

WEATHER: FINE AND COOL.

The Journal of Commerce

THE BUSINESS MAN'S DAILY

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MONTREAL, FRIDAY, AUGUST 28, 1914

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CANADIANS ARE SAFE Pilgrims Who Attended Congress at Lourdes Experienced Little Inconvenience—Now On Way Home.

London, August 28.—The fears recently entertained with regard to the party of Canadians who attended the Lourdes Eucharistic Congress have been dispelled by the safe arrival of the party in two sections, both travelling overland from Italy.

After visiting Lourdes the party visited Rome and other Italian cities. They had the honor of a special audience with the late Pope on August 7. According to their information, it was the last audience given by Pius X. The Holy Father then appeared to him in fulling health, but covered about Canada and gave his blessing.

GERMANS SWEEP PAST LONGWY Army of the Saar Has Made Junction With Moselle Army, and Together Have Swept Back French Outposts.

Paris, August 28.—The Germans have swallowed Longwy, the "iron gate to France," and like a vast avalanche its mighty horde is pouring through Luxembourg and the famous gap of Treves. Coming from Metz and Thionville, the army of the Saar, commanded by Crown Prince Rupprecht of Bavaria, joined the Moselle army under Imperial Crown Prince Frederick William and together these great forces have struck and overwhelmed French advance posts.

FIGHTING DESPERATE. Paris, August 28.—A French lieutenant and his platoon have been killed near Juvigny, by the collapse of an aeroplane, in which they were scouting. The War Office maintains that French troops are successful in the Vosges campaign. That the fighting there is desperate is evinced by the announcement that the bodies of 7,000 German soldiers were found in one district where the French were victorious.

ITALIAN SITUATION GRAVE. Rome, August 28.—Large forces of Italian troops are being concentrated along the Adige River, north of Verona, less than 10 miles from Trent, the Tyrolean town of Austria, where Austro-Hungarian forces are reported to be massing.

GERMAN SPIES STAB SIGNALMEN. London, August 28.—Five men rushed the signal box of the Northwestern Railway at Berkhamstead and after slaying the signalmen, cut the wires and smashed the levers in the box. The men escaped, and the bodies of three German soldiers were found in one district where the French were victorious.

GERMAN EMBASSY'S REPORT. Washington, August 28.—The dispatch which was made public by Ambassador von Bernstorff, follows: "As a result of the last fight the French and English northern armies on the Sambre and Meuse have been surrounded by German troops on all sides."

SCOTCH FISHING VESSEL SUNK. London, August 28.—News of sinking of the Scotch fishing vessel by the floating mine 30 miles off Eilth, Northumberland, has reached here. Five of the crew were landed at Hull.

RUSSIAN ADVANCE STILL UNCHECKED

Operations in East Prussia and Galicia Are Meeting With Success All Along the Line.

LITTLE ANOTHER PUZZLE Now Thought That Germans Left City Occupied on Their Advance and French Troops Re-occupied It—Great Work of British Solidarity is Praised.

London, August 28.—St. Petersburg dispatches today show that Russian offensive operations in East Prussia and Galicia continue with apparent success everywhere. The War Office at St. Petersburg announced officially that the Russian troops in force have penetrated to the vicinity of Koelnberg, after driving back the German outposts on the crossings of the River Alle.

There are only semi-official advices concerning the battle reported to be raging along the River Sreth in Galicia. It is known that the Russians in force had penetrated almost to Lemberg and according to reports, the fighting is taking place near that city. The Austrian army is composed of three corps.

The Russian troops are under the command of General Wanaar and have a strong and efficient aeroplane corps. The despatches state that the aeroplanes have proven of unestimable value and have greatly aided in the swift forward movement of the troops.

Events around the French city of Lille during the past few days have been rather puzzling and whether this city is now occupied by French or Germans is a question that cannot be answered. There is no doubt that the French evacuated the city and that the Germans occupied it at the same time that they occupied Valenciennes and Roubaix; now, however, the city is apparently in the hands of the French again.

