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THE MAIL AND ADVOCATE

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BULGARIANS CHECKED BY FRENCH FORCES

By Joining With Serbs French Inflict Severe Defeat on Bulgars at Kirovolak—British Forces Follow French and Cause Retirement of Bulgarians Towards Strumitza

SERBIA'S POSITION NOW SAID TO BE IMPROVED

Fighting in France Results in Many Gains for the Allies—Germans are Kept Busy on all Fronts but Claim Some Gains Against Russians

LONDON, Oct. 25.—While the Austro-German and Bulgarian campaigns in Northern and Eastern Serbia, is being carried out according to plan, despite the fierce Serbian resistance, the Bulgars who crossed the Timok and hold the town of Prahovo, and are separated from the Germans who crossed the Danube near Orsova by only a few miles south, things are not going so well for the invaders. In the latter region the French troops have joined hands with the Serbs, and, according to French accounts, inflicted a severe defeat on the Bulgarians at Kirovolak, forty miles north of a point where the Salonika-Nish railway crosses the Serbo-Greek frontier. This success places the Bulgarians, who reached Istip, Veles and Uskub, in a rather awkward position for further advance, as the Allied army would seriously threaten their flank. In fact unofficial reports state that the advance of the French, who are being closely followed by the British, have already caused the retirement of the Bulgars towards Strumitza.

The first desire of the Germans is to open the route through North-eastern Serbia and Bulgaria to Turkey, and this is on the eve of being accomplished. On the other hand, military writers here do not believe that the position of Serbia is so desperate as has been painted. It is serious, but they point out that the Serbians have many natural defensive positions in the mountains, in which they can hold out for weeks, and that with British, French and other members of the Quadruple Powers carrying out their determination to help Serbia by rushing reinforcements to Salonika and other points, the Bulgars will have a warm reception, and that the Germans and Turks are being fully occupied elsewhere and will not be able to send them much help. British correspondents in France have just disclosed the fact, made known to them by the British staff, that even after the Anglo-French offensive in September, the Germans had the greatest difficulty in securing reinforcements to meet the adventure, and had to call on men just returned from Russia for a rest, to fill the gaps in the Western lines. From this it is argued that the Germans cannot spare a great many men for the Balkans, as the Russians are keeping them fairly busy from the Baltic to the Roumanian border. The Italians, by their offensive, are compelling the Austrians to strengthen their lines. The French, by the capture to-day of the strongly fortified salient north of Mesnil, in Cham-

French Meet Further Success

PARIS, Oct. 25.—In the Champagne our troops yesterday won an important success. The enemy occupied, in front of their second position, a salient, strongly organized, and which had resisted all our previous attacks in its southwestern part in the northern slopes of Hill 196, at point two kilometres (one and a quarter miles) to the north of Mesnil les Hurius. This salient included a very important position called Un LaCour-tine, which we have captured after heavy fighting. La Cour-tine extended for a distance of 1,200 yards. An important success by French troops in the Champagne district is announced by the French War Office this afternoon. In spite of fierce resistance, French troops, following a preparatory artillery fire, occupied an important position known as La Cour-tine. The losses of the Germans are described as serious and the French took 200 prisoners.

Greek Prince At Salonika

PARIS, Oct. 25.—The departure of Crown Prince George of Greece, last night for Salonika, is reported by the Havas correspondent at Athens. The Prince was accompanied by a large staff. The purpose of the trip, it is said, is to inspect the garrison at Salonika.

Does Not Occupy Serbian Territory

ATHENS, Oct. 25.—A semi-official Note to the Press denies categorically the various reports in Austro-Hungarian newspapers that Greece is occupying Drivan and Civiget to protect Salonika, or is occupying an other portion of Serbian territory. GRADECK, Serbia Oct. 23 via Paris Oct. 25.—The double attempt by the Bulgarians to cut the railway at Veles and at the Velandovo sector has been completely defeated. Yesterday and Friday the attack on Veles was given up and the entire available Bulgarian strength was directed southward from Istip along the Gradeskar River spreading out over a five miles front and comprising the villages of Rabocovo, Volandovo, Pirude, Vesezel, Kalova, Kachova and Hodova, its objective being the short stretch of railway running along the east bank of the Vardar river between two bridges where it is most pregnable at Strulitza station. Although furious, the attack immediately developed the inferiority of the Bulgarians in contact with the experienced troops of France and Great Britain. Heavy losses are reported along the line of Bulgarians, who are withdrawing up the Gradeskar Valley, leaving the French in victorious possession of the railway from Salonika to Neegoting, beyond which point the line is not threatened. The French losses are slight. General Serrail, the French Commander-in-Chief, in a statement to the Associated Press, characterized the Bulgarian reports of their advances as "fantastic. Nowhere, he says have they advanced beyond a few undefended points of no military value. An offensive movement of the Allies seems imminent.

