

Teuton Bandit's Arrest Ends a Daring Career

Max Hoelz Establishes Communist Regime With Series of Bold Rascallities.

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—noted 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 But the military was withdrawn.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 volatile 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 Trutzel 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 rascallities. He dismissed city officials or drove them out of town. He levied upon manufacturers and repossessed 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 "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 rascallities. 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 fine 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 spinelessness. Herr Gragnauer, 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, failing in that, would come and ask the government for troops. As late as April 3, about two weeks after Hoelz began his "reign," Gragnauer 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 Gragnauer 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 this that it would settle the Vogtland troubles by peaceful means, and Minister Gragnauer 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 hurting the revolutionary struggle."

Decide to Fight Bandit.

Finally about three weeks after Hoelz had been in possession at Falkenstein, Gragnauer decided with extreme reluctance, that he would have to ask the Berlin government to send the Reichswehr against the marauder. His hope 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 his way 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.

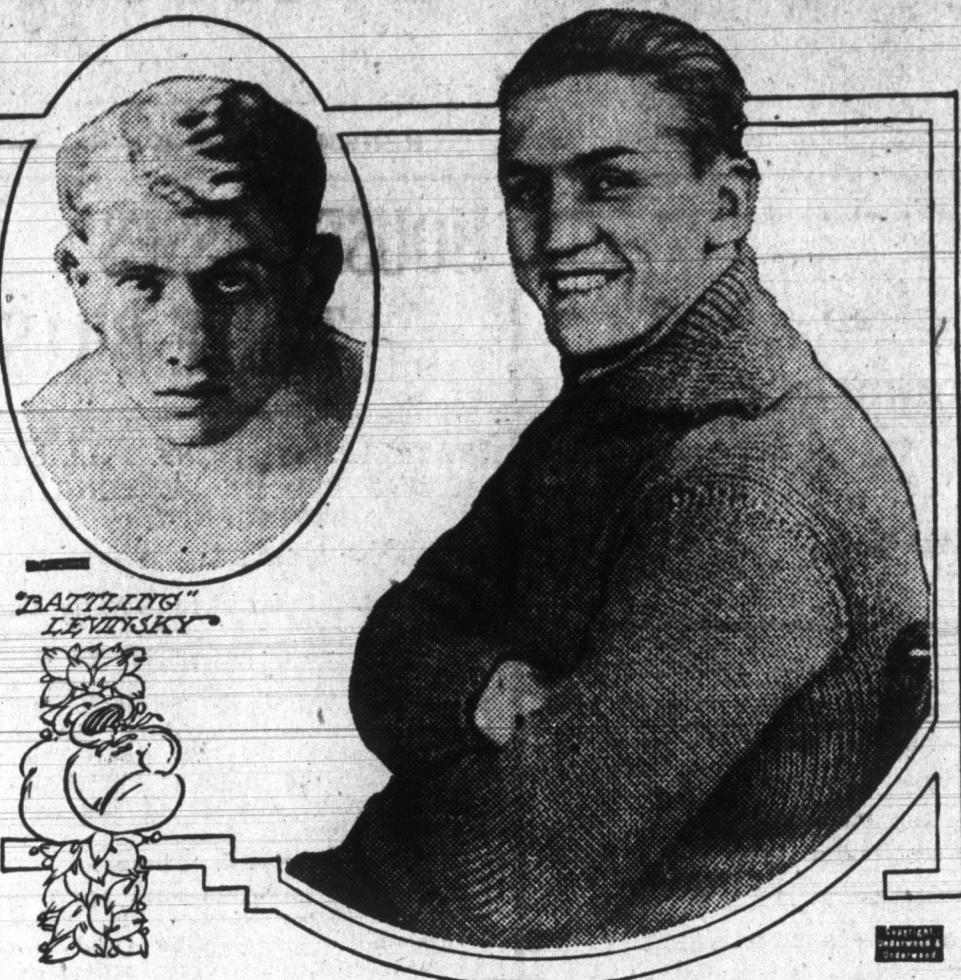
Burns Mansions Before Quitting.

Before quitting Falkenstein Hoelz had set fire to the mansions of five leading manufacturers, after he had been muleting 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-mountaneous 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.

SIGNING OF CARPENTIER TO FIGHT LEVINSKY IS POPULAR WITH FANS



GEORGES CARPENTIER

The signing of Georges Carpenter and Bat Levinsky for a bout for the world's light-heavyweight championship is hailed with approval by boxing fans throughout the country.

Despite repeated assurance that he came here to fight—to meet Jack Dempsey, if possible—many American boxing fans had begun to believe that Carpenter would eventually return to France without drawing on the gloves in a professional contest on this side of the pond. So his matching with Levinsky was welcome news.

Levinsky, recognized as America's light-heavyweight champion, should boldly appear at the meetings, and by means of his usual fiery harangues defeated the resolutions.

Frenchman Levinsky combines speed and cleverness with quite a little punching ability, and though he has been in the ring for a number of years, and has always ranked as one of this country's busiest boxers, he is a good trial horse for Georges.

Will Be Title Affair.

