SERBIANS TAKE HEAVY TOLL OF ENEMY AS THEY RETIRE IN NORTH; HOLD THEIR GROUND IN SOUTH

BRITAIN AND FRANCE PREPARING TO STRIKE BLOW FOR BLOW IN THE BALKANS

Despatching Strong Force to Near East to be Used at Point Decided Upon After Gen. Munro Reports—Government Not Guided by Amateur Strategists in Mapping Out Plans, but Steps Taken Only After Consulting Military and Naval Authorities, Lord Lansdowne Announces—Asquith to Make Full Statement on Progress of War.

London, Oct. 26.—Replying to a question put into the House of Lords this afternoon as to the progress of the campaign in the Balkans, the Marquis of Lansdowne, the Unionist leader, who holds a seat in the cabinet without portfolio, said:

"I must say, with great regret, I am afraid we must admit that the progress of the campaign in northern Serbia has been such as to render it highly impossible that the Serbian army will be able to withstand, for any great length of time, the attacks to which it is exposed from the Austro-Germans on the north, aided by the stab in the back which Serbia is receiving at the hands of Bulgaria."

While there was no criticism of the conduct of the near eastern campaign there was a general demand, when the House of Lords met, for information, and the suggestion of a smaller cabinet to have charge of the war received support.

Lord Lansdowne, in his reply, gave a general review of the Saloniki operations, while Earl Curzon of Kedleston, Lord Privy Seal, made the statement that Premier Asquith had under consideration the matter of a smaller executive.

Lord Lansdowne explained that the British force landed at Saloniki, which numbers about thirteen thousand men was sent at the request of Serbia, and at the instance of Venizelos (then premier) for the purpose of enabling Greece to fulfill her treaty obligations to Serbia. A much stronger force had been placed under orders at the same time the Saloniki troops were despatched, but its ultimate destination would depend on the situation and the report of Gen. Monro, the new British commander-in-chief, who has already reached the Gallipoli peninsula.

Earl Lansdowne, had asked whether the despatch of troops to Saloniki had been determined upon which the approval of the naval and military authorities, and whether the government could give assurance that full provision had been made for the communications of this force and for its supply of men and material to the satisfaction of the naval and military experts. Earl Lansdowne had he understood the government's desire that the matter should not be debated at the present time, but that there was a reason for asking that question.

"We are disappointed in the Dardanelles enterprise," said the Earl of Lansdowne, and he added that he did not know whether that enterprise had commenced with or without the advice of the naval and military authorities, and one could not help asking whether this new venture would be a reexation of that. The greatest danger from which the country could suffer, the speaker said, was unpreparedness and indecision.

No Time For Amateur Strategists

The Marquis of Lansdowne explained that there were moments when it was not in the public interest that questions relating to the war should be freely discussed in parliament, as the effect on both the All'es and their enemies had to be considered.

He declared, however, that he could assure Earl Loreburn that neither in the present government nor in any government of which he had been a member, had it been the practice or the habit of amateur strategists to impose their plans upon the professional advisers of the government.

With the present government, the Marquis of Lansdowne continued, it was unlikely that anything of the kind could occur. Earle Kitchener, minister of war, was present at every cabinet meeting, and it was impossible to suppose that he would allow himself to be deflected from his course by the pressure of his civilian colleagues.

Apart from that, the speaker added, the procedure by the committees and the councils had given a far greater opportunity to the military and naval experts to assert themselves and make their views known. The cabinet, as a whole, considered both naval and military and political aspects of the case, so the ministers and their advisers took account of the problem, but whatever particular views were given by the military and naval advisers the ultimate responsibility for a decision on them must rest on the government. As to the Saloniki expedition the Marquis said:

"I cannot enter into the apprehensions which possess Earl Loreburn. I can quite understand, having before him our commitment in the western theatre of the war, the position in which we find ourselves on the Gallipoli peninsula, and our interests in Egypt and the other possessions of the Empire, which should be borne in mind, it is profoundly distasteful to him that the matter should be complicated by our entering into new entanglements in the new sphere of the war."

Earl Loreburn, interrupting, said: "I did not say that. What I asked was, if you had naval and military opinion to justify you in your decision?"

The Marquis of Lansdowne: "Under what circumstances has a British force been sent to Saloniki I should like to recall the position in the month of September. The central powers had made no progress in the western theatre for a long time. They indeed, had been successfully attacked and pushed back at several points. On the Russian front their advance, overwhelming at first, had received a serious check. The Italians were pressing their offensive, and in the minor theatres of the war—Mesopotamia for example—success was resting with our arms.

