bility of postponing the effective give time for negotiations to clar the situation. Secretary Lansing,

A Valuable Toy.

Olive Schreiner, the famous author The Story of an African Farm," o was brought up in Africa, once ters had, as one of their playthings bright stone that they called the dle stone. It was about the size of walnut, and would flash in a bright d singular way when held up to the Not until the children had own up and the candle stone had een lost for years did any of them alize that it must have been a huge



Harry Layden as "Willie Watt" in Harry Lauder's new comedy, "The Night Before," at the Grand Opera House, Feb. 23.

The annual official directory and ensus of the Episcopal Church in America shows an increase in mempership of between 2 and 3 per cent. registered in the

vers

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GREAT FORTRESS OF ERZERUM FALLS TO MUSCOVITE FORCES

Grand Duke Nicholas Adds Another Triumph to His Many Gained in This War and Announces Capture of Great Turkish Stronghol din the Caucasus.

London, Feb. 17.—Led by Grand Duke Nicholas, the Russian Army of the Caucasus has captured the great Turkish fortress of Erzerum, in eastern Asia Minor.

The following official statement was given out last night in Petrograd:

"Grand Duke Nicholas has telegraphed to the Emperor as follows:

"God has granted to the brave troops of the army of the Caucasus such great help that Erzerum has been taken after five days of unprecedented assaults,

"'I am inexpressibly happy to an-

knees.

More than 80,000 Turkish troops were locked up in Erzerum with the investment of the fortress, according to all desoatches. Two noted German leaders, Field Marshals von der Coltz and Limon von Sanders, have recently been reported at Erzerum. It is not yet known whether they escaped.

UNPARALLELED CAMPAIGN

First he succeeded in defeating the German campaign to encircle and cut off the bulk of the Russian forces around Warsaw. The city was lost but the troops were successfully withdrawn. Again, at Brest-Litovsk, the Grand Duke succeeded in leading his

troops of the army of the Caucasus such great help that Erzerum has been taken after five days of unprecedented assaults.

"I am inexpressibly happy to announce this victory to your Imperial Majesty."

RELIEVE BRITISH AT KUT.

Thousands of Turks were taken prisoners when the fortress fell, and great stores of munitions and supplies fell into the hands of the victorious troops, it is believed. The blow is the most serious yet struck at Turkey. Early relief of the British forces operating in Mesopotamia, including the beleaguered garrison of Kut-el-Amara, is predicted.

The fall of Erzerum is expected to open the way for a huge advance by the Russians through eastern Armenia in the spring. Constantinople itself might be imperilled. By the contemplated drive the Russians, it is said, hope to bring Turkey to her knees.

MASHED TOK CENTRE

To meet this flank movement the Turks likewise had to push forwar! Into Persia. But they had not the numbers to match the Russians, and in order to avoid being outflanked far to the south on the road from Hamadan to Bagdad, they had to thin their lines perilously at the Turkish centre to protect the flank movement the Turks likewise had to push forwar!

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Old World Notes

Greenock corporation has adopted a scheme for the building of a number of workmen's cottages of three rooms Grand Duke succeeded in leading his and kitchen. Ten acres of ground have men out of the snare.

TURK CITY FOR CENTURIES.

Early in September Grand Duke

Early in September Grand Duke Nicholas was removed from command by his Imperial cousin, Czar Nicholas. Official announcement was made on September 8th last that, Russian soil having been invaded, the Czar had decided himself to take direct command of all the military and naval forces, and that the Grand Duke had been appointed Viceroy of the Caucasus and commander of the troops in that district.

Erzerum, a city of 40,000, is about sixty miles west of the Russian frontier. It is surrounded by a stone wall built by the Turks three centuries ago. On the eastern side a high mountain ridge outside the wall protects the city from attack from the Russian Caucasus. All along this ridge were located most of the stronger forts.

ERMOVES SERIOUS OBSTACLE

ridge were located most of the stronger forts.

REMOVES SERIOUS OBSTACLE
The capture of Erzerum removes a serious obstacle from the path of the advancing Russians. They are in a position now to move southward along Lake Van to cut the line of communications of the Turkish force in Mesopotamia.

From the Black Sea to Lake Van the southern slopes of the Caucasus form a series of parallel mountain chains, with wide, deep valleys between, all trending to the southwest. The mountains are from 6,000 to 10.

The fishery board for Scotland has

tween, all trending to the southwest. The mountains are from 6,000 to 10,000 feet high, and so wild and rugged as to be virtually impassable.

COMMANDS MANY ROADS.

There are only a few valleys with roads practicable for an army of which the principal are the road from Batoum via Ardahan to Tortum and thence to Trebizond; from Kars to Erzerum, and from Erivan to Melazghert and thence to Musch. Nearly all the fighting in the Caucasus has been along one or another of these three roads. From the beginning the nature of the country has compelled the Caucasus campaigns, nearly independent of each other. There can be little co-operation between troop's be little co-operation between troop's market for as great a quantity of herdependent of each other. There can be little co-operation between troops on opposite sides of a 10,000 foot mountain range.

The Russian flank movement began in late January, 1915, immediately after the destruction of the Turkish invading army at Ardahan. They pushed south from the lower Arassa but this, of course, is only in sympathy asset of Mount Ararat, and occupied Tabris; then pushed on and labor throughout the country. Successible of the country.

PARALYSED AND HELPLESS

Prominent Merchant Restored to Health by "Fruit-a-tives"

BRISTOL, N.B., July 25th, 1914. "I had a stroke of Paralysis in March and this left me unable to walk or help myself and the Constipation was terrible. Finally, I took 'Fruit-a-tives' for the Constipation. This fruit medicine gradually toned up the nerves and actually relieved the paralysis. By the use of 'Fruit-a-tives' I grew stronger until all the palsy left me. I am now well and attend my store every day."

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in the Firth of Clyde, over one fourth of the landings of herrings for the month being attributable to this area.

The Royal College of Science has opened a department in Dublin for special in sphagnum moss dressings. It is open two days a week, and between thirty and forty workers assist in the sorting and picking over of the moss, making up of the muslin pads, filling with prepared moss and labelling. There is an increasing demand for dressings of all sorts for labelling. There is an increasing demand for dressings of all sorts for Allies' hospitals, and as Ireland has a fine natural supply of sphagnum moss, the question of connecting the two is of economic importance, especially as the use of sphagnum will conserve the dwindling supply of cotton wool The sub-depots throughout the country are co-operating in collecting and making up the moss, and private individuals have been sending consignments of the moss, dried.

The Russian campaign was unparalleled in military history. The advance was pressed across a bleak and rugged country, over mourtains and through narrow defiles in great cold. Russian official reports state that at places the soldiers fought their advance through snow fifteen feet deep. The Grand Duke's message was received shortly after a report from his headquarters that nine of the defending forts of Ezzerum had been taken with the bayonet. The Russian soldiers were up the Mountain sides and swarmed through gaps made by the heavy guns.

GRAND DUKE IN COMMAND Grand Duke Nicholas took command on the Russian southern front less than five months ago. Immediately the Russian forces, which had been inactive, began to develop the field of Ezzerum.

The Grand Duke is considered by military experts to be one of the graciest strategists developed by the war. From the outbreak of hostilities until carly in September last how as Commander-in-chief of the Russian during the Austro-German offensive of last sumer, twice saving his armies from what threatened to be fatal traps.

First he succeeded in defeating the First he succeeded in defeating the control of the control

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