

Horrors Worse Than Kishineff Charged Against Russia To-day

Unparalleled Conspiracy to Crush the Jews Alleged to Be Organized to Cover Up Defeats of Czar's Troops—Torture and Massacre Declared to Be Rife in Hundreds of Towns



M. Maklakoff, Minister of the Interior.

By HERMAN BERNSTEIN, Editor of "The Day."

SINCE the destruction of the Temple in Jerusalem the Jewish people have had no darker page in their history than that which the Russian Government is writing to-day. Six million Jews, one-half of the Jewish people throughout the world, are being persecuted, hounded, humiliated, tortured, starved. Thousands of them have been slaughtered. Hundreds of thousands of Jews, old men, women and children, are being driven mercilessly from town to town—driven by the Government, attacked by the troops of their own country, plundered and outraged.

Upward of 400,000 Jews are fighting for Russia in the armies, fighting bravely and loyally. The list of Jewish heroes is so large that the Russian censor has commenced to suppress their Jewish names.

The horrors of Kishineff and Homel and the pogroms that were organized in hundreds of Russian towns on the same day attracted universal attention and were condemned by the entire civilized world because those pogroms were made in times of peace.

The situation of the Jews in Russia is far graver to-day. The wholesale expulsions, the executions of Jews without trial, now occur when their brethren are giving their lives for their country. An unparalleled conspiracy against the entire Jewish population of Russia is at this time being organized in order to cover and excuse the demoralization and defeats of the Russian troops and to make it impossible for the Jews to get recognition in the form of equal rights after the war is ended.

The Belgians were ruined, massacred. The whole world was shocked. Universal sympathy was aroused. The world was most generous in its response. It has given bread to the starving and hope to the ruined nation.

The Polish people, too, are ruined. Their fields, drenched with blood, are desolate. Their towns are destroyed, their industries paralyzed, their women and children are starving. But they have promises that give them hope for a rejuvenated, united and autonomous Poland.

The Jews of Russia are tortured and massacred, but not even a ray of hope is held out to them. The world does not know of the horrors that are being perpetrated upon them in Russia while the war is going on. The Russian censorship is so strict that it is almost by a miracle that any news escapes from the house of death—the provinces known as the Jewish Pale of Settlement.

On January 29 I received a cablegram from the Russian Prime Minister, M. Goremykin, which read as follows:

"Reports Jewish pogroms in Polish towns nonsense."

The Russian Premier's cablegram was in answer to my inquiry as to whether there was truth in the reports of pogroms contained in thousands of letters that reached America from eye-witnesses and relatives of victims of these pogroms. Georg Brandes, the great Danish author, had already written his masterly essay on the Jewish pogroms in the Polish provinces.

On February 9, 1915, M. Sazonov, the Russian Minister of Foreign Affairs, declared in the Duma:

"Among the malevolent inventions which Russian troops are alleged to have organized, I seize this opportunity of speaking in the parliamentary tribune to deny this calumny categorically, for if the Jewish population in the theatre of war is suffering, that is an inevitable evil, since the hostilities are proceeding always have been severely tried."

Now, we have in this country a Russian Dr. Debnurk, M. Sazonov, the editor of the now defunct *Rossiya*, the Russian semi-official organ, which was known for its reactionary and anti-Jewish policies. M. Syromyatnikoff seems to



Prime Minister Goremykin.

have realized that the tactics employed by his newspaper in Russia would not do in this country; that he must conduct his campaign here upon different lines if he would win the sympathy of the American people for Russia. So he flatters the American people and denies the atrocities that are committed by the Russian Government against the Jews.

I met M. Syromyatnikoff in Washington last January. I asked him about the reported atrocities against the Jews in Russia and about the prospects of the Jewish people securing human rights in Russia at the close of the war. I asked him whether he thought the Russian Government would permit a commission to investigate the reported outrages in the Polish provinces and I expressed the opinion that since Prime Minister Goremykin was so sure that the pogrom reports were "nonsense," the Russian Government should welcome such an investigation.

M. Syromyatnikoff replied: "A Russian Prime Minister always tells the truth. I travelled through the Polish provinces recently. It is true that Jews are executed there. The Poles denounce the Jews as spies to the Russian authorities and the Russian troops, having no time to investigate matters, simply shoot them down or hang them."

