

his expenses and early in 1900 the young New-Zealander set out to discover the world. One of his great ambitions was to see Tolstoy, but otherwise his prospects were vague. In his pockets were a few sovereigns, and some letters to German professors. In his brain he carried a knowledge of Latin, Greek, Hebrew, French, German, Dutch, Spanish, Italian, Swedish, Russian, Polish, Maori, Dobuan, Fijian, Samoan, Tongan, the tongue of Niue, some of the Philippine dialects, and some others. He was just twenty-three.

In the next few years Williams studied at the Universities of Berlin and Munich, eking out his scanty means by literary work and by teaching English. In his vacations he contrived to travel in many European countries. In 1905 he took his Ph.D. degree at the University of Munich. Williams now took up the study of the Slav languages, and was thus led to interest himself still further in Russian affairs. His letters show that at this time he was also toying with the notion of a possible career in journalism, having already done some correspondent's work for newspapers.

Harold Williams' first contact with *The Times* of London was in 1903. In that year D. D. Braham, correspondent of *The Times* in St Petersburg, was expelled from Russia. *The Times* decided not to fill his place, but Braham organized a remarkable news service, the threads of which linked the Russian liberals with M. Peter Struve, one of their exiled leaders, who edited a Russian paper at Stuttgart. Braham, who had a high opinion of Williams' literary abilities, appointed him a special correspondent of *The Times* to obtain information from the exiled Liberals. This experience led to further journalistic work, first on the foreign staff of the *Manchester Guardian*, then as special correspondent of the *Morning Post* in Russia and Turkey in 1911-12, and in 1914 as correspondent of the *Daily Chronicle* in Russia.

Here Williams' remarkable knowledge and receptivity speedily established his reputation as an authority on Russian affairs. This reputation was confirmed

by his study, "Russia of the Russians," published in 1914. His sympathies were with the Constitutional Democrats, "The Cadets," and he married Madame Ariadna Tyrkova, a well-known political writer, the first woman to be elected to the Duma, and a prominent member of the "Cadet" party. When the war broke out in 1914 Williams supplied his newspaper with a series of extremely interesting and authoritative messages on military and political conditions, and contrived to accompany the Russian armies, taking part in one of the raids of Cossack cavalry which actually penetrated Hungary by the Wyszkw Pass. His knowledge enabled him to render valuable service to the British Ambassador, Sir George Buchanan, and together with Mr. (later Sir) Hugh Walpole, organized and managed a British bureau of information which co-operated with the Russian press.

In the first stages of the Russian Revolution, Harold Williams, who knew the fanatical strength of the extremist minority, and the weakness of Kerensky, was frequently consulted by M. Rodzianko, the President of the Duma, and gave great assistance to the British Labour delegates, led by Mr. Arthur Henderson, on their visit to Russia in the spring of 1917. The overthrow of the Kerensky regime grieved but did not surprise him.

Williams' marriage, as well as his criticisms, earned him the hostility of the revolutionaries, to whom his views appeared as dangerously moderate, and he and his wife were at last obliged to leave Russia. With the formation of the White Russian front in Southern Russia Williams returned and followed the civil war for *The Times* and the *Daily Chronicle*, with General Denikin's Army. Here he saw the fatal military and political mistakes at its headquarters, and he left Novorossisk, in March, 1920, just before the town fell. This experience, his last in the service of the *Daily Chronicle*, was particularly painful for one who had so many friends on the losing side.

In June, 1921, Williams, who had travelled in the Balkan Peninsula and in the Succession States after his return