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PROBS—FAIR

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## ITALY CONTINUES TO PREPARE FOR WAR; RUSSIAN FLEET ACTIVE IN THE BLACK SEA

### BRITISH CRITIC PREDICTS FALL OF CRACOW IN MONTH

When that Day Comes Austria Will Try to Conclude Separate Peace is Opinion—Big Russian Movement Expected at Once.

London, March 23.—The size of the garrison at Przemyel and the number of men who surrendered to the Russians greatly exceeded all estimates. According to despatches received from Petrograd tonight the garrison originally consisted of 170,000 men, of whom 40,000 were killed. Just under 120,000 surrendered when the fortress capitulated.

Owing to the blizzard, which is interfering with telegraphic services no details of the surrender are coming through, but Lemberg reports that for seven days prior to the fall of the fortress, the people of the town had nothing to eat, and the Russians, who took in large supplies of provisions, were welcomed as liberators.

#### TYPHUS AND CHOLERA.

Despatches from the same place say that fifteen thousand persons were found suffering from typhus or cholera, and that the work of disinfecting the place is being energetically undertaken. The interior of the forts, it is said, were found intact, with a good deal of ammunition in them.

Everywhere in Europe, both in belligerent and neutral countries, the greatest credit is given the Austrians for their long and stubborn resistance, which has greatly delayed and interfered with the Russian campaign in other directions.

Now that the Russians, whose numbers, like those of the Austrians, must have been greater than was heretofore understood, are no longer under obligation to invest this fortress, a big movement either against Cracow or in the Carpathians will doubtless be inaugurated. With their northern lines protected by the morass into which the greater part of Poland is converted during the spring months, the Russians are expected to throw all their strength against the Austrians and attempt finally to crush them.

#### CRACOW IN A MONTH.

One British military critic goes so far as to stake his reputation on the prophecy that Cracow will fall within the next month, and that when it does, or before, Austria will endeavor to conclude a separate peace. He is more optimistic than the majority of military critics here, who are of the opinion that the Austrians and Germans will likewise make a great effort in the southern field, and attempt to prevent the Russians from crossing the Carpathians or reaching Cracow.

Along the western front there have been a few attacks and counter-attacks, but nothing that in this war of big battles causes more than passing comment.

The full in the Dardanelles continues owing to the unfavorable weather, which the Allies are taking advantage to effect repairs on the Gaulois, Inflexible and other ships which suffered in the last bombardment.

#### BIG GUN FIRE.

Reports as to the effect of the big gun fire on the forts are contradictory, but one explanation of the fact that firing was continued from the land after the forts were presumably destroyed is that the Germans had brought down howitzers, which were moved from place to place on rails.

The Turks have made another attack on the Suez Canal. A small force which crossed Sinal from Bir El Saba, having been observed opposite Suez on Monday, the guns of the fortress opened on them. The Turks, who numbered one thousand, and were accompanied by three German officers, retired for about eight miles, where they were today attacked by a force under General Younghusband and were, according to the British official account, routed.

### SUSPECTED MURDERER ARRESTED

Owen Sound Englishman Taken in Charge for Killing Twelve Year Old Boy.

Owen Sound, Mar. 23.—Herbert Thackery King, a young Englishman, who recently came out to join his brother, William King, a farmer in this vicinity, was arrested tonight on suspicion of having murdered twelve year old J. E. Nicholson of the town. King persuaded the boy to accompany him on a trip in a hired buggy, and about an hour after their departure the barn and piggeries of William King were in flames. Those who went to aid in fighting the fire discovered the body of Nicholson on the side of the road with a knife wound in the back.

### BULGARIA GETS READY FOR WAR

London, March 23.—King Ferdinand and Bulgaria today held a two hours interview with M. Malinoff, the

### DUTCH STEAMER FIRED UPON BY GERMAN BOAT

On Her Way to England from Flushing—Three Shots But Steamer Escaped.

London, March 23.—A despatch to Reuter's Telegram Company from Amsterdam says: "The Dutch steamer Meeklenburg, which left Flushing this morning (Tuesday), for England, was chased and fired upon by a German armed steam trawler. Three shots were fired at the Meeklenburg, but the steamer put on full speed and continued her journey to London. "Owing to this incident the Zealand Company, owners of the steamer, hereafter will not transport British, Belgian, French or Russian men of military age."

Democratic leader," says the Daily Mail's Bucharest correspondent. "The subject discussed was the forming of a coalition cabinet, in the event of a German, in whose house the stolen goods are said to have been found, and that of several officers and character witnesses."

