

# ADVANCE ON MONASTIR ABANDONED; BULGARS ATTACK FRENCH ON CERNA RIVER

## Turks' Resistance In Mesopotamia Breaks Down Before British Troops

British Drive Enemy Before Them as They Advance on Bagdad—Have Taken 1300 Prisoners and Are Within Sight of the City.

Bulletin—London, Nov. 26, 8:04 p. m.—Turkish troops, resisting the British advance in Mesopotamia, are falling back, according to an official announcement tonight, reporting a Turkish retreat on Djalah, ten miles from Bagdad.

"A telegram from General Sir John Eccles Nixon, commander of the British forces in Mesopotamia, under date of the 25th, reports that General Townshend's troops were in possession of the battlefield, while the Turks were reported to be retreating on Djalah, ten miles above Ctesiphon, and the same distance from Bagdad, Gen. Townshend was engaged in clearing the field of wounded and prisoners.

"At first it was stated that 800 prisoners had been taken. It now appears that no less than 1,300 have been marched back to Lal.

"Our wounded are reported to number about 2,500 of whom 1,800 were leaving that day by steamer for Basra. The number of killed has not yet been reported.

"Gen. Nixon praises the excellent handling of the troops by Gen. Townshend, and the splendid spirit shown by them after their severe losses and hardships from want of water and food."

## LOWEST TENDER ACCEPTED, SAYS SIR RODMAN

Did Not Know Simpson Was Head of the National Construction Company—Ex-Premier Says on Witness Stand.

Winnipeg, Nov. 26.—Sir Rodmond Roblin and Geo. R. Caldwell, formerly minister of education, were on hand waiting a call to the witness stand when the law courts investigation was resumed this morning, accompanied by J. H. Andrews, their counsel in recent proceedings.

Sir Rodmond was first called to the stand and examined for the crowd by Isaac Pitblado.

Sir Rodmond stated no information had been given him or on his behalf to any tenderer as to the amounts of other tenders. That, Kelly never spoke to him of his tender, nor did C. H. Simpson. The ex-premier stated the tenders were dealt with in the ordinary course and the lowest tender, that of the National Construction Company, was accepted. When they refused to sign the contract, Thomas Kelly and Sons the next lowest tenderers, were offered the job and on their refusal, the contract was signed with C. H. Simpson, the third lowest.

Before this Simpson saw Sir Rodmond.

"I did not care to give Simpson the contract if I could help it," said the ex-premier. "I did not know him and did not know what complications might arise. I did undertake to discourage him."

Sir Rodmond did not know at this time Simpson was president of the National Construction Company.

"It never occurred to me to take advantage of anybody's mistake," said Sir Rodmond, when asked why the National Construction Company tender cheque was returned to them when it might have been forwarded to the government.

Sir Rodmond said if he had known at the time of the relations between Simpson and the National Construction Company he would not have let the contract, but would have referred the matter.

## KITCHENER IN ROME NOW

Paris, Nov. 26.—The arrival at Rome of Field Marshal Kitcheener, British secretary of war, is announced in a telegram to the Havas News Agency. The field marshal reached Rome from Naples and went directly to the British embassy.

Premier Salandra later received Earl Kitcheener, the audience lasting an hour.

TO CONSIDER REORGANIZING OF NATIONAL DEFENCE.

Rio Janeiro, Jan. 26.—The federal chamber has appointed a commission of nine members to consider the question of the re-organization of the National Defence.

## French May Fall Back From Krivolak to Southeast Where Reinforcements Are Being Assembled—Russian Army Massed on Bulgarian Frontier May be Allowed to Pass Through Roumania to Varna—Balkan Campaign Affecting all Fronts Germans Send More Men to West.

London, Nov. 26.—The Serbian main army, having been driven back to the borders of Albania and Montenegro, where they are being attacked by the Austro-Germans, the Bulgarians, with the assistance of General Von Gallwitz's forces, are now giving their attention to the Anglo-French troops. Important military developments may therefore be looked for on the Varda river. The Bulgarians appear to have abandoned definitely for the time being their advance on Monastir, in order to attack the French positions on the Cerna, where fighting already has been reported. So far, the French have held their positions, but despatches from Saloniki hint that it may be necessary to withdraw from Krivolak to the southeast, where British and French reinforcements are being concentrated. While the results of these movements are being watched with some anxiety, better news from the Allies point of view comes from the northern frontier of Bulgaria, where a big Russian army is massing.

