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General Ilesco the Brains of the Roumanian Army

The taking of a fourth Transylvania by the Roumanian troops with scarcely a check shows how cleverly-laid were the dispositions of the Roumanian General Staff. The surprise concentration of the Bulgars and Turks under Mackensen, on the southern side, caught the Roumanians partly unawares, but after having lost Turtukat and Silistra, the northern Roumanian army, aided by Russians, were able to bring the Teuton forces to a halt in the Dobruja, indeed, to inflict a serious defeat. As time allows the Roumanians and Russians to concentrate strength there, the parrying of Mackensen's first blow is really decisive. It is doubtful if Mackensen will be able to make headway now, and in that case Roumania will have secured fronts that keep it out of danger of vital invasion. The Roumanian commander-in-chief Ilesco, is an able and resolute soldier, and his conduct of the campaign already has given proof of high strategical ability. In the Cologne Gazette recently appeared an appreciation of this remarkable commander by a Bucharest correspondent. That eulogy appeared before Roumania's entrance into the war, and is therefore a candid from the German point of view:

An Artillery Officer.

To the Roumanian officers who of late, in the expectation of hope of warlike events, have been mentioned most frequently, belongs the Secretary-General of the Ministry of War, General Ilesco. His post is in any case of particular importance to the army. Its importance becomes still greater when the Minister of War, as the case is to-day, is not a professional man. As is well known, the Premier himself discharges the duties of Minister of War. In such a case the Secretary-General is really the War Minister, and if he in addition enjoys the necessary reputation, as General Ilesco does, then his influence is also decisive on the General Staff. The great warlike deployment of the Roumanian army which undoubtedly has been going on since the Bulgarian campaign is justly regarded as the personal achievement of the present Secretary-General. General Ilesco, who has scarcely passed the middle of his forties, comes from the artillery branch, which he left not many years since for the General Staff. Lastly he took up his present position on the formation of the Brattiano Cabinet in 1913.

Chief of the Staff.

For what post he is really designated both by his admirers and public opinion appeared a few months ago when General Otto, the Chief of the General Staff, reached the age limit and passed into the reserves. It was then generally expected that General Ilesco would be appointed his successor, and it caused general surprise when General Zotto was charged with

the further conduct of affairs. Nevertheless, even to-day General Ilesco is regarded—not in military quarters alone—as the future Chief of the General Staff. This has been clearly expressed by an eminent Liberal in the following words: "In view of his great achievements it is the desire not only of professional men but of all patriots who place their love for the country above the political passions that the father of modern Roumanian artillery should be given that great and responsible post, for which his studies, his experience, and his entire career have qualified him better than anybody else. Would it not be a piece of lunacy to search for a man with such intellectual and professional qualifications elsewhere?" According to the views prevalent here, Gen. Ilesco gained a special distinction in the years between 1902 and 1904, when the Roumanian artillery was armed with quick-firing guns supplied by Krupp. It is stated here also that he even introduced very useful improvements in the model, and that Krupp's later customers—Argentina, Turkey, Italy and others—derived therefrom considerable advantages. The French military administration, too, has paid attention to these improvements in the course of the present war.

Building Up the Artillery.

Since the outbreak of the present war Gen. Ilesco has concentrated his efforts upon the increase of the Roumanian heavy artillery. He found as Secretary-General only half a regiment of this arm, and increased it to four complete regiments, which will be followed by three more now in the course of formation. The field artillery has been increased by him by five regiments, and the five howitzer half-regiments are now full regiments. Out of a half-regiment of mountain artillery he has made a complete one, and to the old guns have been fixed quick-firing arrangements. The peace footing of the infantry Gen. Ilesco has increased from 85,000 to 119,000 men, the reserve half-regiments have become complete regiments and a new tenth battalion of chasseurs has been created. The cavalry has been increased by two new divisions, with mounted artillery, which, in Roumanian opinion, surpasses all European models. The weak point of the Roumanian military administration formerly was always the lack of munitions. According to assurances of persons in touch with the war administration, all necessary measures have been taken during the war to provide the Roumanian army in case of a war with all the requisite production of munitions. The factory at Dudert, which has recently been the scene of an explosion; another at Kotrocheni, which was also visited a short time ago by an accident, and the arsenal are the greatest providers of munitions in the country.

German Plan for Trade War after the World War

A Berlin letter says: The prospect which will be imported immediately of a "war after the war" as proposed from America. Only after the arrival by British newspapers and discussed of these raw materials and the recon- at the economic conference of the Al- basis of our industries to a peace lies at Paris, apparently is causing lition of raw materials and the recon- little anxiety in Germany, where the articles he available."

belief is expressed that natural com- Herr Heineken's reply led to a ques- mercial tendencies will soon overcome tion as to the probabilities of "dump- ing," which he scouted. He said that whatever stocks of manufactured articles might have been on hand at the outbreak of the war naturally had been utilized in Germany and that there had been no replenishment of these supplies.

This view was voiced in a state- ment by the Associated Press by Philip Heineken, director of the North Ger- man Lloyd steamship line. Herr Heineken discussed plans which are being made in Germany to resume in- ternational trade after the coming of peace, and said there was no basis for the apprehension that Germany might unload low-priced goods on the Amer- ican market.

Like all German shipping experts, Herr Heineken looks forward to an immense call for tonnage with the ending of the war. All Europe, he said, will be calling for raw materials to replenish exhausted stocks. As ships which have been requisitioned for war purposes cannot be returned immediately to the ordinary channels of traffic, but will require consider- able alteration to reconvert them from transports, auxiliary cruisers and so forth to cargo carriers, those companies which have tonnage afloat and immediately available will be in a position of great advantage.

