

GEORGIAN MAIL

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The Baltic States and Soviet Russia. Negotiations Fail.

According to a Helsingfors message, Lithuania's representatives in Finland declare officially that Lithuania will not conclude peace with the Bolsheviks, and that all negotiations are out of the question, the Bolsheviks being the sworn enemies of Estonia, as well as the foes of all civilisation. Lithuania is dissatisfied with the Poles, asserting that they are only carrying on a mock war with the Bolsheviks, that they are in reality in communication with Lenin, and that they have even sent a representative, a Pole named Benzkovski, to Lenin. If Lithuania had been free from the Polish invasion, she would have been able to send an army of 350,000 men against Moscow.

It is settled that Finland will likewise refuse all negotiations. If the Bolsheviks' peace offer to the Baltic States fails the only reason is the Entente's attitude. It is suggested generally in Helsingfors that the Entente has promised Finland and the border States to continue to help them against the Bolsheviks.

Information received from Petrograd, via Helsingfors, says that the Soviet has authorised the people's commissaries to start peace negotiations with the Entente Powers, based upon the conditions which the Entente has laid down. The distress in Petrograd is described as frightful. There is the greatest shortage of food and fuel, and all wooden houses have now been demolished. There seems to be a general dissolution in Red Russia, and this is corroborated by the fact that the Workmen's and Red Guards' Council in the Government of Tver have resolved to proclaim Tver as an autonomous country, absolutely independent of Soviet rule in Moscow.

The U. S. Likely to refuse Mandates.

The *Morning Post* Washington correspondent telegraphs that public opinion in the United States seems to be more and more opposed to the acceptance of mandates in Europe. He says that he is in a position to state that it is not at all probable that the United States will accept the mandate either for Constantinople or for Armenia. He asserts that Congress will certainly pronounce against these proposals.

Lloyd George on Turkey and the U.S.

The Premier, speaking at Sheffield, explained the reasons for the delay in signing the treaty with Turkey. He said:—

"The delay—I do not think it is any secret—is attributable to the fact that you cannot settle the destiny of Turkey until it is known whether the United States is going to share in the burdens of civilisation outside the United States. It is a task, a mission, which Providence has sent to our race, and which we are discharging in different parts of the world, and we have begged the men of our kith and kin in America to join us in that task. Unless they do I do not know what is going to happen to parts of the Turkish Empire. We cannot undertake it all. France cannot undertake it all. There are people who have been living in the shadow of a great tyranny for centuries who are trembling with fear at this moment, and they are appealing with uplifted hands to America to come to their help. I hope that appeal will not be in vain.

"This would sound impertinent on the part of a British Minister were it not for the fact that we are undertaking a similar responsibility ourselves, and we have found that we were coming to the limit of our strength and it would not be wise for us to go further. But until America makes up her mind we cannot make the treaty and the suspense in the settlement of Turkish question is attributable to that all important postponement.

"That involves expense. It would be the height of unwisdom for us to disarm until that problem is settled. It is vital to the British Empire and to the world that that should be settled properly and promptly".

German Gold leaves for England.

A Brussels telegram says that the *Nation Belge* announces that 20 million marks in gold from the Reichsbank were forwarded to England by the National Bank of Belgium.

A Berlin message says that a number of the German drill-grounds which are now no longer necessary will be used for settling war invalids.

Separate Peace Conference for Turkey.

Probable Adjournment Soon: Changes Foreshadowed.

Paris, October 25. With the submission to the Peace Conference to-day of Bulgaria's observations on her treaty, it is not expected that the Allied Supreme Council will require more than a week or ten days to give the final answer. Hence the Bulgarian treaty will probably be signed within three weeks at the most.

The Conference is expected to adjourn soon afterwards and to turn over all unfinished business to a co-ordination Committee composed of Ambassadors.

It now seems almost a foregone conclusion that the Conference will adjourn before the Hungarian situation clears up sufficiently for the Conference to deal directly with Hungary. Hence the Ambassadors' Committee will probably fall heir to that as well as to the Turkish problem.

As Turkey presents many complications and problems, it may eventually be found necessary for the Powers to appoint an entirely separate Conference to deal with them,—especially so if the U.S. refuses to consider the mandates.

First U. S. Tourists Arrive in Paris.

