

ROUMANIANS' FINE DEFENCE OF MOLDAVIA

New Marne for Huns On the Sereth as Glorious Feat of Arms.

OUTNUMBERED

But Peasant Troops Held Crossing for 15 Days—Foe Loss Huge.

London Cable.—Details have been received by the Times from its correspondent on the Rumanian front of the magnificent fight of the reconstructed Rumanian army against Gen. Mackensen, which saved Jassy, its capital, and all Moldavia. Foreign Minister Cambon, of France, declared that the victory reminded him in a measure of that of the Marne. Since August 19 until to-day the Germans made no serious effort to resume the offensive. The story follows:

"With the Rumanian Army on the Maraschti Front, Aug. 21.—The story of the past fifteen days will remain golden letters in the history of this country. The defence of the Maraschti front north of Focsani was the most glorious deed of arms ever accomplished by the Rumanian army. The heroic fight of these peasant soldiers, who had to face much superior German forces, has been unequalled by either the Belgians or Serbians. The main objective of the enemy has been to reach the bridge of Costena, across the River Sereth. The intention of the enemy was clear from the letter I saw, found on the corpse of a Prussian officer, dated August 6th, as follows: 'We are going to give a decisive blow here very soon. If we cross the Sereth, which I hope will not be difficult, Jassy and the whole of Moldavia will be ours. If we succeed I believe we are going to be sent to Flanders, where things seem hot again.'

"The moment chosen by Mackensen was Aug. 8, when the Russian troops had to be repulsed by the Rumanians. The Rumanian division, which was still on the left bank of the Sereth, hurried part of its troops across the bridge to prevent any crossing of the river. For three days one division resisted the fierce attacks of three German divisions, which were ordered to cross at any price. Finally on Aug. 12, the enemy, finding his efforts useless, shifted his attack westwards. The enemy's losses were enormous. Prisoners of Alpine corps confessed that since Verdun they never had such a serious engagement. The Twelfth Bavarian division was practically annihilated and reduced to 2,000 men. Naturally the Rumanians' losses were also heavy. On the following days the attack became general on the whole Maraschti front, where the Germans brought twelve divisions against much weaker Rumanian forces, who, moreover, took over a precarious situation. However, with the sacrifice of nearly a whole Rumanian division, the German plan was countered. Had the enemy succeeded in crossing the bridge at Cosmesti and pouring divisions over the river the Rumanian armies would have been cut in two and the enemy would have dealt easily with each army separately.

WHOLE REGIMENTS WERE DELETED.

"A new offensive broke loose on the 14th. Extremely violent artillery preparations started early in the morning. Under the clouds of dust, smoke and suffocating gases the German infantry were sent again to be slaughtered. The Rumanian soldiers stood as heroically as any in this war, unflinching, though whole regiments were decimated by the fire of the German machine-guns. Officers and soldiers died in their positions, refusing to withdraw or surrender. The French captain, Yernell, attached to a Rumanian regiment, lost his life fighting, together with his Rumanian comrades. The German waves broke against a wall of determined Rumanian soldiers. As an illustration of the German losses, the Eighty-ninth Prussian division had to withdraw on the second day of the battle. In spite of the desperate efforts of the enemy he was unable to cross the river. The ground gained, which does not exceed three miles in depth, is of no strategical value, and has been paid for at an enormous price.

"The last big German effort was made on the night of August 19, when, after intense artillery fire of all calibres, two German divisions and an Austrian brigade attacked the Rumanians' position north and east of Panclu.

KING ON BATTLE-FRONT.

"In the presence of their King, who accompanied by Prince Carol, shared the risks of the battle with his soldiers, the Rumanians fought bravely beyond praise. The enemy, whose attacks were more desperate than ever, succeeded in approaching the barbed-wire entanglements when the last Rumanian reserves were brought forward and counter-attacked with such violence that the enemy fled in disorder. The German soldiers, surprised at such a violent attack, threw away their rifles and surrendered. The next day witnessed six hundred Germans and Austrians parading before the King. While the Austrians looked slack and tired, the Bavarians distinguished themselves by marching in excellent 'goose-step'.

