

ALCOHOL KNOWN IN FRANCE FROM TIME IMMEMORIAL

Even Before Arrival of Phoenicians on Southern Coast Gauls Already Knew About Beer.



Danes Drinking Before A Raid Upon England.

IN France intoxicating beverages have been known since time immemorial. The far-roving Phoenicians reached the southern coast about the year 1100 B. C. and it is probable that they may have introduced the natives to wine. Even before that, however, it is possible that the Gauls already knew about beer, as this is mentioned in the earliest accounts that we have.

The most romantic episode of ancient France that brings alcoholic drinks into actual history led to the founding of Marseilles. In the year 600 B. C. Euxenes, a Greek trader, landed near the Rhone, where a Gallic tribe held the territory. Nann, the Gallic chief, was a hospitable man, and he took the strangers home with him to attend a wedding feast in honor of his daughter, Gypitis.

At these feasts the maiden to be married came among the guests with a wine cup in her hand and presented it to the youth whom she wished to wed. Everyone expected that a favored youth of the tribe would be honored by Gypitis, but to their surprise she stopped before Euxenes and extended the cup to him. Some of the Gallic guests did not like this, but Nann, believing it a commandment from the gods, greeted Euxenes as his son-in-law and gave him as a dowry the whole bay where he had landed. Euxenes sent home for colonists and built the first rude houses upon the site that is today one of the great cities of France.

Wine, however, was not much in favor with the Gauls at this period. The Romans who came among them later, found that the people preferred their native beer and the Emperor Julian was so perturbed by this barbarity that he composed numerous epigrams in praise of wine and in abuse of beer.

Later the Gauls took readily to wine as Roman influence was extended, and we hear less of beer and mead. Rheims, in the Champagne country, was one of the first towns to submit to the Romans and the people drank wine freely soon after they submitted to Rome. They did not, however, raise the grapes themselves, but bought their wine from traders.

In the time of Domitian, French wines were very popular with Roman epicures and the industry was a flourishing one. Domitian, however, complained that the French were making more wine than beer, and nearly all of the vineyards were destroyed. This did not result in prohibition, for the people went back to their beer.

The Emperor Marcus Aurelius Probus reversed Domitian's policy and set his soldiers at work planting vineyards through what is now France. In the year 300 A. D. it is said that there were thousands of acres there and that the Marne and the Moselle flowed through banks of vineyards. The rich wines tempted the Germans to invade France, and Gibbon says that one German band of marauders was surprised and slain near the Moselle, while they were in the very act of swallowing the wines they had seized.

Positive Craze for Brandy in Middle Ages.

Tremendous Increase in Acreage of Vineyards in France.

IN the middle ages the introduction of distillation into France, which led to a positive craze for brandy, brought about a tremendous increase in the acreage of vineyards. One of these medieval vineyards is shown in the contemporary drawing reproduced above.

Distillation of wine was introduced in France in the year 1313. The liquor that was obtained in this way from the grape, known generally today as brandy or cognac, was at first looked upon as a marvelous beverage that promised almost eternal life. It was prescribed for every ailment; it was regarded as especially fortifying for the mind and the memory; it was eagerly quaffed by women, who were told that it would make all who drank it beautiful beyond compare. These legends did not prove true when worked out in fact, but they account for the name, "eau de vie," water of life, that is sometimes applied to brandy or other spirits.

The word brandy came from a roundabout journey. The medieval sages could not think of a good word for the new liquor. Finally, as it was made from wine by using fire, they gave it a Latin name which means "burned wine." The Germans took this in their own tongue as "brannewein" and the French later took the German word and made it "brandevain." When the English translated the French word and termed it "brandywine." This was somewhat cumbersome and later the last syllable was dropped. In France brandy is now called cognac, from the city Cognac, where there were many distilleries. Hard drinking seems to have troubled



Euxenes Accepting The Wine Cup From Gypitis

French officials much as it has authorities in other lands. Drunkenness was so common during the reign of Francis I. that he instituted the most rigorous laws against it, although he never tried prohibition. Wine could be made, but drunkards were publicly whipped and mutilated. This, however, did not improve things greatly, as the French people continued to drink too much.

