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TREMENDOUS ISSUES HANG IN BALANCE--ATTITUDE OF BALKAN STATES IN EUROPEAN CONFLICT AWAITED WITH MUCH ANXIETY

Italy's Declaration of War Against Ottoman Empire Will Hasten Decision of Other States--Roumania Likely to Join Entente Allies

Big Battle Now On Along the Kovno-Vilna Railway and Niemen River --Austro-Germans Invest Fortress Brest-Litovsk from Three Sides --Minor Engagement on Western Front--Italians Make Progress

London, Aug. 22.—Italy's declaration of war against Turkey is expected to have an almost immediate effect on the Balkan States, which are still debating which side they will take in the conflict. Relations between Italy and Roumania for years have been very intimate. The opinion is expressed here that it is probable, especially in view of the threatening attitude of the Germanic Powers towards Roumania, because of her refusal to allow ammunition to pass through her territory, that now that Italy has broken relations with Turkey, Roumania will join the Quadruple Entente. Bulgaria is still waiting for the reply of Serbia to the suggestions of the entente ministers that Serbia cede Macedonia to Bulgaria; while Greece is likely to declare her future policy when the Chamber meets this week. The opinion expressed in diplomatic circles here is that it is significant that Venizelos, who has always been friendly to the Entente Powers, has decided to take charge, in addition to the Grecian Premiership, of the office of Minister of Foreign Affairs. With the inclusion of Italy among Turkey's opponents in war, and the former's well known desire for expansion near the east, the Balkan States may consider the time is ripe for them to enter the field to secure for themselves a share of what falls to the victorious group. It is for them to decide which side is likely to win. The continued retirement of the

Russian armies seems to have little, if any, influence on the situation, the opinion being expressed by military critics that victory for the Entente Allies in the Dardanelles would more than offset this so far as the Near East is concerned. The Franco-British forces are increasing their efforts to force the Straits. There is little change in Poland and the Baltic Provinces. A big battle is being fought along the Kovno-Vilna railway and the Niemen river. This, however, is of secondary importance to the movements against Brest and Litovsk. The Austro-German forces are across the rivers and roads both north and south of this fortress, which is invested from three sides. Curiosity is evinced as to whether the Grand Duke Nicholas intends to defend it or fall further back. For the moment he is resisting the Austro-German advance, but this may be only with rearguards, which have been detailed to inflict as much loss as possible on the invaders and delay the progress of the Teutons. Liveliness prevailed along some points along the Western front, but engagements have been of minor importance. The French claim to have repulsed German attacks in Artois and the Vosges, while both sides are expending ammunition in artillery engagements, bomb throwing and other artifices, in many places, to annoy their opponents. The Italians report slight progress on all their fronts.

Italians Face Tremendous Task In the Mountains

Verona, Aug. 22.—Italian artillery is now hammering the outposts of the great entrenched camp of Trent, the Austrian position on Mount Panortta, an attack which the Italian artillery, as announced in the latest official communication from General Cadorna, lies northeast of Levice, which is ten miles southeast of Trent. This mountain is more than 6,000 feet high, and is one of the outposts of Trent. In attempting the advance on Trent, the Italian forces have before them a long and difficult task. From the top of Mount Panortta down the Tenna Pass is a succession of forts and entrenchments, extending for more than twenty miles, connected by underground passages, built last September.

Cotton Declared Absolute Contraband By Entente Allies

London, Aug. 22.—Cotton has been declared absolute contraband by Britain, according to a statement issued by the Foreign Office last evening. The statement declares that the Government proposes to initiate measures to relieve the depression which might temporarily disturb the cotton market because of the contraband order.

OFFICIAL BRITISH

London, Aug. 21.—The French Government report that the enemy has regained footing in the trenches captured from him on the Ablain Road on Wednesday. The Russian Government reports that the enemy's fleet has entered the Gulf of Riga, and that fighting between the Russian and German ships continue. The Russian Government report withdrawal from Novo Georgievsk and abandonment of certain forts. The German report announces the capture of the fortress, BONAR LAW.

Ebulitions In The Balkan Cauldron

London, Aug. 21.—Telegraphing from Bucharest the Balkan correspondent of the Times declares the danger of another Balkan war unless the proposals of the Quadruple Entente Powers to Bulgaria, Serbia and Greece are accepted and acted upon by those States. Roumania, he says, is exerting her influence to persuade her neighbors to accept the proposals, and Serbia shows signs of compliance.

Collision Between Two Steamers Sends One to Bottom

Quebec, Aug. 21.—Colliding this morning with the government steamer Delevy coming down the river with over a hundred people on board, the Montreal tug, Sir Hugh Allan, rammed the former vessel, sinking her within ten minutes. No lives were lost.