Serbia Will Afford One of Most Glorious Chapters of Whole War.

"That being the situation in central powers very naturally looked about to discover some new direction in which to seek for a decision satisfactory to themselves. Their choice fell, as it was not likely to fall, on a great attempt to make good in eastern Europe, and through Bulgaria to overthrow our forces in Gallipoli and Constantinople, and perhaps Egypt, to say nothing of the vaster aspirations which perhaps lay behind.

"That great project became doubly attractive from the moment when, most unfortunately, Bulgaria threw her influence on their side. There was one obstacle, and only one, to that project. The key of the situation lay in the eastern corner of Serbia.

"We 'found Serbia threatened by a formidable concentration of troops, and I cannot help here paying tribute to the wonderful gallantry with which Serbia withstood two separate invasions and her struggles against a third. She will afford one of the most glorious chapters of this great war.

"Under these circumstances Serbia made a direct appeal to us for help. But it was not only Serbia that involved our co-operation.

"For our very latest weapon we have gone right back to the days when Cain had a little difficulty with Abel—today it is clube, or, according to the military vocabulary of stores, 'knobberries, mark 1,' a wooden arrangement similar to a policeman's truncheon, weighted with lead, and very liberally studded with boot-tackets. The very weapon it is for hot hand-to-hand affairs in a narrow trench. About 2 o'clock this morning a dare devil corporal of ours with four companions crept over to the German listening post armed with these very modern weapons. A listening post is merely a sap-head run out from the main fire trench. It is a post in which one listens for sounds of movements, patrols, etc. In this case the Germans (Bavarian Landwehr) weren't listening good enough. Our chaps just reached over the parapet and clumped them on the nut, and three very astonished Fritzes returned to conscious-ness in our No. 42 trench, Some weapon is that club."

French government by Sir Clifford Sifton and his son, Major John W. Sifton, brought by Lieut. Percy Shaver, of Ottawa, former secretary of Sir Sifford Sifton, which began in the Ontario Supreme Court here today was settled late tonight. All that Sir Clifford Sifton or his son would say was that a substantial payment had been made to Lieut. Shaver.

GERMANS START NEW DRIVE TO REACH DVINSK

London, Oct. 26.—The Serbian troops which have been so gallantly holding the little northeastern corner of their country, where the Austro-Germans and Bulgarian armies are about to join up, are being slowly forced back as the pressure upon them becomes greater. The Marquis of Lansdowne, minister without portfolio in the British cabinet, regrettably announced to the House of Lords this evening that he feared they could not much longer withstand the attack.

In fact, all along the northern and eastern frontiers of Serbia the invaders are making steady progress, although at great cost, as the Serbians, now that they have reached the hills, are making them pay heavily for every mile covered.

It is only in the south, where the French have joined hands with the Serbians, that the Bulgarians are being held. Here the French and Serbians are entrenching themselves and awaiting reinforcements, which they hope will enable them to drive the Bulgarians out of Macedonia.

Great Britain and France, according to the statement of the Marquis of Lansdowne in the House of Lords, are despatching a strong force to the near east, and are only awaiting the report of Gen. Sir Charles Carmichael Monro, the new British commander on the Gallipoli peninsula, and other military and naval advisers to decide at which point they will be used.

Offer to Greece Has Lapsed.

Great Britain and France, the Marquis of Lansdowne said, had taken up the challenge of the central powers in the near east, as elsewhere, and were preparing to strike blow for blow, and eventually to receive the support of Greece and Roumania, although they were not depending upon them.

Sir Edward Grey, the British Foreign Minister, today told the House of Commons that Great Britain's offer to cede Cyprus to Greece had lapsed, as Greece had not fulfilled her treaty obligations to Serbia. The British minister at Athens is reported to be making representations to Greece with respect to the use of Saloniki as a base for the Allies, and also with regard to Greece's future action.

On the eastern and western battlefronts, as in Serbia, heavy fighting continues, in the Riga and Dvinsk regions of Russia the German Field Marshal Von Hindenburg, undaunted by repeated failures during the past forty days to reach the Russian fortresses on the Dvina river, is making another furious, determined effort to accomplish his aim. Reports today were to the effect that he had made further progress, particularly near Illoukst. Along the rest of the line, through the provinces of Vilna, Grodno and Volhynia, and in Galicia, there have been battles at many points, with the advance first on one side and then on the other.

