when opinions as to the various forms of Government are so much at variance, it may be interesting to see what Burke thought of Liberty and "that Combination of Monarchy and Republicanism . . . under which we have the happiness of living."

The following extracts show the interest of Burke's thoughts which have such a great bearing at the present time:—

"The first article of these Rights of Man properly understood is undeniable. All men are equal in rights, or in other words, though the possessions of men are, and must be unequal, their rights to their different possessions are the same. . . . Two thirds of the people of France at least were convinced that the Proposition that Men were, by Nature equal, and that the preserving them in a state of equality ought to be the object of all Governments. From hence may be inferred many of the absurd opinions respecting Government which have been afloat in France since that period, and though the framers of the Constitution of 1791 thought it necessary to put some restrictions on this principle, and particularly so in admitting the continuance of the monarchy, they found themselves obliged to adopt the principle to such an extent as rendered it impossible for them to establish any national or permanent system of Government. . . . Men are by nature unequal in talents, in strength, and in short, in every faculty which belongs to them. Government is not founded upon the equalities, but is a regulation of the natural inequalities of Mankind. Men in a state of Nature would be ten times more unequal than in a state of Society.

"It is impossible at this moment to say how long may be the duration of the American and French Republics, but they are both liable to the objection that the bodies which compose them are not sufficiently distinct in their nature to render it possible for them to be considered as effectual control on each other. They are in fact both democracies, considerably mitigated undoubtedly, but liable at all times to be affected by the passions and prejudices of that simple form of government. . . .

"Without co-operation we should have no Government; without control, no Liberty. The question then will be whether the British Constitution unites both these advantages. In the first place I assert that the three estates which form that constitution are so composed as to co-operate on ordinary occasions. . . . The Monarchy

is in itself a very important cement and bond of connection between the different orders of the state when a difference takes place and each branch of the Legislature remains for some time unaltered in its opinion, the question must be ultimately decided by public opinion. . . . For a time public opinion may be resisted and it is surely proper that in a good government there should be the means of preventing the consequences of hasty decisions of which the public themselves would be ultimately ashamed, but in a country where freedom of discussion really exists and any important question arises, give the public time to consider it, and if I may so express myself, to cool upon it, and their opinion will generally be right. . . .

“First by public opinion must be generally understood the opinion of the upper and middle ranks of people. It is certainly true that in times of national convulsion, the lower orders of people will acquire from their numbers, considerable influence. It is likewise true that at all times their influence must be considerable on questions in which they have an immediate and sensible interest, such for instance as the wages of labour and the price of provisions, etc., etc., but upon all General political questions the opinions of the lower orders of people will scarcely be considered. . . .

“Liberty is the greatest blessing a country can enjoy, but it is a blessing which it can only acquire by slow degrees. . . . All considerations of this nature should induce us Britons highly to value the blessings of which we are in possession. We possess what no country can acquire at once and what when lost can scarcely ever be recovered. . . . Let us not forget that anarchy is the parent of despotism, and if the rigid rule of arbitrary power will disqualify a people from enjoying at once the blessings of national liberty, the horrors, bloodshed, and confusion of a pretended system of equality whilst it must eradicate the love of liberty from our hearts must render us still more incapable of possessing it.”

Present-Day Bolshevism.

By JAMES CARO.

(*Esthonian Vice-Consul for Manchester.*)

I have pleasure in availing myself of the space placed at my disposal by the Editors of this REVIEW to indicate the impressions I received during my recent journey to Finland and Esthonia.

Every opportunity that came my way was seized with the idea of obtaining as thorough an insight as possible into the conditions ruling in those countries. I am grateful to many friends for a variety of facilities placed at my disposal. It has been my privilege to have interviews with distinguished Finnish and Esthonian Statesmen and important business men, as well as to converse with the workers in many different towns and villages.

The main object of my quest was to learn the truth about the Political influence known as “BOLSHEVISM.” In common with most Western Europeans my source of instruction had been the daily press, but such information had been served up with so many obvious exaggerations, that it was impossible to know exactly what should be absorbed and what should be discarded as mere journalistic elaboration. The capitalist press has bombarded us with its distorted viewpoint, and we have seen Bolshevism as a wild-eyed hydra-headed dragon which belched forth fumes of riot, rape, and disorder.

For example in my simplicity, I could not understand how it came about that Bolsheviks, being simply a disorganised gang of plunderers (as we were told), could manage to exist against considerable opposition for so long.

Surely, unless their regime was powerfully organised and controlled, it could not have lasted a month. Then we heard (news which was subsequently refuted), that the

Bolsheviks had issued an edict ordering the nationalisation of women, and our quiet-loving pater-familias sat up aghast. On the other hand, the reading of some of our democratic papers begets the impression that Bolshevism is the unadulterated manifestation of democracy, and to impede its progress a false idea has been purposely created by the Capitalists.

In view of this confusion of thought, and being moulded in like manner to Doubting Thomas, who said, "Unless I shall see in His hands the print of nails, and put my finger into the print of the nails———, I will not believe," I determined for myself to "go forth and see."

I am convinced that under sane Government leadership there is no likelihood of Bolshevism again causing consternation in Finland and Esthonia.

The Bolshevik adherents in those countries are comparatively few, and are quite content to hide their light under a bushel. Finland has had her lesson, and it is a lesson that will not be forgotten.

The regime of Bolshevism there has filled all classes with considerable hatred. The Finnish and Esthonian working classes possess undoubted leanings towards socialistic reform, but they are convinced that the pathway of Bolshevism does not lead to liberty and emancipation. They agree that "that way madness lies."

The methods employed by the Bolsheviks in the Baltic States were drastically opposed to democracy.

As I write, I recall a conversation I had with a group of young Finns in Middle Finland. Young men they were whose outlook on life was chiefly concerned with women and whisky.

Their telegraphic address might, pertinently, have been "Frivolity." Yet when they spoke of Bolshevism, a passion of hatred, of which I should have thought them incapable, swept over them.

From irresponsible, flippant, youths, they were transformed into serious, determined men as they spoke of the cruelties, and diabolical atrocities of the Red Army. The barbarous incidents they revealed to me, substantiated by photographic proofs, taken by the narrators themselves, were such as to make one's blood run cold.

If the British workers could but know the truth, I have no hesitation in saying that every decent man would be disgusted, and would recoil from Bolshevism as he would from leprosy.

I can believe that Bolshevism sprang into being from noble ideals and lofty motives, but it has degenerated into a system of brutal selfishness, and I wish to state with all the emphasis I possess, that, in the British Isles, we democrats cannot bring the millenium of which we have dreamed, and for which we have worked, by Bolshevik methods. We have no conception of the horror of it all. The exaggerated stories served up in the press, have made the British working man incredulous. He has become accustomed to the cry of "Wolf, Wolf," but truth is *stronger* than fiction, and sometimes more ghastly.

My investigations have firmly convinced me that if the British workers and their leaders were familiar with the true facts of the situation, they would unanimously agree that to try to make Bolshevism the steed to carry them to emancipation and political liberty, would be to wreck all the good work that has been done, and would simply bring about bloodshed, confusion, and starvation, of which they themselves would be the chief victims.

Efforts are undoubtedly being made to spread the Bolshevik wave to Britain, and I am sure that the best antidote to such propoganda is for the British Government to obtain the unvarnished truth as to what is actually taking place in Russia, and to give it the widest publicity.

Fear and force keep Bolshevism alive to-day in Russia, and I believe that were a plebiscite taken in Russia, an overwhelming majority would declare against Bolshevism.

It would be interesting to prophesy as to what is likely to happen during the next few months ; to comment upon the Allied Governments' peculiar attitude towards Bolshevism ; to speculate as to whether even overwhelming successes by Denikin and Koltchak would not result in a new Russian Government as unpopular as any former Government, but into these questions I am not prepared to enter just now.

In conclusion, I would say that I went to the Border States to try and approach as near to the truth as I could. I come back feeling sure that in Britain, Bolshevism is impossible, and I believe that those who doubt this can only do so from inaccurate and inadequate knowledge of what Bolshevism really is.

The Russian-German Conspiracy in Courland.

By E. KRAAV.

I have been fortunate to receive first-hand information which will throw light on the extraordinary happenings in Courland, that much tried division of the Baltic Provinces.

The backbone of the movement and of its organisation is the " *Balter Komitee der Flüchtlinge* " (Committee of the German Baltic Refugees) in Berlin, which has branches and agencies in the occupied Baltic States and in Lithuania. The Committee is supported by German conservatives and they are possessed of ample funds. Among prominent members of the Berlin committee are Dr. Seraphim (the former editor of the " *Rigasche Zeitung* "), Riik (late member of the Dorpat Town Council or " *Stadtrat* "), and von Oettingen (the director of the Dorpat district during the German occupation).

Daily councils are being held with Pastor Needra (who was appointed Prime Minister of Latvia by the Germans in April last), and with the former vice-president of the famous union of Russian people, Rimsky-Korsakov ; the latter is designated by the committee as the future Governor-General of the Baltic States.

The members of the committee are of the opinion that the Allies will leave the Baltic Provinces during the coming winter, particularly when the Esthonians and Lettish armies have become exhausted by the struggle with the Bolsheviks, thus opening a new field for their enterprise.

A proportion of the members demand the immediate annexation of the Riga Railway Junction ; another section desire to occupy the whole of the Baltic countries as far as Narva ; the third party stand out for a preliminary agreement with the Allies to this effect. Notwithstanding all the threats of the Supreme Council, not a single German Army Unit has left Courland, all threats to stop Army pay and food supplies being met with a sarcastic smile from the soldiery. They have been promised 5,000 marks per head when the liberation of Courland is an accomplished fact. Food and ammunition supplies are so ample that they will be able to hold out for several years to come. Manpower is increasing daily, to such an extent that no accommodation can be found in the Mitau district.

There is a constant arrival of German princes and other aristocrats, and funds are being supplied by large manufacturing bodies.

Under von der Goltz, sixth Army corps, known as the " *Iron Division*," have been organised. Of late, the soldiers have been rather hastily joining the Russian forces under the command of Colonel Bermond (alias Prince Urusoff or Prince Avaloff).

The C.O. of the Graf Keller's corps is Major-General Altvater and the Chief-of-Staff is the German Major von Boehl. On the German Frontier there are several armoured trains in readiness, attended by 8,000 Russian ex-prisoners of war. There is also an aerodrome containing about 100 aeroplanes.

These forces will be immediately dispatched to Courland when an agreement with Admiral Kolchak has been arrived at. Altogether, with the Teutonic forces which are

designated for Russia, the force consists of 25,000 men, 110 guns and 800 machine guns.

To these are added the corps of the Virgolitch, consisting of 1200 men, now in Lithuania, together with war supplies, and with Spartacists, brought for the purpose of executions, which the Germans are loth to carry out in their own country, as they are apt to excite the population.

In the neighbourhood of Mitau, fortifications are being hurriedly built. The conditions which existed during the original German occupation of 1918, are now in force again.

Gendarmerie are laying traps to attract, under the mask of Bolshevism, the support of the democratic Lettish Government, members of which are also being—reluctantly—executed.

The attitude of Russian officers towards Esthonians is not particularly antagonistic. The Esthonians are regarded as good warriors who have successfully cleared their country of Bolsheviks, and established a strict discipline with which one has to cope.

Their attitude towards the Letts is far worse, as the Russian accuse these latter of Bolshevik sympathies. Proof is forthcoming that von der Goltz' agents have been advocating Bolshevism to enable them to carry on their machinations, under the pretence of "establishing order." The Germans have speculated with their own Spartacists on this subject. The methods employed are drastic. At night the authorities inform the local Lettish or Lithuanian councils that the Spartacists intend to launch an attack on them. Surely enough, the same night, a gang of German soldiers will carry out their armed assault. Bermondts demands that the Lettish Government should prohibit publication, in their papers, of reports of these massacres. His soldiers receive fourteen marks a day pay, all found, and their officers receive twenty-four marks.

At the end of September, the existing relationship between Bermondts and Virgolitch was strained almost to breaking point. Virgolitch suggested that an attack on the Bolsheviks should be organised on the Dvinsk front; Bermondts, however, desired to attack the Letts.

