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How Jugo Slavs Are Tortured

FROM a long report published by the Croatian newspaper Novosti of the speech on the horrors perpetrated by the Austrian Government, delivered by the Jugo-Slav Deputy, M. Tresech-Pavitehitch, in the Austrian Reichstag on October 19, the following extracts have been culled:

"Mr. Tresech-Pavitehitch at the outset stated that he had suffered to the utmost limit of endurance during the time he had spent in prison, and declared that by any means he should disappear the explanation would not be that he was weary of life, although for three years already death had often appeared to him as a thing to be desired. He proceeded to say that his people were being systematically exterminated by hunger, bullet and bayonet, dungeon, deportation, imprisonment and execution, by court-martial, by famine, by concentration camps and by intention and carelessness. The persecutions dated from before the war, and especially from the Serajevoo assassination, and as soon as the war broke out the temper of extermination of all Jugo-Slav patriots began to rage. All whose national sentiment was awake, conscious and honest were arrested, interned, cast into prison, mutilated, executed; all who were too young or too old were deemed to die of hunger, and the rest were intimidated, demoralized and outraged. Preparations had been made long beforehand at a given moment to send all the leaders of the people to the casemates in order to use them as hostages, to cut the people into 'beats'."

Continuing, he said: "When, after three months of imprisonment, I was brought before a judge, the latter said to me: 'I don't know what the charge is against you, and this you will understand when you consider that in Dalmatia, Istria and Carniola you have arrested more than 10,000 persons.' As we were herded on board in Spalato by the hundreds together with criminals of the worst type, as we were led in Rieka (Fiume) to the station through a blinding rain, so that we had not a penny left upon us; as we traveled for four days and nights via Zagreb and Budapest; as we were exposed to the insults of the Magyar mob, exposed, like Siberian prisoners, to blows from rifle butts and curses from the enraged Magyar soldiery; here were many who lost their reason from the shock. With my own eyes I saw one poor wretch leap from the window of the train, going at full speed, out into the darkness of the night and death. At the end of these four sleepless nights we were locked up in the stables of a riding school."

"However, I do not want to speak of Maribor and Graz, because I do not wish to speak of my own sufferings. I must mention, however, single out Imperial Councillor Doctor Hoffman, imprisoned in Graz, who mercifully insulted the wretched prisoners and used to tell them that it would be better to poison traitors who were both to die a natural death."

"But the fate of those who are confined in Mostar, Doboj and Arad was infinitely more terrible. In Mostar the prisoners slept in a basement, on the floor, crowded on top of the other, together with thieves, brigands and gypsies. The greatest horror of this dungeon was its jailer, Kaspar Scholler. This individual, armed with an iron crook, prying used to belabor his charges blindly about the head and shoulders. Blood trickled down the faces of his victims. I refrain from dwelling upon his insults, the gross beastliness of his inventive, his fiendish cries of rage. Money alone could for a moment appease the rage of this Cerebus and close his jaws."

"At Arad thousands from Bosnia-Herzegovina were imprisoned in subterranean vermin-infested galleries, where they were packed like sardines. The air was thick with a tepid mist, as in a vapor bath, and the light of the electric lamps shone dimly through the fog. Before long spotted typhus broke out among the prisoners. At first there were only two or three deaths a day, but later on they died in numbers. When the cold weather came they were stripped in order to cover the living who lacked clothes."

"The number of those who died in Arad is estimated at from 3,000 to 4,000."

"Matters were even worse in Doboj. The surroundings of this town constitute the greatest graveyards of the countless victims of this horrible epoch. Women, old men, children, were locked up in sheds which had been used previously as a hospital for horses, and were infected with all kinds of equine disease. Lumbar pains, spotted typhus, smallpox and cholera soon made their appearance. Everything was infested by every kind of vermin."

"In accordance with a confidential order from the military commandant, Serajevoo, recommending that the prisoners should be treated with the greatest possible harshness and severity, the warders did their best to render their unfortunate charges into the next world. The most convenient and most profitable method was to starve them. Women with four or five children were only given one loaf in five days. The children wandered and cried to their mothers for bread, and the mothers had nothing to give them but tears. Often the mother was already dead, while the child was still shaking her, weeping and asking her for bread."

"According to an approximate estimate by reliable persons more than 5,000 innocent victims were sent to death there."