Germany Suffer Heavy Losses In Naval Battle

London, Aug. 22.—Three Russian warships and one German warship, all small vessels, were sunk in a battle in the Gulf of Riga. An official announcement to this effect was made to-day. Two other German warships were put out of commission during the engagement. One ran ashore and the other was damaged. The Russian vessels which were sunk were the gunboats Sjvutch and Korsets and a torpedo boat. The German ships sunk or put out of commission, were all torpedo boats. The damaged German boat was escorted to port.

Liner Cymric Arrives Safely At New York

New York, Aug. 21.—The White Star liner Cymric, which sailed from Liverpool over virtually the same course as that taken by the Arabic, reached New York today. She was convoyed by a torpedo boat and cruiser after leaving Liverpool.

British Govt. Says the Arabic Was Not Convoyed

London, Aug. 21.—The British government to-day issued a statement that the British steamship Arabic was not being convoyed when she was torpedoed by a German submarine.

READ THE MAIL AND ADVOCATE.

Roosevelt Deplores What He Regards American Weakness

Thinks the States Should do More Than Give Vent to DIPLOMATIC PARLEY

"Time For Words is Past" and Action is Now Demanded

Oyster Bay, Aug. 22.—Former President Theodore Roosevelt issued the following statement here on Saturday:

"I see this suggested in papers, that the German answer to our last note, that in sinking the Arabic by a German submarine, and the consequent murder of certain American citizens, will be adequately met by the administration's dismissing Bernstorff and severing diplomatic relations with Germany. I earnestly hope the administration will not take this view, for to do so will be a fresh sacrifice of American honour and interest. The President's note to Germany in February last was an excellent one, if only it had been lived up to. But every subsequent note, represented nothing but weakness and timidity on our side. The sinking of the Lusitania and Arabic represent the arrogant answers which this weakness inspired. Germany will care nothing for mere severance of diplomatic relations. The time for words is passed for this nation, I am persuaded. The time for deeds has come. What has just occurred is fresh and lamentable proof of the wisdom of our people in not having insisted upon beginning active military preparedness thirteen months ago."

Germany Demands Free Transmission Of Ammunition

But Roumania Firmly Denies Teutonic Right

ULTIMATUM SENT

Rumours Reach London that Germany Has Sent Ultimatum to Roumanian Government

London, Aug. 22.—A Reuter despatch from Sofia, Bulgaria, says:—"Private advices from Bucharest state that it is feared there that Germany has sent an ultimatum to Roumania regarding the right to transmit munitions for Turkey through Roumanian territory. The Roumanian cabinet is firmly resolved not to grant this permission. A large number of cars laden with war material have been held up at Predeal, a village near Tomo Pass, where it is reported Roumanian troops are concentrating. Troops also are massing at Jassy, about 200 miles north-east of Bucharest. The petroleum regions have been heavily garrisoned."

Italy Explains Her Position

London, Aug. 22.—Marquis di Garroni, Italian Ambassador to Turkey, to-day handed to the Porte a note, declaring that Italy declared herself in a state of war with Turkey, and demanded his passports. The reasons given in the note were the support given by Turkey to the revolt in Libya and the prevention of the departure of Italian residents from Syria.

Italy Declares War on Turkey

London, Aug. 22.—Italy has declared war on Turkey. The Italian Ambassador has left Constantinople.

RUSSIANS ADMINISTER A CRUSHING DEFEAT TO GERMAN SQUADRON

The Von Moltke Destroyed, Three Cruisers and Seven Torpedo Boats Go Down--Von Moltke was Battle Cruiser of 23,000 Tons Had a Crew of 1,107 Men

London, Aug. 22.—A despatch to the Central News from Petrograd, says:—"The President of the Duma announced that the Germans had lost the battleship Moltke, three cruisers, and seven torpedo boats in the Riga battle." The German battle cruiser Moltke was a vessel of 23,000 tons, and carried in ordinary times a complement of 1,107 men. She was the sister ship of the Goeben, which became part of the Turkish navy after the commencement of the war, and was rechristened the Sultan Selim. The Moltke was 590 feet long armed with ten 11-inch, and twelve 6 inch guns, also twelve 24 pounders. In addition the armament included four 20 inch torpedo tubes. She was built in 1911, and had a speed of about 28 knots.

The Moltke was in the battle with the British fleet in the North Sea last January, when the German armoured cruiser Blucher was sunk. She cost about \$12,000,000. The announcement of the President of the Duma is as follows:—"In the Riga battle the German lost one super-dreadnought, the Moltke, three cruisers and seven torpedo boats. The German fleet has withdrawn from Riga bay. The Germans tried to make a descent near Pernpin (Pernigel on the east shore of the Gulf of Riga, some 35 miles north of Riga.) Four barges crammed with soldiers took part in the descent. They were repulsed by Russian troops, without co-operation of the artillery, the Germans being exterminated and their barges captured."

