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# ROUMANIANS' FINE DEFENCE OF MOLDAVIA

## New Marne for Huns On the Sereth as Glorious Feat of Arms.

### OUTNUMBERED

#### But Peasant Troops Held Crossing for 15 Days--Foe Loss Huge.

London Cable.—Details have been received by the Times from its correspondent on the Rumanian front of the magnificent fight of the reconstructed Rumanian army against Gen. Mackensen, which saved Jassy, the capital, and all Moldavia. Foreign Minister Cambon of France, declared that the victory reminded him in a measure of that of the Marne. Since August 19 until today the Germans made no serious effort to resume the offensive. The story follows:

"With the Rumanian Army on the Marasesti Front, Aug. 21.—The story of the past fifteen days will remain golden letters in the history of this country. The defence of the Marasesti front north of Fochshani was the most glorious deed of arms ever accomplished by the Rumanian army. The heroic fight of these peasant soldiers, who had to face much superior German forces, has been unexcelled by either the Belgians or Serbians. The main objective of the enemy has been to reach the bridge of Costesia, across the River Sereth. The intention of the enemy was clear from the letter I saw, found on the corpse of a Prussian officer, dated August 6th, as follows: 'We are going to give a decisive blow here very soon. If we cross the Sereth, which I hope will not be difficult, Jassy and the whole of Moldavia will be ours. If we succeed I believe we are going to be sent to Flanders, where things seem not again.'

"The moment chosen by Mackensen was August 8, when the Russian troops had to be repulsed by the Rumanians. The Rumanian division, which was still on the left bank of the Sereth, hurried part of its troops across the bridge to prevent any crossing of the river. For three days one division resisted the fierce attacks of three German divisions, which were ordered to cross at any price. Finally, on Aug. 12, the enemy, finding his efforts useless, shifted his attack westwards. The enemy's losses were enormous. Prisoners of Alpine corps confessed that since Verdun they never had such a serious engagement. The Twelfth Bavarian division was practically annihilated and reduced to 2,000 men. Naturally the Rumanians' losses were also heavy. On the following days the attack became general on the whole Marasesti front, where the Germans brought twelve divisions against much weaker Rumanian forces, who moreover, took over a precarious situation. However, with the sacrifice of nearly a whole Rumanian division, the German plan was countered. Had the enemy succeeded in crossing the bridge at Comesti and pouring divisions over the river the Rumanian armies would have been cut in two and the enemy would have dealt easily with each army separately.

"A new offensive broke loose on the 14th. Extremely violent artillery preparations started early in the morning. Under the clouds of dust, smoke and asphyxiating gases the German infantry were sent again to be slaughtered. The Rumanian soldiers stood as heroically as any in this war, unflinching, though whole regiments were decimated by the fire of the German machine-guns. Officers and soldiers died in their positions, refusing to withdraw or surrender. The French captain, Yernat, attached to a Rumanian regiment, lost his life fighting together with his Rumanian comrades. The German waves broke against a wall of determined Rumanian soldiers. As an illustration of the German losses, the Eighty-ninth Prussian division had to withdraw on the second day of the battle, in spite of the desperate efforts of the enemy he was unable to cross the river. The ground gained, which does not exceed three miles in depth, is of no strategical value, and has been paid for at an enormous price.

"The last big German effort was made on the night of August 19, when, after intense artillery fire of all calibres, two German divisions and an Austrian brigade attacked the Rumanians' position north and east of Paniu.

"In the presence of their King, who accompanied by Prince Carol, shared the risks of the battle with his soldiers, the Rumanians fought bravely beyond praise. The enemy, whose attacks were more desperate than ever, succeeded in approaching the barbed-wire entanglements when the last Rumanian reserves were brought forward and counter-attacked with such violence that the enemy fled in disorder. The German soldiers, surprised at such a violent attack, threw away their rifles and surrendered. The next day witnessed six hundred Germans and Austrians parading before the King. While the Austrians looked slack and tired, the Bavarians distinguished themselves by marching in excellent 'goose-step'.

"The battlefield is still covered with corpses, which are piled six deep. Prisoners declare they were told the war will be over in the Autumn when England will be crushed.