Concerning the prospects for the Jews of Russia after the war, he said: "The Jews are on trial now. They are acquitting themselves splendidly. They are loyal and they are brave. Although the Czar has made no promises to improve their condition after the war, he will probably do something for them in recognition of their services in the war. I have no authority to say anything definite on this subject. At any rate, I believe that the Czar will leave the question of Jewish rights for the Imperial Duma to decide."

M. Syromyatnikoff thus treats the accounts of the Russian pogroms in a signed statement published in American newspapers:

"My American friends ask me: 'Is it true that the Russian Government is as cruel and oppressive as it is reported to be by certain American papers?' Is it true that the victory of Russia in this war will mean the growth of aggressive Pan-Slavism and a menace to Western civilization? Is it true that the Russian soldiers indulge themselves in hanging Jews by the hundreds and in violating their wives and daughters? Is it true that the Russian people are but a host of barbarians? These questions prove to me how much American public opinion is interested in all things Russian and how scarce are the sources from which Americans can get trustworthy information about real Russia."

"I know that the horrible stories of the alleged atrocities of the Russian soldiers interested in all things Russian and how scarce are the sources from which Americans can get trustworthy information about real Russia. I believe in them I would like to have some verified material from the other

M. Sazonov, Foreign Minister.

the Duma said in answer to M. Sazonov's sweeping denial made in the Duma.

Though the Russian censorship is stricter than ever before, there arrive here from time to time letters containing descriptions of the horrors experienced by the Jews of Russia during this war. Recently received a striking note bearing the postmark of Minsk, Russia, and the stamp of the censor who apparently approved it. In it was the following tragic plea:

"Dear Mr. Bernstein: We have read in the newspapers that you heard about the Jewish massacres in Poland. You cannot imagine how the Cossacks are plundering our brethren. They are robbing us. I come from Poland, where I was plundered by our troops, the Cossacks. The authorities are sending innocent old Jews—men and women—to Siberia. We have written you many letters from Poland about our troubles, but you are not getting them."

"Dear brethren, have mercy on the six million Jews in Russia and take our part! Ask the Russian Ministers why we are being tortured so mercilessly. Our children are slaughtered in the Russian army. We are contributing large sums of money too. But we are attacked from all sides. We have no rights. We are driven from the villages. Wherever they can find them they cast it upon us. 'Lord, make an end to our sufferings! We have no strength to endure them any longer. This letter is written with tears and blood. I wanted to write much more, but I am sure that such a letter would not reach you.'"

"From a Polish sufferer, 'Cherni Vozes'."

In 1912, while I was travelling in Europe as special correspondent for *The Sun*, I visited the Russo-German frontier towns, Neustadt, Scherndorf, my birthplace. The peaceful, prosperous little towns, picturesque and quaint, bore a holiday aspect. The annual fair had brought out the population to the squares, where the merchants and the farmers bargained and the youths and maidens, attired in their Sunday clothes, spoke playfully in front of the cathedral in the centre of the town. Their merry laughter, their flashing eyes, the part-colored dresses of the girls, and the carefree spirit that seemed to permeate the atmosphere presented an idyllic scene.

Now these two frontier towns are no more, having been practically wiped off the face of the earth. Twice these towns were in Russian hands, and twice they were recaptured by the Germans. The fields and the homes were destroyed, the people were either killed or driven away or exiled to Siberia.

The following extracts from a letter written recently by one of the inhabitants of Neustadt to her brothers in South Carolina are characteristic for their pathos and their simplicity and directness:

"You must have received the last Russian postals I sent you by this time. For the past two weeks no mail has left our town, but fortunately I had a chance to send them to Wilm. 'The German army is in our midst again. You know the German soldiers were here once before, away back in the fall, for several weeks. At that time, however, the Russians returned on their way to Germany. Now the Germans have driven them back as far as Kovno.'"

"I could tell you much, my dear brothers, very much, but I have lost my spirit. I have become almost hardened to every form of misery. There have been times when I would have given a great deal to be able to write you a few words. Then I was not allowed to do it and now it seems to me that I will never realize from the lifeless words what is happening in Russia. I think the newspapers cannot begin to know what we have endured,

what we have seen and heard. No person can appreciate what has been going on here. Streams of innocent blood have been shed. No one can imagine the agony that the Russians have inflicted upon us.

