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New Russian Offensive South of Bucharest

Russian Troops are Making Important Attack on Von Mackensen's Rear and Already Meet With Success—26 Guns and a Number of Prisoners Being Taken so Russian Official Report Says

RUSSIANS MAY TURN TIDE IN ROUMANIA

German Report However Says German-Bulgar Forces are Steadily Pressing on Towards Bucharest—Roumanian Capital Was Before the Commencement of the War Deprived of the Character of a Fortress—Russian Attacks if too Late to Save Bucharest May if Successfully Prosecuted Change the Complexion of the Roumanian Campaign

LONDON, Dec. 4.—Even surpassing the far-reaching importance of the actual military operations of the war comes to-day a public announcement by the new Russian Premier, Alex. Trepoff, that by an agreement concluded in 1915, and subsequently adhered to by Italy the Allies have definitely established the Russians' right to Constantinople and the Straits. The existence of this agreement has been for a long time alleged, but never before was it thus publicly and formally admitted. Simultaneously, while with Bucharest still hanging in balance, comes news that Russia, which has been accused in some quarters of failing to render assistance to its sorely pressed ally, is now making heroic efforts to turn the tide of events in Roumania. In addition to exerting vigorous pressure against Von Falkenhayn in Moldavia, the Russians have gained a footing at Kirlibaba, and the battle is continuing with the utmost energy.

A Political Crisis Now Faces Great Britain; Mr. Asquith to Resign

The Express Says that a Political Crisis has Suddenly Arisen and that the Coalition Government is Likely to go According to this Paper a New War Council, Probably Consisting of Premier Asquith, Lloyd George, Bonar Law, Arthur J. Balfour and Sir Edward Carson will be Appointed—Lloyd George to Resign Also?

LONDON, Dec. 3.—It is understood that no official announcement will be made to-night but that Premier Asquith would see the King to-morrow morning and thereafter make statements in the Commons in explanation of the situation. Thus far, it appears, no arrangement has been made for Secretary David Lloyd George to see the King which would indicate at the present moment that there is some prospect of the crisis being surmounted without a complete collapse of the Coalition Cabinet. Premier Asquith left town yesterday, but returned this morning. Throughout the day there have been consultations and meetings of party leaders at the Premier's residence. Lloyd George had a long conference with the Premier this afternoon. Other visitors were Bonar Law and Marquis Crewe, Lord President of the Council. Perhaps the most significant incident was that Sir Edward Carson and Bonar Law appeared together and addressed a morning meeting of the Unionist Committee, while Earl Derby had a long interview with Lloyd George. The reasons given for the possible resignation of Lloyd George is that he had definitely decided that the methods of dilatoriness, indecision and delay which characterize the action of the present war council endangered the prospects of winning the war. It is understood that Asquith has declined to accept Lloyd George's view that the War Council must be materially reduced in number. It is believed that Bonar Law and Lord Derby contemplate following Lloyd George's example. Lloyd George intends to campaign the country. There was every indication of a Lloyd

A new Russian effort is visible on the Danube south of Bucharest, where newly arrived Russian troops are making an important attack on Field Marsl. Von Mackensen's rear. Already according to the Russian official report, it has met with some success, 26 guns and a number of prisoners being taken, the Germans and Bulgarians having been driven from Tzomana and Gostinari. The Russians are also successful in applying pressure in Dobrudja. These Russian attacks on the two extreme flanks of the Central Forces, although they may be too late to save Bucharest, may, if successfully prosecuted, change the complexion of the Roumanian campaign, as there is no indication as yet that the enveloping movement of the Central Powers has succeeded in cutting off any considerable portion of the Roumanian armies.

In the meantime, according to a German report, the German-Bulgar forces are steadily pressing on towards the capital. In the Argeshu Valley they have crossed the River at one point, and have outflanked and defeated a Roumanian force which had attempted to advance south-west of Bucharest over the Argeshu and Nistov Rivers. In connection with the fate of Bucharest a semi-official Roumanian statement has been received by wireless to the effect that before the commencement of the war Bucharest was deprived of the character of a fortress and that when the danger of an occupation presented itself steps were taken for the evacuation of the city by military elements, but not by the civilian population, who had been enjoined to remain in the city. This points to a military abandonment of the city and would seem to indicate the Roumanians are fighting engagements to delay their enemies so as to secure the retirement of their armies.

George-Carson combination in favor of a more vigorous prosecution of the war.

