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THE MAIL AND ADVOCATE

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RUSSIA'S SPLENDID POSITION

Half a Year After the Beginning of the War the Russian Forces are Stronger and More Capable For the Struggle

WHAT RUSSIANS HAVE ACCOMPLISHED

Outlook for the Future Excitingly Bright—Perfect Concord Between the People and Their Rulers

Petrograd, Feb. 8.—A Russian general, who is an aide-de-camp to Emperor Nicholas, and is necessarily nameless, gave an Associated Press correspondent the Russian viewpoint of the military situation. The aide-de-camp had just returned from inspecting the Russian forces at all the fronts, except in the Caucasus. He said: "To-day, exactly half year since the beginning of the war, our second line of troops is greater and our entire armies are much stronger. The men are more hardened and physically and morally more ready. Occupy Enemy's Territory. The enemy's territory has been occupied in East Prussia and Galicia to a greater extent than our most optimistic expectations, while the Germans are occupying practically the same lines as at the outset of the war. The distance between the Bzura River and the German frontier, though greater in miles than between Soczaczew and Warsaw, is strategically much less important for the reason that there are no fortified positions between the Bzura and Germany, while the last three months, during which the Germans have been occupying in vain attempts to advance, have been probably used by us to fortify the line from Novo Georgievsk to Warsaw and Ivanograd (the Vistula line), which line is now practically impregnable. The territory occupied by us in East Galicia is now part and parcel of the Empire. Lemberg and vicinity are well fortified and the position is well satisfied with the new state of things. In the Carpathians the Austrians have been weakened by recent defeats and the German help there was insufficient to infuse new blood into their army. Made-in-Russia Campaign. At the outset of the war fears were expressed, in view of the difficulties of importation, as to where we were to get necessary mechanical implements. Necessity has shown the strength and resourcefulness of the Russian nation. Many small wares, formerly manufactured for us in Germany and Austria, have been perfectly replaced in the Moscow manufactures. Village hand work is producing satisfactory cutlery, saddlery, and munitions, and in making these things the peasant is showing remarkable adaptability. Even machine articles are successfully produced. When our troops were in East Prussia the first time they secured eight barb wire machines. Copied by Russians. These were brought to Russia and copied, so that such machines are now produced here. This is one example, and such occurrences are numerous. The relations of the soldiers and the commanders are excellent. Many occasions have witnessed situations where the commander desired to precede the men. The latter, however, requested their leaders to remain behind, saying, 'You are one hard to replace; we can be spared.' A felicitous circumstance is the absolute unity of the nation and the army. Officers and men are extremely alive to what is transpiring in the country, and are gratified to see the concord between the Government and the people, and the interest which the entire people are taking in the campaign. Sanitary conditions can be judged by the insignificant number of illnesses and the vigorosity of the men in the ranks. The Portia reports all the harbors this side of Plocecia filled with ice.

Much Advertised Turk Holy War Has Ended In a Complete Fiasco Mohammedans Tired Of Struggle

Berne, Feb. 8.—Several Swiss citizens who have just arrived from Palestine and Syria have interesting information as to what is going on there. Picturing these various stories together, there can be no doubt that matters in the Holy Land to-day are literally topsy-turvy. The existence of strained relations between the Turkish and German officers is confirmed by these neutral observers, as is also the fact that the holy war is a fiasco. The Moslems in general are highly disheartened and ask nothing better than to see the war cease, if only because of the extremely heavy requisitions which are being made. Poor enough at any time, these people are now reduced to the extremity of misery. The Turks and Germans having commandeered all the chief necessities, not merely camels, mules, horses and cattle of all descriptions, but also wheat, barley, paraffin, butter, sugar and coffee, to say nothing of money. Whatever may be the

