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Why Germany is Seeking to Crush Roumania

In Roumania the decision has not yet been given. One part of the Roumanian armies is in retreat; another part has checked the invaders. The further the invaders in the Dobrudja advance the harder becomes their task. Time and the weather are fighting for the Roumanians and we have been assured by Mr. Asquith and also by Mr. Lloyd George that the Allies are doing all that they can to save the little kingdom from the fate of Serbia. In the past day or two the news has been favorable; but even if Roumania should be conquered we ought to remember that before she entered the war it was generally admitted that the Allies were winning. Her complete defeat, involving as it must involve the destruction of Teutonic reserves intended for other purposes, would still further plunge the Central Powers in losses. There is no reason to contemplate her complete conquest. It is interesting to note an article contributed to the London Times by a member of the Roumanian Parliament.

Austria's and Bulgaria's Motive.
He says that the interest of Austria-Hungary is self-evident. The realization of Roumanian national aspirations would be a vital menace to Hungary. Together with the national unification of Serbia and the Southern Slavs, it would mean the collapse of the Kingdom of St. Stephen. The defeat of Roumania is therefore a question of life and death for the present Hungarian State. As regards the Bulgarians, their interest is also evident.

Their ambition knows no bounds. Their aim is to rule the Balkan Peninsula from the Danube to the Aegean, and from the Black Sea to the Adriatic. They covet all the Dobrudja, the whole of Macedonia, and a good slice of Albania. The defeat of Roumania is therefore, in their eyes, the only means of realizing their vast designs.

Germany's Object.
But why should the Germans rage so furiously against Roumania, who has not even declared war upon them? The reasons are of an once military, political and economic. A victorious Roumania means the cutting of communications between the Austro-Germans and their Turco-Bulgarian allies. It means the crushing of Austria-Hungary, that is to say, an open door into Germany, and, sooner or later, the defeat of Germany herself. The defeat of Roumania would mean, on the other hand, the consolidation of German mastery from the North Sea to the Persian Gulf, the invasion of Russia from the south, by way of the Black Sea, and perhaps decisive victory in the East. Germany therefore feels that the Roumanian thorn must be extracted from her vulnerable heel, and that quickly. By the defeat of Roumania the authority of Germany in the East would become absolute. All Eastern States, including Austria-Hungary, would be incorporated or placed in a feudal relationship to the German Empire. Aggrandized by their alliance with Germany, the Bulgarians would be riveted to her. Turkey has already become a kind of German Morocco, and would fall into the position of a German colony. Serbia would no longer exist, and Roumania would become an Eastern Reichsland.

A Fight for Trade.
Alongside of these military and political motives run the economic interests that urge Germany to crush Roumania. The Germans have lent to the Roumanian State nearly £80,000,000. They have besides, invested in Roumanian banks, trade, and industry more than £40,000,000. The German object is not only to avoid loss—"damnum emergens"—but particularly to retain the immense advantages accruing to them from their exploitation of Roumania, to obviate a "lucrum cessans." The Roumanian State borrowed money from Germany at high rates. In 1889, after the agricultural crisis, it contracted with the Disconto-Gesellschaft a loan of £450,000, at a nominal interest of 5 per cent., which the price of issue made in reality 7 per cent. Besides, the Disconto-Gesellschaft took as security the revenues of monopoly of cigarette paper, and secured a share of its profits. By these means the

German bank has secured a profit of £1,880,000, in return for £480,000 lent. Ninety per cent. of Roumanian manufactured imports were of Austro-German origin. Roumanian trade was almost exclusively in Austro-German hands, and the whole economic life of Roumania was under Austro-German control.

A Great Prize
By the conquest of Roumania, Germany would secure immense stores of corn, petroleum, benzine, mineral oils, salt, and timber; a good railway system, and the Danube as means of transport, besides all the crops which the fertile soil of Roumania can produce. The spectre of famine would be for ever banished from the German Empire. Could they once get Roumania into their grasp, the Germans would never relax their hold. They know far better than the Roumanians themselves how inexhaustible are her resources, and how sober and hard-working are her people. No sacrifice will seem too heavy for them if by it they can secure such a prize. The duty and interest of the allies are alike clear. If, by timely action, they thwart the German scheme and ensure the triumph of Roumania, they will at the same time smooth their own path to complete victory and notably shorten the war. Their efforts should tend without delay, not merely to save Roumania from the Austro-German grasp, but to save themselves, to spare millions of human lives and hundreds of millions of money, to shorten the war and to establish the Europe of the future on a solid foundation.