"These reverses have checked the enemy's activity for the present. It is doubtful whether he can conduct further operations in this direction. The situation on the whole may be considered now with more optimism. The German check on this front is the most serious they ever had in the Near East. After a fortnight's fighting with terrific losses they have been checked by numerically inferior forces. On the other hand the strategical advantage is with the Rumanians, who possess the whole of the left bank of the Sereth, whose abrupt slopes dominate a right bank, which is partially in German hands. The army, although numerically weakened by the fortnight's fierce fighting, has a high morale, and is convinced now that even with inferior numbers they will be able to revenge the defeat of Last Autumn."

MACKENSEN RENEWS THE OFFENSIVE. London Cable.—The official despatches from Petrograd and Berlin indicate that Mackensen has regrouped his armies following his disastrous check, and yesterday resumed the offensive. The Berlin report claims that the Germans captured the village of Manziel and pushed back the opposing forces in a north-western direction past several positions on both sides of the Suchitza Valley. Prisoners to the number of 1,000 men and three guns were, it is claimed, taken.

The Petrograd report furnishes an explanation of the German success. A Russian division abandoned its position in the region of Fochshani, on the Rumanian front, and fled in disorder, it announces.

# SERBIAN GIRLS AS TURK SLAVES

## Thousands Taken to Be Put Into harems.

### Bulgars Have Systematized the Trade.

London Cable.—Correspondence of The Associated Press.—Ten thousand Serbian girls from ten to fourteen years old have been kidnapped and deported from Serbia to the anarchy of Constantinople, to Bulgaria and Asia Minor, says a dispatch received by M. Pasich, the Serbian Premier, who is now in London.

"These deportations," said M. Pasich, "have been going on since February 1916, but the number was very limited until a few weeks ago. Now it has been systematized under Bulgarian controllers, and it is impossible to predict how far it will go.

"Eight thousand girls have been sent to Constantinople, and two thousand more to Bulgaria and Asia Minor. Prisoners whom we have taken from the Saloziki front tell us that the traffic in our girls has grown to be a byword in Bulgaria and Turkey. The girls are kidnapped and taken, and secretly, particularly from the smaller villages, until at present dozens of small towns have been quite denuded of the young female population.

"I do not think that the Turks are the actual instigators of this gross violation of the rules of civilized warfare. All our information indicates that the Bulgarians are the prime movers and the Turks only incidental beneficiaries of the traffic.

"The girls are too young to be of any use for laboring purposes, besides, neither Turkey nor Bulgaria is seriously handicapped for labor, and in Turkey the use of young women for outdoor work is practically unknown.

"It is very difficult for us to do anything to help these unfortunate victims. Our affairs in Constantinople and Sofia are now in the hands of the Dutch government, and we have made the most earnest possible protests through that government. But you know how difficult it is to get any action from Turkey. We have suggested, for instance, that some scheme of repatriation be put into effect immediately, that the girls should be sent back to some place beyond the war zone. But I fear it is too late to save them, and that we can only wait in patience until peace comes."

# WILL CONTROL ALL PROVISIONS

## British Food Controller Announces His Decision.

### Tea Shortage, But No Cause for Alarm.

London Cable says—Lord Rhoads, the Food Controller, has decided to take over gradually control of the entire provision trade in the British Isles. The vital consideration in the regulation of prices of provisions is control of imports, and Lord Rhoads is in constant touch with the American Food Control Department on this subject. It is stated that the two Governments are working in entire harmony to secure a reduction in the prices of commodities coming from the United States.

# MONTE SAN GABRIELLE NOW PARTLY WON BY ITALIANS

## Last Great Stronghold Barring Road to Trieste Likely Given Up.

### Cadorna's Strategy Puzzles Austrians--Further Heavy Gains.

Washington Cable.—The Italian Embassy's official advice regarding the progress of the Italian offensive against the Austrians indicate that the success of the forces of Generals Cadorna and Capello, in capturing the Bainsizza Plateau, is an important military gain that is threatening the entire group of Tolmino defences. The Austrians indicate that in this offensive, the Italian Commander-in-Chief, General Cadorna, in his efforts to baffle and confuse the Austrians, has not only routed their forces as the Italians have advanced, but left the Austrians in greatest doubt as to the Italian objective, whether Trieste or Ljubach, or both these important points.

"Italian military experts here assert that, with sufficient guns and munitions, the Italian forces under Cadorna will win a complete victory over the Austrians on that front. The Italian offensive has won the admiration of military officers in Washington, those of the foreign war missions as well as American officers, and it is admitted on all sides that this offensive has vastly increased the power and influence of Italy in Entente war councils.