As Carpenter is holder of both the heavy and light-heavyweight titles in Europe, his match with Levinsky will be a title affair and if he hopes to meet Jack Dempsey, he must defeat the battler—a task that none of the American heavyweights aside from Jack Dempsey has been able to perform decisively.

NOW HOLLER "KEEP IT"

In former days when a fan caught a foul ball hit into the stand his neighbors used to yell "Sign him!"

Today they holler "Keep it!"

Baseballs cost the magnates \$2.50 apiece, we understand. Yet some think nothing of pocketing a ball when they'd hesitate over pinching a necktie in a drygoods store.

The principle is the same.

INTERESTING SPORT PARAGRAPHS

Georges Carpenter bowls as part of his athletic exercises.

San Francisco's annual playground tennis tourney attracted 498 entries.

Vancouver, B. C., will construct a municipal natatorium 100 by 40 feet.

O. E. Gray, a professional, will instruct Toronto Lawn Tennis club players.

Ottawa Cricket club is 54 years old. It will be a member of the Ottawa Cricket league.

The Year Book credits 35,065 trotters with records of a mile in 2:30 or better, and 26,879 pacers in the 2:25 list.

Last season a total of more than 3,000 boats competed in races under the American Power Boat association rules.

The wrestling game has hit Nashville with a sudden wave of popularity. The last few matches drew in \$30,000 houses.

Tryouts for the Women's American Olympic swimming team will be held at Manhattan Beach, N. Y., July 10 and 17.

The yacht America won the cup in 1851 around the Isle of Wight, and it has never been recovered by the English sportsmen.

William M. Johnston, national lawn tennis champion, has donated a prize for the winner of a tourney of American Legion members.

New York city is without a track where clubs can hold meets and charge admission, except the old Celtic park race track on Long Island.

ORGANIZE "KNOT HOLE" GANG

Joplin Club of Western League Planning to Admit Kids into Park for Small Fees.

The Joplin club will organize a "Knot Hole" gang among the kids of the town and let them in for 10 cents a throw. Since Joplin, by its arrangement with the Western league, does not split receipts but gives the visiting club a set guarantee of \$100 a game it can open its gates free, so far as other clubs are concerned. Joplin in its first home stand drew an average of better than 900 paid admissions per game, so that the other clubs of the league lost money in making the guarantee arrangement.

BASEBALL STORIES

Late Coast league averages have Ernie Johnson on top of the batters.

Old Pete Knisely continues to be a tower of strength to the San Antonio team.

The Galveston club has loaned Outfielder Fred McDonald to the Houston club.

The Chattanooga club took Pitcher Conrad Fields from Little Rock by the waiver route.

Chicago opinion seems to be that Charley Herzog is done as a regular with the Cubs.

Pitcher Sam Ross, given his unconditional release by Vernon, was taken on by Portland.

The Memphis club has released Pitcher Hal Fowlkes to Augusta of the South Atlantic league.

Pacific Coast league first sackers are a heavy-hitting lot with exception of Griggs and Koerner.

Now that Saginaw has Schwartzje, Lippis and Pike back from Dallas the Aces expect to go better.

Third Baseman Nick Reidy of Mobile jumped to Baltimore, where he will play shop league ball.

Hugh Whitted, released by Wilson of the Virginia league, has signed with his home team at Durham.

Atlanta secured waivers on Razor Lettetter and let him out to Greenville of the South Atlantic.

Ray Blades of Memphis has recovered from a twisted leg and his return should add punch to the Chicks.

Dave Greenberg, the young St. Louis catcher who started the season with Dallas, is now catching for Houston.

Jack Dunn, needing pitchers, announced that Jack Bentley, first baseman, would be used off and on in the box.

Catcher Paul Beyers, sent to Rochester by the Brooklyn club, jumped to a team in the iron regions of Minnesota.

Manager Joe Ward at Raleigh has been having trouble finding a shortstop to suit him. His latest tryout is Botts.

Bob Geary pitched a one-hit game for Seattle against San Francisco in the first game of the double bill on May 15.

The young wildcat presented to John McGraw by San Antonio fans has been given to Fred Toney, who has sent him to his home in Tennessee.

Mordecai Brown, who needs pitchers for his Terre Haute team more than anything else, has secured Armstrong, a left-hander, from Milwaukee.

Toronto certainly won a prize when John McGraw sent Bill Ryan to the Leafs. On his work to date he looks like the best pitcher in the International league.