General Yudenitch demanded that Bermondts should join with his forces to combat the Bolsheviks on the Narva front. Bermondts, under various pretences, refused to do so. On 24th September, Yudenitch himself met Bermondts in Riga by arrangement. The latter, as usual, refused to comply with his request. Yudenitch informed Bermondts that the British Mission would withdraw their assistance unless his army were cleared of Germans. At last Bermondts promised to send Russian officers and soldiers to the Narva front—but his promise was never fulfilled. After that, Yudenitch, in a decree, denounced Bermondts as a traitor to the Chief of the Esthonian command.

The Von der Goltz Affair.

By JOHN RICHMOND.

According to the Armistice conditions, the German armies were to remain in the Baltic provinces, for their defence against the Bolsheviks, as long as required by the Allies; but in some districts an understanding with the Bolsheviks was arrived at and arms were handed over to them; in other places, the Germans, to save their skins, left practically the whole country to the Bolsheviks, with the exception of Libau.

In the Spring of this year, the Germans, with the help of new volunteer reinforcements from Germany, which they placed under the command of von der Goltz, and assisted by the German Baltic Barons, overthrew, on the 16th of April, the Provisional Lettish Government under Ulmanis, and brought into power the Government of Needra, elected by the Barons.

The Allies, in their note of 23rd April, asked Germany not to intervene in the internal affairs of the country, in view of her non-compliance, blockaded Courland.

As a result of the May offensive by the Esthonians and Russians, the Bolsheviks were obliged to evacuate Riga, which was occupied by Germans from Courland. The Esthonians, after clearing Latvia of Bolsheviks, met the Germans in the vicinity of Riga. A conflict between them ensued immediately. The Germans demanded that the Esthonians should leave Latvia in its entirety, notwithstanding that the Esthonians were occupied in active operations against the Bolsheviks on the Latvian front. Naturally, the Esthonians refused and the Germans commenced military operations.

On the demand of General Gough, the Chief of the Allied Mission, an Armistice was concluded on 10th June.

The Germans broke the Armistice on 20th June, in the hope of overcoming the Esthonians by force. They also invited the Russian Northern Corps to attack the Esthonians from the rear, but the Russians indignantly refused. The Esthonians, assisted by the Letts, then attacked the old enemy in high spirits, defeating and putting them to flight in the course of a few days, and had already taken the northern and eastern suburbs of Riga, when General Gough, on 3rd July, again intervened, proposing an Armistice under the following conditions :—The Ulmanis Government to be restored in Riga and the Germans to evacuate Courland in the immediate future.

The Esthonians acceded unwillingly to these proposals for the cessation of military action ; knowing the Germans, they realised that the latter would not leave the country unless compelled by force to do so.

It happened as foreseen ; that the second intervention of the Allies in favour of Germany was a false step has been proved by the succeeding events, von der Goltz, saved from defeat by the intervention of the Allies, in contravention of his promise, did not think of evacuating the country, but, on the contrary, obtained fresh support and arms from Germany and increased his army from 40,000 (in July) to 100,000 (in September) men.

In order to mask his operations politically, von der Goltz began, by renaming them, to turn his Germans into Russians ; in this he had the active support of German-Russian military adventurers, such as Colonel Bermond (Avalov) and Prince von Lieven.

Instead of defending the country against Bolsheviks, they settled in central Courland, robbing the populations and declaring openly that they would not think of leaving so rich a country.

General Yudenitch ordered those parts of the army that called themselves Russian, to unite with his army on the Petrograd Anti-Bolshevik front, but it did not appear very promising to the newly-converted Russians to risk their lives against the Bolsheviks when they could go on robbing in Courland with impunity. Yudenitch, disappointed, denounced Bermond as a traitor.

Finally, after the Peace Conference had sent (on 27th September) a fourth note demanding that von der Goltz should evacuate the country, threatening repression in case of non-compliance, the Landsknechte of Courland opened action, attacked Riga, and pressed the badly armed Letts from the southern shore of the Dvina. But, even badly armed as they are, the Letts are defending themselves bravely and have now received support from the Esthonians.

The whole country is in a state of suspense ; is it possible that the Allies who, in July last, refused the Esthonians entrance to Riga, will now permit the Germans to enter ? And will it be necessary for the Letts and Esthonians who have fought consistently against the Bolsheviks, to go on shedding their blood in the fight against the Germans who were let into the country thanks to the mistake of the Allies ?

Political Review.

OCTOBER—NOVEMBER.

- Sept. 27—Ultimatum of the Supreme Council to von der Goltz.
 „ 29—Oct. 1—Conference of Esthonia, Latvia, Lithuania and Finland in Tartu (Dorpat).
 Oct. 1—Germans concentrating armies on Olai near Riga.
 „ 3—Letts take Lievenhof from the Bolsheviks.
 „ 4—General Laidiner received from Britain the Order of St. George and Michael. Germany replaces Goltz by Aberhardt.
 „ 8—The Esthonians destroy 10th Bolshevik Division near Pskoff. Germans commence military operations against Letts.
 „ 9—Yudenitch declares Bermont to be a traitor.
 „ 10—Letts retreat to the right shore of the river Dvina and ask Esthonian help.
 „ 11—Esthonian armoured trains arrive to Lettish aid. Yudenitch, with the Esthonians, takes Jamburg.
 „ 12—The Esthonians take the station of Moglino and bombard Pskoff. Russians take station of Weimarn Morloskovitz, Vruda and Volossoto.
 „ 13—The Russians take town of Lugu, station Plussa and Elisavetino. The Letts re-cross the Dvina.
 „ 14—The Constituent Assembly confirms the Agrarian Reform Law. The Estlonians on the Finnish shore advance towards the village Koporje and take two heavy guns. Esthonian armoured cars cross the Dvina.
 „ 16—Capture of Gatchina.
 „ 17-19—Esthonians, in the direction of Pskoff, take 680 prisoners, 20 machine guns and 4 cannon.
 „ 19—Counter attack of the Bolsheviks against Esthonians near Krannaja-Gorka. Capture of Czarskoe Selo.
 „ 22—Two Bolshevik light cruisers wrecked on mines.
 Nov. 1—Esthonians take Mariengausen, south of Pskoff, with 430 prisoners and three guns.

Causerie.

Pages devoted to Topics for the Leisure Hour of interest to thinking men and women.

The Home of Oesel.

By HILARY H. WINN.

[*Editorial Note.*—The following delightfully colourful little sketch has been received from a seafaring native of Oesel Island (off Esthonia). Written in literal English, the original wording has been as nearly adhered to as possible for publication, in order that the native element which characterises the manuscript may be preserved. Here, indeed, is an ideal spot for those who are tired of city-life to retire to].

The island of Oesel is a large sized island, that parts the Gulf of Riga from the Baltic Sea. With her little Capital Town of Arensburg she is populated with Esthonian-speaking people, and is generally governed by the Governor of Livonia. There are no railways, tramcars or motor cars; all transport has to be done with horse and cart. The



AN OLD-FASHIONED FARM-HOUSE.

high, white, dusty road which leads from Arensburg in the direction of Sorwe resembles the road from Livona to Pira, and streams of farmers and marketers use it. The land is beautiful, surrounded with forests and bushes; here and there are villages with their estates and old-fashioned farm houses. The houses are usually built on two sides of the road and are wooden, with straw tops and square chimney pots in the middle. They remind one of the Arctic City or of a native village in Zulu Land—in winter it is most like the home of Father Christmas, with thick snow covering the roofs and high plane trees surrounded by snow hills.

In summer the sun shines hot, and the clear sky and the scent of flowers and of drying hay make it more beautiful, but the most beautiful of all is the spring, when the snow has melted away and when the first flowers open their eyes to the sunshine, when green leaves cover the trees and bushes and when the first song-birds, back from the South, start their nesting, in an orgy of song from the tree-tops. Lambs dance in the fields while farmers clear their estates of rubbish that the long weary winter has left behind.

But there, on the long dusty road are always some tiresome lads on their way to Courland some 30 miles over the sea from Sorwe. These boys are not happy as the countryside is happy, but their eyes are anxious and earnest and they fill the air with an atmosphere of jealous feelings and sadness, for Oesel cannot feed her own people and so the poor have to send their children to work in Courland. Here they find employment on farms but they are amongst strange people, who speak a strange language in their land.

Tired from their long walk from the midland or other side of Oesel (some of them are no more than 10 years old) they arrive at the shore where an old man is waiting to give them shelter in a farm house until one fine morning he can take them, 20 or 30 at a time, in his little open boat over to the sandy beach of Courland, and leave them in the village of Mas-Irbe. Farmers come to this village from all parts of Courland and buy the lads' services till the 28th of September in exchange for two roubles paid to the man who brought them. After this the animals will be kept indoors and the boys will not be required any longer. Then each farmer has got to return his boy to the same village, where the same man will be waiting for them all. The pay goes by the size of the boy and varies from six to 15 roubles and a suit of clothes, for each summer's work. All through the days in the thick forests, and the nights on the farms they have been counting the hours and minutes till the joy-day of September the 28th, when they will all meet again in the little fishing village of Mas-Irbe. The roads are crowded with happy boys and youths in nice clothes, who have a little money to spend. But the black-bearded Jew, the business man of Mas-Irbe, knows where his interests lie, and orders a lot of toys and unworthy stuff to be displayed for sale to the home-comers, who, away from guardianship, are ready to buy anything.

Some honest farmers sew the boy's money into his trousers' or waistcoat pocket, giving him only enough for his fare and a little over to spend. The boy, thinking he has been forgotten, is afraid to ask for his wage and returns home, where his mother sooner or later discovers it,—sometimes only when his trousers are wearing out and need mending. From Mas-Irbe they sail over to Oesel just as they sailed to Courland—but this time each has to pay 50 kopeks for his fare.

The summer has lost her beauty, but still the merry boys dance home to their mothers who last saw them through a mist of tears and now smile to welcome their dear ones home.

Days grow to weeks and weeks to months; the long winter wears through, the school-houses close, and the boys look forward dolefully to the coming separation.

As the boys grow up, work is not so easy to find. Woman has replaced man on the farms and there are more youths than jobs for them to do. Industrious, these women! Leaving their children in bed at two or three in the morning they hurry to work, not to return till 9 or 10 at night. Meals have been left on the table in readiness and

often the mothers and children do not see each other except on Sundays. The children eat the black bread, and know it was bought from their mother's yesterday's pay.

To the wooden quay at Arensburg a stream of unhappy young men files down the dusty road bidding farewell to Oesel to find work in foreign lands.

To grand cities they travel, where marble and alabaster shine and round which cedar and mahogany, the trees of bread, grow where wine flows past the altar of beauty. He may be rich some day, but, looking round, he finds beauty surrounded with fighting and cruel bloodshed.

At last he turns back to Oesel his old native land.

Poor as it is—there is nothing better.

"Be Hanged by the Neck until you are Dead."

By R.S.E.S.

Last night I was in the condemned cell—to-day, I am a free man.

Curious how conservative a twentieth century mind, saturated in original and circumstantial sin, can be; even with the certainty of a death too messy and public for an epicure, to take place at the screech of the next cold grey dawn. The sight of my reprieve shot an electric ecstasy through me, followed at once by a vague sensation of annoyance. I had set my faith on that Death. The dull thuds of the scaffold going up had grown to be part of that life confined to twenty-four hours of delicious introspection—and I had counted on the *Finis* which would be written when those thuds ceased. The last blow. The cheerful departure of the workers, whistling. A large meal. Silence. Myself being led forth as sole actor in a great melodrama. The clang of the prison bell, and then oblivion.

It appealed to my dramatic sense: I, who had spent my life lurking in shadows, grew to regard this moment of publicity about which there had been so much palaver, so much procrastination, as a rather wonderful climax, and as it drew nearer and became more part of me, the Criminal Court panic grew more vague, the red tape solemnity receded and left the primary fact in all its nakedness—a red, glaring joke.

How any Powers that Be must laugh that a thing some woman has writhed to bear—a thing into which philosophy, logic, the Definite Aim, has been drilled and dinned, should become an unknown quantity within the space of ten seconds, because some ass under the grave instructions of others has tied a rope round its neck and jerked it so suddenly into space that its vertebrae were severed, leaving it a lifeless mass of flesh.

I felt I had been cheated of something essentially mine, mine by reason of the Hell of apprehension which my philosophy has turned to laughter. That was definite, it was final—and now, lolling in a cafe, one of a hundred nonentities, contemplating a quite empty horizon, it is difficult to obliterate that *Finis* and to face the Indefinite which would have been a mere sequel to other aimlessness had not that obliterated *Finis* intervened, building a wall between.

