

50,000 TEUTONS AND BULGARS ON RUMANIAN LINE

Bucharest Reports Scout Aeroplanes Witnessed Trench Digging

GURAZZO BATTLE OPENED

Invaders of Albania Form Junction—Essad Pasha Attacked

LONDON, Feb. 17. Fifty thousand German and Bulgarian troops have been concentrated on the Rumanian border, according to advices from Bucharest.

This was established by a reconnoitering flight of three Rumanian aeroplanes which crossed the boundary and flew above Bulgarian territory.

The military observers reported that the German-Bulgarian forces were constructing trenches, but had no heavy artillery.

The aeroplanes were shelled violently, but decreased the frontier in safety.

The final struggle for the mastery of Albania has begun, according to dispatches received in London.

The Austrians and Bulgarians have succeeded in forming a junction and their combined armies are now in contact with Essad Pasha's army of Albanians, Montenegrins and Serbians which is defending Durazzo. The Italian expedition is still at Valona.

The Rumanian Consul at Salonica has notified all reservists remaining in that city to return to Rumania immediately, says a Havas Athens dispatch.

Thirteen French aeroplanes raided the town and camps of Strumitza, Bulgaria, yesterday, according to a Reuter Salonica dispatch. The machines dropped 153 bombs causing several fires, and returned to their base untouched.

BULGARIANS DISHEARTENED

Army Losses Amount to 150,000, It Is Reported

LONDON, Feb. 17.—The London Daily News has received the following dispatch from its Rome correspondent:

"A neutral diplomatist recently returned from Bulgaria says the Bulgarian losses amount to 150,000 men. The army now reduced to about 120,000, and is insufficient to aid the Germans in an attack on Salonica.

"The Bulgarian soldiers are on short rations, as the Germans have requisitioned all supplies of wheat. They are disheartened and tired of the war, and fear Russian reprisals in the near future.

"The King is blamed for selling the country to the Germans, and is becoming unpopular. His journey to Germany and Austria was taken because he feared it would be impossible to avert a revolution unless the Austro-Germans organized timely measures. These the King personally urged at Vienna and Berlin."

40,000 TURKS CAPTURED AT ERZERUM'S FALL

Continued from Page One
Nicholas today sent a message of congratulation to the Grand Duke.

PARIS, Feb. 17. The capture of Erzerum has placed Asia Minor at the mercy of the Russians, in the opinion of French military experts. The Russian victory at Erzerum is called the most important since the French success in Champagne last year.

Far-reaching results are expected from the capture of Erzerum. The bulk of the Russian forces is expected to move against the Turkish lines of communications supplying the troops in Mesopotamia.

Grand Duke Nicholas' capture of the Turkish stronghold of Erzerum, it is expected, will have an indirect effect on the fate of the British army inured in Kut-el-Amara, Mesopotamia. Kut is 475 miles from Erzerum, which lies on the opposite side of a mountain range, so there is no possibility of direct Russian assistance, but it is believed that Turkey will be diverted from pressing the Mesopotamia campaign. A Russian drive upon Constantinople is likewise considered infeasible, since, although the distance between Erzerum and the Sultan's capital is only 625 miles, the terrain is almost inviolable from a military standpoint on account of its difficult mountainous character.

The Russians will probably launch an offensive against Trebizond, the Moslem port on the Black Sea.

Controlling the roads through Armenia, with access to Trebizond, Fabriz and Mesopotamia, the capture of Erzerum, the Metz of Armenia, is calculated to have immense strategic importance in the Russian campaign in the Caucasus, and it will indirectly affect the Balkan campaign by relieving the pressure on the Allies at Salonica.

