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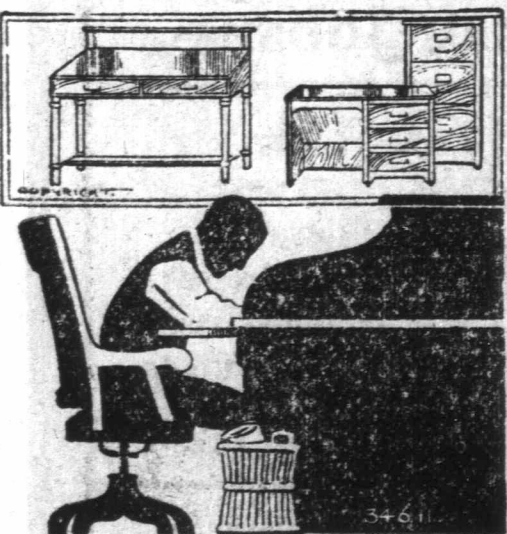
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The Salonika Army

The purpose of the army of Salonika, its composition, disposition, progress, constitute the mystery of the war to date. As the weeks went by without definite news from this region and without any reasonable explanation of the causes of the inaction of the great force, supposed to be under the command of Sarrail the mystery deepened. We have had many conjectures. The Greek crisis was a feasible reason for the delay in this campaign. Sarrail was awaiting reinforcements (which he has since got), while another favorite guess was the occupation of a large force of Bulgarians and Turks and their consequent withdrawal from the attack on Rumania. But the Bulgarians were able to help the Germans in the invasion of Rumania to a degree that satisfied Mackenzie that he could undertake the operation with safety and with fair prospects of success. How nearly he succeeded we are only now learning in the unexpected despatches describing the attempts of the advancing Russians to recover the great Chernavoda bridgehead. The possession of this great work put Mackenzie in position to conquer all Rumania had he been in strength to follow it up. Evidently disease, which is now reported to be prevalent in his army, saved the Rumanian capital, and gave the Russians time to swing across the Dobrudja while the enemy were still on the south side of the Danube. In any event we were in position to dispose of the claim that the presence of the Allied forces at the Struma in any way affected the Bulgar-Teuton plan to invade Rumania.

When the Greek situation was reviewed it was found that the Greek army had been disbanded long months ago and certainly weeks before the Rumanian advance began. Over a month ago the Greek navy, hopelessly outmatched in any case, was taken over by the Allies. Even at the worst the Greek people, unless all Allied diplomacy was deliberately misleading, were largely favorable to the Entente. We could, therefore, put aside, as at least very doubtful, the attitude of Greece as influencing the situation in the Balkans at this point.

From the first Sarrail's army has been steadily augmented until it has been announced that at least 700,000 men were under the command of the French leader at this point. These comprise Serbians, Austrians, French, Italians and British. The line extended from Florina to Seres and it is noteworthy that until yesterday it had not moved in months. True, we had reports of some Serbian successes near Monastir but these proved to be only skirmishes. It is just three months since the Serbians took up their positions at Monastir. Over ten weeks ago the British made a move across the Struma on the right, while the French attacked in the centre, near Doiran. The whole operation was in the nature of a counter demonstration against supposed Bulgarian activity.

Yesterday's news of the first combined advance of Sarrail's forces comes as a surprise. It has not been intimated that it is other than a push against the whole enemy line but even this is significant. It may mean a general attack along the front. Such an advance, if the Entente forces accomplish it, would transfer attention to still another field of operations in the Balkan theater of the struggle, just as the Rumanian invasion took from the importance of the Russian attacks in Galicia and against Lemberg and Kovel. And it would give the military experts cause for confirmation of the opinion expressed, although not in so many words, that the aim of the Allies is to keep employing each field of operations in turn in the business of exhausting the Germans in men and munitions. If this is the case the Allied attack seems competent to produce the effect desired. The pressure of a huge fresh army against the back door of the Central Powers is a matter that cannot be lightly considered, no matter how severe the strain may be elsewhere.—Ottawa Citizen.

