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Russians Demand Death of Army Officers

Former War Minister and his Wife May be Executed--Sensational Developments as Result of Inquiry.

PETROGRAD, July 1.—The report of the Commission which investigated the charges against the former War Minister, General Soukhomlinoff, is creating tremendous excitement. A number of peasants' delegations from the Provinces have arrived here to demand the execution of the ex-Minister and his wife. This demand is supported by the labor unions and almost all political organizations.

The Commission appointed for the investigation by the Imperial Council consisted of the Senators Rogozhnik and Kusmin and Col. Noo-witich, the prosecuting officer of the Military Court of Moscow, and has been at work four months.

The Commission states that General Soukhomlinoff received enormous bribes from army contractors. He had organized a regular and extensive system of graft. His principal aides were Ivan Hoshkelwitich, an engineer, and relative of his wife, a married couple by the name of Aktschler, a certain Maxim Wober, a Mrs. Anna Aurich, and the notorious Rzewski, whose intimate relations with former Minister of the Interior Chwostow caused the downfall of the latter. Rzewski has made a partial confession.

The statements made by Rzewski, have also connected Gen. Soukhomlinoff with the activities of Lieutenant-Colonel Mjassojedow, who was executed some time ago for treason. The Commission charges the ex-Minister with high treason and states that he drove the country unprepared into war, so as to be able to graft on a larger scale than before.

His Wife Also a Grafter.
The court clique is doing its utmost to save the indicted General, but he will probably have to pay the penalty for his crimes, because the power and influence of his friends has diminished greatly since the details of the incredible scandal became known.

Gen. Soukhomlinoff was honest, it is believed, until he became commander of the garrison of Kieff. There he made the acquaintance of a number of doubtful characters who gained great influence over him. These criminals and conspirators introduced him to the beautiful woman who is now his wife and who, it is alleged, has caused his downfall.

After his marriage his wife obtained large army contracts for her friends and shared the profits with them. When he was appointed War Minister the clique followed him to Petrograd and reaped a golden harvest. Through extravagant living he got deeply into debt and finally started to graft himself.

Col. Mjassojedow, who has been executed for treason, was an intimate friend of the Soukhomlinoffs.

When the Colonel was arrested the police found letters in his possession which left no doubt that the wife of the War Minister was also guilty of treason. At that time all Russia demanded the execution of the woman, but Rasputin and the former Prime Minister Goremynkin, protected her and she was only banished to southern Russia. Within three months she returned to Petrograd to resume her interrupted grafting operations with the aid of her husband.

WAR AMID APES AND CROCODILES.

East Africa a Campaign in Wonderland--Astonishing the Natives of the Jungle.

LONDON, July 2.—Reuter's special correspondent with General Smuts' force in East Africa writes:—
We campaign in Wonderland, a land of surprising beauty, deep, dark forests, rushing, snow-cooled torrents radiating from the mountainous mass that stands upon the marshes of British and German East Africa.

Orcs of rare brilliancy of colour gigantic Baobabs, entanglements of tropical tendrils, hot-houses heat, roads tunnelled through forests, rough and rustic bridges spanning the gorges, and over all the brooding spirit of "the man and the woman"—Kilima Njaro.

The natives worship the mountain as a fetish. It is seldom to be seen in this misty weather. Only at sunrise and at sunset are the glistened walls of the mighty crater, the "womb of the world, from which man and woman were cast forth," visible. Then for a moment gilded by the eastern rays or crimson in the west, the splendour of the unsalable heights is unveiled for the admiration of the faithful.

But this tropical terrain is as poisonous as it is beautiful. The lion and the leopard, to say nothing of the lizard, keep its fastnesses.

A scared motor-lorry driver reported recently that two "rhinos" had attempted to charge his lorry.
"This place," complained a Cockney chauffeur, "is a blooming zoo; and they don't lock the animals up at night."

Bok and game birds abound, and

although shikari is forbidden, birds and bok attempting to bite our harmless soldiery have so be destroyed (and eaten) in self-defence.

Horrified hippos disturbed in the quietude of their lairs by the buzz of motor cycles, charge about open-mouthed with a protesting snort.

Through the shadows of this forest land we have driven our motor-wags, and great automobiles rumble incessantly where protestant monkeys chatter and scream.

These monkeys at the fight on the Lumi River made so much noise, screaming and yelling amongst the trees, that it was difficult to hear orders. The Bander-log are very angry at the invasion of their territory.

On one occasion our big guns attracted the curious attention of a number of wild ostriches. After a round or two they scampered off.

An imperial officer with the enveloping force in the advance upon Mosh reports that the Germans are using the bottles (all empty and mostly with English labels) as insulators for their field wires.

In connection with the main advance, General van Deventer was to have enveloped the enemy's immediate left, and his movement was so far successful as to force the evacuation of the strong position of Salaita; but, held up by a crocodile-infested river which his burghers had hoped to be able to swim, he was unable to intercept the enemy's withdrawal after his defeat. The Germans retired down the Moeffi-Tanja line.

Made Escape in Novel Costume.

