

## FALL OF RIGA

(Continued from Page Eleven)

Bulgarian ally was almost within sight of the ancient walls of Saloniki, and a Turkish army was going to defeat and surrender before Bagdad.

In February, 1915, Germany came west to make the great Verdun attack, which was designed to crush the sole remaining force effectively in the field at the moment. Could the French army have been broken, Mitteleuropa would have been a permanent fact, for many months were to pass before Great Britain could yet be ready for her work at the Somme. Mitteleuropa was destroyed at Verdun. Every day since has seen the slow ebb of German hope to preserve that empire which German armies, German statesmen and German soldiers had created from the Battle to the Garden of Eden, from the Drina to the coast of Flanders, facing the British Isles.

In 1915 Calais, Riga, Saloniki and Bagdad, the port of Bagdad, were all the vital details in Mitteleuropa that had escaped the Germans, and, despite the contemporary view, all save Calais were within the grasp of the victors. She chose rather to seek a larger triumph at Verdun, which in her own time the remaining fruits of her great successes.

For the German Public, the fall of Riga now means merely that she has chosen to take one of those ports because the effort was no longer great, and the prize had a great value for a public which had recently faced disasters in the west and a denial of the hope of peace. It is necessary to the German people to see how to bring home to their leaders, the necessity of abandoning what has been won. Germany won in 1914 believing that the campaign of 1917 would be a short, sharp struggle which would build a German empire beyond the seas. The victory was not so swift, her initial blow was parried at the Marne, Austria was almost destroyed in the opening campaign in Galicia, and yet after a few months of delay incident to preparation a new German blow in the east shattered the Russian military strength and before the year had ended almost all the eastern Balkan, Asiatic purposes of the war were realized, and from that day to this they have endured. The line of power runs clear and uninterrupted day from Berlin to Jerusalem and to the environs of Bagdad. It is a reality on the map and in the mind of the German people still. It is a reality which grows less potent as the months of terrible casualties, of suffering at home, of losses of influence and future commercial opportunity abroad. But it is still the most dazzling dream that any race dreamed, and it acquires a new, if passing, vitality when Riga, one of the last elements, is at last brought within the Mitteleuropa frontier.

The war will have to continue until the dream is shattered, because a Germany dominating Central Europe at the close of the war will dominate the world within a few years of peace. It would have been shattered already if Russia had not fallen, mainly through German intrigue, for it was the Germans who corrupted the monarchy and led it to the greatest betrayal of the Russian armies in 1915 and 1916, to the sacrifice of Rumania, which remains the greatest tragedy of the war, and when the monarchy had fallen turned to the radicals of the revolution and public into the peril of a Russian revolution which should have been a reaction which should have been a reaction with all that this means to democracy in the world.

The fall of the map. The military significance of Riga is small, because the war must be won or lost now on the western front, and every regiment and gun of the German army is directed to the west. It is a gain for the Allies. But on the moral side it would be folly to mistake the value to the German leaders, who desire still to bring back provinces and power from their war, of a new success and the attainment of the objectives which were in their minds when they made their first attack.

The greatest weakness in America at the present time is the failure to recognize things as they are in Central Europe and Eastern Asia. There is no longer an Austria, a Bulgaria, or a Turkey free to act. Serbia has fallen; Rumania remains but a hopeless fragment; Germany will be absolute power in military side in all this huge empire,

in which have been absorbed so many armies, has never yet signified its intention to part with a single portion of this huge Mitteleuropa; not even Belgium has been offered back by the Hohenzollerns. Riga should for the American people serve to emphasize again the actual situation in Europe, the extent of German successes and the greatness of the danger that if German defeat is not complete, we shall emerge from this war only to begin preparations for a new war. The real danger now is the sort of peace which will enable Germany to recuperate and give her time to organize her present conquests in such fashion as to complete her aim, which is world supremacy.