"The battlefield is still covered with corpses, which are piled six deep. Prisoners declare they were told that war will be over in the Autumn when England will be crushed.

"These reverses have checked the enemy's activity for the present. It is

doubtful whether he can conduct further operations in this direction. The situation on the whole may be considered now with more optimism. The German check on this front is the most serious they ever had in the Near East. After a fortnight's fighting with terrific losses they have been checked by numerically inferior forces. On the other hand the strategical advantage is with the Rumanians, who possess the whole of the left bank of the Sereth, whose abrupt slopes dominate the right bank, which is partially in German hands. The army, although numerically weakened by the fortnight's fierce fighting, has a high morale, and is convinced now that even with inferior numbers they will be able to revenge the defeat of Last Autumn."

MACKENSEN RENEWS THE OFFENSIVE.

London Cable.—The official despatches from Petrograd and Berlin indicate that Mackensen has regrouped his armies following his disastrous check, and yesterday resumed the offensive. The Berlin report claims that the Germans captured the village of Mancel and pushed back the opposing forces in a north-western direction past several positions on both sides of the Sutchitza Valley. Prisoners to the number of 1,000 men and three guns were, it is claimed, taken.

The Petrograd report furnishes an explanation of the German success. A Russian division abandoned its positions in the region of Focsani, on the Rumanian front, and fled in disorder, it announces.

SERBIAN GIRLS AS TURK SLAVES

Thousands Taken to Be Put Into harems.

Bulgars Have Systematized the Trade.

London Cable.—Correspondence of The Associated Press.—Ten thousand Serbian girls from ten to fourteen years old have been kidnapped and deported from Serbia to the naroms of Constantinople, to Bulgaria and Asia Minor, says a dispatch received by M. Pasich, the Serbian Premier, who is now in London.

"These deportations," said M. Pasich, "have been going on since February 1916, but the number was very limited until a few weeks ago. Now it has been systematized under Bulgarian control, and it is impossible to predict how far it will go."

"Eight thousand girls have been sent to Constantinople, and two thousand more to Bulgaria and Asia Minor. Prisoners whom we have taken on the Saloalki front tell us that the traffic in our girlhood has grown to be a byword in Bulgaria and Turkey.

"The girls are kidnapped and taken and secretly, particularly from the smaller villages, until at present dozens of small towns have been quite denuded of the young female population.

"I do not think that the Turks are the actual instigators of this gross violation of the rules of civilized warfare. All our information indicates that the Bulgarians are the prime movers and the Turks only incidental beneficiaries of the traffic.

"The girls are too young to be of any use for laboring purposes, besides, neither Turkey nor Bulgaria is seriously handicapped for labor, and in Turkey the use of young women for outdoor work is practically unknown.

"It is very difficult for us to do anything to help these unfortunate victims. Our affairs in Constantinople and Sofia are now in the hands of the Dutch government, and we have made the most earnest possible tests through that government. But you know how difficult it is to get any action from Turkey. We have suggested, for instance, that some scheme of repatriation be put into effect immediately, that the girls should be sent back to some place beyond the war zone. But I fear it is too late to save them, and that we can only wait in patience until peace comes."

WILL CONTROL ALL PROVISIONS

British Food Controller Announces His Decision.

Tea Shortage, But No Cause for Alarm.

London Cable says—Lord Rhonda, the Food Controller, has decided to take over gradually control of the entire provision trade in the British Isles. The vital consideration in the regulation of prices of provisions is in constant touch with the American Food Control Department on this subject. It is stated that the two Governments are working in entire harmony to secure a reduction in the prices of commodities coming from the United States.

Regarding the supply of tea, concerning which there have been alarmists reports recently, the Food Ministry to-day issued a reassuring statement, saying that while imports in May were small owing to tonnage difficulties, the imports since that time have improved and there "is no present cause for alarm, although all possible economy is desired."