ONE DARING DEED

By direct authority from God, as the statesman, Alexander VI. in or about 1493, divided substantially the whole of the high seas between Portugal and Spain. At a later period, when called to the attention of the Dutch, his conclusive disposal of the matter did not please them, so they captured a "Portegese," took him into harbor, and on him and condemned him as a lawful prize, first thoughtfully hirsing Mr. De Groot to write a brief in their favor, largely to the effect that the Pope had misunderstood God's real intent in the matter in thinking that only two nations need be considered. Some time thereafter, the English developed the idea that both the Pope and the Dutch had erred in relation to the Lord's intentions; that it was they, the English, to whom the great gift had been intended to be given, so far as it was to be exclusively donated to any one. After a while British common sense came to their rescue and they concluded that the Dutch were right and that the high seas were the heritage of mankind. Germany is now in process of conducting herself as to bring the whole subject up for review.

In considering the maritime neutral and belligerent rights one must bear in mind certain fundamentals. They are: The theoretic equality of regardless of distance in power and size, with its corollary, equal right to the uninterrupted use thereof; that elsewhere on the sea than in its own territorial waters no nation can exercise power over other than its own citizens or subjects, which is not necessarily to some extent infringed on by belligerents in the prosecution of war at sea.

It seems as though the point should be made here, however, that the employment of a novel means, or of some new marine engine or instrument, or the application of a known instrument to a new use, in waging war at sea, cannot of itself vary a rule. The first employment of steam in warships, as the first employment of sails for propulsion, enlarged the radius of operation of the engine of offensive power of the belligerent who employed it, but did not give that belligerent greater "rights" in its employment within such enlarged radius of action than had existed theretofore.

When vessels of war first utilized sail propulsion they did not on that account gain the right to take sails and cordage from the vessels of neutrals to repair or replace losses suffered in action, nor those first employed steam power, coal. So also any other limitation of weakness inherent to the engine of war employed cannot be undertaken if it has occurred because the implement employed is novel or put to a new use.

If the attacking vessel be weaker than a merchantman (in speed or armament) it may be that the merchant vessel will escape (or beat off her opponent). But that fact—her resistance—does not authorize or justify a stealthy or murderous attack on her in the first instance by the vessel of the belligerent. An open boat with an armed crew might be enabled to capture a merchant vessel or to molest her, but it is wrong for her to conceal his character until close aboard and then shooting the helmsman without hail or warning, or if the merchant vessel were armed, shooting her gun crew. But the fact that without resorting to murder the open boat was too lacking in power to bring the merchant vessel to terms does not vary the rule and permit of resort to offset inherent weakness. In other words, any "inherent vice" in the instrument by which an exercise of power at sea is sought to be employed by a belligerent, or the fact that the burden of which, whatever it may be, must fall on the belligerent electing to employ the instrument. This is the whole root of the pretended submarine controversy, which is no controversy at all and was only made to appear so through Germany's murderous course and by conduct on our part which can be charitably ascribed to unfamiliarity with such subjects.

It is subversive of the general right of neutral nations to pursue their commerce on the high seas that the neutral should be laid therein by a belligerent. Nevertheless, in 1914, "less than five days" after the state of war existed between Germany and Britain, Germany planted contact mines indiscriminately in the open sea without regard for the consequences therefrom to neutrals or to any other merchantmen. This original mine laying by Germany was an unlawful attempt on her part to offset the superiority of the British fleet to her own. It was a subterfuge by Germany to "the doctrine of necessity," a phrase she has taught the world, wherewith to describe all conceivable and dastardly horrors.—Charles Edward Davidson.

Duelling in France.

The war is likely to see the end of the "affair of honor" in France, surmises the Christian Science Monitor. Just as Cervantes laughed chivalry out of existence in Europe through "Don Quixote," a certain publicist in Paris has unwittingly brought such ridicule to bear upon duels that he may go into history with Prince Albert, who abolished duelling in England with a stroke of the pen. The Parisian had written a letter to the engineer and grossly insulted him. The case was taken before the judge, who brought to light the fact that the insult was offered solely for the purpose of getting the engineer to fight with the writer. Now "fighting" in France means only one of the two things, the sword or the pistol. But to-day the Frenchman is permitted only one enemy, the invader at the front. So the judge fined the publicist five francs and ordered him to pay the engineer 300 francs damages.

