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FRIDAY, AUG. 16, 1918

THE SITUATION.

An important piece of news is the announcement that a British contingent has reached the Russian city of Raku. It is the seaport of the Apheron Peninsula on the Caspian Sea and the whole of the soil around is impregnated with naphtha and petroleum. The move means that the Allies are determined if possible to prevent this rich oil region from falling into the hands of the foe. Meanwhile the Czech-Slovaks are reported to be in a serious condition in Siberia. They have only a thin line of soldiers scattered for three thousand miles along the Siberian Railway and these are liable to be cut off at any moment. Under such circumstances it is satisfactory to know that Japanese forces are commencing to arrive. Another despatch states that Russians of all classes are now commencing to realize the need of Allied help against their German taskmasters and this if true, is a reassuring sign.

The Canadians continue their splendid achievements and have captured two villages not far from the main Rove road. The British forces generally continue to make gains in this area. The French also report further progress.

The Italians have recently taken some high positions from the Austrians and the rumored demonstration in force by the latter still continues to hang fire.

Allied air men dropped a number of bombs on Frankfurt, killing several and inflicting much damage. Panic is said to be reigning in other Rhenish cities.

According to an estimate which emanates from Paris German losses since the commencement of the war to the end of July last have totalled six millions. Of these nearly a million and a half have been killed.

THE DISCLOSURES OF A PRINCE RECALLED.

The New York State-Zeitung, the leading German paper in that city, has now ranged itself on behalf of the Allied cause. In making the right about face it attributes the change of heart to the revelations of Prince Liechnowsky, the German ambassador in England prior to the war, and at the time of the outbreak, and adds that, although for a long time German-Americans were unable to see the peril they have now had "a rude awakening" and their sense of duty to the land of their adoption is showing them "the right course to pursue."

Whether or no the determined attitude of the American people has had as much to do with the somewhat as the utterances of the prince does not matter, but it is a timely thing to repeat the essence of the terrific arraignment made by the latter. Here are some extracts from the revelations made by him:

"It naturally only needed a hint from Berlin to induce Count Berchtold (Austria) to content himself with a diplomatic success, and put up with the Serbian reply. But this hint was not given. On the contrary we pressed for war. After our refusal, Sir Edward Grey (British Foreign Secretary) asked us to come forward with a proposal of our own. We insisted upon war. Before my departure Sir Edward Grey received me on August 5th at his house. I had gone there at his desire. He was deeply moved. He said to me that he would always be ready to mediate. Our departure was thoroughly dignified and calm. Before we left, the King had sent his enquiry, Sir E. Ponsonby, to me to express his regret at my departure and that he could not see me personally. Princess Louise wrote to me that the whole family lamented our going. Mrs. Asquith and other friends come to the embassy to say good-bye. A special train took us to Harwich, where a guard of honor was drawn up for me. I was treated like a departing sovereign. This ended my London mission. It was wrecked not by the perfidy of the British, but by the perfidy of our policy."

For thus telling the truth with regard to the Kaiser and his advisers thus deliberately setting upon the Serbian incident to commence hostilities, the Prince has since been ejected from the Prussian House of Lords, but he holds a far higher place than that in the esteem of honorable and decent people the world over.

ALSACE AND LORRAINE NOT GERMAN.

It has been the independent claim of the Hun that the people of the two Provinces, Alsace-Lorraine, wrested from France by the Germans, in reality had lost all identity with their mother country and had become strictly Teutonic in spirit. The New York Sun in this regard points out that on German prisoners captured in the present allied offensive have been found papers showing the difficulties that the German commanders are having in controlling soldiers from Alsace and Lorraine. A memorandum gives details of a mutiny of Alsatians in which 10,000 soldiers participated. An order from the Crown Prince's headquarters commands that men from these two provinces be sent to the rear for field work and that on account of the many desertions they shall under no circumstances be used in the front lines.

The troops which the Germans raised in Alsace and Lorraine were employed upon the eastern front. The recent disclosures show that the cause of their mutinies was the effort of their commanders to force them to fight against the French in the Vosges and Lorraine when they were brought west from the Russian front. Many were arrested for speaking French and singing French songs, hundreds fled into Holland, and so many deserted that some of the regiments were almost wiped out. This led to the orders forbidding the use of Alsatians on the front line and also to a command from the General Staff to battalion commanders that they report in the attitude of the Alsatian troops, and that they "recommend measures for the special treatment of these soldiers."

This demand for "special treatment" shows the falsity of Germany's claim that the Alsatians have become Germans. It proves the absurdity of her pretensions that so far as the question of nationality is concerned Alsace "is and by right should be a part of the German Empire." Thousands of Alsatians and Lorrainers are fighting loyally in the Allied armies. Their number increases each day. The people of both provinces await their restoration to France and the end of their bondage to Prussia.

NOTES AND COMMENTS.

There's no apparent limit to the work of the Maple Leaf boys.

A British force landing at Baku will seem Bakulian in more senses than one to the enemy.

The British Chancellor announces that since the commencement of hostilities the British people have subscribed over a million pounds, or \$5,000,000, for war bonds. Johnny Bull is certainly a marvel from whatever angle you look at him.

The health of King Ferdinand of Bulgaria has suddenly become worse. Even so it cannot be as bad as his record.