OFFICIAL BRITISH

(To the Governor of Newfoundland.) LONDON, Oct. 25.—General French reports only artillery activity, mining and air encounters. In Givenchy and Champagne regions further German counter-attacks have been repulsed. In Lorraine an enemy trench has been captured, after stubborn fighting. Later, in Champagne, a very important work, forming a salient before the enemy's second line, has been captured. The enemy's losses were serious and two hundred prisoners were taken. Russian forces have landed on the Courland coast at the mouth of the Gulf of Riga. The Germans have captured the village of Repe, near Riga, and Ilukst, near Dvinsk. The Italian offensive continues about three thousand prisoners have been captured on the Carso front. The Bulgarians claim to have captured Uskub.—BONAR LAW.

A New Demand Made to Greece

NEW YORK, Oct. 25.—A News Agency despatch from Paris says that all the Entente Powers have joined in a new demand that Greece make a definite decision at once as to whether it shall support Germany or the Allies. A despatch from Athens to-day says that ex-Premier Venizelos has summoned all his supporters to Athens.

FRENCH ROUT THE BULGARS

Allies Now in Victorious Possession of Railway—Bulgarians are no Match for Franco-British Soldiers GRADECK, Serbia Oct. 23 via Paris Oct. 25.—The double attempt by the Bulgarians to cut the railway at Veles and at the Velandovo sector has been completely defeated. Yesterday and Friday the attack on Veles was given up and the entire available Bulgarian strength was directed southward from Istip along the Gradeskar River spreading out over a five miles front and comprising the villages of Rabocovo, Volandovo, Pirude, Vesezel, Kalova, Kachova and Hodova, its objective being the short stretch of railway running along the east bank of the Vardar river between two bridges where it is most pregnable at Strulitza station. Although furious, the attack immediately developed the inferiority of the Bulgarians in contact with the experienced troops of France and Great Britain. Heavy losses are reported along the line of Bulgarians, who are withdrawing up the Gradeskar Valley, leaving the French in victorious possession of the railway from Salonika to Neegoting, beyond which point the line is not threatened. The French losses are slight. General Serrail, the French Commander-in-Chief, in a statement to the Associated Press, characterized the Bulgarian reports of their advances as "fantastic. Nowhere, he says have they advanced beyond a few undefended points of no military value. An offensive movement of the Allies seems imminent.

OFFICIAL CASUALTY LIST

- FIRST NEWFOUNDLAND REGIMENT OCTOBER 26, 1915 975—Private William John Murphy, Conception Harbour; kill in action, October 9th. 13—Private Robert Cecil Grieve, 24 Monkstown Road; wounded, October 10th. 105—Corporal Alfred Marrs, Halbeath Lodge, Lochmeter, Scotland; wounded, October 8th. 728—Private Charles William Brown, Tack's Beach, Ragged Island, P.B.; gunshot wound in addition to dangerously ill. 523—Private Thomas Joseph Smyth, 11 Bond Street; dysentery, severe; in hospital at Alexandria, October 1st. 934—Private Heber John Miles, Bonavista; recently arrived in London, rheumatic fever. 180—Private Herbert Stephen Heater, Harbour Grace; enteric fever. OCTOBER 26, 1915 345—Private William White, Loon Bay, N.D.B. Died of wounds Hospital ship "Galeka," October 17th. 616—Private Eric Shannon Martin, 294 Hamilton Avenue. Wounded severely. 265—Private William James Somerton, Bell Island. Wounded severely. Second Lieutenant Cyril B. Carter, St. John's. Dangerously ill Alexandria, October 23rd. J. R. BENNETT, Colonial Secretary.

Bernier Doubts Peary's Claims

OTTAWA, Oct. 25.—Capt. Bernier, returned recently from an Arctic exploration trip, who is in Ottawa to-day, supported the theory which he says is entertained by many men who know the Arctic, that Peary did not really reach the North Pole. While he does not definitely hold that Peary did not accomplish what he claimed, Bernier states that the variations north on April 8th, the date of the Polar discovery, were so great that only the most unsatisfactory observation could be made, and that Peary might have been anywhere from one to thirty miles off his calculations. Bernier also cites the failure of the MacMillan expedition to find land at the point where Peary reported he discovered it.

French Troops Brilliant Work

PARIS, Oct. 25.—French troops have gained a brilliant success by effecting a junction with the Serbs at Kirovolak, says a despatch to the "Petite Parisien," from Athens. A despatch, dated Sunday, says the Bulgarians were attacking in three columns when our troops, by a daring manoeuvre, turned the Bulgarian's right flank, while the Serbs launched an energetic attack along the front. At the end of the day the Bulgarians beat a retreat in the direction of Strumitza, pursued by French troops and Serbian cavalry. Bulgarian operations against Pirov were fruitless, therefore, they seem to intend to concentrate their efforts on Vranja and are trying an attack en masse on the fortifications and positions occupied by the Serbs at Vlanjina.