The Mamage have a superstition regarding odd numbers, and strive to have in their houses an even number of windows, doors, rooms, and cupboards.

A DARING FACTOR.

French School Teacher Works Against the Militarists.

The arrest in Paris recently of Helene Brion, primary public school teacher, on the charge of spreading pacifist peace at any price, anarchist propaganda, has uncovered what seems to be a much ramified anti-militarist plot.

Through this arrest and others now pending the authorities have discovered that despite the real patriotism of 99 per cent. of the peoples of France a leaven of unrest has been working among, oddly enough, a small percentage of the class whose duty it is to preach loyalty to the Government, the public school teachers.

On October 25, 1917, a M. and Mme. Mayeux, both Government instructors at Dignar, were arrested and found guilty of spreading anti-patriotic, alarmist propaganda. They were remanded for further hearing either before the Bordeaux Court of Appeals or before a military court-martial. The Mayeuxs were found to be in communication with Helene Brion, who had been under police surveillance. Her room was searched last August and because of the seditious literature found among her effects she was suspended from her duties as a teacher. Despite this circumstance, she continued to draw her salary.

Other documents found were pamphlets urging soldiers to desert and a voluminous correspondence with the Mayeuxs that was really responsible for that couple's arrest. There also were detailed accounts, and eulogistic comments on the Zimmerwald and Kienthal pacifist conferences, also various subscription lists for the propagation of the peace at any price idea in France.

At the same time that Helene Brion's quarters were ransacked a search was made at the home of two other suspects, both of whom have since been arrested: Mme. Dufour, a teacher at Jolmay; and Gaston Moulard, twice wounded at the front and lately called to duty in a munitions factory. Seditious literature was found among their belongings, likewise a quantity of paper butterflies bearing anarchist, anti-militarist texts, preaching class hatred, resistance to military orders, peace at any price and the call for a general revolution.

All this printed matter came from Lausanne and Geneva, where it was published by a committee created for the re-opening of international relations—a committee of which the Mayeuxs and Helene Brion were active members. From letters seized in the quarters of these pacifists it was shown that in 1915, acting together, they succeeded in getting their unwholesome literature into the hands of a great many soldiers at the front.

Helene Brion was a particularly zealous propagandist in pacifist circles. In all the suburbs north and northeast of Paris—at Saint Denis, Aubervilliers, Pre-Saint Gervais—the Mlacs—she was known for the violence of her anti-patriotic sentiments that she never missed a chance to express. "The marvel has been that notwithstanding her ideas and her incessant activities, she was free from police interference and permitted to continue her insidious campaign for months."

Her pet theories were Malthusian, defeatist, anti-militarist and anarchist, and she was a member of several revolutionary groups, treasurer of a feminist association, and to cap the climax, Government public school teacher.

It was Brion always dresses in men's clothes, which are partly concealed by a long white workman's blouse. She often went about the streets carrying a ladder on her back, a paste pot in her hand and under her arm a bundle of posters—which she used to paste on blank walls. Last winter, during the coal distribution difficulties, she incited the workwomen of her quarter to revolution.

The Point.

There was the usual collection of drummers in the smoke room, and among them the inevitable quiet man. Conundrums had been the order of the evening, and the fun waxed fast and furious.

Then the quiet man spoke.

"It's easy," he began, "to answer such riddles as 'Why is your hat like a baby?' which only contains one smile, but some of those with two and more are twisters. For instance, what is the difference between the son of a millionaire, an organ, and a gum pot?"

"I give it up," said the mustered traveller, who was generally very hot at guessing riddles.

"The son of a millionaire is a heir to millions, while an organ has a million airs. See?"

"But what about the gum pot?" inquired the hosiery representative.

"Oh, that's just where you stick," replied the quiet man.—Exchange.

No Wonder.

An Irish guardsman, billeted in a certain town, was complaining bitterly about his hard bed.

"Do you know," retorted the landlady dramatically, "that the Duke of Wellington slept in that same bed?"

"Oh, did he?" retorted the guardsman. "No wonder he was called the Iron Duke."

Also Important.

"Speaking of preparedness," said Uncle Eben, "dar ain't no amount of military razor grindin' dat'll make up for de lack of fast walk in de actual encounter."

Recent Speeches of Beautiful European Musicians.

