

RUSSIA'S MILITARY FORCE GREATLY EXCEEDS STRENGTH OF AUSTRIANS AND GERMANS

Czar's Armies in the Field Include at Least Four Million Men—Strength Telling all Along the Line

UNHAPPY LOT OF THE POLES

Their Country Over-Run and Devastated by the Opposing Armies—Many Cases of German Cruelty Alleged

(By John F. Bass.)
Petrograd, Russia, Nov. 19 (By Mail)—Russia has in the field covering the German-Austrian frontiers, including Galicia, at least 4,000,000 men. This is a force vastly superior to the combined German and Austrian armies on the Russian frontier and in Poland, and this predominance of strength is telling all along the line.

I have had a long conversation with an officer who has been in the battles that have taken place west and south of Warsaw. He told me many things of interest concerning the war. He was especially impressed with the extreme mobility of the German forces and the ease with which they shifted their troops from one point to another.

Poles Between Two Fires.
He also explained to me the unfor-



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mate situation in which the population of Poland finds itself. At the beginning of the war Poland was rich in provisions; meat, butter, milk and bread were abundant. The first troops to take the field in Poland were the Austrian volunteers; these in turn were driven out by the first Russian forces. Then came the regular Austrian troops, which at first successfully invaded Poland, but were again driven out by the increasing Russian army. Now the Germans have come.

Each army in turn levied its tribute of provisions from the country folk. When the Germans arrived they counted on finding plenty of provisions and on living off the country; they were greatly disappointed, therefore, when they discovered that supplies were almost exhausted. Consequently they employ every method to squeeze the peasants and force them to bring what food remains. They pay for these provisions, and pay well, consequently the peasants, who are not accustomed to get such high prices, have parted with everything they have and are in danger of starvation.

Unable to Move Away.
In more thickly populated countries like France, Belgium, and Austria, where railroads are naturally more numerous and closer together, it is possible for the greater part of the population to move away from the field of active battle; but in Poland the villages are so far apart and the railroads and highways so few, the people cannot get away in large numbers, and really have no place to go. They stay in their villages ignorant of what is going on. Suddenly shells begin to burst over a village and the battle may pass through it. The peasants, stupefied at this sudden eruption of war, can only fall on their knees, pray, and cross themselves.

"These peasants," said the officer, "are the greatest sufferers of the war. We enter a village. The Germans shell us. The unfortunate peasants kneel and cross themselves and seek shelter behind walls, trees, and stones."
No Cellars in Which to Hide.
"We in turn are obliged to withdraw. We cannot help the poor peasants by taking them with us, for a fighting force cannot take along in a battle women and children. The Germans enter the village, and we in turn shell them. The poor villagers again suffer. Their houses have no cellars and they are almost

as much exposed to the dangers of battle as are the soldiers. The population—men, women, and children—are constantly under the fire of both combatants.

"When we invaded East Prussia we found that the bulk of the population had fled. In Poland it is different involuntarily those who remain do us considerable harm. Although they have the best intentions in the world, when they are subjected to the cross-examination of German officers they cannot help giving information concerning our numbers and our whereabouts.

Do Much Harm.
"I believe the newspapers which are circulated in both the German and the Russian armies do much harm in exciting both sides to acts of retaliation. These papers contain accounts of atrocities, true or false. The stories naturally inflame the soldiers to acts of unnecessary violence and cruelty."
"In our army, where there are fewer newspapers circulated, the feeling is not so artificially stirred as it is in the German army, where newspapers give credence to the most improbable stories of atrocities on the part of Russians, French, and British. Consequently the German soldiers come into war in a state of mind which leads itself to the most wanton acts of brutality."

Volunteer Forces Not Successful.
"In Russia the volunteers are for the most part of the upper and educated classes; they are comparatively few in number at present because we have not needed them. On the German and Austrian sides, however, there are many volunteers from the uneducated classes."
"On the whole, these volunteer forces have not proved a success in the war. In the first place they lack the machine-like precision of the regular troops and are not nearly as effective in mobility or in actual fighting. Their lack of discipline

"Austria's field gun is mechanically perfect, but the gun crews lack technical training and show great nervousness. This weakness is proved by the small proportion of shells that reach the mark."
Austrians Desert Trenches.
"The Austrians and Germans build equally good trenches, but here again the Germans show superior steadiness and never leave the trenches until ordered to do so by their officers. The Austrians, on the other hand, show nervousness, and when hard pressed are liable to desert their trenches against the orders of their officers. When the German and Austrian forces unite the latter submit entirely to German control."

