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TWELVE PAGES—MONDAY MORNING FEBRUARY 22 1915—TWELVE PAGES

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VOL. XXXV.—No. 12,521

PROBS—Mild and unsettled, with occasional showers.

SHIPS SUNK: American Steamer Evelyn Irish Coaster Downshire British Steamer Cambank

Berlin Claims Also That British Transport Laden With Troops and a Convoy Were Torpedoed

Russians Defeat Germans on Niemen and Check Advance From North AUSTRIAN TORPEDO BOATS AND AEROPLANES ITALY WILL FIGHT

GERMAN FLANK IN PERIL FROM SHARP DEFEAT

Victory Won by Russians on Niemen River Holds Up Big Attack.

AUSTRIANS BEATEN TOO

Decisive Battle Won by Russians for Possession of Wyszow Pass.

By Frederick Bennett, correspondent of The London News and The Toronto World.

PETROGRAD, Feb. 21.—The north-east Poland curtain is now considerably lifted and the scope of Von Hindenburg's last strategic manoeuvre is clearly outlined. His aim from the beginning has been to confine the Russians within the line of the Vistula through the entire course. His first attempt, directed from southwest, Poland in October to press the Russians behind the great river, failed mainly because of a successful sortie by a strong Russian cavalry column from Novo Georgievsk, thru Levicek, which under three days all the heavy paid for work of the Russian army which had then been facing Bioni and Ivanograd. In a fortnight Von Hindenburg, in a determined effort again to do his advance to the Vistula, has given his most serious attention to Novo Georgievsk and all the lines of fortresses stretching northward from the right bank of the Vistula and Ostrolenka, Lomza and Oswowetz. East of this last stronghold where the Germans were defeated last October, they have apparently two or three corps which came from the south of the Masurian Lakes, manoeuvring tentatively without much fighting in the direction of the road to Grodno.

German Defeated. They are not attempting now any speedy operations, and have left their flank threatened since the sharp defeat of the German cavalry on the Niemen, where all survivors of the United Regiment which they cut down are prisoners. The Germans have a larger army nearer Oswowetz, which, however, they have not invested or even bombarded. Their chief force in the northeast has moved on the road to Lomza and Hieska. In pitched battles here the Germans actually are attacking along the marshy flat banks of Narow and Behr. The Germans are believed to have nine corps in this region. It is known of the battle area between Serpetz and Pionak, where very great forces are gathering. The German campaign in western Europe, the Germans mean to bring yet more men into their eastern operations and to keep them here, but the position here is now evidently strongly covered.

To Fight at Disadvantage. A very great German army will be needed for the northern campaign. The present aggressive tactics of the Russians in the middle disposition has surprised the Germans, who, although they have been using Przemysl for most of the last three months as an observation point and base for cavalry reconnaissances, have prepared no earthworks for the pitched battle that the Russians are forcing on them. Przemysl is serving as a hinge for two German wings, one stretching fifty miles southwest to the Vistula, the other spreading eighty miles northeast into the Augustow forest. The Germans are very cautious along the left wing where their reserves are kept within a dozen miles of the East Prussian border.

Defeated at Wyszow Pass. It is cautious that the enemy has now about twenty corps employed in the Carpathians, of which about a quarter are Germans. Their determined attacks on the Wyszow Pass have failed decisively, and the Russians are able to develop a strong offensive. The German strategists in the southern campaign are striving their utmost to impose the lines of the San River as the western boundary for the Russians, and have begun vigorous fighting supported by masses of heavy artillery along the Dunajetz, but the Russians by the prompt capture of Tarnow, with the control both of the roads and railways of western Galicia have anticipated and frustrated the plan for cutting between their western main army and co-operating columns in the Carpathian passes. Two sorties from Przemysl were promptly beaten back, and the blockade is maintained complete.

Allies' Nibbling Tactics Achieving Real Results

While Territory Gained Recently is Small, Germans Have Been Prevented From Striking Decisive Blow—French Army Improves in Personnel and Equipment

LONDON, Feb. 21.—A British military observer stationed with the French army in the field describes the advantages gained in the last few months by the French forces, in a statement given out today by the official information bureau, as follows: "Since the repulse of the Germans by the allied forces in Flanders, no battle of great importance has been fought. If the gain in the small engagements which have taken place is measured only by the amount of ground won, the results are indeed small. A few hundred yards to the north of Arras, a village or two between Arras and the corner of the line nearest Paris, a belt varying from a mile and a half to two hundred yards in breadth to the east of Rheims, and a few miles of what was German territory in Alsace—these areas are all that have been gained, and the enemy's hold on Belgium and northern France is as strong as ever. The British observer, nevertheless, contends that the success of the French army has been very great, and that its work is deserving of the gratitude and admiration of the allied powers. It has kept the German army busily engaged, he says, compelling it frequently to fight under unfavorable circumstances, that the Germans have been unable to withdraw troops for a decisive blow elsewhere. The observer says, the French army has steadily improved in personnel and equipment.

