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The Conquest of Poland

(The Nation, Sept. 15)

Brest-Litovsk is Brest in Lithuania. The fortress was part of the system of the Polish defences, but it lies across the River Bug in Russian, as distinguished from Polish, territory. Except for isolated positions on the Niemen and west of their, like Grodno, all of the nine provinces of Poland are in the hands of the enemy. In addition, the greater part of the provinces of Courland and Kovno have been overrun, and the Austro-German armies are now pressing forward into provinces of Volhynia and Grodno. Only along a narrow strip of Galicia east of the Zlota Lipa River do Russian armies stand on foreign soil, and their retirement in this quarter is apparently a matter of days. In just four months the Russian armies have been driven from the crests of the Carpathians and the East Prussian frontier close to the borders of old Russia, before the second partition of Poland in 1793. This has been accomplished in a campaign which, for sweep of operations, the armies engaged, and the sustained energy of the offensive, has no parallel in military history.

The middle of last April witnessed the climax of the Russian effort. In Poland proper at that time there had been a virtual deadlock for nearly two months. The battle-line ran close to the Prussian frontier in the Niemen region, swung further into Polish territory north of the Vistula, crossed that river at the confluence of the Bzura, followed that stream, the Rawka, the Pilica, the Nida, and the Dunajec, in a straight line down to the Carpathians. Here the deadlock ceased. In the mountains the fighting was continuous during the early spring. The northern passes were mastered by the Russians, who penetrated, at one point, twenty miles into Hungary. The centre of the fighting was around Uzsok Pass. With that in Russian hands, the invasion of Hungary on a broad front could be accomplished. Around Uzsok, therefore, the Austrian forces with the German armies sent to their aid, made their great defence, and in the third week of April Vienna was reporting that the Russian attack had been broken.

The Austro-Germans passed immediately to the offensive, but not at the expected point around Uzsok. Instead they hit out along what may be considered the centre of the entire line from the Baltic to the Pruth, namely, on the Dunajec front to the east of Cracow. The attack began with an annihilating bombardment of the Russian positions around Tarnow and Gorlice in the last two days of April. It was a demonstration on an enormous scale of the new tactics of artillery concentration which the British had practiced at Neuve Chapelle. There followed, on May 1, the assault in "phalanx," which was to show that trench warfare had not reduced military operations to deadlock. The Russian line was broken, the Czar's Carpathian armies were taken in flank and rear, with a huge harvest of prisoners, and there began that great retreat which has not yet come to an end. The extraordinary German talent for system has never appeared to better advantage than in the perfect synchronization of the advance of so many great armies on so huge a front.

The routes traversed by the three main divisions of the Teutonic forces referred to in the Berlin dispatches as "army groups" may be briefly described. The southern or von Mackenzon group, now comprising all of the Austrians and the Germans under von Lissingen, have advanced in the course of four months a distance of about 220 miles as measured straight across the map, from the Dunajec and the Carpathians to beyond the Bug. They marched east through Galicia to the San, and pivoted north on the left wing until Lemberg was retaken on June 22. Then the advance was almost due north by way of Lublin towards Brest-Litovsk. It has been the slowest group of the three, its average daily progress being less than two miles. This was due to the fact that they had opposed to them the best of the Russian armies, while on the other hand their own efficiency was probably reduced from the average German level by the presence of the Austrians. Temporary setbacks, such as von Mackenzon's armies encountered at the Dniester and around Lublin, were not experienced by the purely German armies to the north.

The German attack from the north by the von Hindenburg group did not begin till late in June, although subsidiary operations against Lihau and Courland began early in May. Von Hindenburg's armies have covered the least ground of all. From around Prasnysz, which they captured July

15, to the Warsaw-Petrograd Railway, which they have just crossed, they have advanced some eighty miles, only a little faster than von Mackenzon's forces. Von Hindenburg, in turn, had to deal with the chain of great fortresses along the line of the Niemen, the Bobr, and the Narew, from Kovno to Novogeorgievsk. Had he waited for the reduction of the forts in order to advance on a uniform front, his progress would have been much smaller. Instead he threw forward separate armies in the interstices between the Russian strongholds. So to-day the German front here bends and turns.

The armies of the centre, the group of Prince Leopold of Bavaria, started latest of all. These were the forces which for half a year had lain quiet along the Bzura and the Rawka. When the wings of the Russian army had been driven back, the German centre moved. It has travelled with astonishing rapidity. From Warsaw, which fell on August 5, to Kamienetz Litovsk where the centre armies are to-day, they have covered more than 150 miles in three weeks. Yet the several places of the army groups were so adjusted to one another that when Warsaw and Ivangorod fell and the Vistula was crossed, Gen. Hindenburg, Prince Leopold, and Gen Mackenzon touched hands for the final effort, the complete envelopment or destruction of the Czar's armies. That soft curve, like a gigantic sickle, is still sweeping east.

THE PERSISTENT SPY

"Why," I ask, "is it easier to get into France than to get out of it?" And the answer is—spies. No matter the precautions and exertions, spies! There was a frail silver-haired old lady—a spy. There was a stout, fussy gentleman who went about denouncing the Kaiser as a "madman" and a "murderer"—a particularly dangerous spy. Only yesterday in Doupe, arrest of two spies.—John F. Macdonald, in The Fortnightly.

