

# Teuton Bandit's Arrest Ends a Daring Career

Max Hoelz Establishes Communist Regime With Series of Bold Rascalities.

## TOOK PART IN RED REVOLT

Brigand Boasted of Touching Off World Uprising From Seat of Government—Seized Mansions and Burned Them Before Quitting.

Berlin.—The arrest of Max Hoelz several days ago in Bohemia, closes one of the most romantic chapters in the history of revolutionary Germany. It is also one of the most significant chapters, for it shows how communist doctrines work out practically when held by a criminal of exceedingly erratic mind; how far some of the German working classes will go in making common cause with a common robber, if he but throw the charmed halo of socialism about his head, and how weak socialist government is in dealing with such a situation.

Hoelz suddenly appeared upon the German firmament at the time of the Kapp adventure and he was soon registered by newspapers as a star of the first magnitude. But he had a previous history. Last year he had played a prominent part in Spartacist turbulence in the Vogtland, as the southern part of Saxony is called. When the military moved into the region and the situation grew serious Hoelz decamped in good time, leaving his followers in the lurch. These latter were captured and were in prison since then, awaiting trial toward the end of March. Hoelz was meanwhile living in concealment somewhere in northern Germany.

But his opportunity to rehabilitate himself arrived when Kapp held sway in Berlin. At Plauen, chief town of the Vogtland—famous for its manufactures of lace and embroideries—the Reichswehr, or national troops, showed signs of wavering and going over to Kapp. This caused trouble with the working population and a clash seemed inevitable. But the military was withdrawn. That was Hoelz's opportunity. He was apparently holding himself in readiness just behind the scenes, for the next night he appeared in Plauen.

### Frees Followers in Prison.

Gathering together a handful of his former followers—they still had faith in him, for the man has a dangerous gift of voluble and fiery rhetoric—he stormed the prison the next morning at dawn and liberated his 18 accomplices of last year. Then they betook themselves to the prosecuting attorney, hauled him out of bed and demanded the documents in the cases against these liberated prisoners. He was not able at once to produce them, and so they carried him off as hostage to Falkenstein, a town about 15 miles to the east. Here Hoelz seized the old castle of Baron Trutzler von Falkenstein, dismissed the baron, and made it his seat of government for the following four weeks. By the afternoon the prosecuting attorney had thought better of the matter and had the documents produced. Hoelz burned them in his presence and then discharged his hostage.

Then Hoelz inaugurated his communist regime with a series of high-handed rascalities. He dismissed city officials or drove them out of town. He levied upon manufacturers and requisitioned their automobiles. Mounted in these he and his chosen band made incursions upon neighboring towns, making people think that the far-off period of robber bar-

ons had returned. He organized his little army and had his little skirmishes with such opposition as presented itself in his way. With 120 of his band on automobile trucks he went to Markneukirchen—famous for the manufacture of violins—disarmed the home guards after a little fight, and then liberated the Spartacist prisoners in jail there. Incidentally he carried off 100,000 marks, "as pledge that the arms would be delivered up," he said.

**Made Threats of Slaughter.** Wherever he went he breathed out threatenings of slaughter. His proclamations teemed with expressions like "he will be shot."

Hoelz delighted in strong talk, in giving himself the airs of a bloody bandit; but he was not half so bad as his talk. In fact, there was a quality of mercy in his rascalities. Once he had the Munich-Berlin express train held up and searched by his band, but they harmed nobody and apparently took nobody's purse, though one report said so. They were evidently looking for somebody, and when they heard that several passengers who looked suspicious had got off and gone to the leading hotel they went there and searched it.

One of the guests was correspondent of a Leipzig newspaper. They arrested him and took him off to Falkenstein because they found on him a notebook containing the substance of a news report which he had telephoned to his paper. In the castle at Falkenstein he found two young university men who had been held in captivity for more than a week, waiting for some kind friend to pay the 20,000 marks ransom demanded for them by Hoelz.

### Warned Tender Hearts.

As Hoelz grew in fame and renown as an outlaw he found that he was touching many tender female hearts with his deeds of courage. He was flooded with letters from women that annoyed his virtuous soul. Finally, he had printed in heavy type in the Falkenstein Anzeiger a notice warning "all unmarried and married women persons, upon pain of heavy fines and the publication of their names, against tempting him with love letters and less obvious allurements." He was a married man, the notice concluded, and he "energetically forbade" this indiscriminate love-making.