DARDANELLES FORTS PUT OUT OF ACTION

Attack by Anglo-French Fleet Was Apparently Highly Successful.

INFLEXIBLE ENGAGED

Participant in Falkland Islands Battle Effective at Long Range.

LONDON, Feb. 21.—The first attack by the British and French Mediterranean fleets, assisted by aeroplanes and seaplanes, on the Dardanelles fortifications, which commenced Friday and continued yesterday, has met with considerable success, according to the British official account and unofficial reports received at Athens from the island of Tenedos, at the entrance to the straits. The Turkish official report, however, stated that no damage had been done to the fortifications, and that the casualties of the defenders consisted of one killed and one wounded, but that three of the warships were damaged by shots from the forts. The British report said that the fortifications on the European side of the straits were silenced Friday, and that the British fleet, which had just returned from the Falkland Islands where with other ships, she took part in the battle in which Admiral Count Von Sps's German squadron was destroyed, opened a long range bombardment on the forts at Cape Helles and at Kum Kaleh at the entrance to the straits. When these forts had been damaged the battleship force closed in and engaged the forts with their 8.7 and 9-inch guns which, it is believed, must have poured an enormous rain of shells on the Turkish positions.

Big Warships Engaged. The bombardment must have been one of the most serious ever undertaken in the opinion of naval experts, for no less than eight battleships and armored cruisers took part, these warships having a total of thirty 12-inch and six 10-inch guns which outranged the guns of the forts. Early Friday morning this fleet, including the British battle cruiser Indefatigable which had just returned from the Falkland Islands where with other ships, she took part in the battle in which Admiral Count Von Sps's German squadron was destroyed, opened a long range bombardment on the forts at Cape Helles and at Kum Kaleh at the entrance to the straits. When these forts had been damaged the battleship force closed in and engaged the forts with their 8.7 and 9-inch guns which, it is believed, must have poured an enormous rain of shells on the Turkish positions. Besides desiring to bring Turkey to her knees, the allies in their attempt to force the Dardanelles aim at an early victory in the last wheat which is locked up in Russian warehouses and which the allies wish to get out, been to relieve the markets, and to provide Russia with necessary credit to pay for war material bought abroad.

DEFEATED AT OSSOWETZ. PETROGRAD, Feb. 21.—The German forces have been badly beaten at the fortress of Oswowetz, 29 miles north-east of Lomza, in Russian Poland, after a stubborn artillery battle, according to a telegram from the Russian general staff to a high personage here. The Germans are reported to have suffered heavy losses, and are now retreating to the East Prussian frontier.

AUSTRIANS OPEN HEAVY FIRE ON ITALIAN BREWS

Fishing Boats Under National Flag Attacked by Torpedo Boats.

AVIATORS DROP BOMBS

War With Italy Apparently Regarded by Austria as Inevitable.

Canadian Press Despatch. BARI, Italy, via Rome, Feb. 21, 1:15 p.m.—The fishing boat Gessu arrived today from Antivari, Montenegro, and the members of the crew said that the Gessu and the fishing boat Saturno, when flying Italian flags, had been fired upon by two Austrian torpedo boats. This report has caused great excitement in Rome.

Members of the crew of the Gessu said that the vessel was anchored near Antivari with the Saturno when the Austrian torpedo boats approached. The crew of the Gessu fled to the shore and hid in the houses. The Austrian torpedo boats fired upon the Gessu and the Saturno. The crew of the Gessu said that the Austrian torpedo boats were firing upon the Gessu and the Saturno. The crew of the Gessu said that the Austrian torpedo boats were firing upon the Gessu and the Saturno. The crew of the Gessu said that the Austrian torpedo boats were firing upon the Gessu and the Saturno.

FRENCH TAKE WOOD NORTH OF PERTHES

Progress in Champagne Region Followed Up With Brilliant Coup.

PARIS, Feb. 21.—The capture of a wood north of Perthes, in the Champagne district, together with the occupation of the entire German positions commanding this post, after an unsuccessful counter-attack of the enemy, was announced by the French war office tonight. The wood was occupied after the Germans had been exhausted by several unavailing attempts to drive the French soldiers from two miles and a half of trenches taken last week. Seizing an opportunity the Frenchmen made a brilliant charge in pursuit of a column of Germans that had been severely broken up, and entered the bush, which they found had been strongly organized, with trenches and concealed snipers.

