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TWELVE PAGES—THURSDAY MORNING AUGUST 19 1915—TWELVE PAGES

VOL. XXXV.—No. 12,699

KOVNO'S FALL A SERIOUS MENACE TO SAFE RETREAT OF RUSSIANS

Italian Successes

BRILLIANT VICTORY WON ON THE CARSO
AUSTRIAN FLEET REPULSED AT PELAGOSA

SIR JOHN FRENCH REPORTS FAILURE OF FEEBLE GERMAN ATTACKS AT HOOGE

ITALIANS DRIVE THE ENEMY BACK FROM THE CARSO

Brilliant Success Made in Face of a Concentrated Fire.

EXTENSIVE FRONT HELD

Important Position West of Marcottini Has Been Gained.

ROME, Aug. 18, via Paris.—The war office this evening made public the following communication from general headquarters, dated Aug. 18:

"Along the Tyrol and Trentino frontiers our artillery fire continues intense and effective.

"In the Valley of Backer (Sexten) during the day of the 17th our troops conquered a second line of trenches. Altho the enemy withdrew rapidly before our pursuit we took two officers and 40 soldiers and a quantity of rifles, ammunition and other war materials.

"In the Monte Nero section our detachments advancing along the crest of Ursio in the direction of Javokzen, succeeded after a sharp struggle in driving the enemy from an extensive front and taking possession of it.

"Before Tolmino fresh progress was made yesterday, notably on the Santa Lucia heights, where we conquered further entrenchments and made about 200 prisoners, including several officers.

"A brilliant success also was made by our troops engaged on the Carso. While they were continuing their usual methodical advance the enemy attempted a violent attack against the central part of our front, concentrating on it the fire of numerous batteries and then launching an infantry attack.

"Rapid and effective intervention by our artillery soon silenced the artillery of our adversaries. Then our infantry sprang forward, and by their dash enabled us to gain fresh ground and to occupy an important position to the west of Marcottini."

BRITAIN PURCHASES CONTRABAND COTTON

Steamer With Consignment for Germany Was Intercepted by British Cruiser.

WASHINGTON, Aug. 18.—A second payment of $666,800 on 1400 bales of cotton aboard the steamer Southerner, which was diverted into Kirkwall by a British cruiser, was made today to W. Gordon McCabe and Co. of Charleston by the British embassy. The cotton had been consigned "to order" in Gothenberg.

BRITISH EASILY REPULSED TWO BOMBING ATTACKS

Sir John French Reports That Otherwise Infantry Has Been Inactive Since the Recent Success at Hooge

LONDON, Aug. 18.—An official communication made public this evening says:

"Gen. Sir John French reports that there have been no incidents of importance on the British line in Belgium and France since his last communication of the 10th inst., when the recaptured positions at Hooge had been consolidated. Since then our trenches in that neighborhood have been subjected occasionally to artillery bombardment, but there has been no infantry fighting, with the exception of two bombing attacks last night, which were easily repulsed. On the remainder of the front there have been intermittent artillery engagements of no importance."

GREECE TO MAKE WAR ON TURKEY?

Venizelos Bent Upon Union of All Greek Territories.

SITUATION COMPLEX

Italy Said to Be Jealous of Greek Expansion in Epirus.

ROME, Aug. 18.—Advices of a confidential nature, received here from Athens, outline what is declared to be the policy decided upon by former Premier Venizelos, who has been asked by King Constantine to form a cabinet, and has announced his readiness to do so. The outline is substantially as follows:

M. Venizelos affirms that he has no preconceived bias against the central empires. What he wishes to achieve, the advices state, is the union of all Greek territories, which in his view is only obtainable now by fighting Turkey.

Accomplishment of Greek aspirations by co-operation with the entente allies would, in the view of Venizelos, as outlined from Athens, have been easier before Italy entered the war, because of the occupation by Italy of the Aegean Islands, claimed by Greece, and now further complicated by Greek expansion in Epirus, in southern Albania, thus arousing Italian jealousy.

Territorial Concessions.

M. Venizelos, it is declared, may consent to territorial concessions in the Balkans, on the condition that Greece maintain a predominant position in the peninsula, but her participation with the entente allies now implies a greater demand, in the represented view of Venizelos, since Austro-German successes augment the value of her intervention.