While Hoelz was amazing all Germany and the world with the boldness of his robberies and impressments, the Saxon government was equally the cause of amazement through its suppleness. Herr Gradnauer, the socialist minister-president of Saxony, at first did nothing whatever against Hoelz, and later explained that he had hoped the workmen would themselves take measures to restore order or, falling in that, would come and ask the government for troops. As late as April 3, about two weeks after Hoelz began his "reign," Gradnauer was still calling upon the various "action committees" that had been formed in the larger towns of the Vogtland to "see to it that the unconstitutional state of things instituted by the communist Hoelz in the Vogtland be remedied as speedily as possible." If this were not done in the very next days, this pronouncement went on, the government "would be compelled in the general interests of the state to restore legal conditions with all the power at its disposal."

### Workmen Ordered to Arm.

At the same time news from Chemnitz, which lies near the Vogtland, was to the effect that Gradnauer had promised no troops should be sent for the present, and was depending upon the Chemnitz executive committee (of the socialist organizations) to negotiate

with the "action committees" in the Vogtland to put a speedy end to Hoelz's doings. This statement was made at a general meeting of the shop councils of Chemnitz, whereupon a resolution was adopted calling for arming the workmen and declaring that a general strike would be proclaimed at the first attempt of the government to send troops through Chemnitz. The executive committee had promised several days before that it would settle the Vogtland troubles by peaceable means, and Minister Gradnauer was still promising mild treatment for Hoelz and his gang.

This attitude of organized labor at Chemnitz corresponded to the attitude of the more extreme socialists elsewhere. The independent socialists either excused or openly encouraged Hoelz. Their leading organ at Dresden declared that the workmen would resist an armed intervention by every possible means, and "the responsibility would fall with full weight upon the government." And the Freiheit, the national organ of that party, saw nothing worse in Hoelz's doings than a breach of party discipline. He was "acting contrary to the interests of the revolutionary proletariat." "Proletarian campaigns," this organ continued, "require closed ranks at the battle front, obedience to general orders; and all dancing out of one's turn means weakening and hurrying the revolutionary struggle."

### Decide to Fight Bandit.

Finally about three weeks after Hoelz had been in possession at Falkenstein, Gradnauer decided with extreme reluctance, that he would have to ask the Berlin government to send the Reichswehr against the marauder. His hopes that the workmen in the Vogtland would come and say: "The thing can't be done without the Reichswehr," had not been realized. An attempt was made by Plauen workmen, indeed, to shake Hoelz, but without success at first. The action committee there called four big meetings; at which a resolution against him was to be proposed; but Hoelz himself boldly appeared at the meetings, and by means of his usual fiery harangues defeated the resolutions.

As the troops began to move, however, the laboring people began to assert themselves. At Chemnitz, the decision of the shop councils to call a general strike in support of Hoelz, was nullified by a large majority on a general vote of the entire laboring population; and about the same time, a conference of the communists at Chemnitz voted to expel him from their party. On the other hand, about the time when the troops were drawing their net around Vogtland a conference of socialists at Gera, attended by delegates from many Thuringian towns, voted unanimously to demand that the troops be recalled, otherwise to declare a general strike for all Germany.

### Hoped to Make Escape.

But the troops gradually gathered around the Vogtland, coming in with many apologies and explanations on the part of the Dresden government and the general. Airplanes were sent in advance to scatter handbills designed gently to soothe the fears of the workmen. Moreover, a civil commissioner was sent along with the troops to restrain their thirst to kill on sight Hoelz and his band.

Hoelz scented the danger from afar, but he made good use of the few days of grace still left him. He did not remotely dream of making a stand against the troops. When they were still several days' march from Falkenstein he shifted his headquarters over to the little town of Klingenthal, which lies immediately on the Bohemian frontier.

On the last day of his stay at Klingenthal he made hay in two ways. He sent a detachment of his forces once more into Plauen to raise money by going into the leading restaurants and emptying the pockets not only of guests, but even of waiters. Then at Klingenthal he summoned fifteen of the leading manufacturers to a conference at the town hall, demanded of them 1,000,000 marks before nightfall, and locked them up as hostages till it should be produced. Later he decided to let them go out and make their arrangements to obtain the money. At the appointed hour they returned and counted out the money for him on the big center table.