### LAURIER'S PLIGHT



With a leaky boat, a motley crew and the tide running strong against him what chance has he?

### ITALIANS MOUNTING BIG GUNS IN THE AEGEAN SEA; PREPARATIONS FOR WAR

Dodekanese Islands May be Used by Italy as a Military Base—Possible Attitude of Greece Also Matter of Deep Concern.

London, Mar. 24 (5.17 a.m.)—Telegraphing from Saloniki the Daily Mail's correspondent says:

"The Italians are fortifying the Dodekanese Islands, formerly the Turkish Sporades, in the Aegean Sea, with heavy calibre guns, and numerous steamers are said to be taking munitions there."

The Dodekanese Islands, better known as "The Islands of the White Sea" lie off the southern part of the west coast of Asia Minor. The principal islands are Stampalia, Leros, Patmos, Nikaria and Kalymnos.

London, Mar. 24—"The political aspect of the international situation," says the Daily Mail's Athens correspondent, telegraphing Monday, "is still occupying the deepest attention of the Greek ministers who are holding councils daily."

### SWISS ATTITUDE ANGERS GERMANS

Cologne Gazette Scores Anti-German Demonstration in Switzerland.

London, Mar. 23 (7.30 p.m.)—"In future no self-respecting German will expose himself to the insults of the rabble of whom Germany money never has been despised, but to whom the German people are so repugnant," says the Cologne Gazette, as quoted in a despatch from Amsterdam to Reuter's Telegram Company. This utterance was inspired by reports of numerous anti-German demonstrations in Switzerland in connection with the passage of trains, conveying to their homes interned Germans, who had been exchanged for French and British prisoners. Accounts of these demonstrations are published in several German newspapers.

The largest of these demonstrations occurred at Fribourg, where, it is said, a crowd stoned the residence of one of the most prominent German professors of Fribourg University, and smashed windows of their houses, being finally dispersed by soldiers.

### FRENCH OFFICER ON CHARGE OF STEALING

Paris, March 23.—The trial today of Colonel Francois Desclaux, general paymaster of the army, who is charged with having stolen army stores, was devoted to the testimony of the servants of Madame Bechoff, the wife of a German, in whose house the stolen goods are said to have been found, and that of several officers and character witnesses.

### EARL GREY'S COMPANY MAY NOT GET UNION OIL

Restrictions by British Government on Financial Operations May Prevent English Capitalists from Getting Control.

Los Angeles, Calif., Mar. 23.—Restrictions placed upon financial operations by the British government will prevent control of the Union Oil Company of California from passing into the hands of an English syndicate, it is said, at which time options held by London financiers expire, according to statements here today.

Negotiations probably will be concluded, it was stated at the annual meeting of the company, April 15, whereby the British syndicate, represented by Andrew Wier, of Liverpool, will be given a block of stock, equal to the amount of money that has actually been paid into the treasury of the Union Oil Company. This amount was said to be approximately \$2,400,000.

Several London financiers, headed by Earl Grey, composed the syndicate, which more than a year ago began negotiations for the purchase of the oil company stock.

Berlin, via London, March 24.—Prince Adalbert, third son of the Emperor, has been promoted to captain of the navy, and major of the army.

### SEVENTEEN BELGIANS SHOT FOR ESPIONAGE.

London, Mar. 23.—"Seventeen Belgians, most of whom were young peasants, were shot at daybreak today in the Ghent barracks, after having been found guilty by a German court martial of espionage in the interest of the Allies," says a despatch to the Exchange Telegraph Company from Amsterdam.

### AEROPLANE HAS TRY AT BRITISH STEAMSHIP

Bombs Fail, However, to Find the Mark—German Airmen Inaccurate Shooters.

Southampton, via London, Mar. 23.—The British steamer Pandion, which arrived here today from Rotterdam, reports that yesterday in the vicinity of the North Hinder lightship, she was twice attacked by a German aeroplane. Seven bombs were dropped by the aircraft, some of which fell very close to the Pandion, but the steamer escaped damage.

### RICHARD RANDOLPH WAS ASSASSINATED

Was Prominent in Commercial Life of St. Louis—His Wife Held by Police.

St. Louis, Mo., March 23.—Richard Randolph, president of the Torchon Lace Company and the Central Merchandise Company, and candidate at the recent primaries for the Republican nomination to Congress from the 12th Missouri district, was assassinated mysteriously in the office of the company here late today.