It is reported that General Alexander Kurovskii is to command this Russian army of invasion, which will either be sent up the Danube or allowed passage through Roumania to attack Varna, from the land side. Other Russian forces are being organized at Odessa and Sebastopol, and will doubtless be sent either to the Bulgarian or Turkish coast.

It is reported from Switzerland that the Austro-Germans are sending reinforcements into the Balkans, to meet this new Russian offensive, but other sources state that these reinforcements are en route to the western front, because of the fact that the Belgian campaign is being savagely direct on all fronts.

In Galicia the Austro-Germans are attacking in the hope of compelling the Russians to give a part of the Beszabian army, which is being sent to Austria, opposing the Italian offensive on the Isonzo, are unable to get assistance, they are counter-attacking with terrific fury, and have thus prevented the Italians from capturing Gorizia, which has been hard pressed for nearly a week.

Later reports from Mesopotamia show that the British hold the battlefield of Ctesiphon, and that the Turks are retreating to Djalah, within ten miles of Bagdad. Prisoners taken by the British have been increased to 1,300, while the British wounded alone number 2,500. Troops engaged in this region are undergoing hardships unknown in other campaigns, there being a shortage of both food and water.

The Turks are showing more activity in the Gallipoli, where with new supplies of ammunition they made an attack on the Allies' positions without making any gains.

Germany to Tax War Profits of Stock Companies.

Berlin, via London, Nov. 26.—The federal council has adopted a preliminary bill for taxing the war profits of joint stock companies and corporations. The measures do not levy a tax. This is left for another bill after the war. The present bill merely requires that companies carry a reserve half the profits earned in making war supplies and invest them separately from the ordinary resources, thus holding them in readiness for the final decision of the government.

Another bill deals specially with the Reichsbank. This measure contemplates taking half the net profits exceeding the average of the three years preceding the war. The bill would provide for a special tax taking the place of the note tax abolished at the beginning of the war.

French Report.

Paris, Nov. 26.—The following official communication was issued tonight: "During the day there was an intermittent cannonade on the whole front. The activity of the artillery has taken a more violent turn in the Argonne, where, notably, our batteries blew up a German ammunition depot in the Fille Morte region. There has been fighting with grenades in the sector of Courtes-Chasseuses. We dislodged the enemy from a mine excavation which we occupied."

"The Belgian communication says: 'A rather violent bombardment has occurred in front of St. Herve. To the north of Dixmude and to the east of St. Jacques Capelle, there has been a retaliatory fire by the Belgian batteries.'

British Artillery Doing Good Work.

London, Nov. 26.—The following official statement was issued tonight by the War Office: "General French reports that our artillery has successfully bombarded

the head men of the village were subjected to revolting tortures. Their finger nails and then their toe nails were forcibly extracted; teeth were knocked out, and in some cases noses were whittled down, the victims thus being liable to death under shocking, lingering agony.

Reports Not Exaggerated.

"The female relatives of victims who came to the rescue were assaulted in public before the very eyes of their mutilated men. The shrieks and death cries of the victims filled the air yet they did not move the Turkish hosts."

"In the town of Mush itself the Armenians, under the leadership of Goleghyan and others, entrenched themselves in churches and stone buildings and fought for four days in self-defence, but Turkish artillery, manned by German officers, made short work of all the Armenian positions and everyone of the Armenian leaders, as well as their men were killed in the fighting."

"The ghastly scenes which followed may seem incredible, yet these reports have been confirmed beyond all doubt. The shortest means employed for disposing of the women and children in the various camps was by burning. Fire was set to the large wooden sheds in Aljian, Mograkom, and other Armenian villages, and the absolutely helpless women and children were roasted to death."

"Many women went mad and threw away their children. Some women knelt down and prayed amid the flames which were burning their bodies. Others shrieked for help, which came from nowhere, and the executioners, who seemed unmoved by this unparalleled savagery, grasped infants by one leg and hurled them into the fire, calling out to the burning mothers 'here are your lion.'

Turkish prisoners, who apparently witnessed some of these scenes were horrified and maddened at remembering the sight. The odor of burning flesh, they say, permeated the air for many days.

