must satisfy herself with the role of a hopeful onlooker, with her eyes fixed upon the Dardanelles. The paper says the importance of Rumania as a factor in the Balkan calculations is greatly reduced by the Russian defeats. Rumania, the *Lokalanzeiger* thinks, can realize her dreams of aggrandizement on the frontiers of a ruined Russia.

"It is not on the straits of the Dardanelles that Rumania's future lies, but on the banks of the Pruth and of the Dniester," concludes the Berlin organ.

The *Daily Mail* suggests in an editorial that Bulgaria is short of ammunition and that this may be the key to the whole Balkan situation. The *Mail* refers to a recent despatch sent from Bucharest via Paris about Germany pressing Rumania to allow ammunition to pass through to Bulgaria. If this ammunition really was destined for Bulgaria, the paper thinks, the natural conclusion would be that Bulgaria for some time has depleted her arsenals and magazines in favor of some other Power and that she now urgently needs to replenish its ammunition stores.

The *Daily Mail* argues that this would help explain the concentration of Austro-German forces at Orsova, which is less than forty miles from the nearest point to the Bulgarian frontier.

"Obviously the value of any agreement with Germany would be very small for Germany," says the *Mail*, "if the latter is unable to obtain war supplies. Equally obviously Germany will exert a maximum pressure upon Rumania to open the road to Bulgaria. The concentration at Orsova may be intended to effect a double purpose—that of threatening Rumania, as well as of indicating the alternative route by which the ammunition may get through despite Rumanian opposition."

BERLIN INDIFFERENT.

Thinks Balkan Attitude Wouldn't Change Result, Says Report.

Special Cable Despatch to THE SUN.

BERLIN (via The Hague), Aug. 16.—The developments in the Balkans are awaited in Berlin with perfect equanimity. It is stated unofficially to THE SUN correspondent that whatever may be the attitude of the Balkan States it will scarcely be likely to influence the ultimate result of the German military operations.

SKUPSCHINA CONVENES.

Serbian Legislators in Session—Premier to See Crown Prince.

Special Cable Despatch to THE SUN.

LONDON, Aug. 16.—The Serbian Skupsthina was reopened to-day, says a despatch from Nish.

Premier Pashitch has left Nish, the despatch says, to meet the Regent, Crown Prince Alexander.

NEEDS NEAR EAST ROAD.

Bulgaria More Important to Germany Than Rumania, Says Wolff.

BERLIN, via Amsterdam, Aug. 16.—Theodore Wolff, Germany's leading publicist and head of the semi-official Wolff Bureau, has an article in the *Berliner Tageblatt* in which he says that the road to the Near East is such a necessity to Germany that everything must be ventured to gain it. He continues:

"We can do without Rumania. The cooperation of Bulgaria would be more useful to us. One way or another, however, a communication with Turkey must be established."

JEHOSHAPHAT 'GEFALLEN' TOO

Exclamation Shared Cities' Fate, German Soldier Told Prisoner.

Special Correspondence to THE SUN.

PARIS, Aug. 7.—One of the prisoners recently returned to France, having been exchanged for a German of equal rank and grading, tells the following story:

"I was interned in a prisoners' camp in Saxony. After our first stupefaction passed somewhat we became very eager for news of the way the battle was going.

"Our guardians spoke not a word of French, but one of our number understood a little German, and he finally dared to ask for information of a noncommissioned officer who looked more or less human.

"'What about Versailles?' he queried.

"'Gefallen,' laconically answered the German.

"'And Rouen?'

"'Gefallen,' was the answer.

"'And Nantes?'

"'Gefallen.'

"'Holy Jehoshaphat!' exclaimed the prisoner in his own language.

"'Gefallen,' persisted the information dispenser. And then we breathed a sigh of relief.

EXPECTS ROME CABINET MOVE.

Turkish Envoy Returns Unannounced to Italian Capital.

Special Cable Despatch to THE SUN.

ROME, Aug. 16.—The Turkish Ambassador, who has been keeping in seclusion in Vallombrosa, has returned to Rome unannounced, expecting some extremely important decisions by the Cabinet. A council had been fixed for this morning, but was postponed at the eleventh hour.

The Turkish Ambassador now is showing much optimism. He asserts that the Italo-Turkish relations are improved owing to Turkey's willingness to accede to the Italian demands.

