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PROBS— Moderate winds, mostly west and north-west; generally fair and warm.

TWELVE PAGES—MONDAY MORNING AUGUST 9 1915—TWELVE PAGES

VOL. XXXV.—No. 12,689

RUSSIANS [illegible]SE FOE AT OSSOWETZ AND NEAR DWINA RIVER

Loss of More Trenches in Gallipoli Admitted by Turks

GERMAN REVERSES IN VOSGES--RUSSIA REJECTS NEW PROPOSAL

RUSSIA TO SAVE FORCES WITHIN WARSAW AREA

Three Main Railways and Others Built Since War, Held by Czar.

BIG GERMAN SCHEME

Attempt to Cut Off Retreat Now Expected to Fail.

LONDON, Aug. 8.—The Germans are making attempts in all directions in their efforts to cut off the retreat of the Russian army from the Polish salient. They have commenced an attack on the fortress of Kovno and attempted to storm Ossowetz, which are among the obstacles they must overcome in order to reach the railway running from Warsaw thru Vilna and Devinsk to Petrograd.

They have taken the minor fortress of Serock, at the junction of the Narew and the Bug, and have crossed the Vistula in the vicinity of Warsaw. Further south Gen. Weyrsch is advancing eastward, but Field Marshal Mackensen is being stubbornly resisted and apparently making at the best very slow progress.

Russians Expected to Escape.

On the whole the daring scheme mapped out by the Germans as a grand sequel to the capture of Warsaw—the destruction of the Russian army—is unfolding itself slowly, as must be the case from its very magnitude. With the three main railways, besides those built since the war, it is believed in military circles here that the Grand Duke Nicholas will be able to extricate his Warsaw army. The events in the east, however, will continue to rivet the attention of the world on them for some time to come.

There has been some rather heavy fighting in the Caucasus between the Russians and the Turks, but the official reports from the opposing camps are so contradictory that it is impossible to say in whose favor it is going.

A Trying Time for Ontario's Farmers

When and where is the rain to stop and what is to be the damage to the crops of Ontario? The most discouraging reports are coming in from scores of townships. And it has rained more or less on every day since the unparalleled rain of last Tuesday, when a rain fall of more than four inches in less than 24 hours was recorded. More than half an inch fell in sections of York County yesterday. The farmers have waited day after day to see sunshine enough to dry the crops that have been cut and to stand up, if possible, the grain prostrate in the fields.

It's the depth of the water in the soil that's the unusual thing. So soft in it that young orchard trees have bent over in all quarters. And the fields are few that reapers can find a solid enough wheel base.

No official statement of the destruction has yet been given out by the government, or as to the area and the money value of the damage to crops, or any bulletin of advice to the farmer.

And a week ago it looked the most promising yield that Ontario had ever set eyes on!

Sunshine, wind, drying weather, will still help a lot to recover the situation, but only rain and threat of rain has prevailed since Tuesday's great storm.

The only thing for the farmers to do is to stick at the job, get all the help they can, and to do their best to save what they can. The World thinks that things will yet right themselves. But it has been the most trying week ever experienced by the farmers of Ontario. Clearing weather, we believe, is now in sight.

Bargain Day of Men's Summer Hats Rapidly Passing.

The season of straw and Panama selling is nearing a finish. Certainly you will not buy at lower prices than these now quoted by Dineen, 140 Yonge street. Why not make your purchase before the summer is further advanced? Think of Panamas of good serviceable quality, formerly priced $6, now selling for $1.95! It's unprecedented! There are other amazing values in raincoats, motor dusters, summer overcoats and outing caps. One-third off is the unusual price concession. The weather lessons of last Tuesday and Wednesday point directly to the need of a raincoat. You'll find a wonderful variety of fine values at Dineen's. Step in today.

Russia Spurns Offer Of a Separate Peace

Authoritative Statement Made That Germany Proposed to Cede Galicia and Retain Western District of Poland as Basis of Settlement.

PETROGRAD, Aug. 9.—(Via London.)—The report that Germany had made peace proposals to Russia became known in official circles here several days ago, and was freely discussed in the lobbies of the duma, according to The Vechernee Vremya.

