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RUSSIA OF TO-DAY

The world is fully aware that Russia is prosecuting the war with tremendous energy. Millions of men are under arms and are serving on both fronts. But of the condition of the people at home comparatively little is known abroad. Because of this it is worth while quoting from an article by a foreign visitor, who recently made a journey into the Czar's wide realm. The traveller is a correspondent of the Nieuw Rotterdamse Courant, a Dutch newspaper of note. He went by way of Norway and Sweden into Finland, commencing his railway journey to the Russian capital at Torpes. From that station onward all the railway depots in Finland were guarded by Finnish gendarmes. On approaching the borders of Russia proper, masses of troops were met, being mostly men in the first stages of training. In Russia troops were everywhere. According to the Dutchman's article, "Russia is still, although millions have gone to the various fronts, one vast camp, where fresh millions are being trained daily." Plainly, the Empire is organized on a war basis as never before in its history. The Dutchman who visits Russia for the first time meets with many surprises and has numerous illusions dispelled, says the correspondent, who proceeds to point out that "enormous works have been constructed during the past twenty-five years." He mentions railways and seaport improvements. The Russians themselves are kindly, have pleasant manners, are fond of animals and are noted for their religious tendencies. They have a remarkable love for music and the stage. As for cleanliness, "a good many more baths are taken in Russia than in Holland, and even a laborer indulges in this luxury at least once a week." This from a Dutchman is a compliment indeed. This observer from Holland is convinced that the Russian Empire is going to benefit in many ways by the war. His impressions confirm the opinions of other observers of world politics.

Tactics and Strategy

General Mackensen says that General Haig has had no chance to show what he can do in the way of strategy. No general in the war has had except Hindenburg; consequently the war has discovered no great, strategical genius; it is all tactics nowadays. It is with extreme diffidence that a civilian would venture to dissent from military judgments formed by General Mackensen; but he has spoken without due reflection or in a narrow, technical sense. His own exploits in Serbia were the result of successful strategy; the exploits of Brussloff at the present time are due to sound strategy, and in the open fighting that resulted in the retreat before Paris strategy played a part. A couple of years ago Von Kluck was being praised as the new Napoleon that had been discovered by the war; nowadays nobody hears his name. He may be dead or disgraced; certainly he is holding no important command. If Von Kluck's advance upon Paris was the result of strategy, then the repulse of von Moltke was also due to strategy, though the diversion supplied by General Gallieni and his Paris taxicabs and motor trucks might be termed tactics. Strategy we assume to be the development of a certain plan designed to surprise and defeat the enemy; tactics as the actual handling of forces necessary to the carrying out of that campaign. The best-laid general plan must encounter unforeseen obstacles and accidents. When skill is shown in solving these minor military problems we say that the tactics were good.

It may well be doubted if in this war there will be developed any great strategical genius fit to be named with Napoleon. It is not possible to spring any great surprise. The aeroplanes, the wireless, the field telephones and half a dozen other devices have made this impossible. Huge as are the movements of armies on both the Western and Eastern fronts, it is no secret what is aimed at. The Russians are pressing for Kovel and Lemberg. Joffre and Haig are advancing to seize important German railway lines to cut communications, and eventually to force the invaders out of France and Belgium. The Germans know this as well as anyone else. If the Allies have the gun-power and the available men the Germans will be unable to keep from being driven out, even if they had a thousand Napoleons to direct them. With armies manoeuvring in the open country it may be possible for some of the leaders engaged to display those flashes of intuition without which there can be no genius military or otherwise. That time may come in the not distant future in France. In the meantime there is nothing to do but to keep hammering away in this phase of warfare strategy is not of much more importance than skill in chess-playing.

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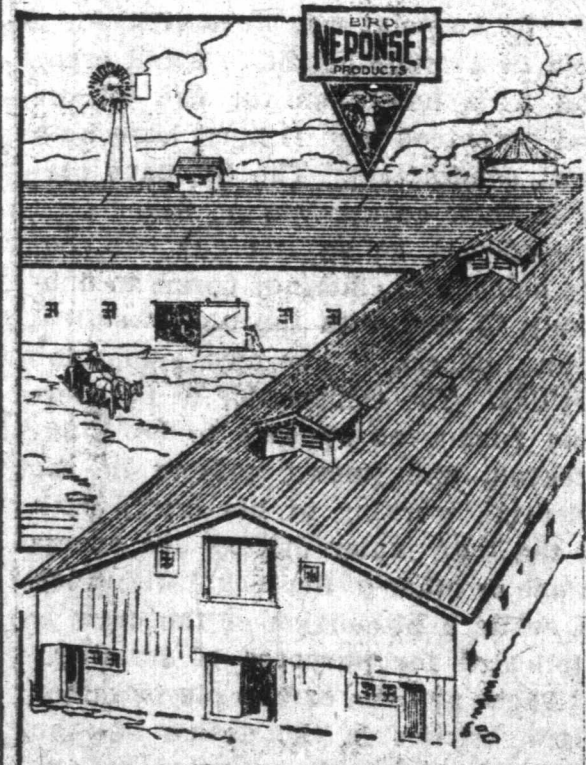
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VARDAR VALLEY WILL BE SCENE OF GREAT BATTLE

