

GRAND DUKE'S FORCES CLOSING IN ON TURKS' MOST IMPORTANT MILITARY POSITION IN ASIA MINOR

TURKS FLEEING BEFORE RUSSIANS IN CAUCASUS

Abandoning Big Guns and Supplies As Russians Close In On Town of Erzingan.

Grand Duke's Army, Following Series of Gains Achieved by Skillfully Organized Offensive Are Moving on Turks' Chief Base in Asia Minor in Three Directions.

Advices from the eastern front today are meagre, but the Grand Duke's troops are gradually closing in on Erzingan, the most important base and military position of the Turks in Asia Minor, while General Sakharoff continues his successful advance. According to a Berlin despatch, by way of Amsterdam, Turkish troops are to be sent to help the Austro-Germans against the Russians on the Galician front.

Turks Flee in Disorder.

Petrograd, July 25, via London, July 26.—The official communication from general headquarters, issued this evening, reads:

"On the front of the River Slonevka, an affluent of the Styx, the passage of our troops continues without interruption under the fire of the enemy. During today's offensive we took 1,000 prisoners, and also four cannon and five machine guns, which we turned against the enemy.

"In the Caucasus our offensive towards Erzingan continues. The Turks, closely followed by our troops, are fleeing, abandoning along the road, cannons, rifles and munitions."

Advancing From Three Directions.

Petrograd, July 25, via London.—The Russian operations against the Turks, which lately have been overshadowed by the more sensational events on General Brusiloff's front, are now recapturing general attention. As a result of a series of consecutive gains achieved by a skillfully organized offensive, which ever since the fall of Erzerum has been slowly but irresistibly sweeping toward the objective in Asia Minor, the Caucasus armies now command the heights which definitely threaten the important Turkish base of Erzingan, and make the fall of this city in the near future extremely probable. The Russians, after having stolidly withstood most energetic counter-attacks with out weakening, are now pressing forward in the three directions—from Gumlab-Khanah, forty-five miles north of Erzingan, from Balbur, fifty miles northeast of Erzingan, and from Mamakhatum, forty-five miles east of Erzingan, all of which points have recently been occupied by the Russians and from an arc from which to focus attacks upon Erzingan.

The new points mentioned as having been occupied by the Russians possessed every natural advantage for defense, and the Turks made the most persistent efforts to hold them. Their loss not only brings the Russians within twenty-five miles of Erzingan, but gives them command of the chief approaches to the city. It is reliably reported here that the evacuation of Erzingan has already begun, and that the present defence of the city is being conducted only with the purpose of giving the Turks time to withdraw to a new base at Sivas, 120 miles to the west. There being no railway system between Erzingan and Sivas, the Turks, apparently, are attempting to avoid a repetition of their flight at Erzerum and Trebizond, where they gave themselves insufficient time for an orderly withdrawal, and allowed their forces to be divided and surrounded by the advancing Russians.

On the other fronts in the Russian theatres the situation is virtually unchanged.

Repulse Attack Near Lutsk.

Petrograd, July 25, via London.

"Our flotilla on Lake Miedziel, east of Lake Narocz, fired during the night, on nearly all the positions of the enemy situated on the banks.

"In the district of Sirov, southeast of Baranovichi, attempts made by detachments of the enemy to advance were repulsed by our fire.

"Two German aeroplanes flew over

our positions in the district north of Lutsk, and threw some bombs without causing any damage. We repulsed an attack of the enemy in the direction of Lutsk, in the district of Semlki.

"In the street fighting during our advance in the village of Galtchanie, mentioned in the morning communication of July 24, we captured two more guns and took 77 Austro-German prisoners.

"During the night of July 24 gallant regiments, under General Sakharoff, broke through the wire entanglements of the enemy at the River Slonevka. In the region of Leshnya a furious battle is proceeding.

"In the evening of July 24, west of Burkanow, one of our aeroplanes was hit by the enemy's artillery fire. It burst into flames and fell inside the enemy's front lines. It is supposed the gallant aviators, Staff Captain Sardize and Lieut. Ritchoff, perished as heroes.

"In the region of Briaza, Fundul, Moldava and west of Kimpolung (Carpathian mountains), three enemy regiments made an attack upon our cavalry. One of our gunners, Letchkin, who resisted the attack, continued to work his gun, in spite of the fact that his hand was torn away by a grenade, until the gun was removed from the line. The enemy was repulsed.