The former premier's object, the Athens advices declare, is to obtain for Greece what Cavour achieved for Italy, and he feels that she must have her national aspirations of becoming a great power in southeastern Europe satisfied, or risk nothing.

MRS. GEO. A. COX DIED SUDDENLY

Widow of Late Senator Was Ill Only a Few Hours.

PROMINENT SOCIALLY

Was Well Known in Toronto and Thruout the Province.

After an illness of only a few hours' duration Mrs. Annie Gertrude Cox, widow of the late Senator George A. Cox, died last night at her residence, 467 Sherbourne street. The attending physicians were at a loss to ascribe the cause of death, according to the statements of relatives last night. Mrs. Cox was apparently in the best of health less than 24 hours before her death and was stricken very suddenly yesteray morning. Heart failure was assumed to have been the cause of death. She never rallied and passed away quietly shortly after 10 o'clock last night.

Mrs. Cox was the eldest daughter of Walter Sterling, city auditor, Sherbourne street. She was married to the late Senator Cox in 1909, and her husband predeceased her by just 18 months. Mrs. Cox was a prominent figure socially and was very well known by a host of friends in Toronto and thruout the province. She was thruout her life a staunch member of the Sherbourne Street Methodist Church, and was formely actively connected with Sunday School work. The funeral arrangements had not been settled when members of the family were questioned at a late hour last night. Besides her father, Walter Sterling, she leaves two sisters, Mrs. W. M. Cockburn of Winnipeg and Miss Muriel, at home.

SECOND CANADIAN CONTINGENT OF 45,000 MEN NOW IN FRANCE

With Their Despatch, Kitchener's Drive Was Ready to Begin—Big Guns to Be Used by British Supersede All Types.

Special to The Toronto World.

NEW YORK, Aug. 18.—Recent arrivals from England are able to afford some explanation of the delayed British advance, which, as much in England as thruout the rest of the world, has caused considerable bewilderment.

Their explanation is that Lord Kitchener has been waiting to launch "his great surprise," and this surprise lies in the completion of new guns and a new type of shell, which it is believed will revolutionize artillery operations and make the path of the allies to Berlin more possible than hitherto.

Soon after the beginning of the war, when it became patent that high explosives were to be the dominating factors in the struggle for victory, the combined efforts of British chemists and ordnance experts invented a shell unquestionably more powerful than any previously used.

Supersedes All Types.

In destructive power it was without doubt superior to any previously known. A variation in explosive composition rendered it likely to supersede all types in use.

The government ordered experiments to be made with big guns then being manufactured at Woolwich arsenal. These took place, with a result that every gun so used was either almost blown to pieces or rendered unfit for service for a considerable period. The only way out was to find guns suitable for the task.

As far back as last November government experts were at work on this problem. They experimented with various alloys of steel, trying to find one that would stand the strain of such a shell. Finally they succeeded. They produced a 17-inch gun that would suit this purpose. Various experiments have been made, and are believed to have been entirely successful. It is stated that these shells will be carried 25 miles and will work havoc on a scale entirely unprecedented.

The Explanation

Thus is answered the question why no advance was made when Warsaw was about to fall and the main bulk of the German troops were concentrated on that front. It also explains why after the great movement of Kitchener's army to France early in July the troops were not used. Nothing was to be done until these guns, which the great armament factories of Britain have been working on for six months, had been delivered in sufficient quantities at the front.

Last Wednesday the second Canadian contingent, numbering 45,000 picked troops, an overwhelming majority of whom had seen previous service, sailed for France. With their despatch Kitchener's movement was ready to begin. The result may soon be apparent.

LABOR PAPER SEIZED BY POLICE IN ENGLAND

Headquarters in London and Southford Raided Under Government Orders.

LONDON, Aug. 18.—Under government instructions, the police today made raids in London and Southford of the offices and headquarters of the Independent Labor Party, The Labor Leader and The Socialist Review. Every copy of these publications, and, in addition, hundreds of pamphlets issued by the Independent Labor party, dealing with the labor problems arising from the war, were seized. No arrests were made.

NO ANXIETY IS FELT WITH REGARD TO CROPS

Half of the Wheat in Manitoba is Down and the Other Half is Ready.