"Post bellum traffic," said Herr Heineken, "will, of course, be largely one-way traffic at first, German ships, for example, will be able to load for America certain amount of potash, dyestuffs and so forth, but this will not counterbalance the cotton, tobacco, copper and other raw materials

captured in hostile harbours were recovered. New construction during the war—and this is now virtually completed—just about balances the tonnage destroyed or captured. For this reason Herr Heineken said the North German Lloyd is in a somewhat better position than most other shipping lines, even in view of the enormous activity of ship-build- ing in Germany, which has already reached such a point that available shipbuilding works, crowded with orders, cannot take another contract for two years.

In the course of the conversation, Herr Heineken prophesied that the buildings of a second Isthmian canal by the United States would not be an improbable development of the none too distant future. He fears that the Panama Canal may prove too unreliable a route to permit the United States to base thereon its entire international and naval policy. In this case he said, it would be the part of wise statesmanship to choose promptly between the alternatives of building and maintaining a second fleet or of constructing a perfectly and permanently reliable canal.

Britain Releases 38 Alien Enemies

Were Taken From American Steamer and United States Made a Vigorous Protest

Washington, Sept. 22.—The British Government has ordered the release of the 38 Germans, Austrians and Turks who were taken from the American steamship China by the British cruiser Laurotic on the high seas in the Orient on Feb. 18, 1916, and who have since been held as prisoners at Hong Kong, and later at Sydney, N.S.W. Secretary Lansing was notified to-day that these prisoners would leave Sydney on Sept. 28 for Shanghai via Hong Kong. Vigorous protest was made by the State Department last February and in a subsequent note against the action of the captain of the British cruiser. These 28 German, eight Austrian and two Turkish subjects boarded the China at Shanghai for Nagasaki en route for Manila. They were taken from the steamship China about ten miles from the entrance to the Yangtze Kiang River, and were taken by the cruiser Laurotic to Hong Kong, where they were placed in military barracks.

The United States Government took the position that unless it could be shown that these men were part of the armed forces of enemies of Great Britain they could not be taken from a neutral vessel, and that the action of the British armed forces which boarded the China was "an unwarranted invasion of the sovereignty of American vessels on the high seas."

Belgium is Doing Her Part of Work

LONDON, Sept. 30.—While considerable has been said about the work of the Belgian Relief Committee here and in Canada little has been heard of what the Belgian Government is doing for her people in that part of the country under German control. In fact, the question has been raised a number of times as to what Belgium is doing for her own people and why others should be called on to keep the seven million women, children and old men from starvation.

The Belgian Government is practically bankrupt but not deterred by that fact it has borrowed from England over \$50,000,000, which has been devoted towards bearing a part of the expense of feeding the unfortunates through the Belgian Relief Committee. If this country, which has an army of soldiers to keep in the field can do this surely Britain's dominions can lend their financial support.

The work of the Belgian Relief Committee has been wonderful. Its organization is the most complete of any of the kind the world has ever known. Not the least among the efforts have been those emanating from the committee branch in Canada. The headquarters of this committee are at 59 St. Peter street, Montreal, and this office and branches in nearly every community in Canada are now collecting money for further relief. So economically is this fund administered in Belgium that it is calculated that the amount required to keep a Belgian family from starvation a whole month is \$2.50. Subscriptions are invited through local committees or may be sent to the Central Belgian Relief Committee, 59 St. Peter street, Montreal.

Double Trouble.

"Busy days for his wife."
 "How ho?"
 "Has to keep her white shoes powdered as well as her face."

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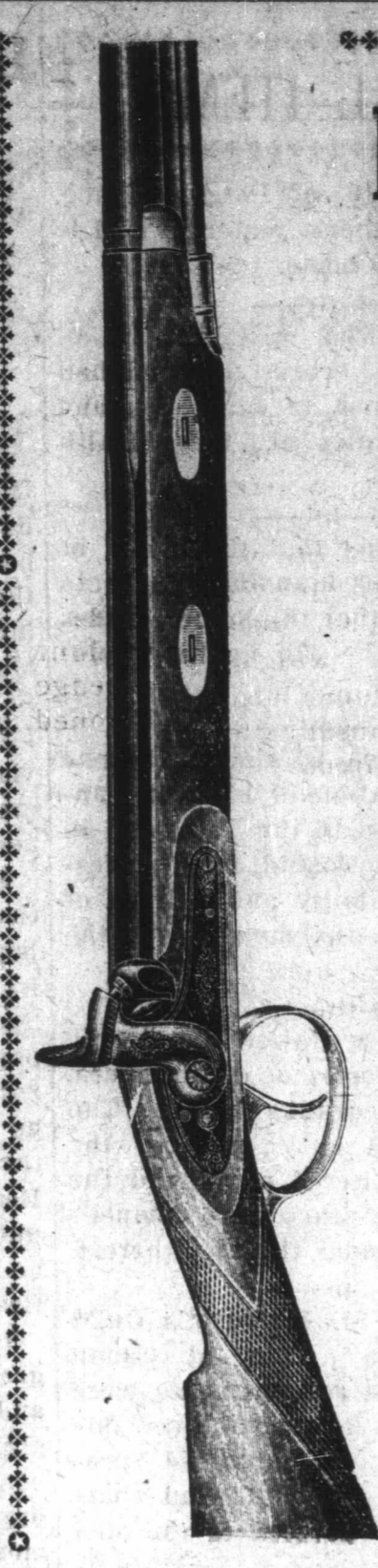
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