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PROBS-FAIR

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BRITISH IMPROVE POSITIONS IN WEST; BERLIN ADMITS GERMAN LINE PIERCED BY RUSSIANS

HEAVY FIGHTING IN WEST; CZAR'S ARMY SMASHES THE ENEMY'S LINE NEAR DVINSK

No Important Change in Western Theatre, Although Minor Gains are Reported by Both Sides

ENGLAND DECLARES WAR ON BULGARIA

British Hold All Ground Gained on Wednesday, Field Marshal French Reports—Teutonic Allies Finding Invasion of Serbia a Costly Undertaking—Additional Troops Landed at Saloniki to Aid Serbs.

ENGLAND DECLARES WAR ON BULGARIA.

London, Oct. 15.—Great Britain has declared war on Bulgaria.

The British Foreign Office announces that in view of the fact that Bulgaria has announced she is at war with Serbia, and is an ally of the Central Powers, His Majesty's government has informed the Bulgarian government, through the Swedish minister at London, who is in charge of Bulgarian interests, that a state of war exists between Great Britain and Bulgaria, as from 10 p. m.

London, Oct. 15.—A British official report, received under date of 9.45 o'clock tonight from Field Marshal Sir John French, commander-in-chief of the British army in the field, says with reference to the German official statement of today:

"The only change in the situation south of La Bassee Canal is that we have further improved our positions in the Hohenzollern redoubt. We hold all the ground gained on the 13th."

Desperate Fighting But No Important Success.

London, Oct. 15.—From all the main battlefronts comes news of continued fighting, but from none of them has been received any indication of victories or reverses which would make a marked change in the general situation.

The Austrians, Germans and Bulgarians are proceeding methodically with their invasion of Serbia, which, according to neutral reports, is costing them a very heavy price in the lives of their soldiers, as the hardened veterans of Serbia are taking every advantage of the difficult country to inflict the greatest possible loss on the invaders.

The Germans, however, have been able to occupy Pozarevac, southeast of Semendria, and claim that their campaign is proceeding according to their plans. The Quadruple Entente Allies are perfecting their preparations to assist the Serbians, and every day sees additional troops landing at Saloniki, where the French general Sarrail has arrived to take command of the allied forces. What steps Russia and Italy have taken to render assistance have not yet developed.

The political situation remains unchanged, Greece having formally announced that she would not intervene in behalf of Serbia "at present," and Roumania, although she is being urged by Germany definitely to define her position not having made any move.

Armed Neutrality for Roumania

Bucharest, Wednesday, Oct. 13, via Paris, Oct. 15.—(Delayed in transmission.)—The cabinet after again going over the war situation today, made a pronouncement in favor of Roumania maintaining neutrality. All necessary military precautions have been taken on each of Roumania's frontiers. The presence of two German submarines at Varna, Bulgaria's chief seaport on the Black Sea has been confirmed.

Berlin, Oct. 15, via London.—"Ru-

manian must choose quickly and without hesitation," says the Lokal Anzeiger, referring to the report that Russia had asked for permission to march through Roumania to Serbia assistance.

"What will Roumania do in such an event?" asks the Lokal Anzeiger, adding that if she imitates Greece and only registers a protest against Russia's marching troops through the Central Powers cannot remain indifferent.

Outside the Balkan campaign England is watching, with the most interest, the operations of her submarines in the Baltic. Here after having driven the Germans merchantmen from the sea, they have sunk one, and probably two German torpedo craft—one reported to be a torpedo boat destroyer, and the other a torpedo boat—which, with other warships, had come out to convoy ore laden steamers. Activity of the British navy is shown in the North Sea.

The record shows that 24 German trawlers have been captured and taken into Grimsby during the past month.

DIRECT ATTACK ON SOFIA BY ALLIED FORCES?

Military Writer in Roumania Believes Troops Landing at Saloniki Will Make Bulgarian Capital their Objective.

Bucharest, via Paris, Oct. 15.—The military critic of the Universal in an article today, expresses the belief that the British and French troops landed at Saloniki will not go to the aid of the Serbians at Nish, which is 250 miles from their base, but will make a direct attack on Sofia from the Serbian frontier, thus cutting Bulgaria in two, and also stopping the Austro-German advance by one of the principal railroads to Constantinople. The writer adds, however, that the Anglo-French forces must be strong and that they must co-operate with them.

GERMAN FOOD TRUST OFFERS CONTRACT TO U.S. CONCERNS

East Prussian Food Co. Anxious to Place Orders but British Blockade Prevents Import of Supplies.

Berlin, via London, Oct. 15.—Three representatives of big American food concerns today called on James W. Gerard, the American ambassador, and laid before him a new proposition in an attempt to secure the importation of supplies from the United States.