"We learn on good authority," says the newspaper, "that Germany, thru Denmark, proposed to Russia a separate peace, Russia to receive Galicia, while Germany would retain the western district of Poland. A representative of the general office categorically denied that there was the remotest possibility of any peace negotiations. In the lobbies of the duma the proposal was dismissed as unworthy of serious consideration."

LONDON, Aug. 8. — Reuter's correspondent at Petrograd transmits the following: "The Bourse Gazette learns from an unimpeachable source that the German Emperor made an offer of peace to Russia last week, thru the King of Denmark. The answer sent to the king stated that the question of peace negotiations could not be raised at the present time."

SIR ROBERT VISITS EMPIRE'S SOLDIERS

Canadian Premier Speaks at Victoria League Club in London.

BIG BENEFIT TO MEN

Acquaintance of Dominion's Troops of Much Value to Respective Countries.

Canadian Associated Press Cable.

LONDON, Aug. 8.—Sir Robert Borden, Canadian premier, yesterday visited Victoria League Club for Overseas Soldiers. There were present a number of Canadian soldiers returned home wounded. Sir Robert, addressing the company, said that he was especially interested in clubs of that character, because they offered an opportunity for overseas soldiers who had been fighting in th Dardanelles and Flanders to meet together and thus bring the various dominions in closer touch. The fact that the dominions were fighting for what was not only a great imperial cause, but a cause which concerned the future of humanity and civilization, showed that they were fighting for one and the same cause. To know each other during convalescence was surely a circumstance that would be attended by great benefit to the men as well as to the several dominions which they represented.

BOURSE UNCHANGED BY WARSAW'S FALL

Russian Stocks Not Depressed Further by News of Evacuation.

MARKET NOT ACTIVE

Bank Stocks Steady or Rising Owing to Gold Deposits.

Special Cable to The Toronto World.

PARIS, Aug. 8.—Since on the bourse the occupation of Warsaw had been considered probable for several months, it has already been discounted, and the announcement on Friday did not even accentuate the heaviness of Russian stocks.

Despite this resistance the market has been anaemic thruout the last week because of the surplus cash absorbed by state loans. Calm prevails in bank stoks. The stocks in the Bank of France are gradually rising, due to the increasing popularity of gold deposits. Mines and metals are favorable, but less animated than they have been for months, while in French rails there is still a stability characteristic of them.

Three per cents continue at 69, but a light drop in 3½s. The bourse now expects a liquidation of accounts at the end of the month, if the Bank of France offers the cash necessary for the transaction.

The Toronto Harbor Mystery

What has happened to the Toronto harbor improvement?

Two or three weeks ago the Dominion Government stopped work on its big five million dollar contract. Officials were dismissed, sub-contractors were ordered off the work and a number of laboring men without an hour's notice were thrown out of employment. There is a grave situation, but what is behind or beneath it is still a mystery. A good many people are sitting on the lid and the newspapers have been counseled to keep away and make no effort to publish the facts.

The facts are not easy to obtain. Hon. Robert Rogers, minister of public works, has been out west for some time. Hon. J. D. Reid, the acting minister, was here for a few hours Sunday but declined to discuss the situation and said the minister would be in Ottawa this week. The department officials are not inclined to talk and none of the documents on file at Ottawa have been available to the public. The Toronto Harbor Commissioners do not feel that they should discuss the scandal or give it any further publicity. The contractors are not inclined to say anything that might embarrass either the Dominion Government or the Toronto Harbor Commission. The Canadian Stewart Company, the head contractor, is working for them both. The general public are in no position to learn what is going on and a fog of impenetrable mystery envelops the waterfront.

The World feels that it is time for the mist to rise and for the sunlight of publicity to shine in on the whole affair. Many of the charges and counter-charges can only be verified by a submarine investigation. Divers may have to be employed, as indeed they have already been, but divers, like doctors, disagree. Some of the experts, it is said, saw with different eyes every time they went under the water. A lot of curious stories are going around and the people are demanding to know the truth.

