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# THE MAIL AND ADVOCATE

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## RUSSIAN SUCCESS IN HOLDING RIGA MENACES REAR HINDENBERG'S ARMY IN ITS MARCH TOWARDS PETROGRAD

### Fall of Fortress of Ossowetz Leaves Only Grodno and Brest-Litovsk To Oppose the Austro-German Centre and Gives Them Important Points on Railway Line--Russian Hold on Brest-Litovsk Is Becoming Precarious and Must Soon be Abandoned--Meagre Details Zeebrugge Bombardment--German Torpedo Boat Destroyed--No Change in Western Battle Line

London, Aug. 23.—German naval reverses in the Gulf of Riga and the Baltic Sea, German success in occupying the fortress of Ossowetz, and the British naval bombardment of the German base at Zeebrugge, today furnished a series of news features which temporarily diverted attention from the gravity of the issues growing out of the sinking of the Arabic. The German version of the Riga battle has not yet been given out, but the definiteness of the official Russian report on the sinking or crippling of the German battleship Moltke, two other cruisers and eight torpedo boats, has set a wave of enthusiasm throughout the country, and dispelled the depression over the Russian retreat on land. Aside from the loss of German ships, the naval engagement is regarded as chiefly important for its strategic effect upon the land operations, the German sweep eastward toward Petrograd, military observers now consider as having been checked and possibly irreparably defeated.

The German centre has pressed forward steadily, until Prince Leopold of Bavaria is now near the Russian line of defence, but military observers say the entire campaign hinged on the vast enveloping movement of Field Marshal on Hindenburg's forces north. They had succeeded in pushing far beyond Riga, to Jacobstam on the Dwina, but the Russians hold on the Gulf of Riga and of the great naval base of Riga, which is a continual menace to Von Hindenburg's rear. This, the military observers say, led to the shifting of a number of German capital ships, including the Moltke, from the North Sea to the Baltic, with the purpose of controlling Riga, thus protecting the German land advance to Petrograd.

The result of the naval battle, as gleaned from the official report, appears definitely to have defeated the German objective, according to the observers, who say that aside from the loss of the ships, the Gulf and naval base of Riga being still in Russian hands, menace Von Hindenburg's further advance toward Petrograd.

## Serbia Plastic In Diplomat's Hands Bows to Italy

### But is Steadfast in Maintaining the Principle of "BALKANS FOR THE BALKAN PEOPLE" Sanitary Conditions Have Kept Her Army in Complete Inaction, but she is to Take the Field Again

Milan, Aug. 23.—One of the main difficulties in the way of a solution of the Balkan problem favorable to the Entente Allies has been settled, according to an interview with Premier Pachitch of Serbia, in the Corriere Dell Serra. The Premier is quoted as saying that Serbia has given way to Italy regarding Albania. Premier Pachitch, according to the newspaper, went over several phases of the present situation, as well as declaring that Austria had tried several times since the beginning of the war to conclude a separate peace with Serbia, but always with refusal from Serbia's Government. The inaction of the Serbian army, the Premier said, was due to sanitary conditions, and the necessity for reorganization, and the accumulation of war supplies. When the moment comes, he declared, the Serbian Army will fight steadfastly and in accord with the principles of the "Balkans for the Balkan people."

## Captain Finch, White Star Liner Is Positive

### That Arabic Did Not Strike Mine But Was Attacked BY SUBMARINE He and Officers and Passengers Saw the White Trail of the Torpedo

Liverpool, August 24.—Capt. Wm. Finch of the sunken White Star liner Arabic, to-night, gave the Associated Press a statement bearing on cabled reports, that some German officials claimed there was no proof of the Arabic having been sunk by a German submarine and that she might have met with disaster by running into a British mine. There is not the slightest doubt that the Arabic was sunk by a torpedo, said Capt. Finch, neither is there the slightest doubt it was fired at the Arabic deliberately. Quite true, we never say any submarine or any periscope, but I saw a white streak made by the passage of a torpedo through the water, a white streak that commenced with air bubbles in the water 30 yards from us at that point where it was discharged at us. There was no mistaking the cause of that white streak, which ended in a torpedo entering the ship and causing the explosion which sank the vessel. I was not alone in seeing it, the chief officer, second officer and many passengers saw it. No one can doubt for a moment that it was deliberately fired at the Arabic. Those aboard the submarine evidently saw us and got into a position ready to release the torpedo.

## Battle Between Ancient Cruiser And Dreadnoughts

### So Russia Describes Recent Engagements in Gulf of Riga DISASTROUS RESULTS FOR GERMANS Preventing Them For a Time Getting Possession of Russian Base

London, Aug. 24.—Naval operations in the Gulf of Riga is described in a semi-official statement issued at Petrograd and transmitted to Reuters Telegram Co. as an unequal combat between the old Russian battleship Slava and German dreadnoughts. The importance of this fight the statement says, consisted in preventing the Germans for a certain time from forcing our position. Calm, foggy conditions favoured the enemy's operations, enabling him to escape our observation and proceed more quietly with the work of mine destroying. The operations nevertheless cost the Germans some vessels, and one cruiser, which blew up by our mines.

