

# BALKANS SEETHING WITH UNREST; THE RUSSIANS MAY SEIZE VARNA AND BULGARIA FORTIFIES PORT

## Greece Mobilizes Her Army and Roumania Follows Suit.

### Uncertainty and Speculation are Rife as to Probable Outcome—Complicating Series of Misunderstandings Mar Outlook For Entente Powers.

BY SPECIAL WIRE TO THE COURIER

ATHENS, Sept. 24, via London, 2 p.m.—A decree for general mobilization of twenty classes of Greek soldiers was signed last night by King Constantine and promulgated. The decision of the King has aroused the greatest enthusiasm. Issuance of the mobilization decree came quickly after the King had granted an audience to Premier Venizelos. The Premier informed the King that mobilization was the only possible reply to Bulgaria's move. To this the sovereign agreed, stipulating that it should be regarded as a defensive measure. The Minister of War, General Danaglis, subsequently took the decree to the palace, and the King signed it. The twenty classes now called to the colors are in addition to four classes already under arms.

ATHENS, Sept. 23, via Paris, Sept. 24.—Diplomatic circles here have been informed that Bulgarian warships which were stationed at Varna, on the Black Sea, have sought shelter in a neighboring bay. Large numbers of men are working at feverish speed to fortify Bulgarian Black Sea ports. The valuables of the branch of the National Bank at Burgas and Varna have been removed to Sofia.

#### INVASION BY RUSSIA FEARED

The belief has been expressed in Bulgaria that if that country arrays herself on the side of the Teutonic allies, Russia would attempt an invasion through the port of Varna, 30 hours' sail from Odessa, although it is strongly fortified.

**FRANCE ABSORBED**  
 Paris, Sept. 24.—The Bulgarian situation is absorbing the attention of all other topics. Little doubt is felt here that Bulgaria, or rather King Ferdinand, has decided to cast its lot with the central powers.

"For months," says Jean Herbet, one of the authorities of France on foreign politics, "the quadruple entente has been talking to Bulgaria without acting. During the same period Bulgaria has been preparing to act without talking. The time has come when Bulgaria is acting."

Military writers are beginning to discuss the course Bulgaria probably will take. Most of them are of the opinion that she will hurl troops into upper Moravia and Vardar valleys in Serbia and then cut the Saloniki-Nish railroad near Uskub, which would cut Russia off from all communication with her allies, except through Archangel.

It is generally believed such an essentially must have occurred to the allied governments and that preparations have been made against it.

While such headlines as, "Will King Ferdinand repeat the error of 1913?" are common, French editorial writers betray some anxiety at the prospect of an ad-

ded complication in the struggle for Constantinople.

**ITALIANS**  
 Rome, via Paris, Sept. 24.—"Even if Bulgaria has not definitely agreed to side with the central powers," says the Giornale d'Italia, "it undoubtedly has augmented the tension with the quadruple entente."

"If Bulgarian mobilization does not mean an immediate invasion of Macedonia or an attack upon Serbia in the rear in the case of an Austro-German rush through the Balkans, the most optimistic explanation is that it is an attempt to blackmail the allies to press Serbia to make further territorial concessions, as the Bulgarian ideal is to obtain Macedonia and Thrace without going to war."

"Greek mobilization probably will be followed by similar steps in Roumania. These may be only precautionary measures, especially as Greece is not inclined to consider even an attack upon Serbia as a cause for war, maintaining that the Greco-Serbian alliance ought to exist when Serbia consented to make territorial concessions to Bulgaria, while the object of the alliance was to avoid any alteration of the boundaries established by the treaty of Bucharest. Greece also maintains the alliance did not

consider the possibility of a war in which the European powers would participate."

**A CRIME IN HISTORY.**  
 Petrograd, Sept. 24, via London.—M. Guichoff, president of the Slav committee of Moscow, sent telegrams to-day to Dr. S. Danieff, former Bulgarian premier; M. Geshov, former Bulgarian minister at Berlin and other Bulgarian statesmen, in which he said that if Bulgaria should join with Germany her action would be a crime unparalleled in the history of nations. Russians were unable to believe said M. Guichoff that Bulgaria "liberated from the Turkish yoke by Russia, contemplates joining Germany, the inveterate enemy of the Slav race."