WINNIPEG, Aug. 18.—Vere Brown, superintendent of the central western branches of the Canadian Bank of Commerce, returned to Winnipeg last night from a western trip, during which he visited Calgary, Edmonton, Saskatoon and other centres.

"The anxiety with reference to the crop is now gone," he said. "In a large part of Manitoba one half of the wheat is down and the other half is ready to come down. On Saturday night 60 per cent. of all the wheat in Manitoba will be cut. On the way from Brandon to Winnipeg all the grain that we saw along the C. N. R. was down or ready to come down. In the country south of Saskatoon half the grain is cut, and reapers are going night and day."

FRONT VISITED BY MILLERAND AND KITCHENER

Both Greatly Impressed by High Morale of Allied Troops.

CO-OPERATION PERFECT

French War Minister Says Germany's Hopes of Dissension Are Vain.

PARIS, Aug. 18.—A joint inspection of parts of the western battle line was made Monday by Lord Kitchener, Great Britain's secretary of war, and Alexander Millerand, the French war minister. They were accompanied part of the time by Gen. Joffre and Sir John French, commanders-in-chief of the French and British armies. The military leaders paid particular attention to conditions in the Champagne and the Woevre.

An official note, which gives details of the trip, says Lord Kitchener and M. Millerand were greatly impressed by the splendid appearance of the troops and their high morale. Several conferences were held, but the nature of them is not disclosed.

Speaking at the close of a dinner Tuesday evening, M. Millerand declared he felt highly honored by Lord Kitchener's visit to France, and was glad to learn from the British field marshal's own lips of the complete accord uniting the two nations. Addressing the British war minister directly, he said:

Germany's Hopes.

"Yours is not the only voice which praises our soldiers, for the enemy also gives them their due. After a year of war the enemy no longer has illusions of winning. He predicts internal dissensions among his enemies, which he hopes will occur. Already he is endeavoring to incite neutrals and places before belligerents veiled innuendoes of peace.

"Let me assure you France is united. People, parliament and government never have been more firmly determined, in close accord with our heroic and faithful allies, never to lay down our arms until the day arrives when we shall have attained our goal, and if the road to Tipperary is long, the price is sufficiently high to justify us paying for all the delays, difficulties and sadnesses along the road, because the price is the liberation of the world."

Kitchener's Tribute.

Lord Kitchener, speaking in French, thanked M. Millerand for his kindness in extending an invitation to visit the French front, and said that after seeing the splendid troops of Gen. Joffre he could understand the French victories. He closed by declaring that Great Britain was resolved to make the greatest possible effort to aid France and to carry the war to a finish.

GERMANS RUNNING SHORT OF FUNDS

Government Making Special Efforts to Secure All Gold.

FINANCES ARE SECRET

Proceedings of Budget Commission Will Not Be Divulged.

Special Cable to The Toronto World.

ZURICH, Aug. 18. — The German ministers of the interior and finance have just sent circulars to all communal, scholastic and religious authorities, asking them to use every effort to obtain gold, which, the circular declares, is to arm against Germany's enemies. The Frankfurter Zeitung states the government will make a financial statement to the budget commission in secret session, and take most stringent measures to prevent the proceedings of the commission being divulged.

The requisition by the government of all cotton in the country, and the order that textile factories shall work exclusively for the army, has created consternation in the dressmaking and clothing trades. To many firms it means ruin.

AUSTRIAN FLEET FAILS IN THE ATTACK ON PELAGOSA

Twenty-One Warships Aided by Aeroplane Forced to Retire After Violent Bombardment of Italian Positions.

ROME, Aug. 18.—(Via Paris.)—An Austrian fleet of 21 vessels, aided by an aeroplane, has bombarded the Island of Pelagosa, in the Adriatic, midway between the promontory of Gargano and Dalmatia. The enemy were forced to retire after killing one Italian officer and three men and wounding three others, it was officially announced today.

The text of the announcement says: "The chief of the naval staff communicates the following: 'Twenty-one Austrian vessels and one aeroplane attacked the little Island of Pelagosa yesterday morning. The garrison endured a violent bombardment bravely, and the enemy retired without trying to disembark. We lost one officer and three men killed and three wounded. We do not know the enemy's losses. (Signed) Thaon di Revel'"

Thaon di Revel is a vice-admiral of the Italian navy.