Exasperated at losing such considerable ground, the enemy delivered a further onslaught with the object of clearing the French troops out of their new positions. This was repulsed with heavy slaughter, and a rapid charge gave into the hands of the French the whole of the German positions north and east of the wood. Success Near Ypres. Near Ypres the French also drove the Germans from parts of the trenches which they had recently retaken from the French. Attacks elsewhere were repulsed and several hundred men, including officers, were left dead on the field. The French losses were slight. The French troops also followed up their recent progress, particularly north of Les Mesnils in the Champagne region, where two machine guns and 100 prisoners were captured. The seventh German counter-attack on Les Eparges, near Verdun, made in two days, completely failed, and the French held fresh ground that was captured after hostilities back the sixth counter-attack, in which they took 200 prisoners, several officers, three machine guns and two trench mortars. Elsewhere in the Argonne region the fighting has been desultory and of little consequence. In the position captured by the French at Xon the bodies of soldiers from five different regiments were found.

The Germans continue making attacks on the French positions in the Vosges. Three attacks were repulsed here Sunday, one being made on the northern bank of the La Fochat River, and two on the southern bank. The battle continues in this region. 'The Candy Shop' Tonight. The sensational musical comedy, 'The Candy Shop,' in all its splendor and gorgeous pomp, will open a week's engagement tonight at the Princess Theatre.

AMERICAN SHIP WAS SUNK BY MINE OFF GERMAN COAST ENEMY ACTIVE IN IRISH SEA

British, Irish and American Ships Latest Victims of War of Piracy—Reported Loss of British Transport Not Confirmed.

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Berlin reports that a British transport laden with troops and an accompanying steamer have been sunk, but without details. No confirmation is given by the British Admiralty.

The American steamer Evelyn, bound from New York for Bremen, with a cotton cargo, struck a mine near Borkum Island in the North Sea off the German coast on Saturday, and foundered. The crew of 27 men are reported all saved. The Downshire, a small Irish coasting steamer, was sunk by the commander of the German submarine U12 in the Irish sea, Saturday night. After the crew had been given five minutes to take to the boats the vessel was blown up by a bomb. The British steamer Cambank was torpedoed without warning in the Irish sea Saturday morning. Three men were killed by the explosion amidships, and another was drowned. Twenty survivors landed at Liverpool. The American liner Philadelphia, for whose safety grave fears were felt, reached Liverpool yesterday, after traversing the Irish Sea without lights. Italian fishing boats, flying national flags, were fired upon by two Austrian torpedo boats off Antivari, Montenegro, Saturday. One boat was damaged. Norway is deeply angered over the sinking of the tank steamship Belridge, and the government is expected to demand an explanation from Germany and a proper indemnity. If demands are not satisfied recourse to an embargo against all German ships is threatened.

AUSTRIANS DELAY BRINGING ON FIGHT

Russian Position on Right Bank of Pruth River Not Assailed.

MUCH SNIPIING DONE

Reinforcements Awaited Before General Attack is Begun Across Pruth.

ITALY IS PREPARED AND AWAITS EVENTUALITIES

Number of First Line Soldiers Under Colors Totals One Million.

ROME, via Paris, Feb. 21.—The proceedings in the Italian chamber of deputies Saturday were comparatively peaceful, owing probably to the general belief among the deputies that the government has done everything in its power to prepare for eventualities. The first line soldiers under the colors total about 1,000,000, and this mobilization has virtually been accomplished. Should it be necessary, Italy can speedily call to arms the territorial troops for the local garrisons.

FINAL HOCKEY GAME POSTPONED A WEEK

Manager Soliman of the Arena announced that the Victoria-St. Michael's cup final has been postponed from tonight until next Monday owing to injuries to S. M. C. players, Rankin and McCamus, who were in the hospital owing to injuries from the last game, were joined on Saturday by Murphy. He was practicing in the open on Grenadier Pond and received a puck in the eye that completely closed his right optic. The men will be all right by next Monday.

FURS WILL BE DEARER.

In view of recent developments it is quite obvious that most all furs will be dearer next season. For that reason the opportunity offered by the Dineen Company, 140 Yonge street, are really extremely tempting, for they cannot fail to prove a most profitable investment. In the men's department bargains are being offered daily, while women keep coming along almost as fast as at the start of regular season. They realize that such values may not be offered in a long, long time. Don't be one of those with regrets, but visit Dineen's today and decide on your purchase. You can't go wrong.

SEMLIN DAMAGED BY SERBIAN ARTILLERY

Canadian Press Despatch. PARIS, Feb. 21.—A telegram from Nish, Serbia, to the Havas Agency, says that severe damage was inflicted during the recent fighting near Belgrade. The town of Semlin, across the river from Belgrade, was damaged by Serbian artillery during an attack on Austrian monitors. The monument erected in Semlin to Hungary, the famous Hungarian military leader, which was being used by the Austrians as an observation tower, was injured. Several houses were burned.

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