"On the 23rd of July forty-nine brave Cossacks made an attack on the enemy in the region of Gurafontina, 30 versts (about 30 miles) northwest of Kimpolung. They took seven officers and 57 men prisoners."

NO CHANGE IN FOREIGN POLICY OF RUSSIAN GOVT

Petrograd, July 25, via London (4.45 p. m.).—Russia's foreign policy will not undergo any change under the direction of Boris V. Sturmer, the successor to Sergius Sazonoff in the ministry of foreign affairs, according to an announcement made today by Michael V. Rodzianko, the president of the Duma.

M. Rodzianko had an interview with M. Sturmer, who declared that, as hitherto any action Russia might take would only be taken with the full knowledge and accord of the Russian Allies and on behalf of their common interests.

London, July 25.—Thomas Hughes Kelly, of New York, treasurer of the Irish Relief Fund, and his wife and assistant, Joseph Smith, were refused permission today to land in England, or cross England to take a Dutch steamer back to the United States from Southampton.

The American embassy, to which Mr. Kelly protested, was informed by the British home office that the Kelly party must return to the United States by the American line steamship Philadelphia, on which vessel they arrived at Liverpool yesterday. Under no circumstances, officials of the home office said, would the party be permitted to land in the United Kingdom.

CARSON AND REDMOND MAY SAVE THE DAY

Working Together May Override Objections from Other Quarters.

DILLON TO ASK GOVT TO SHOW ITS HAND.

Discussion will be Re-opened if General Desire is Shown by Members of House, Asquith Promises.

London, July 25.—Parliament managed today to steer clear of the prickly Irish problem, except for a statement by Premier Asquith to the effect that the parts of the home rule agreement approved by John Redmond, the Nationalist leader, and Sir Edward Carson, the Unionist leader in Ulster, would be published as soon as possible, and that if there was a general desire on the part of the House, the premier would offer facilities for an other discussion of the home rule question.

The feeling tonight is more favorable to an agreement ultimately being reached, the belief being that with Mr. Redmond and Sir Edward Carson in harmony means will be found to override objections from other quarters.

No formal cabinet meeting was held today, but Premier Asquith conferred privately with David Lloyd George, secretary for war; Arthur J. Balfour, first lord of the admiralty, and Andrew Bonar Law, secretary for the colonies. After this conference Mr. Asquith went to the palace for a conference with the King, which is supposed to have been connected with the Irish difference.

A number of informal conferences between the party leaders were held today. A meeting of the Irish parliamentary party will be convened tomorrow in the House of Commons to discuss the situation, and consider plans for future action by the party.

John Dillon, member of parliament for East Mayo, has given notice of a motion in the House in which he will ask the government, in view of its failure to produce the promised home rule bill, to disclose its plan for the future government of Ireland during the continuance of the war.

Archbishop Walsh issues Letter.

Dublin, July 25.—Most Rev. William J. Walsh, archbishop of Dublin, has issued a letter to the public, condemning the conduct of the home rule cause in parliament, and holding that it could only lead to disaster. The letter of the archbishop says that the country now "faces a truly awful prospect" and that "Nationalists should no longer be fooled by party cries that home rule is on the statute book."

It has been several years since Archbishop Walsh has taken any part in politics, and this pronouncement at such a juncture greatly adds to the Irish party's embarrassment.

TREASURER OF IRISH RELIEF FUND REFUSED ADMITTANCE TO ENGLAND

London, July 25.—Thomas Hughes Kelly, of New York, treasurer of the Irish Relief Fund, and his wife and assistant, Joseph Smith, were refused permission today to land in England, or cross England to take a Dutch steamer back to the United States from Southampton.

The American embassy, to which Mr. Kelly protested, was informed by the British home office that the Kelly party must return to the United States by the American line steamship Philadelphia, on which vessel they arrived at Liverpool yesterday. Under no circumstances, officials of the home office said, would the party be permitted to land in the United Kingdom.

APPAM'S GOLD TO BE TURNED OVER TO THE REICHSTAG

Berlin, July 25, via London, July 25.—The prize court has decided that the Elder-Dampier liner Appam, which was captured by the German raider Mowee in the early part of the year, and taken by a prize crew into Hampton Roads, is a good prize, and the accordingly the gold on board the steamer, amounting to 733,000 marks, shall be turned over to the Reichstag.