The World has no brief for the Toronto Harbor Commission. Neither does it pretend to speak for the minister of public works and his department. Least of all does it hold any brief for the contractor or sub-contractors now under fire. All it desires to see is fair play all round. What it, as a newspaper, desires is to find the truth. Hence we will welcome all reliable information from every quarter. We will give everyone a chance to be heard. We want the public to draw their own conclusions from the facts as they are fairly and impartially presented. But to get at the facts has been a more difficult task than might be supposed. Moreover, the dispute has now reached that acrimonious stage where many statements are unconsciously colored by prejudice.

Generally speaking, it may be said that each side accuses the other of conspiracy. Dishonest dealing, backstair methods, Prussian methods, political bossism, real estate exploitation, crooked business, crooked politics, are some of the brickbats that antagonists are hurling at one another. We propose in a subsequent article to give some details as to the gigantic plan for harbor improvement adopted by the Toronto Harbor Commission, and being carried into effect with the assistance of the Dominion Government. Suffice it to say for the present that the Dominion Government is constructing a sea wall from the Western

(Continued on Page 2, Column 4).

ARGONNE SCENE OF HEAVY FIGHT WITH GERMANS

Two Desperate Attacks Defeated by French in Hard Tussle.

REPULSED IN VOSGES

Three Teuton Attempts to Regain Lost Positions End in Failure.

Special Cable to The Toronto World.

LONDON, Aug. 8.—Desperate German attacks in the Argonne by the army of the German crown prince, which, however, is now reduced to one army corps and is not considered formidable, resulted in their repulse at Hill 213, but the enemy exploded two mines and gained a foothold in French trenches, from which they were expelled by a counter-attack. Bomb and grenade fighting took place in this district Sunday.

The Germans also displayed activity in the Vosges, but suffered two severe checks. They several times shelled the French positions at Linge and Schratzmannelle, and attacked the pass of Schratzmannelle coming to the assault by the Honnech road. French artillery delivered a sweeping fire, which was too much for them. Later a fresh attack was repulsed by bayonets and hand grenades. An attack on Linge was also immediately defeated.

Revival of artillery fire to some intensity is reported in the Woevre district.

Artillery actions were reported at Steenstraete and also at Hetsas, Belgium; in Artois, on the line of Santerre, and in the Aisne valley. Soissons was bombarded again.

FIGHTING VERY SEVERE.

PARIS, Aug. 8.—Fighting of extreme violence has developed in the Vosges Mountins in consequence of a German attack. The official statement from the French war office says that this attack has been repulsed. The statement follows:

"In the Argonne late yesterday the Germans succeeded in penetrating one of our positions in a salient in the western part of the forest of Fontaine Houette. They were driven back by a counter attack and could maintain themselves only in a lookout post in advance of our first line. During the night the Germans attacked our positions in the sector of La Fille Morte. They obtained a footing in one of our trenches, but were ejected immediately, except on a front of 30 yards.

"In the Vosges an attack delivered by the Germans at the end of the afternoon attained a character of extreme violence. It was directed against our positions at Lingekop and Schratzmannelle, and the neck of land which separates these two heights. Our assailants were repulsed completely and suffered heavy losses. Before the portion of the front held by only one of our companies the corpses of more than 100 Germans remained in the networks of our entanglements."

LAND AND SEA ATTACK ON TURKISH POSITIONS

Report from Constantinople Admits Allies Penetrated Trenches on Turks' Left Wing, But Claims Greater Part of Lost Ground Was Retaken.

AMSTERDAM (via London), Aug. 8.—A land and sea attack on the Turkish positions on Gallipoli Peninsula is announced in an official communication, issued at Constantinople, as received here today. The Turkish war office admits the loss of ground, but asserts that in another engagement the Turks captured trenches from the allies.

The text of the official report of the Turkish war office, whose date of issue is not given in the Constantinople despatch, follows:

"Yesterday evening on the Dardanelles front, in the region of Avi Burnu, our left wing captured some trenches from the enemy by a surprise attack and prevented him from bringing up reinforcements.

"In the afternoon the enemy, after long and violent artillery preparation from land and sea, advanced and made a number of attacks against the trenches on our left wing, penetrating a portion of them. Towards evening we captured the greater part of the lost ground and hindered the enemy by our fire from constructing defences in the positions he still occupied.

Claim Positions Retaken.