The public standard of the period may be illustrated by the advice given by a physician. He said that drunkenness was not at all a bad thing if it was not indulged in too frequently. He advised his patients to get drunk once in two months. This he thought, improved their health, but if tried more often it was a pernicious habit.

During the later reigns of Louis XIV and Louis XV, intoxication was lightly regarded. The women of the nobility even drank to excess, although some of them could keep sober after indulging immoderately. Madame de Montespan and her daughter used to drink bumper after bumper of heavy Italian wine and it seemed to have no more effect upon them than water. It is not a pretty picture that is given by this extract from a contemporary letter, "The Duchesse de Bourbon can drink to excess without intoxicating herself; her daughters try to follow her example, but are soon under the table." This was naturally in this artificial period that a fad for perfumed wines was inaugurated. Musk, amber and roses were used in great quantities. This was carried so far that it was extended to food as well. Pastry was smothered in musk and roast meats were brought on the table wholly hidden by scented powders.

Danes Heavy Drinkers in Old Medieval Days.

Protracted Orgies Were Custom of Ancient Sea Rovers.

THE Danes, in the days when Denmark was a great power in the world, were heavy drinkers. This, however, cannot be supported as an argument for temperance as opposed to prohibition, as the peoples they fought against and overcame were just as fond of intoxicating beverages. It was the custom of the Danish sea rovers to fortify themselves for their raids upon other coasts by protracted drinking feasts. They poured down on these occasions such enormous quantities of very heavy beer that it seems almost miraculous that they were able on the next day to drive out to sea in their open boats and find the way to other coasts. Several of the Danish kings who ruled over England were extremely fond of alcoholic drinks. The last of them all, Hardicanute, son of Canute, was a royal drunkard and died of a debauch.

Spirituous liquors have for many generations been popular with the Danes, but their heroes of old apparently de-

voted themselves to beer. They had discovered how to make it at such an early period that, like the Greeks, they ascribed its invention to their gods. The peasant of olden times kept upon his table a potation of beer or mead in case Thor, the hurler of the hammer, should come to visit. Thor journeyed into the realm of the mysterious north to get the huge brewing vat where the drink was made for the gods, a vat miles and miles in depth and length. The Normans, who in later years roved further and conquered more lands than the Danes, were also much given to drink. They were a much more polished and less coarse race than the Anglo-Saxons, whom they overcame in wild dissipation. Two episodes of that early period illustrate once more the different punishments that were meted out to gentlemen and to serfs who became riotous through drink.

Toward the end of the 13th century, after a tournament held near an English monastery, 80 young noblemen were invited to dine with the abbot. "After dinner," says a contemporary chronicler, "the abbot retiring to his