EAT THEIR WAY TO FREEDOM.

Austria, Food Scarce, Would Repatriate Interned Italians.

Special Cable Despatch to THE SUN.

ROME, Aug. 16.—It is learned that Austria is encouraging the repatriation of Italian citizens interned at the outbreak of the war. The object is economy of food which is said to be constantly growing more scarce since the Italian blockade of the Adriatic began.

Twenty thousand Italian refugees arrived in Italy to-day from Switzerland.

CHICAGO'S GRAIN RECORD DAY.

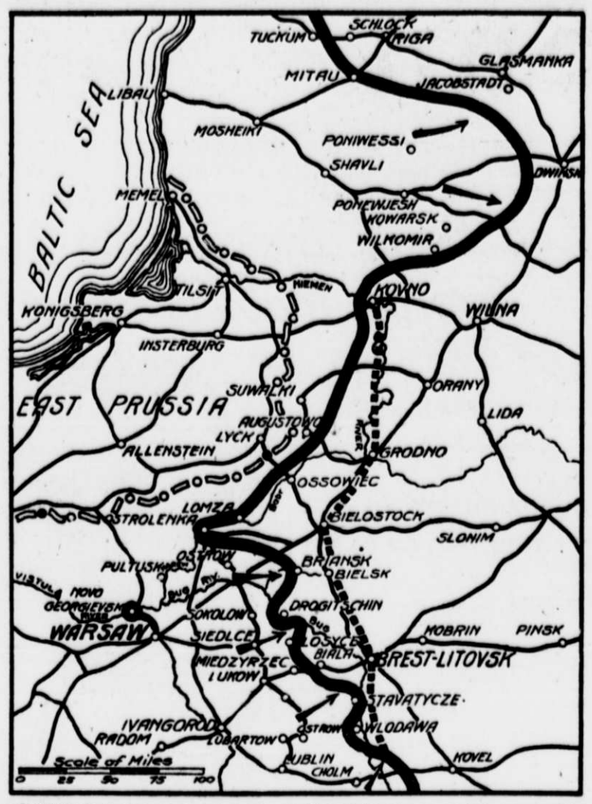
Receipts Reach 2,511 Cars and May Soon Go Higher.

CHICAGO, Aug. 16.—All Chicago records for a single day's grain receipts were broken to-day, when the State Grain Inspection Department reported 2,511 cars inspected. These figures included 1,368 cars of wheat, 293 cars of corn, 784 cars of oats, 47 cars of rye and 19 cars of barley.

The receipts are only a forerunner of what may occur before many weeks pass should farmers be favored with dry weather. Owing to the delay in gathering the winter wheat and oats crops, these grains have been retarded sufficiently to make their harvest run coincide with that of spring wheat.

German Army Takes Oat Crop.

AMSTERDAM, Aug. 16.—Despatches from Berlin report that the entire oat crop of the German Empire for 1915 has been requisitioned by the German military authorities.



GERMAN forces west and south of Brest-Litovsk are rapidly approaching that line of defences where the Russians were expected to make a stand. Kovno is being battered by the big German howitzers, while to the north, according to the official statement from Petrograd, it is admitted that the Germans are in the neighborhood of Jacobstadt and Dwinsk, which is a considerable advance from the German positions last week.

TEUTONS TAKE FOUR MORE POLISH TOWNS

Continued from First Page.

As Kovno, Bielostock and Brest-Litovsk are the three important junction points on this railroad it is apparent that they will be the object of a great effort on the part of the Germans if the Germans expect to continue their offensive in Russia. Bielostock is a junction point on the Warsaw to Petrograd railroad, while Brest-Litovsk is a junction point on the Warsaw to Moscow railroad.

FIERCE FIGHT AT KOVNO.

Germans Continue Determined Attack on Fortifications.

Special Cable Despatch to THE SUN.

PETROGRAD, Aug. 16.—The War Office recounts to-night Russian successes in the Bausk district. The Germans have been delivering a fierce attack on Kovno, where the fighting has been intense.

The statement follows:

In the Bausk district on the night of August 16 our troops again drove back the Germans toward the River Aa. The enemy's counter attacks were repulsed.

The situation in the Jacobstadt-Dwinsk district is unchanged.

The bombardment of Kovno continues without cessation. The Germans are obstinately attacking the fortifications in the western sector.

