

MACKENSEN GOES TO STYR FRONT

Leaves Balkans to Meet Czar's Offensive, Paris Hears.

RUSSIANS STORM FORTS IN GALICIA

Carry Czernowitz Works Which Germans Thought Were Impregnable.

By GORDON GORDON-SMITH.

London, Jan. 6.—Although Vienna does not admit that Czernowitz has been evacuated, the Russians are gaining steadily on the Galician front. The Czar's troops have captured important fortifications around the stronghold, and the fall of the city, it seems, is only a matter of time.

The Austro-Germans evidently are making fierce counter-attacks in an attempt to regain positions lost along the Styra River, which is regarded as an ideal line for defensive operations. Paris reports that the holding of this line is considered so important by the Central Powers that Field-Marshal von Mackensen has left the Balkans to take command of the armies opposing the Russians along the Styra.

The capture of Czernowitz by the Russians would be, from a political and strategic point of view, perhaps the most interesting event in the Balkan Peninsula since the invasion of Serbia by Germany and Bulgaria, as it might, even at this hour, cause a dramatic change in the situation of the Balkan Powers.

Politically its first result would be to draw Rumania more closely into the orbit of the Quadruple.

For fifty years the acquisition of Bukovina, with a large Rumanian speaking population, has been one of the chief aims of the German Empire. Rumanian aspirations from Bukovina, Transylvania and the fertile Banat of Temocwar may be invaded and in both provinces Rumania has far-reaching ambitions.

It is for Rumanian statesmen to decide if the military advantages of Russia in Bukovina are such as to offer a guarantee of success if Rumania should join the Allies. Common action by the Russian and Rumanian armies would render most precious the German and Austrian armies, as it would insure the communication and possibly end in a general withdrawal from Serbia.

It appears not improbable, according to advices from the Russian front, that the Austro-German forces at the southern extremity of the fighting area will be forced back to the line running through Kolomea, Stanisz and Gdlich in the near future as the result of the steady, continuous advance of the Russians between the upper reaches of the River Stripa and the Rumanian frontier. Already the Austrians have reported to have removed their base from Czernowitz toward Kolomea.

Notwithstanding the fact that the Austrians are fighting courageously, the Russians, it is declared, have succeeded in taking by storm fortifications around Czernowitz that were recently described in the German press as impregnable. Having cut the railway line from Zaleszczyki to Czernowitz, the Russians are threatening communication between Czernowitz and Kolomea.

The zone of the Russian offensive is extending northward, bringing into action the left flank of the central front. From Gdlich they have pushed out on the railway line twenty-five miles to Kevertal, and are reported advancing along the roads in the direction of Podcherech and Kostuhova, three miles north of the Kovel-Sarny Railway, west of the River Stripa. These positions are regarded as especially advantageous, being flanked on the right by the Pinsk marshes, precluding a serious menace from that direction.

In the capitals of the Entente Allies the opinion is expressed that the Russian offensive has completely upset the plans of the Central Powers for an invasion of Salonica and Egypt.

DECLARES NO BRITON WROTE NAPIER LETTER

Admiral C. B. Disvores Document Captured by Germans.

Athens, Jan. 6.—It is denied here that any diplomatic officer of the British Legation wrote the personal letter captured when Colonel H. D. Napier, formerly British military attaché at Sofia, was taken off a Greek steamer by German submarines near Messina in December. Parts of the letter have been quoted, but without context or signature, in Vienna dispatches received here.

Admiral Hubert S. Cardale, acting head of the British Naval Mission, and also vice-president of the Anglo-Hellenic League, publishes a signed statement in the evening newspapers in which he assures the Minister of Marine for himself and the entire British mission "of the honor with which we regard our service under the Greek flag and the deep respect and sense of loyalty which we feel toward the Minister of Marine."

It is expected that one member of the British naval mission may resign.

Cammeyer Stamped on a Shoe means Standard of Merit 6TH AVE. AT 20TH ST. FIFTH AVE.

1% PER MONTH ON PLEDGE OF PERSONAL PROPERTY

THE PROVIDENT LOAN SOCIETY OF NEW YORK MANHATTAN. Fourth Avenue, cor. 25th Street. Eldridge St., cor. Rivington St. East Houston St., cor. Essex St. Seventh Av., bet. 48th & 49th Sts. Lexington Av., cor. 124th St. Grand St., cor. Clinton St. E. 72d St., bet. Lexington & 3d Aves.

Trail of Corpses Tells Rigors of Serb Retreat

French Airmen Gayly Burn Motors, Chanting Chopin's Funeral March, but Heaps of Dead Bodies Are Milestones on the Road from Prizrend.