**BULGARIA ACTS ALSO**  
 Paris, Sept. 24.—A message from Sofia to the Havas News Agency makes the definite announcement that mobilization of Bulgarian military forces, reported to have been postponed, has been decided upon. It says "The Official Journal," the organ of the Bulgarian Government published to-day a decree ordering mobilization of the classes of 1892 to 1912.

Mrs. Selma Moore Holman, long a temperance leader in Tennessee, died at Fayetteville.



**WHAT BULGARIA GAINS BY NEUTRALITY.**

TURKEY cedes to Bulgaria the line of the Adrianople-Debagatch Railway, including the station of Kavagatch, a suburb of Adrianople, on the right bank of the Maritza, which the Bulgarians have long desired. They also cede all the territory between the railroad and the old frontier and a strip of land ten kilometers (6.1 miles) wide on the left bank of the Maritza from a point just south of Adrianople to the mouth of the river, and a similar strip north of Adrianople on the left bank of the Tundza River as far as the frontier.

## NEGOTIATIONS PROCEEDING ON \$500,000,000 DOLLAR BASIS WITH FINANCIERS

### Russia Out Of Agreement as a Participant and a Separate Credit is Looked For—Yankees Decide on Amount and Dictate Same is Report.

New York, Sept. 24.—Both parties to the proposed big credit loan to Great Britain and France were reported to be negotiating to-day on the basis of \$500,000,000 as the maximum amount.

The Anglo-French commission, it was said, was still inclined to insist that the loan should be greater than this amount; American financiers were reported to have informed the commission pointedly that this sum would not be exceeded.

American financiers to lend no more than \$500,000,000 was said to have played a leading factor in the virtual decision not to include Russia as a participant. With Russia in, it was said, the need would be far more than half a billion dollars.

On behalf of both parties to negotiations, it was said to-day that negotiations were progressing smoothly and satisfactorily. The commission and its American associates were said to be drawing near an agreement again, and an announcement stating that a definite plan had been agreed on was expected within a few days.

**RUSSIA APPEARED OUT**  
 Russia appeared to be out of negotiations as a participant. If it should appear necessary that she, too, establish a credit here, it seems likely that independent arrangements would have to be made for her. Final decision on this point, however, was said to be deferred until such time as definite word should reach New York from Pierre L. Bark, at present believed to be in London conferring with Reginald McKenna, chancellor of the exchequer. Originally it was suggested that Russia be included in the plans for establishing the American credit.

**FORMAL NEGOTIATIONS**  
 It is the reported plan of the commission when an agreement is reached, to conduct negotiations with a few big banking houses in this city as representatives of the American bankers in general. Heretofore, the negotiations have been characterized as conversations. Formal negotiations in the British definition of the term will not be opened till an agreement on essentials will have been reached.

**POSITIVELY REFUSED**  
 The reported positive stand of

on essentials will have been reached.

# RUSSIANS WITHDREW SKILFULLY RUINED VASSAL COUNTRY

## Through Narrow Corridor Only 33 Miles Long.

### If Bulgaria is Made the Cockpit of the Balkans.

By Special Wire to the Courier.  
 London, Sept. 24.—Describing the retreat of the Petrograd correspondent of the Times characterizes it as one of the most difficult and brilliant Russian exploits of the present war, but says the withdrawal began not a moment too soon for the Germans to drive a wedge into the Russian rear.

By Special Wire to the Courier.  
 Sofia, Bulgaria, Sept. 23, via London, Sept. 24.—An article which may throw some light on the Bulgarian mobilization, appears in The Mir, which asks what Bulgaria will do if the Germans appear on its frontiers since a German invasion in Serbia will be attempted. Replying to its own question the paper says:

"The Germans had not only almost encircled the city," the correspondent says, "but by throwing out a huge mass of cavalry, followed by light infantry had swept around from the north far into the rear of Russian communications at Molodechno and Lebedev."

"The Germans had prepared an enveloping movement depending on the occupation of Molodechno, but in the advance from Lida the Russians foiled this plan by retreating along the Viliya River due east from Vilna instead of southeast as the enemy had anticipated. Thus the plan of a sudden blow on our northern flank was paralyzed at its inception."

