

Fresh Perspectives on Events of the Day Abroad

How Liebknecht and Luxemburg Were Clubbed to Death

DISPACHES from Germany the other day told briefly of the escape from a Berlin prison of Lieutenant Vogel, the military officer who had been convicted of killing Rosa Luxemburg, the Spartacist leader. The nonchalant ease with which the flight was managed—a friend led him off to an automobile with the guards practically looking on—confirmed the general conviction that the entire criminal procedure instituted by the German government against the murderers of Liebknecht and Luxemburg had been a mere farce. "The London Times" prints now, in its survey of the enemy press, an account of the trial, reconstructing from the evidence presented the story of the murders. We read:

"The annals of crime contain no tragedy more ghoulish than the deaths of Herr Liebknecht and Rosa Luxemburg, and the most fantastic records of the past reveal no greater travesty of justice than the proceedings of the military court which tried the persons accused. The trial lasted a week and was very fully reported in the German press. Nothing could give a clearer picture of the present condition of Germany than the story that has been revealed.

"Liebknecht, a Socialist member of the Reichstag, and Rosa Luxemburg, the leading woman Socialist of Germany, perhaps of the world, were extreme international Socialists, rebels against the present organization of the world into nations and classes. They had been thorns in the flesh of the imperial government and had suffered obloquy and persecution for their opposition to the war. They had broken up the party organizations and when the Majority Socialists became time supporters of the government they moved further to the left, drawing with them some of the best minds in German socialism.

New Bottles!

"When the revolution came and was captured by a coalition of moderate Socialists and rapidly converted imperialists, the old figures under new designations, they rebelled against it and were deeply implicated in the Berlin riots. When these were suppressed they were captured by the government and placed in charge of a military division, the Garde-Schützen Division. While in charge of these soldiers they were killed, admittedly by their guardians, and the body of the woman was thrown into a canal.

"The leading facts leaked out only gradually, and there was little inclination among those in power, and less among their predecessors, to make a fuss over the end of a pair of rebels. But these rebels were idols of the people, and their passionate sincerity had commended them to many prominent radicals whose support the government required. And so after months of waiting the government decided that some kind of trial was necessary.

"Herr Scheidemann remembered that the accused persons were soldiers, and that the peace had not been signed. The form of trial he selected was a court martial, the court being appointed by the Garde-Schützen Division, to which the accused men belonged. The indictment was carefully drawn, and any issues which did not bear directly on the charges were excluded. The adherents of the victims were dissatisfied, and refused to take any part in the proceedings. The accused conducted themselves nonchalantly, one of them reading a newspaper when he felt bored, another eating sandwiches when he was hungry, a third playfully trying to get hold of some hand bombs which one of his chums in uniform happened to have in his pocket.

"On the evening of the murders, soon after sunset, Liebknecht and Rosa Luxemburg were taken to the Eden Hotel, where they spent some hours in charge of their guardians. There was apparently mixed company and a good deal of conversation, some of it animated, in which the two victims discussed and defended their views. Orders were received that they were to be transferred to the Moabit prison, and Liebknecht was taken to the back door of the hotel, where a military car was waiting.

"As they were leaving, one of the company cried out: 'See that these birds do not reach the prison alive!'

The Royal Palace as a Private Residence



"Max! Fetch my pipe from the White Room. I left it on the steps of the throne!"

—From *Lustige Blätter*, Berlin

White Bolshevism

THE term "Red" has entered securely into the "household" category. It is synonymous with Bolshevism—the terror which the "social revolutionists" are busy spreading throughout the world. But here emerges a fact (or at least a theory) which at once startles and soothes. It is called "White Bolshevism," and is no less, according to William G. Shepherd, than a prediction from the lips of Keresky. Mr. Shepherd, who is in Europe for "The New York Evening Post," tells in that paper of an interview with the one-time Russian.