Mr. Wigwag.—Do you believe all angels are women? Mrs. Dashaway:—Certainly not; if they were, it would not be heaven.

MONTE SAN GABRIELLE NOW PARTLY WON BY ITALIANS

Last Great Stronghold Barring Road to Trieste Likely Given Up.

Cadorna's Strategy Puzzles Austrians—Further Heavy Gains.

Washington Cable.—The Italian Embassy's official advices regarding the progress of the Italian offensive against the Austrians indicate that the success of the forces of Generals Cadorna and Capello, in capturing the Bainsizza Plateau, is an important military gain that is threatening the entire group of Tolmino defences. The advices indicate that in this offensive, the Italian Commander-in-Chief, General Cadorna, in his efforts to baffle and confuse the Austrians, has not only routed their forces as the Italians have advanced, but left the Austrians in greatest doubt as to the Italian objective, whether Trieste or Laibach, or both these important points.

Italian military experts here assert that, with sufficient guns and munitions, the Italian forces under Cadorna will win a complete victory over the Austrians on that front. The Italian offensive has won the admiration of military officers in Washington, those of the foreign war missions as well as American officers, and it is admitted on all hands that this offensive has vastly increased the power and influence of Italy in Entente war councils.

The official despatch received by the Italian Embassy to-day, describing the progress of the offensive, and particularly the battle of Bainsizza, was as follows:

"The Bainsizza Plateau is 600 metres between the Isonzo and Chiapovano Valleys. It was attacked by the second Italian army, which crossed the Isonzo River, using fourteen bridges during the battle. On the western side of the plateau the Italian troops overcame the first line of the Austrian advance, and then, while a part of the Italian army was fighting on the second Austrian line, another part was advancing around the north side to make a flank-attack. The result was the fall of the whole system of defence of the plateau and quick withdrawal of the enemy, followed by the Italian army, crossing the Chiapovano Valley.

"The strategical move and flanking shows the great superiority of the Italians over the enemy, and the skill of the Italian high command. The manoeuvre has been a very daring one, and has been possible only through the heroic dash of the Italian infantry, compared for their impetuosity and contempt for death to the most famous troops of Japan. The enemy himself says so. The papers publish long accounts of the conquering of the Bainsizza Plateau, where the enemy was routed and unable to form new lines of resistance. The Tribuna correspondent says that the actual action on the middle Isonzo is to be considered among the most important battles that have been fought in the European war, not only considering the length of the front and number and importance of the objectives, but also for the skillful plan and for having in fact reached the pre-arranged aims. The strong, high plateau between the Isonzo and the Chiapovano Valleys, was a formidable fortress with precipitous slopes on the Isonzo and with strong redoubts and covers, extremely well supplied with machine guns cleverly protected and hidden in caves and dugouts.

"General Cadorna and General Capello, in command of the second army, have demonstrated their qualities as organizers and strategists in the battle of Bainsizza. The battle was imposing on account of the large masses of men and materials employed, although the soldiers advanced as small units. Each unit had a special objective previously assigned and co-ordinated with mathematical precision. Correspondents relate that as whole divisions crossed the Isonzo over improvised bridges, they proceeded immediately to the assault of the hills, conquering them very rapidly, and secured to hang over the river, the slopes on which they were fighting being so steep. The Italians reached the summit where was situated the village of Canalese, where the Austrian Commander had his headquarters, and captured it. Every house in the village, even those in ruins, had machine guns operating against the Italians, but the Italians surrounded the village, and it succumbed to their determined assaults.

"Just as difficult and terrible was the capture of Monte Fratta, over the high plateau towards the Chiapovano Valley. It is strange that the Austrians still are calling this the battle of the Isonzo. The correspondent of the Tribuna says that the evening the Italians captured the Monte Santo the Italian musicians played patriotic airs, and the Austrian artillery tried in vain to drown the music. The military correspondent of The Tribuna, General Corsi, says the success over the Bainsizza Plateau is threatening the whole group of Tolmino defences, so it can be said that in a very short time it will suffer the same fate as Monte Santo, which was taken by the Italians in an enveloping movement. The same critic, to show that the enemy feels defeat, says the Austrian official communiqué of August 23 says the Italians on the plateau of Bainsizza were unable to take advantage of their numbers and to gain ground towards the south."

