

BATTLING THE HOPPER PLAGUE

Manitoba and Saskatchewan Working Hard

To End the Menace to Their Crops.

Winnipeg, May 1.—The Governments of Manitoba and Saskatchewan are fully alive to the danger of the grasshopper menace to the western crops. In Saskatchewan last fall grasshoppers laid eggs in from 40 to 50 rural municipalities. The eggs have been examined carefully during the last few weeks by the provincial field experts, who state the young are beginning to emerge.

The Saskatchewan Government Department of Agriculture, in an effort to fight the menace, has purchased 30,000 gallons of molasses, 90 tons of arsenic, 1,000 tons of bran, and two carloads of lemons, most of which has reached Regina. Large quantities have already been transported to the needy places.

Unless a good battle is waged it is probable that in two weeks' time the two varieties of the pest most dangerous may get ahead; these are red-legged locusts and the clear-winged locusts, now beginning to be hatched. In Manitoba the locusts are reported in Melita district in millions. The few hot days of the past week have caused concern, but there is no need for panic, and the hungry state of the hoppers leads the Government to think that, as in the state of Kansas, early vigilance will defeat the danger. No effort is being spared in any of the provinces to deal with the situation.

GERMAN OFFICER SHOT TO DEATH

Was Accused, Wrongly, of Hiding Arms,

And Killed by Unknown Detachment.

Berlin, May 1.—(By the Associated Press.)—The strange story of the shooting of Captain Hans Paasche, a former commander of a mine layer, and the only son of the former Vice-President of the Reichstag, Dr. Hermann Paasche, on his estate near Kreuz, Pomerania, is exciting great interest.

According to the Tageblatt's Kreuz correspondent, Captain Paasche had been denounced in Berlin for hiding arms and ammunition on his estate, whereupon a Reichstag detachment was sent to Kreuz and surrounded his house. Paasche was found bathing in the lake, and subsequently was shot while still wearing his bathing suit.

The stories are in conflict with regard to their circumstances. According to one version, Paasche was shot without warning, while according to another, he was trying to escape at the time. No arms were found on the premises, except sporting guns.

The indignation in Kreuz, says the Tageblatt, is very great, as no search warrant was produced. The officers gave no names, and hence it is not known what detachments were involved in the shooting.

It is said that Captain Paasche was strongly inclined toward Communism and inclined to be a pacifist dreamer, and on that account had become estranged from his father.

SOVIET GAINING AGAINST POLES

London, May 1.—Retchitsa, a village on the right bank of the Dnieper River, approximately 125 miles north of Kiev, has been occupied by Russian Bolshevik forces, which are also advancing on the fortified outskirts of Bobruisk, on the Beresina River, according to an official statement issued in Moscow yesterday and received here by wireless.

Fighting is proceeding sixteen miles northeast of Kiev, the statement declares, and attacks by Polish and Ukrainian troops southeast of Kiev, along the Kiev-Poltava Railway, have been repulsed.

VEGETABLES IN CHICAGO DROP

Chicago, May 1.—Prices of all vegetables dropped from five to thirty-five per cent. on the Chicago market in the last ten days, commission merchants said today. Market experts said the decline in prices was due to increased receipts.

It is the intention of the Government of Jamaica to open factories for the manufacture of cement.



A CORK CROWD CHASES A "POLICE SPY."

After the inquest on Thomas MacCurra, Lord Mayor of Cork, when the jury returned the verdict of murder against Premier Lloyd George and others, the crowd caught sight of a man in the street near the City Hall, and when some one shouted the words: "Police spy," the people set off in pursuit.

Soft or Piebald Wheat

(Experimental Farms Note).

It is well known that, when grown on certain soils and especially in certain seasons, wheat instead of being dark and translucent, is pale or spotted with patches of light color. If this condition is very marked, the wheat is called "soft," and if it is less evident the term "piebald" is often used. In Kansas and some other states the phrase "yellow berry" is employed to designate the same condition. There is considerable misapprehension in regard to softness in wheat. Some varieties, such as *Paele* for instance, are extra hard in their nature and very seldom produce soft kernels, while others, such as *White Russian*, are essentially softer. But most of the popular sorts, though usually hard in character, become soft under special conditions of soil and climate. Even the extra hard wheats of the Duren class, such as *Wild Goose*, sometimes show softness.

