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TRY TO WRING CONFESSIONS

From the Prisoners Who Are Incarcerated in Russian Jails.

Reval, Esthonia, April 25.—(By Mail)—The worst phase of imprisonment in Moscow is not the possibility or probability of execution but the daily attempts made to wring confessions from the prisoners, says Dr. Morris Zucker, a Brooklyn Communist, who arrived here this month after having served four months in the Russian jails. Some of his experiences and observations have previously been made public. Zucker was sentenced in New York in 1919 to 60 years imprisonment for sedition but was deported instead.

Speaking of the life of the prisoners in the principal political prison at Moscow, which is called the "O. O. V." he said, "the daily third degree to which prisoners are subjected if they are suspected of a serious political crime is worse than execution. These prisoners are taken every day, if their captors think there is a chance of wringing a confession from them, into the questioning room. There, whether they have anything to confess or not, they are commanded to 'reveal the truth.'

"The commissar puts a revolver to the prisoner's head 'confess, or I'll shoot,' he says. The prisoner waits for the shot. He never knows whether it is coming or not.

"This process is often repeated until the prisoner will confess rather than undergo any further ordeals, in which case he is shot anyway."

The mental condition of these prisoners becomes such that they would prefer death, said Dr. Zucker. The Brooklyn Communist says that he met in the various prisons of Moscow twenty of the radicals deported from America and that he could well understand why the Bolsheviks arrested them for they were chiefly anarchists who did not believe in any government, "particularly in a government so distasteful as that maintained by the Bolsheviks."

Zucker said he found in prison also the president of the Turkestan Soviet republic, Mohammed Hadji, General Alex. Gertor, once commander of the Russian South Western front, eight members of the executive committee of the right wing of the Social Revolutionary Party, three members of the executive committee of the left wing of that party, including Mayoriff, who was Commissar of Agriculture in 1918, and also a former minister of ecclesiastical affairs, M. Samaun.

Zucker described the summoning of prisoners for execution in much the same way as did Schwartz, the San Francisco Communist, who came out of Russia some months ago. He added that executions were going on as late as March 27th, and declared there had been no diminution of the "red terror" in Russia.

TRYING TO MAKE TREATY

Between China and Germany, But No Advance is Made.

Berlin, May 18.—(By Mail)—China and Germany are apparently no closer to an actual restoration of diplomatic relations than they were six months ago in spite of the fact that unofficial delegations are at work in both countries trying to perfect a treaty.

Herr von Borch heads the German delegation which is working in Peking and Dr. Chang is chairman of the Chinese delegation which is living at the Chinese legation in Berlin.

Although China passed a resolution declaring it was at peace with Germany, following the refusal of the Chinese to sign the Versailles treaty because of the disposition made of Shantung province, the Chinese government has not abrogated its legislation forbidding Germans to carry on business in China.

Consequently, German firms are unable to conduct business with the Chinese in the name of German citizens. While the Chinese war legislation is not rigidly enforced it still stands on the Chinese statute books, and German trade is not regarded as safe until there is some written agreement between China and Germany which will prevent legal complications.

It now seems unlikely that China will sign a treaty with Germany until the United States devises some plan of restoring diplomatic relations with Germany. China followed America's lead in breaking off diplomatic relations with Germany and did not enter the war against the Central Powers until the United States had done so.

When China entered the war it was as an associated power, and not as an allied power of the Entente. And now it stands with the United States as a non-signatory to the Versailles treaty and critical of the provisions of that treaty. China is a member of the League of Nations, however, having gained admission to that body by signing the Austrian treaty.

Theoretically, China is at peace with Germany. It has so declared itself by legal enactment. But all the legal steps necessary for the restoration of diplomatic relations must be taken before peaceful relations and commercial interchanges are possible.

China and Germany have not exchanged ministers and consuls. Dr. Chang has the same uncertain position in Berlin that Ellis Loring Dredge, the American commissioner, holds. Both the Chinese and American representatives are in Germany merely through the courtesy of the German government. And Dr. Borch is in Peking merely as a recognized nego-

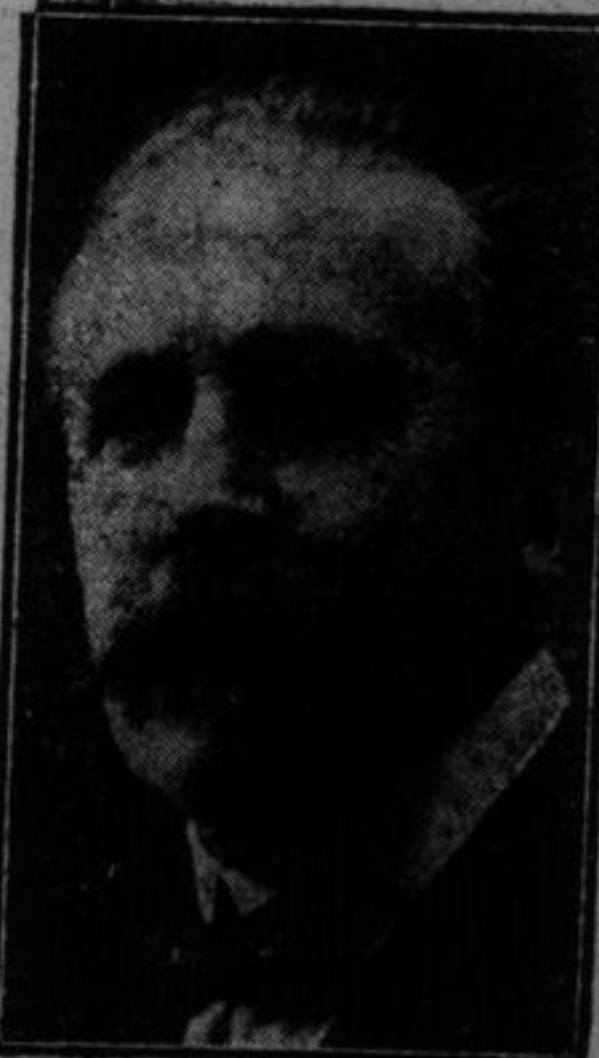
tiator without any diplomatic rights or privileges.