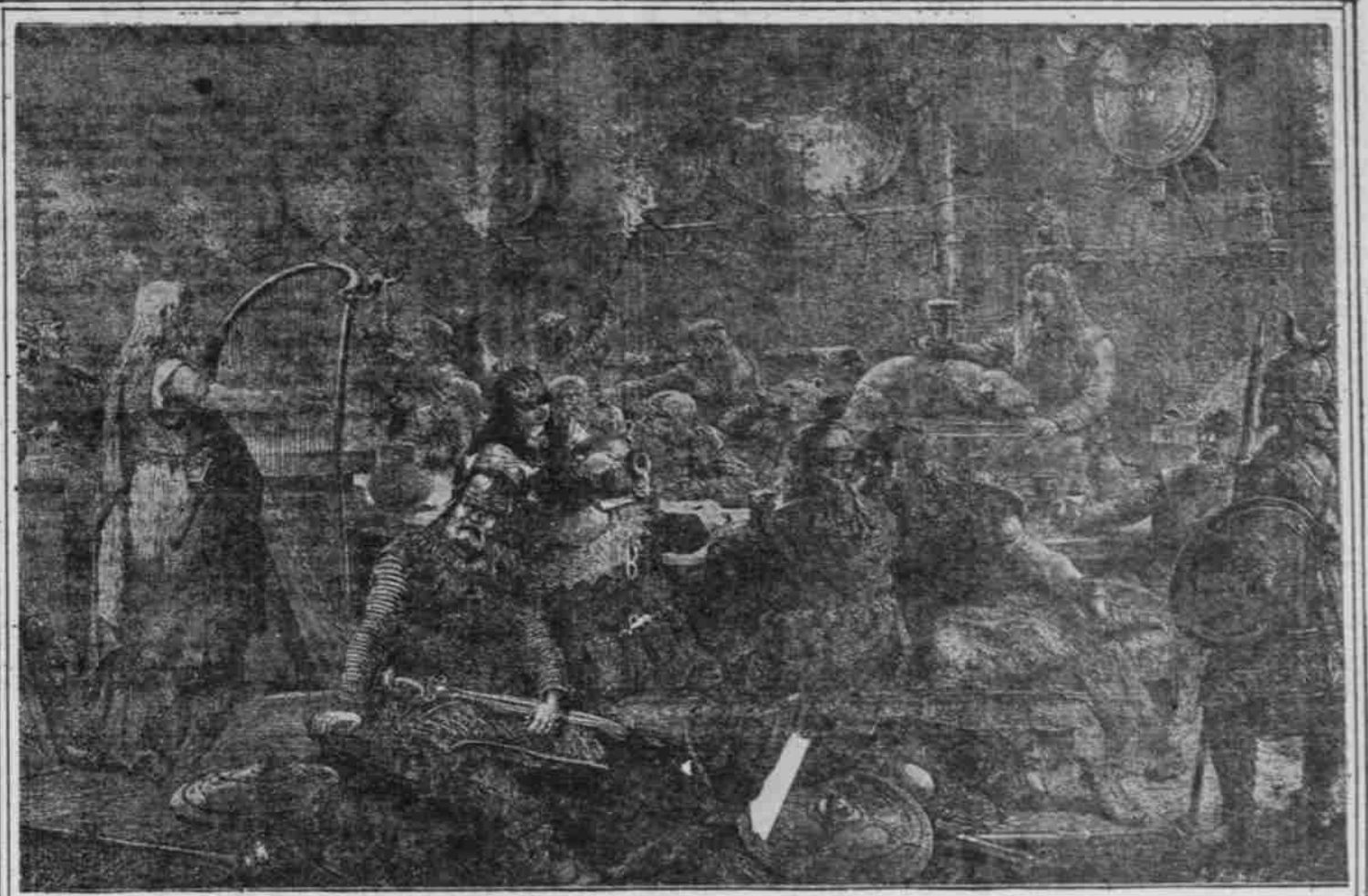
chamber, they all arose and began to carol and sing, sending into the town for wine drinking and then sereching, depriving the abbot and convent of their sleep and doing everything in scorn of the abbot and spending the day until the evening in this manner, and refused to desist even when the abbot commanded them." For this riotous behavior they were solemnly admonished.

The poor who offended in this way did not get off so easily. At about the same time a number of servants and laborers, all of them more or less befuddled by liquor, got into an argument which finally culminated in blows. These offenders were compelled to do penance publicly and most of them were whipped.