"How can I begin to describe these scenes as I should like to portray them to you? I have not the power. I wish you could have our story published in the American newspapers (if it is permitted). We should write and write of our experiences and never cease. I think in America they must know something of the Russian atrocities.

"Still in such an enlightened country as America the people will scarcely believe that such things could happen in the twentieth century. But it is a great wonder too that such a world war is tolerated and no effort is made to check it. From afar they watch so much innocent bloodshed, so many young lives shattered. They don't seem to mind.

"It appears that the world has grown accustomed to horror and crime; that it does not understand, it does not realize how great and heinous these outrages are that are being committed on the battlefields. We have thrown all sense of shame to the winds and are sinking deeper and deeper into mire and crime.

"If you could see what has become of the beautiful East Prussia, what the ruthless Russians have made of it—just as if a wild boar had been turned loose in a rich vineyard. What he can devour and the rest he do this he tramples upon all the lovely vines and digs them up by the roots. When he is done no one would ever dream that a beautiful garden once grew there."

"No, even this is not a fair comparison. It is true the Russians behaved like wild beasts. We had enough outrages of our own to endure at their hands, but we almost forgot our sorrows when, night after night, we saw hundreds of three across the Prussian border. Every evening the sky would be turned into a huge blazing sheet, just as if the whole world were enveloped in flames. What was not burned was plundered.

"They used to bring their booty over to Poland and sell it here. The large, fine Prussian cows which cost at least 400 marks were sold for 15 rubles. Horses that were worth 1,000 marks the Cossacks and the soldiers sold for 20 or 30 rubles."

"Among the Russian soldiers there were often good men who used to tell us, with tears in their eyes, of the atrocities they had witnessed in East Prussia. They would say that what happened beggared description. They were not going to war, but to plunder. Many a poor woman was robbed and left destitute with her little children. The unfortunate victims were not allowed to leave the ruined villages. They could not even cross their fields because the Russians would declare them spies—and that meant they were shot."

"The results of such accusations one can easily imagine. Through the city of Neustadt drove a little child, we were driven in the most bitter frosts. The soldiers beat with their guns those who were weak and could not march quickly. Then, too, the soldiers are free to rob the property of the Germans who are driven into exile. Many of them even brag that they have driven a German boy so that they could not go to the front to help their accused Wilhelm."

One could soon grow mad from the stories the soldiers told. Words failed. The wounds are still unhealed. They bring my heart.

"A whole drove of soldiers and officers came and filed our house and our yard. They demanded eggs, butter, meat, etc. They won't take 'no' for an answer. For them we must provide everything. And when we place before them on the table all the food that we can scrape together in the house we have to taste everything first."

"You haven't by any chance put poison in the food, have you? they cry. 'You false, treacherous spies! You are not above any villainy. Just taste it yourself first! That is the thank you for your services. Many Jews have been slaughtered in the fall, and mother begged them to leave a few, the soldiers answered: 'What are you standing around here for? If you like we'll cut your throat too, as we're going to do after the war you will see. You will get for selling your Fatherland to the Germans!'"

"And because of this suspicion they hanged thousands of innocent Jews and sent many more to Siberia. Whenever they suffer defeat they revere their accusations. Many Jews are missing in Neustadt. Some have gone to the great beyond; others are plinking in prisons. Many have been exiled to Archangel.

"Solovitchik, the dry goods merchant, buried his silver in the stable because there were many fires on account of the cannon. When the Germans were driven back into East Prussia he went to dig up his silver, because he was planning to leave for Russia. A soldier found him holding a shovel. The soldier immediately accused him of digging a telephone for the Germans and demanded 500 rubles."

"An officer soon came up. Solovitchik is now in Siberia. In vain his son ran to the Governor. The most respected men in the city were only too eager to vouch for his integrity. He was soon released."

"Winkelstein, an old man of 70, started a fire in his stove with wet twigs. A dense black smoke rose from his chimney. He was arrested on the charge that the dark smoke was a signal for the Germans."

"Nosen, a shoemaker, works around the Custom House, was hanged because he was caught with a field glass in his hand."

