

Weekly War Summary

On Sunday afternoon last, after days of pleading from Austria-Hungary, whose armies staggering home from the Italian fronts were being hampered, with great captures of men and material by the Italian, British, French, American, Serbian and Czech-Slovak troops in the mountains and on the plains, an armistice was agreed to, which has taken Austria-Hungary out of war, the conditions laid down by the supreme Allied command being such as to make it impossible for Austria-Hungary to do any more in the war.

Germany, with her last remaining ally put out of action, is thus left to fight alone. Before the signing of the armistice the Allied drive against the Austrian armies had achieved such success as to make the surrender of Austria-Hungary inevitable. Among the striking successes achieved is the capture of Trieste, formerly Austria's chief seaport on the Adriatic, over which the Italian flag now flies, and the recapture of Belgrade, the capital of Serbia, which the Austrians have held since the first week of the war. The Austrian downfall was bound to follow upon the surrender of Bulgaria and the collapse of Turkey and the continued successes of the Allies on all fronts.

On Sunday, too, came the news of the establishment of a republic in Hungary.

The opening of the Dardanelles to the Allied fleets, as a result of the overthrow of Turkey as a factor in the war, had already assured access for the Allied forces to Germany from the east; the Austrian collapse has assured increased access to Germany. The opening of the Dardanelles has given the Allies access to the Danube. Roumania will thus become an important factor in the war, and the races in south-eastern Europe, the Poles of Austria, the Czech-Slovaks of Bohemia, and the Jugo-Slavs in the southern territories of the vanquished Austrian empire will achieve their independence and establish self-governing states; as an essential condition precedent to which these races will co-operate in the destruction of German militarism as a ruling force, and in the liberation of Russia, the Baltic provinces and Poland from the domination of Prussia. The defeat of Bolshevism in Russia is now inevitable, and is being brought nearer every day.

On the western front the Allied successes continue. The developments are so rapid that it is quite impossible to forecast events from day to day; a few days may bring events of unprecedented importance. The uncertainty is added to by the rapidly increasing seriousness of internal conditions in Germany, whose developments are still obscure to the world outside.

Men Exempted as Farmers

An official announcement is published in this issue of The Guide, in which the military authorities give notice that the recent official announcement regarding extensions granted to men exempted as farmers does not in any way affect men who have been ordered by the registrars to report to depot battalions. The announcement says:—

"All men, accordingly, who have been ordered to report, and are therefore soldiers, and who have subsequently been granted harvest leave by the military authorities, must, notwithstanding the notice above referred to, report on the expiration of that leave, unless they are notified to the contrary by their commanding officer or by general notice published by the Department of Militia and Defence."

Potato Shortage in Alberta

There is a shortage of potatoes in Alberta to the extent of about 500,000 bushels less than will be needed for home consumption. Instead of a crop of 6,000,000 bushels, which was last year's record, there is not a larger total production for this year, it is estimated, than 1,500,000 bushels and Alberta needs 2,000,000 bushels for its own eating. The balance will have to be brought in from other provinces. Dry weather and early frosts are the reason.



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