Great military advantage has thus been won by Russia, the reduction of Erzerum. The whole of northern Armenia now lies open to the Grand Duke, with only such defenses to oppose him as the Turks have been able to erect at brief notice. He is only 126 miles from the Russian army moving west around Lake Van, and he is in a position seriously to threaten, at least, the line of communications connecting the Russians with the Turkish army engaged with the British in Mesopotamia. Three Russian columns, in fact, now are converging in this general region; the army in Erzerum, which will come or already is coming south; the Lake Van army, and the force in Persia operating west from Hamadan.

Erzerum is situated on the caravan route from the Black Sea at Trebizond to the Persian Gulf, and is connected by railroads and good post roads with the other frontier towns.

CAME TO U. S. TO DIE

Man Who Left Ireland to Escape Conscripted Dies of Injuries

Robert Garvin was too much of an Irish patriot to fight for England, so he got out of that part of the British Empire where the county of Cork is and came to this country before the English authorities began to stop emigration of Irishmen.

Just before he died this morning in Cooper Hospital, Camden, he said to his nurse:

"Well, I'm killed fighting for my wife and family. That's better than fighting for a country I don't love." Then he explained he had come over here to avoid conscription, and passed away.

Garvin was crushed by a crane yesterday at the plant of the New York Shipbuilding Company. He was 47 years old, and at his boarding house, 1174 Haddon avenue, all the police were able to learn was the indefinite address of Cork. He leaves a wife and three children in Ireland. He had planned to bring them to this country.

Heater Was Cause of McFadden Fire

It was learned today that the fire Tuesday in the home of John H. McFadden, at 25th and Walnut streets, where the valuable painting, "Miss Natchez," by Lawrence, was burned, was caused by the heater in the basement immediately below that portion of the dining room where the picture was hung. It was reported at the time of the fire that the picture was the cause.

The War Today

Rumanian air scouts report the presence of 50,000 Germans and Bulgars across the border. Bucharest dispatches report that this army is intrinsching. The activity on the Bulgarian border is considered by way of menacing warning to Rumania against entrance into the war on the side of the Allies.

The conquest of Erzerum, the first important Russian victory since the retreat from the Carpathians began nearly a year ago, has stirred the Russian people to great depths of patriotism. It is declared the Grand Duke's triumph is only the prelude to greater victories that will carry the Czar's armies sweeping back through Poland and Galicia before summer.

One dispatch says that the Turks are fleeing westward, abandoning part of their artillery. This is taken to mean that the larger part of the Turkish garrison, variously estimated at from 80,000 to 160,000 men, has escaped. The capture of Erzerum means the collapse of all Turkish plans of conquest in Persia, military men believe, and possibly will force the Turks to abandon their plans to invade Egypt.

That a breathing spell, perhaps preliminary to greater efforts on the western front, is taking place is revealed by the official report of the Paris War Office, which says that nothing of importance occurred yesterday or last night.

GALE TAKES HEAVY TOLL IN BRITISH ISLES

Millions of Dollars Lost—Ten Fishing Boats Fail to Report

LONDON, Feb. 17.—Millions of dollars' damage has been done by the gale which swept over the British Isles, the North Sea and the coast of Holland during the last 24 hours. It is feared that there has been considerable loss of life at sea, for at least 10 fishing boats, which received no advance notice of the approaching storm, have failed to report to their home ports. They carried a total of about 80 seamen.

The work of the British patrol fleet of warships has been greatly hampered, and many of the ships had to seek anchorage. However, there was no danger from attack, as the seas were so high that enemy ships could not approach the coast. Many mines have been washed ashore, having broken from their moorings.

The Norwegian steamship Hjordia was blown ashore on Blakeney Point, near Norfolk, and 19 men were drowned. The seamen were trying to reach shore in lifeboats when one of the boats was swamped.

REPORT OF COLONEL HOUSE CHANGED WILSON'S VIEWS

Former Premier of France Scores President's Policies on Lusitania

LONDON, Feb. 17.—That Colonel Edward M. House's visit to Berlin had a marked effect upon President Wilson's attitude toward Germany is the assertion made by George Clemenceau, former Premier of France, in an article which he publishes in his newspaper today.