"Assuming that we should retreat in a southeasterly direction on the Oshmana, Generals von Eichhorn and von Scholz, operating along the railway from Vilna to Lida, proposed to attack us on the flank. Thanks to our withdrawal due east, however, the enemy was obliged to engage in a frontal battle on our left wing. Thus we succeeded not only in passing through a narrow corridor, 33 miles wide, between Soly and Biniakony, but also in widening it considerably."

"For this reason the enemy failed to envelop a single Russian corps and Smorgon, where the Germans reported a Russian attempt to break through had been frustrated, is actually in Russian hands. The latest reports permit us to breathe more freely. Our rearguards are successfully engaging the enemy whose ambitious design to accomplish a second Sedan miscarried completely."

"It would mean the Bulgarians must allow the undisputed passage of German troops through their country. If the Bulgarians consented without making common cause with Germany then they would be unable to refuse the same privilege to the Russians who might disembark at Varna (on the west shore of the Black Sea). Then the two adversaries could meet to fight on Bulgarian territory to decide the fate of the country and people if not the fate of the whole war."

"Thus Bulgaria would emerge ruined like Belgium. Moreover, her honor would be lost. If the Bulgarians joined the Germans should they triumph, then Bulgaria would be a vassal state of Germany and Austria."

"The Mir" urges an agreement with the quadruple entente on the ground that Bulgaria will be overrun with Germans if Serbia is invaded."

**Denies Hun Report.**  
 By Special Wire to the Courier.  
 London, Sept. 24.—The British home office in a statement referring to the German account of the Zeppelin raid on London, declares "it contains numerous statements which are quite untrue. One to the effect that an anti aircraft gun had been placed under cover of St. Paul's Cathedral, the statement says, 'can only be characterized as a falsehood apparently invented to excuse what German aircraft are attempting to do.'"

**BAYONET FIGHTING INTENSIFY**  
 Petrograd, Sept. 24.—The following official statement was issued to-day at the Russian war office:

"A German aeroplane shelled Shlok (west of Riga). When shelled by the Russians the machine hurriedly descended beyond the German trenches."

"Fighting at Stounga, on the Ekau river, resulted in the flight of the Germans who abandoned a number of hand grenades, cartridges and utensils. Stubborn fighting commenced at Alkala, in the Neugub region, the village continually changing hands. In the region of Dvinsk there has been no change. During a bayonet fight west of Sweben Lake, one officer, one hundred men and a machine gun were captured. In Smelin region in the course of the desperate hand-to-hand fighting, two machine guns and over two hundred men were captured. One height changed hands repeatedly."

# RESUMING FAMILIAR MANNER BAYONET FIGHTING INTENSIFY

## In Slow Progress of Russian Troops Retards Advance on Many Important Sectors.

By Special Wire to the Courier.  
 London, Sept. 24.—Military activities on the eastern front are once more assuming the familiar phase of a slow German advance, following the recent impetuous rush of the invaders. The German plan of dividing the Russian armies north and south of the Pripiet has been a strategic success in a way, but the effect of the severance was to throw an increased burden on the Austrians, who seem to be unable to check the Russian drive.

Unofficial despatches from Petrograd state that the latest Russian victory, northwest of Dubno, is of more importance than was revealed by the official communication from Petrograd, involving recapture of the fortress of Lutsk, northwest of Grodno. Relinquishing this fortress, the Austrians are said to have retired across the Strypa.

All the way from the Baltic port of Riga to the Pripiet marshes, the Russians are holding their line stubbornly in an attempt to bring their long retirement to an end.

The fighting is particularly severe southeast of Vilna and east of Dvinsk. Envelopment of the Vilna army having failed, it is assumed the Germans will develop their offensive movement at Dvinsk, with the view of an ultimate blow at Riga. It is generally believed the Germans have determined to capture Riga before the onset of winter.

London is still in the dark concerning the developments in Bulgaria and the policy of the government. Not the slightest hint of a reason for Bulgaria's attitude has reached England.