## Miners Reject Runciman's Decision Re Coal Situation

London, Aug. 24.—The decision of Walter Runciman, President of the Board of Trade, who acted as arbitrator on numerous disputed questions in the South Wales coal strike, was announced last evening. A despatch from Cardiff indicates that his decision is likely to meet with vigorous opposition from the miners. The decision is highly technical, but a number of miners' demands relating to working conditions, hours of labor and arbitrations are rejected, although wage concessions are made. Vernon Hartshore, the miners' leader, telegraphed from Cardiff that the Runciman settlement is impossible, even if the leaders accepted it, the workmen who do not benefit by it, would refuse it, and they can tie up the whole field.

## A Demonstration Country's Intentions Highly Necessary

London, August 24.—The Westminster Gazette while reiterating its preference for voluntary recruiting says the most serious argument which can be brought forward on question is the necessity at this stage of the conflict for making some public demonstration of firmness respecting this country's intentions in order to reassure the other nations with which we are allied. The Westminster Gazette thinks any doubts on this point could be settled by a declaration from the government that it was raising an army of minimum force to be defined by a certain number of troops and that in order to insure reaching the complement stated, every means, including compulsory service, if necessary, would be exerted.

## Crowds Cheer The New Premier

London, August 24.—Venizelos and members of his cabinet were sworn in to-day. A Renter despatch from Athens says an immense crowd, which had gathered in the streets enthusiastically cheered the new Premier.

## GREAT EFFORTS TO ROUSE U.S.

### German Propagandists Are Under the Eye of American Officials

New York, Aug. 16.—This morning's New York World prints the following: "Chapters of correspondence in possession of the World published in their Sunday and Monday issues, exposes activities of official German propagandists in the United States of a most sensational character. The facts as revealed show the attempt of German officials both at Berlin and in this country to control the press and public sentiment, to subsidize writers and establish news agencies to spread German doctrine. The story has brought no denials from the chief actors connected with it—Ambassador von Berstorff, Financial Directors Albert and Schmidt; Editor Viereck, of The Fatherland; Military Attache von Papan and others whose names figure in the recital."

## OFFICIAL BRITISH

The Governor, Newfoundland. London, Aug. 23.—The French Government report small German attacks checked at various points. The Russian Government report that the German fleet has left the Gulf of Riga, having lost in three days, a dreadnought, probably the Moltke, sunk by a British submarine, three cruisers, with seven torpedo boats sunk or damaged. Four barges filled with soldiers, attempted a landing at Pernau. The barges were captured and the soldiers taken prisoners. No important change on land fronts. Italy has declared war on Turkey. The E-13 was fired on and wrecked by a German destroyer whilst grounded on a Danish island. BONAR LAW. Germans Capture Not Seventy-Seven But Seven Guns London, Aug. 23.—The version of today's German official statement received by cable by Renter's Telegram Company, gives the number of machine guns captured by the Germans at Tykocin, as seven, instead of seventy-seven, as given in an earlier version received from Berlin by wireless telegraphy.

## British Ships Subject Zeebrugge To Heavy Shelling

Flushing, Holland, Aug. 23.—Several British warships appeared to-day off Knocke, in Belgium, and bombarded the coast. A press despatch says that shells burst over the factory between Zeebrugge and Liszekeghe. The Germans replied with coast defence guns, but their fire finally ceased. Heavy clouds of smoke appeared over Zeebrugge, but no fires were visible. Two large British warships were still off Knocke at 9 o'clock this morning. To-day's German official statement says that a hostile fleet of about forty ships appeared before Zeebrugge, and subsequently steamed away north-east, which would take them in the direction of England. This is the first report of any naval movement of consequence in the North Sea for a considerable period. The last important naval action in these waters occurred on January 24th, when the German cruiser Blucher was sunk. Enemy Ships Seek the Bottom Torpedo Route Sofia, Aug. 23.—The Turkish collier Espanan has been torpedoed by a British submarine at Haidar Pasha, and the steamer Budos, of the German Levant line, loaded with munitions and provisions, has been sunk in the Sea of Marmora.

## America Meets Cotton Situation Created by Allies

Washington, Aug. 23.—Treasury officials to-night made public an announcement by Secretary McAdo, that in view of the action of the Allies in putting cotton on the contraband list, he would, if it became necessary, deposit \$30,000,000 or more gold in the Federal Reserve banks at Atlanta, Dallas and Richmond, for the purpose of enabling the reserve banks to rediscount loans on cotton secured by warehouse receipts made by the National banks to the State banks belonging to the Federal reserve system.