SAN GABRIELE IS PARTIALLY TAKEN.

Copenhagen Cable.—According to the Cologne Gazette's correspondent on the Isonzo front, Monte San Gabriele has been partially taken by the Italians. The Austrians, adds the correspondent, are deserting this strong point.

OVER 1,000 PRISONERS CAPTURED.

Rome Cable.—To-day's official report says:

"Fighting continued yesterday on the Bainsizza Plateau. After having overcome the enemy rearguards, our troops encountered, and are at present attacking, a powerful line of resistance, which had been previously organized, and which the enemy is defending with desperation. On the heights beyond Gorizia we made some gains.

"During the day we captured more than 1,000 prisoners and several machine guns. Altogether, 247 airplanes participated in the battle. A squadron of forty Caproni machines which took part in the action, east of Gorizia dropped more than 7,000 kilograms of projectiles on enemy batteries in the Panovizza Wood.

"On the Carso an artillery duel and patrol actions occurred.

"In the Stelvio region, on the Trentino front, the enemy, at dawn Monday attacked one of our advanced positions on the glaciers in the upper Soriano Valley, and succeeded in penetrating it. Our men, however, were able to occupy a higher summit, from which they kept their old position under fire."

ENEMY RULERS FEAR A CRISIS IF ALLIES WIN

Entente Gain This Fall to Cause an Upheaval in Germany.

FRONTIERS SEALED

Turk Fears Treachery—British Fleet Thinks Hun May Come Out.

London Cable.—"If we can gain a big and important military victory this autumn it promptly will precipitate a serious political crisis in Germany," a high British official told the correspondent yesterday. "Germany is fearing the exhaustion of her manpower, as shown from the fact that a great number of the prisoners now being captured are under 17½ years old. I personally have received a letter from a German boy of this age who said that he was called last spring, but exempted them because the medical examiners found he was growing too fast and was not strong enough for service. Otherwise, he would have been taken then, indicating that the Germans months ago were taking all the boys of 17 who possibly could be useful at the front. Conditions latterly are more serious than they were then."

GERMANY SEALING FRONTIERS.

That German authorities are greatly concerned over internal conditions is shown in the recent tightening of the frontiers. It now is almost impossible for Germans to get permission to enter adjacent States or for citizens of neutral States, to pass into Germany. During the first year of the war 200 Germans arrived daily in Denmark; now four arrive daily.

It recently was reported, according to Copenhagen, that Germany is to be hermetically sealed. This is attributed to the determination to prevent untoward news of uprisings from reaching the outside world.

German concern to keep news from the allies is shown in the announcement that German superintendents have been placed in complete charge of operation of the railroad between Berlin and Constantinople. German guards even are placed at all stations en route. This and other demonstrations of German misgivings are causing intense concern in Turkey.

Turkey has heard that Germany and Austria have decided to abandon their policy of neutrality, and to permit the allies to partition the Turkish realm; among themselves as the price of immunity of Turkey's allies. Constantinople is convinced this is true because Austria and Germany are believed to have inspired the Pope's note, which suggests an autonomous Armenia and ignores Syria and Mesopotamia, indicating that Turkey will be cast to the allied wolves.

MAY FORCE NAVAL BATTLE.

Thus, while German effort through the Vatican failed to divide Germany's enemies, there is grave suspicion that it will develop the implacable suspicion of Turkey, which never has been confident of German loyalty.

The failure of submarine warfare and the ominous tendencies of mili-

tary operations are causing increasing agitation for the German seas fleet to go out in an effort to force a conclusion. "The fact would win in July and that the latter part of August is a result of increasing dissatisfaction. As a result British warships of all sorts are on the qui vive for an engagement at any time.