U. S. Exports

NEW YORK, Nov. 20.—With an increase of 150 per cent. in exports of meats since the outbreak of the war and with a constantly greater proportion of her grain crops leaving the country, America is assuming an ever greater share of the burden of feeding stricken Europe. This, in the wake of short crops, is given by government officials as one of the foremost reasons for high prices of foodstuffs.

During the first eight months of this year ending with September 1, the United States has shipped abroad more than \$200,000,000 worth of meats and dairy products. This presages a total exportation of these products for the year of nearly a third of a billion dollars. During the same eight months period of 1914, just preceding the outbreak of the war these exports totalled \$80,000,000.

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UNDER the Provisions of the War Measures Act, 1914, His Excellency the Governor in Council has been pleased to order that the Regulations, published in the ROYAL GAZETTE under date 17th October last, in connection with Precautionary Measures taken against the incursions of hostile ships of war, be suspended as from the 15th November instant.

These Regulations comprised, amongst other things, the closing of the port and harbor of St. John's at night, and the extinguishing of the lights at certain light houses, and in the city of St. John's.

ARTHUR MEWS,
Deputy Colonial Secretary
Dept. of the
Colonial Secretary,
November 14, 1916.

THE FIRST PAIR

DON'T make any mistake this year. Let your first pair of Rubber Shoes be BEAR BRAND. Times are too hard for anyone to take chances of being out of work for two or three weeks with a cold which could have been avoided by getting satisfactory Rubber Shoes. The good old BEAR BRAND Shoes, which are becoming more widely known every day, are being sold in St. John's by

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What the Loss of Monastir Means to Bulgaria

By driving the Bulgars and Germans out of Monastir the Allies have inflicted upon Bulgaria the worst blow she has sustained since the beginning of the war, and one which might, indeed, lead to Bulgaria abandoning the Teutons and arranging a separate peace. Bulgaria entered the war to gain Monastir; she held it for a few months; now she has lost it again, and can see no possible prospect of regaining it. For Bulgaria this must be the darkest moment of the war. So far she has gained much with comparatively small losses. She overran Serbia, and advanced to the thing of a "joy ride" for the Bulgars. They had taken territory upon which their eyes had been covetously set for generations, and they were exterminating their hated foe. Now the time has come for Bulgaria to abandon this dream; and almost on the very day when she was forced to abandon Monastir came the official Russian announcement that Bulgaria was to be punished for her betrayal of Slavism. Now, as the New York Tribune says, she is attacked by British, Russian, French and Italian as well as by Serb.

A Memorable Coincidence.
It is a coincidence that is likely to become historic that the Serbians re-entered Monastir four years to the day from the time that an earlier Serbian army entered the city on the heels of a fleeing Turkish army. The feat was the culmination of a remarkably brilliant campaign. The city was greatly coveted by the Bulgars, and the agreement among Serbia, Greece, and Bulgaria provided that it should go to Bulgaria. At the same time there was the greatest competition among the Balkan allies to see which of them should reach it first. They were similarly competing for Salonica. The Greeks detached a small force from their army operating against Salonica, and sent it north in the hope that it might arrive before the Serbs. It did arrive in the path of a large retreating Turkish army which had chosen to fall back upon Monastir instead of Salonica, and the result was disastrous to the Greeks, who were overwhelmingly defeated at Florina and lost a large number of guns. This might have compromised the whole Greek campaign had it not been that the Serbian army was able to defeat the Turks and recapture the Greek guns. Then followed the flight of the Turks into Albania and their subsequent surrender.

The Second Balkan War.
After the first Balkan war, when the spoils were to be divided, Serbia backed out of her bargain with Bulgaria, for reasons which appeared to her justifiable. The agreement was that Bulgaria should have Monastir and part of Macedonia, while the Serbs held that part of Northern Albania which they had conquered. Austria intervened, and refused to permit the deal to go through. Serbia deprived of Albania then declined to hand over Monastir to Bulgaria, and proposed a new arrangement. This, however, Bulgaria refused to agree to, and attacked Serbia and Greece.

