

The Great War—1318th Day

rabia, and may keep a sufficient number of troops mobilized until she has conquered Bessarabia and arranged for its protection against the Russians.

Russia and Rumania have been at odds for several months, and a number of battles have been fought by the former allies. Rumanian troops disarmed Russian forces left in Rumania after the conclusion of peace with Germany, saying the Russians were plundering Rumanian towns.

Rumanian troops were sent into Bessarabia, a Russian province populated largely by Rumanians, saying they had been asked by the Bessarabian authorities to intervene and restore order. The Russians made a number of ineffectual attempts to subdue the Rumanians, and several weeks ago issued an order for the arrest of King Ferdinand of Rumania.

Says Teuton Bribe Led to Ousting Of Leon Trotsky Casimir Pilenas, who as agent of the British government followed Leon Trotsky's movements in America, said last night that in his opinion Trotsky's resignation as Foreign Minister of Russia came as the result of news filtering through to Petrograd that Trotsky, in New York last March, had purchased an order for \$10,000 from German comrades.

Mr. Pilenas said that while this might seem trivial in the face of reports charges that the British government was sufficient to cause the fall of the ministry, which had already lost its hold on the Russian masses.

After twenty-two years in the employ of Scotland Yard as a political detective, Mr. Pilenas resigned from the service last October, and feels that he can now speak with freedom of matters previously secret. At his home, 95 Brand Place, The Bronx, he said last night:

"Information has now reached Petrograd of Trotsky's relations with the British government in New York. In the Tribune of February 27. When Russian workmen and peasants learned that he was actually in German pay, a great protest occurred. You may be sure that the publication of this evidence reached Petrograd, because Trotsky has both friends and enemies in New York who keep their Russian colleagues informed."

Last summer Professor Paul Miluikoff, in the Petrograd newspaper "List," called Trotsky a hireling of the German government, and advised the Russian workmen to have nothing to do with him because he was said to have received \$10,000 from German sources in New York.

Domination of East, Berlin Plan, Says Lord Cecil

LONDON, Friday, March 8.—Pointing out the seriousness of the German menace in Siberia and in southern Asia, urging Japanese intervention and insisting that the German people show no likelihood of rising against their imperialistic masters, Lord Robert Cecil, Minister of Blockade, to-day pointed out in a statement to The Associated Press what had already been accomplished by the Germans in the East. Spreading a large map on the table, Lord Robert said:

"Look at what Germany has already done toward a scheme of world conquest. On the north she has taken rich Baltic provinces over which she purposes to instal a German prince. She sent troops to Finland and concluded an agreement which puts the whole foreign policy of Finland at her disposal. The same steps in the north have practically cut off Russia from access to the sea.

"Looking further south, we find that Germany is in the course of occupying Odessa, the greatest Black Sea port, and that she has insisted that Russia cede to Turkey all ports at the east end of the Black Sea. Her evident design is to substitute for the Berlin-Bagdad Railroad a new avenue to the East by Trans-Caucasia and northern Persia. In the execution of this design Germany, moreover, has had, consciously or unconsciously, the assistance and cooperation of the Bolsheviks.

"Look at the plight of Armenia! Great Britain and America have always taken a deep interest and sympathy in this unhappy people. Armenian refugees who fled into Trans-Caucasia are now, under the Russo-German treaty, to be handed back to the Turks.

"You have only to look at the map to see what a tremendous scheme of conquest Germany has undertaken. Her eyes are turned to the East. The military control of Germany is paramount and unshaken. German democracy is docile and servile. The Allies must adopt every means in their power to frustrate Germany's designs in the East."

Czar's Brother Gets His Freedom From Bolsheviki

PETROGRAD, March 19.—It is stated in the newspapers that the Bolshevik government has granted complete freedom to the Duke Michael Alexandrovich, who has been under arrest at his home, Emperor Nicholas, on abdicating, designated him as regent.