STEBAURMAN'S OINTMENT

I had been suffering from Eczema for four years, I had been to five doctors and they all said they could not do anything for me. I was told about Steburman's Ointment and I bought six boxes, and after using some I was cured, and no return of it since. I guarantee anyone using this ointment for eczema will be cured also.

I remain,
Yours truly,
PETER JOY.
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THE MYTH OF HELIGOLAND

It is Not an Ideal Base And of Little Strategic Value

Her Ballin, the head of the Hamburg-American Line, admits that "the possession of Heligoland does not give the German fleet a desirable base," writes H. C. Fewaby, the naval correspondent of the London Express.

This admission is of extraordinary interest, and so far as I am aware it is the first time that any German has publicly confessed to a belief that has been quite prevalent in British naval circles ever since the famous exchange was made by Lord Salisbury in 1890. We then acquired Zanzibar, which, both for trading and military purposes, is of value, and Germany took over Heligoland. Many people have contended that the exchange was all to our advantage but I have never been able to subscribe to that view.

The geographical position of Heligoland is very favorable. It has been called the key of the German coast defences, but in reality it stands in so isolated a position, so utterly cut off from support by any other land defences, that in the absence of a battle fleet continually at sea in its vicinity, it offers no menace to any raiding warships.

It would be no exaggeration to say that the British fleet could have reduced Heligoland to dust and ashes before now, if that feat had possessed any strategical value. There is deep enough water all round the island to allow our biggest ships to manoeuvre there freely, and as the battle-cruiser squadron under Sir David Beatty showed, neither the minefields nor the German submarine flotillas are an adequate menace to the attacking fleet. Heligoland has only a certain number of big guns in its forts, and those guns cannot be added to unless the High Sea Fleet comes out to its aid.

German strategical ideas are essentially military; as the egregious-Bernhardi most artlessly remarked in his comments on naval warfare, his views "are not confused by any technical naval knowledge, and rest exclusively on general military considerations."

WORLD'S WHEAT CROP SHOWS BIG INCREASE

Roumania Grows 135 Per Cent More Than In 1914

Ottawa, Sept. 1.—A cablegram received to-day by the Department of Agriculture from the International Institute of Agriculture gives the following reports:

Roumania — Wheat production, 108,743,000 bushels, an increase of 135 per cent over last year; rye, 3,150,000, increase of 61 per cent; barley, 23,700,000, decrease of four per cent; oats 24,640,000, increase of 3.4 per cent; corn, 110,232,000 bushels, practically the same amount as last year.

The total production of wheat in Spain, Great Britain and Ireland, Italy, Russia in Europe less Poland, Switzerland, United States, Canada (Winter wheat only), Tunis, Japan, India, Denmark, Netherlands and Roumania is 2,703,000,000 bushels compared with 2,221,000,000 bushels in the same countries as wheatless Canada and India, 1,915,908,000 bushels, an increase of 17.8 per cent over last year. Oats in the same countries as for barley, less Japan, 2,574,000,000, an increase of 23 per cent. Rye in same countries as for oats, less England, Scotland and Tunis, 1,061,704,000, an increase of 18.7 per cent.

Some Knightly Adventures

While the war and the harvesting of the crop are naturally taking up a great deal of attention just now, it is important that the public should keep one eye on what is going on around them. Those who profit by special privilege are not asleep, neither are they so busy with patriotic work that they are overlooking any chance to exploit the people. On the contrary, this world struggle is to many only an opportunity to tighten their grip and to strengthen their powers of exploitation by securing increases of the tariff, by the formation of combines and mergers, and by securing privileges from provincial and Dominion governments.—Grain Growers' Guide.

Beautiful Old English Oak and Leather Furniture

Very handsome is the fine Old English Famed and Mission Oak Furniture we are exhibiting in our first floor showrooms. Upholstered in genuine Leather in Green, Brown and Crimson, and showing in its severely handsome design the acme of furniture-craft, these fine examples are "fit for a king."

¶ We give below a list of some of this furniture and draw our customers' attention to the fact that although some of it is in sets, any single piece of furniture will be sold if requested.

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- Compton, size 0 to 4 from \$3.00 up
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APPLES! APPLES!

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75 Brls. New Apples

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Reserve Force in Canada For Men Over Age of 35

Ottawa, Sept. 3.—The committee appointed some time ago to make arrangements for a reserve militia in Canada, for use in case of emergency, has reported and information in connection with the new body is given in militia orders.

The reserve will consist of such units as are from time to time named by the Government and divisional and district commanders will be responsible for them, the same as for the other corps. No man will be eligible for the reserve who is under 35 years of age, but there is no retiring age limit. Physical fitness, at least for garrison duty, is necessary, and three years in naval or military

forces are essential to the taking of commissions. Drill and training are to be voluntary. The reserve may be called out in time of war, invasion, riot or insurrection, real or apprehended and will be paid and equipped on the same basis as the regular militia. Enrollment is in progress, so that should the occasion arise to supplement the regular militia, the number available and their addresses will be known.

MADE HIM HOPEFUL.

"Yes, she rejected me, but she did it in a most encouraging way."
"How was that?"
"As I went away she pointed to the foot-prints that I had made on the carpet and said, 'The next time you come to propose to me I want you to wipe your shoes clean!'"—Kansas City Star.