All Attempts of Germans Pierce Russian Lines Fail Turks Are In Full Retreat

London, Feb. 9.—The French Government reports a trench wrecked by mine near Parency and the defenders killed or captured after fierce fighting, and a French counter-attack at La Boisselle where the Germans left 800 dead. The Russian Government reports desperate fighting in North Poland and in Central Poland, where the enemy freely used explosive bullets. The attempt to pierce the Russian front has been checked. The Russians have captured a strong rallying point, and over 350 prisoners. In the Carpathians on Feb. 7th the Russians captured 50 officers and over 3,500 men, and 11 machine guns. The Egyptian Government reports the Turkish Army in full retreat. Our patrols have found and buried 500 dead Turks. The prisoners numbered 450. The Grand Senussi has arrested a Tripoli agitator and others discovered intriguing against Egypt. Beaten to Standstill. London, Feb. 9.—The Daily Mail's correspondent at Petrograd telegraphs that the Russians have fought the Ger-

mans to a standstill, but their force which crossed the Bzura has a difficult task before it as the German second line of trenches in this quarter are of immense strength. The Kaiser's arrival in Poland suggests that the Germans intend to make final attempt to capture Warsaw in his honour. The correspondent of the Times at Petrograd says it is thought in authoritative circles that the fresh lull on the Bzura may be due to the withdrawal of part of the German troops from the Bzura and the Hawka in order to reinforce the armies in Eastern Russia and the Carpathians. The retirement of the Russian sections in Bukovina is not regarded here as an indication of failure but rather as a manoeuvre directed by a desire to occupy a more advantageous position, for instance, to fall back to the plains in order to facilitate the deployment of the Russians during their operations in the mountain regions. It often happens that positions adapted for artillery are unsuitable for the assumption of an active movement.

ment points out, a thoroughly well-established practice. "It is a perfectly regular ruse de Guerre," Dr. Batty, Secretary of the International Law Association and author of numerous works on the law of nations, said to The Daily News representative. "In the case of a man-of-war according to the tenor of the law quite clearly shows that during a chase or to evade an enemy a vessel may sail under any neutral flag, provided she hoists her own flag before firing and merchant ships are manifestly entitled to sail under any flag they please to use. "The use of a neutral flag is virtually to say 'I am neutral.' That may be a true or a false statement but the neutral government can't object to it."

New York Now Borrowing Centre For Foreign Nations And Cities Recent Loans Total \$110,000,000

New York, Feb. 8.—According to the Tribune, the largest loan of a British possession made in the New York market since the edict of the English treasury department that no colonial financing will be permitted by London bankers during the war without a special dispensation, has been arranged with the Province of Manitoba by Kiesel, Kinnicutt & Company, a local investment house. The loan will amount to approximately \$5,500,000, and will be at the rate of interest of 5 per cent. It has been announced that the city of Ottawa has placed a \$1,000,000 loan with New York bankers. Since the outbreak of war New York has become more and more the borrowing centre for foreign nations and municipalities. Principal loans to date, including the transaction with Manitoba, aggregate \$110,000,000. Some of these made are as follows: Argentina, \$15,000,000; Panama, \$3,000,000; Norway, \$3,000,000; Sweden, \$5,000,000; France, \$22,000,000; Switzerland, \$5,000,000; Montreal, \$6,900,000; Canadian Pacific Railroad, \$12,000,000; Canadian Northern Railroad, \$2,000,000; province of British Columbia, \$2,700,000; Province of Manitoba, \$5,500,000.

BONAVISTA GIVES FORTY VOLUNTEERS

Bonavista, Feb. 10.—Bonavista responds nobly to the call of Empire and democracy. Forty-one Volunteers at last night's meeting, a good proportion of these being Unionists. Seven offered last week and there are others still to follow. Great enthusiasm is being shown by the Local Committee who are doing a great work.—G. F. GRIMES. Bonavista, Feb. 10.—All outpost records in recruiting broken; 41 recruits here. Most of them Union lads.—J. G. STONE. Glencoe left Placentia this a.m. for Westward.

U. S. Fears Complications If Enemy Merchant Ships Sail Under Neutral Flags

Washington, Feb. 9.—The administration view of the hoisting of the American flag on the British ship Lusitania, as stated to-day on the highest authority, is that the use of other flags by ships of the nations at war is such a customary practice that no formal protest can be made but it will be proper to send to Great Britain a note pointing out the danger to neutral shipping which may follow if such a practice is continued. Perfectly Regular. London, Feb. 9.—On the legality or propriety of the use of a neutral flag by merchant vessels of a belligerent power International lawyers have little to comment to make, says The Daily News. For adequate reason it has never occurred to anyone to challenge what is, as the Foreign Office state-

WARD AND WATCH OF ALLIED SHIPS

HAVANA, Feb. 9.—A French armoured cruiser, apparently the Comde, arrived off the port of Havana to-day. There she joined the British cruiser Bristol, which for some time has been engaged with the British cruiser Derwick in watching this port and cruising outside the Cuban territorial waters.