Of the hardships which the Serbs encountered in their retreat from Prizrend into Albania, Gordon Gordon-Smith begins to tell in the following article. The Tribune's correspondent has returned to London, from where he will cable more stories of the Serbian campaign.

In this dispatch Mr. Gordon-Smith describes the escape of the French aviation corps and contrasts the gaiety of its members, rejoicing at the prospect of returning to their native land, with the hunger and cold that marked with King Peter's troops.

By GORDON GORDON-SMITH.

(By Cable to The Tribune.)

London, Jan. 6.—When the hour of the final debacle struck in Prizrend the Serbian government had to decide either to sue for peace or to transport the government and what remained of the army to Albanian territory. I imagine that the chief factor in its decision was the necessity of saving the dynasty. It knew the first condition German would propose would be the abdication of King Peter. For this sacrifice Serbia was not prepared, and a march across mountains was decided on. All that remained was the choice of a route and a final destination.

Eventually it was decided to travel over Albanian territory by way of Lium Koula Pass to Scutari. Over this route there passed four distinct convoys—the Crown Prince and his suite, the French aviation unit, 250 strong; the King and the royal household and the headquarters staff. I left Prizrend with the aviation unit, as they were making use of their automobile and motor wagons as far as Lium Koula, the last village on Serbian soil and the extreme point to which the highway runs.

French Airmen Gay. It was 7 in the morning when we started. Despite the depressing circumstances, the aviation detachment was in high spirits at the prospect of returning to France after a year of hardship in Serbian campaigning. At Lium Koula we were to destroy the automobiles, preliminary to starting a 120-mile tramp. However, we had to begin the ceremony prematurely, as six miles out one of the motors gave out, there was neither time nor inclination to repair it. The vehicle, a ten-ton motor lorry, was run by hand into a field alongside the road, flooded with petrol and set alight. An instant later it was blazing merrily, while the irrepressible young spirits of the detachment executed a waltz, solemnly chanting Chopin's Funeral March.

It was at Lium Koula that we had the grand feu d'artifice. Near a bridge across the Drin the right bank of the river drops precipitously nearly 150 feet. One after another the huge motors were drenched with petrol and set on fire. The chauffeurs steered straight for the precipice, jumping clear as the cars shot over the immense torii, soiled crashing to the bottom, where they formed a blazing pile.

Captives Seek Warmth. Twelve hours later I saw a crowd of 500 wretched Austrian prisoners gathered around the burning pile. They had crawled down to warm themselves at a blaze that had cost the French Republic \$50,000. The rest of the landscape was blotted out by the whirling smoke and the hot tongues of flame were darting. Every now and then the explosion of a benzine tank would scatter the Austrians, but the temptation of warmth proved too much for them, and they soon returned.

Five minutes after the last car was over the precipice Major Vitrat formed up his men, the rear guards gave the word "march" and the columns moved off through the burning strip of land until, at 5 o'clock in the evening, and, as a snowstorm was raging, I did not care to tackle the mountain ascent in the dark to find the French bivouac. The word for the French to do but to join the Headquarters Staff.

MUDDLING COST STRAIT VICTORY

Continued from page 1

and an iron rain fell on them as they tried to reform in the gullies. Barrels Get Red Hot. "Not here only did the Turks pay dearly for their recapture of the vital crest. Enemy reinforcements continued to come up under a heavy and accurate fire from our guns. Still they kept topping the ridges and pouring down the western slopes of Chumak Fahr, as if determined to gain everything they had lost. But once they were over the crest they became exposed not only to the full blast of the guns, naval and military, but a battery of New Zealand machine guns, which played upon their serried ranks at close range until their barrels were red hot.

Enormous losses were inflicted, and of the swarms which had once fairly crossed the crest line only a handful ever straggled back to their own side of Chumak Fahr. "At the same time strong forces of the enemy were hurled against the spur to the northeast, where there arose a conflict so deadly that it may be considered the climax of four days' fighting for the ridge. Portions of our line were pierced and the troops were driven clean down the hill. At the foot of the hill the men who were supervising the transport of food and water were killed by Staff Captain Strain. Subsequently they followed him back where they plunged again into the midst of that series of struggles, in which generals fought in the ranks and men caught one another by the throat.