"The official despatch received by the Italian Embassy to-day, describing the progress of the offensive, and particularly the battle of Bainsizza, was as follows: 'The Bainsizza Plateau is 600 metres between the Isonzo and Chiapovano Valleys. The plateau measures 10 by 15 miles. It was attacked by the second Italian army, which crossed the Isonzo River, using fourteen bridges during the battle. On the western side of the plateau the Italian troops overcame the first line of the Austrian advance, and then, while a part of the Italian army was fighting on the second Austrian line, another part was advancing around the north side to make a flank-attack. The result was the fall of the whole system of defence of the plateau and quick withdrawal of the enemy, followed by the Italian army, crossing the Chiapovano Valley.'

"The strategic move and flanking shows the great superiority of the Italians over the enemy, and the skill of the Italian high command. The manoeuvre has been very daring, one, and has been possible only through the heroic dash of the Italian infantry, compared for their impetuosity and contempt for death to the most famous troops of Japan. The enemy himself says so. 'The papers publish long accounts of the conquering of the Bainsizza Plateau, where the Italian army routed and unable to form new lines of resistance. The Tribune correspondent says that the actual action on the middle Isonzo is to be considered among the most important battles that have been fought in the European war, not only considering the length of the front and number and importance of the objectives, but also for the skillful plan of the having in fact reached the pre-arranged aims. The strong, high plateau between the Isonzo and the Chiapovano Valleys, was a formidable fortress with precipitous slopes on the Isonzo and with strong redoubts and covers, extremely well supplied with machine guns cleverly protected and hidden in caves and gullies.'

"General Cadorna and General Capello in command of the second army, have demonstrated their qualities as organizers and strategists in the battle of Bainsizza. The battle was imposing on account of the large masses of men and materials employed, although the soldiers advanced as small units had a special objective previously marked with precision. Correspondents relate that as whole divisions crossed the Isonzo over improvised bridges, they proceeded immediately to the assault of the hills, conquering them very rapidly, and seemed to hang over the river, the slopes on which they were fighting being so steep. The Italians reached the summit where was situated the village of Canaleve, where the Austrian Commander had his headquarters, and capture it. Every house in the village, even those in ruins, had machine guns operating against the Italians, but the Italians surrounded the village, and it succumbed to their determined assaults.

"Just as difficult and terrible was the capture of Monte Pratta, over the high plateau of the Chiapovano Valley. It is strange that the Austrians still are calling this the battle of the Isonzo. The correspondent of the Tribune says that the evening the Italian musicians played patriotic airs, and the Austrian artillery tried in vain to drown the music. The military correspondent of The Tribune, General Corsi, says the success over the Bainsizza Plateau is threatening the whole group of Tolmino defences. So it can be said that in a very short time, the same fate as that of the Monte Santo, which was taken by the Italians in an enveloping movement. The same critic, to show that the enemy feels defeat, says the Austrian official communique of August 23 says the Italians on the plateau of Bainsizza were unable to take advantage of their numbers to gain ground towards the south."

# SAN GABRIELE IS PARTIALLY TAKEN

## Copenhagen Cable.—According to the Cologne Gazette's correspondent the Isonzo front, Monte San Gabriele has been partially taken by the Italians. The Austrians, adds the correspondent, are deserting this strong point.

# OVER 1,000 PRISONERS CAPTURED

Rome Cable.—To-day's official report says: 'Fighting continued yesterday on the Bainsizza Plateau. After having overtopped the enemy rearwards, our troops encountered and are at present attacking, a powerful line of resistance, which had been previously organized, and which the enemy is defending with desperation. On the heights beyond Gorizia we made some gains.

"During the day we captured more than 1,000 prisoners and several machine guns. Altogether, 247 airplanes participated in the battle. A squadron of forty (apron) machines which took part in the action, east of Gorizia dropped more than 7,000 kilograms of projectiles on enemy batteries in the Panovizza Wood.

"On the Carso an artillery duel and patrol actions occurred. In the Stelvio region, on the Trentino front, the enemy, at dawn Monday attacked one of our advanced positions on the glaciers in the upper Val di Fiemme, and succeeded in penetrating it. Our men, however, were able to occupy a higher summit, from which they kept their old position under fire."