His wife, Mrs. Della Randolph, who recently was sued for divorce by her husband, was arrested tonight, but she denied any knowledge of the shooting. The police also have issued a general order for the arrest of a man named by Randolph in his petition for divorce.

### PATRICIA'S HAVE BORNE FULL SHARE OF FIGHTING

Death of Col. Farquhar Said to Have Been Caused by Shrapnel—Captain Adamson of Toronto Likely to Take Temporary Charge of Regiment.

London, Mar. 23.—News of the death in action of Col. Farquhar, commander of the Princess Patricia's, was made known in London only today by a Toronto despatch appearing in a late edition of the Times. The first intimation to the Canadian Record Office was yesterday, through an inquiry from Buckingham Palace for information. It is believed that Col. Farquhar was killed by shrapnel. Major Hamilton Gault has left London, but his destination is not known. He desired to return at once to the front, but there was some hesitation by the War Office authorities, who were in doubt whether or not Major Gault is in fit condition for service at the front. Meanwhile it is the impression of the Patricia men here that Captain Agar Adamson of Toronto will be in charge of the regiment until Major Gault gets back to active service.

Of the original Patricia officers eight have been killed, thirteen wounded or invalidated to England. Lt. A. M. Gow, who was slightly wounded, has returned to the front. Lt. Stewart of Halifax is under treatment at the Duchess of Westminster's Hospital at Le Touquet. Lt. Taylor of the Tenth is at Combe Lodge, Great Warley, Lt. Forneret, who was admitted to the Queen's Canadian Hospital at Shorncliffe, is suffering from concussion caused by shell fire.

### RUSSIAN FLEET VERY ACTIVE IN BLACK SEA

Impression in Constantinople is that Defensive Works of Dardanelles Cannot Hold Out Much Longer.

London, March 24, 3.30 a. m.—A despatch to the Daily Chronicle from Kustendje, Roumania, dated Tuesday, says:

"The Russian fleet is active in the Black Sea. Several Turkish forts in Asia Minor have been bombarded and a transport and laden colliers sunk. "In Constantinople the general im-

### TO DEVELOP PARCEL POST IN DOMINION

Hon. Mr. Casgrain Says Post Office Department Will Work to This End—Carvell's Little Kick.

Ottawa, March 23.—When consideration of post office department estimates was resumed in the House of Commons this evening, Mr. G. W. Kyte, supported by Mr. J. H. Burnham, of Peterboro, advocated higher salaries for mail carriers on account of the establishment of parcel post, and the increased cost of living. Hon. T. C. Casgrain said he would consider every application for increased salaries, and would grant any claim shown to be just. Not many applications for increased pay had been received up to the present.

Mr. Casgrain told the committee that there had been a considerable increase on rural mail routes in Canada. The service was not paying for itself, he stated, and was not likely to.

The Postmaster-General also gave some information as to the progress of the parcel post system. The matter was now under study by a number of departmental officials, with a view to the extension of the service in future.

Mr. Casgrain said that the service had been greatly developed in Toronto where it was more generally used than elsewhere in Canada; while in the Province of Quebec it had also been widely extended.

The post office department was sending men throughout the country with a view to inducing the people to patronize the system.

Mr. F. D. Carvell, of Carleton, said he thought post charges should be reduced by fifty per cent. The post office department would take business away from the express companies if it charged less.

The post master general replied that, except in a few cases, he under-

### GEN. HUGHES SAVED LARGE SUM TO CANADA

Binoculars for Canadian Soldiers Were Obtained Much More Cheaply than in England.

Ottawa, March 23.—M. C. Ellis, vice-president of the P. W. Ellis Company of Toronto, gave testimony before the public accounts committee of the Commons this afternoon, which showed that General Hughes had made a wise move in asking that firm to do the best it could to get binoculars for the Canadian contingents at as low prices as possible. Mr. Ellis showed that his firm secured the country and the United States for binoculars without saying what they were for and as a result the binoculars cost between \$39 and \$40, while the British authorities had to pay a great deal higher price. The same binoculars which he had purchased for the government were now selling at \$55 each. Mr. Ellis said they acted in the way they did in order to save money for the Canadian authorities and to show that the Minister of Militia was right in asking his firm to undertake this work. He saved the government thousands of dollars.

stood the charges were already below express charges.

Mr. D. A. LaFortune, of Montreal, thought the criminal code should be amended to make it a criminal offence to send a letter containing money unregistered through the mails. To send money in this way was placing temptation in the path of post-office employees.

After a number of complaints as to postal services in the Maritime Provinces had been accepted the House adjourned, after passing all the post office department estimates.