The Italians are still carrying on their offensive against the Austrians, while the struggle in the Champagne region of France, began when the French captured a portion of the La Courtine works from the Germans, some of which the Germans have recaptured, is still in progress. The French claim they have extended their gains here by taking an adjoining trench north of Massiges.

THE FRENCH REPORT.

Paris, Oct. 26.—The official communication issued by the War Office tonight reads as follows:

"There is nothing to report since the preceding communication.

"One of our aeroplane pilots gave chase north of Dormans to an enemy aeroplane which he attacked at short range. The German aeroplane was hit in several places by bullets from the rapid fire gun, but was able to make a landing near Jaulgonne, in the valley of the Marne. The two officers were made prisoners at the moment they were attempting to destroy their machine. This remains intact in our hands."

The Belgian official communication reads:

"After a quiet night the enemy artillery today bombarded quite violently the district to the south of Nieuport, Pervyse, Costerke, the neighborhood of Dixmude and our works to the north of Steenstraete. We replied vigorously but there was no infantry action."

FRENCH CREDIT IN NEW YORK BEING ARRANGED

Ten to Fifteen Million Dollars, and to be Used to Pay for Munition Shipments,

New York, Oct. 26.—Wall street heard today, on seemingly good authority, that preparations had been almost completed for the establishment of a French credit in this city or from $10,000,000 to $15,000,000.

According to reports current in the financial section, the sum was to be used solely for the payment of munitions shipped from this country for the account of France. What form the credit would take was not divulged, but it was thought that it would be in the form of acceptances which could be discounted by member banks of the Federal Reserve. If so, such acceptances probably would run for ninety days with privilege of renewal.

It was thought announcement of details would be forthcoming in a few days.

THE CLUB HAS ITS PLACE EVEN AMONG MODERN WEAPONS

Men in Trenches Find it a Convenient Weapon for Close Range Fighting,

Toronto, Oct. 26.—Rev. A. Logan Geggie today received a letter from a nephew at the front in which he describes a new trench and close quarters' weapon supplied to the British forces. He says:

HON. MR. CLIFTON FIGURES IN LAWSUIT

Ottawa, Oct. 26.—A suit which concerned the division of profits on $6,000,000 worth of horses sold to the *(Continued on page 2)*

Last Night's List Adds More Names to 26th's Roll of Honor

Ottawa, Oct. 26.—The casualty list issued at midnight adds the following names to the roll of honor of the 26th Battalion:

TWENTY-SIXTH BATTALION

KILLED IN ACTION

James David Thompson, Richardville, Campbelton, McKinnons, N. B.

Jos. S. Gallant, Shives, Athol, N. B.
Jerome Belanger, Val Brillian, Que.
Dawson Winchester, Dalhousie, N. B.
Alex. McKinnon, Golden Grove, Kings county, N. B., Oct. 13.

KILLED IN ACTION OCT. 15

Charles McFee, Intervale, N. B.

WOUNDED ON DUTY, OCT. 14

Harold V. Delaney, Long Island, N. B.
Bavily Joseph White, 112 Marsh Road, St. John, N. B.
Ronald Vissey, Charlottetown, P. E. I.
Arthur E. Ingram, 40 Forrest street, St. John, N. B.

SLIGHTLY WOUNDED

D. E. Delaney, Dalhousie, N. B.

WOUNDED OCT. 13

Roy Victor Powell, 214 Carmarthen street, St. John, N. B.
J. A. Myers, 15 Spruce street, St. John, N. B.
Sergt. John A. McNeill, 14 Bayfield street, Charlottetown, P. E. I.

KILLED IN ACTION OCT 13

John McLean, Charlottetown, P. E. I.
Clifford W. Ritchie, Granville, N. B.
George A. Savidant, Campbellton, N. B.

British Transport Sunk in Agean All but Ninety Men are Saved

London, Oct. 26 (10.50 p. m.)—An official announcement, made public tonight says:

"The British transport Marquette has been torpedoed in the Aegean Sea. It is understood that only ninety-nine of the personnel of the vessel are unaccounted for.

"No further details have been received."

The steamer Marquette, before she was taken into the British government service, was owned by the Atlantic Transport Company, and plied between Philadelphia and Baltimore and London. 6he was a vessel of 7,050 tons and was built in Glasgow in 1897.

Break Between Allies and Greece Unless Latter Comes to Serbia's Help

New York, Oct. 26.—A news agency despatch from London this afternoon says:

"Great Britain's offer of Cyprus to Greece has lapsed because Greece has not seen its way to helping Serbia, Foreign Minister Sir Edward Grey told the House of Commons today.