There is joy among hotel-keepers and shop-owners in Paris, because the first official party of American tourists since the summer of 1914 arrived here last week. Blythe Branch, vice-president of the American Chamber of Commerce, assured the tourists that they would find ample comforts in France. Referring to the American military cemeteries he said that those of the group who had relatives buried there would see evidences of tender care bestowed on the graves by French mothers. The party will visit the battlefields of Belgium and France and return to United States at the end of the month.

Poincaré to be the King's Guest.

The visit of President Poincaré to has now been fixed for Nov. 9. The President will be accompanied by Mme Poincaré and they will be the guests of the King at Buckingham Palace.

Turkey's Future.

France and Great Britain Named.

According to an American correspondent Allied circles at Constantinople no longer canvas the idea that America will resolve the Turkish question by a mandate, though such hopes exist and were sincerely expressed everywhere in Turkey where the correspondent travelled. According to him, it is believed at Constantinople that such a solution has been abandoned owing to lack of insistence upon it by the Allies or because America does not want it.

He says that the role of Mustafa Kemal Pasha can be compared with that of Count Karolyi in Hungary in regard to Mustafa Kemal's attempt to render the decision of the Peace Conference null and to preserve Turkish integrity by a great game of bluff. His threat of armed resistance is not serious if the Allies disposed of troops, but the best weapon of the Allies is probably the economic weapon. Turkey has food stuffs and her financial situation is not irremediably lost. Nevertheless the interior suffers greatly from a lack of combustibles, clothes and medicines and from difficulties of communication, and morals are low. The population is so reduced that it is doubtful whether there are 8,000,000 persons in the territory which Mustafa Kemal is trying to preserve.

The old policy of temporisation from day to day, he concludes, will probably be the one applied to Turkey, with tasks far from enviable for France and Great Britain.

Swords into Ploughshares.

A Berlin message says that the Army workshop at Spandau is now producing agricultural implements. It was at Spandau that the French gold seized as indemnity after the Franco-Prussian war was stored almost untouched until the Great War.

Japan's Outlay on Aviation.

The Associated Press says that Japan is preparing to appropriate £25,000,000 for aviation during the coming year. The French aviation corps is teaching the Japanese.

EDITORIAL.

The Bolshevik Plot.

The official communiqué regarding the attempt of the Bolsheviks to bring about a revolution in Georgia, which we published last week, only goes to show that Georgians have still many enemies in their midst and that every loyal citizen must be on his guard against provocation and anti-Georgian propaganda. The failure of the Bolsheviks' plan is not only a tribute to the prompt counter action of the authorities, but it is also a proof that the Georgian people have no sympathy for the Russian communists and their terrorism and anarchy.

An Arrest.

We have long known that there are many Bolshevik agents about. Hardly a day goes past but that some of these agitators are arrested. And seldom is a Bolshevik agent arrested but that large sums of false Nicolai and Kerensky notes, printed in the Bolshevik printing works, are found on him. Only a few days ago, on our return to Tiflis from Baku, the Azerbaidjan officials arrested a suspected character at Evlakh station who was on his way either to Georgia or Armenia. The fact that several millions of false paper money were found in his baggage is sufficient evidence of his mission.

More Provocation.

On our arrival in Tiflis we came across another instance of provocation. From Baku we had travelled with an Armenian friend of ours and his wife. When we were on our way out of Tiflis station, our Armenian friend met another acquaintance of his—also an Armenian. They shook hands and our friend asked the other man where he was going. He answered that he had intended going to Baku but, although he had already bought his ticket, he had changed his mind and was not going after all. The reason, said he, was that the Tartars searched every train between Tiflis and Baku and arrested all the Armenians, whom they took away, but no one knew where. Our friend assured the other man that he had just come from Baku and that this alleged seizure of Armenians was quite false, but the other man first of all would not believe that our friend had just arrived and then, when he had been persuaded, he refused to believe that the passage was safe, so he returned to his home.

An Incident.