CATHEDRAL HIT BY 1,000 SHELLS. RHEIMS FEARS ROOF WILL FALL

Supports of Two-Foot Thick Stone Covering Shot Away—Germans Firing on Workers Seeking to Repair Damage to Edifice

RHEIMS, Nov. 25.—On November 1 the thousandth German shell struck the Cathedral of Rheims. Ever since the recent French drive at Verdun salvos of shells have been poured daily into Rheims, many striking the cathedral. Four of the flying buttresses supporting the roof of the nave have been demolished and several others hit. As the weight of the stone roof, which is about two feet thick, is borne almost entirely by these flying buttresses, the danger of its fall has become imminent.

Other parts of the beautiful architecture and statuary have suffered irreparable damage, and this increases daily, but as their destruction does not affect the stability of the building their loss is felt only from the viewpoint of art.

The fears of the authorities have been increased by the usually severe rainy season, which this year has been uninterrupted for many weeks. The timber and leaden roofs of the cathedral having been destroyed early in the bombardment, the rain falls into the building through the shell holes in the stone roof and washes away layer after layer of the calcined stone of the floor and gradually percolating through to the crypts and foundations.

Endeavors were made at first to deal with this peril to the cathedral by employing men to clear away the

with the result that she was terribly defeated, and came out of the second war poorer than she had entered the first. Before the second war the Greeks were prepared to cede Kavala and Drama to the Bulgars; while Serbia was willing to recognize Bulgar rights east of the Vardar and south of the Bregalnitz. Before the beginning of the present war Serbia offered to purchase Bulgarian neutrality at the same price, but it was Monastir that Bulgaria chiefly desired. This prize now has slipped forever from their grasp.

Military Results.
It is too early to say what the present military results of the capture of Monastir will have, apart altogether from the political effect upon the Bulgars. There is a general belief that the Bulgars will have to retreat many miles before they come to positions where they can entrench themselves. It is suggested that the new line will rest upon the Shar mountains, south-east of Prizrend, and circling Skopje—generally called Uskub—come south along the western wall of the Vardar Valley. If the defeat at Monastir has been a veritable rout, and the retreating army has lost its heavy artillery, which appears a not improbable result in view of the condition of the roads it must use, then it may be unable to rally and hold the Babuna Pass, which is the doorway of the Monastir Plain to the valley of the Vardar. Failure to make a successful stand here would imply the evacuation of the Vardar Valley south of the entrance to the pass, and make easy and certain a great Allied advance north along the Belgrade-Salonica railroad.

A Help to Roumania.
There is also to be considered the effect of the capture of Monastir and the continued retreat of the German-Bulgar army that had occupied it upon the general military situation, especially upon Roumania. Allied offensives have nearly always two objects, the immediate military object and the secondary one. In this case the secondary object is, no doubt, to give relief to Roumania, which is at the moment hard pressed by von Falkenhayn. The Monastir success, whatever effect it has upon this army, must tend to weaken Bulgar strength in the Dobrudja, for it threatens the safety of the Bulgar armies in Macedonia. It will also have its effect upon Greece, and it is to be noted that the Allies have increased their pressure upon Constantinople, demanding the dismissal of all representatives of the Central powers at Athens, and the surrender of Greek arms and munitions. Probability of a Greek rising in the rear of the army base upon Salonica has not been imminent for some months past. It now ceases to exist. We shall not exaggerate its importance if we say that the capture of Monastir is likely to have a greater effect upon the whole military than any event of the year except the Brussloff drive, the defence of Verdun and the Battle of the Somme.



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The Church Tower

According to a cablegram recently received from Europe the little town of Ramscapelle, on the western battle front "is a confused heap of ruins—the church has been the first to suffer. The fine tower has been knocked out of shape—by an odd freak of fortune the great clock is undamaged and its gilded hands still point to the hour when it last wanted winding." This description has inspired "Ada Leonora Harris," to pen the following lines which have a familiar tint:—

IN LETTERS OF BLOOD
"The Somme battle of Blood," is the German prisoner's graphic description of the British gunfire upon the enemy trenches. A letter found upon one of the prisoners reads:—
The attack lasted until the evening, when the English wrote on our bodies in letters of blood, "It is all over with you." A handful of half-mad, wretched creatures, worn out in mind and body, was all that was left of a whole battalion. We were that handful.
The Republican support seems to have broken at the weak spot—which seems to say, "Are these my walls
That in the wind appear to rock?"
READ THE MAIL & ADVOCATE