The Turks came on again and again, fighting magnificently and calling upon the name of God, our men stood to it and maintained by many a deed of daring the old traditions of their race. There was no flinching; they died in the ranks where they stood. Here Generals Gayley, Baldwin and Cooper and all their gallant men achieved great glory. On this bloody field fell Brigadier General Baldwin, who earned his first laurels on Caesar's camp at Lady-smith. There, too, fell Brigadier General Cooper, badly wounded.

Leave Trail of Corpses. "Toward this supreme struggle the last two battalions from the general reserve were now hurled, but by 10 o'clock in the morning the effort of the enemy was spent. Their shattered remnants began to trickle back, leaving a track of corpses behind them. By night, except for prisoners and wounded, no live Turk was left upon our side of the slope.

Two lesser attacks were made by the Turks the same day. General Hamilton continues: "By evening the total casualties of General Birdwood's force had reached twelve thousand and included a very large proportion of officers. Under Major General Shaw, had alone lost six thousand out of a grand total of 10,500. Brigadier General Baldwin was gone, and all his staff men and commanding officers, thirteen, had disappeared. From the fighting effective, the Warwick and Worcesters had lost literally every single officer.

The old German notion that no unit could stand the loss of more than 25 per cent has been completely falsified. The 10th Division and the 29th Brigade of the 10th Irish Division have lost more than twice that and in spirit are better for as much more fighting as might be required."

The British held all they gained except two important salients—one a hill, momentarily carried by the Turks, and the position on Chumak Fahr, which had been retained forty-eight hours. "Unfortunately," says General Hamilton, "these two pieces of ground, small and worthless as they seemed, were worth, according to the ethics of war, ten thousand lives, for by their retention they justly effected the differences between an important success and a signal victory. The grand coup had not come off; the Narrow were out of sight and beyond the range of our guns, but this was not the fault of General Birdwood or any of the officers or men under his command."

The first operations in the Anzac Zone appeared to have been carried out with comparative success. The Gallipoli expedition, which has been the subject of the greatest criticism, suffered various misfortunes. Elaborate plans were worked out by the army staff with Vice-Admiral D. Ross. During the night of the 11th three brigades with three batteries were landed in the darkness. The Turks were completely surprised.

But the navy was unwilling to land six battalions where the corps commander considered they could act most effectively. The cause of the navy's action, General Hamilton says, was for some reason not specified, but resulted in a considerable distance under fire and arrived fatigued.

General Hamilton lays stress on the fact that a large proportion of the troops were new men. "On the morning of the 8th," says the report, "General Stopford, recollecting the vast issues which hung upon his success in forestalling the enemy, urged his divisional commanders to push on, otherwise all the advantages of the surprise landing must be nullified. But the divisional commanders believed themselves to be unable to move."

of solving the water trouble and every other detail of the campaign. "He is at it may, the objections overbore the corps commander's resolution. But it was lack of artillery support which finally decided against success in the policy of going slow, which by the time it reached the troops became translated into a period of inaction. The divisional general was informed that, if the troops were to be held in their positions, the artillery support, General Stopford did not wish them to make frontal attacks on entrenched positions, but desired them to try to turn the flanks of the Turkish positions. Within the terms of this instruction lies the root of our failure to make use of the priceless daylight hours of the 8th of August.

The remainder of the story of Suvla consists largely of misfortunes. General Hamilton explains that the senior commanders lacked experience in the new trench warfare and in the Turkish positions in the policy of going slow, which by the time it reached the troops became translated into a period of inaction. The divisional general was informed that, if the troops were to be held in their positions, the artillery support, General Stopford did not wish them to make frontal attacks on entrenched positions, but desired them to try to turn the flanks of the Turkish positions. Within the terms of this instruction lies the root of our failure to make use of the priceless daylight hours of the 8th of August.

Points Lack of Foresight. Concerning the water supply for the troops landed at Suvla on the 7th, he says: "As it turned out, and judging merely by the results, I regret to say that the measures actually taken for distribution proved to be inadequate, and suffering and disorganization ensued."

In the middle of August, General Hamilton estimates, the Turks had 110,000 rifles to the British 95,000. The Turks had plenty of ammunition and reserves, while British divisions were 45,000 below their nominal strength. General Hamilton wanted fifty thousand fresh rifles. He sent a long cablegram, asking for reinforcements, and he received the answer that when they furnished at once he would "clear a passage for the fleet to Constantinople."

"It may be judged how deep was my dissatisfaction," he says, "when I learned that essential drafts of reinforcements and munitions could not be sent, the reason given being one which prevented me from further insistence."

"Sickness, the leaver of a deservingly trying summer, took a heavy toll of the survivors of so many arduous conflicts," he says, "and the result was that all ranks were cheerful. All remained confident that so long as they stuck to their guns the country would stay in their hands, and that the last and greatest of crusades."