"It is most significant," says the ex-Premier, "that previous to the completion of Colonel House's mission President Wilson was disposed to be adamant in his demand for a Lusitania disavowal, but no sooner was Colonel House's report in his hands than he fell on Count von Bernstorff's neck."

Explaining House's mission to Paris, Clemenceau says: "A friend of the colonel confided to me that House was charged to try out the Allies on the subject of Wilsonian peace mediation. I am in a position to state authoritatively that the presidential envoy had not long to wait for a negative reply."

TURKS KILL 2000 BRITISH IN FURIOUS FIGHT NEAR KUT

Ottoman Airmen Drop Bombs on Enemy's Batteries

CONSTANTINOPLE, Feb. 17. The loss of 2000 British troops in a fight near Kut-el-Amara is reported by the Turkish War Office today. The following statement was given out:

"Iraq front (Mesopotamia)—Turkish airmen flew over the enemy's batteries at Kut-el-Amara, and dropped 12 bombs, which did much damage. The enemy lost 2000 men and 300 beasts of burden in a fight in which they were defeated near Batlia. Numerous dead were left behind during their retreat.

"Near Aden a detachment of the enemy was cut off and annihilated."

IRISH SEDITION GROWS; BRITISH UNEARTH PLOT

Evidences of Treason Campaign Alarms English Government

ARMS FOUND IN DUBLIN

LONDON, Feb. 17.

Anxiety verging on alarm is being caused in Government circles by the situation in Ireland. Not only is Ireland, apathetic toward the war, but evidences of a seditious anti-Government campaign have been unearthed.

With a freedom which is regarded as most unusual, the censor is allowing the publication of certain facts pointing to deep political unrest in Ireland. The anti-Government campaign apparently has its headquarters in Dublin, from which city the activities are being directed.

The police have raided a number of houses and have suppressed at least 10 newspapers within the past few weeks.

Enlistments in Ireland have fallen off to such an extent that the famous Irish regiments will have to be filled with men recruited in England and Scotland in a short time.

Already considerable drafts from English and Scottish regiments have been put into some of the Irish battalions. More than 100 English cavalrymen are now serving in one of the most famous of the Irish regiments of the line. Another great Irish battalion, which has distinguished itself in past wars, is 300 men short of its full complement.

Although Ireland has a male population of 2,192,000, fewer than 85,000 men have enlisted since the outbreak of the war.

The tide of immigration to the United States became so great that the Government had to stop it.

Members of the Sinn Fein organization have become so bold in the dissemination of their propaganda that it has been decided to adopt a stern policy toward them. It is learned that when the home of Countess Markievicz in Dublin was raided recently letters were found which led to the discovery of an arsenal in Great Brunswick street, Dublin.

The police searched a number of houses, securing a great supply of rifles, pistols and ammunition, as well as two machine guns, which had been secreted in defiance of the defense of the realm act.

BIG DEMOCRATIC 'GUNS' IN DEFENSE SKIRMISH

House Caucus Tonight on Sugar Tariff Repeal to Be Revenue Battleground

WASHINGTON, Feb. 17.—House Democrats will have their first family discussion of revenue legislation. They will caucus on the Administration bill to repeal the Wilson-Underwood tariff, Dublin providing for placing of sugar on the free list May 1.

Democratic pacifists, while promising little objection to the program of continuing present duties on sugar, planned to start the fight tonight against further taxation for raising preparedness revenues. They threatened to bring up the whole revenue problem for a preliminary skirmish and test the strength of Democratic "insurgency" against preparedness.

Democratic Leader Kitchin predicted today the "free sugar" repeal would be approved by the caucus virtually without division. Administration leaders also planned to head off general revenue legislation.

Kitchin expects to bring the free sugar repeal bill before the House before the end of next week.



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Come in and see this Turnover structural lumber. We know Electric Shop or at your District Office. Please note that the \$1.25 price and special terms are good during February only.