Cerna on Left, Vardar in Centre and Struma on Right, With Roumania Entered, Bulgars Will be Between Anvil and Hammer

PARIS, Aug. 29.—Joseph Reinache, the former deputy and a well known authority on foreign affairs, made the following exclusive statement for The Gazette of the Salonik situation: "There can be no better proof of the complete unity of the Entente Allies than the composition of the Salonika army, which is now beginning the long-awaited offensive. Hostile critics have asserted that the variety of its contingents may be a source of weakness, but the facts are exactly the contrary.

"Each of the five nations has sent picked troops and the combined force represents the flower of the Allied armies. General Sarrail showed real genius as a commander when in charge of the French right at the battle of the Marne and his subordinate, General Cordonier, is one of our best soldiers, while I regard Prince Alexander of Serbia as possessing military talent of the highest order. The reorganization of his army was a great and bloodless victory for the Allies and the spirit with which they are inspired bodes ill for the treacherous Bulgarians.

"Don't think I under-estimate the latter as fighters. Both they and their Turkish allies have already proved their quality. But it must be remembered that political considerations compel them to maintain large forces on their northern frontier, and it is doubtful whether even with Turkish aid in view of the almost complete withdrawal of Austro-German troops, whether they are strong enough to take the offensive in earnest against the Allied army.

"I think their offensive is based rather on political than on strategic consideration. They hope to influence Greece, where the Germanophile party would be enormously strengthened by an Allied retreat, however limited, and at the same time cause a postponement of the elections by the occupation of the Macedonian district, thus preventing the return of Venizelos.

"The nature of the offensive itself precludes the idea of a genuine attack on Salonika. It follows the stereotyped plan demonstrated against Russia in 1915, of a converging attack on the wings. Such tactics are more suited to wide plains than to broken hilly country, and require a considerable numerical superiority, which the Bulgars do not possess, though they may be trying to give that impression. Sarrail's rapid counter-attacks along the Vardar valley must already have shown them the danger of their wings being cut off if they advanced too far, while the centre was forced to recoil. Besides, the conditions on the wings themselves support the theory that only a demonstration is intended.

"On the extreme Allied left toward Florina the Serbians, abandoning their outlying positions, are now firmly established on Lake Ostrovo. If the latter movement can be maintained along the River Cerna, it will take the advancing Bulgars on the flank and cut them off from their main body so that we can dismiss the probability of the Bulgarian movement being driven home in this quarter.

"On the Allied right things are rather different. Here the apathy, not to use a harsher word, of the Greeks, has permitted the Bulgars to seize the strong positions of Negotino and Rapel, the latter called the Verdun of Greece, defending the Struma Valley, which is not only the easiest road to Sofia, but also the road to Constantinople. In a few weeks the autumn rains will make the Struma valley impassable, and the Bulgars, by the occupation of the remaining strongholds for which Greece paid so bloodily, are simply trying to insure what now is their weakest point, without in the least wishing to try conclusions with the Salonika fortification. At the same time they know that the hosts of panic-stricken fugitives cannot fail to be a source of confusion and embarrassment to the Allies.

"Having analyzed the Bulgarian action, I will now discuss the position of the Allies. Sarrail had a choice of three chief lines of attack, along the valleys of the Cerna on the left, the Vardar in the centre, and the Struma on the right. I am divulging no military secret in admitting that the forces at his disposal are probably insufficient for a general assault along all three. At first sight the Struma might seem preferable for the reasons I have given, but the former Greek positions descending it are very strong, and communications along the Vardar will

undoubtedly be easier for the Allies along the direct railroad to their base.