### Burns Mansions Before Quitting.

Before quitting Falkenstein Hoelz had set fire to the mansions of five leading manufacturers, after he had been mulcting them for several weeks to meet the expenses of his "army." He also ordered the detachment that went to Plauen to rob the restaurants, that they also burn several fine villas there, but this was apparently not done; the valiant band contenting themselves instead with pillaging several homes.

As the troops closed in on the scene of war they began to make captures of Hoelz's Red guards, all stuffed with stolen money. There was a sort of skirmish somewhere, in which Hoelz was engaged until things grew too hot for him. The official report records the fact that his automobile was captured, containing his hat; but that Hoelz himself escaped, "ostensibly in woman's clothing."

He succeeded in some way in getting across the frontier, which was probably not very hard to do, as it is a wooded, semi-mountainous region. Several days later the Czechs arrested him at Marienbad; and now he is to be brought back to Germany for trial. If a military court tries him it is not doubtful what his fate will be; but more probably he will be brought before a civil tribunal. In that event he may get five, perhaps even ten years in the penitentiary.

## How America Is Aiding Stricken Poland



Children of Grodno, Poland, learning gardening under the supervision of workers of the American joint distribution committee. A thousand children are cared for here daily while their mothers are at work.

## JAMAICA REAL BAT PARADISE

Live in Extensive Caverns, From 10,000 to 15,000 in a Group.

### IMPORTANT ECONOMIC VALUE

Scientist Finds Twenty Different Varieties—Some Kill Insects and Are Useful to Man—Others Destroy Fruit.

New York.—Returning recently from the Island of Jamaica, in the West Indies, where he spent four months on a scientific expedition, H. E. Anthony, associate curator of mammals at the Museum of Natural History, brought back with him many fine specimens of bats, which are numerous on that and other islands in the West Indies.

"The only mammals native to the islands today," Mr. Anthony said, "are twenty species of bats and one species of rodent. These different bats range in size from small bats, with a wing spread of six inches, up to very large bats, with a wing spread of from twenty-eight to thirty inches."

People in the United States, where bats are comparatively rare animals, have no idea of the variety and abundance of them in such a place as Jamaica, or of the important economic value of the bat. They are either insect-eating or feed on fruits. The insect-eating varieties are small for the most part, and have considerable value as insect destroyers. They feed on mosquitoes and on a great variety of winged insect life, many of which are obnoxious to man or injurious to agriculture.

### Homes in Caves.

The island is composed largely of limestone, and caves of frequent occurrence, and these caves are the abode of by far the greater part of the bat population. Many caves are small, but not infrequently caves are found which are several miles in length. Some such have great subterranean chambers through which rivers run, passing completely under some small mountain chain; others have a series of intercommunicating chambers through which a person may walk for hours without retracing his steps. It is in such places that innumerable hosts of these peculiar animals may be found, and it is no exaggeration to estimate their numbers in a single large cave as 10,000 or 15,000 individuals.

When a person enters such a cave and disturbs the inmates a scene of wild confusion ensues, in which a veritable whirlwind of flying forms may deluge the intruder and rush about through every part of the cave. To one to whom a bat is a repulsive and diabolical creature such an intimacy would be highly distasteful, but to one who understands the bat it is a most interesting experience. Such a meeting affords an opportunity for an intimate insight into the animal's home life. While the flight of the bat under normal circumstances is perfectly noiseless, in such chambers in which thousands of individuals are flying wildly about the noise of their wings sounds like a great wind storm.

In the caves are great piles of guano deposited by the bats. These deposits sometimes are 15 or 20 feet thick and are valuable as fertilizer. It is used by natives on fields. In a good cave many tons may be taken out without exhausting the supply. There are species of bats, such as the fruit-eating, which are not so useful to man. Some of the larger bats belong to this group. They come out of their homes an hour before dark and fly about fruit trees, searching for ripe fruit. They eat a great variety of fruits, depending on the season and locality. They eat bananas, naseberries, sweetsop, ripe coffee berries, rose-apples and many other varieties.

### Fish-Eating Bat.

If the fruit is small they cut it loose and fly away with it, but if it is large they cling to it and eat it on the

### THESE GIRLS TOO MODEST

Cincinnati University Coeds Name Qualities Requisite in the Husband.