LONDON, Dec. 2.—Cabinet changes involving the resignation of Premier Asquith are predicted by the Manchester Guardian in an article in today's issue on current rumours respecting political changes. The paper says rumours, perhaps one ought to say more than rumours, are going around in the lobby of imminent changes, the extent of the rumour being that Bonar Law may replace Premier Asquith for the time being but that a final settlement would be Lloyd George as Prime Minister. The Guardian concluded that the coalition government has not the collective prestige to resist attacks being made upon it and that the House of Commons has reached a mood in which it is ready to create another ministry.

LONDON, Dec. 3.—The Premier has decided to advise the King to consent to a reconstruction of the government. This was officially announced to-night.

LONDON, Dec. 2.—The political crisis has become acute. It is stated in well-informed quarters that David Lloyd George, War Secretary, has tendered his resignation, which has not yet been accepted.

LONDON, Dec. 2.—The Express says that a political crisis has suddenly arisen and that the coalition government is likely to go. According to this paper a new War Council, probably consisting of Premier Asquith, Lloyd George, Bonar Law, Arthur J. Balfour and Sir Edward Carson will be appointed.

In the Carpathians

VIENNA, Dec. 2.—The great battle in the wooded Carpathians where the Russians are endeavouring to break through into Transylvania and Hungary is raging without cessation, according to an official statement issued by the War Office.

The Allies Modify Their Demands on Greek Gov't

Now Accept Six Batteries of Mountain Artillery Instead of Ten as Demanded—Many Venizelist Supporters are Arrested on Charge of Abetting Treason—Greek Premier Says Watchword is "Order First"—Allies Take Energetic Measures to Obtain Reparation Due for the Firing on French Troops by Greek Soldiers

LONDON, Dec. 3.—The Havas correspondent at Athens telegraphs an account of the recent events in Greece, beginning with King Constantine's offer last month to deliver to the Allies the greater part of the artillery and munitions of Greece on the condition that she might preserve her neutrality. This arrangement of the King has not been carried out, as the Government declined to ratify it, although it had been reduced to writing in an autograph letter by the King. The King later declared that he was unable to guarantee that order would be observed in the streets of Athens, or his wishes would be respected. Consequently, on the expiration of the time for the delivery of the first lot of guns, Vice-Admiral Du Fournet, having received information that trouble was imminent, disembarked troops, although the Admiral had been instructed by the French Gov-

ernment that the guns must not be taken by force. The Greek troops opened an attack on the French with rifles, machine guns, and cannon, killing some and wounding others. Owing to the conditions and in consequence of what has taken place, the despatch concludes, the Allied Governments decided to take energetic measures and obtain the reparation due.

ATHENS, Dec. 3.—General Corakas, head of the Venizelist Recruiting Bureau, has been arrested on a charge of inciting guerilla warfare in Athens and using his room in the Hotel Majestic as a point from which to fire upon soldiers and civilians. A number of soldiers deposed that Corakas paid 25 drachmas per head to induce soldiers to desert the army and join the Venizelists at Saloniki. He probably will be tried on the charge of abetting treason. M. Boulajanis, editor of the Venizelist Journal, Astyrn, has been arrested. A Venizelist police officer, Lieutenant Marcudas, has been taken into custody.

ATHENS, Dec. 3.—The Crown Council sat until 2.30 o'clock this morning. Later the French, British, Russian and Italian Ministers made the following announcement:—On the proposal of the Ministers of the four Powers, and at the instance of Admiral Du Fournet, the Greek Government is informed that the Entente will accept six batteries of mountain artillery instead of the ten, whose surrender was demanded by Dec. 1, waiving on their delivery all questions of surrender of other armaments. The Greek Government accepted and agreed to proceed with the immediate delivery of six batteries.

RUSSIANS MAKE BIG ADVANCES S. OF BUCHAREST

Have Gained Possession of Western Part of Tchernovado Bridge Across the Danube and South of Bucharest Have Driven Back Teutonic Forces and Recaptured the Villages of Tzomana and Gastinari

PETROGRAD, Dec. 4.—The Russians have gained possession of the western part of Tchernovado bridge across the Danube was announced officially to-day. South of Bucharest Teutonic forces were driven back by the Russian, the statement says, and the villages of Tzomana and Gastinari have been recaptured. Tchernovado Bridge, the only one across the Danube for a distance of 600 miles for the Black Sea, was taken control of by Field Marshal von Mackensen after the defeat of the Russo-Roumanian army in Dobrudja and the capture of Constanza and Tchernovada late in October. Over it passes the sole railway line directly connecting Bucharest with the Black Sea. Its capture by Von Mackensen cut off communication between Roumania and Russia by this land and water route. The main span of the bridge itself is only about half a mile long, but its approaches west stretch for several miles over marshlands, bordering on the Danube.