The scene is a cinema not a hundred miles away from the Hotel Majestic. A party of American naval officers enter. They do not speak Russian but they speak French. They buy their tickets and they understand that the theatre is full but that the session will finish shortly and that there will then be room for them. They go into the *parterre* to await the end of the first session. It also is full so they determine to go outside and return later. But first of all they ask one of the attendants if their seats are reserved or not. She does not understand French so she says "What?" in Russian. They repeat their question several times. The attendant shakes her head and shrugs her shoulders. Finally a lady who is sitting in the *parterre* tells the officers that the places are not reserved. They go away (without thanking her) and the attendant gazes after them in pity and mutters, "My God! these foreign devils cannot speak a single language!"

Another Incident.

In the cinema there was a film (Query: German propaganda?) showing scenes in Vilna. The Hun was greatly in evidence. Hun sanitars were there and Huns of other kinds. They all were working very hard, cutting up meat and serving food to the people, etc. An interesting picture, but whether Denikin propaganda or Hun we do not know. Perhaps both. Suddenly this remark from a man in the audience, but, unfortunately, it cannot be translated exactly into English, "There now, look at these fine chaps! That's what they do. The damned English shoved their noses in here and then went away when they received nothing, spread with butter!"

A Dashnaktzutun Explanation.

We fear that our readers are already a little tired of the controversy regarding the recent attack on British policy by the Dashnak paper, "Aistani Ashkhatavor", but we feel that we must say one final word on the matter. "Aratch", the Erivan organ of the Central Committee of the Dashnaktzutun party, and therefore a paper that writes with Dashnaktzutun authority, returns to the subject and gives what it considers an explanation, but what in reality is really a sort of disguised apology.

"Carelessness".

The paper expresses its indignation regarding the attitude of the "Georgian Mail", "Sakhtarvelo", "Obnovlenie", and other Georgian newspapers towards "Aistani Ashkhatavor's" article on "English Intrigues in Trans-Caucasia". "Aratch" writes: "The organs of the Georgian Chauvinists have lately made a fuss regarding a very untimely and unfair article published in the newspaper 'Aistani Ashkhatavor' which no longer exists. This article was published in the above paper by a misunderstanding and does not express the opinion of the Armenian democracy. The article was received casually by the paper and published owing to carelessness".

"An Impertinent Attack".

"Aratch" goes on to say: "The writer attacks impertinently the British policy and accuses the British Command of a series of misfortunes which have happened to the Armenian people". So there you are! The official organ of the Dashnaktzutun party itself admits that the stupid and false attack on the British policy was "impertinent" and that it was published through carelessness. Frankly, we cannot understand such carelessness. We can understand that a few lines might be published in error, but that a long article full of gross lies and mis-statements should appear by mistake seems incredible to us. Our final word on the subject is to say that, as we knew all the time, we and the other "organs of the Georgian Chauvinists" were right, and the Armenian paper was wrong, and that the attempts of the Tiflis "Ashkhatavor" to champion the cause of its dead brother of Erivan have been proved by the Dashnaktzutun official organ itself to have been as stupid and ridiculous as they were mean and false.

"A Friendly Power".

We have said that the above is our last word on the subject, but we might add that "Aratch" says: "The Great British Democracy has always been for the Armenian proletariat a friendly power without whose assistance the sufferings of the Armenians in Turkish Armenia would have no end. Armenia has always counted England her friend. And today she has not altered her opinion about England". We wonder if the Tiflis "Ashkhatavor" will have the decency to apologise?

S. L.

Daghestan and Denikin.

The responsible Armenian Mountaineers recently visited Mr. Oliver Wardrop, the High British Commissary, and had a lengthy conversation with him regarding the untimely interference of the British Officer in the struggle of the Mountaineers with General Denikin in favour of the Volunteer Army.

Referring to the untactful act of Colonel Rowlandson, Mr. Wardrop expressed his regret and assured the Mountaineers that British officers have no right to speak in the name of the British Government and that, so far as he knows, the head of the British Mission at Denikin's is not Colonel Rowlandson but General Holman, and Colonel Rowlandson is only one of the members of his mission.

Further, Mr. Wardrop assured the representatives of the Mountaineers that he will inform his Government about the occurrence and at the same time give through the Georgian Ministry of Foreign Affairs an official communiqué to the local press throwing light on their point of view regarding the present case.

NEW POSTAL SERVICE.

A British-Georgian Arrangement.