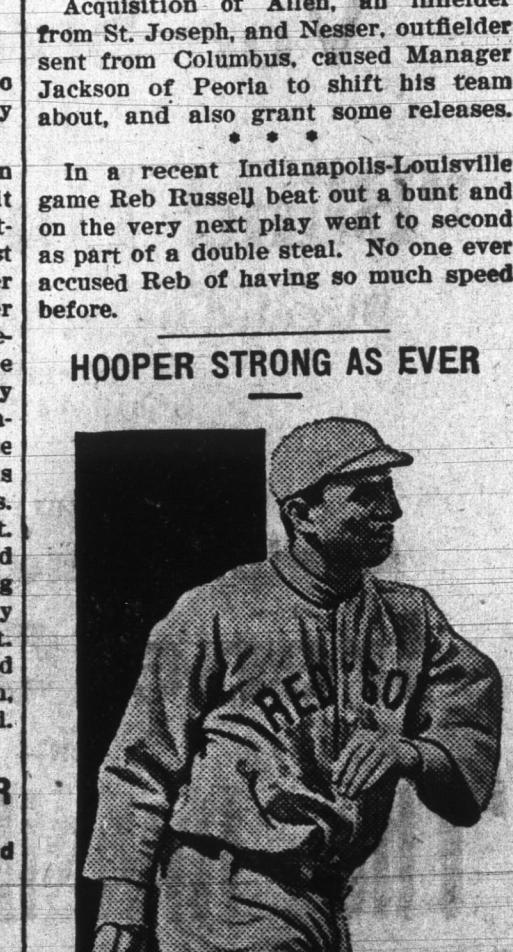
The Rocky Mount team has signed a younger brother of Buster Caton of the Pittsburgh Pirates. He is a shortstop like Buster and about like him in size and style.

Though Wilbert Robinson is said to be ready to let Ed Pfeffer go in most any sort of a good trade, he refused to swap him to the St. Louis Cardinals for Austin McHenry.

Acquisition of Allen, an infielder from St. Joseph, and Nesser, outfielder sent from Columbus, caused Manager Jackson of Peoria to shift his team about, and also grant some releases.

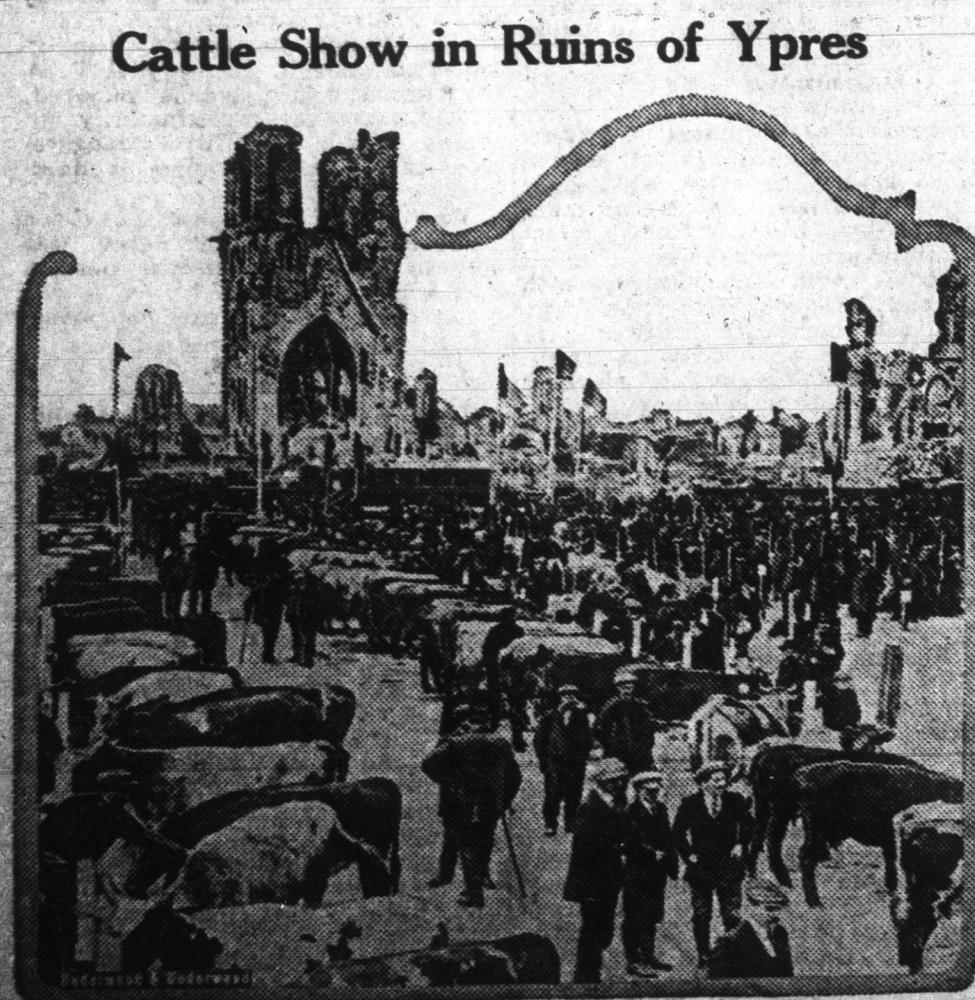
In a recent Indianapolis-Louisville game Reb Russell beat out a bunt and on the very next play went to second as part of a double steal. No one ever accused Reb of having so much speed before.

HOOPER STRONG AS EVER



If any of the fans are thinking that Capt. Harry Hooper of the Red Sox is about through and is not going to have a good season this year, they had better change their minds. Hooper, although playing his thirteenth season with the Red Sox has no superior as a performer.

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 duke of Portland and members of the allied agricultural relief committee.