The Italian Pause. I had hoped in the present week to discuss the Italian operation in some detail, but despite continued local advances there has been an unmistakable slackening, which is the inevitable concomitant of the present sort of war, which requires time both for advancing the heavy artillery and for restoring stocks of munitions exhausted by the bombardments which are the prelude to attack. The Italians have not yet captured Monte Gabriele or Hermada Hill as I wrote these lines on September 4. These are the next objectives, and until they fall the Italian advance will still be held up. Both are positions essential alike to Austrian defence and Italian advance. When they have fallen, and the

Italians have now set foot on both of any time that one can now measure. The decisive blow on the military side in this war will have to come somewhere between the Vosges and the sea. The inability to recognize this fact in 1915 led the British into the almost fatal blunder of Gallipoli. Germany is the chief enemy, and when Germany is beaten the entire coalition of Central Europe will fall. Even should Austria make a separate peace Germany would remain to be disposed of; but if Germany is defeated the Austrian resistance will not last long thereafter.

Allies Gain This Summer. The campaign of 1917 has hardly eight weeks more to go. The Allied offensive in Flanders has suffered severely from bad weather. Last year at the critical moment in the Somme the early onset of autumn rain saved the Germans. Unprecedented wet weather this year has held up the British operations about Ypres, and there is now some question as to whether the campaign there will have

any serious consequences this year beyond the seizure of the high ground around Ypres, as the high ground above Lens and Arras was taken by earlier offensives. The French at Ypres, on other quarters of a million on European soil in training, we shall have contributed materially to lessening the strain upon the French, and the English, instead of having to take over more French lines, will be able to concentrate their effort on another offensive somewhere between the Yser and the Oise.

Riga and the Peace Campaign. The fall of Riga has been hailed by the Kaiser as another milestone to victory. It is, as I have pointed out, another milestone on the road to the realization of Mitteleuropa. For the Allies it will not be accepted as a milestone, but as a warning—a warning of the condition in Russia which has patently become such that all reliance upon any military assistance from the Slav state must be abandoned. The collapse of Russia has postponed German defeat a year. It has

given the Germans an unequalled opportunity to make the great peace campaign for which they are preparing. Already it is the peace manoeuvres of Germany and not the military operations which are commanding the attention of the world. The Riga victory will be used as one more argument to prove Germany invincible, both at home and abroad. It will be used as one more basis for combating in Germany the doctrine of no annexation and no indemnity, and it will be used abroad to stimulate war weariness and the pacifism discoverable in all three of the great European nations which are still fighting Germany to the limit of their strength. It was probably timed to counteract the effect of the Verdun achievement of the French. There has never been any moment in the last few months when Riga could not have been taken by the Germans had they chosen. They had manifestly saved it for the time when its fall would contribute most to raising their fortunes in the eyes of the world.

## Benson-Wilcox Electric Co.

ELECTRIC and AUTOMOBILE SUPPLIES

## WHOLESALE and RETAIL

We are wholesalers and retailers of all kinds of Electric Supplies. Our reputation is your guarantee of quality and satisfaction. The Benson-Wilcox Electric Company make no claims they will not back up.

## FAIR VISITORS WELCOME

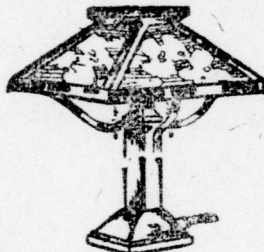
To Western Fair visitors we extend a cordial invitation to visit our show-rooms and see the newest Electric Fixtures, Portables, Utilities, Apparatus, Motors, etc. This is an Electric Store that knows your wants.

## Standard Automobile Equipment

Dominion Tires  
Willard Storage Batteries  
Westinghouse Lamps  
Yankee Pumps  
Adamson Vulcanizers  
Corbin & Brown Speedometers  
Spark Plugs

ELECTRIC AND AUTOMOBILE SUPPLIES OF ALL KINDS.

## ELECTRIC FIXTURES

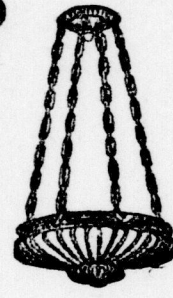


In our showrooms, which we ask you to visit, we exhibit the largest stock of Lighting Fixtures in Western Ontario. Every new and up-to-date fixture for home, office, store and factory is shown. Merely tell us your needs and we will give you the most appropriate equipment.