The British and Georgian authorities have come to an arrangement whereby a new postal and telegraph service will commence on Monday, November 10, between Georgia and Batoum, and through Batoum with places abroad. Not only will ordinary mails be sent, and received but registered letters and parcels will also be dispatched. Parcels and packets may also be sent on the "Cash on Delivery" plan.

We have not yet received full particulars and details of this new arrangement which links up Georgia with all foreign countries, but we hope shortly to be able to publish these in the "Georgian Mail".

THE GENERAL CORY "INTERVIEW".

Mr. Oliver Wardrop, British High Commissioner in Trans-Caucasia, has informed Mr. Gegetchkori, the Georgian Minister of Foreign Affairs, that the Commander-in-Chief of the British Army of the Black Sea knows as a fact that General Cory made no such declarations in Sevastopol as were ascribed to him in the Tiflis press.

(Note: In recent numbers of several local papers there appeared an alleged interview which a correspondent of a Russian paper had had with General Cory. In this "interview" the general was stated to have expressed his opinion as regards the future of the Russian Empire. It was, of course, obvious that the "interview" was a fabrication from beginning to end.)

The Tendency of American Opinion.

A message to the *Times* from Washington says: A matter of interest for British people is the way in which the magnitude of the problem of American industrial reconstruction is likely, whatever happens, to work with the American distrust of certain features in the peace settlement towards a return to the policy of comparative isolation. It is not surprising that this should be so.

As the debate on the League of Nations continues in the Senate, indications grow that the United States is not yet quite ready for full participation in that noble experiment in twentieth-century internationalisation which Mr. Wilson, Lord Robert Cecil, General Smuts, and others envisaged in Paris.

During the days of America's neutrality her policy was merely a Trans-Atlantic adaptation of what always used to be the British policy towards Europe—namely, no interference unless a British interest was patently threatened. America entered the war as soon as she grasped the fact that Germany really threatened her.

She is now inclined to return to her isolation and to the contemplation of her industrial and social problems and the commercial future. This tendency may weaken in some important directions the share of Great Britain's most valued partner in world reconstruction, but it is a natural tendency.

Germans Warned Away From the U. S.

A Berlin message says that from New York comes a warning to Germans not to emigrate rashly to the United States. Attention is drawn to the high prices for food and lodging, to the pressure of discharged soldiers on the labour market, and to the obstruction of American Trade Union to forcing competition and free immigration. It is expressly stated that for commercial clerks conditions are still worse, and that the disinclination to employ Germans plays a great part in the matter.

What Austria Feels Now.

Count Berchtold who was Austro-Hungarian Foreign Minister at the time of the outbreak of the war, in the course of an interview regarding the recent publication of new Austrian documents concerning the origin of the war, stated: "Looking back, everybody suffering now in Austria thinks it would have been much better to surrender Bosnia and Herzegovina in 1914, or to have lost the war in six days, weeks, or months regardless of the ultimate cost. The regret of the dying man is that he did not commit suicide at the first sign of cancer".

THE AIR CONVENTION

U. S. Signature Delayed: No Customs Rules yet.

Paris, October 17.—The reason why America did not sign the International Air Convention yesterday, although it is recognised as one of the most important things growing out of the war, was due to the objections of the United States Patent Office, it was explained to-day. The American delegation did not agree with the Patent Office but was forced to accede to its request for more time to study and forego signature.

The U. S. Interior Department contended that the convention deprived United States inventors from appealing in the U. S. courts in cases of infringements of patent for the reason that a foreign machine landing in the United States with a device infringing a United States patent could not be prosecuted.

Americans here believe, however, that this objection will be waived later. America and Japan are the only nations here not having signed this pact, which marks the greatest advance yet made in the regulation of aerial navigation as it subjects international flying to laws corresponding to those of the sea. All neutrals, it is believed, will approve the pact later.

Under this convention all air-craft must carry national insignia like ships at sea. Pilots must be registered. Airships must carry at night a red light to port and a green light to starboard. They must pass each other to the right and any aerobus carrying a dozen passengers or more must carry wireless apparatus. Any machine disobeying these rules can be detained in any country wherein it lands.

It is significant that no rules have been drawn up as yet for Customs regulations of aerial navigation because Great Britain was not in accord with France in this matter, contending for very strict regulations.