Between the Narew and the Bug on August 14 and 15 there was furious fighting. A series of German attacks was repulsed with great losses to the enemy.

On the left bank of the Bug there have been no important engagements. In other sectors of our front there have been local artillery fusillades, but no engagements of importance.

OIL FOR GERMANY.

News Agency Says Galician Supply Is Available.

The German Information Service gave out the following yesterday:

"The evacuation of the oil fields in Galicia by the Russians will have a very favorable effect upon the oil supply for the central powers, as the most important territory of Boryslaw and Tustanowice has been cleared by the Russians, says the weekly report of the American Association of Trade and Commerce in Berlin.

"During the Russian occupation the oil production had gradually increased to 50 per cent. of the normal output, but crude oil could not be refined or used up, so that considerable quantities had to be stored. It is said that shortly before the Russians left forty-six small and fourteen large refineries were in operation, but fortunately the Russians did not succeed in destroying larger quantities of crude oil, as almost 3,500,000 barrels were recovered. And this is almost one-half of the yearly Galician output.

"Nevertheless a good quantity of oil was used up or destroyed by the Russians. The entire capacity of all Galician tanks before the war amounted to 5,120,000 barrels.

"Detailed reports show that the considerable stores of the Austrian State railways in Drohobycz have been destroyed, as before the war 400,000 barrels were stored in this place, which, however, the Russians did not refine, but used for heating purposes.

"It was reported that about one-third of all oil shafts had been destroyed. Later reports, however, give a larger number.

"The Deutsche Erdol-Gesellschaft reports that all their Galician plants have been left by the Russians, while of the ninety oil shafts owned by the Premier Oil and Pipe Line Company in Boryslaw and Tustanowice more than one-half have been destroyed.

"The immediate effect of the recapture of the Galician oil fields is decreased dependence of the central powers upon the Rumanian supply."

FLEEING ARMY PURSUED

Austrians Are Following Russians Closely, Says Vienna.

Special Cable Despatch to THE SUN.

VIENNA, via Amsterdam, Aug. 16.—The War Office issued to-night the following official statement regarding the operations against Russia:

In the region west of the Bug we are rapidly pursuing the Russians.

Austro-Hungarian forces, on the centre of the allied line, are closely following the enemy, who is retreating west of Biala, across the Klikawka.

Archduke Joseph Ferdinand's troops advanced last night in the district southwest of Biala and threw a bridge across the Krzna. They crossed the bridge this morning. Everywhere the Russian rear guard has been repulsed. The army of Gen. Koeyess has driven the Russians across the Upper Kliakawka.

We have sighted many great fires near Biala and Brest-Litovsk.

Our troops have gained a firm footing on the east bank of the Bug, in the region of Vladimir-Volynski.

There has been no change in eastern Galicia.

RESIDENTS LEAVE RIGA.

Remove Many Belongings in View of German Advance.

Special Cable Despatch to THE SUN.

COPENHAGEN (via London), Aug. 16.—Arrivals from Riga say that the majority of the population of that city has gone to the interior, taking their belongings with them. The banks and commercial houses have removed their business to Moscow. All metals, including church bells, have been sent to the interior.

These fugitives say that the Germans when they occupy the city will find very little property.

FRANCIS JOSEPH FOR PEACE.

Emperor Writes to Pope—New Vatican Moves Expected.

ROME, Aug. 16.—The Vatican's efforts are applauded in a letter to Pope Benedict from Emperor Francis Joseph of Austria, who is quoted as having written: "I also pray God that we may have an early peace."

Cardinal Gasparri has been summoned by the Pope from Monte Catini, where the Cardinal was spending a vacation. The Pontiff's new moves for peace are believed to necessitate Cardinal Gasparri's return.

$16,000,000 RUSSIAN ORDER.

Cash Deposited for Shells to Be Made in Lynn.

BOSTON, Aug. 16.—A contract for furnishing the Russian army with shells involving $16,000,000, the payment of which has been guaranteed by the depositing of cash, has been obtained by John H. Madden of Lynn. The shells are to be delivered, fully loaded and time fuses attached, to representatives of Russia in New York.

Approximately $4,000,000 has been deposited in a Boston bank and the balance will be sent to Boston or to any other reserve city to insure the payment of the entire amount.

CONQUEST DEMANDED BY GERMAN LIBERALS

Peace Without Territorial Extension Opposed by Party's Council.

