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The Toronto World

MONDAY MORNING JANUARY 17-1916

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TURKS RETREAT IN MESOPOTAMIA

Russians Start Big Drive in Caucasus and Repulse Turks

BRITISH ADVANCE 25 MILES

GREAT BARRIER BEFORE VERDUN NOT BREAKABLE

Crown Prince Can Never Realize Ambition to Take French Stronghold.

STRENGTH IS IMMENSE

French Heavy Guns Can Hurl Projectiles to Outworks of Metz.

VERDUN, via Paris, Jan. 14.—(Despatched)—Metz is visible thru field telescopes from this great French stronghold and its outworks can be reached by the heaviest French guns. The defensive barrier between the two places, after a four-days examination of the lines in the Argonne, the Woëvre and the Vosges, shows a strength unsuspected by the average civilian. It is along this front that Crown Prince Frederick William's forces are being held back and positions already seemingly impregnable, are being strengthened every day. The French are sure of their ground and that should the crown prince decide upon another effort to pierce the French line, it will end as it ended before. The general at the head of the army of the Argonne and Woëvre, who reported to the Associated Press correspondent, is most confident.

Organizing Defences.—The heavy rains notwithstanding, the work of organizing the defences by the territorial units goes on with the task of improving the approaches, re-entrances and from the roads and making easier the routes for the supply lines. Travelers from Paris begin to see military activity at Chalons-Sur-Marne. Regular trains, the coaches back with troops, are being moved continuously to various parts of the front.

DESTROYING OF BRIDGES HARD BLOW TO GREECE

Shortage in Supply of Food for Troops is the Result.

LONDON, Jan. 16.—The Greek government faces the serious problem of supplying its troops at Serres, the railway bridges by the allies in northern Greece, and may be compelled either to withdraw or disband certain portions of these troops, according to a Reuter Telegram Company despatch from Saloniki under date of Jan. 15.

MINISTER WILL FIGHT

REV. W. A. CAMERON
Pastor of Bloor Street Baptist Church, who has joined the 109th Regiment as a captain in order to qualify for overseas service.

CANADIANS WERE NOT IN BIG ENGAGEMENT

Cable Received at Ottawa on Saturday Proved to Be Misleading.

OTTAWA, Jan. 15.—Gen. Hughes has received a cable from London stating that the Canadian losses on Jan. 13 were seven killed and 15 wounded, and on Jan. 14 four killed and 13 wounded. The alarming report cabled from England Saturday was in an important engagement on the western front.

KING PETER OF SERBIA OFF TO AEGEAN ISLE

ATHENS, via Paris, Jan. 15, 10.30 p.m.—King Peter of Serbia left Saloniki this morning aboard a French warship for Aegaeos, an island of Euboea, in the Aegaei Sea, where he will take the cure for gonorrhoea. Aegaeos is famous for its warm sulphur baths.

RUSSIANS BEGIN BIG OFFENSIVE AGAINST TURKS

Start Active Operations on Hundred Mile Front in Caucasus.

KANGAVER OCCUPIED

Persian Rebels, Turks and Germans Defeated on Road to Bagdad.

LONDON, Jan. 16.—The Russians have won a victory in Persia and have occupied Kangaver, and it is learned from Constantinople they have brought up reinforcements and started a new general offensive on a front of 100 miles between Karadach-south of the Arasa River, and Icham, south of Milo.

ITALIANS START FIGHT FOR GAINING OF GORIZIA

ROME, Jan. 15, via London, Jan. 16.—The following official statement from general headquarters was issued today: "The artillery activity yesterday was weak along the Trentino and Carnia fronts, somewhat lively on the Isonzo, and particularly violent on the heights to the northwest of Gorizia. Here the fire of the enemy's batteries was effectively answered by ours, the action continuing until late in the evening in the Osavia position.

WHERE BRITISH TROOPS ARE ADVANCING



Photograph of Kut-el-Amara, in Mesopotamia, towards which town the Turks are retiring after having been defeated by General Aylmer's troops.

BITTER BATTLE IN BESSARABIA

Russians Come on to Attack Time and Again, Austrians Assert.

ENEMY BADLY BEATEN

Austrian General Von Bothmer Burned Bridges Behind Army on Stripa.

Special Cable to The Toronto World.—LONDON, Jan. 16.—The Russian war office reports that there has been no change in their western front reports from Vienna tell of a continuation of the battle in eastern Galicia, and on the Bessarabian front, with bitter fighting. The Austrians say that Russian columns, as many as 12 to 14 lines deep, attacked their positions as many as four to six times, but desperate conflicts led to a Russian retreat. The Russians also drove back a detachment consisting of Turks and Germans at a point southeast of Hamadan. The enemy fled in the direction of Dawlatabad.

ITALY WILL AID BALKAN ALLIES

Adequate Assistance Will Be Given to Montenegro and Serbia.

TO LEAVE ALBANIA

Serbian Will Have to Withdraw to Reorganize Fighting Forces.

LOSS OF LIFE CAUSED BY FLOODS IN HOLLAND

Queen Wilhelmina Opens Royal Palace to Give Shelter to Refugees.

AMSTERDAM, via London, Jan. 16.—Many persons have been drowned by the flood in northern Holland. On the Marken Islands the death list has reached sixteen, including seven children.