Michael Alexandrovich, a younger brother of Nicholas Romanoff, was named as regent when the former Emperor abdicated on March 15, last. Early last September the Grand Duke and his wife were arrested, it being alleged that they had been concerned in a monarchist plot. Since that time he has been in custody.

4,000 Japanese Troops in Siberia, Is Russian Report

LONDON, Friday, March 8.—Details of an alleged landing of Japanese troops at Vladivostok in January are given in the Petrograd newspaper, "Novaya Zhizn," of January 19, which has just been received here. The paper says that the Japanese cruiser Mikado arrived on January 12 and was followed by two more cruisers on January 14.

Four thousand soldiers were landed and numbers of officers continued to arrive in Vladivostok daily, according to the report. The Japanese admiral assured the local Workmen's and Soldiers' Council that the arrival of ships and troops should not be considered as the beginning of military operations, but that they were there to protect Japanese subjects.

The message to the "Novaya Zhizn" says the Vladivostok public was alarmed greatly and that revolutionary forces were concentrating Bolshevik troops.

Information concerning the reported entrance of British and Japanese cruisers into Vladivostok harbor was asked of the British and Japanese embassies in Petrograd on January 20 by the Bolshevik government. The Japanese Embassy in Petrograd immediately issued an official statement denying that Japanese forces had been landed at Vladivostok.

The dispatch, translated, reads: "The English, American and Japanese warships which arrived in the harbor of Vladivostok have landed troops, but also the entire city. The Russian Embassy in Petrograd has a note which had been signed by the Japanese Consul General at Vladivostok on behalf of the powers which occupied the city. The contents of the note were telegraphed to Petrograd."

New Government For Siberia Now Being Organized

PEKING, March 9.—Plans for the restoration of popular government in Siberia under Admiral Kolchak, former commander of the Russian Black Sea fleet, through the organization of an anti-Bolshevik government, are being organized in Siberia, are now in preparation, it is learned here. Already a newly formed organization of Russians has begun work at Harbin and other ports of General Semenov, and yesterday four field guns and fifteen machine guns were forwarded to him on the Manchurian railway.

Two Liners Repel Attack of U-Boat Near Irish Coast

AN ATLANTIC PORT, March 9.—Details of an unsuccessful U-boat attack on two British liners twelve hours distant from the Irish coast were brought by passengers and members of their crews when the vessels reached here to-day, a few hours apart.

As the attack took place at 7 o'clock in the morning, when most of the passengers were asleep, reports of the encounter, from various sources, differed largely, and no official statement could be obtained from officers of the ships.

Three torpedoes, all of which went wide of their mark, were fired by the lurking submarine at the first of the vessels, a member of its crew declared. When the U-boat was sighted first, some distance off, the steamship nearest it sent a distress signal by wireless to the other, some distance away.

In response to this call the second liner drew close to the first, and the crews of both unlimbered their pieces on deck and prepared to give battle if the submarine should come to close quarters. The U-boat, scented danger in the cooperation of the two ships, for it gave up the job after the long-distance shots and disappeared.

The boat which escaped the torpedoes had on board 171 passengers, of whom ninety-eight were in the cabin. The ship which came to the rescue carried forty-seven. Men, women and children on both ships soon obtained information that the U-boat attack, and during that whole day stayed on deck, wearing life-preservers.

Steamer Routs U-Boat After Five-Hour Duel

LIVERPOOL, Feb. 21.—An officer of a steamer from an American port is giving a stirring account of a night's mile fight with a U-boat in the Atlantic. It lasted from the firing of a torpedo, which just missed, at 11:45 a. m. until 4 p. m., during that time the stokers worked without ceasing to get every ounce of speed out of the boilers. The engineers got her up from a normal ten or eleven knots to more than the top speed of 16.