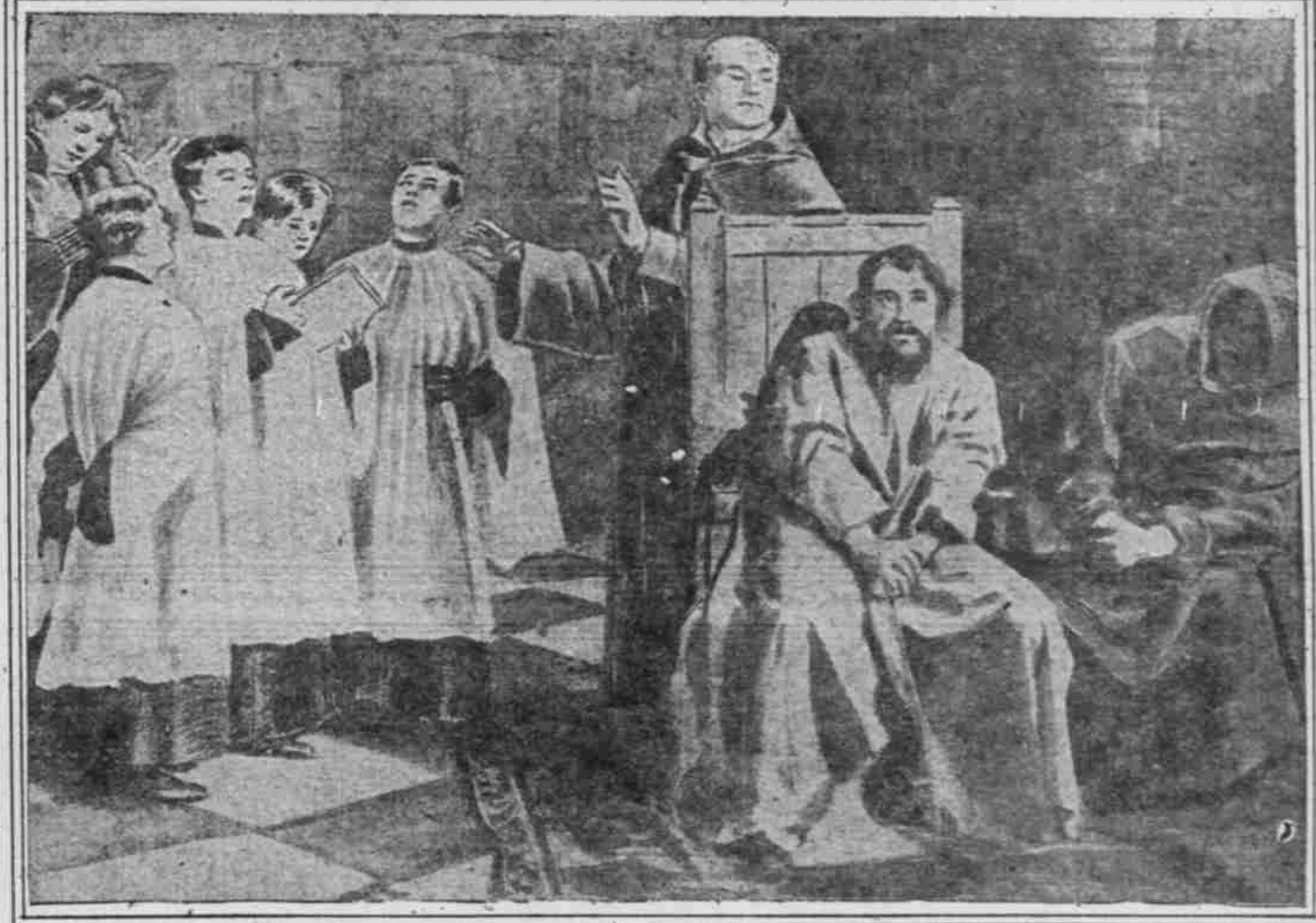
At this period the Normans had a considerable variety of drinks. They had for centuries been familiar with beer, ale and mead. Beer and ale were extremely cheap, it being possible at one time to buy several gallons for a penny. Mead cost more and was consequently not often seen on the tables of the poor. It was much in favor with the nobles and had perhaps somewhat the same standing that cham-

pagne does today. Wines were also gradually coming into favor. The best of these were brought to England and Scandinavia from Italy, France, Spain and Greece. Some wine was made in England from native grapes, but this was not regarded with much favor by epicures.

Alfred the Great as Minstrel Overcomes Enemies.



Alfred The Great Disguised As A Minstrel In The Danish Camp.



The Madness Of Hugo Van Der Goes.

Alcohol Plays Part in Early English History.

Alfred the Great as Minstrel Overcomes Enemies.

ONE of the early episodes of English history in which alcohol plays a part concerns Alfred the Great, the ablest and noblest sovereign that England ever had. But the alcohol in the episode was drunk by the king's foes and not by Alfred.