"In the hill country of Sasun the surviving warriors found themselves surrounded at close quarters by 30,000 Turks and Kurds. Then followed one of those desperate, heroic struggles for life which have always been the pride of the mountaineers. Men, women and children fought with knives, scythes and stones, and anything else they could handle. They rolled blocks of stone down the steep slopes, killing many of their enemies. In the frightful hand-to-hand combats women were soon thrusting their knives into the throats of Turks."

"When every warrior had fallen, several of the younger women who were in danger of falling into the hands of the Turks threw themselves from the rocks, some of them with infants in their arms."

## True Story of Armenian Massacres as Ghastly as Pictured in Reports

Viscount Bryce Makes Public Details of More Brutalities by Turks on Armenians—Military Governor and His "Butcher Battalion" Slaughter Peaceful Citizens by Hundreds.

London, Nov. 26.—Viscount Bryce tonight made public the details of further Armenian massacres, which, in a letter accompanying them, he says: "Surpass in horror, if that were possible, what has been published already."

"I feel," his letter continues, "that such crimes ought to be exposed to the utmost, and that the charity of other nations will more than ever be drawn to the unhappy refugees, when it is known what their friends and fellow countrymen have suffered."

Viscount Bryce says the details confirm and amplify the ghastly history of deportations by which Armenians in Northern and Eastern Anatolia were driven to a death of fendish cruelty. The first part of the evidence, he says, was received by the committee of enquiry in the United States, and the second part comes from an Armenian gentleman at Tiflis, who received it from refugees who escaped from regions where the events happened.

"The sufferings of the peasants and the mountaineers in the regions of Van, Mush, and Sanun," Viscount Bryce says, "seem to have been more terrible than were those of the peaceful town-folk, described in part one of the report. Every successive piece of evidence increases the horror of the story and confirms the dreadful certainty of its truth."

After giving part of the evidence received from the United States, Viscount Bryce says that the following extracts were taken from his correspondence at Tiflis.

A "Butcher Battalion."

"Toward the end of May, Djavid Bey, the military governor, was expelled from Van. Djavid fled southwards, and entered Sarit, with some 3,000 soldiers, whom he called 'butcher battalions.' He massacred most of the Christians of Sarit, the details of which nothing is known. On the best of authority, however, it is reported that he ordered his soldiers to burn in the public squares the Armenian Bishop Elise Vartardad, and the Chaldean Bishop Adal Sher."

"On June 25, the Turks surrounded the town of Bitlis, and cut its communications with neighboring Armenian villages. Then most of the able-bodied men were taken away from their women by domiciliary visits. During the following few days all the men under arrest were shot outside the town, and buried in deep trenches, dug by the victims themselves. The young women and children were distributed among the rabble. The remainder, the 'useless lot,' were driven to the south and are believed to have been drowned in the Tigris."

"It is in such a fashion that the Turks disposed of about 15,000 Armenians at Bitlis. At Mush, early in July, the authorities demanded arms from the Armenians, and a large sum in ransom of notables of the town."

## GERMANS LOSE NERVE AS WINTER DRAWS NEAR

Prisoners Taken by Russians Admit Troops Low-spirited as They Face Rigors of Winter Without Chance to Dig in.

Petrograd, Nov. 26, via London.—The Russian general staff is not disposed to over-estimate the importance of actions that occurred from time to time along the central sector of the battle line, where no determined offensive movement is now under way. Local commanders thus have opportunity to act on their own initiative, isolated engagements, as reported from time to time resulting.

Germans who have been taken prisoners along some parts of the line

## MAJ. W. R. BROWN AND SERGT. RYER TO GET D.C.M. FOR BRAVERY

Two St. John Men in Twenty-Sixth to Receive Awards, According to Reports Received in Ottawa—Several Other Canadians Win Honor.

Special to The Standard.

Ottawa, Nov. 26.—The name of Major Roy, of the 25th Canadian Battalion, who lost his life while hurrying out of the trenches an unexploded German bomb in an effort to save the lives of his comrades, is to be placed on the Victoria Cross heroes. The medal is understood will be sent to his family.

It is reported here that Col. Hill of Welland, of the first battalion, will shortly return from the front to take a high command in one of the Canadian military districts. It will probably be London.

It is also stated that a number of Canadian soldiers are to have honors conferred upon them for distinguished conduct at the front.