Allies' Guns Busy On Italian Front

LONDON, March 9.—The heaviest guns in the artilleries of the Italian and Anglo-French armies got into action against the German defensive positions on the mountain front yesterday and poured explosive shells into the enemy's ranks. Between the Adige and Piave, embracing the most important section of the mountain barrier, the Allied gunners maintained such an accurate and destructive fire, the Rome communique reports to-day, that Austrian working parties and patrols were forced to abandon all operations.

Virtually the only infantry action of consequence during the day was an enemy's position north of the Grappa, the key stronghold of the Northern front. Despite adverse weather conditions the Italian airmen made one effective raid on enemy supply stations, the statement says.

Austria in Favor Of Self-Government

AMSTERDAM, March 8.—The Lower House of the Reichsrat adopted a four months' provisional budget after a speech by Dr. von Seydler, the Austrian Premier, in which he declared that the government adhered to the principle of the right of the peoples of Austria to self-government within their own territories, but not beyond the frontiers of the country, according to a Vienna dispatch.

Official Statements

WEST BRITISH LONDON, March 9 (DAY).—Yesterday evening, after considerable artillery activity all day east of Ypres, the enemy's infantry, heavily supported by tanks, attacked on a front of nearly a mile from south of the Menin road to north of the Poeldeerhoek chateau.

Savage Attack Of Foe Broken Down by Haig

BRITISH HEADQUARTERS IN FRANCE, March 9.—Great gallantry and individual heroism were displayed by the Belgian soldiers in the face of great odds in the flooded zone north-west of Dixmude Wednesday. The German attack was futile. This operation has been characterized as a raid, but, as in the case of the recent attack on the Portuguese, there is little doubt that the Germans meant to occupy certain posts permanently. They succeeded temporarily in one place, but were driven out with heavy losses after spectacular fighting.

King Albert personally congratulated his troops yesterday on their remarkable work. The Belgian commander took the offensive, pushing and recapturing the position taken by the Germans in front of a small bridgehead. Several German prisoners and machine guns were taken in this daring assault.

Portuguese Raid German Trenches

LONDON, March 9.—Following their futile attack at Houtholst Wood yesterday morning, the Germans shifted their operations last night to the east of Ypres. Under cover of a violent bombardment they assailed the British lines on a front of a mile in the region of the Menin road, but a second time were thrown back with severe losses, according to Field Marshal Haig's report to-day.

Allies May Take Offensive to Forestall Enemy's Supposed Plans

The thrust extended from south of the Menin road to north of the Poeldeerhoek chateau, a sector where the British drive of last fall was held back. The most savage fighting developed in the immediate vicinity of Poeldeerhoek, where the Germans succeeded early in the attack in penetrating the British advanced posts on a front of about 200 yards. The battle for these points continued through the night and eventually resulted in the reestablishment of the whole British line, Haig reports.

Ten Belgians With One Gun Hold 300 Germans at Bay for an Hour

points, which was due to the fact that the floods had largely subsided and the enemy was able to cross with comparatively little difficulty. A Belgian commander, at this juncture, with only nine men and a machine gun, occupied a bridgehead, where he resisted three hundred Germans and twelve machine guns for an hour before help arrived in the shape of a patrol headed by a lieutenant. With this small reinforcement, the Belgian commander took the offensive, pushing and recapturing the position taken by the Germans in front of a small bridgehead. Several German prisoners and machine guns were taken in this daring assault.

In the mean time the chassours have been organized for a counter attack and these troops advanced under excellent support by the Belgian batteries. In order for the chassours to reach the posts held by the Germans it was necessary for them to cross the flooded space on a single board walk, which was dominated by German artillery and machine gun fire. Dismounted horsemen went forward as though on parade, amid the crashing of great shells, and hurled themselves fiercely upon the invaders.

Sanguinary fighting followed, and at 1 o'clock in the afternoon the Belgians organized in retaking the first of seven posts lying in a semi-circle in front of the bridgehead. The savage battle continued until 5:30 in the afternoon, when the last of the posts was regained.

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