Since the little Island of Pelagosa, lying midway between the Italian promontory of Tergano and the coast of Dalmatia, was occupied by the Italians some weeks ago, several vain efforts to recover it have been made by the Austrian warships.

MORE CANADIAN SOLDIERS HAVE ARRIVED IN ENGLAND

By a Staff Reporter.

OTTAWA, Aug. 18.—The steamer Metagama, from Canada, arrived in England today. She had on board the following troops: 5th Field Artillery Brigade and 7th Field Artillery Brigade; also Army Medical Corps, a detail of six officers and 104 non-commissioned officers and men; detail of the Winnipeg Highlanders, two officers and 100 men; 11 officers and 10 non-commissioned officers and men of various units.

SERBIAN ATTITUDE CLOSELY WATCHED

Parliament is Expected to Open Secret Sittings Today.

WEIGHING PROPOSALS

Opinion is Divided in Balkan States as to the Outcome.

LONDON, Aug. 18.—A despatch to Reuter's Telegram Company from Nish, Serbia, says:

"The outcome of the deliberations of the Serbian Parliament, which is expected to hold secret sittings on Thursday and Friday, is awaited with the utmost interest and indeed anxiety in the Balkan States. On Tuesday the proposals of the entente powers were the object of an exhaustive examination by the cabinet. Premier Pachitch, who has been to Kraguyevatz, where he conferred with the prince regent and Gen. Putnik, has returned to Nish.

"Opinions seem divided at present regarding the course Serbia should pursue, altho the gravity of the situation is fully realized."

GREAT INDUSTRIES OF RHINE CLOSE DOORS

Their Failure Places Big German Banking Firm in Liquidation.

LONDON, Aug. 18.—According to The Allgemein Handelsblad of Amsterdam, says a despatch to Reuter's Telegram Company, it was decided at a meeting held yesterday of the shareholders of the Mittel Rheinische Bank, which belongs to the Disconto Gesellschaft banking group, to liquidate the affairs of the bank on account of the great losses suffered thru the war. The Mittel Rheinische Bank is closely connected with the great industries of the Rhine Province and Westphalia.

BRITAIN TO TAKE OVER CANADA'S WHEAT CROP?

Imperial Government Asks Information as to Available Surplus.

By a Staff Reporter.

OTTAWA, Aug. 18.—A request has been received from the imperial government for information as to the estimated available supply of grain for export from the coming harvest, and the tonnage of vessels, which will be required to move the grain from Canada to Great Britain.

In some quarters it has been stated that Sir Robert Borden is endeavoring to arrange with the British Government for the purchase by the imperial authorities of the complete export crop of the Dominion's wheat.

This year's wheat supply for export is now estimated at 175,000,000 bushels, as compared with 94,000,000 bushels last year.

BANKS' APPLICATION IS LIKELY TO FAIL

Finance Minister Expected to Reject Proposals for Merger.

OPENING CONFERENCE

Ottawa Believes Objections to Amalgamation Are Insurmountable.

By a Staff Reporter.

OTTAWA, Aug. 18.—The proposals for amalgamation which have been agreed upon by the directorates of the Bank of Hamilton and the Royal Bank were laid today before Hon. W. T. White, minister of finance, for his approval. The formal application for the consent of the minister has not yet been made, however.

Vice-Pres. Pease of the Royal Bank and Robert Hobson of the Bank of Hamilton explained the proposals, which they described as tentative.

Since The World conveyed the news to Ottawa that negotiations were under way looking toward the amalgamation of these two banks, the proposal has been much discussed in political and official circles, and the opinion is gaining ground that, altho there will be further conferences and altho no doubt Mr. White will give the most careful consideration to what the representatives of the banks have to say, the natural objections to such an amalgamation at this time will prove insurmountable.

DUTCH TROOPS FIRED ON GERMAN AIRCRAFT

Zeppelin Sailed Over Dutch Territory, Says Amsterdam Paper.

LONDON, Aug. 18.—The Handelsblad of Amsterdam says that Dutch troops opened fire today upon a German Zeppelin which sailed over Dutch territory.