Another point left unsettled to be drawn up at the next session in the near future is the question of an aerial signal code. No good system is yet worked out but several tentative codes are to be studied and the best one adopted.

The new convention is most important for Europe though not so much for the United States at present, for flying over frontiers is now very general in Europe while in America international flying will be confined to only three countries, the United States, Mexico and Canada.

A Birth Congress.

A Birth Congress has opened at Nancy with the object of examining what measures ought to be taken, in view of increasing the number of births in France.

Our Strength is in our Climate.

"The secret of our strength as a nation lies partly in long training in the art of free government, but still more in *climate*", writes Mr. Lovat Fraser in the *Daily Mail*. "The relation between climate and national character is still imperfectly understood. We have the finest climate in the world, because it produces strong and moderate men. Its variability stimulates, but does not over-stimulate, as is the case with great areas in America. Its more trying phases tend to the development of patience and fortitude, but are never so prolonged as to induce the morbidity of the Russian temperament."

"Our climate is equable and never extreme, and these qualities are reflected in the national character. We have no immense bare plains to deaden us, no vast forests to breed gloom, no huge mountains to appal. From the sea we draw life and vigour and hope. We are a fortunate race, and our good fortune will not desert us now".

Heligoland's Future.

A message from Cuxhaven to the *Vossische Zeitung* says that a strong agitation is proceeding in Heligoland for separation from Germany and union with Great Britain. A plebiscite on the question is planned.

FRENCH WOMEN'S WAR MARRIAGES.

At the request of the French Ministry of Justice, the *mairies* of Paris have drawn up statistics of marriages between foreigners and Parisiennes and women of foreign nationality.

These statistics show that the greatest number of international marriages have been contracted between French and Belgians. Thus during 1915 no fewer than 152 Parisiennes married Belgians, and 126 Belgians girls became Frenchwomen by marriage. Britain came second in this international matrimonial race, for 52 Britons took to themselves Parisian wives, and 26 Frenchmen married Englishwomen. Only 21 Franco-American unions took place during that year.

The Belgians were again leading in 1916, when 315 of King Albert's subjects married Parisian girls, while 143 Frenchmen married Belgian wives. During the same year the following other international marriages were celebrated in Paris:—

Frenchmen and American women . . .	10
Americans and Frenchwomen	17
Frenchmen and Englishwomen	28
Englishmen and Frenchwomen	56

The statistics go only as far as the end of 1917, for which year they are as follows:—

Belgians and Frenchwomen	259
Frenchmen and Belgians	67
Englishmen and Frenchwomen	39
Frenchmen and Englishwomen	18
Americans and Frenchwomen	12
Frenchmen and American women	5

THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS.

The headquarters of the League of Nations, as already announced, will be at Geneva but it will not be set up according to present intentions until after the first assembly of the League has taken place, probably in December, in Washington. The meeting of the Assembly will constitute the first great public demonstration of the existence and constitution of the League. President Wilson will most certainly be present if his health will permit. Over thirty nations will be officially represented, and the Assembly will therefore be by far the greatest international gathering in history not even excepting the Peace Conference.

This of course is due to the fact that many nations, which remained out during the war have been made parties to the Covenant of the League. During the summer a great deal of preparatory work was done under the direction of the Secretary-General and the whole of the machinery of the League is of a most complete and effective character. One of its most noteworthy characteristics is the spirit and enthusiasm of youth pervading it. Most of the directors of the various sections are young men who are keen believers in the principles and ideals that underlie the League.

Meat Famine in Berlin.

There is a great meat famine in Berlin. The mayor says that the situation is disastrous. The reasons are said to be the breakdown of transport and also the refusal by surrounding nations to export to Germany which is surrounding her with a "Chinese Wall".

The first big consignment of condensed milk, being a gift from U.S., has arrived in Germany and through the Red Cross these first lots are being distributed to undernourished children of the German elementary schools. This work meets with great approval in all Germany.

Ex-Kaiser's Eldest Sister Dead.

The death has occurred at Baden-Baden, after a short illness, of the ex-Kaiser's eldest sister Charlotte, Duchess of Saxe-Meiningen. During recent years her relations with the ex-Kaiser had been very strained.

Arab Chiefs' Visit to the King.