"A break between Greece and the Allies was hinted at by the Central News today as a possibility. The suggestion was made that the Greeks might carry their neutrality bias so far as to interfere with the allied operations in the Balkans.

"A note handed by the representatives of the Allies to the Greek government is said to contain an intimation that a break may occur if Greece takes such a stand or persist in her refusal to come to the aid of Serbia.

"The cabinet held a long session to discuss the Balkan situation and the report of Sir Ian Hamilton on the situation at the Dardanelles today.

"Premier Asquith was so much better today that he was able to keep his engagement to attend the cabinet meeting."

London, Oct. 26.—Great Britain's offer of the island of Cyprus to Greece has lapsed because the condition under which the offer was made has not been fulfilled, Sir Edward Grey, the secretary for foreign affairs, informed the House of Commons this afternoon.

The foreign secretary told the House that in the very critical situation in which Serbia found herself, the Allies were bound to obtain, if possible, the only assistance immediately available. Accordingly, Great Britain informed Greece that if she would give her full immediate support to Serbia against Bulgaria, Great Britain was prepared to give her Cyprus.

Serbians Retake Town of Veles.

Athens, via Paris, Oct. 26, 11 p. m.—An official despatch announces that the Serbians have recaptured the town of Veles (Kroupla) on the railroad east of Uskup, after desperate fighting. Telegraph Connections with Roumania Broken Off.

New York, Oct. 26.—Telegraph communication between Roumania and Serbia, according to announcement made here today by the cable companies, is interrupted. No reason or details are presented in the announcement, but the interruption is supposed to be due to the active military operations now under way in Serbia.

KING GEORGE IN FRANCE

His Majesty and General Joffre Reviewed French and British Troops--Pres. Poincare decorates Prince of Wales.

Paris, Oct. 26.—President Poincare and Minister of War Millerand yesterday met King George on the Anglo-French front and reviewed the British troops. Today King George accompanied by the Prince of Wales, returned the visit, and also called on General Joffre, the French commander, and witnessed a march past by the French colonial troops, and inspected the artillery observatories at the sites of the batteries.

President Poincare conferred the war cross on the Prince of Wales.

ANOTHER SPY SHOT IN ENGLAND

His appeal to higher Court dismissed and sentence carried out yesterday morning.

London, Oct. 26.—The following official announcement of a military execution was issued today:

"A prisoner who was tried on the serious charge of espionage was found guilty and sentenced to death by being shot. The prisoner appealed to the court of criminal appeal on October 18 dismissed the appeal.

"The sentence was carried out by the military authorities this morning."

THE SITUATION IN THE BALKANS SUMMED UP

London, Oct. 27.—According to the Times the following is the situation of affairs in Serbia:

"On the Serbo-Roumanian frontier the Austro-German and Bulgarian forces are within twenty miles of each other. The Austro-German armies are advancing southwest and southeast of Belgrade on a hundred mile front, which now extends between twenty-five and forty miles south of the Danube.

"On the west the converging advance from the Drina continues, and on the east the Bulgarian main force likewise is gaining ground.

"The following, the newspaper adds is the situation on the Belgrade-Nish-Saloniki line:

"The Germans command the first fifty miles from Belgrade, the Serbians the next one hundred and fifty miles, the Bulgarians the next 100 miles and the French the last fifty miles to the Greek frontier. The Bulgarian forces which have occupied Negotin and Prahovo are marching northward along the Serbo-Roumanian frontier to join the German army which, after crossing the Danube at Orsova, has driven the Serbians west of Kladovo."

Help Must Come Soon or Serbia is Lost.

The London newspapers this morning publish an appeal from M. Pachitch, the Serbian premier, for speedy aid from England in Serbia's superhuman efforts to defend her existence against the Austro-Germans and Bulgarians, who have, he says, condemned her to death.

"For twenty days," the premier says, "our common enemies have tried to annihilate us, and despite the heroism of our soldiers our resistance can not be expected to be maintained indefinitely."

THE CONSERVATIVES SWEEP KINGS CO. IN MUNICIPAL VOTING

New Council will have Twenty Conservatives and Ten Liberals, a Big Gain Over Last Election.

Special to The Standard.

Hampton, Oct. 26.—The municipal elections in Kings County today resulted as follows:

The returns from the fifteen parishes in the county give the Conservatives a majority of ten, double the number of Liberals elected, the standing in the new council being 20 Conservatives and 10 Liberals. This shows a decided gain for the Conservatives since the previous municipal election, the standing in the old council being 16 Conservatives and 14 Liberals.