

Austrian deed which stands forth is the heroic defence of Przemyśl, which at the time of writing is still holding out against a Russian siege certain of ultimate success.

In every other great clash the Austrian armies have melted away before Russian attacks, and even little Serbia, by heroic efforts, has driven the invaders from her territory with enormous loss.

As a result, Austrian powers of resistance have been nearly destroyed, and, except where stiffened by the presence of Germans, Austrian troops are able to offer no great opposition to the Russian armies. It would seem fair to prophesy that within a very few months Austria will be as helpless to assist Germany to any great extent as is Turkey, which has yet to score a victory of any account.

Retreat Here, Advance There.

The great advantage which Germany has held over Russia has been the mobility of her troops due to the splendid system of strategic railways along her frontier. The Russians have been able to move only slowly and ponderously, while the Germans have been whirled from one point to another for tremendously concentrated attacks.

The attacks have seldom failed to make progress, but in every case they necessitated the withdrawal of men from some other part of the line. As a result, the retreat of the Russian troops at one point has been accompanied by an advance at another, and the German nimbleness has given more exercise than progress.

Thus the Russian defeat at Tannenberg in the early part of the war was accomplished by the withdrawal of German troops from the west and probably had much to do with the German defeat on the Marne, while the invasion of Galicia went steadily forward. The German drives against Warsaw were accompanied by Russian advances in Bukowina and East Prussia, and now that the latter movement requires German opposition in force, Russia will be able to regain the

ground lost in Poland. The losses of men on both sides have been enormous, but on the whole the German losses have probably been heavier than those of the Russians who opposed them.

The net result of nearly seven months of war has been that the German armies have been able to make no material progress beyond what was accomplished in the first six weeks, that German commerce has been driven from the seas and the German navy weakened much more than the navies of the Allies, and that all around Germany is a throttling and slowly closing line of enemies through which she has been unable to break no matter how spendthrift she has been willing to be of the lives of her soldiers.

Stalemate Must Change.

Were conditions to continue as they are, it might be fairly said that the struggle was a drawn game or a stalemate. But conditions cannot remain as they are. The supremacy of the British fleet is causing economic distress which is certain to have a telling effect in increasing the German agonies. The question of food and war supplies is becoming more and more urgent, and most of all, the shortage of men is what is certain to defeat Germany.

At the very outset, German strength was at its maximum. Her losses have been so huge that she has been able to do little more than replace the men who have been disabled, and as time advances she will scarcely be able to do this. Her adversaries, on the contrary, were weakest at the beginning, and are steadily growing stronger.

The collapse of Austria and Turkey will shortly free all the troops that have been engaged against them for operations against Germany. France has been able not only to make good the losses in her ranks but will be able in the Spring to increase her fighting forces by not less than a million and a half of men.

Great Britain will be able to bring forward about two million new men "when the war begins in May," as Lord Kitchener is said to have expres-