# ENEMY RULERS FEAR A CRISIS IF ALLIES WIN

## Entente Gain This Fall to Cause an Upheaval in Germany.

# FRONTIERS SEALED

## Turk Fears Treachery—British Fleet Thinks Hun May Come Out.

London Cable.—"If we can gain a big and important military victory this autumn it promptly will precipitate a serious political crisis in Germany," a high British official told the correspondent yesterday. "Germany is fearing the exhaustion of her manpower, as shown by the fact that a great number of the prisoners now being captured are under 17½ years old. I personally have received a letter from a German boy of this age, who said that he was called last spring, but exempted then because the medical examiners found he was growing too fast and was not strong enough for service. Otherwise he would have been taken then, indicating that the Germans months ago were taking all the boys of 17 who possibly could be useful at the front. Conditions lately are more serious than they were then."

GERMANY SEALING FRONTIERS. That German authorities are greatly concerned over internal conditions is shown in the recent tightening of the frontiers. It now is almost impossible for Germans to get permission to enter adjacent States or for citizens of neutral States to pass into Germany. During the last part of the war 200 Germans arrived daily in Denmark; now four arrive daily.

It recently was reported, according to Copenhagen, that Germany is to be hermetically sealed. This is attributed to the determination to prevent untoward news of uprisings from reaching the outside world.

German concern to keep news from the allies is shown in the announcements that German superintendents have been placed in complete charge of operation of the railroad between Berlin and Constantinople. German guards even are placed at all stations en route. This and other demonstrations of German misgivings are causing intense concern in Turkey.

Turkey has heard that Germany and Austria have decided to abandon the peace conference and to permit the allies to partition Turkey's allies among themselves. The price of immunity of Turkey's allies is believed to have inspired the Pope's note, which suggests an autonomous Armenia and ignores Syria and Mesopotamia, indelible wounds. Turkey will be cast to the mercy of the victors.

MAY FORCE NAVAL BATTLE. Thus, while German effort through the Vatican failed to divide Germany's enemies, there is grave suspicion that it will develop the implacable suspicion of Turkey, which never has been confident of German loyalty. The failure of submarine warfare and the ominous tendencies of milit-

tary operations are causing increasing agitation for the German high seas fleet to go out in an effort to force a conclusion. The fact that it would win in July and that it is now the latter part of August is cause of increasing dissatisfaction. As a result British warships of all sorts are on the qui vive for an engagement at any time.

In Germany party warfare rapidly is becoming a menace to the Michaelis regime. Chancellor Michaelis' pretence of making a concession to the Reichstag by establishing a committee of fifteen to confer with the Government on foreign affairs turns out on examination, to be a thoroughly undemocratic and reactionary move. CHANCELLOR CONTROLS THE MAJORITY.

The new committee includes seven members of the Bundsrath, or Federal Council, absolutely controlled by the Chancellor. Besides these representatives of the Right and Centre parties are almost certainly pro-Government, while the Chancellor himself is a member. Thus the new committee practically is certain to count absolutely pro-Government and only four possibly anti-Government members.

This body is not allowed to give publicity to its proceedings, even in party Parliamentary conferences. Its establishment really means the taking away of a shadowy authority which has been vested in the Reichstag Main Committee without giving it to a new committee, thus leaving the Government freer than ever to follow its own course regardless of the Reichstag.

Whether the mass of the German people or even the politicians recognized that they were being humbugged is uncertain, but specialists in German affairs believe that in the present ferment this shortly will be realized.

# SHORT ITEMS OF THE NEWS OF THE DAY

## Canadian Airman Decorated With V. C. by the King in London.

## HOLLAND HOLDS BULBS

## Col. Bruce Says His Reply Will Be Made Public, Anyway.

The Duke of Devonshire opened a new wing at the Toronto Free Hospital for Consumptives and visited the various plants in the city connected with aviation.

The Netherlands Government has forbidden the exportation of flower bulbs.

The body of a newly-born infant was found in the lake near the Toronto sewage disposal plant.

Miss Maud Hotson, daughter of Dr. Hotson, of Parkhill, and for the past year a teacher in Parkhill School, was drowned at Ippewash Beach, Lake Huron.

Martin N. Todd, president of the G. P. and H. Railway and general manager of the Toronto Free Hospital, died suddenly at his home, "Cavendish," Galt.

William Westhead and John Calderbank, the two men who were badly burned at the plant of the Imperial Oil Company, Sarnia, died in the hospital.

Col. Herbert Bruce informs a press representative in London that the Government's refusal to table his reply to the Bappte Commission report will not prevent his reply from being made public.