There have been various estimates of the amount of gold on board the Appam when she was captured, but no official statement concerning it has been made. The estimates ranged from less than \$200,000 to as high as \$2,500,000. The Appam is still in Newport News.

Main Russian Forces in Southern Carpathians 3 Miles from Hungary

New York, July 25.—A Journal despatch from Copenhagen today says:

"The Petrograd correspondent of the newspaper Politiken, estimates that General Von Linsingen's German army, which has been bearing the brunt of the Russian assaults on the Lipa river in Volhynia, has lost 80,000 men, or one-third of its whole effective forces.

"It is further reported from Petrograd that the main Russian forces fighting in the southern Carpathians are now only three miles from the Hungarian frontier."

Germans Doped With Ether to Keep Up Their Courage

Brilliant Work by British in Attack on Pozieres—Huns Use Long Handled Mace Studded with Nails Such as an Apache Would Use—English Lieutenant with Bullet Hole in Stomach Finishes Duel with Adversary whom He Killed.

Paris, July 25.—The fighting in the fortified village of Pozieres between the British and the Germans is described as follows:

"Early Sunday morning, at the moment the signal for the attack was given, after a frightfully intense bombardment, the British infantry rushed forward to the entrance of the village, carried it brilliantly and occupied the first houses. At 11.30 o'clock the Germans counter-attacked. Their onset was extraordinary, doubtless because their courage had been stimulated by ether, as one could tell from the odor.

"Here the rifle played no part—the knife, bayonet, sword and the long handled mace, studded with nails, such as an Apache might use, not a soldier. I saw a German officer using one of them on a wounded comrade, but as he was in the act of striking, a revolver shot laid him down beside his intended victim.

"In a ruined house a German squad with a machine gun was exterminated, to the last man, with the bayonet by an Australian party which had followed them into the house. I was present at an exciting duel between two officers—an English lieutenant, who was charging at the head of his men, and a Bavarian captain. The lieutenant struck the Bavarian a blow in the chest with his sword, and at the same instant he received a ball from his adversary's revolver in the stomach. Disregarding his sufferings the lieutenant had just strength enough left to deliver another blow. This proved mortal to the Bavarian. Unfortunately the lieutenant died shortly afterwards.

"Pressed by strong enemy forces the English had to retreat during the afternoon, but they strongly counter-attacked, and at seven o'clock were masters of three-quarters of the village. By last accounts fighting was still going on in the northwest part of the village, to the advantage of the Allies."

YOUTHFUL BANDITS IN AMHERST COURT

Held Up Lad on Way Home and Robbed Him of His Father's Pay Envelope.

Special to The Standard.

Amherst, N. S., July 25.—Two small boys, Clovis Burke and James Larette, of Joggias, were today found guilty of robbery with violence. A little chap, at the mines, who was taking home his father's pay, was their victim. One of the accused youths threw the youngster down and held him while the other went through his pockets. As a result they were enriched by the sum of fifty-four dollars, but their arrest immediately followed and this morning they came before Judge Patterson at the regular sitting of the county court. Larette was a familiar figure in the eyes of the judge, for previously he had been sentenced to a term in St. Patrick's Home. Rather than go he nearly severed his hand with a broad knife while still an inmate of the county jail. On the present occasion Larette was sentenced to serve four years in the Home at Halifax. Burke escaped with a lighter sentence, being given but three years.

PRESS COMMENTS ON IRISH SITUATION

Dublin, July 25.—Commenting on the Irish situation the Irish Times today says:

"A political truce must be restored by agreement. There must be an agreement on the necessity for a just and firm administration in Ireland during the period of the war. The present blunders have increased that necessity, and only disloyal or short sighted Nationalists will arrest measures which the government must take, without further delay, for the maintenance of peace and safety in Ireland. If this necessity be generally accepted the way may become clear for further developments in the unity among Irishmen."

Freeman's Journal says:

"The defense was pitiable. It impressed and will impress no one. A solemn agreement will be flung to the winds without cause or justification. The government alone is responsible. The British public was willing to ratify the agreement, the British press supported the arrangement, and the Irish party stood by its contract. The government alone was found without faith and without courage. The consequences are obvious. It will be harder than ever to induce the Irish people to credit either the good faith or the intentions of British statesmen. The breach of faith will inflame feelings almost sufficiently inflamed by the blunders of the coalition."