Small things had filled the few hours left, none of the maudlin retrospection I had foreseen. I had left my mind purposely blank, for I am a sensationalist—sufficiently so to stand apart and contemplate, with the greedy analysis of a vivisectionist, the mental functionings of a condemned man. I was not repentant of my mis-spent years, neither did my thoughts return to my mother's chair-side.

Emerald Chartreuse and light-baked pastry, the vainglorious smirk of a triumphant pocket-picking urchin, the scarlet lips of the greue I was kissing rather listlessly when they came to arrest me, and whom I saw being kissed by the sargeant as they led me out, the fetid stink of a provincial music hall and the rather intoxicating aura of contentment and luxury which had enveloped me, perspired out into the atmosphere by those to whom provincial music halls are luxury.

Thus, without sequence. Incidents which made no impression when they happened, but the ghosts of which filled my cell with humanity; each in itself an event, as it was one

nearer to that last thought which I had prepared studiously with the utmost care, drilling my mind in a promise to form that thought just as the rope tightened in the hangman's grip. My will, dominating the whole lot of 'em, making 'em hang me because I liked being hanged. Impotence is the only real tragedy. Death as a concession, death because my own will had overcome their scruples about killing me ; that would make death gloriously dramatic. Till then, each thought weighed with the care of an epicure, and prolonged or dismissed according to its produced degree of pleasure and romance.

Now I am free to think uninterrupted for years, if I like ; appreciation lies before a visible obstacle and there's no obstacle ahead.

God ! How to convince that Court that I had transgressed, after an appeal and acquittal so finely engineered. Pity we change so. However, they aren't overburdened with intelligence. How much money left ? Enough for a Whole, and a tip ?

" Bottle of Bohn, waiter—and take the chill off."

Listak.

By IVAN NARODNY.

(*Editor of our American Contemporary, " Estonia."*)

Listak was a tailor in the village of Labavere, Esthonia, and loathed his profession, but he had never got money enough to be a man of more dignity. He had dreamed of opening a grocery-store in Labaverè and of being called a merchant instead of a tailor. The very name of a tailor sounded so commonplace in his ears.

To realize his cherished dream, Listak needed two hundred roubles. The most money he had ever possessed was twenty-five roubles. The solution, therefore, lay wholly in a successful match.

" If I marry a poor girl, I will never be able to open a grocery-store, and I will always look at her as a stumbling-stone in my career. We may never live a happy life. But how differently would I behave myself towards a wife with dowry when I am a merchant ? I would treat her as gently as if she were the egg of a nightingale," thus would soliloquise Listak and make plans for his future.

Listak knew a girl with two hundred roubles dowry, but she was always sick ; and he knew also a widow with one leg who had three hundred roubles, but she was so old and uneducated that the pretentious tailor hated to think of her.

At this critical period of his life, Listak was told that the daughter of an old cobbler in the town was supposed to have a daughter with a dowry of one thousand roubles. A dowry of one thousand roubles sounded to him like a fairy tale. Without any hesitation he decided to call on the cobbler and to inquire if the gossip was true.

" Why, my Liza ain't at home ; she's in America," explained proudly the old father to the tailor.

" In America ! " exclaimed the startled tailor and stared at the cobbler. " What's she doing there ? "

" Good gracious, she is a real lady—wears a hat with fine feathers, patent-leather shoes new fashioned dresses—what do you think of that ? If you should see her on the street you would never take her for my daughter. A wonderful girl ! And it's America that has made her what she is."

Listak listened with throbbing heart to the thrilling news. Scratching his head, he grunted :

" I suppose—well—she isn't married, is she ?

" No. She used to be a waitress, but now she is a nurse. That, of course, is a big distinction over there. And she gets fifty roubles a month. She has been only five years in America.

" Fifty roubles a month ! Oh, Lord ! That's a fortune in itself ! " exclaimed the tailor, smacking his lips.

" Liza—I tell you has saved money more than she needs. Two thousand roubles—thousand dollars in American money she has now in the saving bank. I'll get you her letter and you can read it yourself," said the father and he took from the bottom of his trunk a letter and handed it over to the visitor. " Read it. You'll see. And how well she writes—all in American style."

Listak unfolded the letter and read.

" And here is her photograph, taken in America," interrupted the proud father and passed the picture to the visitor. " Doesn't she look like a real lady ? "

Listak looked at the picture and did not know what to say. To judge from her photograph, she was a stolid spinster, with high cheekbones, a long neck and a nose like a frozen potato. But her American trimming and bearing made her interesting to the ambitious bachelor. Having gazed at the picture for a while, he asked :

" Do you think Liza would like to marry a man in her native land ? " Then the visitor went on explaining his plans for the rosy future.

" Well, well ! It might interest her to consider your proposal," said the old man. " I guess she wouldn't care to be the wife of a tailor, but—that of a merchant—heaven knows. You'd better write to her. She might accept—and then, *isa poiuke*—you shouldn't need to worry about your future," expounded the old cobbler, puffing vigorously at his pipe.

Listak took Liza's address, treated the old cobbler with a cigar and left, the happy father still harping on his daughter. All the way home and many days afterwards Listak could think of nothing else. To marry an American girl, without ever having seen her, seemed to him like a fairy-tale. However, he decided to try. He admitted that the whole success lay in composing a strong letter and sending to her in a dignified way.

Listak knew how to write a simple letter, but would his village style be impressive enough to influence a girl in New York to marry a man in a simple village whom she had never seen before ? This was a great question. He knew that *isand Maru*, the innkeeper, was a genius for letter writing ; but in a case like this he hated to take anybody into his confidence. The dowry-sick tailor experimented for weeks, writing love-letters to Liza every evening ; but nothing came of it. One letter was too lukewarm, the other too extravagant. Finally he gave it up and whispered his secret to the innkeeper. The latter consented, took a neat sheet of paper, pinned a rose on the corner and wrote a letter, which ended as follows :

" ——Your beautiful image has haunted me, day and night, and your heavenly eyes shine before me in my dreams, oh, you lovely rose ! "

After the letter was read and reread by the innkeeper, it was followed by a discussion whether one should add a nice poem from a book of love poems or not.

" That's what the women like, especially those in the city," explained Listak.

After the poem was added and another rose fastened on, the letter was mailed and Listak breathed freely.

Two months of heavy waiting passed, and still no reply from Liza. Listak was like one on thorns. His strange romance was already known to the neighbours, and everybody was expecting the letter from America. Finally it came, and the excited tailor stared at it like one dazed. Tearing open the envelope, he read and blushed. Liza had written to him in her impressive American style : " Nothing is more sacred to me than your proposal. If it is God's will, then I shall be your wife, and make you happy for ever."

Listak at once hurried to the innkeeper and handed him the sensational message. While the innkeeper was reading the letter, Listak gazed dreamily out of the window and built, not an aircastle, but a large grocery-store, with showy windows and all the air of dignity. It seemed as if he saw his store already opened, the people going and coming,

the shelves filled with goods. The sign : " Merchant Listak," hung in his eyes. While the innkeeper Maru, made suggestions of a good time for the wedding, Padda, the blacksmith, not liking the idea of such a strange marriage, approached the tailor, lifted his hand and said :

" Listak, be careful, in spite of her dowry. Your American Liza, whoever she is, is a woman whom nobody here knows. What do we know about an American woman ? To marry her only for her dowry—why, better not."

" But she is refined and besides an American—think of it !" argued the tailor and paused. Everybody was silent, puffing his pipe. Only a cat purred monotonously in the corner. As it was evident that Listak was determined in his choice, the innkeeper suggested that the wedding should be celebrated with city manners, high-class music and meals of extraordinary preparation. " The best music would be a street-organ from the town. That's what the city people like," he explained vigorously to the gathering.

After discussing the matter at length, the innkeeper agreed to take care of the entertainment. The same day a long letter was written and sent to Liza. No detail was wanting : the day of the wedding, the meeting at the railway station.

The weeks of waiting and preparation for the wedding festival passed like a dream. The Sunday that was to be the wedding day, began bright and cheerful. Listak had given to his house a festive, solemn appearance. The floor was strewn with white sand and the tables were covered with white bed linen, while a flag on a high pole was on the top of the roof. Women-neighbours were busy baking bread and preparing the refreshments. Everybody looked solemn and impressive. The host was dressed in a spick-and-span suit with a red neck-tie and a paper flower in his button-hole. The innkeeper was solving the problem of the entertainment. He had constructed a huge music-box, which produced the tones of a concertina and a violin at the same time.

This instrument had the appearance of a magnified caricature of a street-organ and was an invention of the ingenious innkeeper. It was in reality a barrel covered with old theatre advertisements. To this was fastened a lever in the shape of that of a street organ, which was made from an old cart wheel. Through the special contrivance of a secret opening, concealed so that no one could see within, two musicians were hidden in this instrument, one with a concertina and one with a violin. As soon as a man outside—the organist—began to turn the lever, the musicians in the barrel had to start to play, and when he stopped, the music was expected to stop also.

In the corner of the house this strange instrument looked like a mysterious joke ; one knew not whether to expect it to develop into an American wonder or a stage of some wonderful show. No one of the wedding guests with the exclusion of the musicians could guess how this strange instrument would produce the music. One could see the guests in groups of three or four, discussing in low voices the wonders of the wedding festival, or venturing various guesses about the American bride. The village girls, not a little jealous, nudged each other and exchanged meaning glances. All were anxious to see the woman of the new world.

Suddenly the dogs began to bark and the boys shouted :

" The bride, the bride !"

All the guests rushed out to get the first glimpse of the rich American woman. And there she was, in a big feather-trimmed hat, such as no one of the village women ever wore. They felt really overawed. The groom, hurrying with a throbbing heart to open the gates of the front-yard, bowed almost to the ground to the dazzling reality of his romantic dreams. He was so confused by this apparition that he did not know whether to smile or weep.

" Are you Mr. Listak ?" asked the bride, affecting an ' American ' accent.

" Yes, maa'm, yes, Liza. Good God Yes, my dear. I don't know what to say !" stammered the groom nervously, wiping tears from his eyes.

"Oh, Andri, oh, Mr. Listak, I am so happy to meet you!" gushed the bride, trying to show the quality of her refinement. She took both his hands and embraced him gracefully "in American manner." These public embraces so embarrassed the groom and the guests that they all blushed, dropping their eyes. But, after all, was she not a refined American lady? And of course, she knew what was proper.

She looked at the simple village house of her fiancee condescendingly, and said she would go to her room. But Listak stammered that his house had only one room. Liza felt greatly embarrassed, especially seeing so many curious village boys and dogs, peeping in through the fence with awe, as if to see how the American bride would act.

The bride felt uncomfortable and fanned herself nervously. Listak rubbed his hands and did not know what to do. He even did not know whether to introduce her to his guests or leave it to the guests to introduce themselves to her. An air of stiffness had suddenly taken hold of all the gay gathering. But the innkeeper, feeling himself a man of certain refinement, approached the bride with an affected chivalry, lifted his hat and stammered:

"Miss Liza, I beg your pardon. I am the friend of Mr. Listak. I practically wrote you the letter of proposal—well,—would you like some chocolate? It's fine weather, isn't it?"

Listak turned pale and the bride glanced startled at the imposing looking innkeeper, and burst out laughing. The latter blushed and felt so confused that, bowing politely, he vanished. This made the groom embarrassed, and he glanced apologetically at his bride, trying to please her in every possible way. He imitated her gestures and manners, her shrugs and voice. He even kept his hands behind his back as was Liza's manner when she was telling the village women of the wonders of New York.

Although only half an hour ago Liza came as a perfect stranger, yet she soon was the heroine of the occasion, and all the guests admitted that she was the most refined and fascinating woman they could ever imagine. Suddenly the innkeeper emerged and invited the bride to listen to the music in the room. The two musicians were already concealed with their instruments in the big barrel and the imposing organist now began to turn the lever. Strains of unique music, which truly seemed most wonderful, issued from the huge barrel. Everybody rushed from the front-yard into the room. The guests felt it was like a miracle, gripping and inspiring. But the bride almost fainted, exclaiming:

"This is the limit!"

The room was bursting with the powerful music, the laughter and the loud conversation of the wedding guests. How it happened, no one knew, but one of the women had placed a dish of hot soup on the music-box. Whether through an accident, or the excitement of the organist, the vessel broke and the hot soup leaked through the cracks into the instrument. Suddenly the music stopped, although the organist was still industriously turning the lever. Then we heard various mysterious sounds and voices as if of muffled exclamations. Everybody looked at the music box, which began to quake and tremble as if a ghost were within. Then arose fierce yells and agonizing cries, mixed with loud curses. Before anybody could realize what had happened, two angry musicians leaped from the instrument, the soup dripping from their heads.