The PHILADELPHIA ELECTRIC COMPANY

CLYDE LINER SAVES FOUR FROM SINKING BARGE

Passengers Witness Thrilling Rescue Off Hatteras

NEW YORK, Feb. 17.—Half dead from exposure after two days and nights on a drifting, water-logged barge, four men were saved from what seemed certain death by the Clyde liner Mohawk, Tuesday afternoon. Passengers on the Mohawk, which arrived last night, brought the story of the thrilling rescue.

The barge, the Harry F. Hooper, of Wilmington, Del., was sighted about five miles off Cape Hatteras lighthouse.

The men on the barge signaled that they would try to come across in their own boat. They launched it and got away safely. Several times the little boat, with three men rowing and balling, sank from sight of the Mohawk's passengers, and it seemed as if the great waves would engulf it, but they finally managed to reach the Mohawk.

\$850,000 Paid for \$30,000 Ship

NEW YORK, Feb. 17.—The steamship Dunholme, sold four years ago as a fire-blackened hulk for \$30,000, has been bought for approximately \$850,000 by the Standard Oil Company, her late owners have announced. They added that she would soon leave this port for the East with oil in cases.

SERIES OF ATTACKS ON WEST FRONT HERALD BIG OFFENSIVE

Germans Strike to Prevent Allies From Getting Flying Start—Berlin Fears Crushing Assaults on Flanks in Artois and Champagne

By WILLIAM PHILIP SIMMS

Manager Paris Bureau of the United Press

NEW YORK, Feb. 17.—Has the long-expected big offensive begun along the western front? Are the daily assaults in Artois and Champagne the prelude to an early attempt to pierce the lines and the start of a drive toward Paris, Calais or Cologne? If not, what is the meaning of the hot fighting now going on in France?

Despite the continuous pounding of artillery all along the line, and the spirited clashes of infantry for the possession of certain sections of trenches, the indications are that the big offensive, from either side, is still some distance off. Apparently both Germany and the Allies are jockeying for position, playing for the inside track. As at a horse race where strong and nervous maneuvering for the get-away is likely to be rather long and tedious, with some false starts.

There is no doubt but that Germany is expecting the Allies to launch a ter-

such an extent, by daily and weekly attacks, that such preparatory operations not proceed without hindrance.

On the other hand the French, who are doubtfully prepared for a big German offensive, it is believed inevitable, is said to Paris that German public opinion at home will demand that the western theatre of war, and French troops have, beyond any doubt, been made to meet the attack. This may come where in the Artois or in the Flanders region in an effort to reach the Channel in the Compienne, Soissons or Champagne districts with Paris as the objective. Both may come together. Or—and this is to prove true—the Germans might seek a new route to Paris from the eastern frontier.

In any event, it seems little likely that any really serious offensive will be undertaken by either side until the weather turns on enough good weather to make the handling of artillery easy. In the European war a backbone is composed of big guns and field pieces and steppe numbers of them are absolutely necessary to dynamite an army's way forward.

Too, these guns need ammunition, and hitherto unheard-of quantities, necessitating the free circulation, back of the lines, of innumerable auto trucks. In short, rainy weather, with the accompanying saturated ground, bogs, and holes, is not especially helpful to an advance.

The present fighting in France, therefore, seems to be only the sharp preliminary clashes.

Advertisement for 'The Country Gentleman' magazine. Features the headline 'All this in a single issue of' and lists various farm-related articles such as 'What Is Your Farm Worth?', 'The Time To Sell a Horse', 'Ditching and Draining', 'A Game and a Gamble', 'From Brush to Blue Grass', 'Spreading Yourself Too Thin', 'Your State Board of Health', and 'And a great deal more:'. It also includes an advertisement for an electric toaster for \$3.25 and a G.W. Huver Co. Upright Piano for \$185. The ad concludes with 'The Country Gentleman out to-day from any news dealer or boy agent'.