Heroism of French Soldier Described

Russian Officer Pays High Tribute to His Valor on the Battlefields of Macedonia

PETROGRAD.—"In Macedonia with the French Army" is the title of an article contributed to a recent issue of the Correspondant by Lieutenant Lebedow, a Russian officer, who praises the bravery of the French soldiers. He says:—"Read the innumerable commendations in the regimental or army orders of the day, and you will find out how the soldiers, officers and generals, all of whom the people like to include in the one category of 'Little Fighters of France,' offer up their lives for their beloved country. What to some of us, who are not familiar with the soldier's beautiful expressions of sentiment, may seem like affectations is encountered daily in the French army. Captain Rousse-Lacordaire led his company into battle with the cry:—'Forward! Let our wives weep over us as heroes at least!' and had hardly uttered the words before a bullet laid him low.

"Their last letters to the folks at home disclose the lofty sentiments of these fighters. One, from a Parisian cook to his wife, will ever be counted among the classical literature of France. Then let us remember the incident of the tobacco smoking soldier, whose right hand was shot away while he took part in a charge. What did he do but lean down and, with his remaining hand, disengage the pipe from the tightly closed fingers of the severed limb lying on the battleground. Putting his pipe in his mouth, he hurried ahead to catch up with his charging comrades.

"I have done my duty; is the dying soldier's usual farewell. The French fighter always is fully cognizant of the indispensability of conscientiously performing that duty. He knows why he goes to face death. It is not for the sake of fighting or for adventure, but for the defence of his country. Right or wrong, such is the sentiment of the soldiers and officers, the flower of France's male population, ranging in age from eighteen to forty-eight years. And this feeling that he is fighting for the rights of his own nation and for justice in the world endows the French soldier with a singular strength. It is for this reason that he has so willingly gone to faraway Serbia, the country which, like Belgium, refused to let itself be trampled to death under the big boot of the invader."

The order of the Army Council by which notice was given that practically all of the thicker kinds of sole leather will, if found suitable, be acquired for government purposes, has caused consternation in the ranks of tanners, leather merchants and other traders concerned in the production and sale of boots and shoes. They feel that they are not being dealt with fairly and are loud in denouncing the attitude of the government.

"This apparent unfairness," said the head of a prominent Bermudez firm, "is the more difficult to understand in face of the frank admission of the government that ours has been the most patriotic trade they have had to deal with all the way through.

"The authorities have also acted unwisely, I think, in calling up bad-

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ed men. Comparatively little labor is required to produce leather; time is the chief thing; and to call up five skilled men from one yard, as was the case the other day, is a mistaken policy at a time when every one in the trade is working at high pressure. Next to munitions and food, an adequate supply of good boots is one of the most important things in winning the war."

Another larger factor, who handles the produce of a considerable number of tanneries, also complained that the trade has not been fairly treated.

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"The effect of the order," he observed, "will be that we may have to buy a considerable quantity of leather from America for our own civilian work, and if that happens leather is bound to go up very much in price. You see the warehouse practically empty. The government has scheduled every scrap of sole leather, the lowest grades well as the highest.

"But we have been always ready to assist the government, and if it is going to help to win the war, let Russia have every bit of leather. The time, however, will come when the ports will be closed up and we shall not be able to export to Russia, and then I am hopeful that we shall be allowed to buy to a certain extent to meet the civilian needs of our own country."

Hindenburg Sees Victory for Germany
BERLIN (via wireless to Sayville, L.I.), Nov. 6.—"The Transylvanian situation is excellent. The Roumanians still retreat and their day of reckoning is coming," declared Field Marshal von Hindenburg, German chief of staff, who is paying Berlin his first visit since the beginning of the war.

"I welcomed their entrance into the war," continued Hindenburg "for by it we got out of the trenches.

"The French have showed great tenacity, but they are exterminating lives by their present method of fighting. All their tenacity will be of no use to them and finally there will be none of them left. The French nation owes this fate above all to the English. If the English ask for another offensive of the same style this coming spring then they will rob France of the rest of her army and of the rest of her national strength."

The war has not changed his opinions about British military accomplishments, said Hindenburg. Great British strategists are lacking at the present time, he said.

Hospital Burned.
FARNHAM, Que Nov. 3.—St. Elizabeth Hospital, managed by the Grey Nuns, and comprised of two buildings, was totally destroyed by fire Wednesday night, and a total of nineteen lives were lost, so far as known. These consist of five children, eight women and six men, the buildings having been used as a home for aged people and children. Eleven injured inmates are being carried in to the

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convent of the Grey Nuns. There were 218 people in the hospital at the time of the fire, 113 of these being children, 36 aged men and 37 aged women, the remainder being servants to the Grey Nuns. The material loss is estimated at \$135,000, and there is \$25,000 of insurance.