Special Cable Despatch to THE SUN.

BERLIN, via London, Aug. 16.—At a meeting of the Central Board of the National Liberal party yesterday it was resolved, with only two members dissenting, to urge the Reichstag to advocate the extension of the German borders in the east and the west as well as in the overseas possessions.

The Central Board has put itself on record as opposed to any peace which will not guarantee these things for Germany, and make adequate military and political and economic safeguards against further attacks from outside. It is held that the German people are entitled to no less in return for their enormous sacrifices.

The board further affirmed its determination to stand out for a continuance of the war to a victorious conclusion, resolving at the same time to support the Government to the utmost extent.

Several Socialist newspapers are dissatisfied with Dr. Karl Liebknecht's interpellation of last week, in which, telegraphing from the front, he asked his colleagues to demand in the Reichstag that the Government disavow all aims of territorial expansion and conquest and do all in its power to conclude an early peace.

These newspapers declare the interpellation is nothing but a personal venture on the part of the ultraradical Socialist leader and that it is without interest or significance to the Socialist party.

Invents Torpedo Guard Device.

PARIS, Aug. 16.—A despatch from Rome says tests of a device invented by the Italian engineer Quarini for the successful warding off of torpedoes have proved satisfactory and that the fleets of the Allies will be supplied with it. The device is said to make it possible to drive torpedoes out of their course and explode them.

NORTH BEACH
Boats from East 99th & 134th Sts.
Direct Trolley via Queensboro Bridge.
FREE FIREWORKS TUES. & THURS.

27,000,000 REGISTER IN GREAT BRITAIN

Work of Enrolment Meets With Some but Not Formidable Difficulties.

SUFFRAGETTES SAY NO

Special Cable Despatch to THE SUN.

LONDON, Aug. 16.—The British Government now is in the possession of complete data concerning practically all of the inhabitants of Great Britain, the registration forms having been collected to-day. Twenty-seven million forms, duly filled out and signed, were handed to the volunteer collectors this morning. All visiting aliens were compelled to register in the same manner as the British subjects.

Forms were distributed and collected in all hotels and big and small boarding and lodging houses. While questions concerning nationality, age, place of birth and occupation did not present any difficulty, the question as to the style of skilled labor which the signee could or would be willing to perform proved to be a problem in the registration of foreigners, particularly to Americans, of whom there are great numbers here, engaged in contracting for war material of every description.

While unwilling to prove discourteous by refusing point blank to perform any skilled labor at all they did not feel inclined to make promises. At the same time they were faced with the alarming lines at the top of the registration form stating that incorrect information would be severely punished. However, all filled out the blanks as best they could.

May Seal Up Their Ages.

Women naturally objected to revealing personal information about themselves, such as their age. The enumerators, on the other hand, gallantly volunteered to permit them to enclose the registration blank in a sealed envelope.

While the blanks were being collected the newspapers continued their attack upon the registration measure, urging the Government to abandon its "roundabout schemes" and announce immediately its definite plans. Despite this continued outcry, however, it is certain that the information obtained by the registration will prove of great value, as the Government will be in a position to know definitely just how many men are available for army service and how many persons can be called upon to do work of any description for the national cause. Measures of a sweeping nature are expected when Parliament reopens.

Although the collection of the registration forms at some places was attended by scenes of violence, the scheme as a whole proved entirely successful, and little difficulty was encountered.

The action of certain Irish agitators, who went over the different districts and tried both to avoid and hamper registration, did not seriously interfere with the work. Loyal Irishmen gathered to demonstrate against the shirkers' agitation, and these were overwhelmingly in the majority, so that little attention was paid to the opposition movement.

Notwithstanding the efforts of Mrs. Pankhurst to persuade all suffragettes to support the Government and for the time being bury their electoral aspirations, many of them have returned the registration forms with the following note written across the face:

"As a member of the Women's Political Union and an ex-prisoner of his Majesty's Castle Holloway, I protest against the injustice of compulsory registration for women who have not the vote."

It was officially intimated to-day that the several thousand Irishmen who fled to Ireland to escape the requirements of the registration act will be subjected to the full penalties prescribed if they return to England.

Great confidence is expressed by statesmen in the outcome of the measure. Lord Derby, in a speech in Liverpool, said he was convinced that when the returns come in they will show that thousands of men, who have not come forward before because they did not realize the need for it, are willing to come to the country's assistance.