## Take Home a Decorative Lamp

In the effort to produce beautiful effects, close attention has been paid to the artistic designs of these lamps. Then, too, every one of them is well made of dependable, high-grade materials and is sure to give good service in the home. Table Lamps, Desk Lamps, Dining Domes, etc.

FOR STORES, PUBLIC BUILDINGS, HALLS AND CHURCHES we make a specialty of Nitrogen Lighting Fixtures.



## Storage Batteries

Don't forget that we're on the job to help you get long life and service from your battery. This is an important part of our business.

We repair and overhaul all makes of storage batteries. Besides, we are the only official Willard service station in this section.

Our service men are experts.

A large stock of Willard Storage Batteries and parts always maintained. Also batteries for rent.

ELECTRICAL CONTRACTORS. EXPERT ELECTRICIANS.

Benson-Wilcox Electric Co. 264 Dundas Street

## FURNITURE

## THE WAY TO SUCCESS

Is as plain as the way to the Fair Grounds. It depends chiefly on how and where you buy your furniture needs.

## VISITORS TO LONDON FAIR

Are invited to drop into our showrooms. Make this your headquarters for meeting your friends. Come in and look around. You are under no obligation to buy. We'll be glad to show you our new designs in Housefurnishings.

## THE OPEN DOOR AT FERGUSON'S

Open for close inspection any time.

## BEAUTY IN FURNITURE HERE

As we are not showing at the Fair Grounds this year. Besides we give the best values in the city.

## NOTES FROM THE BANK

Go a long way at our store.

## A WISE HUNTER

After bargains first consults the newspaper advertisements, and then investigates them.

## OUR CLAIM IS NOW OPEN

And in good working order. Clearing out a lot of odds and ends of Parlor and Den Furniture.

## THE FIRST DUTY

Of a married man is home protection, buying where he can get the best for the least money.

## THE FIRST THING

You should do after reading this notice is to drop around and look our goods over. Yours truly,

J. FERGUSON'S SONS

174 TO 180 KING STREET.



## YOUR TRIP TO THE FAIR

Will Be Made More Enjoyable By Visiting Our Display of

## STARR PHONOGRAPHS

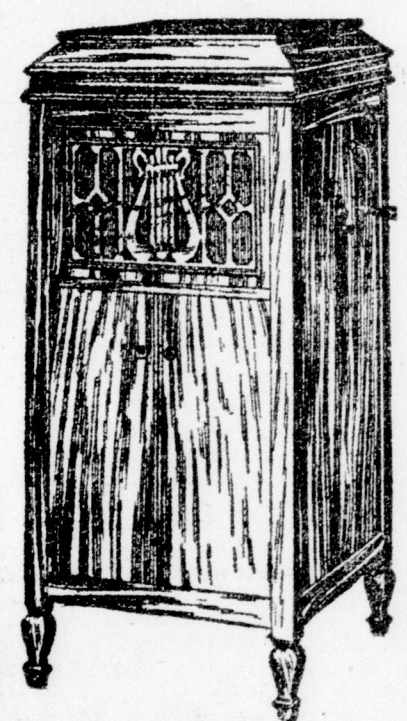
The more phonographs you have heard of other makes, the better you will appreciate the merits of the Starr. It marks an epochal advancement in the field of music, and we are proud to offer to the Canadian public this latest development in the phonographic field.

We want you to see it, and let us explain its many superior qualities. When you hear the Starr's rich, pure tone, without the usual scratching, blurring noise, you will be convinced that it is the instrument you have been waiting for. We'll gladly play your favorite selections on the Starr any time you call.



The Starr Phonograph will play perfectly any disc record made, but Starr Records are heavier and harder than customary, and practically indestructible.

IN ADDITION TO STARR PHONOGRAPHS AND RECORDS WE WILL ALSO SHOW THE CELEBRATED GOURLAY PIANOS AND PLAYER-PIANOS IN OUR BOOTH TO THE LEFT OF ENTRANCE IN MAIN BUILDING.



STYLE II

Canadian Phonograph Supply Co.

DOWNTOWN OFFICE AND WAREHOUSES

261 DUNDAS STREET

Sole Canadian Distributors for Starr Phonographs and Records.