The Russian correspondent of the Daily Mail in a despatch to his paper describes the arrival of British wounded there and gives their stories of the fight. He says the appearance of the wounded was terrible, but that despite their wounds they displayed a cheerful stoicism.

The British correspondent says, had taken the field immediately upon their arrival after several days' march. They arrived just in time to stem the German advance. Although some need of rest, they behaved like fresh troops and held their ground with splendid courage, earning General Joffre's warm praise.

Not many of the British have had wounds. Many have only broken down from the hard marching and will be well again in a few days. Most of those who were sick, talked with picturesque frankness about their bad luck. One described how his regiment ordered out of Mons on Sunday morning came under fire immediately. They had no trenches or cover of any kind and were obliged to lie down all day and pop up their heads occasionally to fire. When night fell, they did their best to make trenches.

Another British regiment was luckier. They were entrenched and although the Germans bombarded them for nearly twenty-four hours, they had very few casualties. Another of the British wounded said: "We marched into Mons Sunday about ten in the morning and were just about to be billeted, when marching orders came and we were off again. We were to advance under cover of artillery fire, but the enemy was doing a bit of artillery work too, so we threw up trenches and snuggled down to wait for whatever might happen."

"We did not wait long. The German gunners were over a ridge two or three miles in front and their shells came whistling around us. I got my baptism of fire and at first did not like it. Fortunately most of their shells burst behind us and did no harm. We thought they might stop when it got dark, but they kept it up as hard as ever."

Some curious rumors are current in the British lines, the Mail's correspondent continues, one of the soldiers told him, he says that the Russians had reached Berlin and were driving the Germans on to the British lines, "so that we can crumple them up."

Some of the British soldiers are highly irritated because they did not see enough fighting. One said: "I hardly saw a German. I came on one German infantryman while marching through a village and he began talking to me saying 'Tah, tah,' or something like that. What did I do? I ran my bayonet through him and would do so again."

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MISREPRESENTED CONVERSATION AND SUPPRESSED TELEGRAM

Series of Communications Published in Berlin Calculated to Place Blame For European Catastrophe on Shoulders of Great Britain.

London, August 28.—The Berlin Allgemeine Zeitung, of August 20, published a series of telegrams exchanged between King George, the Kaiser, Prince Henry of Prussia and Prince Lichnowsky, the German Ambassador to Great Britain, just before the outbreak of the war. Their publication was designed to give the impression that Great Britain offered to guarantee the neutrality of France with the British army and navy if Germany would refrain from attacking France and would confine the German support of Austria to operations against Russia.

Paris, August 28.—The American Embassy was besieged today by Americans anxious to leave Paris. Accommodations for them are being secured by Ambassador Herrick, as rapidly as possible. Hundreds of residents of the city are leaving for southern cities and Spain as fast as they can get away.

In the meantime preparations for the siege that is expected are going forward. Minister of War Millerand conferred with General Gallieni for several hours. Reports from agricultural districts state that supplies are on the way.

The Socialists have joined heart and soul in the plans for carrying on the conflict, since two of the leaders took positions in the cabinet.

AUSTRIA EXPLANATION. Rome, August 28.—The Austrian declaration of war, according to the dispatch from Vienna, was accompanied by the explanation that Austria was going to war because the Belgians were giving assistance to England and France. The telegram adds that the American Minister in Belgium will look after the interests of Austria.

NO PANIC IN ANTWERP. Washington, August 28.—Minister Havenith, of Belgium, when shown the German statement that Zeppelin dirigible attack had caused a panic in Antwerp, said: "Perhaps a few women and children were terrorized by the attack on them, by a German airship, but no Belgian men have been in the panic. The only panic caused has been that felt by the whole civilized world."