"Secondly, one must not forget that his task is to liberate Serbia, as well as punish Bulgaria, and finally, it is a military axiom that an army beaten in its centre must withdraw its wings, so that the choice of the middle route seems the most logical and the best. These he can exercise a strong general pressure until the time when circumstances permit of a real attack en masse.

"Here I come to the crux of the whole Balkan situation, namely, Roumania. If Roumania intervenes, or even allows the Russians to traverse her territory, the Bulgars will be between hammer and anvil, and cannot escape their well-merited punishment. It is my opinion that Roumania will join the Entente Allies.

"The example of Greece has not been lost on Roumanian statesmen, who are among the shrewdest in Europe.

THE YOUNG SOLDIER

(By Frank Doherty.)
Dearest mother I've enlisted
To try to help my country dear,
If the call I had resisted
How could I be happy here?
While the Motherland is calling
To her sons across the sea,
Day by day our sons are falling
In their fight with Germany.

CHORUS:
Dearest mother don't be grieving,
For you know our cause is right,
Let me see your smile when leaving,
It will help me win the fight.

Well do I remember, mother,
In our home across the sea,
The tales you told to me and brother,
As we stood around your knee,
How when the great Crimea started
That some of your folks had gone,
Who from home and friends had parted,
Surely you can spare your son.

Think of those in Belgium, mother,
Sad would be our fate to-day,
Had not husbands, sons and brothers
Thrown themselves into the fray,
Still strong hearts and arms are needed
To help to stem the cruel tide,
Those who their country's call have heeded,
Surely not in vain have died.

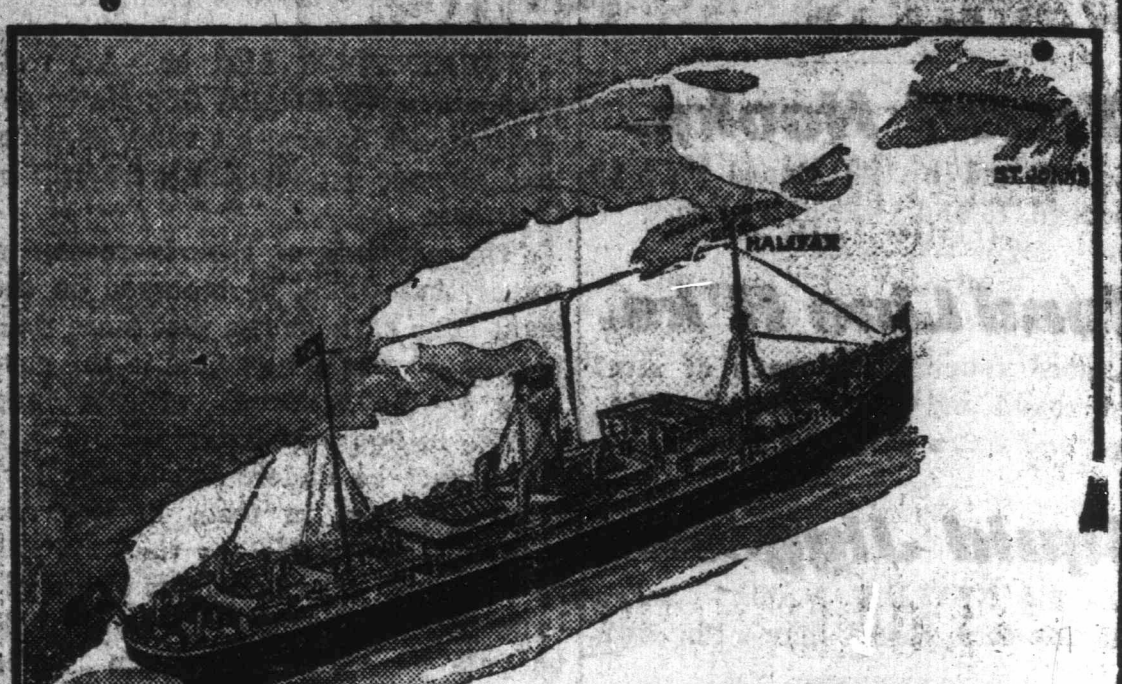
I shall not forget you, mother,
When I am gone so far away,
Well I know that you'll remember,
For your boy each day to pray,
Should I die in battle, mother,
You must never grieve for me,
For I die just like a sailor
Fighting for my country.

Good-bye mother and God bless you,
Thanks for all your love and care,
Let not this parting so distress you,
For I'm proud to do my share,
When the cruel war is over
And the victory is won,
You'll not regret dear mother
That you gave your eldest son.
Aug. 25th, 1916.

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