An important feature of the document is the description of the joint army and navy plans for probably the most difficult and complicated operations ever attempted on so large a scale. It was impossible to concentrate a third of the fresh troops to be landed in the attack of Suvla and Anzac within the period of the operations in which they were to appear simultaneously with munitions, stores, animals, vehicles and, particularly, water.

Voivode Putnik Arrives. The event of the day was the arrival of Voivode Putnik. The veteran field marshal has been a martyr to asthma for twelve months past, and he has always kept at a temperature of 86 degrees Fahrenheit. A seven days' mountain journey in a sedan chair, carried by four soldiers, must have been a terrible experience for him. But the capture of their beloved Voivode by the Germans would have been regarded by the Serbians as a national disaster.

The start for Scutari was delayed another twenty-four hours. As two years ago, during the Albanian campaign, the Serbians had demolished the houses at Lium Koula except for four accommodations was limited. I found lodgings in a huge ammunition tent. The pendarmes in charge objected to my smoking cigarettes, and I took note about the score of guttering candles burning on cartridge boxes, or the spirit lamp on a box labelled "shells," over which the wife of the colonel was preparing tea. I presume the same was being done on the subject of candles and spirit lamps.

All day and night the troops bound for Elbasan poured through Lium Koula. I went out about midnight, along the road. Every five hundred yards or so I came on dead bodies of men who had succumbed to cold or exhaustion. Coming back, I met an English officer in the rear of the column, who was leaving to take part in the last desperate effort to advance on Uskub. When I had last seen him his machine gun section numbered about six men. At Lium Koula it had dwindled to twenty-six. He had all his guns intact, however, and delivered them, as I afterward heard, safely at Elbasan.

Acquits All Officers. "Unfortunately," says General Hamilton, "these two pieces of ground, small and worthless as they seemed, were worth, according to the ethics of war, ten thousand lives, for by their retention they justly effected the differences between an important success and a signal victory. The grand coup had not come off; the Narrow were out of sight and beyond the range of our guns, but this was not the fault of General Birdwood or any of the officers or men under his command."

SEKS YOUNGER OFFICERS French War Minister Offers Bill to Retire Army Leaders Earlier.

Paris, Jan. 6.—A reduction in the age limits of colonels and generals is proposed in a bill presented in the Chamber of Deputies to-day by the Minister of War. The bill would reduce the age of the retirement of colonels from sixty to fifty-nine years, of generals of brigades from sixty-two to sixty years and of generals of divisions from sixty-five to sixty-two years.

This measure carries out the idea advanced before the war for the rejuvenation of the higher ranks of command in the army. Many officers who reached the old limit did great service in the first period of the war, but the strain told on a considerable number of them, some of whom already have retired.

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WORLD TO BUILD ALLIES SUCCOR LOUVAIN LIBRARY STARVING SERBS

British Board Wants Every Nation to Help Replace Lost Treasures.

PLEADS FOR HELP OF ALL AMERICANS

Professor Gollancz Says New Collection Must Be Modern and Complete in Every Way.

By ARTHUR S. DRAPER.

(By Cable to The Tribune.)

London, Jan. 6.—"The mobilization of sympathy," is Professor Israel Gollancz's characterization of the work of the British committee, of which he is honorary secretary, for the restoration of Louvain's famous library. "It is rather a question of the manner in which the idea is being carried out rather than any essential difficulty in the task," he said to-day. "Our committee, headed by Lord Bryce and including Lord Rosebery, Curzon, Muir and Mackenzie, might succeed without a vast amount of trouble in carrying through the work unaided. For such a cause there is not a great deal of difficulty in getting the money or books required. Every library in Great Britain is ready to do the utmost. For instance, John Rylands' library in Manchester has already promised 5,000 rare books and manuscripts. But the Institute of France first proposed the scheme, and we want them to have the greatest share in its fulfillment."

"I believe practically every civilized country in the world wants to take part. Apart from the practical and sympathetic help of J. P. Morgan, we think all booklovers, collectors and learned societies in the United States would regard it an honor to participate in such a scheme. It must be an international matter."

"Perhaps the main point is securing the services of a man of world-wide reputation to make the ultimate choice of books, even after other international experts have signified what is required. The new collection must be properly balanced and must avoid unnecessary duplication. Added to this it is essential to realize our objects clearly."

"Louvain's library contained its own treasures, which, of course, cannot be replaced. It is useless to try to restore this loss by mere substitution of others of equal value. We must give them a first rate library, adequate both in modern and ancient books, which will be valuable for a town as well as a university."