SIR EDWARD GREY UNDER FIRE. London, August 28.—Attempts by opponents of the war to show in the House of Commons that Sir Edward Grey, Foreign Minister, had not done his utmost to preserve peace, brought a storm of "boos" from the Government's friends.

The Foreign Minister took the attack calmly and answered all questions put to him without any show of anger. "Count Lichnowsky, (German Ambassador), suggested before the war," he said, "that Germany might remain neutral in the war between Russia and Austria and agree not to attack France, if Great Britain would guarantee the neutrality of France. Subsequently it became clear that what the Ambassador meant was that we should secure the neutrality of France if Germany went to war with Russia. That was quite a different proposal. As soon as the misunderstanding was cleared up, the Ambassador sent a telegram cancelling the impression produced by the previous despatch. It seems that the first telegram was published, but the second was not."

AUSTRIA DECLARES WAR ON BELGIUM. Rome, August 28.—A dispatch from Vienna says that Austria has declared war on Belgium.

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THE AGRARIAN PARTY ARE PROTECTIONISTS

This Class in Germany are Led by The Aristocracy of East Prussia

EFFECT OF METHOD Prohibition Tax On Fodder Benefits Farmer But Little Agricultural Class is Afforded Protection From Within as Well as From Without Empire.

(Number Fourteen of a Series of Short Articles on the German Empire. By Professor W. W. Swanson.)

The Agrarian Party of Germany are prepared to go to almost any length in their opposition to the importation of foreign food supplies. The Agrarians are led by the East Prussian aristocracy, and ports of honour at court and civil service positions are occupied by members of their families. There is a political organization behind the influence wielded by Agrarianism, and though its methods may be challenged it is hardly less effective an organization than that of the Social Democracy.

There is a tendency to protect the interests of agriculture in every branch of legislation. Duties on foreign food supplies are levied more with a view to their prohibitive effect than as a means of raising revenue. In the case of certain commodities, such as fodder, the duties in no way benefit the small farmer, who is in no position to store fodder. A bad season in Germany for fodder means that the small farmer must sell off his cattle to avoid the expense of keeping them over the winter. For a time meat may be cheapened, but the result in a few months becomes apparent in a rapid rise in prices, especially in veal, beef and pork, the staple articles of German consumption. The small farmer is not in the least profited by the high prices, which go into the pockets of the big cattle farmers and the middlemen. On the other hand, the German consumer pays a fearful price for this policy of national agricultural independence.

Effect on German Industry. It is plain that an increase in the price of food must react unfavorably upon industry unless the whole of the agricultural population of Germany is profiting so far by the rise of prices that the demand for industrial products is increased. But even so, this does not mean that the working classes will get sufficiently high wages to enable them to purchase food of the kind and quality required; and in any case it must inevitably raise the cost of production, and hamper Germany in her efforts to compete with foreign producers in the neutral markets of the world.

Even in the matter of taxation care is taken that the pressure shall not fall too heavily upon agricultural land or upon the landed families. Capital invested in agriculture has a way of escaping the violence of the tax-commissioners, and even the police appears blind to lack of papers of identification or other omissions of a similar character if the conditions happen to be able-bodied employees of big estates. In general, it may be said that agriculture occupies a favorable position in Germany, and especially in North Germany. It should be added, however, that this privileged position is not entirely due to remnants of feudalism or solely to the influence of the big country families. It is also based, as has been said, upon the theory that the agricultural population is the backbone of the modern Empire; and that, as the Emperor has said, "German agriculture must and can, feed the whole of the population of Germany."