"The Finnish folk songs are not purely Finnish in origin. Modern research shows that the popular melodies of most countries have wandered about from one land to another, and those of Finland are no exception to the rule. In them we do not find Finnish characteristics stamped on to what was originally a common European stock. Nevertheless, the national note is strong in them. It is both grave and gay, seeming in the one case to embody the surging joy of the summer on which no darkness ever falls; in the other, the long snow-lit twilight of the winter, when for months on end the sun scarcely peeps above the level of the frozen earth." Prof. Arthur Roede of Helsingfors University, writes in "Finland and the Finn." "The ancestral love of song is also clearly expressed in the actual life of to-day, and one cannot help realizing that it springs out of the inmost heart of the people. In the long summer evenings people sit together and sing. On sabbath, they sing before the statues of Finland's great men. At dinners given to honored guests, singing is often part of the entertainment afforded. The Finns imprisoned in Russia for defending the constitution have often been sent off with singing and welcome with singing on their return. From emigrant ships upon the Atlantic boats the cadence of Finnish songs, and in the new world the Finns meet together and sing their country's immortal songs in a strange land."

"Finnish composers have, as might be expected, turned mainly to folk songs and the 'Kalevala' for their themes. The latter, with its vast indefiniteness, is full of suggestions to musicians, and, if Finland develops a modern opera, will no doubt furnish its heroes and heroines, as Homer did for Greek tragedy. In this way Finnish legend may become more widely known to the rest of Europe. "Among Finnish composers Jean Sibelius is by far the greatest. While transcending the limits of nationality and forming part of the main current of European music, he is yet distinctively Finnish, in his love of nature and his patriotism. The latter is discernible in his choice of subjects, both for orchestral music and for songs, but it is best described as an atmosphere pervading all his work. Not only did he often turn to the 'Kalevala' for his inspiration, but also to that other great source of national feeling, the poems of Runeberg. He is not only a great lover of nature but there seems to be something peculiarly Finnish in his way of apprehending her. The Finnish landscape in all its moods being often brought most vividly into the mind of the hearer. . . . He excels in depicting poignant moments, especially in his songs, which are among the finest of modern times."

"It is appropriate that a nation in whose music the song has always played so great a part should be usually rich in fine voices. Their quality is clear and metallic, like the physical atmosphere of the country. Finnish singing is rich in spontaneous feeling and has a fine primitive quality. Probably we shall hear much of Finnish singers in the near future. . . . Lieder singing has been but little developed among them. . . . It is rather in opera and folk song that they shine, where finesse is less requisite and their simplicity and strength tell. When they sing the songs of their native country really well, one has the impression, not of exquisite art, but of the simple utterance of nature, heartfelt and inevitable, the sublimation of peasant songs."

China's Most Ancient Mystery.

The wayfarer in China who turns south to Angkorized Hong Kong, multitudinous China or that vivid hybrid of East and West Shanghai, fails even to brush the strangest and most ancient mystery of the dragon kingdom. That mystery lies in North China, an immortal mystery that wraps Perkin like an imperial mantle, a sombre northern inscrutability that enfolds the Great Wall as impenetrably as the mists obscuring its turrets. It is a mystery so invincible that, once in a man's blood, there is little choice left him but to follow its lure on and on, seeking its source in that hinterland still farther to the north. From the Great Wall one can gaze far over this unknown land rushing swiftly away to the north, not days but months by caravan—the great plains flooded across it as the sunshine floods across it to-day. No single horseman picks his way along the trail. Over all broods the utterly vanished—from—the earth silence which marks the home of a people who are no more. Is there no life now in that stillness which once beat so fiercely upon the civilization below that a barrier must be hurled against it over the mountain tops? What of these latter-day sons of Ghenghis Khan?

A Poisoned Sea.

For the eighth time since 1844 fish have been killed along the west coast of Florida in an area of poisoned water. Not only the water, but the air has been charged with a suffocating gas, odorless but irritating to the air passages. The last mortality was reported in October, and November of 1916. The Bureau of Fisheries sent experts to the spot but they were obliged to admit, after a careful investigation, that the cause of the explanation advanced is that earth-quake shocks, possibly due to West Indian hurricanes, released poisonous gases from the sea-bottom.—Popular Science Monthly.

Diplomatic.

Wife—Percy, if a man were to sit on your hat, what would you say?

Husband—I should call him a confounded silly ass.

Wife—Then don't sit on it any longer, there's a dear.