The ruler of the struggling little communities were being harried by Danish raiders was anxious to find out the intentions of his foes. So, dis-

guised as a minstrel, he made his way into their camp and was entertained by them. While he sang the soldiers grouped about him, drank themselves into unconsciousness until the whole camp of his foes was steeped in drunkenness.

This is not, however, the first mention of alcohol in English chronicles. Long before the time of Alfred, as far back as that remote period when the Romans landed on the island that was then regarded as remote and barbarous, the natives had found out for themselves how to make intoxicating drinks. The Romans found that mead was very popular among the wealthier tribesmen and that mead-makers were ranked high in social standing, being higher than the court physician.

A more common drink was cider, but this was evidently not the sweet cider of New England farms. It was evidently very hard cider, as the Romans discovered that the common people were extremely fond of it and that it caused a great deal of drunkenness. Just how many generations before the Romans came the people had discovered how to make mead and cider is one of the things that will never be known. Nor is it possible to find out when the English first made beer and ale, which have become almost national drinks. In the year 285, a Roman chronicler says that the Britons produced so much grain that they had enough of a surplus over the amount needed for bread-making to brew a drink that was comparable to wine. This was evidently beer or ale.

Here and there, in the early writers of England, one comes across a reformer who deprecates the drinking habits of the people, but there was evidently no intention to try prohibition. Yet that there was a feeling that intoxicating drinks were bad for the people is detected even in the things written by those who defended them. Chroniclers who defended the general habit of intoxication found it hard to defend the abnormal amount of drinking that went on, so they abused other people for debasing the good old customs. Thus the Danes were said to have intensified the Anglo-Saxon liking for drink until it had become a positive passion. And the Normans, troubled by the amount of drinking that went on, took pains to explain that their people had not indulged so generously when they first came into England, but that they had been corrupted by the customs they found there.

In the Anglo-Saxon period women were far from abstemious. There seems to have been complete equality of the sexes in the numerous taverns that were scattered about the country. The women of the higher classes also drank, but they were more restrained. They sat at the tables of feasts and joined in the drinking while the cups passed about slowly. But when the men began to call for potations more frequently and the talk began to get unrestrained, then the women usually

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Occasionally also Hugo painted in oils, although we have but one of these pictures left, a notable painting of the Nativity that is now in Florence. Despite his contemporary fame and the opportunities that must have been his, Hugo fell far short of many lesser men in actual achievement. The reason was drink. He could not restrain himself when he sat at table, although he apparently vowed over and over that he would reform. His continued dissipation brought on attacks of severe melancholia. These became so intense that he retired to a convent, where, because of his great gifts, he was not restrained so strictly as other inmates. He was able to secure wine in the convent and he continued to indulge in periodic excess, despite the advice and pleadings of his friends. At last, while on a journey to Cologne, he went mad and had to be brought back to the convent like a prisoner. The prior caused a sither and other music to be played to quiet him, but for a long time it seemed impossible to win him from his hallucinations. Finally, after he had absolutely broken off his indulgence in wine, he recovered his sanity. But in these years that should have given the world so many notable paintings, alcohol seems to have clogged his brain and prevented him from doing the work that was in him.

Medieval Artists Far Too Fond of Flowing Bowl.

Great Flemish Painters Known Also as Drunkards.

MANY of the medieval artists drank to excess, illustrating the fondness that all classes had for alcoholic beverages. Frans Hals is perhaps the most famous of these who stumbled through life because they could not restrain their desires for intoxicating drinks. Frans Hals, however, managed to paint despite his habits and the poverty in which it involved him. Another artist who might have been more famous than he is today had it not been for his propensity to get drunk was the Flemish painter Hugo Van der Goes, who was born in 1490 and died in 1482. His contemporaries thought that he was an extraordinary artist. Some even believed that in his time he had no rival north of Italy. But much of what Hugo might have done was lost to the world because he drank to excess.

Not a great deal is known about his life. He lived and worked for 10 years in Ghent, varying his weeks of industry with weeks of spleen. He dashed off to get money for his dissipation, large wall pictures painted on linen to imitate tapestry. These were hung upon festive occasions in all the great houses of Ghent. The churches of Ghent and Bruges were also decorated with these hurried compositions. Unfortunately none have been preserved.