They claimed that a huge, newly formed concern, "The East Prussian Food Company" had offered them almost unlimited contracts for food if they could import them, the supplies by agreement to be used exclusively for the suffering civil population of the Russian territory occupied by Germany. Since the importation would only be possible if some agreement were reached through diplomatic channels, they requested the ambassador to take the necessary steps.

Mr. Gerard told the representatives that it would not, in his opinion, be possible to make any such arrangement, because of the Rockefeller Relief Commission experience.

A London despatch early in July said that the German government had cancelled an agreement which permitted the Rockefeller Foundations War Relief Committee to take charge of the work of feeding the civilian population of Poland. Members of the commission had secured an agreement with the German government for its aid in financing the plan if permission had yet been reached, the German government cancelled the original agreement.

Communications Between Serbia and Roumania Cut.

Milan, Italy, via Paris, Oct. 15.—The Saloniki correspondent of the Secolo says the following: "Communications have been cut between Serbia and Roumania as well as between Saloniki and Russia as the result of the Austro-German offensive. The Serbians are expecting an attack by the Bulgarians between Guevghel and Strumitza with the object of cutting the Saloniki railroad and preventing the arrival of allied troops at Nish."

CONTRACT FOR ALLIES' LOAN SIGNED

Multi-Millionaires Gather in Morgan Offices to see Ceremony.

COMMISSION LEAVE FOR HOME TODAY.

Negotiations Will Begin for Supplementary Loan Within Few Months, Baron Reading Announces.

New York, Oct. 15.—The \$500,000,000 Anglo-French credit loan contract was signed last night. Three words, "Reading of British," from a pen in the hands of Lord Reading, chairman of the Anglo-French Commission, bound the British Empire to its terms. France was bound by the signatures of Octave Homberg and Ernest Mallet, her representatives on the commission. Last of all, the loan signed his name in behalf of the American syndicate of underwriters. Immediately thereafter four witnesses attested the signatures, one of them being Basil B. Blackett, secretary of the commission. The other three were American lawyers who assisted in drawing up the document.

As many multi-millionaire bankers as could be crowded into the board room of the Morgan banking house looked on. There was much enthusiasm, but no cheering or applause, and congratulations were showered upon Mr. Morgan and the members of the commission.

Arising from the seat he occupied at the head of the long oval table, Lord Reading thanked the syndicate for their co-operation in accomplishing his task.

Not an Easy Task.

"We realized from the first," he said, "that it was only possible to carry out a transaction of this magnitude if there was loyal and devoted co-operation by all concerned, from Morgan & Company, and from all their associates in the syndicate. From them we have had not only the greatest assistance and conscientious and sincere advice, and it is for that reason I desire to express our sincere gratitude. This has not been an easy task, and on the whole, taking into account the magnitude of the transaction, the result has been very creditable, especially as we have carried it through by the date originally fixed for the first payment on the bonds. "It may not have been the exact date we intended, but we have got there. I feel on behalf of the English government, that it is incumbent upon us to say that we are very much indebted to all who have aided."

"I should like to add that after we had given a close study to conditions here, after making ourselves acquainted with the difficulties of a transaction in this country where the people were unacquainted with external loans we sought advice, and it was given to us honestly and conscientiously, not only in the best interests of our country, but we believe in the best interests of the United States."

Having finished the labors here, the commissioners will sail tomorrow for England aboard the steamer St. Louis, which flies the American flag. It had been the intention of the commission to sail on a British steamer, and only the fact that there will be no British vessel sailing for ten days or more prevented them from doing so.

Will Not Visit Canada.

The contemplated visit to Canada has been abandoned as Lord Reading and his associates feel that their presence at home is needed. Mr. Blackett and Mr. Homberg will remain in New York for a time, to adjust any details that may arise. Within a couple of months Lord Reading said, negotiations probably will begin looking toward the creating of the supplemental loan already forecast. It is estimated that this loan will be for approximately \$250,000,000. Whether it would be another bond of

PLACE RECRUITING ENTIRELY IN HANDS OF CIVILIANS

Lord Derby's Plan is to Make Civilians Instead of Military Authorities Responsible for Securing Men—Personal Appeal in Form of Letter Will be Sent to Every Eligible Man.

London, Oct. 15.—Recruiting is to be taken entirely out of the hands of the military authorities, and entrusted exclusively to civilian organizations. This, in a nutshell, is the scheme by which the Earl of Derby, director of recruiting for the army, hopes to secure a sufficient number of voluntary enlistments to render recourse to conscription unnecessary. He described the new system at a private conference with the parliamentary recruiting committee and the Joint Labor Recruiting Board this afternoon.