Soft kernels of wheat contain a lower proportion of gluten and higher proportion of starch. The interior of a hard kernel is horny and translucent, while the interior of a soft kernel is whitish and opaque. As bran also is translucent, the soft kernels are paler than the hard ones. The bran itself, however, does not change color when the wheat becomes soft, and the term "yellow berry" is quite misleading. A soft sample of a so-called red wheat (which is really a reddish-brown, rather than red, in color) is not yellowish but pale reddish-brown. The popular idea that Red Fife wheat turns into White Fife when it becomes soft is entirely erroneous; the difference between these two varieties lies only in the color of the bran. White Fife is just as hard a wheat as Red Fife though of a different color, yellowish rather than reddish.

Softness is the outcome of peculiar soil conditions, especially in regard to soil structure and the quantity of moisture present. Land from which trees have recently been cleared is particularly liable to produce soft wheat. It is also well established that in countries where the summer is rather long and where the temperatures are moderate the wheat is usually softer than in districts where the summer is short and where great extremes of temperatures occur. A full explanation of the causes of softness has not yet been arrived at.

It is generally believed that soft wheat is inferior in quality to hard wheat for bread making; this is usually true, provided the samples compared belong to the same variety. However, some soft varieties are superior to some hard ones. For milling purposes hard wheat is preferred as it is easier to handle and it usually gives better satisfaction to bakers who desire to make extremely light bread. For pastry and cake, flour from soft wheat is better. Hard wheat being more in demand usually brings a higher price than soft wheat. As a rule, therefore, farmers whose wheat is soft suffer a financial loss on that account. Such wheat, however (if of a usually hard variety) is perfectly good for seed purposes, because the softness is not inherited.

Not very much is yet known as to the best way to overcome the tendency of any soil to produce soft wheat. To a certain extent this is doubtless beyond control, but it appears probable that cultivation and especially the ploughing under of sod will, in time, tend to bring about such a condition of soil as will produce harder wheat. This could be expected particularly if the land under tillage were formerly covered with trees. — C. E. Saunders, Dominion Cerealist.

FATAL ITALIAN RIOTS.

Rome, May 1.—Clashes between strikers and police have occurred in Palermo, where one person has been killed and seven wounded, according to newspaper dispatches. Ortona and Marò have also been the scene of encounters, two persons being killed and three wounded in the latter city. A general strike has been declared in Palermo.

Lieut.-Col. A. K. Tylee, O.B.E., of Toronto, has been appointed Air Commodore of the Canadian Air Force, to continue in command nine months.

FIGHT RAIDERS IN WEST KERRY

Coastguard, Aided by Families, Lose at Last.

Cavalry at Westmeath — First Raider Sentenced.

Dublin cable says: A flying column of cavalry has arrived in the district of Westmeath to protect the farms in the region from raiders. Several cattle drives have occurred there during the week. It is stated on good authority that the Sinn Feiners will take action in view of the arrival of the military.

Raiders have attacked and burned the Brandon coastguard station in West Kerry. Six members of the coastguard, aided by their wives and families, desperately resisted the raiders, but were overcome.

The Ballyconnell court house in County Cavan, which recently was burned and had just been rebuilt, was again burned to-day.

What is said to be the first sentence for participation in an armed attack on police barracks was promulgated to-day. Michael Condon, a civilian, of Rathormack, County Cork, was sentenced to five years' penal servitude for participating in an attack on the Ahearn police barracks.

A serious extension of the railway trouble here occurred this morning when the railwaymen refused to transport war material which had been landed from a steamer and loaded into a train by soldiers after the dockers had declined to work.

The supplies were destined for the west of Ireland, and when the soldiers tried to move the train the signalman struck and all work was stopped. The men employed in the station supplying power to the giant cranes at Dublin wharves were also withdrawn, and the cranes are at a standstill.

Some steamers from Ireland to England were held up, owing to the men on the docks refusing to load luggage.

ALLY SPIES IN SOVIET CABINET

Paris cable: Amazing disclosures of the existence on an international secret service with world-wide ramifications, organized by France, Britain, the United States and Italy to combat Bolshevik plots to Sovietize the world, were revealed to-day when it was learned that hundreds of arrests have been made in France during the last two weeks, including practically every prominent radical agitator.

