

boundaries. The weapons may not be warlike, but the social disruption and industrial stagnation will be more awful, if possible, than the destruction of military warfare.

NEWS

Week ending Thursday, May 21.

The massacre of Jews in Kishineff (p. 52), the capital of the Russian province of Bessarabia, which was formerly a Turkish province, proves to have been much more bloody and horribly cruel than at first reported. The news comes through private letters and from refugees, and is fairly regarded as trustworthy in spite of the apologetic denials of Russian officers.

A letter from David Rosenthal, of Kishineff, the authenticity of which is vouched for by his children in Chicago, to whom it was written, describes what he saw as follows:

Great horror and disorder is now reigning in our city. The first day of Passover an enraged mass gathered in the Jewish quarter, killed our young and old right and left, broke the windows, tore pillows, destroyed the furniture and robbed us of our possessions. Many of us applied to the governor for help, but they were not admitted. Some went to the telegraph stations to report the danger to St. Petersburg, but were not received. Police were sent out to protect the Jews, but assisted the rioters in their horrible massacre. For two days and two nights I closed myself up, together with mamma and the rest of the children, in a cellar and we were afraid even to go out in the yard. Our store was entirely destroyed. On the third day, being nearly starved to death for lack of food, I dared to go up in the house. I found the house entirely destroyed, and, looking through the window, I noticed piles of dead bodies stretched on the street. I was afterward informed that many young girls and women were outraged and killed. About Wednesday morning an official arrived from St. Petersburg, having received a telegram from a neighboring city, and commanded soldiers to restore order.

Other reports describe the horrors more in detail. A Jewess named Sura Fonarschi was brought to the hospital with two nails, seven inches long, driven into her brain through her nose. One Jew was brought in with one hip, both ankles and wrists broken, and his severed hands and

feet dangling by the skin. A Jew named Chamfon was minus his under lip, which had been cut away with a kitchen knife, after which his tongue and windpipe had been pulled out through his mouth with pincers. A Jew named Selzers had had his ears cut away and his head battered in 12 places. He was a raving maniac. At the corner of Spischoj and Gostinnj streets a woman about to become a mother was dragged from her house, seated in a chair within a circle of her tormentors, and thrashed about the abdomen until the child appeared, which was wrenched out and cut into two pieces. A carpenter was surprised at his work and both of his hands were sawed off with his own saw. A Jewish girl was assaulted by several brutes, who cut her eyes out with a pocket knife. One woman, after trying to defend her children, was thrown on the pavement, disemboweled and feathers and horsehair from her bed were stuffed into her body. All the half-grown girls were assaulted until they died. Small children were flung out of windows and trampled on by a crowd.

The savage mob seems to have comprised only a few hundred men, but the evidence is strong that they were encouraged and protected by the police under instructions from Mr. Plehwe, the reactionary member of the Czar's cabinet. Plehwe is reported to have issued a secret circular, dated March 25, to the governor of Bessarabia, which is translated by the London Times as follows:

It has come to my knowledge that in the region intrusted to you wide disturbances are being prepared against the Jews, who chiefly exploit the local population. In view of the general disquietude, the disposition of the population of towns to seek a vent for itself, and also in view of the unquestionable undesirability of instilling by too severe measures anti-governmental feelings into a population which has not yet been affected by propaganda, your excellency will not fail to contribute to the immediate stopping of disorders which may arise, by means of admonitions, without at all having recourse, however, to the use of arms.

All the reports of the massacres indicate that the Kishineff authorities acted under some such orders. Though the police and military were ample to suppress the massacre, it was allowed full headway for three days—April 19, 20 and 21st; and

every effort to communicate with the imperial authorities by telegraph was frustrated. It appears, too, that the Czar holds the governor responsible for this inaction, and that the reactionaries at court have tried to shield him; for on the 18th it was reported from Berlin that the Czar had dismissed the governor, over the protests of the reactionary clique. The ultra-patriotic papers, moreover, do not hesitate to propagate the doctrine that whoever kills a Jew is a good Russian patriot; and with this sort of journalism the Russian censors neglect to interfere, although they have suppressed the *Woschod*, of St. Petersburg, for printing the facts about the massacre.

Kishineff has a population of about 140,000, of which about one-third are Jews. Its commerce is almost entirely in their hands. The recent onslaught upon them appears to have been instigated by the publication in anti-Semitic papers of an absurd story, older in its origin than the Christian warfare upon Jews, that they had murdered a Christian child in Kishineff for the purpose of getting Christian blood for ritualistic use in the celebration of the Passover. According to the official report of the Russian minister of the interior, M. Plehwe, as cabled by the American consul general from Odesa, the casualties were 45 killed, 74 seriously wounded, 350 slightly wounded, 750 Jewish houses wrecked and plundered, and 600 Jewish shops robbed. Reports from London, through the *Jewish Chronicle* of that city, make the injuries appear to have been much more severe. According to these reports the victims number 1,000, of which at least 65 were killed and more than 300 maimed or crippled for life, while hundreds escaped with serious injuries from which they will eventually recover. The damage to property is estimated at not less than \$510,000. Lord Cranborn, the British foreign secretary, stated the number of killed to be about 80, when questioned in parliament on the 20th. Four thousand Jews are said to be unable to get away from Kishineff and to be starving, while thousands are emigrating from southern Russia aimlessly southward.

In the United States it is not the Jew, but the Negro who furnishes food for massacres, and an instance is reported this week from Mississippi.