Boom in Recruiting.

In many places the registration caused a boom in recruiting. Recruiting offices were kept open all day Sunday. The registration also will cause a great increase in the number of marriages. Many are eager to notify the Government that they are not without dependents.

Outside the London bureau of THE SUN a meeting is held every day at noon, when officers, after attracting a crowd by means of military music, exhort passersby to come to the aid of the nation. One young Canadian officer is particularly energetic in his appeals. Any young man who is unfortunate enough to stop near by is sharply assailed by this officer and closely questioned as to why he is not wearing a khaki uniform.

THE SUN correspondent has been repeatedly taken to task by the young officer, who undoubtedly is doing excellent work, in which, naturally, discriminations as regards neutrality do not figure in any marked degree. As recruiting speeches go on military bands pass by and soldiers sing martial songs. While the recruiting officers are doing their work the owners of restaurants and hotels are endeavoring to help along the enlistment. The greatest respect is paid to uniformed men everywhere.

At night, in places where men of wealth are refused admission because they are not in evening clothes, khaki-clad men are cheerfully welcomed. Wounded soldiers are to be seen everywhere.

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"Michael O'Halloran"
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Mickey Says:—
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By the author of "Freckles", "The Harvester", "Laddie" etc.
$1.35 net at all Bookstores
JUST OUT
Doubleday, Page & Co.
Garden City, N. Y.

EVENTS IN THE WAR ONE YEAR AGO TO-DAY

AUGUST 17.

Russians are reported to have captured Gumbinnen and Insterburg, East Prussia.

French capture Schirmeck, in the Vosges, taking 1,000 prisoners and twelve field guns.

Belgian Government begins removal of capital from Brussels to Antwerp.

Russia notifies Turkey that Black Sea fleet will go through Dardanelles, whether or not permission is given.

GERMAN PAPERS URGE SPAIN TO FIGHT ALLIES

Suggest Possible Possession of Gibraltar, Tangier and Portugal as Reward.

Special Cable Despatch to THE SUN.

LONDON, Aug. 16.—Leading German newspapers are making a strong bid for the entry of Spain into the war on the side of the Teutonic allies. The *Kreuzzeitung*, the organ of the military party, published in Berlin, extends an outspoken invitation to Spain, pointing out the tremendous moral and material results which would be gained by fighting on the German side. The newspaper accuses England of plotting revolutions in Portugal, with the double object of ruling that country and fomenting trouble on Spain's borders in order to drive Spain into joining England and the Allies.

"New hopes have been created lately," says the *Kreuzzeitung*, "for the Spanish monarch. Thanks to the wise German diplomacy, the hopes which the Spaniards are beginning to recognize are not impossible of realization through German support.

"Crystallized in cold print these new hopes represent Gibraltar, Tangier and a union with Portugal and sovereignty over the Portuguese rivers and the glorious port of Lisbon. These form the prospect of the new Spanish policy, which should be as welcome to the people of the Iberian Peninsula as to ourselves.

"It would, therefore, not be the fault of German diplomacy if the negotiations which, despite secrecy, are being forced on the British Government by Spain relative to Gibraltar were to fill their object. We do not think they will, but in any event Spain knows that she can count on Germany's support in her legitimate aspirations and the equally legitimate desire to put an end, once and for all, to English intrigue at Lisbon.'

CHINESE AT AIR MOTOR PLANT.

Mute About Purpose—Russia May Place War Orders.

HARTFORD, Conn., Aug. 16.—The Harriman motor plant in Glastonbury, where motors for hydro-aeroplanes are being made for the United States Government, was visited to-day by Muen Chi, a Chinese commissioner, who avoided Hartford by going to Glastonbury on a Connecticut River steamer. He would not discuss the purpose of his visit to the factory.

It was admitted this afternoon at the factory, however, that negotiations were in progress for the sale of motors to the Russian Government, and that prices and specifications had been sent to Petrograd.

2,000 AMERICANS AT FRONT.

More Than 100 in Canadian Contingent Killed in Flanders.

Special Cable Despatch to THE SUN.