The Irish Independent says:

"Every honest Irish Nationalist will rejoice at the disappearance of the hateful and nefarious scheme of Lloyd George and the government to divide and dismember Ireland."

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TROOPS FROM VERDUN TO CHECK BRITISH DRIVE

Germans Rushing All Men Available To Defend Their Third Line On Somme Front.

British Making Progress in Spite of Stubborn Resistance, Maintain All Ground Won And Break Up Counter-Attacks—Hand-to-Hand Conflicts Feature of Fighting.

London, July 25.—The battle on the Somme front, which began Saturday at midnight, and has continued since, with brief lulls, is still being waged by the British and Germans with the utmost stubbornness. An indication of the importance the Germans attach to defending their third line is found in the report of General Haig, the British commander, and in the German admission that troops have been brought before Verdun in order to lend all possible strength to General Von Einem.

The British, if they are making but slow progress, have been able to repulse all the fierce German counter-attacks and fully maintain their ground, although the fighting largely consists of hand-to-hand conflicts. There is no news as to whether the Australians, who hold the greater portion of the village of Pozieres, have yet secured the eastern part, which is on the plateau dominating the village. But Gen. Haig tonight reports the repulse of a German infantry attack from the east.

At Close Grips.

London, July 25.—There were fierce hand-to-hand combats and bomb fighting at various points along the front in Northern France during the day, says an official statement given out by the war office tonight. An attack by German infantry on the village of Pozieres from the northeast was driven back by the British artillery fire.

"Throughout the day there were fierce hand-to-hand combats and bomb fighting at various places along the battle front. The Germans attempted an infantry attack on Pozieres from the northeast this afternoon, but were driven back by our artillery fire.

"Between the Ancre and the sea no important incident occurred."

MAJORITY OF SINN FEIN PRISONERS TO BE RELEASED

Tribunal Hearing Appeals will Make this Recommendation—Casement to Die August 3.

London, July 26.—The committee which has been sitting as a tribunal to hear the appeals of the Sinn Fein prisoners will conclude its inquiry within a few days and present its report to the home office, with recommendations as to the manner of dealing with the prisoners.

The proceedings have been private, but, according to the London morning papers, the tribunal will advise the release of a majority of the 2,000 prisoners.

The announcement that Roger Casement will be executed August 3 has caused no surprise, as it was certain that a date for the execution would be set. The question of a reprieve is still in abeyance, as strong influences are being exerted in behalf of the leader of the Irish rebellion.

The Daily News, referring to the tribunal's recommendations, says:

"There is no doubt that the government will accept this advice and a great many of these prisoners will then return to their homes as a sign of the clemency of the imperial government. This doubtless will have some mollifying influence on the disquieting condition in Ireland. The tribunal has been very careful in the

KAISER'S SON-IN-LAW INSANE?

Unconfirmed Report that Duke of Brunswick Crazy as Result of Experience on Russian Front.

London, July 26.—The Copenhagen correspondent of the Express sends a story regarding the illness of the Duke of Brunswick, the German Emperor's son-in-law, the story, however, not being confirmed from any other source.

"The Duke of Brunswick," says the correspondent, "who has been the victim of profound melancholia since the early days of the war, is now declared to be hopelessly insane. His mental collapse was the result of a trying experience while commanding a detachment of German troops on the Russian frontier, when he witnessed the tragic fate of his men, all of whom were swallowed up in a treacherous marsh."

The Duke of Brunswick as Prince Ernest Augustus of Cumberland, married Princess Victoria Louise, daughter of the German Emperor, at Berlin in May, 1913. In March, 1915, a Copenhagen despatch reported the Duke to be suffering from a nervous breakdown, which was considered probably incurable.

LONDON, ONT., IN GRIP OF SEVERE ELECTRICAL STORM

London, Ont., July 25.—An electrical storm broke over London early this afternoon, leaving in its wake a misery toll of destruction. More than 1,000 telephones were put out of commission, while private property damage of large proportions is being reported. Military camps were levelled, their accommodations being washed away in the flood. There have been no accounts, so far, of any deaths here as a result of the storm.

Management of the proceedings and noise of the prisoners have been treated as enemies. Many who came before the tribunal in sullen mood have left it in cheery temper and in the belief that they will receive justice."