Cincinnati, O.—University of Cincinnati coeds have their own ideas about how a husband should look and act. Agreement of opinion picked the ideal husband wanted by college girls as tall, dark, athletic, broad shouldered, whiskered and good looking. One girl says: "He must sing, dance and play the piano. He must be tall, thin, have a tiny nose, no whiskers, be fond of purple and like pumpkin pie." Another girl says she "doesn't want a saintly creature, just a human, brave and true, strong honest and ambitious, broad shouldered, and he must be young, so I can train him to suit myself. He must have shiny auburn hair, with persistent natural marcel and gorgeous blue eyes."

### Rock, Perfect Shape of Mule's Head, Is Found

White Plains, N. Y.—A rock which is a perfect mule's head in shape was found by workmen in a quarry on the farm of John Emmke, near here, the other day.

The rock was uncovered while stone for the construction of a dam was being gotten out. Emmke has refused many offers for the curiosity.

## SAY CZAR OILER ON FREIGHTER

Customs Men Trail Crown Jewels After Reporters Are Excluded.

### RELIEVED DOCKING TEDIUM

But Really There Were 13 Supposedly Noble Russians in the Crew of the Steamer Gov. John Lind From Copenhagen.

New York.—The ordinary humdrum ending of the voyage from Copenhagen of the American freighter Gov. John Lind was marked by two happenings not ordinarily recorded in the log. The first was the discovery by the ship's officers that reporters without their knowledge had invaded the stokehold intent on finding out whether a very distinguished group of Russian oilers, stokers, a bos'n and a mess boy, a dozen in all, were really the late czar of Russia and a number of the members of his former suite. This excitement had just been quieted and the reporters expelled when there came the customs man, who had heard the story of the escaped Russian ruler and were following a rumor that jewels worth anywhere from \$200,000 to \$1,000,000, or perhaps it was not dollars but rubles, were concealed on board. They were allowed to investigate and they went away without telling the result of the search.

### Knew the Sea.

The Russians were the subject of conversation among the American members of the crew all the way across the Atlantic. They were good natured and answered amiably when the others addressed them as "Count," "Duke," "Prince" or even "Your Highness." One thing the American members of the crew found out was that the Russians knew the sea. They said they intended to follow it permanently.

When the members of the crew asked Sergius Tchisterkoff if he was a prince they reported that he was. Sure, the mess boy also said he was a duke.

The Lind berthed alongside a pier at the foot of West 131st street. When

reporters got on board some of the crew pointed out a grimy figure who looked like the late head of the Romanoff family.

"There is the czar," said one of the crew with due impressiveness.

"Are you a member of the Romanoff family?" asked the reporter. The distinguished oiler in soiled denims stroked his beard with a work-hardened hand. "I really wish you would not ask me that," he said in a quiet voice.

"Say, czar," said the news reporter, as he pointed toward an imposing-looking member of the engine room force, "is that a prince?"

The refined member of the crew stopped stroking his beard and looked in the direction indicated by an outstretched arm. "Really," he said, "I think he is."

### Asked About Jewels.

"Did you bring over any family jewels?" came the next question.

The round-eyed invulnerability from the stoke hold moved involuntarily forward.

"A few," said the bearded oiler. "They are worth considerable money," suggested the questioner.

"I don't know"—at this point the pier superintendent ordered the visitors off the ship. With a wave of his hand the distinguished oiler departed to his job below decks.

One of the Russians, Wasilz Perekopkin, served as an officer on the journey from Denmark. The others are listed on the ship register as John Tilita, boatswain; George Schachovkoy, twenty-four years old; Vladimir Kvjatkovsky, twenty-two years old; John Swaigenlor, twenty-two years old; Paul Lialko, twenty-eight years old; Boris Labinsky, twenty-five years old; John Stuchbury, No. 1, twenty-one years old; John Stuchbury, sixty-five years old; Alex Strackoff, oiler, twenty-one years old; Paul Tschizoff, twenty-two years old; Nick Wreden, eighteen years old, mess boy.

### Tipperary Skull Found in Ohio.

Jackson, O.—A bullet fired by a man he was trying to arrest struck Sheriff William J. Davis squarely in the forehead, but turned off without penetrating. The sheriff found four Richmond (Ind.) men in a hotel at 2 a. m. with a quart of booze. After flooring the sheriff with a shot, they escaped.

## Cattle Show in Ruins of Ypres



Scene during the cattle show held in the market square of war-wrecked Ypres, Belgium. Visitors from all parts of Belgium attended this show. It was organized by the provincial council of western Flanders in honor of the visit of the duke of Portland and members of the allied agricultural relief committee.