The French police, in making these arrests, are said to have been acting on information obtained by international secret service agents, who have in some cases actually held important posts in the Soviet Government and therefore know the inner workings of the Leninist system. Among these agents are Americans, Frenchmen, Englishmen, Spaniards and Danes.

The founding of the International Secret Service is believed to have been broached by the Secret Service Chief of the United States Department of Justice, following admissions by United States radicals that there is a plot afoot to Sovietize the world.

A SUBSTITUTE FOR WOOD FUEL

Leeds, Eng., May 1.—Experiments are being conducted at the Textile Institute in manufacturing by a chemical process artificial wool from cellulose derived from cotton waste. The efforts have been very successful, and, although it is only a substitute for wool, it is said to have great wearing possibilities, especially if used with other fabrics.

BOLSHEVIKI STILL ATTACK

In Waves, On the Polish Lines of Defence.

Most of the Assaults Repulsed.

Paris cable says: The Reparations are attacking in waves on the northern fighting front in a thrust to break the Polish lines and open communication with East Prussia. The fiercest fighting in months is raging along the 90-mile battlefield. Villages are changing hands daily and the lines are swaying to and fro.

The fighting has mostly been infantry encounters through the open swampy country. The latest official statement says that the Bolsheviks were thrown back at most places in a two-day battle. The Bolsheviks suffering heavy in men killed.

The fighting spirit of the Poles was stimulated by the finding of bodies of Polish soldiers, who, it is declared, had been wounded and then killed by the Bolsheviks with rifle butts. The Bolsheviks were aided in the fighting by aviators, two of whom were brought down by Polish fliers. The Bolsheviks also brought up armored trains. All the trains on this front are officered by Germans with many trained machine gunners.

Since the Bolshevik offensive began, twelve divisions have been identified among the reinforcements constantly appearing. A Bolshevik division numbers about 6,000 men. Dvinsk, one of the objectives of the Bolsheviks, is a railroad junction on the Dvina, whose capture would give the Bolsheviks a direct rail line to East Prussia across Lithuania.

BULGARS JOIN WITH THE TURK

Pouring in to Aid in Opposing Greeks.

Constantinople cable says: The new Thracian Government at Adrianople has dismissed all the old officials. Former sub-governor, Erdjument Ekran Bey, who has arrived in Constantinople, said to-day that Bulgarians are crossing into Turkey in large numbers, and joining the Turks, who are preparing to resist the Greeks.

Bulgarians, according to Ekran Bey, will form the backbone of the forces opposing the Greeks, but he declared Col. Isfar Tavar, who was the Turkish commandant at Adrianople, has 20,000 Turkish soldiers available.

Turkish Nationalists have seized the village of Koum Kalep, at the southern entrance to the Dardanelles, and are either defeating the Sultan's troops, or are persuading them to desert to the army of Mustafa Kemal Pasha, the Nationalist leader at various points along the Sea of Marmora. Anzour Pasha, the only conspicuous supporter of the Sultan in Anatolia, has been seriously wounded, and his chief of staff hanged by Nationalists near Gouve. At Eski Chehir and other points along the Anatolian railway, the Nationalists are bringing in unwilling recruits in groups of five or six with iron rings locked about their necks and connected up by chains with fellow shirkers.

Frequently draft evaders have broken heads and bandaged arms and legs as a result of rough treatment by the guards whose bayonets are fixed. Only Moslems are conscripted, the Nationalists declaring Christians to be untrustworthy.

Damad Ferid Pasha, the Grand Vizier, went to Ismid Wednesday, where it is reported he will have a conference with some of the Nationalist leaders from Angora, probably Djemal Ladine and Afif Bey.

A Nationalist official statement says a British officer was at Angora on May 6th, conferring with Mustafa Kemal Pasha. It is believed the officer was probably Colonel Rawlinson, who formerly communicated with the Angora Government when he was arrested near Sivas and offered to act as liaison officer with the British.

MAY LET GERMANY KEEP SOME SHIPS

Warsaw cable says: The Bolshevik Commission has just notified the German Government to begin building 200,000 tons of ships in German yards this year, in conformity with Paragraph 5 of the Treaty of Versailles, this being the maximum tonnage prescribed. Germany has turned six merchant ships over to the Allies, but has made application to be allowed to keep a portion of her merchant marine. The commission has just decided to give her a reprieve on this, and a majority of the members of it are now decidedly disposed to grant the German request.