"On the same day, near Seddul-Bahr, we repulsed the enemy who attacked our trenches on our right wing south of Saghadere after long preparation by artillery and infantry fire. We also stopped a second attack. Part of our foremost trenches was situated for a certain time between our firing line and that of the enemy. By strong attacks in the evening we reconquered the positions held by the enemy.

"In the Caucasus we continue a vigorous pursuit of the enemy on our right wing. The enemy evacuated his positions near Alashgerd and retreated at Kussedagte."

MATERIAL SUCCESS ON CARSO PLATEAU

Italians in Stubborn Struggle Take Depression Extending Towards Doberdo.

GAIN IN PLAVA SECTOR

Austrian Artillery Starts Big Fire at Monfalcone by Incendiary Shells.

ROME, Aug 8, via Paris, Aug. 8.—The following official communication from Lieut.-Gen. Count Cadorna, chief of staff of the Italian army, dated Aug. 7, was given out here tonight:

"In the Plava sector our troops are establishing themselves in the conquered positions. The enemy during the night of Aug. 6-7 tried two attacks on them, supported by the fire of numerous groups o artillery, which were combater by ours and reduced to silence. Both attacks were repulsed.

Win on Carso.

"In the Carso a stuborn struggle which lasted all day yesterday was decided towards evening by the material success of our arms, especially in the centre, where we took part of the depression descending towards Doberdo and made 140 prisoners.

"On the right wing the enemy artillery fired incendiary bombs on the depots of Monfalcone, succeeding in starting a big fire, and by violent salvos of artillery tried to stop our detachments, which sought to extinguish the fire. Nevertheless, the dash and energy of our troops enabled them after a while to confine the fire and to limit considerably the damage."

German Batteries Silenced

PARIS, Aug. 8.—A note made public by the war office tonight says: "The Germans endeavored today to destroy, off Nieuport, by means of heavy shells, two allied hydroplanes. Our artillery promptly silenced the German batteries. Of the two planes, one came back unaided, while the other was towed in to shore undamaged."

HARVESTING TO BEGIN IN TEN DAYS IN WEST

Regina District Reports Excellent Yield and Splendid Ripening Conditions.

REGINA, Sask., Aug. 8.—In many localities of this district it is expected that wheat cutting will begin about August 18. Already some barley and oats are being cut. Crops are doing well, and conditions at present are ideal. Some damage resulting from the July hail is reported, but practically no damage has resulted either from frost or rust.

From Moose Jaw district reports indicate the crop condition is very bright, with grain ripening fast and no frost damage. Cutting will commence August 18 or 20.

Crops are doing well in Weyburn district. Cutting will start August 18.

TEN THOUSAND HONOR SIR WILFRID LAURIER

Big Demonstration at St. Lin, Que., Birthplace of Liberal Leader.

ST. LIN, Que., Aug. 8.—Ten thousand people, representing all shades of opinion, including 1500 from Montreal, took part in the big demonstration tendered Sir Wilfrid Laurier at St. Lin yesterday. In this quaint French-Canadian town the Liberal chieftain was born on Nov. 20, 1841.

An address of welcome was presented to Sir Wilfrid by the mayor. It referred to the attachment of the people for Sir Wilfrid, and detailed some of the latter's principal achievements.

The Liberal leader made a very happy speech, and was enthusiastically applauded.

OPTIMISTIC VIEW REGARDING CROPS

If Good Weather Comes, Much Can Still Be Saved.

RECENT RAIN'S DAMAGE

Yesterday's Showers Materially Affected Some Sections.

"There's a silver lining to every cloud," said Richard Blain, M.P. for Peel County, to a reporter of The World last night in discussing southern Ontario's recent baptism of water and the widespread damage resulting from Tuesday's storm.

"We in Peel County," continued Mr. Blain, "for years past have been singularly favored in the bountiful harvests with which our farmers have been blessed. Today the outlook is not so bright, but after all has been said and done I believe that it will be found that the loss is not so serious as we at first believed. In Peel County 40 per cent. of the fall wheat is safely stored in the barns. The other 60 per cent. may be affected by the wet and sprouted some, but I do not think seriously.