This newspaper states that the Zeppelin L-10 appeared over the Island of Vlieland, cruising about for an hour. The Dutch soldiers fired at her with rifles.

The Zeppelin finally sailed away, passing between the Islands of Vlieland and Terechelling.

FALL SHOWING OF FOX FURS.

The edict from Paris is "Fox furs for 1915-16." With this authentic note sounded emphatically, the ladies of Toronto and district will surely be deeply interested in the display at the Dineen store, 140 Yonge street. This company early foresaw the trend of fashion, and bought heavily when the market was at its lowest ebb, thus placing themselves in a position to quote prices that are unmistakably lower than you can buy elsewhere. Styles are strictly correct, the skins are rich and full-furred. Don't overlook this timely intimation, for fox furs will become more costly as the season advances.

RUSSIAN ARMY ENDANGERED BY FALL OF KOVNO

Situation Calls for Best Strategy of Grand Duke Nicholas.

MAY BE OUTFLANKED

Germans Claim to Have Captured More Than Four Hundred Guns.

PETROGRAD, Aug. 18, via London, Aug. 19.—Russian forces still are holding fortifications at Jesia, 2 1-2 miles south of Kovno, according to an official statement issued tonight at the Russian war office.

The communication says:

On the 18th, after eleven days of fighting near Kovno, the enemy succeeded in seizing the fortifications on the left bank of the Niemen. To the west of Jesia, and on the right bank of the Niemen, we are holding all the fortifications."

LONDON, Aug. 18.—Kovno, one of the crucial points in the Russian defensive in the north, was captured by the Germans last night, and the road to the Vilna-Warsaw-Petrograd Railway is now open to the troops of Emperor William.

The capture of the fortress was another triumph for the German 16-inch guns, which thruout the present war have been brought against no fortifications they were unable to subdue. With the fortress of Kovno, the Germans have taken over 400 guns, and, according to their account, an enormous quantity of war material.

Opens Way to Vilna.

This, however, is not the most serious part of the matter to the Russians. Besides opening the way to Vilna, which is an open town, and from which most of the inhabitants and everything that might be of use to the invaders have been removed, the fall of the fortress removes the last protection, with the exception of the Russian field army, to the main line railway to the capital and also places the Germans in a position to threaten the flanks of the Russian army retiring to the Brest-Litovsk line, and those operating in southern Courland.

Grand Duke Nicholas apparently expected the fall of Kovno, for his armies are hastening their retirement in Poland eastward. They still hold their own from Kovno to the south of Oesowetz, but south of that they are being pressed from the northeast by Generals Von Scholtz and Von Gallwitz and from the west by Archduke Leopold, who has crossed the Bug River and is approaching the Brest-Litovsk and Bialystok railroad. It is the same in the south, where Gen. Von Mackensen, after many rebuffs, finally has succeeded in driving the Muscovites into their outer positions of the Fortress of Brest-Litovsk.

Danger of Envelopment.

For the first time since he began his retirement from western Galicia in May, Grand Duke Nicholas, in the opinion of military observers, finds part of his army in serious danger of envelopment. The military writers express curiosity as to how he will extricate it. The Russian commander continues an orderly retreat, as is evidenced by the fact that outside of the guns taken with the Fortress of Kovno or captured in Novo Georgievsk forts, two more of which have fallen, the Germans make no claim to the capture of artillery.

With Kovno in German hands and another German army across the Bug south of Brest-Litovsk, a speedy exit, according to military observers, is the only safe one for the Russians if they are to escape before the second set of pincers prepared for them are closed.

EARTH TREMOR FELT IN BRITISH COLUMBIA

Quake Was in Evidence All Thru Southern Portion of the Province.

VANCOUVER, Aug. 18.—An earthquake of 25 seconds' duration was felt over all southern British Columbia at 6.06 a.m. today. Kelowna, 200 miles east of here, Yale, Harrison, Penticton and Summerland felt the tremor. In Vancouver a slight jar was noticed.

FELT AT SEATTLE.

SEATTLE, Wn., Aug. 18.—A light earthquake, with its centre probably not far north of Seattle, according to the University of Washington seismograph, was felt from 6.04 to 6.08 a.m. today. No damage was reported. The tremor was distinct enough to waken light sleepers.