Sir Wilfrid Laurier participated in a welcome to Dr. Beland at Three Rivers and during the course of a speech said:

"I know the value of liberty more than most of you here because I have been without it for so many years. You, who listen to me have never been deprived of it and can not therefore feel so deeply as I do in this matter."

Now what on earth did the white plumed knight mean by that?

Attention has been called to the difference between the two letters sent by the Kaiser and President Lincoln to mothers' losing several sons by war.

The Kaiser's: "His Majesty the Kaiser hears that you have sacrificed nine sons in defence of the Fatherland in the present war. His Majesty is immensely gratified at the fact, and in recognition is pleased to send you his photograph, with frame and autograph signature."

Lincoln's: "Dear madam,—I have been shown in the files of the War Department a statement of the Adjutant-General of Massachusetts that you are the mother of five sons who have died gloriously on the field of battle. I feel how weak and fruitless must be any words of mine which should attempt to beguile you from the grief of a loss so overwhelming. But I cannot refrain from tendering to you the consolation that may be found in the thanks of the Republic they died to save. I pray that our Heavenly Father may assuage the anguish of your bereavement and leave you only the cherished memory of the loved and lost, and the solemn pride that must be yours to have laid so costly a sacrifice upon the altar of freedom."

James D. Usher, of Niagara-on-the-Lake, obtained 580 bushels of wheat from 13 acres.



AMERICAN, ENGLISH, CANADIAN, NEW ZEALAND, AND SOUTH AFRICAN AVIATORS DISCUSSING A MAP PRIOR TO A FLIGHT OVER THE GERMAN LINES.

FRENCH COMMISSIONER IS DEAD OF APOPLEXY

By Courier Leased Wire.
 A Pacific Post, Aug. 16.—Alberic Metin, head of the French Economic Mission, now in the United States, former minister of labor in France and minister of blockade, died here at midnight last night from a stroke of apoplexy.
 M. Metin was stricken early in the evening shortly after his arrival here with the mission of which General Paul Genet had named French military leader, was joint head.
 Physicians who attended M. Metin said the stroke, to exhaustion, brought on the journey to this city. He was found lying unconscious on the floor of his apartment. He died without regaining consciousness, and does what you claim for it, and that his possession will be worth to your prospect a great deal more than the money you ask for it. Do this and you will succeed.
 "A True Soldier"—Your trouble is either mental or physical: God can tell you, however, of a spiritual remedy that will co-operate with your physician. Realize that the Holy Spirit is in you and utilize His almighty power. When those awful spells of grief attempt to come, in the name and strength of God, refuse to allow them to do so. Do not be afraid; do not tamper with them; allow God, through your will, to destroy them, and it will be done. Write me again.
 Price of platinum in Canada is fixed at \$105 an ounce, in uniformity with the price fixed in the United States.

CZECHO-SLOVAKS IN GRAVE DANGER

Their Position in Siberia is Perilous—Are Liable to Be Cut Off
 London, Aug. 15.—Czechoslovakia in Siberia are in a dangerous position and are liable to be cut off altogether, says the correspondent of The Times at Vladivostok. Only a fraction of those between the Volga and Lake Balkhal are armed and all are deficient in every sort of equipment. They are cut off from the Far East and it is impossible to learn what is happening to them. The correspondent says there is much apprehension concerning them in Vladivostok and adds:
 "The Czechs here are pathetically anxious to push west and assist their brothers. They are contemplating desperate measures in order to reach them, but their force is ridiculously small compared with their opponents, while they lack most necessary equipment and are deficient even in the essentials."
 "It is the allied intention to hold the rear while the Czechs do the fighting. General Dietrich's small force might well be annihilated, but it is inconceivable that the Allies will refrain from co-operation and that co-operation must be on a larger scale than hitherto contemplated."

In an editorial The Times emphasizes the urgency of hastening allied action. It says that the Czechs have been driven back from the Usurt small country, and that they are in eastern Russia. It is imperative, The Times declares, to send help to western Siberia through Harbin whenever it says, Lake Balkhal ought to be reached in one week's strength within a reasonable time.
 Recognition Approved
 London, Aug. 15.—British recognition of the Czechoslovak nation is commended on favorably by the newspapers. Dr. Dillon writing in The Daily Telegraph says:
 "The Times newspaper is full of the determination of the Entente Powers to break up the Hapsburg monarchy into its constituent nationalities and take as much thought about the reconstruction of the East as of the West of Europe. The importance of the declarations lies in the implied resolve of Allied Governments to carry on the war until this solution is reached."
 Praise Diplomacy
 New York, Aug. 15.—The New York morning newspapers in leading editorials are practically unanimous in praise of the British diplomacy in recognizing the Czechoslovak nation and urging similar action by the United States.
 The Times urges a similar step by the United States as a reward for the valor and loyal spirit of the Czechoslovaks.
 Peasants Join Movement
 Vladivostok, Aug. 16.—Russian peasants are reported to be actively reaching the state department to-day to be hooked to the standard of the Czechoslovak Republic. In force of about 500 miles east of Moscow, in this connection, particular significance is attached here to the report that the Soviet troops have begun the evacuation of Moscow, opening the way for the Czechoslovak and allied troops aiding loyal Russians to re-establish the eastern front on a line much farther west than was believed possible.
 With the Soviet quest from Moscow, the Czechoslovaks are immediately in control of the railroad lines to Moscow. The peasants relating the army are just learning the truth about the

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BY REV. T. S. LINSOTT, D.D.
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