PARIS, July 2.—There is still no definite news as to what happened to Gilbert, the famous French aviator, who is believed to have made his escape from prison in Zurich on Thursday. Quite a number of persons assert that they have met Gilbert in Paris, but none of their statements appear to be reliable.

All that is definitely known, says the Liberte, is that Gilbert broke prison on Thursday and directly his escape became known all the gates of Zurich were shut and all the guards and sentries notified. Apparently Gilbert did not leave Zurich until Friday, having lain in hiding on Thursday night.

At dawn on Friday a poor market gardener's cart left Zurich, following the road which runs along the bank of the Limat. In this cart was a

peasant and a wrinkled old woman, whose head was covered with a large spotted red handkerchief. Several gendarmes passed this miserable looking cart, but none troubled to ask any questions. It had barely left the city, however, when a passerby heard the old woman cry out in a surprisingly masculine voice: "Zut! I forgot about my scarf!"

It is significant that Gilbert has a very noticeable scar on his chin, the result of an aeroplane accident some time ago. The old cart continued on its way, but none knows what became of it.

New Talent

"Why do you insist on taking summer boarders?"
"I like to have them around," replied Mrs. Cornetssel. "It's a comfort to have somebody critisin' the table beside my own family."

READ THE MAIL & ADVOCATE

War and Weather are not Connected

Cannonding Negligible in Workings of Nature

MONTREAL, July 3.—In answer to a query as to whether the extraordinary weather in any way has been brought about by the cannonading in Europe, Mr. A. G. B. Claxton, K.C., received the following letter from the Meteorological Office at Toronto:

"Referring to your letter of June 1st, I would inform you that historical records enable the meteorologist to draw a rainfall curve in Asia Minor back 3,000 years, with probably some degree of accuracy. More recently, the study of the growth of the yellow pine of Arizona and the aquoia tree of California, as evidenced by their rings, has also enabled officers of the Carnegie Institute to draw a rainfall curve for 3,000 years. The curves agree fairly well and show that the climate has been pulsatory throughout this long term, with periods of rain seasons and periods of relatively dry seasons. Both curves indicate that the one thousand years before Christ, were much wetter than at later periods.

"At the beginning of the nineteenth century occurred many cold, wet summers. The years 1812 and 1816 were especially marked by a great depression of temperature in Canada and the Northern United States; and 1816 was afterwards known as the year without a summer.

"Many summers in the forties were very cold and wet, also in the sixties, and again in the early eighties.

"In Toronto since April 1st there has been a slightly greater rainfall than in any corresponding period on record, but there have been at least ten other three-month periods—June to August, and July to September—with a much greater rainfall.

"There is not the slightest reason to suppose that the cannonading in Europe has any appreciable effect. I believe it to be negligible in the gigantic workings of nature. The excessive rain has been only in Ontario and Western Quebec. Eastern Quebec and the Maritime Provinces have been nearly average, and Newfoundland has been dry, and for two months the weather there has been exceptionally fine and bright.

"The variations in rainfall from year to year through long periods are connected with the general circulation of the earth's atmosphere, which is without doubt affected by changes in solar radiation, which is also variable. Professor Abbott, of Mount Wilson Observatory, has shown that the sun is a variable star, changing its output of energy by at least one-seventh of the whole. We do not know what the changes have been in by-gone times.

"The sequence probably is a solar change affecting first the Equatorial regions, and leading to changes in the strength of the trade winds and their ocean currents, and a little later the wind circulation and cyclonic formations of the middle and higher latitudes.

"We see no reason why there should not soon be a change to normal conditions."

Northcliffe Praises Foster

LONDON, July 2.—Lord Northcliffe paid a most complimentary to Hon. Sir George Foster last night at the Australian dinner in honor of Premier Hughes, of Australia. In supporting the principal toast, Lord Northcliffe said he did not doubt why a plain man of affairs should be called upon when there were assembled at the table probably the five best orators of the British Empire, namely Lord Rosebery, that most eloquent of all Canadians, Sir George E. Foster, Lord Grey, Col. Winston Churchill and Premier Hughes of Australia.

Penitentiary guard—Convict 411 is not in his cell, sir!

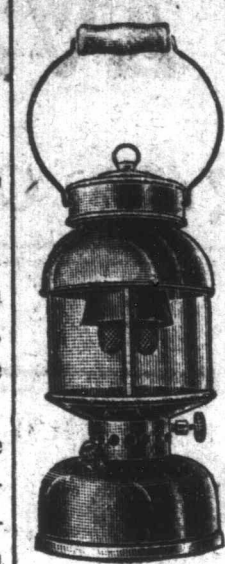
Warden—That's all right! He's still hunting for the ball he lost on the links this afternoon.

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EMPTY AND CRACKED

Two men were hurrying along, and met at the corner of the street, only to collide and knock their heads.

"Why don't you look where you are going?" said one.

"I was just going to say the same," said the other, "for you made my head ring."

"Your head ring?"
"Yes."

"That shows it's empty."
"Didn't your head ring?" asked the other.

"No," was the reply.
"Then that shows it's cracked."

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