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Hon. R. A. Squires, K.C., LL.B.
ANNOUNCES the removal of his LAW OFFICES to the New BANK OF NOVA SCOTIA Building at the corner of Beck's Cove and Water Street, and the formation of a PARTNERSHIP for general practice as Barristers, Solicitors and Notaries, with MR. J. A. WINTER, eldest son of the late Sir James S. Winter, K.C., under the firm name of Squires & Winter.

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-SUGAR-

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PHONE 261.

Advertise in The Mail and Advocate

"Beyond the Tigris There Lies India."

Germanic Dream of An Empire from Berlin to Bagdad is Doomed to Failure by Splendid Work of Russians--The Capture of Erzerum Has Most Important Bearing on War--Relieves Threat on Suez Canal.

LONDON, Feb. 29.—"Beyond the Tigris lies India!"

This Germanic paraphrase of the great Napoleon's words, intended to compensate for loss of sea power, loss of world colonies, loss of the decisive smashing victory confidently expected on western battlefields, promises to end in a vision.

"Berlin-Bagdad." A prospective corridor to the wealth of the East that has made the German heart beat high with anticipation—the fulfilment of two decades of work and hope, intrigues and diplomacy!

But already Russian legions are knocking at the door of the corridor, are along its most vulnerable length, tapping here, delivering a sledge hammer blow there, trying and testing to find the weak point through which they can break and end forever the Wilhelmstrasse dreams of domination over the Orient.

The fall of Erzerum opens up wide possibilities, military and political. Standing as the Metz of Armenia across the path from Russia into Turkey it was the sole artificial defence of the Turks against invasion. Its eighteen forts, comprising a modern fortress ring of remarkable strength which was intensified by its mountainous position, was believed by the Ottoman army and its German chiefs and instructors to be impervious to any attack of which the Russians were capable. But Grand Duke Nicholas did what Constantinople and Berlin regarded as the impossible. He captured the stronghold—and after a campaign lasting in all less than a month. And in his victory he delivered a blow that will be felt on every battlefield from the Persian Gulf to the North Sea.

Relieves Threat Against Suez. Just how widespread will be the military influence of the successful assault against a Caucasian barrier may be indicated in a paragraph. A stacking of the Turkish pressure on the Tigris and in Thrace will be noted first. It will necessarily entail an abandonment of the threat against the Suez Canal. A readjustment of the lines around Salonika may be looked for, and this in turn means a redistribution of the forces in the whole of the Balkan theatre, which includes the units held to meet a possible Rumanian menace to the Central allies on the Russian front.

The latter factor, if we may judge from the history of the war, means an active and early curtailment of the German effort on the west.

The political influence is certain to be equally important. This will be predicted as much on the evidence of Russia's great recuperative powers as on the victory in itself. Nothing could more fully demonstrate the nation's latent strength after a full year of disasters. This is expected to be felt first in the attitude of Rumania, which already is showing signs of an early decision to join the Entente Powers. The development of the Asia Minor operations almost certainly will cause a waning of the German power in Persia, which has made itself felt in the large numbers of Persian troops which have been enticed by German agents into alliance with the Turks. British influence over the tribes from India to the Arabian frontier, once so potent, should be re-established, and perhaps most important, all dangers of a Mohammedan uprising in the guise of a holy war should be definitely and permanently eliminated.

The Russian campaign against Erzerum may be put down as one of the most brilliant exploits of the war from a purely military standpoint. It is merely one more instance of the fallibility of the modern fortress, no matter what its strength, when opposed by even medium sized artillery with high explosive shells and a determined infantry to follow up the advantage won by the artillery.