The actual surface under agriculture (including viticulture) is about 40,000,000 acres. Five per cent, or about 2,000,000 acres, is divided into small holdings of less than five acres each. Of these small holdings one-third is vine-growing land, and another third is garden land. Of the next largest holding, up to 10 acres, rather more than one-third is vineyard, and 10 per cent is in cornland. The middle-sized holdings, up to 50 acres, show still one-third vineyard and one-third corn-land. Of the big estates up to 250 acres one-quarter is in sugar-beet, a third corn-land, 5 per cent vineyard, and the rest roots, and so forth. The biggest estates of all, 500 acres and beyond, are 58 per cent sugar beet, and only 20 per cent corn-land. These are the large North German properties of the "gutsu barons," as the Socialist press describes them. The biggest estates include nearly one-quarter of all the agricultural land in Germany; the 250 acre estates make up one-third, and the medium estates also about one-third.

In the south and west the political organization controlling the agricultural vote is very largely Catholic; in the north and east it is Prussian-Conservative.

Agricultural Laborers. There are approximately 3,000,000 agricultural laborers in Germany. The majority are employed on the extensive estates of the north. A little over a century ago serfdom still obtained in Germany (being abolished in 1807), but many of its abuses still remain. The maltreatment of agricultural laborers is still frequently reported; and there are particularly monstrous abuses in connection with the electoral laws. It probably required the industrial development of the Empire, with the threatened depopulation of the country, and the rush to the industrial centres, to put an end to actual, if not legal, serfdom. It was, and is, the drainage of labor to the towns to produce tolerable conditions for the laborers on these big estates, since the landowners on the big estates were required to do something to stop the drainage.

HIGHLANDERS SHOT AND KILLED. Private Butts, of the Fifth Royal High-landers, was killed at Soulanges last night. It is said that he was accidentally shot.

Private Butts was a member of the detachment of Highlanders guarding the canal. He was a Montrealer and unmarried.

The body has been brought in to the city, and a jury sworn in. The inquest will be held to-morrow.

RUSSIAN HAVE CROSSED VISTULA. New York, August 28.—Special London cable to the Evening Telegram says Russians have crossed the Vistula in Germany and the Danzig in Galicia.

The Canadian Bank of Commerce

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GERMAN AMBASSADOR TALKS. Washington, August 28.—Protest against the delay of the United States in replying to German inquiries concerning wireless censorship was filed with Secretary Bryan by Count von Bernstorff, German Ambassador. The Ambassador told Mr. Bryan that the German government at Berlin desires immediate action in this matter by the United States. He stated that he had received a large number of requests from American business houses to secure re-opening of communication between the United States and Germany.

Secretary Bryan said he would do all possible to facilitate final decision of the question. Upon leaving the State Department, Count von Bernstorff commented on the Belgian protest concerning bombardment of Antwerp by Zeppelin airships by stating that on the first day of the war, before the Germans had even requested permission to cross neutral Belgium, four French aeroplanes sailed over Belgium and bombarded Coblenz, establishing a precedent for any German aerial manoeuvres which might follow.

Referring to operations of the German army, he said: "The Russian advance appears to be unchecked and all my news indicates that no serious opposition has been encountered. The Russian advance from north and east should not be taken too seriously. There is only one German army corps in this section and no armed or fortified towns have been captured. This is a low flat section of country and Russians are welcome to as much of it as they can take."

"The German army will have little trouble in recovering it when the time comes to turn attention from the Allies to the west. I feel sure that when all news is in it will be discovered that anti-German news that has already been printed is in the main without foundation."

PRINCESS PAT'S ROUTE TO-NIGHT. The Princess Patricia Light Infantry will reach Montreal from Ottawa to-night at 6 o'clock and will march from the Bonaventure Station to St. Catherine, up Windsor, along St. Catherine to Beaver Hall Hill, down Beaver Hall Hill to McGill Street, down McGill to Commissioners, along Commissioners to the White Star steamship pier.

SITUATION WELL IN HAND AT ARRAS. New York, August 28.—Special London cable to the Evening Telegram says: "French troops have the situation well in hand at Arras. No dispositions have been made to frustrate German attempts to enter the Department of Pas de Calais on Dunkirk-Lille line. The German advance guard has penetrated west of Douai, but has been unable to break the French line at Arras."