Amongst them is Pte. H. Compton of the 25th Battalion, Regina, who, on Oct. 28, was buried under debris caused by the explosion of a German bomb. After he was dug out he volunteered to go with a party of bombers to drive the Germans out of their trenches, which they had occupied. Later on he helped to extricate four soldiers who had been buried by explosions. He is to get the D.C.M. Lieut. G. A. Baker of the Canadian Engineers is to get the military cross for hanging on to a difficult position and for digging new trenches under fire during the battle mentioned above. Capt. J. A. Culham, of the 25th Regina Battalion, a well known medical man of that city is to be mentioned in despatches for conspicuous bravery in rescuing and attending to the wounded.

Lieut. J. A. Northover is also to receive the military cross. He had been buried and dug out and he immediately organized a bombing party to drive the enemy out of some craters they had occupied.

Major W. R. Brown of the 26th St. John Battalion, and Sergt. Ryer, another St. John soldier, are to get distinguished conduct medals for gallantry during the same engagement.

Letters received here show that during the rainy weather the trenches were knee deep and sometimes waist deep in water, but conditions are being improved rapidly.

In this connection a splendid example of the brave spirit of the Canadians is recorded. A Halifax battalion after spending six days in the wet trenches volunteered to remain another six days in order to help dig the necessary drains.

Owing to the weather conditions socks wear out very quickly and an officer writing from the front suggests that socks would make suitable Christmas presents. Another suggestion is to send rubber boots.

## ROUMANIA TURNS DOWN CENTRAL POWERS' REQUEST

London, Nov. 27.—It is stated that the Roumanian government has refused a request of the Austrian and German governments permission for their warships to proceed along the Danube river in Roumania toward Galatz and the Black Sea. It is supposed here that the request was due to desire on the part of the Teutonic Allies to menace from Galatz the Russian concentration in Southern Bessarabia.

## FRED. WOLFE OF 49 MOORE ST. IS AMONG WOUNDED

Ottawa, Nov. 26.—Twenty-sixth Battalion Wounded—Fred Wolfe, 49 Moore street, St. John, N. B. Wounded seriously—Patrick Doucette, Lower Carleton, N. B.

many portions of the enemy's trenches during the past four days, destroying wire entanglements and reaching their parapets. To the bombardments the enemy made little reply. The enemy artillery, however, has been active north of Albert, north of Loos, north of Ploegstreet, and east of the Ypres.

"On the evening of the 22nd the enemy made a heavy bombing attack on a mine crater held by our troops south of the Bethune-La Bassée road, but was repulsed."

"Mining has been constant on both sides during the last few days. On the 23rd we exploded a mine north of the Bethune-La Bassée road and occupied the crater. On the 24th the enemy exploded a mine south of Cullychy causing some damage to our trenches. A hostile bombing attack against the crater was repulsed. Yesterday the enemy exploded mines near Carnoy and Ginchy."

"On the 25th twenty-three of our aeroplanes successfully bombarded a German but encampment at Achlet Le Grand, northeast of Albert. The enemy replied with a single aeroplane, which dropped bombs near Bray, doing no damage."

Italians Landing at Avlona.

Petrograd, Nov. 26.—According to information from excellent sources received here, Italy has begun landing troops at Avlona, Albania.

## DIPHTHERIA EPIDEMIC PREVAILS, FAREWELL

Fredericton, Nov. 26.—As a result of diphtheria epidemic and quarantine at St. Mary's, parishoners of St. Anthony's church will be unable to have a public demonstration in connection with the farewell of Rev. Father Ryan, their pastor who goes to Woodstock early next week to become rector of the Roman Catholic parish there. Not only will the parishoners be deprived of the privilege of gathering to bid their popular pastor farewell, but he will also be unable to preach his farewell sermon on Sunday as a result of the action of the board of health authorities in placing a ban on all public gatherings in St. Mary's. Father Ryan had intended to celebrate his farewell mass at St. Anthony's church on Sunday next, but under existing conditions this will be impossible. His parishioners of St. Anthony's are to make some presentations to Rev. Father Ryan, and it was intended that this should be done at a public gathering but arrangements are now under way to have presentations made quietly before his departure for Woodstock.

## ALL BRITISH SUBJECTS MUST HAVE PASSPORTS TO ENTER UNITED KINGDOM

Ottawa, Nov. 26.—The Secretary of State for the Colonies has advised H. R. H. the Governor-General that without exception all British subjects desiring to enter the United Kingdom must be provided with passports.