

BRITISH INFANTRY CROSSES RHINE

Soldiers March Through Cologne in Rain as People Watch

BIG GUNS ON LEFT BANK

But They'll Be Silent Unless Fresh Madness Breaks Out Among Germans

By PHILIP GIBBS Special Cable to Evening Public Ledger

Cologne, Dec. 13 (delayed). Following the cavalry, who went ahead yesterday, some of our infantry divisions crossed the Rhine today. It was a wet morning, with steady rain washing the streets of Cologne and dripping in the waterpans from the gables above the shop fronts.

But these long columns of men with their field guns and machine guns and their baggage wagons had a warlike look and their march through the narrow streets of Cologne impressed the German people who stood under umbrellas or in the shelter of the shop fronts watching them pass.

An old German Jew, back from Russia, where all his war profits had been stolen by the Bolsheviks, spoke to me and said that the Germans in Russia used to say: "The old man said 'Now they know better.'"

Across one of the bridges over the Rhine went battalions of Scottish troops of the Ninth Division, who have been leading this advance through Germany after long fighting in Flanders; and the music of their pipes went wafting down the Rhine, over the Dutch barges, which are lying there by the quaysides, under the shadow of the great cathedrals, whose spires rise to heaven as it seems, above the little old gabled houses down there on the river's edge.

Wood in a long way from Cologne, and the Ninth Division, which fought through its shell-lashed trees in the first battle of the Somme, have marched over many battlefields and left many of their comrades on the way before getting to this journey's end.

heavy guns of ours are in position with stacks of shells about them, and their snouts raised for high-angle fire across the river, where there are straggling towns and factories under black steamers. These things are visible proof of our power over the Rhine, but no mad madness breaks out and new tragedy overtakes the world there will be no roar of gunfire over this broad river.

YOUTH OF GERMANY DEMANDS RECOGNITION

Demonstration by Youngsters in Berlin Amuses Thousands of Spectators

By LEONARD SPRAY Special Cable to Evening Public Ledger

Rotterdam, Dec. 18. Humor, even though unconscious, seems to have dawned in Germany with the revolution. It is manifested in Berlin Sunday in the form of a demonstration of youths organized by the Spartacus group.

About 1000 young people of both sexes took part, mostly from ten to seventeen years of age, and some even younger. These precocious youths and lassies formed a procession and to the huge amusement of thousands of spectators marched to the Reichstag building, where they halted while a deputation entered in order to present their demands to the Reichstag Council.

While this was being done a youth mounted a pedestal and informed the crowd that their demands were as follows: "A six-hour working day for all under eighteen."

"Fixing of a minimum wage, which must be high enough to provide means of existence."

"Limitation of the period of apprenticeship to two years."

"The franchise at the age of eighteen."

"The right of the youth to participate in the government of the state."

"Abolition of all disciplinary punishments."

"The executive committee of the council treated the matter in all seriousness and sent out one of its members to address the demonstrators. He told them that so far as he was concerned he was in favor of their demands, but he added that the executive committee could do nothing, as its power was passing to the new authority to be established by the Soldiers and Workers' congress."

"The youth of the country have kept going the economic life of Germany during the war. If our demands are not immediately and unconditionally conceded the youth of Germany will have a general strike."

HUGH CECIL ELECTED

Coalition Candidates From Oxford Chosen for Commons London, Dec. 18.—Lord Hugh Cecil and Mr. E. P. Dutton, the coalition candidates, have been declared elected to the House of Commons for the two seats of Oxford University.

SLOVAK PEASANTS REJOICE IN NEW-FOUND LIBERTY

Simple Shepherds in Northern Hungary Give Thanks to God and Laud President Wilson When They Learn of Czecho-Slovak Republic

By HAROLD WILLIAMS Special Cable to Evening Public Ledger

Berne, Dec. 18. It is a relief to turn from watching the gloomy developments in defeated Germany and to see the joy of the liberated peoples that are now founding new States amid the ruins of the Central Empires. It is good to remember that, while politicians are anxious and perplexed by the difficulties of the transition period, the people themselves are simply rejoicing in their new liberty.

There are the Slovaks, for instance, that people of peasants and shepherds in the hill country of northern Hungary, who, after maintaining their nationality intact through 4000 years of Magyar rule, now find themselves liberated as by a miracle and united to their Czech kinsmen of Bohemia and Moravia in a free Czecho-Slovak republic.

I have just received a bundle of Slovak and Czech papers which give a delightful picture of the awakening of this picturesque people to liberty. In all the Slovak towns and villages crowded and enthusiastic meetings are being held to celebrate the new era, and it is touching to read with what wondering happiness these simple folk hear that they are now allies of the greatest nations on earth and that the power of their old oppressors is completely broken.

At Eperjes, under the shadow of the eastern Carpathians, a civil national council has been formed by individuals who never fought for the Slovak cause, and it has proclaimed an independent Slovak republic, separate from Bohemia.

But, as President Masaryk in a speech said, you cannot found a State on a dialect, and the movement had slight success.

Rejected New Council When the inhabitants of the district very near Eperjes were called on to send representatives to this new council they scornfully rejected the offer and stood by the Turin National Council and for the Czecho-Slovak republic.

In any case, the danger is now removed by a remarkable communication made on December 3, in the name of the Entente, by the French colonel at Budapest to Karolyi and Hutzler, the Czecho-Slovak representatives. This declaration empowers Czecho-Slovak troops as Allies to occupy the Slovak country in the name of the Entente under the terms of the armistice, and orders the immediate withdrawal of Magyar troops.

BOLSHEVIK SAILORS DRIVEN MAD BY EXECUTION HORRORS

Chinamen Hired to Replace Them Bungle Work—Hideous Torture of Men in Russian Prison Described by Englishman Who Escaped

Special Cable to Evening Public Ledger Copyright, 1918, by New York Times Co. London, Dec. 18.

The Daily Chronicle prints an interview with Victor Bulmer, an Englishman, long resident of Petrograd, who has just made his escape. He says: "The conditions in Petrograd are terrible. Men are nightly taken in bunches from the fortress of Peter and Paul and summarily executed. The guard would look in about midnight and call out twenty or thirty men, saying significantly: 'You need not bring your things.' Soon afterward the volleys of the firing party could be heard from the cells."

AUTONOMY FOR CATALONIA Spanish Government Offers Deputies a Tentative Plan

Madrid, Dec. 18.—(By A. P.)—The Government has submitted to the deputies from the Catalonian district an offer to refer Catalonia's demand for autonomy to an extra parliamentary commission, whose report will be submitted to the Cortes for its approval.

DUTCH SEEK ALLIED FAVOR Want Closer Business Relations with Entente Nations

Paris, Dec. 18.—There is an important movement under way in Dutch commercial, political and financial circles, according to a dispatch from The Hague to the States, indicating that the foreign policy of the Netherlands will assume a new direction based on closer relations with the Entente nations.

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ter, and twenty-two rubles for a pound of cheese. "Though Englishmen in the fortress of Peter and Paul were much threatened, the menaces were not carried to extremes, but I fear that the British subjects still left in Petrograd are likely to be shot as soon as there is any sign of the English troops advancing in Russia. Remember the Bolshevik has declared that for every man he loses he will take 1000 heads of the combined peoples against him, and he is issuing most bloodthirsty placards."

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