## Facts About The "Arabic" From Official Sources

London, Aug. 23.—Supplementing the official information given out previously, the British Admiralty today made the following announcement: "The Arabic was an unarmed passenger ship, outward bound to a neutral port. It was thus impossible for her to have been carrying contraband to this country. She was sunk by a German submarine without warning, and she neither attempted to attack the submarine, nor to escape from it."

## Constantinople Feels Coal Famine

Sofia, Aug. 23.—The gas works of Doldabotche, which supply Constantinople, have been shut down owing to lack of coal. Constantinople is now lit by petroleum. According to the latest advices from the Turkish capital, the police have instructed the proprietors of the hotels, cafes and other establishments to place oil in the lamps outside their buildings. For the same reason, trains on the Anatolian railway are running at half speed.

## Italy Dispatches Many Troopships

Rome, Aug. 23.—Several transports laden with troops, escorted by warships, have departed from Naples, Syracuse, Taranto, and Brindisi, for an unknown destination. They sailed under sealed orders. It is generally believed that they have been employed for operations against Turkey.

## Italy Abrogates Lausanne Treaty

Rome, Aug. 23.—The Italian Government having declared war on Turkey, has decided to suppress all privileges enjoyed by the Ottoman Empire in Tripoli, by treaty of Lausanne. Liberty for the Mohammedan religion and local customs derived from it, however, will be maintained.

## Bulgaria Signs Treaty With Turkey

Berlin, Aug. 23. (Wireless to Sayville).—The Overseas News Agency today gave out official reports from Sofia and Constantinople that Turkey and Bulgaria have signed a new treaty, Turkey granting to Bulgaria her desired road connection with the sea, and Bulgaria agreeing to observe a benevolent neutrality.

## Italians Advance On Carso Front

Rome, August 24. (Official).—On the Upper Cordevole the enemy attempted on the afternoon of the 21st, a sudden raid on our line, which defends the heights connecting Lanna Pass with Salest. The attack although preceded and supported by intense fire and volleys of hand grenades, was completely repulsed. In the Tolmino sector investment of the defences is being slowly but continually completed. On the Carso front a surprise night attack by our troops put them in possession of several strong enemy trenches, which prevented our line's left wing from being advanced. Weak attacks by the enemy toward the opposite wing in the Selbus zone were easily repulsed.

## Turk Ambassador Leaving Rome

Rome, August 24.—Naby Boy, Turkish ambassador to Italy, with the embassy staff and consul in this city left to-day for Turkey by way of Switzerland, the Marquis di Geroni, the Italian ambassador to Constantinople has already left the country.

## British Steamer Sunk By Submarine

Queenstown, Aug. 23.—The British steamer Diome was sunk by a German submarine, and the captain, quartermaster, and steward killed by shots fired by the submarine during a pursuit of four hours. [Probably the Liverpool steamer Diomed.]

## American Govt. Awaits Explanation From Germany

Washington, August 24.—Four days have passed since a German submarine sunk the White Star liner Arabic, with the loss of two American lives, and the American government is still without the detailed official information necessary to shape its course. The only notable development to-day was a break in the official silence which surrounded the White House. Secretary Tumulty after conferring with President Wilson issued this statement: As soon as all the facts regarding the Arabic are ascertained, our course of action will be determined. Secretary Lansing declared all information so far handed to the State Department was fragmentary and that details still were being sought, while the situation still was a waiting one. Official quarters reflected the strain which grows hourly, as no word comes from the German government. The opinion of the State Department officials is not now incumbent upon the American government to ask Germany for an excuse for the conduct of the submarine commander who sunk the Arabic.

## No Tiding Of Steffanson And His Party

Nome, Alaska, Aug. 24.—The United States coast guard cutter, which carried mails to Point Barrow, the most northerly point of Alaska, returned here last night reporting that no word of Steffanson and his two companions has been received. The belief is growing that all three have perished.

## Russia to Have Abundant Supplies War Munitions

Paris, August 24.—Mobilization of the Russian industrial resources the Martin says it so far perfected that within a few weeks the factories of the country will be able to produce 200,000 shells a day, in addition to those which are imported.

## Hurricane Destroys Banana Trees

New York, Aug. 24.—The hurricane which recently swept over the West Indies, destroyed ninety per cent. of the banana trees on the north side of the Island of Jamaica.

## Germany Anologizes to Denmark

London, Aug. 24.—From the Danish Legation at Berlin, Copenhagen has received from the German Secretary of State a Note containing an apology and expressions of sincere regret for violation of neutrality involved in an attack upon the British submarine within the territorial waters of Denmark.

## Cholera Prevails In Austria

Zurich, August 24.—Austrian minister of the Interior, according to reports received here, announced that there were 1566 cases of Asiatic cholera in Austria August 19th.

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