IMPERIAL DEVELOPMENT

Accelerated By the Formation of League of Nations.

London, May 3.—(By Mail)—Writing to the Times, Professor Berriedale Keith, Edinburgh University, says the process of development of imperial relations was "inevitably accelerated in an unprecedented manner by the formation of the League of Nations. The Dominions were thus compelled at a much earlier date than had been anticipated to assume a status for which they were not fully prepared, a fact which Mr. Fielding has emphasized more than once in the Canadian House of Commons. This lack of preparation is evinced most conclusively by the unwillingness of any of the Dominions, even including Australia, to face the burden of a just share in the cost of naval defence; years, it must be admitted, will elapse before the United Kingdom can expect any serious aid in this regard, save possibly from the commonwealth. General Smuts, despite his whole-hearted doctrine of autonomy, has admitted his misgivings, as to the part which the union can play as regards naval defence.

Imperial relations, therefore, are now in a transitional state, which may be of considerable duration, and the immediate problem for the imperial conference (cabinet is a misnomer, which merely excites misgivings in the dominions) meeting in June is to seek to devise some reasonably effective way of co-ordinating imperial foreign policy. The empire at least ought to be united on the issue of reparations, and dominion statesmen must realize that foreign politics must now occupy their serious attention from a broader point of view than mere dominion interests. But the process will be gradual, for it must be one of spontaneous evolution in the public feeling of the dominions themselves.



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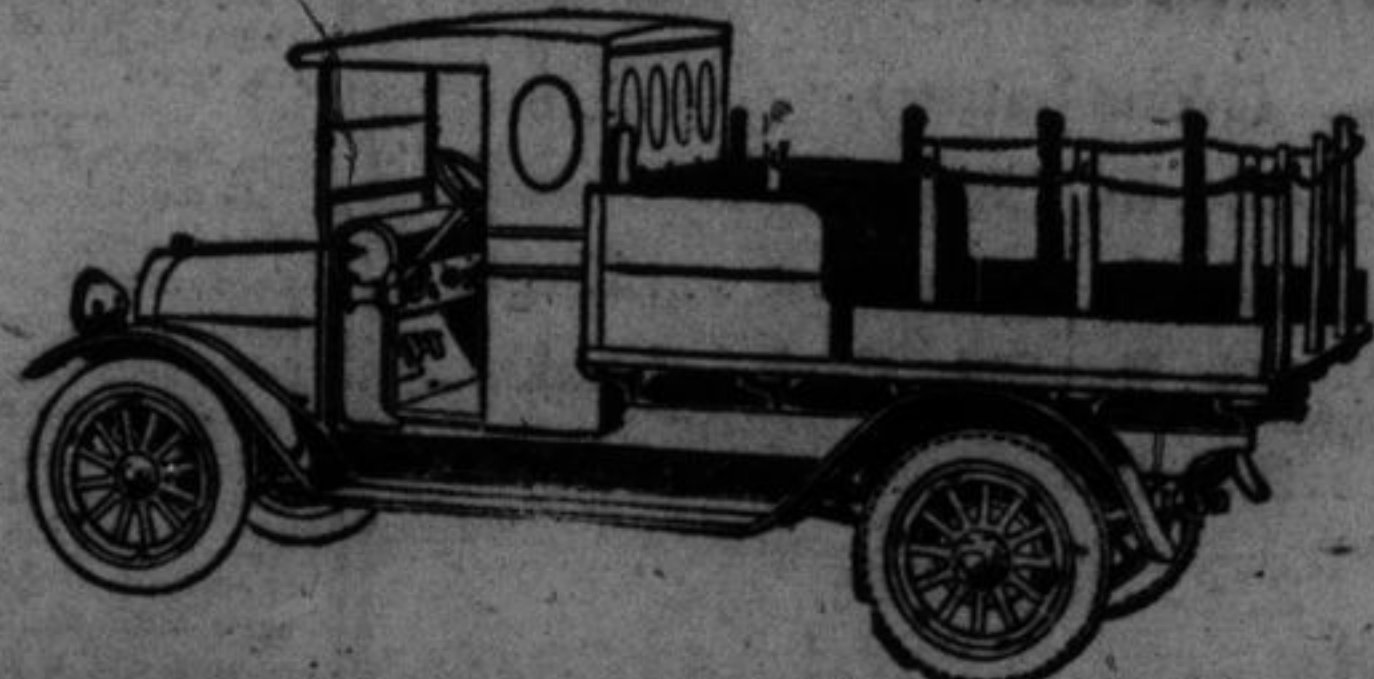
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