"Again, the oats and barley, while flattened out by Tuesday's storm, can nearly all be cut, and corn is straightening up wonderfully and promises a big yield. More and more the farmers of Peel County are going into dairying, and we consume much of our product on the farm, so that if the grain is not up to the standard it will be mostly fed anyway. Looking at it from every standpoint and after talking it over with my fellow-farmers, I can tell you I am pretty hopeful that Peel County and Ontario farmers in general have very, very much to be thankful for."

Outlook Encouraging.

Away down in Columbus, the capital town of South Ontario, where William Smith, M.P. for that fine agricultural riding, lives and has his home, the outlook for a good harvest after all, according to the genial M.P., is very encouraging. When The World talked with Mr. Smith on the severity of Tuesday's storm and the continued unseasonable weather, he was optimistic that everything would come all right after all.

"Tuesday's storm was both widespread and severe, and means an immense amount of extra work for us, but I believe things are not so bad as we supposed," he said. "Very little of the fall wheat is in the barn, and there is some sprouting, but I do not think it has gone so very far yet. Bright, sunshiny weather and good drying winds will do wonders. Oats and barley are pretty flat, but I think they can all be saved. It means a lot of extra work, tho. There is very little alsike clover, as it was nearly all winter killed, and hay is pretty well all in, I might say all of it.

"One thing it has done is to give the farmers and dairymen an abundance of pasture and water, and the second crop of clover is wonderfully luxuriant. Corn, too, will be a good crop, as it is coming back. We have always

(Continued on Page 2, Column 5.)

ENEMY FAILS TO GAIN OSSOWETZ IN BIG ASSAULT

Germans Thrown Out After Gaining Footing in Outworks at Sosna.

DEFEATED AT KOVNO

Desperate Battles Continue on Narew and Left Bank of Vieprz.

LONDON, Aug. 8.—A large force of Germans which attacked the outworks of the fortress of Ossowetz at Sosna, under an immense cloud of poisonous gas and under an intense artillery fire was driven out by the Russian garrison after it had gained a footing in part of the works. Before being dislodged by a counter-attack, the enemy suffered severely from the Russian fire. Ossowetz, which is a third-class fortress, has successfully withstood a siege for nearly four months.

Repulsed at Kovno.

The Germans also attacked the first line of defence of the fortress of Kovno on the left bank of the Niemen River, and were repulsed after a vigorous attack by Russian artillery.

After their repulse at these two points the Germans did not attempt to renew their assaults on Saturday, the Russian official statement issued at Petrograd tonight says.

Foe Defeated Near Riga.

The Russians also suffered a severe repulse on the road to Riga, in the section between the Dwina, Ekou and lower Asa Rivers. East of Poniewesch fighting is being continued without any essential change in the situation.

Heavy attacks along the whole Narew front are still being delivered by the enemy, who is being held up by the Russian forces in this region. He is directing great masses of men against the Lomza-Ostrow sector.

Fail to Cross Vistula.

Artillery duels on the middle Vistula and the breaking down of a German attempt to cross the river by pontoon bridges are the features of the fighting in this region.

Desperate rearguard actions are being fought by the Russians on the left bank of the Viepa River, the Russians capturing several hundred Germans and Austrians in the course of counter-attacks.

No essential change is reported from the front between the Vistula and the Bug Rivers, where the Russians held off the enemy on Friday in extremely desperate attacks in the direction of Kurow to Kotsk, and on the right bank of the Viepa north of Leczna. Intermittent artillery firing is reported from the left bank of the Bug, the Ziota, Lipa and the Dniester Rivers.

BALKAN LEAGUE AGAIN ON WAY TO REVIVAL

Venizelos Expected to Make Agreement With Bulgaria on Returning to Power.

LONDON, Aug. 8.—There is much interest in the diplomatic negotiations in the Balkan capitals, the reports from which say that Serbia at last is willing to cede Macedonia to Bulgaria, but that the Greek Government is now opposing any suggestion that she should return Kavala, the seaport in the Villayet of Saloniki, to Bulgaria. It is thought that this opposition may be changed when Venizelos returns to power, which is expected when the Greek Parliament reassembles early in September.

M. Venizelos offered Kavala to Bulgaria when he was premier, simply in return for her continued neutrality, while Greece went to the assistance of the allies against the Turks, but King Constantine, after consenting, put his foot down on the whole policy, and the political crisis which resulted in the resignation of the Venizelos cabinet followed.