"My first question," he says, "brought out the statement that the Red Terror in Russia is dying out and that the White Terror is soon to come." We read further:

As soon as he spoke Keresky began to show his optimism about Russia. It was queer to see him sitting there safely, in a parlor in Paris, and compare him with the gloomy man whose life did not seem to be worth a sixpence back in the Winter Palace in Petrograd.

"Yes," I agreed. "Bolshevism seems to be dying out just now in Russia. But isn't that because the gardens are blooming and hungry stomachs are being fed? Food and Bolshevism don't go together, do they?"

"Well, the gardens aren't feeding the people as yet, though the cold winter has passed and everybody must be cheerier and warmer."

"But won't another bad winter come, with its hopelessness and hunger? Isn't now the time to get food into Russia to stop Bolshevism next winter?"

"There will be no Bolshevism in Russia next winter," he said with a smile.

"Do you mean that Russia is going to become sane that soon?"

"Yes, I do. Here is what is going to happen in Russia; mark my words:

"The power of the Red Bolsheviks is waning. Kolchak and the other reactionaries are gaining ground every day. The armies of Lenin and Trotsky are fading away. Before very long the Red Bolshevism will disappear in a land

where people are well fed and generally content as they are in the United States. Bolshevism is a disease of tired and exhausted nations and of populations that have been abused for years and decades. You're perfectly safe from such a disease in the United States, I assure you."

Keresky told me that his reports from Russia show that the Russian workman and the Russian peasant have abandoned Bolshevism.

"Out of 400,000 workmen in the Petrograd factories, only 40,000 remain," he said. "The only supporters of the Red Terror now are the men who never did work in all their lives, or who were morally and mentally ruined by the war. They are the class that we must call the 'pus of the war.' They were the first to become Bolsheviks and they will be the last to go. But you have no 'pus of the war' in the United States."

"But all over Russia I saw Bolsheviki who had come from America," I said. "They used to permit me to enter their headquarters in Petrograd when no government official would have allowed by them within half a mile of the place just because I came from their home town, New York."

"Yes, a lot of them did come from New York. But they're all in Russia yet, though they'll soon be wanting to go back home, I suspect. But America wasn't alone in sending us Bolsheviki. They poured out of every country into Russia. Don't take all the blame on yourselves."

As for Keresky—

In the talk-to-day his head was "bloody, but unbowed." As he listened he bit nervously at his finger nails, surveying, occasionally, with his eyes squinted and at very close range, the devastation to his fingers. His hair was cropped short and stood up bristly and dark, with a white scalp showing through. He wore his usual wing collar, with a bow tie. His business suit was gray. His shirt was quietly striped and the cuffs were stiff. He wouldn't have looked like a foreigner anywhere. He would pass, indeed, for an ordinary man except when he squints his eyes. They are Oriental in shape then. His eyelids have no curving lines; their edges run parallel. They remind one of machine gun silts.

Salonica—Dirty, but Gay and Very Prosperous

AVIVID word painting of the ancient city of Salonica—the capital of the Turkish vilayet of Salonica, in Western Macedonia, and one of the principal seaports of southwestern Europe, much "en evidence" during the war—is that given by Lieutenant Colonel Homer Folks, of the American Red Cross, in the following extract from his "Balkan Note Book," which is here reprinted from "The Survey." Colonel Folks writes:

"Salonica, which has had a continuous history of 2,000 years, mostly of fighting and war, is an island of dirt surrounded by an ocean of army hospitals. It is unlike anything that ever was before or ever can be again. The native population is composed entirely of foreigners, Spanish, Jews, Turks and Greeks predominating. No two civilians are dressed alike, and each costume is different from anything that ever was before or ever can be again. They vary from a few primeval rags to such a brilliant collection of fiery colors as is only to be found in an old-fashioned flower garden.