Three Steamers Seek the Bottom Torpedo Route

London, Aug. 22.—The British steamers Windsor and William Dawson have met with disaster. The Windsor is a vessel of 6,055 tons. According to a report issued here, she was sunk, while the William Dawson, an old steamer of 284 tons, has been blown up. The crew of the Windsor were saved, but five men of the Dawson's crew were lost. The British steamer Cobler, 3,060 tons gross has also been sunk. The Captain and crew landed safely.

Thirty-Nine Lose Their Lives On Steamer Arabic

Queenstown, Aug. 22.—Thirty nine persons lost their lives by the sinking of the steamer Arabic. The White Star line announced last night, that after completing the investigation regarding the total number of persons aboard, twelve cabin passengers, six stowage passengers, and twenty one members of the crew cannot be accounted for and must be put down lost.

Russian Success In the Caucasus

Petrograd, Aug. 22.—An official communication dealing with operations in the Caucasus, issued to-day, says:—"In the Caucasus district on the night of the 19th we destroyed a Turkish patrol one company strong. Our patrols have crossed the Ark-have river, breaking through the Turkish lines. In the direction of Olti a Turkish attack on Mount Tchir-gassar was repulsed by our fire."

Little Comment In German Papers Sinking of Arabic

Berlin, Aug. 22.—No statement is obtainable in official quarters regarding the sinking of the steamship Arabic. The tendency, however, seems to be to consider the question without excitement. The Press, thus far has avoided comment of any nature.

Steamer Lapland White Star Line Reaches Liverpool

New York, Aug. 22.—The White Star line announced here to-day that the steamship Lapland arrived at Liverpool at 9 a.m. to-day. This announcement dispelled fears in shipping circles that the steamship had met with mishap.

If monarchs were druggists they'd give us something just as good instead of war.

Russians Cheered By Recent Success In Baltic Section

Fall of Kovno Not so Serious as Was Expected

COMMUNICATIONS NOT INTERRUPTED

Germans Massing Huge Armies for Another Big Drive Against Russians

London, Aug. 23.—Among the German warships sunk is the battle cruiser Moltke. Four huge barges filled with soldiers were captured. The invaders were surrounded and taken prisoners. Petrograd indulged in pardonable rejoicing this afternoon. The desperate efforts of the Germans to upset our military plans by creating a diversion on the Estonian coast have signally failed and according to the news received to-day they sustained heavy losses during the operations connected with the forcing of the Gulf of Riga. Aided by British submarines we were able, from the shelter of Great and Little Sounds to harass and cripple, and finally to drive the enemy out of the Gulf. The losses to the gallant Baltic fleet are extremely small, in no way impairing its efficiency. So long as this is preserved no serious danger can immediately threaten Petrograd.

London, Aug. 23.—Telegraphing to the Times from Petrograd, the correspondent of that newspaper in the Russian capital says, from official communications and other reliable sources much needed comfort has been derived since Friday. The unexpected brevity of resistance of the strong fortifications of Kovno has, contrary to gloomy forebodings, not entailed a rupture of our main line of communications, the surviving garrison was forthwith reinforced by troops who are staunchly holding the line from the right to Janow, and on both banks of the Niemen, south of Janow and Altsoums behind the screen of General Schmetow's cavalry masses of huge German concentration are believed to be in progress and making preparations for a drive from Dvinsk to Vilna. There is no anxiety here at present that the enemy will be able to endanger the retreat of the armies operating between Grodno and Brest-Litovsk as the rear guards of these armies are holding back the enemy along the line of Ossowetz, Bielsk and Brest-Litovsk. We still hold the Bialystok-Brest-Litovsk railway, and still have four double track lines clear for the movement of our troops north and east. German expectations that Grodno would be our Sedan may be treated with equanimity. It is true there is the onslaught on Brest-Litovsk still to be reckoned with, but its eventual loss probably already has been discounted. The Russian armies continue their steady and well ordered retreat to their appointed line, inflicting enormous losses on the enemy.

Mighty Forces On Eastern Front

London, August 23.—The military correspondent of the Times, discussing the situation in the Eastern theatre of war says, it seems probable that Germany has a million and a half men on the Russian frontier, not counting the forces remaining in Galicia or held in general reserve. The direction of the whole mighty movement in this zone is in the hands of General Von Balkenhayen, chief of staff of the German army, the correspondent says.

French Repulse German Attacks

Paris, Aug. 22.—German attacks upon the crest of Sondermach and North Souchez were completely repulsed, according to an official statement issued this afternoon by the French War Office.

German Fleet Flies From Riga

Petrograd, Aug. 22.—An official communication issued to-day says:—"The German fleet has left the Gulf of Riga. Our destroyers in the Black Sea have sunk over a hundred Turkish boats."

Cordial Feelings In the Balkans

Geneva, Aug. 22.—The Bucharest correspondent of the Tribune sends the following:—"Between Nish and Bucharest, constant telegrams are passing. It is believed that Roumania will begin general mobilization on August 25th. Relations between Bulgaria, Roumania, and Serbia, at present are excellent."

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