OFFICIAL BULGARIAN.

SOFIA, Oct. 25.—An official communication issued here concerning the capture of Uskub, Serbia, by the Bulgarians, follows:—"Our troops inflicted a decisive defeat on the Serbian troops in the neighbourhood of Uskub, and we finally occupied the town." The enemy, with more than 500 men killed or wounded, was thrown back on Katchchar, a defile of our troops pursuing them in that direction. "On other fronts there are no important changes."

Sunday to be Day of Rest

ROME, Oct. 25.—All the belligerent Powers have granted the request of Pope Benedict that Sunday be made a day of absolute repose for prisoners of war. Several of the countries, in their replies, said they already had been observing this rule.

CONDEMNNS ARMENIAN MASSACRES

Former British Ambassador to U. S. Says Turks Decided to Destroy Whole Armenian Population in a Cold Blooded Manner LONDON, Oct. 25.—Viscount Bryce, former British Ambassador at Washington, speaking at Manchester to-day in condemnation of the Armenian massacres said:—"The Turkish Government made up its mind after the war started to destroy the whole Armenian population. It was avowed by some members of the Turkish Government that their motive was to ensure there should be no element throughout the country which was not Mohammedan. Fanaticism has nothing to do with it. The Turkish Government feared to begin its sanguinary work until April, when the course of the war then convinced them they could embark upon their bloody work secure from interference. No other incident connected with the war, he declared, could compare in magnitude with the horrors of the Armenian massacres, but protests now could accomplish nothing, and all that the British people could do was to send all the help possible to the Armenian refugees.

Tit For Tat

PARIS, Oct. 25.—The transit of Bulgarian merchandise over Roumanian territory has been stopped, because of objections raised by Bulgaria to the passage of goods from Salonika for Roumania, according to a Bucharest despatch.

Great Prohibition Meeting for Men!

At the CASINO THEATRE, on Wednesday Evening, October 27th. Chairman: Hon. Robert Watson. Speakers: Hon. J. Harvey, Hon. J.A. Robinson, J.F. Downey, M.H.A., H.E. Cowan and J.M. Devine, Esqs. Doors open at 7.30. Chair to be taken at 8 o'clock. Admission Free. All are Welcome. ALEX. A. PARSONS, Hon. Sec'y Gen. Committee. Other Messages On Page 3

NEW ORDER IN COUNCIL AND NEUTRAL SHIPPING

Do Not Want Conscription

LONDON, Oct. 25.—A manifesto opposing conscription has been issued by a small number of members of Parliament. Among the reasons given for such opposition is that a compulsory system would so deplete the ranks of the industrial workers that Britain would be unable to meet her obligations assumed on behalf of the Allies, to supply them with stores and ammunition and give them substantial financial help. It is further declared that conscription would arouse bitter opposition among the workmen, and irretrievably destroy the national unity, which is essential to the successful prosecution of the war. The manifesto is signed by Right Hon. Hobbhouse, a former member of the British cabinet, chairman; Percy Alden, Liberal member for Tottenham division of Middlesex, who has written much on the question of "unemployed," as vice-chairman; John Howard Whitehouse, Liberal member for Lanarkshire, also identified with labor reform, as secretary.

Insurance Rates Have Doubled

LONDON, Oct. 25.—As a result of the activity of British submarines in the Baltic, the rate of Swedish war insurance on ship bound for German ports has doubled.

King George Now at Front

LONDON, Oct. 25.—King George is now in France, where he has gone on a visit to the British Army. He hopes to see some of the Allied troops.

Only Few Saved When Cruiser Sunk

BERLIN, Oct. 25.—Only a small part of the crew of the German cruiser Prinz Adalbert, sunk by a British submarine in the Baltic, were rescued. This was made known in an official statement to-day. A telegram from the naval general staff, dated Oct. 23, said the cruiser Prinz Adalbert was sunk by two shots from an enemy submarine off Libau, and only a small portion of the crew could be rescued. The complement of the Prinz Adalbert was 557 men. The official announcement from Petrograd which stated she had been sunk, said the cruiser formed part of a squadron which probably had been charged with a special mission.

Bulgars Protest Bombardment Seaports

AMSTERDAM, Oct. 25.—German newspapers print the text of a Note sent by Premier Radoslavoff, of Bulgaria, to Bulgarian Ministers abroad, protesting against the bombardment of what he styles the open towns of Dedeghat and Porto Lagos, where he declares considerable damage was inflicted. Dedeaghat, says the Premier, was exposed on Oct. 21st to bombardment by eight large warships of the Allies, while Porto Lagos was bombarded by twelve ships. It is not necessary to point out, he adds, that the fire of the Allied fleet was not answered, since these places possess no means of resistance.

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