"The military element of the population is made up of soldiers from Great Britain, France, Italy, Serbia, Greece, Russia, Senegal, Madagascar, Tunis, Morocco, India and of the American Red Cross. Huge army hospitals, interminable rows of barracks—wonderfully trimmed and orderly looking—stretch away as far as the eye can see on the Macedonian plains. Tent colonies house Bulgarian prisoners. St. Paul visited Salonica in A. D. 53 to proclaim the principles of Christianity, and the Allied armies visited it in 1916-18 to proclaim the principles of justice and human liberty.

"Its official guide book writer says that Salonica was visited by the plague once every twenty-five years, beginning 1550, and by cholera five times since 1830, the last time in 1913.

"The anopheles mosquito, fed up for centuries on Turks, Greeks and Jews, applied himself diligently to the Allied armies. It was chiefly the mosquito that built these large hospitals. The mosquito that filled them with thousands upon thousands of Allied soldiers; it was the mosquito that sent thousands upon thousands home to France and to Britain.

"Salonica is dirty, without any sort of qualification; it smells to heaven. A flood would not clean it, and if it did it would dirty itself again within twenty-four hours. Its narrow sidewalks, paved with rounded stones and containing deep holes at irregular intervals, make walking a hazardous occupation. If you step from the sidewalk into the street you are in danger of being run down by the innumerable

Let Us Have Light on Polish Pogroms

"LET there be light!" In this sentence the attitude of the American press may be summed up in regard to the statement of Premier Paderewski, of Poland, denying the reports charging plunder and massacre of Jews and demanding an impartial investigation.

Comments point out that with all the good will and sympathy in the world for Poland and the Polish people it is impossible to disregard the impressive bulk of evidence in support of those charges, and that the interest of humanity and the good name of the Polish republic demand alike that religious and racial persecution be stopped without a moment's delay.

Thus "The Philadelphia Public Ledger" insists that "the people of the world are entitled to the truth and the whole truth as to the position accorded to the Jews in Eastern Europe," and suggests that "there is apparently no better way of eliciting the truth on the subject than by an inquiry conducted by disinterested neutrals." "The Springfield Republican" admits that stories of the maltreatment of Jews in Poland may be exaggerated, but "enough authenticated cases have been reported to call for investigation." This newspaper is inclined to discount Paderewski's insinuation that all the Jews who have been done to death were Bolsheviki, and concludes:

"Nor should it be overlooked that one of the severest indictments of the Poles came from the special correspondent of 'The London Times' in Eastern Europe, a strong supporter of Poland and as strongly anti-German and anti-Bolshevist."

American editorial opinion, while approving of Paderewski's demand for an investigation, seems to converge in the belief that the Polish Premier by his sweeping denial of the accusations has overstated his case. "The New York World" says that:

"In claiming that there have been no pogroms; that killings so described have been of enemies in battle, or executions of men found guilty of atrocities, the Polish premier traverses the testimony of many reputable witnesses. In citing the new Polish statutes as to freedom of races he ignores the gap that may yawn between paper proposals and actual local conditions."

In the view of "The Philadelphia Press," Paderewski "cannot issue the invitation (to appoint a committee of inquiry) too soon to suit the American public." The paper continues:

"The reports of cruelty to the Jews with the aid and consent of the Polish authorities have been too numerous and too apparently authentic to be disposed of with a mere general denial. Reluctant as America is to believe that the Poles have so besmirched their new-found liberty, the scandal has gone too far to be disposed of with less than a full, impartial investigation, and, if outrages have really been perpetrated, energetic measures to stop them."

"The Boston Transcript" points to Poland's historic record of toleration toward the Jews, and remarks that "while it may be impracticable to hold the government of the Polish republic responsible" for the recent outrages, "it appears to be necessary to solve the problem presented by the direct issue of fact raised by the diverse statements (for the most part presented with names and dates) of the Jewish committee." According to "The New York Call" (Socialist), the Jewish pogroms "attest the reactionary character" of Paderewski's government, and "the whole wretched thing is a caricature of the ethical cant with which the world has been filled for the last four years."