C. M. B. Tea

French Fighting Strength In Field Now Much Greater Than At Beginning Of War

Paris, Feb. 8.—Despite the losses suffered and the errors dearly paid for at the beginning it may be affirmed that the power of France has steadily grown since the beginning of the war. Leaders and soldiers become veterans. The mad bravery of the first days has given place to seasoned courage and to patience in the face of all difficulties. The loss of officers in the beginning was considerable. Including the killed, wounded, missing and sick, it amounts now to about 60 per cent. of the total number. Many officers, easily distinguishable by their uniforms, exposed themselves unnecessarily. The French effective, after five months of war and despite heavy losses, has increased. Of men hors de combat the French enumerate 250,000 killed and missing and about 490,000 wounded and sick of the latter at least 50 per cent. have already rejoined their regiments. Two classes of conscripts have been called, furnishing a total of about 450,000 young men, whose period of training is ended and who are at the front. The reserves of the active army, the territorial and reserve classes of the territorial army that have been called thus far have furnished nearly 1,500,000 men. Including the classes of 1914 and 1915 there are 2,000,000 men. In round numbers to which may be added the 800,000 men of the active army, giving a total of 2,800,000 men. From this number one may subtract the 250,000 killed and missing and one half the 490,000 wounded or sick, or 500,000 in all. There then remain 2,000,000 able bodied fighting men of France under arms. A re-examination of men hitherto exempted should give an additional 250,000 men. To these must be still added the 200,000 soldiers of the class of 1916 now being prepared for service. That makes 2,750,000 men, on whom France can still count, leaving out of consideration, the native colonial troops and the British army.

Allies Make Important Gain Says Report

Said to Have Captured Belgian Towns Which Imperil Centre of German Army

Intermittent Fighting Along The Whole Front

Belgian Artillery Gains to the West—Fighting in Argonne Forests—Peculiarities of the War

Paris, Feb. 9.—In Belgium there were intermittent artillery contests and Ypres and Furnes were bombarded. The Belgian artillery destroyed a farm of which the defenders were put to flight. Along the Bethune-La Bassée Road we have reoccupied a mill the enemy had managed to capture. Bombardment of Soissons with incendiary shells also took place. On the entire Aisne-Champagne front our artillery has efficiently gained an advantage over the German batteries. In the Argonne the struggle around Bagatelle took place in one of the thickest parts of the forest and thus assumed a rather confusing character but the front was maintained on each side. The effectives engaged on the 7th of February were not over three or four battalions on each side. During yesterday only one of our battalions was engaged. In Lorraine and the Vosges there was an artillery duel. The present war has brought many strangers together, and if thousands are being killed daily, many friendships are being made.

WAR TO END WHEN ITALY TAKES PART

No Sign Yet of a Cessation of Hostilities Which Are Bound to be Fought to an Entire Finish

AUSTRIAN EMPIRE LOSES ITS PRESTIGE

Now Merely a Military Appanage of Germany With Hungarian Element in the Ascendant

U.S. Food Ship "Wilhelmina" At Falmouth

Carries a Cargo of Supplies for Germany—No Official Action By British Yet

British Banker Expects The War To Continue For Another Year

Says Germans Have The Finances

CRIMEA VETERAN HEARS LAST ROLL

London, Feb. 9.—General Lord Fred erick Seymour, a veteran of the Crimean and Egyptian Wars, and Commander of the Canadian troops from 1898 to 1900 is dead, aged 77.

BRITISH STRIKE IS CALLED OFF

London, Feb. 10.—That there will be no strike of Yorkshire coal miners, as had been planned, was decided at a conference attended by mine owners and representatives of the men. The owners conceded the men's demands for an advance of wages until the end of the war. The dispute between mine owners and the employees involved fifty thousand men.

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