"What's this?" gasped the men, while the women shrieked and fled. One of the musicians put his fist under the face of the frightened organist and shouted:

"I'll pay you for this joke, you scoundrel!"

"Max, I swear I didn't do it. Don't be a fool!" replied the trembling organist, apologetically.

"Damn, who did do it?" asked the other musician, wiping the soup from his face.

When the people realized what had happened, everybody roared. No one who glanced at the overturned music instrument and at the musicians, with their soup dripping heads, could refrain from laughter. Even the pompous bride found it so funny that she laughed

with the rest. Suddenly she became serious and, when all the roar and noise was over, she turned to the gathering, gesticulating gracefully with her gloved hand, and said :

" Since I am the lady of this house, I don't like your village jokes and this awful music. I have brought with me an American gramophone, and as soon as my trunks arrive, we shall have an American music. It's the high-class music played on Coney Island in New York, and you will hear it."

The guests looked puzzled at each other, whispering :

" Poor Listak! Now that's what he got. She will keep him under her thumb."

But the innkeeper Maru thought that this was the moment to settle the matter of the dowry, and the fact whether a wife or a man was the boss of the house. Knocking upon the table for quiet, he jumped on a bench, wiped his face, and began :

" Miss Liza, I beg your pardon, this is not New York, but Labavere. Here a wife doesn't boss the man, but herself. And besides, you know that Listak marries you for—why, excuse me, he marries you for your dowry. We don't know yet, whether you have the amount that he expects, or not. Well, it's very simple, before we give you our card in hand, you give us yours."

Liza blushed, pulled a cheque-book from her hand-bag, and lifted it up, saying :

" Here is my dowry, every cent of it. I can write a check of a thousand dollars at any moment. But why should I do it before I know what kind of man this Listak is. I have one thousand dollars in the New York saving bank. If he proves to be the husband I want and knows how to handle the business, I'll fix him up all right. But, if he is a baby—that's the end of it. It's the American way. Business is business."

She laid her bank-book on the table. The innkeeper took the bank-book, looked at it curiously, turned one sheet after the other, and shook his head. The groom took the book and did the same. For several minutes everybody was quiet. Then the innkeeper took the bank-book, showed it to all the guests, and asked :

" Friends, have you ever before seen a bank-book of this kind, and can any one here read American? "

All shook their heads.

The innkeeper took the book, turned to the bride and said :

" Miss Liza, you get us two thousand roubles in our money or there is nothing doing. If you are proclaimed the wife of Listak and the American bank-book is worth nothing, there is nothing more to do. Listak wants a grocery-store, and you want to be a merchant's madam. It's all a business."

" Business, of course, I know that! " exclaimed Liza, snatching her bank-book and snorting her indignation. " But you can't fool me with your ways."

" Well, then the whole affair is finished," remarked the innkeeper.

" All right. You pay my expenses of two hundred dollars here and back to New York, and I shall never think of marrying beneath me."

Having said so, Liza made herself comfortable, and ordered the groom to give her something to eat. She acted as if she had been in her own home.

" If Listak doesn't want me as his wife, he has to pay my travelling expenses. Otherwise I don't take a step from this place," she said to herself and looked defiantly at the gathering.

Everybody gasped. But the blacksmith, Padda, turned to the groom, whispering :

" Now there you are with your American bride. That's what I suspected. Now you can't get rid of her."

" It's a scandal now. You can't keep an unmarried woman in your house. Better perform the ceremony and pay the price," murmured a neighbor's wife to the dazed groom. " It will be a lesson for the whole village."

Listak looked at Liza, who was fanning herself and looking blankly out of the window. She was imposing and refined after all. In spite of her dominating manners and the fact that her bank-book might be worth nothing, he found her superior to all the village women, and even those he had seen in town. As if drawn by an invisible hand he approached her respectfully, bowing.

"Liza, let's settle the matter in a friendly way," he began with a bashful voice. "I suppose, if you can boss the people always as you do them now, you will know how to open a grocery-store and make a success even if we haven't the money."

"Of course, my dear," retorted Liza, smiling alluringly.

"Well, and we never touched that tender question—love—as they say—" stammered the groom confused.

"Naturally, and that's why I didn't like to give you up so easily."

"Liza, how nice of you. I don't care for your dowry, if I have you," murmured the love-intoxicated groom, and kissed reverently the hand of his bride.

"Certainly not. The people who marry for money are never happy. It's far safer to stick to your old profession than to monkey with the grocery-store. Isn't that so?"

"Sure," stammered Listak with a sigh.

The Second Petrograd Operation.

By POLITICAL ONLOOKER.

Preparations for the present Petrograd operation were commenced in August, at the time when the military conference took place in Riga. After the failure of the May and June operations, it was obvious to unbiased spectators that to secure Esthonian support, political guarantees are necessary. With the help of the British General, the North-West Russian Government was established under the leadership of the Premier, Lianosoff, and the Minister of War, General Yudenitch. One of the first acts of this Government was to recognise Esthonian independence. It is regrettable that this was met with such lack of cordiality amongst Russians abroad. Foreseeing further operations, Chicherin offered peace overtures to Esthonia and other border states. Esthonians were not opposed to the proposition, but they stated that they would only negotiate in conjunction with the other Baltic states. The Bolsheviks objected to this, and again launched wild attacks against Esthonia, which were, however, beaten back almost at once.

After this, the new Petrograd operations began. Having ceased since May to supply the Esthonians with ammunition, they however, equipped the North-West Russian Army with tanks which had been denied to the Esthonians on 11th October. Jamburg was taken. Panic broke out among the defeated Bolsheviks, and on 16th October, the Russians were at the gates of Petrograd, having taken Gutचना, when the Esthonians were advancing towards Krasnaja Gorka and towards Pskoff, taking 100 prisoners and machine guns.

The entire attack was based on speed, in the centre the Russian Cavalry and tanks advanced, whilst simultaneously both flanks were supported by Esthonians. As in June, the operation was retarded by the German operations in Courland. As an attack was launched on the Letts, the Germans compelled the Esthonians to recall certain units to overcome the pending danger from that quarter.

Meanwhile, the Bolsheviks were able to send reinforcements from Moscow. Their endeavour to launch an attack from Pskoff on the Russian right flank, was, however, frustrated by the Esthonians. Also the danger was averted on the left flank at Krasna

Gorka. But here the Bolsheviki were lucky in obtaining help, not only from the treacherous German attack on Riga, but also from the tragic and never-ending interior complications arising from the nationalistic policy of Vonder Denikin. Having reached Ozel, the latter general attacked the Ucradians, and wars thus confronted with risings in the rear, on the part of peasants and even of the Kuban Cossacks. This again helped the Bolsheviki to release tremendous forces from the Denikin front to the Northern Petrograd front. The entire history of interior warfare and the second Petrograd operation proves again that military activities hang upon interior and national policies. It is impossible to solve the Russian problem without first settling the Russian interior policy with regard to the border states.

The Czecho-Slovak Republic of To-day.

The Editors have received the following interesting Correspondence which they are enabled to reprint through the courtesy of the "Asiatic Review."

CORRESPONDENCE.

"A FAIR HEARING AND NO FAVOUR."
THE CZECHO-SLOVAK REPUBLIC TO-DAY.

CZECHO-SLOVAK PRESS BUREAU,
9, GROSVENOR PLACE, S.W. 1,

June 18, 1919.

To the Editor, THE ASIATIC REVIEW.

After eight months of existence the Czecho-Slovak Republic is to-day fairly well consolidated. Though there is a lively discussion as regards the domestic policy, there are no internal troubles. When we remember that all round Czecho-Slovakia is anarchy and chaos, and, moreover, a serious food shortage in Bohemia, then we can fully realize the difficulties which the Czecho-Slovaks have to face.

It was not an easy task to build up and consolidate this state which some three centuries ago lost its independence. History has hardly a precedent that a state has been created and constituted under such unfavourable conditions as was the case with the Czecho-Slovak Republic. At the moment of the breakdown of Austria-Hungary, political, administrative, and economic difficulties appeared to be almost unsurmountable. The Czecho-Slovaks' lands have been plundered by Germans and Magyars almost in the same way as Belgium, Serbia, or Northern France. Purely Czech territories were occupied by Germans and Magyar soldiers. All-important places in the civil service and administration were also occupied by Germans and Magyars, so that the problem of introducing Czech administration was very difficult. All other states which were constituted on the plan of Austria-Hungary have had some assistance of their compatriots in the neighbouring states, but the Czecho-Slovaks, being surrounded by Germans and Magyars, have had to rely on themselves.

If, in spite of all these difficulties, the Czecho-Slovaks have succeeded in erecting and consolidating their state, it is a positive proof that the whole nation was inspired by the will to maintain and ensure the reconquered freedom and independence. And ever since their constitution as an independent state, the Czecho-Slovaks have given proofs of their statesmanlike abilities and capacity to live an independent national life. All Czech parties, including the Social Democrats, have fully realized the necessity of co-operation in the dangerous period of transition. No doubt the democratic spirit of the Czech national parties contributed greatly to the maintenance of internal social peace.

The practical common sense and tolerance of the Czecho-Slovak political leaders has manifested itself in the constitution of the National Assembly, which on 14th November, 1918, met in Prague. They have realized the difficulties which general elections in the unsettled state of affairs after Austria's collapse would require, and therefore, they agreed upon the nomination of representatives of all political parties, including the Slovaks. Thus of 260 members of the Assembly, the Agrarian Party nominated 54 deputies, the Social Democratic Party 50, the State Right Democracy 44, the Socialist Party 28, and the Progressive Party 6.

The foreign, as well as the internal, policy of the Czecho-Slovak State was outlined in President Masaryk's message, delivered the second day after his arrival in Prague at the end of last year. The Czecho-Slovak Republic will remain faithful to the Allies, to the very end, it will live in friendship with its neighbouring states, and will attempt at achieving an economic co-operation and defensive organization between the Slav State extending from the Baltic to the Adriatic—*i.e.*, between the Poles, Czecho-Slovaks, Roumanians, and the Southern Slavs. Should this co-operation be established, then the German plans of conquests towards the East will be defeated for ever.

In its internal policy the Czecho-Slovak Republic is pursuing a thoroughly Democratic policy, guaranteeing complete freedom to all citizens. There was no question more urgent and more important in Czecho-Slovakia than the expropriation of the great landowners, who were of German origin, and who received their lands from the Habsburgs for services rendered to them during the Czech revolution in 1620. Since then the Czech nation was practically deprived of land, and the Czech peasants had to toil on the land of the Habsburg conquerors and German feudals who came with Ferdinand II to Bohemia. But as soon as the Czecho-Slovaks had thrown off the Habsburg and German domination, it became clear to everyone that this unlawfully-seized land must again become the property of the nation. Thus on 16th April, the Czecho-Slovak National Assembly, after a laborious preparation, unanimously passed a Bill by which all landed estates having over 150 hectares (about 370 acres) of tillable land, or more than 250 hectares (about 618 acres) in all, adding 100 hectares for forests, become the property of the State. Through this Bill the Czecho-Slovak Republic acquired about 17,000 square miles of land, being twice as large as the size of Moravia.

The financial situation of the Czecho-Slovak Republic was revealed on 13th May, when the Czecho-Slovak Minister of Finance, Dr. Rasin, presented his budget to the Czecho-Slovak National Assembly, which was accompanied by a detailed *expose*.

The Czecho-Slovak Republic, though belonging among the victorious Allies, suffered enormously under all measures taken against former Austria-Hungary. Under the pressure of blockade the Czecho-Slovak industries were deprived of all raw material, and consequently were at a standstill. The prosperous agricultural industries, such as distilleries, breweries, etc., suffered also owing to the fact that potato crops and barley were required for the population. As the financial system is based on taxes on beer and alcohol, this contributed in a great measure to the reduction of the State incomes.

Nevertheless, the ordinary budget of the Czecho-Slovak Republic as presented by Dr. Rasin is not passive, but shows a considerable surplus. Thus the ordinary expenses amounted to 2,125 million crowns, while the ordinary incomes were 2,306 crowns, so that there is a surplus of 181 million crowns. By this one can judge the financial stability of the Republic when the situation becomes normal. Even if the ordinary expenses will in future augment, they will be covered by larger incomes which will derive from taxes on beer, wine, alcohol, etc.