In Germany party warfare rapidly is becoming a menace to the Michaelis regime. Chancellor Michaelis's presence of making a concession to the Reichstag by establishing a committee of fifteen to confer with the Government on foreign affairs turns out, on examination, to be a thoroughly undemocratic and reactionary move.

CHANCELLOR CONTROLS THE MAJORITY.

The new committee includes seven members of the Bundesrath, or Federal Council, absolutely controlled by the Chancellor. Besides these the representatives of the Right and Centre parties are almost certainly pro-Government, while the Chancellor himself is a member. Thus the new committee practically is certain to count eleven absolutely pro-Government and only four possibly anti-Government members.

This body is not allowed to give publicity to its proceedings, even in party Parliamentary conferences. Its establishment really means the taking away of a shadowy authority which has been vested in the Reichstag Main Committee without giving it to a new committee, thus leaving the Government freer than ever to follow its own course regardless of the Reichstag.

Whether the mass of the German people or even the politicians recognized that they were being humbugged is uncertain, but specialists in German affairs believe that in the present ferment this shortly will be realized.

SHORT ITEMS OF THE NEWS OF THE DAY

Canadian Airmen Decorated With V. C. by the King in London.

HOLLAND HOLDS BULBS

Col. Bruce Says His Reply Will Be Made Public, Anyway.

The Duke of Devonshire opened a new wing at the Toronto Free Hospital for consumptives and visited the various patients in the city connected with aviation.

The Netherlands Government has forbidden the exportation of flower bulbs.

The body of a newly-born infant was found in the lake near the Toronto sewage disposal plant.

Miss Maud Hotson, daughter of Dr. Hotson, of Parkhill, and for the past year a teacher in Parkhill School, was drowned at Ippewash Beach, Lake Huron.

Martin N. Todd, president of the G. P. and H. Railway and general manager of the L. E. and N. Railway, died suddenly at his home, "Caverhill," Galt.

William Westhead and John Calderbank, the two men who were badly burned at the plant of the Imperial Oil Company, Sarnia, died in the hospital.

Col. Herbert Bruce informs a press representative in London that the Government's refusal to table his reply to the Lupton Commission report will not prevent his reply from being made public.

Hon. W. D. McPherson, Provincial Secretary, announces the appointment of J. R. Sperry, B.S.A., as farm director of the Department in succession to S. E. Todd, who was appointed to the Food Controller's office.

Captain W. A. Bishop of Owen Sound, Canadian Cavalry and Flying Corps, received the Victoria Cross, Distinguished Service Order and Military Cross from the King at Buckingham Palace. The King shook hands most cordially.

Pie C. Moss, a Woodstock soldier invalided from overseas, wrote to his parents on Aug. 1st from Halifax, saying he would be home in a few days, but since then nothing has been seen nor heard of him.

It is reported that a new concern to manufacture automobile parts in Sarnia will start building operations in a few days on a site in the North Ward. The main promoter of the plant is Senator Lyman Holmes, of Michigan. The plant will employ 300 hands when it is completed and working with full staff.

One million dollars is claimed by the Dominion Shipping Company, Limited, owners of the steamship Heathcote, from the owners of the steamer Kelbergen, as damages for the sinking of the Heathcote near Port-au-Port, in Cabot Straits, off Newfoundland, on July 25 last, when a collision occurred during a thick fog.

Mere Mention.

Flaked potatoes are used in Sweden either for human consumption or for fodder.

Polen in cold storage has been shipped from Japan to Washington for use in hybridizing experiments.

The waves of the Atlantic Ocean average thirty feet, but in rough weather they attain 40 to 48 feet in height.

One man can attend to three mauling machines, and each machine drops a nail every three seconds.

The skeleton fighting masts of the warships are built on shore and hoisted on shipboard by a gigantic crane.

ON RUSHING MORE TROOPS TO FRONTIER

Strongly Reinforcing the Northern Border of Belgium at Present.