Arab Chiefs are now visiting Britain and are hoping to be received by the King on his return from Sandringham. Their special mission is to congratulate the King on the victorious outcome of the war. Among other gifts they will present to His Majesty a valuable and historically interesting sword.

WAR ENGINEERING.

RESUMÉ OF PROGRESS.

To summarise adequately the part played by engineering during the war is a task of no mean order, but it was appropriate that in his Presidential address before the Engineering Section of the British Association Professor J. E. Petavel, D. Sc., F. R. S., who succeeds Sir. R. T. Glazebrook as director of the National Physical Laboratory, should attempt a comprehensive though necessarily concise survey. The fate of nations in war or peace is primarily determined by moral, physical, and intellectual attributes, and these forces found efficient application through the agency of science and engineering. The period of war engineering was characterised by two features which made victory possible, viz.: (1) Large production obtained by organisation, standardisation, and co-operation; and (2) rapid progress resulting from the stimulus to research and invention and the immediate application of the results obtained. The required organisation was not, however, the natural development of pre-war industrial activity, but arose from dire necessity, and was applied with grim determination. Under extreme pressure, scientific knowledge, technical skill, industrial ability, military and naval experience, welded into a homogeneous and efficient organisation. This had been largely effected through the Ministry of Munitions, which, created in May, 1915, first concentrated on the production of guns and shells, establishing a large reserve by 1918. Maximum expenditure of ammunition was reached one day in October, 1918, when 900,000 shells weighing 40,000 tons, were fired; 20,000 guns were manufactured during the war, and over 200,000 machine-guns had been delivered by November, 1918. The transport of all the materials of war was effected without undue delay, and under the control of British engineers large numbers of locomotives had been sent over to France and a wide network of narrow-gauge railways carried right up to the lines. Road transport was organised on an unprecedented scale, and 100,000 new vehicles were delivered. Amongst the new departures the cross-Channel ferry and the portable steel bridges, principally of the Inglis type, were notable. The transport of armies, food, and equipment had been carried out with singular efficiency, and this service, organised by the Navy, achieved a unique result in bringing over American troops at the rate of 300,000 per month. Further, seemingly insuperable difficulties in transport and the provision of adequate water supply had been effectively overcome in Mesopotamia and Palestine.

Aeronautics.

It is difficult, and perhaps unwise, to attempt to draw comparisons of the

progress, in the various departments of engineering, but aeronautical developments have at least been very conspicuous. The number of aeroplanes available in 1914 was under 200; the number ultimately required proved to be more than 3,000 per month. The aeroplane sent out in 1914 had a maximum speed of eighty miles per hour and a rate of climb at ground level of 300ft to 400ft per minute, and was equipped with engines of 60 to 100 h. p. The fast machine of 1918 had a maximum speed of 140 miles per hour, a rate of climb of 2,000ft per minute, and the largest machine had a power plant of over 1,300 h. p. The increase of range is illustrated in the recent trans-Atlantic flight. For bombing machines two types—day and night bombers—were evolved. The former had a speed of 130 miles, per hour, and could carry a useful load of 3,000lb. The night bomber had a larger carrying capacity but a lower speed. Three days before the signing of the armistice two Handley-Page V/1,500 machines, of 11 tons weight and 1,300 h. p., stood fully equipped awaiting orders to start for Berlin. Bombs used increased in weight to over a ton, and during the war 8,000 tons of explosives were dropped upon the enemy. In aircraft production, that of Great Britain, late at the start, rapidly forged far ahead of that of the enemy, bringing, by the indomitable pluck of the aviators, the supremacy to this side of the fighting forces. The production of aero engines opened up a new industry, and, in overcoming all difficulties and producing a total of 8,000,000 h. p. during the last twelve months of the war, provided one of the greatest achievements of engineering organisation. Synchronised gun-firing through the propeller developed to the extent of making it possible to fire through the propeller at the rate of nearly 1,000 rounds per minute. Similar progress took place with seaplanes, and in 1918 most of the best machines had a total weight of four or five tons each, a speed of nearly 100 miles per hour, and an engine h. p. of about 700.