LONDON, Aug. 16.—Two thousand Americans are fighting in the ranks of the Canadian contingent at the front with the English army, according to a statement by Major-Gen. Sam Hughes, Canadian Minister of Militia, in a speech before a meeting of Americans here last night. Gen. Hughes said in part:

"I have already written letters of gratitude and sympathy to the mothers of more than one hundred American boys who have fallen while fighting in Flanders alongside of Canadian comrades. More than 2,000 enlisted, and we could have many more if we desired. Any number of West Pointers offered their services as officers and some are now with us."

1,574 British Casualties Yesterday.

Special Cable Despatch to THE SUN.

LONDON, Aug. 16.—The casualty list issued to-day by the War Office included the names of seventy-eight officers, of whom eight were killed, and 1,496 men, of whom 359 were killed.

ITALIANS ADVANCE ON AUSTRIAN SOIL

Report Marked Gains in the Valleys of Bacherbach and Bodenback.

HEAVY ARTILLERY BUSY

Special Cable Despatch to THE SUN.

ROME, Aug. 16.—Italian forces made notable advances in the valleys of Bacherbach and Bodenbach yesterday, destroying many Austrian defences and taking numerous prisoners. Austrian attacks against the Italian positions at Valpiccolo, Freikofel and Valgrande, in Carnia, were successfully repulsed.

The War Office gave out the following statement to-night:

In the Tonale zone, on the sector of Valdassa yesterday there was intense artillery action. In the Sexten valley we continued our progress. Our artillery destroyed the Austrian trenches on Seikofel and Croda Rossa and silenced the Austrian batteries.

The Italian infantry advanced in the valleys of Bacherbach and Bodenbach, destroying the Austrian defences and taking numerous prisoners. An attempt by the Austrians to recover their lost position in the Bodenbach valley was repulsed.

The Austrian losses at Valpohen on the 13th were heavy. In one trench we found 200 dead, including several officers.

On the Carnia front on the 15th the Austrians attacked the Italian positions at Valpiccolo, Freikofel and Valgrande, but were repulsed with heavy losses.

On Monte Nero yesterday the Italian troops progressed in the direction of Plezzo, taking 300 prisoners.

ITALIAN ATTACKS FAIL.

Austrian War Office Says Enemy's Offensives Broke Down.

Special Cable Despatch to THE SUN.

VIENNA, via Amsterdam, Aug. 16.—The War Office issued the following statement to-night about operations on the Italian front:

On the Tyrolean front the Italians yesterday directed a heavy bombardment against our fortifications at Tonale Pass and the Lavarrone and Folgaria pateaux.

Infantry attacks on the Tonale road and against our positions at Popena, south of Schluderbach and in the Dreizinnen region failed.

New attacks in the coastal region and south of Kru and an attack against the salient on the plateau of Doberdo also broke down.

VENICE BOMBARDED.

Austrian Aero Missiles Explode Within Fortifications.

Special Cable Despatch to THE SUN.

LONDON, Aug. 16.—A despatch from Amsterdam gives the following official statement from Vienna with regard to the Italian campaign:

One of our seaplanes on the afternoon of August 14 bombarded four tile airmen ascended to pursue our bombs with the exception of one exploded within the fortifications. Hostile airmen ascended to pursue our men. Two were forced by our machine gun fire to land, two others abandoned the pursuit and the fifth followed our machine close to the Istrian coast, where he was compelled to turn back after an unsuccessful pursuit. Our seaplane returned safely despite the heavy fire from the Italian war vessels and forts.

REPLY TO GERMANY TO-DAY.

U. S. Will Accept Payment for the Frye Under Conditions.

WASHINGTON, Aug. 16.—The reply of the United States to Germany in the Frye case will be made public to-morrow morning. Germany has contended that the Eitel Friedrich had a right to sink the Frye despite the guarantee of protection which is contained in the treaty of 1828 with Prussia.

The United States will assert that the Eitel Friedrich had a right to search the Frye, destroy any contraband found on board and then permit the vessel to go on her way.

In her last note Germany offered to compensate for the Frye provided the settlement would not constitute any acknowledgment on her part of a violation of treaty rights. The United States in the reply to be made public to-morrow will accept the offer of Germany to pay for the Frye, with the stipulation, however, that the acceptance of payment shall in no way be regarded as acquiescence by the United States in Germany's interpretation of the treaty.

There is considerable doubt whether Germany will accept this stipulation.

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FRENCH SAY BIG GUNS INFLICTED HEAVY LOSS

Violent Artillery Engagements Reported Along Western Front.