STORMS HAMPER

Western Front Quiet Except for the Big Gun Activity.

London cable.—A special despatch to the Times from Amsterdam says: "The Telegraf learns from the frontier that the Germans are especially reinforcing the northern frontier of Belgium near the Bay of Scheldt and the village of Santvliet. Large guns have been located in 1,000 concrete floors. At Kamp's farm in particular there are thirteen guns, all masked. The whole of Santvliet village has been strongly reinforced. During the last few days several squadrons of cavalry and tripe reserves have arrived at the sugar factory at Barandrecht. The number of reserve troops in fortified positions around Antwerp increases daily, and is now estimated at 50,000."

London Cable.—A continuation of the stormy weather is still holding up major operations in France and Belgium, although the British here and there still are engaged in minor trench-raiding activities, in which small positions have been captured and additional prisoners taken.

The fighting on the Verdun front for the moment also has reached a pause, only the big guns being active. There have been artillery duels along the Aisne front.

Of the Repton troops engaged in this area, Reuter's correspondent reports: "We are getting plenty of evidence of the exhaustion of the enemy reserves. One Wurttemberg division has been exposed to continuous fire since the middle of August, and has been weakened beyond all fighting effectiveness. The enemy is now forced to employ inadequately rested and refitted troops."

HEROES REVIEWED.

A despatch from Grand Headquarters of the French army in France, dated to-day, reads:

"Regged and mud-covered heroes of the Verdun victory, comprising delegations from all the regiments which participated in the brilliant advance of the French troops, to-day passed in review before President Poincare and General Petain, the commander-in-chief, while hundreds of guns thundered nearby.

"Torrents of rain and tempestuous wind only served to render the scene more impressive as tattered regimental flags were unfurled and bands played the 'Marseillaise' on the arrival of the Chief of State.

"Gen. de Foncaire received the decoration of Grand Officer of the Legion of Honor and General Francais-Francais and Gen. Larting, commander-in-chief, while hundreds of officers and men were awarded the war cross or medals."

STILL HAS HUGE ARMY.

While the fighting force massed by the Central Powers on the Russo-Rumanian front is larger than was generally believed, the greater part of the German army is on the Western front, according to a statement issued to-day by the Official Bureau of French Information.

"According to official information received in Paris from the Russian General Staff," says the statement, "there are actually on the Russo-Romanian front 137 enemy divisions, consisting of 88 German divisions, 49 Austro-Hungarian divisions, 4 Turkish divisions, and 4 Bulgarian divisions. Of the 88 German divisions, 12 only are active divisions. All the others are made up of landwehr and landsturm formations.

"This represents a more considerable force than was generally believed, but is nevertheless much inferior to the German force on the Western front, which includes 148 divisions, of which more than 80 are opposed to the French."

BRITISH REPORT.

London Cable.—The official report from British headquarters in France Wednesday reads:

"Stormy weather continues. Early this morning enemy parties made a bombing attack on two of our posts east of Oststaverne, but were driven off with loss.

"There is nothing else of special interest to report."

FRENCH REPORT.

Paris Cable.—The official statement issued by the War Office Wednesday night reads:

"The day was calm on the whole front save in the region of the Hurtelise monument and on both banks of the Meuse, where the artillery displayed great activity on both sides."

DRAFT CANADIANS IN U.S.

Columbo, Report.—Colonel John S. Driscoll, commanding the western division of the British recruiting station, said to-day that sufficient Canadian soldiers had enlisted since the recruiting of British subjects in the United States began, to make more than 500 full battalions. Col. Dennis said:

"I am authorized to say that British and Canadian living in the United States who do not voluntarily enlist within the next few weeks will be conscripted."

NOT EXEMPT DOUKHOBORS.

Winnipeg, Report.—Peter Verge, head of a Doukhor settlement near Brilliant, B.C., stated that in his opinion the Doukhorbs in Canada should not have been exempted from military service. He also stated that a number of young men in his settlement have already enlisted for overseas service at the front, and many others will enlist in the near future.