MONTENEGRO WILL MAKE NO SURRENDER

Official Denial is Given to Reports of Separate Peace.

ARMY DEMOLISHES FOUR HUNDRED YARDS OF TRENCHES ON Mt. St. Michele.

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MONTREAL TO GIVE \$250,000

MONTREAL, Jan. 16.—The Montreal board of control yesterday declared a public subscription of \$250,000 to be made to the patriotic fund and \$50,000 to local charities.

NORTH HOLLAND FLOODS CONTINUE DEVASTATION

Town of Purmerend, Less Than Ten Miles From Amsterdam, Inundated.

LONDON, Jan. 16.—A despatch to the Central News from Amsterdam says: "The floods in north Holland continue their devastation. The town of Purmerend, which is less than ten miles from Amsterdam, is under water, and at many points the flood is three feet higher than yesterday. Everywhere in the flooded section bodies of cattle drowned can be seen floating. Only trees and farmhouses are above the surface of the water.

BRITISH SHELL LILLE'S FORTS

Heavy Bombardment of German Positions Continued at Many Points.

DAMAGE AT HETSAS

Several Munition Depots of Enemy Exploded at Divers Places.

Special Cable to The Toronto World.—LONDON, Jan. 16.—The allies in France and Belgium continued today their artillery preparations for the coming offensive in the spring and effective work was done by shells at various parts of the German line. British artillery severely bombarded the positions of the enemy north of Ypres and some of their shells even showed up in the town of Lille, for the German official statement, speaking of a British bombardment of the defences of that town, says that the British fire did little damage.

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PROHIBITION IS FEDERAL ISSUE

Big Propaganda to Make Canada Liquorless Makes Stir at Ottawa.

LONG DEBATE CERTAIN

Government May Take Stand That Provinces Should Take Action.

By a Staff Reporter.—OTTAWA, Jan. 16.—What effect will the propaganda for nation-wide prohibition during the war have upon the present session of parliament? This question is being asked by the members spending Sunday at the capital. The evening papers, yesterday contained the call for nation-wide prohibition as a measure of economic conservation during the war, issued by J. R. Booth, Senator Edwards and the principal employers of labor in this part of the country. Tomorrow every member of parliament will receive a written invitation to declare himself, and petitions from every polling subdivision in Canada, will soon be on their way to Ottawa.

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OTTAWA, Ont., Jan. 16.—It is rumored that some progressive legislation may be brought down by the government at the present session to regulate the export of nickel ore and nickel matte. The legislation will probably be modeled upon the act respecting the exportation of electric power and natural gas.

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT LIKELY TO PREVENT NICKEL EXPORTS

Refining of Nickel in Canada and Nationalization of Industry May Be Ultimate Result of Legislation.

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Turks Are Retiring From Positions Occupied After Last Defeat.

GEN. AYLMER WINNING

British Forces Are Closely Pressing the Enemy on the Tigris.

LONDON, Jan. 16, 12.23 p.m.—Turkish forces occupying positions on both banks of the River Tigris, 25 miles south of Kut-el-Amara, in Mesopotamia, are retreating, according to an announcement made today by the official press bureau. The war office adds that after hard fighting the Turks began to withdraw on Jan. 13 and Jan. 14, and that they are being closely pressed by British troops under command of Gen. Aylmer.

KAISER HAS RETURNED TO THEATRE OF WAR

Berlin Official Statement Says Recovery of Emperor is Complete.

CAN KAISER WILHELM ESCAPE FAMILY BANE?

Specialist Considers German Emperor is Likely to Develop Cancer.

PARIS, Jan. 16.—Le Journal prints an interview with an English doctor, Mark Howell, who, the newspaper says, acted as assistant to Sir Morell Mackenzie when the latter performed an operation on the father of Emperor William for cancer of the throat at San Remo, in 1888.

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WAR SUMMARY: Today's Events Reviewed

GENERAL AYLMER has defeated the Turks at Oorah, 25 miles south of Kut-el-Amara, in Mesopotamia, and is driving them in flight upstream. The enemy occupied positions on both sides of the Tigris, and he was attacked by the Anglo-Indian forces on Friday. By nightfall the Turks had begun to retreat, and they are continuing their retrograde.

Also outnumbered, the British force was capable of developing a superiority of fire that the Turks could not face. It is improbable that the Turks have any good defensive positions south of Kut-el-Amara. The Turks have been beaten so often in this theatre in the past year that the British now hold a great moral ascendancy over them.

The Italians have renewed their terrific bombardment of the third and last line of defence of Gorizia. They demolished Saturday about 400 yards of trenches on Mount St. Michael, one of the key positions of this stronghold.

If the war continues much longer, the Germans will have to go about their stock of cotton will be exhausted, according to Prof. Ashley, who writes of the cotton situation in The Atlantic Monthly for January. Practically every person in this, and the woolen industry, or nearly 3,000,000 hands, including those serving in the German army, were employed in these two industries, which are now idle.

The Russians have won a victory in Persia and they have occupied Kangaver, half way between Hamadan and Kermandshah. They took many prisoners and they report that the enemy left many dead on the battlefield. Russian losses were insignificant. A detachment of Turks and Germans was driven back by the Russians southwest of Hamadan. It is

(Continued on Page 2, Columns 2 and 3.)