Victory Won by Shells. Petrograd has been inclined to contrast the campaign against Erzerum with that against Pernoysl. Nine months were needed to reduce the Gallician position. Less than two weeks of actual siege saw the fall of Erzerum. The explanation lies in the one word—shells. At Pernoysl the Russians, poorly equipped with guns by irregulars, brigand bands and Persian ammunition, were held at a distance by the powerful ordnance the influence of German agents. Four Austrians had mounted in their hundred miles north-west the van-fortress. Assaults on the outlying guard of the army which passed works were turned back almost before they started by the viciousness of the defensive fire. Laboring under this handicap they settled down to starve out the garrison, an operation that required almost a year.

ing its way toward Diarbeck, Mush and Bitlis.

All these converging forces of Russians are separated from the Tigris Valley, in which the final struggle must take place, by formidable mountains, with few and difficult passes which still have to be won and which at best are ten or twenty feet deep in snow. The Russians operating in these regions, however, must be picked men. No ordinary troops could endure the hardships of campaigns above the snow line where these men have been fighting for more than two months and at the same time making such rapid and steady progress.

British Force Threatens Turks. Notwithstanding the distance and the fact that only the British are fighting in a country which permits of manoeuvring on any scale, all the movements outlined above form one strategic whole in which complete co-operation between London and Petrograd has been achieved.

Strategically, as observers here view the situation, the Turkish armies at Bagdad and Kut-el-Amara have a problem set for them which can be solved only by the speedy destruction of the British on the Tigris before the Russians take them on the flank and rear. It may be an unpromising undertaking for the German commanders, but it is regarded as the only plan by which they can escape ultimate annihilation. Just how much time they will have for a decision with the British is difficult to estimate.

Two factors enter into a consideration of this question: the ability of the Turks retreating before the Russians to organize and stand in defensive positions and the weather conditions, which naturally have much to say on the movement of large bodies of infantry over difficult terrain. At the very least, however, it would seem the Turks at Bagdad will not be in imminent danger for another two months. In these two months they must reinforce their besieging army at Kut at the point where it can ask for a decision with the British, fight it out, and get up to Bagdad to assist in the organization of the campaign in the upper end of the valley.

Military authorities here say the task is an impossible one. If this view is well based, then the early Summer will see the complete collapse of all German pretensions in the Orient, the elimination of Turkey as a serious contender in the war, the winning of all the Russian ambitions in Persia and Armenia, the attainment of the British object in despatching an army to Mesopotamia—which in the last analysis was the protection of Indian and the British Gulf—the permanent safety of Egypt and the narrowing of the war theatres to the three European fronts, Russia, France and Italy.

Constantinople Drive Must Wait. Some military writers affect to see in the Asia Minor developments the opportunity to complete the work begun with the campaign against the Dardanelles—the capture of Constantinople and the opening of an ice free route from Russia to the outer world. It is the consensus, however, that such a programme must await the decision in the Asia Minor theatre. An advance toward the Bosphorus at this time would find the Russians facing the formidable defences of the capital, while in their rear would remain a strong, well officered and well equipped army of more than half a million men. Until this army is disposed of it would seem to be idle to consider seriously a move toward the Golden Horn.

Can Go On Indefinitely. Russia is in a position to prosecute the war indefinitely without seriously impairing her financial stability, according to the assertion of the Russian Minister of Finance, Pierre L. Bark, in a statement issued to-day. The Minister compared Russia's growing prosperity with Germany's financial and economic condition. He declared that Russia's finances "rest upon the most solid foundation in the world."

Every month of the war has enriched the Russians, according to the statement, while Germany's people are poverty-stricken and are facing complete bankruptcy and destitution. Russia's prosperity, he said, rests upon "the uncontrovertible fact of the Russian people's increased earnings and savings," while, he added, few have been deceived by the optimistic stories concerning Germany's financial status. He continued: "Loans with the New York banks are now being considered, and since we offer the best security, that is, railway bonds guaranteed by the Government, it seems to me a loan will be mutually beneficial. Russia," he said, "hopes to defray the war expenses chiefly through successful internal loans, which Germany cannot do."

WHO TOOK THEM. Small Boy (much interested in shopman's reason for high price of eggs)—"But, mummy, how do the hens know we're at war with Germany?"

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