"The German policy of always assuming the aggressive has cost the Germans dearly in Russia, because it leads them to advance so rapidly that, because of continuous rains and bad roads, they cannot reinforce their columns with sufficient speed. For the same reason the advance guards find it itself unable to retreat rapidly. The Germans are good at defensive fighting, but they do not like, nor do they stand well, the bayonet charge."
"Under German influence the Austrians have attempted to assume offensive tactics. When they are not successful the Austrians troops are liable to retreat in a panic and fail to stop at the entrenched positions which have been prepared. If, however, the Austrians are once stationed in a defensive position they fight well and hold their ground."

renders them somewhat unmanageable by their officers. Consequently, they are inclined to act with unnecessary brutality toward enemies when they get the upper hand, and at times are even guilty of gross cruelty toward the non-combatant population.

Seldom See the Germans.
"The most remarkable difference between fighting the Austrians and fighting the Germans is that you see the former in battle and you don't see the latter. Against the Germans one gets the impression that the whole battle is being fought by the artillery."
"So effectively do the Germans concentrate their gunfire that every engagement of any magnitude opens with a perfect hail of shells. This devilish artillery fire is continued for a long time; indeed, it seems to cover the entire period of the German advance."
"The advance of the infantry, long delayed, is absolutely covered by this avalanche of shells. No opportunity is given to see the infantry, which advances nearer to our positions and entrenches itself. This in turn gives the German artillery the opportunity to move up and sweep the countryside with its masses of steel and lead. There is a great deal of talk about the German cavalry and infantry, but you see little of them."

Heavy Guns Not Used.
"The much-vaunted German 42-centimetre guns have not been in use in Russia because of the impossibility of transporting them; nor, for the same reason, have the Germans been able to make effective use of their seven and eight-inch mortars. The moral effect of the stories that have been circulated concerning these guns is considerable and adds to the effectiveness of the German field artillery. I do not, however, consider the German field gun more destructive than our field gun nor is the aim of the German gunner any better."

"The new super-dreadnought California, to be built for the American navy, will be driven by electric motors."
The new York subway has a great record. In ten years it carried 2,429,777,435 passengers, and it has had just one killed in a train wreck.

land, have been proved German spies and will be dealt with by military authorities.
Of the 11,317,424 families in France before the war, forty-five had eighteen or more children, and thirty-seven families had seventeen children each. But 2,661,987 families or 23.5 per cent. had only two children each, while 1,805,744 families, or 15.9 per cent., had no children.
This fall, Eben Allen, aged 87, of Ellsworth, Me., has dug one hundred bushels of potatoes, gathered one hundred bushels of vegetables, threshed a bushel of beans, gathered forty bushels of apples and has sawed two and a half cords of wood, besides doing numerous other duties about the house.
Bombay is going to make use of road mirrors at dangerous turns or junctions of streets and roads where traffic is considerable. It is expected those mirrors will enable motorists, when they approach such junctions, to determine whether or not otherwise blind streets are free from traffic. One of these mirrors, measuring five by ten feet, is said to be the largest of its kind in the world.
In Kenosha, Wis., the street car company, suspicious that the receipts were not what they should be, discharged its eighteen conductors and is now experimenting with an "honor" system. A coin box is placed at the rear of each car, in which the passenger is supposed to drop his fare. So far the results have been satisfactory.

General News Of The World

Culled From Many Sources For Readers of The Mail and Advocate

The new super-dreadnought California, to be built for the American navy, will be driven by electric motors.

The new York subway has a great record. In ten years it carried 2,429,777,435 passengers, and it has had just one killed in a train wreck.

The Sheephead Bay race track in Brooklyn, N.Y., was sold for \$2,500,000. The purchasers plan to turn the track into a motordrome for automobile races.

Col. George W. Goethals, Governor of the Panama Canal Zone, issued an order providing that all employees on the canal with marine licenses must abstain absolutely from liquor.

Chicago is to have ice cold mail permission to install an icebox having been requested by the postmaster to help the "farm to consumer" movement.

A man found intoxicated in Denmark is turned over to the care of a doctor, and the bill is sent to the proprietor of the last saloon visited by the man.

An Exchange telegram says a lance corporal and a private of the Hants Regiment stationed at Salisbury, Eng-

land, have been proved German spies and will be dealt with by military authorities.

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