Hon. W. D. McPherson, Provincial Secretary, announces the appointment of J. R. Spry, B.S.A., as farm director of his department in succession to S. E. Todd, who was appointed to the Food Controller's office.

Captain W. A. Bishop of Owen Sound, Canadian Cavalry and Flying Corps, received the Victoria Cross. Distinguished Service Order and Military Cross from the King at Buckingham Palace. The King shook hands most cordially.

# NUN RUSHING MORE TROOPS TO FRONTIER

## Strongly Reinforcing the Northern Border of Belgium at Present.

# STORMS HAMPER

## Western Front Quiet Except for the Big Gun Activity.

London cable.—A special despatch to the Times from Amsterdam says: "The Telegram learns from the frontier that the Germans are especially reinforcing the northern frontier of Belgium near the Bay of Scheldt and the village of Santvliet. Large guns have been located along concrete floors. At Kampen, a farm in particular there are thirteen guns, all masked. The whole of Santvliet village has been strongly reinforced. During the last few days several squadrons of cavalry and aeroplane reserves have arrived at the sugar factory at Barndrecht. The number of reserve troops in fortified positions around Antwerp increases daily, and is now estimated at 50,000."

London Cable.—A continuation of the stormy weather is still holding up major operations in France and Belgium, although the British here and there still are engaged in minor trench-raiding activities, in which small positions have been captured and additional prisoners taken.

The fighting on the Verdun front for the moment also has reached a pause, only the big guns being active. There have been artillery duels along the Alsace front.

Of the Tendon troops engaged in this area, Reuters' correspondent reports: "We are getting plenty of evidence of the exhaustion of the enemy reserves. One Wurtemberg division has been exposed to continuous fire since the middle of August, and has been weakened beyond all fighting effectiveness. The enemy is now forced to employ inadequately rested and refitted troops."

HEROES REVIEWED. A despatch from Grand Headquarters of the French army in France, dated to-day, reads: "Receives and mid-covered heroes of the Verdun victory, comprising delegations from all the regiments which participated in the brilliant advance of the French troops, to-day present in review before President Poincare and General Petain, the commander-in-chief, while hundreds of guns thundered nearby."

"Trenches of rain and tempestuous wind only served to render the scene more impressive as a battered regimental flag was unfurled and hands played the 'Marsellaise' on the arrival of the Chief of State.

"Gen. de Foncraie received the decoration of Grand Officer of the Legion of Honor and Generals Francatte and Lartin, commandships, while hundreds of officers and men were awarded the war cross or medals."

STILL HAS HUGE ARMY. While the fighting force massed by the Central Powers on the Russian Rumanian front is larger than was generally believed, the greater part of the German army is on the Western front, according to a statement issued to-day by the Official Bureau of French Information.

"According to official information received in Paris from the Russian General Staff," says the statement, "there are actually on the Russo-Rumanian front 137 enemy divisions, consisting of 88 German divisions, 41 Austro-Hungarian divisions, 4 Turkish divisions, and 4 Bulgarian divisions. Of the 88 German divisions, 12 only are old divisions. All the others are made up of landwehr and landsturm formations.

"This represents a more considerable force than was generally believed, but is nevertheless much inferior to the German force on the Western front, which includes 148 divisions, of which more than 80 are opposed to the French."

BRITISH REPORT. London Cable.—The official report from British headquarters in France Wednesday reads: "Stormy weather continues. Early this morning enemy parties made a bombing attack on two of our posts east of Gostivert, but were driven off with loss.

"There is nothing else of special interest to report."

FRENCH REPORT. The official statement issued by the War Office Wednesday night reads: "The day was calm on the whole front save in the region of the Hurtelise monument and on both banks of the Meuse, where the artillery displayed great activity on both sides."

DRAFT CANADIANS IN U.S. (Gales Report.) Colonel John S. Dennis, commanding the western division of the British recruiting station, said to-day that sufficient Canadians and Britons had enlisted for the recruiting of British subjects in the United States to make more than six full battalions. Col. Dennis said: "I am authorized to say that Britons and Canadians living in the United States who do not voluntarily enlist within the next few weeks will be conscripted."

NOT EXEMPT DOUKHOBORS. Winnipeg, Report.—Peter Verigin, head of a Doukhobor settlement near Brilliant, B.C., stated that in his opinion the Doukhobors in Canada should not have been exempted from military service. He also stated that the young men in his settlement have already enlisted for overseas service at the front, and many others will enlist in the near future.