From last reports the Russians were fighting their way back south in Dobrudja, and were some fifteen miles north of the bridge on the Dobrudja side. Their present seizure of the western end may only be intended to prevent its use by Von Mackensen for throwing troops across the rear of the Roumanian forces around Bucharest. Tzomana, reported recaptured from the Teutonic invaders, is about 16 miles south of Bucharest on the railway. Giurgieu and Conteniari lies about five miles east of Tzomana.

LONDON, Dec. 4.—Mysterious promises are being made to Germans about glad tidings to be received by them before Christmas, according to an Amsterdam despatch to the Daily Mail. The despatch says that the recent hint of the Bulgarian Premier regarding the acceptable news for the Germanic powers is supported by a statement by the President of the Reichstag that that body may possibly meet earlier than the date arranged. The Dusseldorf, "General Anzeiger" says that the Colonial Minister stated on Friday that very gratifying events were about to happen, and that the German people would be able to have a happy Christmas.

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GERMAN YARN IS DENIED

German Reports That There Were Soldiers and Officers on Board the Hospital Ship Britannic are Officially Denied by the Admiralty—Only Medical Staff and Nurses on Board

LONDON, Dec. 4.—A statement issued by the Admiralty to-day which makes reference to a German wireless message to the Embassy at Washington and the promulgation of mendacious reports purporting to emanate from Rotterdam that the ship Britannic had troops on board, the Admiralty reiterates its complete statement that no troops were aboard the Britannic as published on November 24th, and adds British hospital ships carry neither personnel nor material other than is authorized by the Geneva and Hague Conventions.

The British hospital ship Britannic was sunk in the Aegean Sea on November 22nd. Inquiries have failed to establish whether she was destroyed by mine or torpedoes. According to the British Admiralty statement the Britannic had aboard 1,120 persons, of whom 625 composed the crew, 500 were attached to the medical staff of the various Royal Army Medical Corps, including 76 nurses. About 50 perished.

BERLIN, Dec. 4.—The Overseas News Agency gives out the following publication: "Rotterdam reports, according to information from London, the British hospital ship Britannic recently sunk, had from 400 to 500 soldiers on board. Neither belonged to the crew nor Red Cross. In addition there were more than 100 officers, among whom were several aviators."

LONDON, Dec. 4.—The Greek Government has announced that the fullest protection will be given to national of the Entente, according to an Athens despatch. The Government also guarantees that all legal rights of arrested Venizelists will be respected. In palace circles it is said that normal relations with the Allies are re-established.

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OFFICIAL BRITISH.

LONDON, Dec. 2.—During the night hostile artillery was active north of Ypres and near Guedecourt, says the official report to-day from the Franco-Belgian front. Yesterday evening, after a heavy trench mortar bombardment, the enemy attempted two determined raids in Souchez area, but were beaten off.

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German-Bulgar Forces Defeated S.W. of Bucharest

BUCHAREST, Dec. 3.—The main body of the German-Bulgar forces southwest of Bucharest, have been defeated and driven back toward the south, the War Office announces. The Roumanians were also victorious in a battle with the Turks. On the right wing of their western front the Roumanians have been compelled to retreat.

HOW THE NEWS IS RECEIVED

The Acquisition of Constantinople and Dardanelles by Russia Gets Secondary Place in London Morning Papers—Conservative Press Receive the News in Silence—Liberal Organs are Well Pleased

LONDON, Dec. 4.—The momentous declaration of the agreement by the Allies to the acquisition of Constantinople and the Dardanelles by Russia is given secondary place in the morning papers, and is only commented upon by a few of them.

The Conservative Press which formerly vehemently supported the British statesmen of the nineteenth century in keeping the Russians away from Constantinople received the news in silence.

The Liberal "Chronicle" and Liberal "News" are the only papers to make any comment. The "Chronicle" says that the announcement deserves to be highly welcome in England and sets out the reason why it thinks it desirable. The "News" thinks the present settlement of the vexed question will shorten and simplify proceedings at the ultimate peace conference.

Women Denounce Home Army Bill

LONDON, Dec. 4.—The passage of the Home Army Bill caused a panic throughout Berlin last week when it was realized that women would be forced into the factories, according to an Amsterdam despatch, which says that there was a demonstration of women recently outside of Charlottenburg Town Hall, who protested against the provisions of the measure and demanded bread and two days' leave for all soldiers. The women also demanded peace, the despatch says.