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**SHOW HIGHEST QUALITIES**  
 "In the region of Smorgon on the front, southeast of Vilna, and also in the region of Gawia, east of Lida, engagements occurred, some of which were of extreme violence. Between the right bank of the Molchad and the left affluent of the Niemen and the fords of its upper course, as well as in the region of the Oginski canal, there were several serious bayonet encounters, which increased in intensity. The Russians continue to show the highest qualities of gallantry and resistance, thereby provoking in even

(Continued on page 4.)

## Returned Soldier From "Mad Fourth" Says Ninety Survive

The following despatch, graphic and vital with its realistic portrayal of the emotions of battle, was culled from the columns of the Toronto Star of last evening's issue, being an interview with Sergeant F. Glen, a Newmarket man, who had fought through Ypres with the Fourth Battalion.

His statements may or may not be the subject of considerable editorial embellishment, and the recitation of a moment in which he looked back over the troubled, deadly hours in which his men returned with a full tide of the aftermath of the awful hours they endured and perhaps caused a slight degree of exaggeration to be present during the interview.

It is hard to believe that of the original Fourth Battalion, but ninety men remain and it is scarcely a safe statement to be taken up broadcast by the public, being rather sweeping when it is considered that of the Brantford platoon, some 60 men were left, able to parade. Then again it is a matter of some dubiety as to whether it took seven British regiments to relieve them from their advanced and untenable position. Common sense would dictate that such a position if no utility to the tactical scheme on hand would be evacuated, or if of use, reinforced; however, the gallant survivors doubtless know best.

## BOMBS CAUSED EXPLOSIONS HE MAINTAINS TO-DAY

Engineer of Greek Liner Athina! Tells His Experiences.

By Special Wire to the Courier.  
 New York, Sept. 24 (in Montreal Gazette)—Demetrius Constantakis, chief engineer of the Greek Liner Athina!, which burned at sea Sept. 19, arrived here yesterday on the oil tanker Roumanian Prince, with seven stowage passengers and 55 of the crew. He says the fire was started by bombs.

"When we left the Athina!," he said, "there was no fire under the boilers and the water had been drawn off, so there was no danger of their bursting. Nevertheless, there were several explosions at two o'clock on Monday morning and the flames shot into the air from all parts of the ship as she went over her beam ends to starboard. In the opinion of those who heard the explosions, including myself, they could not have been caused by anything but bombs."

**Earthquake Shock.**  
 Messina, Sept. 24.—Via Paris—A strong earth shock occurred here last night at 9.15 o'clock. It caused a panic among the people who rushed to the streets and squares. Many persons remained in the open all night, but no damage was done.

## ARCHIBALD CASE IS NOT COVERED BY A STATUTE

No Law Whereby He Can be Prosecuted at Present.

By Special Wire to the Courier.  
 Washington, Sept. 24.—James F. J. Archibald, the American who acted as messenger for Dr. Constantia T. Dumba, Austro-Hungarian ambassador here, probably will not be prosecuted by the department of justice. Examination of the papers relating to Archibald's activities has not been completed by the department, but some officials say there is no statute covering the case. As a result of the incident, however, it was said that Congress would be urged to enact a law to cover such cases.

In Sioux City, Iowa, Mrs. Mary Johnson, scrub woman, was held up and robbed of two nickels.

Women weighing over 150 pounds will be given carriages in the suffrage parade in New York.

## HUN CRUISER LOST, REPORT FROM BALTIC

Danes Declare They Saw One Blow Up in Baltic End of Sound.

Copenhagen, Sept. 24.—Fishermen at Høltug observed a German cruiser off Falsterbo. It suddenly disappeared in an immense column of water. Simultaneously there was a loud explosion. "It is surmised that the ship was torpedoed."

Falsterbo Point marks the Baltic Sea entrance to the sound which separates Denmark from Scandinavia.

**CHANCELLOR SUNK.**  
 London, Sept. 24.—The British Steamship Chancellor has been sunk. Part of her crew was saved. Search is being made for the others. The Chancellor was owned by the Harrison Line of Liverpool, and was engaged in the Transatlantic trade. She was last reported at Liverpool, August 29, from New Orleans. Her gross tonnage was 4,586.

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