"They exiled Jaffe's daughter to Archangel because German officers ate in their house and paid her. Everything in their house was de-

FULTON STREET BROOKLYN ADVERTISEMENTS. FREDERICK LOESER & CO. Livingston St. Elm Place
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BROOKLYN - NEW YORK

Great June Sale of Misses' & Women's Summer Clothing
This Sale Is Founded on Economy, Timeliness, Desirability
THREE QUALITIES WHICH MOST OF ALL DETERMINE VALUE. Included are all the styles of garments that will be in special service this summer, for travelers and vacationers as well as for stay-at-homes.
Perhaps most important is this purchase of several thousand
\$10 Summer Dresses for \$5.75
Linen Embroidered White Voiles Fancy Crepes
Mercerized Poplins Fancy Striped Voiles All White and Colors
They are made in the newest styles, some three-tier models, some jacket effects among them. Girdles and belts of silk velvet and satins, some of suede and other leathers.
All colors in the range, all white and all black, as well as the fashionable shades. All sizes, too, from 14, 16 and 18 years, to 34 to 46 for women. Plenty of awning and novelty stripes. Some simply trimmed in the styles; some quite elaborate.
\$15 to \$25 Coats at \$10, \$13.50 and \$15
Sports Outing Steamer Dress
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Disposal of 79 Women's and Misses' Suits High Grade, Man Tailored, Val. to \$40 at \$15
These include shepherd and fancy checks, gabardines, serge, light, dark and medium colorings.
2,000 Summer Separate Skirts, \$2, \$3 and \$3.95
The best looking Skirts anywhere this season at less than \$5. They include every new wrinkle of fashion. They are smartly tailored by men, not dressmaker made. They copy individual high-priced styles.
Over 15 styles in this range of prices, and waistbands from 23 to 32; all lengths. Tailor made.
They are made of white cotton gabardine, English plaids, several widths of wale, striped plaids, epaulettes, linens, cordelines, cotton bedfords, madras, etc. Practically all have self belts. All with pockets, inverted, vertical or patch style. Many open all the way down front for convenience in laundering.
Purchase of \$20 Summer Frocks Now \$10.75
They include jacket and surplus waists, all with net foundations; some of them even with net foundations to the skirts. Collars and vestees of fine nets, many lace trimmed.
Embroidered voiles, embroidered crepes, half silk crepes, etc., in a wide range of delicate shades on white. All sizes for women and misses. Just 135 of them. Values that cannot be repeated.
Girls' \$4, \$5, \$6 Tailored Dresses, \$1.95
A special purchase of 335 Dresses, chiefly for girls 8, 10 and 12 years.
They are made of Rame and French linen and of English repps or cotton poplins. Some of imported Anderson gingham, very silky and softly plaided included.
They are hand-embroidered and hand-smocked, and some have pretty lingerie collars. Silk velvet or suede leather belts. Plaided skirts, various styles of bodices. A manufacturer's disposal of all his stock reminders of high class tailored dresses.
Second Floor, Fulton Street.

\$2 All Silk 40 Inch Natural Pongee Silk, 89c
A WAY BELOW THE COST OF MANUFACTURE, this extra wide all silk Pongee in the natural ecru color is a genuine bargain. No other silk is so fashionable or so serviceable for motor coats, mountain outfit suits and dresses, etc. It will wear like iron. Slight errors in the weave allow us to make the price 89c. instead of the usual \$2.
\$1 All Silk 35-Inch Colored Chiffon Taffeta, 78c
Main Floor.

SETTING A SEASON'S RECORD Boys' \$5 and \$6 Norfolk Suits, \$3.50
Many With TWO PAIRS of Trousers
A RECORD SALE for this season—perhaps for any season since it far outclasses anything we were able to secure last summer.
All are Suits of real worth—Loeser \$5 and \$6 values. All are tailored after our own specifications—some indeed are our own work, and the others are from makers with whom we regularly do business.
Fancy fabrics in great variety—mixtures, plaids, gingham, the desirable checks—made up the lot. Size ranges are complete from 7 to 17 years.
The very best opportunity we have known; probably one we will not be able to equal very soon.
Main Floor.

Silk Gloves for Women, 29c., 39c., 55c
Tricot Silk Gloves, 2-Clasp, for 29c
EXCELLENT TRICOT SILK; double finger tips to insure service; all sizes; black and white. We know of many places where these Gloves are sold for 39c to 50c. a pair.
16-Button Mousquetaire Silk Gloves, 39c
Also of fine tricot silk in black and white; double tipped.
75c. Milanese Silk Gloves, 2-Clasp, for 55c.
Milanese silk of a very strong and satisfactory weave; double-tipped fingers; black and white; also white embroidered with black and black embroidered with white.
\$1 and \$1.25 Silk Gloves, 16-Button, 65c
Sixteen-button Mousquetaire Silk Gloves in white and black.
Main Floor.