The extraordinary budget is, of course, passive, as the Czecho-Slovak Republic is still in a state of war. In Siberia there are 70,000 men, and the uncertainty of the situation in Hungary obliges the Republic to keep 300,000 men under arms, while in peace time only 60,000 would be sufficient. This makes 462 million crowns of extraordinary expenses.

Besides that we must count 1,150 million crowns being the assistance to the families of mobilized and demobilized soldiers, and the out-of-work donations amount to 216 million crowns. Moreover, it was necessary to reduce the prices of imported foodstuffs so as to make them compatible with general incomes of the population. This contribution amounted to 220 million crowns, and the war bonus to the State employees and soldiers and officers makes 865 million crowns.

The railways, which in the greatest part belong to the State, have been during the war deprived of most of their rolling-stock, so that they show a deficit of 600 million crowns, which, of course, is only temporary. Thus the total extraordinary expenses amount to 3,829 million crowns, and if we reckon with the surplus of the ordinary budget, 3,143 million crowns.

The Government does not intend to cover this deficit only by a loan, but it thinks to submit to the National Assembly a new financial plan by which a third of the extraordinary expenses would be covered by new taxes, which, of course, will be only temporary, relating to the war measures. These new taxes, it is calculated, will bring the Government 1,250 million crowns. The remaining 1,893 million crowns of the total deficit of the extraordinary war budget will be covered by a loan.

From the *expose* of Dr. Rasin it was clear that the Czecho-Slovak Republic was capable of supporting its extraordinary expenses. When the financial situation, which is already now a favourable one, becomes stable a new economic life will be started.

Yours faithfully,

ALEXANDER BROZ.

The fact that a Social Democrat, M. Tusar, has become the head of the new Czecho-Slovak Government gave rise to some suspicions that the Czecho-Slovak Republic is on the path towards Bolshevism. I would like, therefore, to explain the reasons which led to the change of the Czecho-Slovak Government, and emphasize the fact that the Czech Social Democracy does not represent a negative but a creative force in the Czech politics.

The change in the Government became necessary after the recent municipal elections in Bohemia, which gave a great success to both the Socialist and Social Democratic parties. The late Government of Dr. Kramar included representatives of all parties. That was a necessity in the first days of the national revolution. But as the Republic became consolidated and the principal work of the Peace Conference concluded, and the frontiers of the new Czecho-Slovak Republic settled, a change in the Government became imperative in order to adapt the Government to the true political conditions of the Republic.

The new Government of M. Tusar does not represent a purely Socialist Cabinet. It is a Coalition Government, in which the Agrarians are also represented, besides officials, belonging to no party. The Czecho-Slovak well-known revolutionary Foreign Minister Dr. E. Benes, remains in charge of foreign affairs. This is a proof that the foreign policy of the new Cabinet will be as decidedly pro-Ally as was that of Dr. Kramar.

7th July, 1919.

ALEXANDER BROZ.

Lunacy: Its Treatment in Great Britain.

Treatment of the Insane in Former Days.

France was the first country to agitate for the kinder treatment of the insane. Up to the end of the eighteenth century, when the French Revolution caused a wave of fellow-feeling among the oppressed to run through the country, the treatment of lunatics was not only marked by the grossest cruelties, but was carried on in a superstitious and unscientific manner, too opposite in its results to be dwelt upon without a shudder.

Throughout Europe, right up to the eighteenth century, lunatics were regarded as beings cursed by the devil. To remove the curse, they were sent to gather mysterious

herbs, which, being compounded into a medicine to be taken at stated times, to the accompaniment of charms, were supposed to cure them. Further it was usual to tie the unfortunates to a grave-stone, there to pass the night. If, in the morning, the ropes were broken, a cure was regarded as possible; if not, they were put down as incurably accursed and frequently burned alive at the stake.

Another form of treatment was to immerse the patient in water up to his neck and to leave him so for hours on end, and even, in extreme cases, to duck his head under until he was on the point of drowning. He was expected to leave the inhabiting devil in the water and to emerge cured.

Certain institutions in Britain and monasteries in France were used as mad-houses right up to the nineteenth century, and the patients, though in some cases quite mild and docile, were kept chained to the walls in rows, often naked, and in conditions of indescribable filth. Dr. Pinel, of Paris, however, agitated successfully for better treatment of the insane in his own country, and what he did for France, Mr. Tuke (a Quaker who formed the York Retreat in 1792), did for England. But unsatisfactory treatment was meted out to patients in public asylums for the insane in Great Britain as late as 1839, when Dr. Conolly, who did much towards improving conditions for the insane, was appointed Medical Officer in charge of the recently opened Hanwell Asylum. On his arrival, he found over 100 patients chained to the walls. In some cases, they were trussed up in hard leather controls, which rendered movement of the limbs impossible, the arms being encased in leather and handcuffed round the waist. Those patients who were given to frequent attacks of frenzy were muzzled like dogs with heavy leather muzzles. Kicking shoes, the terrible "muff" a narrow leather contrivance into which the hands were forced, palm to palm and secured with handcuffs chained to the waist), body-straps, foot cuffs, and heavy iron chains were also used. A few of these instruments of restraint were recently found, packed away in a cellar at Hanwell and are now on exhibition at that institution.

Any slight efforts which had hitherto been made in this country in experimental scientific treatment of lunacy had been confined to the handling of private patients, and had not been made available to pauper patients, for the exclusive benefit of whom Hanwell Asylum was opened.

Present-Day Treatment of the Insane.

Although the insane are now handled in a humane manner, far different from the methods employed heretofore, it is a remarkable fact that there is no recognised school for mental training in Great Britain, and that general practitioners are appointed to asylum staffs without any specific training. A medical student is expected, during the course of his ordinary training, to put in eight attendances at one of the large hospitals for the insane, but, as mental trouble needs daily and hourly watching for any comprehensive grasp of its progress to be gained, such casual attendances are regarded as totally inadequate, and there is an agitation on foot for special mental training to be made available to all doctors whose aim it is to enter on this branch of their profession.

Speaking broadly, there are two classes of patients of unsound or defective mind, who require care in institutions; those who from birth have had defective brains, (idiots being the extreme example) for whom there is no hope of 'cure,' but who can be taught in varying degrees to help themselves and even to follow useful employment under care and supervision such as a properly equipped institution affords; and those who were once able to take a place in the world as normal members of society, but have broken down under strain, or because of some disease of the brain, who may require active curative treatment as well as safe custody. Special establishments for idiots have been provided, where training can be given. For other patients, for whom cure may be possible, institutions of the hospital type are now recognised as desirable.

Colney Hatch and Hanwell are two of the ten asylums belonging to the County of London, to which pauper patients are sent, but they are now called 'mental hospitals,' and the old term 'asylum' is disused because of its association with the old retrograde methods of treatment.

No person can be admitted to an institution for lunatics except by an order of detention made by a Justice of the Peace, upon medical certificates.

Patients who are admitted to the public asylums provided by County and Borough Councils can become private patients upon payment of the full cost of maintenance. There are, in addition to the public County and Borough Asylums, a number of private licenced asylums and hospitals which receive private patients, but, since the Lunacy Act of 1890, private patients can be admitted into the public County Asylums, and as a number of these have made special provision for the care of private patients, no further licences are being granted to private asylums. All the public and private asylums in England and Wales are under the supervision of a Board of Control, a body consisting of not more than fifteen commissioners, four of whom must be medical, four legal, and including not less than two women.

It is always possible for a patient, even though he has not recovered, to be discharged from an asylum if his relatives or friends are able to undertake that he shall be properly cared for.

Every public asylum is administered by a visiting committee appointed by the County Council or Borough Council. Members of the visiting committee have power to discharge patients on the advice of the Medical Superintendent of the asylum. The committee are always required to see every patient in the asylum at least once in every two months, and thus all patients can have access to the members of the committee. One or two of the Commissioners of the Board of Control visit the asylum at least once a year and see all the patients and hear any applications that they may wish to make.

Instruments of restraint are practically non-existent, and the only four mechanical means of restraint now in use are restricted by a regulation of the Board of Control.

1. The long sleeved shirt, a cotton garment with sleeves double the usual length, sewn up at the ends. These sleeves are wound round the dangerous lunatic's waist (the arms being folded in front), and securely fastened behind.
2. The padded glove, used as a protection both for the patient and the nurse, and to prevent clothes and medical dressings being torn off; it also eliminates the danger of clawing and scratching of the attendants.
3. When continuous baths are employed to soothe the patient, a cover to the bath may be used, having an aperture for the patient's head.
4. When for medical purposes, a wet or dry pack is used, in place of the straps formerly employed, the top sheet only may be pinned or sewn into place, and the patient must be released at least every two hours.

In every case where such restraint is applied, a medical certificate must be given, signed by the Medical Officer. A full record of every case of restraint must also be kept, and a copy of these records and certificates must be sent to the Commissioners of the Board of Control at the end of every quarter.

Padded rooms are still used, and have been greatly improved of late years. Floors, walls and doors are padded with thick rubber, which prevents the patient from injuring himself—in some cases patients are kept in these rooms for some days, until the fits of frenzy have stopped; in other cases, the rooms are only used for a few hours.

By the courtesy of the London County Council, the writer of this article had the privilege of a thorough investigation of both Hanwell and Colney Hatch Mental Hospitals. These are the oldest of the hospitals belonging to the County of London, and are amongst the oldest in England, having been opened in 1831 and 1851 respectively. Hanwell is historic because of its association with Dr. Conolly. Both the institutions have delightful grounds

and adequate accommodation, though in both cases the main buildings are of an antiquated design and lack up-to-date improvements, which have been provided at more recently built hospitals. The atmosphere of wards and common rooms is cosy and homelike. Colney Hatch has had new buildings of a bungalow type added to the main buildings, and these are turning out to be an improvement on the old ones. They include a modern sanatorium for consumptive patients, who are enabled to spend their days on verandas overlooking the extensive and very beautiful grounds, which more nearly resemble a well-laid out and well-wooded park than a hospital garden.

That the general treatment has materially altered is established by the large number of contented patients, but the number of cures and notable mental improvements effected is still lamentably low.

La Revue Baltique.

(Interview between M. Toupine and Mr. Pusta).

Translated by GLADYS DAVIES.

That issue of our contemporary, *La Revue Baltique*, which appeared on 15th September, contained several features of international interest; in particular, the report of an interview between M. Toupine and the secretary of the Esthonian Legation in Paris, Mr. Pusta, on the Esthonian's Government peace pourparlers with the Soviet Government. Mr. Pusta's summing-up of the situation is noteworthy, and we publish a translation of his discourse for the benefit of our readers.

"One mustn't be deceived; this is no more than a cessation of hostilities. The same sort of thing has often been proposed to Esthonia by the Bolsheviks, and Esthonia, bound by the policy of the Allies, has refused. Moreover, she has no proof that the pacific propositions of the Bolsheviks are sincere. On the contrary, it has often been proved that they voluntarily neglect their promises. But the present circumstances offered Esthonia a motive for commencing pourparlers, or at least for assuring a cessation of hostilities.

Indeed, for about the last six months, the Esthonian Armies have not been fighting in Esthonia proper. On Latvian territory they help the Letts in their defence against Bolsheviks and Germans, and in the territory of the Petrograd Government they have struggled to help some of the remaining organised parties of Russia in their endeavour to restore order. And now, the situation in Latvia seems better: she has a Government and a national army apparently ready to stand alone, no longer under Esthonian supreme command. The situation is, therefore, reassuring. Esthonia is ready to help her neighbours against all menaces from that source, as she has already done.

In that which concerns Russia, we have toyed with misfortune. The Government established in the North-West was about to recognise our independence, but it collapsed suddenly, ruined by the incessant quarrels between Yudenitch and the Army Commanders. We are now far from being able to consider the possibility of its re-organising itself and appearing again as a Power.

But there is a graver reason than all these for our consenting to enter into pourparlers. Since May, neither arms, ammunition, reinforcements or support of any kind were supplied by the Allies. Hitherto it was possible to distinguish two currents in the Allies' policy towards Russia. One party was for intervention; the opposition party was violently opposed to it. The opposition lately became stronger and seemed to have definitely carried its point. We learnt that the Allies had abandoned all thought of intervention. Thus there was no hope of an agreement with a Russia guided by the Allies. The Esthonian Government was alone, and had to act alone.