Airship development was slower, though the recent success of the R. 34 in crossing the Atlantic gives an index of the possibilities of this type of aircraft. Very many new discoveries were put into practice in aeronautical work. Among these may be mentioned navigating and bomb-sighting instruments, wireless telephony and directional wireless, and improved types of compass which made accurate navigation possible even through clouds. The use of 37 mm. quick-firing guns against submarines and at the front, with a 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ lb explosive shell, ultimately became possible on aeroplanes, and the check placed on the enemy's aerial raids over

this country is expressive of the progress and perfection of defensive precautions. Lastly, we have the large-scale production of the inert gas helium as a substitute for the inflammable hydrogen for airships. Of this "rare" gas a supply of 350,000 cubic feet per week was ensured at the time of the signing of the armistice.

Numerous Advances.

Other advances are far too numerous to do more than give a passing mention. On the chemical side, in addition to the enormous output of explosives, the production of poison gas rose to several thousand tons per month towards the end of the war, emphasising one of the ways in which the chemical laboratory contributed to the ultimate success of the Allies. Range-finding and sound ranging demonstrated the effectiveness of delicate instruments even under the most adverse conditions. The Stokes gun by reason of its simplicity in design and manufacture and convenience in handling attained use to the number of 20,000.

In the Navy unusual interest has been attached to the development of submarine mining, and later to the invention and successful application of the paravane, which has recently been described. This invention effected incalculable benefits in the success in enabling ships to pass unscathed through a minefield. A modification was also made applicable to the destruction of submarines under water. The location of submarines when moving or even stationary constituted another remarkable war invention, and the design of special craft for definite purposes is illustrated in a submarine fitted with a heavy calibre gun which could be fired when all but the muzzle was submerged.

In the whole of this record it is notable that revolutionary invention emanating from a single mind has played a relatively small part. Wide co-operation between scientific workers, trained designers, and practical constructors has been mainly responsible for the greatest success, though well-known examples are on record which have offered scope for new departures in which brilliant ingenuity has been displayed.

Australia Accepts a Mandate.

According to a despatch from Melbourne the Australian House of Representatives has ratified the agreement by which the Pacific Islands south of the Equator, formerly the property of Germany, will henceforth be placed under the control of the Australian Government and the New Zealand Government.

(Note: The largest of these Islands is New-Guinea in the Bismarck Archipelago. They are to be delivered over to Australia and New-Zealand as mandatory powers under the League of Nations).

Hapsburg Treasures Sold.

A Vienna telegram says that the sale of works of art planned by the Government (to raise money to pay the public debts) will begin shortly. A committee has been appointed to select what is to be offered. The *Neues Tagblatt* states that the plate, furniture and pictures of several imperial residences will be put up to auction in about twelve days.

It is hoped to attract wealthy buyers from the United States.

The Vienna Municipal Council, which regards the sales as an act of despair, has adopted a resolution protesting against it.

Germans Want Mufti Commissioners.

The Germans have requested that Allied Commissioners in Germany after peace should not wear their uniforms as the Germans feared painful incidents. But the Allied Supreme Council insisted on the Commissioners wearing uniforms, even after peace is declared, fearing that without them their authority would be diminished, and the request of the German Government was rejected.

Two Bolshevik Destroyers Sunk.

London, Oct. 22.—The Admiralty announces that four Bolshevik destroyers yesterday attempted an attack on British and Esthonian vessels which were lying in Kaporin Bay in the Baltic Sea. Two enemy destroyers were sunk. Six survivors were rescued. There were no British or Esthonian casualties.

TO BE SOLD:

A Testament of great historical Value, in Georgian, printed in Moscow in 1737.

1 $\frac{1}{2}$ × 4 vershoks. Bound in velvet, ornamented with gold medallions in relief representing the Saviour and the four Apostles. This Testament formerly belonged to the Georgian Royal House.

Mr. Bakradze, member of the Academy of Science, says in his book that the testament printed in Moscow in 1737 is a rare specimen. He has never come across another such book either in Russia or in the Caucasus. This testament was part of the dowry of the Tsarina Nina Georgievna and bears the following inscription of the Tsar George XII: "Let it be as a token of health to her. Amen. Kyrie Eleison". The text of the testament has the crest of the Tsars of Georgia.

RARE AND UNIQUE SPECIMEN.

Price: 7,000 pounds sterling.

Inquiries to be made at the editor's office, from 10 a. m. to 3 p. m.