Normal Relations Re-established

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At the New Capital

LONDON, Dec. 2.—A Reuter despatch from Jassy in northern Roumania, near the Russian frontier, states that most of the Ministers together with the Presidents of the Senate and Chamber have arrived at the new capital, where parliament will be convened shortly.

RUSSIA GETS LONG SOUGHT FOR OBJECT

Russian Premier Announces in Duma that Russia has Secured Control of Constantinople and the Straits—Thus the Dream of the Russian People is Now realized

PETROGRAD, Saturday. (By the semi-official News Agency)—Dec. 4.—In the Duma to-day Premier Trepoff read a proclamation announcing officially that an agreement, concluded by Russia, France and Great Britain in 1915, and later approved of by Italy, establishes in a definite manner the right of Russia to the Straits and Constantinople. Trepoff's announcement is quoted by the News Agency as follows: "For more than a thousand years Russia has been reaching southward towards a free outlet on the open sea. This age-long dream cherished in the hearts of the Russian people is now ready for realization. From the beginning of the war, wishing to spare human lives and suffering, we and our allies did our utmost to restrain Turkey from her mad participation in hostilities. Turkey received formal assurances guaranteeing her in exchange for her neutrality the integrity of her territorial independence and also conferring upon her certain privileges and advantages. These efforts were in vain, and Turkey surreptitiously attacked us, and thus sealed her doom. We then concluded an agreement with our allies which establishes in a most definite manner the right of Russia to the Straits and Constantinople. Russians should know for what they are shedding their blood and of this agreement made to-day from this Tribune."

Entente Ministers Tell Greek Ministers it is no Longer Merely a Question of Cession of War Materials but Question of Reparation for Assault on Allied Troops

NOW DEMANDS REPARATION FOR ASSAULT

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Hope That Roumanians Can Save Their Capital Is Dwindling Rapidly

Von Mackensen Continues to Throw Troops Across the Danube at Different Points—Unless Strong Russian Forces Arrive in Time there is no Hope of Roumanians Saving their Capital—German Plan to Envelop the Roumanians on both Flanks and Cut off the First and Second Roumanian Armies Seems to Have Succeeded

LONDON, Dec. 2.—Hopes of Roumanian ability to save their capital by making a stand on the line of the Argeshu are now dwindling rapidly. The German plan is apparently to envelop the Roumanians on both flanks and endeavour to cut off the first and second Roumanian armies. According to the news of the last two days this plan is being carried out. By the capture of Campulung the Germans gained a new line of supply and communication through Torzburg Pass which greatly facilitates their operations. In the meantime Von Mackensen continues to throw forces across the Danube at different points. The report in yesterday's Russian communication that enemy patrols have appeared in the region of Lake Griake indicates that Mackensen has effected a new crossing somewhere in the neighbourhood of Oltenitza. Unless strong Russian reinforcements arrive in time to throw Mackensen's forces back across the Danube it is believed that the Roumanians will find it too dangerous to try and save Bucharest by making a stand on the Argeshu. Regarding the fate of the fortress, in view of what happened in Belgium and to other strong forts, little confidence is felt here in the ability of the Brailmonts (?) fortifications around Bucharest, to withstand an attack of German heavy ordnance.

TO STRENGTHEN WAR COUNCIL

Cabinet Will Undergo a Certain Process of Reorganization with a View of More Definite Control of the War by a Stronger War Council—Coalition Government to Remain?

LONDON, Dec. 4.—The "Daily News" correspondent understands that although the possibility of adding Carson to the Cabinet has been canvassed in minor political circles, he has received no direct invitation to serve with the Ministry. According to information of other political correspondents Sir Edward's inclusion is part of a definite scheme of Lloyd George's conception.

The "Times" believes that Asquith will not be a member of the War Council, which it says would, in accordance with Lloyd George's suggestion, consist of Lloyd George, Carson, Bonar Law and a Labor representative, possibly Arthur Henderson. Nowhere is the suggestion that the crisis is likely to be prolonged or that it will lead to the fall of the Coalition Government.

The "Express," which is well informed from a Conservative viewpoint, says the crisis would be settled on Sunday, and that the Cabinet, which remains intact, with twenty-three members, will probably undergo a certain process of reorganization with a view of more definite control of the war by this stronger War Council.

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Austro-Italian Front

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