Our Government, moreover, is far from pursuing, at the present moment, an exclusively Esthonian policy. Before entering into peace negotiations, the Esthonian, Latvian and Lithuanian prime ministers and ministers of foreign affairs met at a conference in Riga.

On 14th September, this conference was transferred to Reval, where it continued to sit.

A general line of conduct was drawn up. The first demand addressed to the Bolsheviks requested them to accede to an armistice with Latvia and Lithuania. They agreed, and the proposition was made. This act proved that all the Baltic peoples held together in their negotiations, with a view to determining the general policy. We may not have a solid peace, but an armistice; it is a rest, and that is something precious to men who realise that they have still to defend themselves against the Bolsheviks in their own country, to prevent their becoming formidable. This must be no more than an armistice. It is without doubt not yet possible to arrive at a political agreement.

Our common policy is to understand one another, so that we may always defend ourselves against Bolshevism. We will hope that, in the future, we may always count on the Allies to help us face this menace. We have also to defend ourselves against another danger—Germany. From this source, the situation in Latvia is still threatening. I have no illusions on this point; it would be mere child's play for the Imperialist Germans to gather in force in Latvia and Lithuania and rapidly assure for themselves a fresh hold in the Baltic provinces. This danger is quite as grave as the Bolshevik peril.

It is also very necessary for our exhausted country to strengthen her interior affairs. The war has cost us much, and we must re-establish ourselves. We have undertaken, and mean to conduct successfully, a great agrarian reform. Land must be given to the peasants, they must be organised, helped, and treated as grave and absorbing problems.

We must also consider the creation of an international policy. But, as an ever-present menace, there are two harrassing dangers; the Bolshevik danger, and the German danger. In our own country, the Bolsheviks have very few adherents, but beyond our frontiers, we cannot long escape the danger they hold for us. We must remain armed, but will welcome an armed repose. It will allow us to work, and thus to consolidate our interior situation and to strengthen ourselves in view of our international development. That is the only salvation for us, to be liberated to ourselves. A little quiet that will allow us to work, united to the other two Baltic States which realise, as we do, that we stand alone to proclaim ourselves before the world."

Among others, there is an interesting article on Lettish Art, fully illustrated by a photographic supplement which is most artistically got up. The commercial section of *La Revue Baltique* deserves special mention in consideration of the practical lines on which it is compiled, and should prove of considerable use to Baltic traders.

Germany and the West-Russian Government.

By "IGOR."

From the middle of 1917, many officials and ministers of the old Russian regime began to make their way abroad. Among the first to arrive in Finland was M. Trepoff, former Prime Minister of Russia. He resided there quietly until the Germans had rescued Finland from the Bolsheviks. He then found himself in an exceedingly good position for work and intrigue, as M. Enkel, the Finnish foreign minister had held the post of Minister to Finland under M. Trepoff, while Baron Mannerheim had been aide-de-camp to Nicholas II. Among other Russian refugees was the Grand Duke Cyril, who distinguished himself by leading the Naval Guards to the Duma after the March Revolution. M. Trepoff realised the importance of this fact after the Imperial Family had been massacred by the Bolsheviks in Tekaterinburg. The Grand Duke was then too near the throne to be disregarded, more especially as there were rumours concerning the fate of the Grand

Duke Michael, brother to the late ex-Emperor. M. Trepoff had received a substantial loan from the Finnish Government, and a large sum was placed at the disposal of the Grand Duke. Although Cyril lived very quietly and simply in Finland, he quite realised his possibilities. as directly after his first son was born there, he declaimed to the doctor attending, "Behold! The future Emperor of the Russias."

It cannot be pretended that the majority of Russians in Finland were much in sympathy with M. Trepoff, or his plans; a new spirit had grown up in Russia since the Revolution, and it was felt that no minister of the Old Regime should be allowed to take part in the regeneration of Russia. There was, however, one great factor in his favour; the Russian people were heartsick at the apparent indifference of the Allies, while their sufferings at the hands of the Bolsheviks made them ready to accept any government capable of bringing them a little peace. Moreover, it was felt that Germany was very unlikely to mistake Bolshevism for something democratic, but would recognise the necessity for destroying it root and branch. Consequently, many Russians who were totally opposed to Germany during the war, were inclined to regard her as their only salvation, and for this they cannot be blamed. Had the destruction of Bolshevism been made one of the Peace conditions by the Allies, Germany would have been only too pleased to deliver herself from a menace that threatened to destroy the newly founded republic. But this glorious chance was lost, the plea being fear of German penetration.

If there was the slightest chance of keeping Germany out of Russia, there might be some sense in the idea. But it is absurd to think that a nation which has studied Russian economics and conditions so thoroughly as Germany has; which is prepared to trade with Russia as she is accustomed and wishes to be traded with, and which, moreover, is the best situated geographically, can be definitely excluded from Russia. The Allies, however, had their opinion, and as usual in this war, Russia has had to pay for her Allies' mistakes. M. Trepoff was therefore supported by men of the most varied political ideas, and for very different reasons.

The reactionary Court Party supported him because they desired the restoration of their privileges; commercial circles because they wished to renew trade relations with Germany as speedily as possible, and the rank and file because they longed for a quiet life.

Against these were arrayed the members of the National Centre, and a few others. Although the National Centre was avowedly non-party, it was really dominated by Cadet elements, but practically any non-Bolshevik was admitted.

M. Trepoff's intrigues with the Germans had not gone unnoticed in Russia, and the National Centre considered it essential that their bloc, which was intended to play a great role in future Russia should be strongly represented in Finland. Therefore, Professors Struve and Kartashoff, with a number of assistants arrived in Helsingfors, and started to create a position for themselves.

It must be confessed that they were very lucky in the time of their arrival, which coincided with the Vyborg Congress, convened to elect a special Russian Committee. The prime movers in this congress were M. Subbotnik, and M. Davidoff, well-known bankers, with a number of other commercial men.

The majority of the Committee happened to be of Allied orientation, therefore the hopes of M. Trepoff and his followers were shattered as far as the Russian Committee was concerned. They had been confidently expecting that Prince Volkonsky would be elected chairman of the Committee, whereas Professor Kartashoff received the post instead.

No one, however, expected that the pro-Germans would remain satisfied with this reverse. They might have to keep quiet for a short period, but they were convinced that the vacillating policy of the Allies would soon give them their chance.

The Russian Committee engaged a suite of rooms in the Hotel Fennia, and started operations. A number of concessions were made by the Finnish authorities, and for a time, it seemed as if the Russians were at length united. But only for a very short time. The concessions proved to be of very little value. Thus, the Finnish Government had given an undertaking that they would not expel any members of the Committee from Helsingfors. At this time it must be remarked the Finns were deporting Russians from Helsingfors and other towns to country towns and villages under the pretext of scarcity of flats and food. But everyone knew that this was only a pretext. No one was expelled who was under the protection of the Germans. These naturally did not fail to inform their less fortunate compatriots of the advantages to be gained by a change of orientation, and taunted them with the weakness or supineness of the Allies. Still, in spite of concessions, in a short time, the Finns expelled from Helsingfors several members of the Russian Committee.

Things were still worse at the Russo-Finnish Frontier, which was now closed to Russian refugees. The Finnish Government had issued their well-known declaration that they were prepared to shelter all fleeing from the Bolsheviks. For quite a long time, a constant stream of refugees made their way into Finland. Beyond a formal detention at the quarantine station at Terijoki, practically no restrictions were placed in their way. The Germans who wished to curry favour with the Russians exerted pressure upon the Finns to help these unfortunates as much as possible. As one who lived in Finland during the German regime, I am compelled to state that the Russians were infinitely better treated then, than when the Allies, especially the British, began to run affairs in Helsingfors.

The explanation of this is simple. The Germans had no desire to be on bad terms with the Finns, but they quite realised that Finland was a mere bagatelle compared to future Russia. So Germany naturally wished to have as good relations with the Russians as possible. In this they displayed their political wisdom. In addition, Germany considered it desirable to be represented by such a competent diplomat as Count Bassevitz, a man who considered it worth his while to be on friendly terms with leading Russians. He was also on friendly terms with Bolshevik spies, such as the Brothers Hagen and others, so perhaps it is not much of a criterion.

But Great Britain conducted her diplomatic affairs otherwise. She delayed in recognising Finland's independence, although the overwhelming majority of Russians, including the Bolsheviks, had already done so. This gave considerable offence to the Finns, and German stock accordingly soared. Germany was represented by a prominent diplomat, and a Count to boot, while England was content to be represented by an unknown ex-business man—none the worse for that—who bore the highly anomalous title of "Acting Consul." This was certainly not flesh, and much less than good red herring. It would not have been so bad if the Acting Consul had had a certain wide grasp of things, but he was quite unable to get over the fact that he was representative to Finland, and not to anybody else.

Now the tragedy of the Russians was, that after Germany, whom the majority cordially detested, had lost the war, and with it her prestige, the Finns should have ventured to treat our Russian Allies at least a hundred per cent. worse than before. The Russians were soon convinced of the uselessness of appealing to the British Acting-Consul, for he always contented himself with the formal reply that he was appointed to Finland, and not to the Russians. It was quite true that he had been, but it would have paid us just as well as it has the Germans, if he had not taken up quite such a narrow standpoint.

To go further, it would not have been so bad even, if he had contented himself with that standpoint, but it was stated and believed all over Finland, that he was bitterly opposed to the Russians, and avoided every chance of assisting them. It is a very small matter that a minor official should behave like this, but it is nevertheless a great pity.

Shortly after the establishment of the Russian Committee, rather sinister rumours began to float round. Meetings were reported to have taken place between this one and that one. To-day it would be said that Count Bukshevden had been closeted with Yudenitch, to-morrow it would be reported that he had dined with Count Bassevitz. Even the Russian newspapers, of which there were two, began to sow dissension. Charges would be made against one official of the committee, only to be denied the next day. So-and-so would be accused of having had communication with the Bolsheviks during their occupation of Helsingfors, and a thousand witnesses would flatly contradict the report. But it all served to promote the discord so essential to the Germans.

This pitiable state of affairs was clear to at least three quarters: the Finns, the Germans and the pro-German Russians. The movements from these three quarters were quite characteristic. The Finnish press, obviously inspired, began to trumpet widely the claims of a greater Finland, advocating the most absurd annexations. Districts which had never been under Finnish sway, such as Karelia were demanded; mention was made of the Finns living on the Russian side of the frontier; a new state of Ingermanland was called into being on paper, and if their wishes could have been realised, the Finns would have set up a Finnish Empire, with Petrograd as its capital, embracing both sides of the Finnish Gulf. In this Empire, the Esthonian Nation might have been granted some modified form of home rule as a special act of charity. The Finns had so clearly decided that Russia was destroyed for all time, that they considered it no longer necessary to treat Russian refugees with even a show of toleration. The Russo-Finnish frontier was closed, and no further Russian refugees were permitted to cross it.

The attitude adopted by the Germans was a good deal more commonplace. They realised that their chance had come, and they hastened to join forces with the reactionary Russians. Furthermore, if appeal was made to them to avert expulsion, they very often interfered and had the order cancelled. Sometimes this was done by the Germans direct, but on other occasions, it was effected by means of a Finnish lawyer, living on the Northern Esplanade. But in either case, it gained supporters for the Germans.

(To be continued.)

Letter from Sir Park Goff, M.P., to the "Esthonian Review."

4th November, 1919.

SIR,

Having just returned from Esthonia, I venture to write to you, as I think the impressions I received over there may be of interest to your readers.

I should like, first of all, to say that I think it remarkable, that, in the short time that has elapsed between my two visits the beginning of August, 1919, to the end of September, 1919), the Esthonians have been able to so improve and strengthen their internal affairs.

Naturally, I am bound to give them all credit due to them for this, and if, now and then, some difficulty has arisen regarding our mutual policy towards the Russian Bolsheviks.

If the Esthonian diplomats do not give as much support to General Yudenitch as we should like, their action is understandable in consideration of our lingering policy.

Esthonia has been fighting for at least six months in her struggles for the achievement of her national aim, and she is now exhausted and worn out. Naturally,

as von der Goltz and his soldiers, under Colonel Bermond, are still in the Baltic countries, Esthonia relies on Britain's help to remove them and is disappointed at the delay ensuing.

Finland, which adopted the only effective policy, in not paying the slightest attention to the Supreme Council in Paris, has, with German help, established, on a sound basis, her internal affairs, and achieved the recognition of her Independence, although this latter is still threatened by the Red Plague of Bolshevism.