"The same applies to the building. The money obtained ought to be devoted not to a mere copy of the old building—although plans are probably available—but to the erection of a building best suited to library purposes. We cannot replace Louvain's library or its sentimental associations, but we must lie in a practical demonstration of the world's sympathetic regret and anxiety to make replacement as far as is possible."

North of Berane (Montenegro) and west of Rozaž the Austrians attacked chiefly by firing maximum prices for pork and butter. The figures were based on reports received from about 200 towns. They showed that the cost of living for an average family of four persons was about \$4 for one week in November, being a reduction of 85 cents, compared with a week in the previous month.

BRITISH HOLD MORE SHIPS Danish and Norwegian Steamers Taken Into Kirkwall.

London, Jan. 3.—Delayed by ice, the Norwegian steamer Bato was sailed from Kirkwall to Greenock to discharge part of her cargo that had been ordered to a prize court. The Danish steamer Texas, from Baltimore and New York to Copenhagen, with a general cargo, and the Norwegian steamer Albatross, from New York to Helsingfors, with a cargo of wheat, have been taken into Kirkwall. The Danish motor ship Siam has been released.

The Norwegian steamer Alfr T. Selmer, from Baltimore to Kalmars, with a cargo of wheat and rye, and Messagerie, from New Orleans to Genoa, with a general cargo, also have been taken into Kirkwall.

BERLIN CUTS FOOD PRICES: First Reduction in Months

Berlin, Jan. 5.—Figures just published in the German capital show the cost of living scored a reduction in the month of November. That month was the first since September, 1914, to show a decrease in prices generally, and the reduction was caused

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ADRIATIC TOWNS GERMAN GOAL

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London, Jan. 6.—The interest in the fate of Serbia's refugee army was shown by the question asked in the House of Commons to-day: "Whether a considerable part of the Serbian army is in distress at Scutari after having suffered great privations in the retreat through the mountains, and whether his majesty's government will offer the Serbian army some suitable locality in the Mediterranean area where the men may rest and recuperate?"

In reply, Lord Robert Cecil, Under-Secretary for Foreign Affairs, said that there was a considerable body of the Serbian army at Scutari, where at first the men had been in great distress. But the situation, he added, had now been largely relieved. The Entente Allies, the Secretary said, had considered the matter raised in the latter part of the question, but he was unwilling to make any announcement concerning it.

Telegrams from Athens say that the number of Serbian refugees in Greek territory now is 40,000, of whom 6,000 are at Salonica.

In the Balkans the Entente Powers are reported to have completed the fortification of their positions. No direct information has been received that the Central Powers or their allies are contemplating an immediate offensive there. The strained situation at Salonica arising from arrests made may be solved by the withdrawal of the Greek forces from the town.

"The Hungarian Prime Minister, Count Tisza, amid the general applause of Parliament, delivered an address relating to the arrest of the Teutonic allies' consuls at Salonica, which he declared was a violation of the elementary principles of international honor," says a Berlin dispatch.

"The Prime Minister added that the Teutonic allies were ready to give efficient help to Greece in order to safeguard her sovereignty."

"It seems more and more probable that, for the present at least, the Germans and Bulgarians will undertake no movement against the Allies at Salonica," telegraphs the Athens correspondent of the Havas Agency, according to a Paris dispatch. "It has been observed that the Germans and Bulgarians are fortifying the line they now hold, apparently with the intention of remaining on the defensive."

"The Germans prefer to direct their efforts toward Albania. They desire to capture Avlona and Durazzo and fortify themselves there."

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BERLIN CUTS FOOD PRICES: First Reduction in Months

Berlin, Jan. 5.—Figures just published in the German capital show the cost of living scored a reduction in the month of November. That month was the first since September, 1914, to show a decrease in prices generally, and the reduction was caused

chiefly by fixing maximum prices for pork and butter. The figures were based on reports received from about 200 towns. They showed that the cost of living for an average family of four persons was about \$4 for one week in November, being a reduction of 85 cents, compared with a week in the previous month.

BRITISH HOLD MORE SHIPS Danish and Norwegian Steamers Taken Into Kirkwall.

London, Jan. 3.—Delayed by ice, the Norwegian steamer Bato was sailed from Kirkwall to Greenock to discharge part of her cargo that had been ordered to a prize court. The Danish steamer Texas, from Baltimore and New York to Copenhagen, with a general cargo, and the Norwegian steamer Albatross, from New York to Helsingfors