"The changes that I propose to make," said Lord Derby, "have not been necessitated by any shortcomings on the part of the recruiting staff, but by the exigencies of the present situation, which, to my mind, require entirely new methods of dealing with the subject. In the past recruits have been found by the military authorities, assisted by civilians. I propose to make civilians responsible for bringing raw material in the shape of recruits to the military authorities for them to enlist, clothe, equip and train."

"This can only be rendered possible if some thoroughly representative civilian body should be willing to make itself responsible for the work, and my most grateful thanks are due to the two bodies—the parliamentary recruiting committee and the Joint Labor Recruiting Committee—who have made themselves jointly responsible."

BRITISH "U" BOATS SEND TWO GERMAN WARSHIPS TO BOTTOM

Destroyer Sunk in Strait Between Denmark and Sweden and Torpedo Boat Near Faxa—German Flotilla Put to Route—British Submarines Sweep Baltic Clear of Enemy's Ships.

London, Oct. 15.—British submarines have now cleared the Baltic Sea and the Gulf of Bothnia entirely of German merchant ships, says a despatch to the Star from Copenhagen. Every German ship which was southbound from Sweden when the submarines started their campaign has either been sunk or run ashore, it adds. "Of fifty German ore carriers, 37 are virtually interned in Swedish ports, the correspondent declares."

Copenhagen, Oct. 15.—A British submarine torpedoed and sank a German destroyer this morning at the southern entrance to the Sound, a narrow strait between Denmark and Sweden, which connects the Baltic with the North Sea. A great explosion followed the striking of the torpedo and the destroyer foundered immediately.

A message from Fisterbo, Sweden, which brought news of this incident, adds that another German destroyer and a cruiser, which were accompanying the destroyer that was sunk, speeded to the southward. Despatches to the Evening newspaper here say that a second German torpedo boat was sunk by the British submarine B-19 near Faxa. According to these telegrams a German flotilla, one boat of which was sunk Wednesday, returned yesterday with reinforcements and fishermen heard another explosion and saw a torpedo boat disappear. Thereupon the flotilla hurried away.

Lindsay, Ont., Oct. 15.—Allan Gilles, proprietor of the Victoria Warder, and W. C. Hall, barber of this town, were drowned last night while returning in a launch from a cruise to Sturgeon Lake. How the accident happened is not known, but it is believed that they missed Scugog river channel in the dark and collided with a snag. Two farmers heard cries for help, and saw Hall attempting to make shore. They tried to rescue him, but he sank before they could reach him. Both bodies have been recovered.

KEEPING CHECK ON MONEY BAGS OF THE ALLIES

British Government Sanction Needed for Every Dollar Spent in U. S. For War Supplies.

ONLY ONCE HAS MANDATE BEEN DISREGARDED.

Committee Sitting in London Controls all Purchases and Allots to Each Nation the Amount Advanced by Great Britain for their Use in Making Purchases.

New York, Oct. 15.—Of the millions of dollars spent daily in this country by the Allies for war supplies, not a dollar, it was learned authoritatively today, can be spent without first obtaining the official sanction of the British government. This sanction is obtained from a committee sitting in London and holding frequent sessions. Although the committee has been in operation for many months its existence has not heretofore been generally known outside of governmental circles. Only once, so far as can be learned—and then in the case of Russia—has the mandate of this body been disregarded.

The personnel of this committee has never been published, and probably never will be. It consists, however, of representatives of each of the allied nations, from Great Britain to Montenegro, controls absolutely the purchase of all war supplies in whatever section of the world they may be bought, acts as a financial check and supervisor over all the war chests of all the Allies, and seeks to eliminate positively competitive bidding on the part of the Allies for war supplies in the few open markets of the world, first of all the United States.

No Control Over Purchases in Home Markets

Over purchases made in home markets by the various nations, the committee holds no supervision. Its sphere is limited strictly to purchases outside the boundary lines of the nations at war and their colonies.

The committee is designated by a French title, the English translation of which is the International War Supplies Committee.

Under its guidance Great Britain, France, Russia and Italy, in seeking munitions of war in the United States, and other supplies, refrain from competition in bidding. Such competition, if permitted, the committee realized early in its career, would result in sending prices of munitions and other supplies to prohibitive levels and would consequently swell the cost of conducting the war proportionately.

Instead of coming into the American market when supplies are needed and waging a financial contest for supremacy in obtaining the supplies, the Allies have adopted a system of placing one big order at a time in this country. When the contract for this order is signed, the next allied nation's needs are taken up and another contract is placed. This system is maintained until all the allied nations purchasing supplies here are cared for.

Britain As Allies' Bank Dominates Committee

Great Britain, as banker for the Allies, dominates this committee. British purchases, where convenient, continued on page two.