Procrastination, wherever met with, entails a certain loss of prestige, and it is to be feared that such a loss is threatened for Britain in the eyes of Esthonia, should financial and military aid not be given in such measure as to compensate for the delay which has had such disastrous consequences.

Our representatives in Esthonia have tried their uttermost to impress on our Government the importance of immediate help. German intrigue and propaganda over there is in full swing, encouraged and supported by the ill-famed German-Baltic elements. The Baltic Barons, seeing that their treasonable game is doomed to failure, wholeheartedly give their support to the German reactionary forces. They know well that the hope of recovering their old position can only be realised when Russia is under Germany's thumb.

We must not forget that the Esthonians are not only defending themselves against Bolshevism, but have still to find means to cope with pro-German elements, and to this end, having consideration for their limited resources, further impoverished by a long drawn-out war, they need every succour available, in generous proportions.

Although the position is improving from day to day, it should be no surprise if, through our own fault, Germany scores all round. General Yudenitch has recognised the Independence of Esthonia, and this would, most decidedly, be the proper policy for us to adopt. It would inspire the Esthonians with a sense of gratitude and they would, with all the means at their disposal, render help to the North Western Russian Army.

Esthonia should no longer be a catspaw; Finland has, up to now, without justification whatever, indulged herself in the privilege of being an outsider in this all-world tragedy, and should, unless in sympathy therewith, be compelled to do her share in crushing the Asiatic plague.

We have been financing Finland to put a stop to this German wire-pulling, which takes place in all the Baltic countries, and in order to secure peace at last, we must rally the pro-Ally elements of Esthonia, Latvia, and Lithuania, and supply them with all financial aid.

The difficulties, both financial and military, with which Britain has to contend in order to meet internal as well as external demands made on her resources, cannot be fully realised from afar. Britain, the banker of Europe and the champion of the oppressed, is universally regarded as an unending source of succour in time of need, and this is an attitude which, by her actions, she has encouraged. She has justified the faith placed in her insofar as to justify it lay in her power, and there are but few deserving causes which have called for the generosity of Britain and been refused help. Britain, like the rest of Europe, has suffered terribly, both by loss of man-power and by financial impoverishment. Those who live in Britain can realise a situation not so discernible to the distant eye, and can, therefore, find excuses for delay which, to war-weary fighters waiting for her intervention for their very salvation, appears callous. All difficulties notwithstanding, the time has now come for Britain to fulfil those obligations, incurred by her having staked her word of honour to help Esthonia. Esthonia and Lithuania have stood by Britain and supported her when every man was needed—and now they call on her to repay.

Yours faithfully,

PARK GOFF.

Special Commercial Information.

PROVISIONAL REGULATIONS CONCERNING THE FOREIGN TRADE OF ESTHONIA.

1. Owing to the abnormal economic conditions, brought about by the War, the foreign trade of the country has to be conducted under Government control, and the following regulations have been adopted in this connection.

The Foreign Trade Committee.

2. The actual control of trade in accordance with Government regulations of 25th June, is placed in the hands of a Foreign Trade Committee, consisting of the Ministers of Trade and Industry, Finance, Food, Agriculture, War and Foreign Affairs, or their representatives, who will be assisted by representatives of co-operative and commercial organizations and financial concerns invited solely in an advisory capacity to deal with questions in principle.

3. All export and transit without the permission of the Foreign Trade Committee is prohibited within the borders of the Esthonian Republic.

4. Export and Transit Licences are being issued by the Department of Foreign Trade of the Ministry of Trade and Industry, in accordance with the order of the Foreign Trade Committee.

5. All Government purchases and sales abroad are being centralized with the Foreign Trade Committee.

6. Pending a rate of exchange for Esthonian Marks being quoted on foreign money markets, the rate in every instance will have to be confirmed by the Central Valuation Committee of the Esthonian Bank.

Export.

7. The right of export is being granted to Commercial and Industrial Concerns belonging to the first-class. Special regulations apply to the export of Flax.

8. All foreign values obtained through export have to be collected through the Esthonian Bank, where there will be held under Government control at the disposal of the exporter.

9. The Control over the use of the foreign valuta is centralised in the Central Valuta Committee of the Esthonian Bank.

10. If within a month the foreign valuta has not been utilized in accordance with the preceding regulations, the exporter is obliged to sell same to the Esthonian Bank at the rate of the day.

11. The exporter is obliged to obtain for every separate transaction an export licence applying for the latter to the Foreign Trade Committee.

The application must also show the following :

- (a) The kind and quantity of goods.
- (b) The price in foreign currency and the conditions of sale.
- (c) The country to which the goods have been sold.
- (d) The name of buyer or the selling agent.

Import.

12. The following goods can be imported free of import licence :

Iron, steel, nails, agricultural machinery and implements, machinery and tools, flour, sugar, salt, kerosine, benzene, naphtha, masut, lubricating oils, machine and cylinder oils, coal, boots, bootleather, fertilizers, grass and vegetable seeds, cloth, woollen, cotton and linen.

13. The import of all luxuries and articles not required in daily life, such as for instance, Wines, Spirits, etc. is prohibited. A full statement of such articles is appended.

14. The import of all other articles can only take place with special permission of the Foreign Trade Committee. Application for the issue of the necessary licence should be made to the Department of Foreign Trade when all the information required by article 15 should be supplied to the Customs authorities.

15. On arrival of the goods, the importer furnishes the following particulars in duplicate of which one copy will be retained, and the other sent to the Ministry of Trade and Industry

- (a) The kind of goods (in case of food, cloth, etc.), samples should also be supplied.
- (b) Quantity.
- (c) The name of the seller.
- (d) The price c.i.f. port of import in foreign currency.
- (e) Sale price.

Remark : Foreign currency should be converted into Esthonian Marks at the rate of the day as quoted by the Esthonian Bank.

16. Any one guilty of giving false information will be liable to be punished according to criminal law.

17. All goods imported must be sold according to the regulations made under the profiteering law.

18. The Ministry of Trade and Industry, assisted by the Ministries of the Interior and Finance, have to see that these regulations are complied with.

19. Further detailed information will be given by the Ministry of Trade and Industry.

Transit.

20. The Government of the Esthonian Republic permits the transit of goods only to those countries which are not under Allied blockade. Applications for the issue of a transit licence should contain the following information :

- (a) The kind of goods.
- (b) Quantity.
- (c) The value of the goods in foreign currency.
- (d) The consignor and consignee and their full addresses.

21. The goods for transit should be accompanied with a certified copy of the invoice and forwarding documents.

22. The transit of goods through Esthonian Territory will be controlled by the Customs authorities in accordance with the late Russian Customs regulations.

23. The goods for transit can be stored at consignor's risk and expense in Esthonian harbours and railway yards, where provision has been made for such storage. They can there be repacked and re-addressed.

24. Until further notice, a War charge of 2% is made on the value of the goods according to their invoice value or value on the London market. This war charge has to be paid either in gold or in the currency of the country of export.

Remark 1. The tax on goods exported from Russia has to be paid in the currency of the country of import, or in Russian gold or silver money at the al pari rate.

Remark 2. Goods imported into Russia by the American Relief Committee are exempted from the War Tax.

25. Transit goods are not liable to requisition and sequestration.

(Signed),

Prime Minister : O. STRANDMAN.

Acting Ministry of Trade and Industry : M. RANDU.

Secretary : P. RUUBEL.

Reval, 15th August, 1919.

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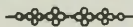


Her Claim for Independence

By JAMES CARO.

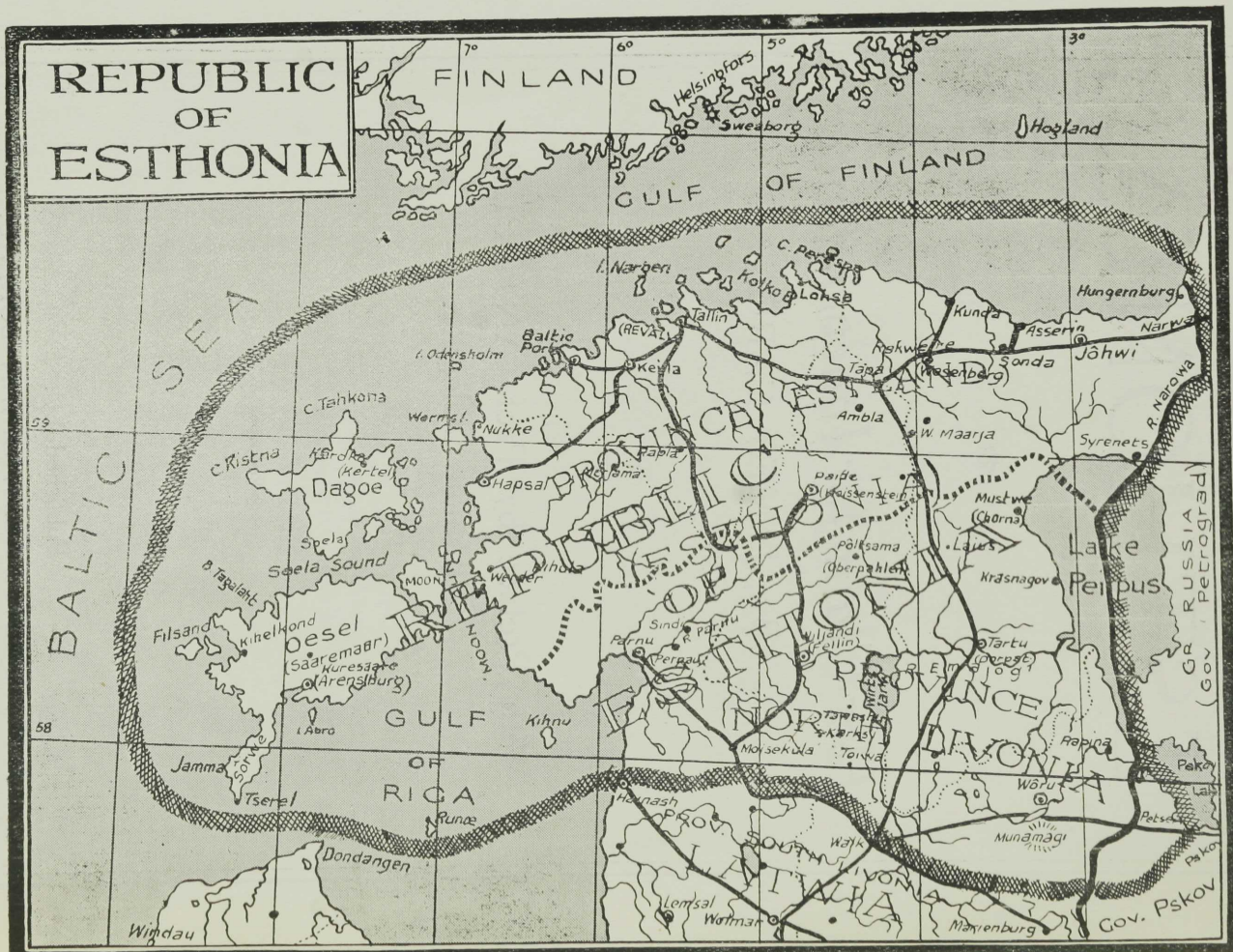


With Preface by Prof. ANT. PIIP,
Esthonian Delegate.



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REPUBLIC OF ESTHONIA



PREFACE.

I am greatly indebted to my valued friend, Mr. James Caro, for his admirable pamphlet on the Esthonian situation. It was under Mr. Caro's presidency that I addressed the first Esthonian Meeting in England, at Liverpool, on 26th May, 1918.

The present position of my country is very sad. German troops being in the country have established a real military terror.

The world is striving towards the day when the solidarity of international democracy shall be established, and whatever aid the Allies give to Esthonia is a step towards that goal.

It cannot be sufficiently emphasised that upon the Independence of Esthonia rests the freedom of the Baltic. Were Germany, after the War, to remain dominant in Esthonia, the Baltic Sea would be transformed into a German lake, and the Baltic trade of the Allies with East Europe and Russia could only be carried on through ports controlled by Germany.

Esthonia, being a free-transit country with free harbours and as far as possible with free trade, in intimate economic connection with Great-Russia and close friendship with allied countries, would be a gateway for the world's commerce into East-Europe.

Esthonia is anxious to play her part in the world and human progress, and she believes that this can best be accomplished by the Great Powers (or a League of Free Nations) guaranteeing her permanent neutrality and independence.