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MOTHER OF REVOLUTION SAYS RUSSIA IS RUINED AND TORN

BY CATHERINE BRESHKOVSKY.

"Grandmother of the Russian Revolution."

WHEN one is disinclined to assume a just attitude in regard to one matter or another, one usually and conveniently pleads unfamiliarity with the subject matter involved to escape the duty of passing judgment and to dodge commitment.

It is an open secret that Russia is a heap of ruins and has been writhing in pain for almost two years. It is equally well known to all that Russia's horrible condition is distinctly traceable to the very first acts of the rule of Lenin and Trotsky, who came to Russia directly assisted by the German government and under its sponsorship launched a campaign against the revolution of March, 1917.

The Brest-Litovsk treaty surrendered the control of Russia's internal and foreign affairs entirely into the hands of the Kaiser's ambassador, Count von Mirbach, who from Moscow ruled over the destinies of the betrayed and deceived Russian people. This wily German had, first of all, ordered the disarmament of all the soldiers who had returned from the front and the arming of all German and Magyar prisoners of the large munition and powder factories were blown up one after another; in Petrograd, Moscow, Kaluga, Kiev, Kazan and in other cities in the east and south of Russia. The guns and airplanes that were not sequestered by the Germans were transferred to Moscow.

When, during the summer of 1918,

uprisings against the violent acts of the bolsheviks broke out throughout Russia, it became evident that the Czarist army had been disarmed and had retained their arms. These soldiers, prompted by a keener appreciation of their own situation and greater experience in international affairs, had flatly refused to surrender their arms in spite of the strenuous demands and threats directed at them by the "war minister" Trotsky and his red guards. This easily spelled their own salvation and likewise laid the foundation for the revolutionary army, which is at present waging battle for the freedom of the Russian people. There is little doubt that this young army, wholly Russian in its make-up, would have triumphed over the hired bands of Trotsky long ago, if it were confronted by these mercenaries only, and would have given Russia the freedom and happiness won by her in the great revolution of March, 1917.

The real situation, however, is altogether different. Against Russia there is still arrayed Germany—her bolshevik and monarchist wings—and, in company with Lenin, these two German groups are strenuously endeavoring to crush Russia to earth. Today the Russian army of liberation is fighting fresh German forces splendidly equipped and led by experienced officers. Germany, in violation of the two-fold peace, one of Brest-Litovsk and the other resulting from the armistice, has not desisted from waging an obstinate war against Russia by supplying and higher leadership. Lenin and Trotsky with arms, officers of our forces.

eternal dream of converting Russia into a German colony for territorial and economic aggrandizement. Before the eyes of the whole world Germany continues to violate her obligations, and, taking advantage of Russia's exhaustion, in company with the betrayers of our country, sneers at all laws defining international relations. Confidence in immunity, Germany, by her complicity in the bolshevik deeds of violence and destruction, is before the very eyes of our allies converting our beautiful and rich land, with its enormous population, war-weary and distracted by the counter-revolution of the bolsheviks, into an incubator of moral and physical dissolution which is spreading infection all over the world. For four years Germany has infested the whole world with the virus of a cruel, barbarous war, and she is still continuing this war in Russia, which has not as yet recovered from the effects of the world war and is in the clutches of a fierce civil struggle. Both Junker and bolshevik Germany still cherish the hope of building Germany's future prosperity through the domination of Russia, and, after re-establishing its domination over the Slav peoples, to threaten again the peace and independence of all Europe.

Germany, in formal union with Lenin and Trotsky, is tearing apart the body of Russia, is gnawing away at her heart and is sucking her life blood. According to the latest information from Russia, Germany has turned over to Trotsky 1,500,000 rifles and a great quantity of ammunition, has equipped the red army with officers and given it a German staff. Numbers of Germans are fighting in the ranks of the bolshevik against the Russian revolutionary army, and these are indeed the main obstacles to the offensive movement of our forces.