\$2.98 Lingerie and Silk Blouses, Values to \$6
ONE MODEL OF FINE HANDKERCHIEF Linen, group tucked down back and each side of the front, rolling round collar and separate revers extend to waist, finished with fine hand embroidered scallop.
Three-quarter sleeves and hand-scalloped cuffs. One of exquisitely fine organdie, back and front with panels of fine organdie. German Val., also used on sleeves and collar; pleated edges. Blouse of group striped China silk, black, navy and beige. Five rayon stripes and wide white space. Tailored, low V-neck.
Another style with Quaker and Puritan collars, some elaborately with lace and embroideries, some simply trimmed with cording, hemstitching, plain organdie collars, etc.

Three Hundred Brass Bedsteads Third to Half Under Regular Prices
THE BEDSTEADS are in bright or satin finish and presenting a large variety of the most attractive designs. Mostly in full size.
Such reductions as these:
\$38 Bedsteads at \$4.85
\$12 Bedsteads at \$8
\$22 Bedsteads at \$13.50
\$24 Bedsteads at \$14.50
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\$35 Bedsteads at \$17.50
\$38 Bedsteads at \$19.50
\$40 Bedsteads at \$21
\$44 Bedsteads at \$22
\$52 Bedsteads at \$34
Third Floor.

June Brides' Sale of China
\$18 Porcelain Dinner Sets, \$9.98
\$29.85 Theo. Haviland Dinner Sets, \$14.98
\$50 Lanterim Limoges Dinner Sets, \$25
\$75 Old Abbey Limoges Dinner Sets, \$39
FOUR CLASSES OF DINNER SETS are represented by the above, and in each case THE VALUE SETS A NEW RECORD. All are pretty; all are of excellent character. Each Set represents the best china in its class and of the highest quality.
At \$9.98, reg. \$18. Fine porcelain in a border pattern of disconnected figures in soft colors, gold-lined edge; 100 pieces.
At \$14.98, reg. \$29.85. Theo. Haviland China Dinner Sets in pink spray pattern with gold on handles. One of our regular open-stock patterns reduced specially for this sale. It is a real bargain. It can be matched any time at regular prices.
At \$25, reg. \$50. Set from the Lanterim Pottery Limoges. Entire pattern in pink and gold, continuous border. Fine ware, finished with handles of best china gold. Full service for 12 persons.
At \$39, reg. \$75. Old Abbey Limoges china in continuous border pattern. Pieces are in a new, practical and useful shape with handles on platters and other novel features. Edges finished with heavy band of gold color. Handles also gold color.
Dinner Sets at \$12.98 to \$75; Regularly to \$110.

Gift Quality Cut Glass at Half
\$4.98 Fancy Fruit Bowls, \$1.98
\$5.98 Eight-Inch Fruit or Cake Baskets, \$2.98
\$10 Fourteen-Inch Flower Vases, \$3.98
THREE SPECIAL ITEMS FOR TOMORROW selected from among hundreds of almost equally notable quality and value. Other specials in Cut Glass as follows:
98c., Regularly to \$2.50
Two-handled Bonbon Dishes, Vinegar and Oil Bottles, Bud Vases, Bonbon Sets, Flower Vases, Butter-balls, Trays, Pickle Dishes, 6-inch Flower Vases, etc.
Jelly Dishes, 2-body Bonbon Trays, Butter-balls, Vinegar and Oil Bottles, Sugar and Cream Sets, Bonbon Dishes, 6-inch Flower Vases, Bonbon and Olive Dishes, Pickle Dishes, etc.
\$1.98, Regularly to \$4
Celery Trays, 10 and 12 inch Flower Vases, 8-inch Jelly Dishes, Bonbon Sets, Butter-balls, Sugar Trays, Bonbon and Olive Dishes, 6-inch Flower Vases, etc.
\$2.98, Regularly to \$6
8-inch Fruit Bowls, 8-inch Fruit or Cake Baskets, 12-inch Bonbon Trays, 10 and 12 inch Flower Vases, 8-inch Trays, Bonbon and Olive Dishes, 6-inch Flower Vases, Sugar Baskets, Bonbon and Olive Dishes, 6-inch Flower Vases, etc.