It is gratifying to have received on the 10th of this month a further communication from H.M. British Government assuring to the Esthonian people the right of self-determination and repudiating the German claim to Esthonia.

ANT. PIIP.

LONDON,

18th September, 1918.

ESTHONIA.

HER CLAIM FOR INDEPENDENCE.

By JAMES CARO.

Brief History

The history of Esthonia, like many other small nations, has been a continual fight against oppression. From the beginning of the Thirteenth Century, when the German landing—extending over a period of 30 years' perpetual warfare—deprived Esthonia of her liberty and independence, a succession of powers vied with each other for the ownership of this important part of the Baltic territory.

The continual warfare between the Teutonic Knights of the Cross and the Bishops and Danes was followed by the landing in the Sixteenth Century, 1561, of the Swedes in Estland and Poles in Livland. In the year 1660 the whole of Livonia was also made a Swedish possession.

Under the rule of Sweden the lot of Esthonia was much happier, but the German nobility bitterly opposed the democratic tendency of Sweden to render the conditions of the Esthonian farmers more endurable and humane.

The Russian Tsar, Peter I., who wished to extend his rule throughout the Baltic, succeeded with the help of the nobility and the many German traitors in wresting Esthonia from Sweden in the year 1710.

Esthonia suffered the severity of the Russian rule for over 200 years, and it was not until March, 1917, that the coveted opportunity occurred whereby the people were able to deliver themselves from Russia and elect their own Government.

Esthonian Territory

The land of Esthonia is a small country on the Northern part of the former Russian Baltic Provinces (composed of Esthonia or Estland, North Livonia, Isles in Moon Sound, and the Esthonian parts of Pskov and Petrograd Governments). In area, it consists of over 47,500 square kilometres, and has a population of about one and a half millions, of whom 90 per cent. are Esthonian, 2.4 per cent. Germans, the remainder comprising Russians, Swedes, Letts, Poles, Jews and other nationalities. Seventy-four per cent. of the population live in villages.

The capital town of Esthonia is Reval, an important Baltic port, through which are introduced the principal imports to Russia.

The other large towns are Tartu or Dorpat (Youriev), possessing an ancient University, Pernau and Narva, manufacturing and commercial maritime towns; Arensburg and Hapsal, well-known places of resort; and Fellin, the centre of the flax production; Rakwere (Wesenberg), centre of the cement production.

Social Conditions

We form some idea of the social conditions of the Esthonians from the following extract which deals with the time of the first Russian Revolution, about the year 1905:—

“ In Esthonia, by far the best and most cultivated land is in the hands of a small party of nobility. The poorest and uncultivated land has been left for the use of hundreds of thousands of Esthonian people. This uncultivated tract is the property of a handful of nobles, who exact heavy rents from the populace for it.”

Even now the social conditions are not much better.

According to the Registration in 1897, there were in Livonia 908,744 farmers, and out of them about 40,594 families or 222,970 farmers had land, whilst the 685,774 did not possess land, and were compelled to work as labourers to their more fortunate brothers, or elsewhere seek their livelihood.

The Esthonians have long been held down by tyranny and serfdom, and their development has been consequently hampered. Nevertheless, the “ Round Table ” for March last states that there is hardly another country in Europe where the peasantry is as highly educated as in the Baltic provinces; there are practically no illiterates among the Esthonians, and there is, for the same reason, hardly another peasantry which resents the rule of landlords more violently than they.

In politics, the Esthonians are anti-German, for reasons both social and national. The Esthonian people ask neither for annexation by Germany nor for a personal union with Prussia.

There is a strong co-operative movement in Esthonia, each town and village possessing several Co-operative Societies. The establishment of a Co-operative Society in Esthonia was, in the time of the Tsar, attended with considerable difficulties—the proposal having, first of all, to be approved by the Governor of the Province.

Trade and Industry

The chief occupations of the Esthonians are :—Agriculture, cattle-breeding, and shipping. The manufacturing industries comprise ship-building, iron and textile industries, paper-making and wood-working factories, breweries and wine distilleries.

It may be noted that the Agrarian conditions of this country are unfavourable.

Foreign commerce and shipping have been very considerably developed. Esthonian sailors are well-known all over the world.

Imports

The chief imports into Russia through the important Esthonian port of Reval are English and American manufactures, cotton and coal.

Exports

The principal exports are timber, corn, spirit, flax, and cattle products.

Political Position

Prior to the Russian Revolution of 1917, the Central Self Government was in the hands of the local baronial Landtags. Only in Municipal government were the people able to participate.

By the law of the Russian Provisional Government of 12th April, 1917, in place of these nobility Landtags, the Esthonian National Council or Diet was established on the basis of universal suffrage. This Diet was elected on 7/8th July, 1917.

The Landtags of nobility in Esthonia, Livonia and Oesel were relieved of the business of local administration and self-government. The National Council was also obliged to elaborate a final Esthonian Constitutional Law. This Council elected and established a Government for the country.

During all this time the Esthonian people and National Council were quite loyal to Russia, their desire being to become a state in the Russian Federation.

After the Bolshevist revolution in November last, because of the interior anarchy in Russia, the Esthonian National Council proclaimed its independency on the 28th November (as, of course, the disintegration of the Russian Army prevented any possibility of help from that quarter to assist Esthonia in defending her rights against Germany), and decided to convoke an Esthonian Constituent Assembly. The National Council based the legality of this decision on the rights of democratic representation of the whole of the Esthonian population, and on the principle of self-determination of nations, recognised by the Russian Government as the status of the country.

The Government, together with the Executive Committee of the National Council, and leaders of political parties, were given full power to take extraordinary measures for the safeguarding of the country.

It did not take long for the influence of Bolshevism to spread and take root in Esthonia, and the Government was, as a consequence, temporarily paralysed in the execution of its duties.

As soon as the Bolshevik terror made itself manifest in Esthonia, the German Barons appealed to Germany for troops to occupy Esthonia, and proposed to the Esthonian Government that it should join in this petition, and adopt German protection. The Esthonian Government and the whole Esthonian population refused to associate themselves with such proposals, and denied the right of the German Barons to act as the mouthpiece of the people.

German Invasion

Despite the indignation of the Esthonian people and its representative organs, the Esthonian German nobility decided on the 28th January, 1918, to make a formal application to the German Government to occupy the country with German troops. Against such appeal the authorised representative of the Provisional Government of Esthonia in Stockholm made official protest on the 4th February, 1918, to the German Government.

The German motive in occupying the country was to combat the anarchy and lawlessness of the Bolsheviks who had declared that the Esthonian nobility were outlaws.

As a fact, however, it is to be noted that the reason advanced for the introduction of German troops into Esthonia did not exist, as the Esthonian Government had succeeded in overthrowing the domination of the Bolsheviks and establishing a satisfactory state of order in the country.

On February 24th, the Provisional Government of Independent and Democratic Republic of Esthonia was finally formed, with C. Paets, as Prime Minister, at the head.

Upon the renewal of hostilities with Russia, Germany sent her troops across the Moon Sound, and occupied the Verder, Leal and the whole of Esthonia.

Present Position

The situation in Esthonia at present is, that the Esthonian Government is deprived of its power de facto, the democratic municipal bodies elected and established in 1917 have been disbanded; in Reval a German has been appointed Mayor, and with him a committee of eighteen Germans (the Esthonians refused to participate in this committee); in Dorpat a German merchant has been created Mayor, and in all the villages the committees elected on the basis of the common electoral law have been dismissed. The Esthonian newspapers are suppressed, many of the Esthonian politicians

are arrested and shot, and the German language introduced in the schools, and adopted as the official language of the country.

In these circumstances, the formation of an Esthonian Constituent Assembly, as formerly intended, is an impossibility, especially in view of the fact that the process of election could not be carried out under the present Germanic regime.

The Cry of the People

The elections in January last were, unfortunately, not completed. It is to be noted, however, that 70 per cent. of the people voted for the absolute independence of Esthonia, the remainder preferring an Autonomy, but as part of the Russian Federation. This is conclusive proof that the democratic will expressed by the people is unanimous for Independency. At the present time, whilst German troops are in the country, the only recognised lawful Government is the Esthonian National Council, or Diet, and the Provisional Government authorised by it.

German Barons' Plans.

The German nobility have taken it upon themselves to speak on behalf of the country, expressing their desire for a personal union with Prussia. That they have this right to speak is hotly disputed by the whole of the Esthonian population. A detailed protest was made to the German Government by the Esthonian Delegation in Stockholm on 21st March, 1918. A further protest against the resolution of the Esthonian-Livonian Landesrat's proposition of a union with Prussia was also made to the German Chancellor and Foreign Secretary of State by the Plenipotentiary Esthonian Delegation in Christiania on 13th of April, 1918. These protests were published in the German newspapers. A new protest was made on the 3rd July against German oppression in the country.

Esthonian Independence

Before the German invasion, the Esthonian National Council in Reval, representing the whole population, proclaimed the independence of Esthonia and authorised a delegation to the Foreign Powers asking them to recognise the Independence of the Democratic Republic of Esthonia within her ethnographical frontiers, including the Isles of Moon Sound; to recognise the Provisional Government authorised by the Esthonian National Council as the only legal power of Esthonia, and to grant to Esthonia the right to participate at the general Peace Conference to enable her to defend her interests and introduce the question of Esthonian perpetual neutrality and its international guarantees.

The delegation has received answers from the British, French, and Italian Governments, granting provisional recognition to the Esthonian National Council as a de facto independent body.

These replies reaffirm the Memorandum presented by the British Legation at Stockholm on 20th March, 1918, wherein it was stated that His Majesty's Government was prepared to give recognition to the Esthonian Constituent Assembly as a de facto independent body until the peace congress "when the future status of Esthonia ought to be settled on the principle of self-determination. His Majesty's Government will not recognise any settlement which is contrary to this principle."

Meantime, the delegates of the Esthonian National Council are received by the British and French Governments as the informal diplomatic representatives of the Esthonian Provisional Government.

The German Government will not, however, recognise the justice of the Esthonian cause, and is heedless to the overwhelming demands of the Esthonians for Independency.

It may be asked whether Esthonia is large enough to become an independent state. Her territory exceeds 47,000 square kilometres, and may be compared with the following figures of the small states:—

	square kilometres.
Switzerland	39,000
Denmark	37,000
Holland	31,000
Belgium	28,000
San Marino	60

Esthonia is, therefore, larger than Switzerland, Denmark, Holland or Belgium. She is about one-tenth the size of France, and one-twelfth of Germany.

The population of Esthonia is as follows:—

Esthonians in the country	1,350,000
Other nationalities	150,000
	Total
	1,500,000

For purposes of comparison it may be remarked that Denmark has a population of 2,700,000, Switzerland 3,700,000, Holland 6,100,000, and San Marino 11,000.

Esthonia possesses only 35/40 inhabitants per square kilometre as compared with 100/150 in other countries. Belgium has 254 inhabitants per square kilometre, and Holland 185.

The poor agrarian condition is the cause of the paucity of the population, and has encouraged the Esthonians to emigrate.

It is confidently anticipated that after the needed social and agrarian reforms have been completed, the population will considerably increase.

It can therefore be seen that, provided it is the will of the people, Esthonia is quite suited to be an independent State.

Importance of Esthonia's Independence to Great Britain

It is very essential that Esthonia with her important ports of Reval, Baltic Port, Pernau, Narva, Khelkond, etc., so favourably situated as the doorway to the great Russian markets, should be free and independent. Here is the spot, naturally adaptable, for the development of international commerce.

The intention of the Esthonian Provisional Government is that Esthonia, as far as possible, shall be a free-trade country, with free harbours for international trade with Russia.

It is suggested that Great Britain and the Allies cannot be indifferent to the fate of Esthonia, seeing that it involves a question of free commerce with Russia without German control. It is well-known that Germany considers Esthonia as the chief key of the Baltic Sea into Russia, and it is principally because of this fact that the German Government is unwilling to grant freedom to Esthonia.

Courland and Finland are under German influence, and if Esthonia is not freed from the fetters of Germany, and permitted to maintain her independency, the Baltic Sea practically becomes a German lake.

Esthonia's sons look anxiously and pleadingly to Great Britain, France, Italy, the United States and other Allies and democracies for their help in assisting them to obtain the independency of their beloved but unfortunate country, and to enable them to fulfil their obligations to human progress and civilisation, untrammelled by the heavy chains of German domination.