Special Cable Despatch to THE SUN.

PARIS, Aug. 16.—Violent artillery engagements at many places on the western front are reported in to-night's official communiqué, which adds that the French batteries inflicted serious damage. The afternoon communiqué asserts that the French made a slight gain in the Vosges and took some prisoners.

The night communiqué was as follows:

Violent artillery engagements took place during the entire night at many places on the front. Our batteries caused severe losses to the enemy in the region of Quennevières and stopped a hostile bombardment on the plateau of Nouvron.

Our batteries also did serious damage to the German earthworks north of Godat (between Berry-au-Bac and Loivre).

The enemy, having again shelled Saint-Dié, we fired upon the gas works of Sainte-Marie-aux-Mines, which exploded. Another act of reprisal caused the destruction by fire of a German factory east of Muenster.

The afternoon statement said:

There was an intermittent cannonading last night in the vicinity of Souchez and on the plateau of Nouvron to the north of the River Aisne. There were also engagements with bombs and hand grenades in the sector of Queenevieres and in the western part of the Argonne.

In the Vosges the explosion of a mine against an enemy trench located between Burnhaupt-le-Has and Ammertzwiller made it possible for us to take some prisoners and to capture two bomb throwers and a machine gun.

GERMAN DEFENCE HOLDS.

French Attack in Upper Alsace Broken, Says Berlin.

BERLIN, via Amsterdam, Aug. 16.—Army headquarters issued the following statement to-day regarding operations in the eastern theatre of war:

North of Ammerzweiler, northeast of Dammerkirch, in upper Alsace, a French attack broke down under our fire.

LINER MERION SUNK.

Submarine Destroys Former Passenger Ship, Lately a Transport.

PHILADELPHIA, Aug. 16.—The American Line steamship Merion has been sunk by a Turkish submarine in the Dardanelles, according to a sailor of the American liner Dominion, which arrived at this port yesterday.

The Merion, which operated between this port and Liverpool for several years, had been in the service of the British Government since the beginning of the war, equipped as a transport. It is said that she also was fitted with "dummy" guns and was mistaken by the submarine for the British battleship cruiser Tiger, which was known to be operating in the Dardanelles.

Turkish despatches recently reported the sinking of the Tiger and it is thought that the U boat sank the Merion instead.

EASY FOR GERMANS TO IMPORT COTTON

Neutral Observer Says So-Called Blockade Is Far From Effective.

Special Cable Despatch to THE SUN.

LONDON, Aug. 17.—The *Times* this morning begins publication of a series of articles by a neutral who has had a unique experience in the war zone and in neutral and belligerent countries during the last year. The writer, who has just arrived in England, is avowedly sympathetic to the cause of the Allies.

On his arrival in England he remarked the absence of feeling regarding the war which is so strongly felt, he says, by the people of Holland, Switzerland and Sweden. The British people do not seem, he finds, to be indifferent to the war, but they are either ill informed respecting its progress or are too far removed from its realities to give very much heed to it. The great mass of the people, he has found, seem to treat it as something remote from their daily lives.

The writer says that England seems to be only half at war. And this impression, he says, is widely felt in Russia and France, and in many neutral countries.

Respecting the cotton situation the writer affirms that the Germans have made strenuous efforts to get cotton. He says that Sweden now is a resort for many keen and persevering Germans and Austrians who are struggling to get supplies of the cotton which is so precious to them. He says further that Americans, many of them from the Southern States, are constantly in and out of Stockholm. He heard one say that it was impossible to understand why the British were permitting the Germans to have it all their own way about cotton. He adds that even the Germans themselves are puzzled that Great Britain has made no effort to prevent cotton from reaching Germany.

Occasionally, he writes, a despatch appears in the Swedish newspapers from Great Britain to the effect that cotton may be placed on the contraband list, when there is prodigious excitement and activity on the part of the Germans, but nothing happens, and the Germans continue to get cotton in various ways and to pay promptly for what they get.

"The British talk of a blockade of Germany," he says. "There is no blockade of Germany. The Baltic is a vast open mouth through which Germany is getting immense volumes of supplies. Statisticians may produce figures that appear to belie this statement, but I speak of what I have seen. Germany may have been inconvenienced by the blockade, but the blockade is not what it should be.

"Germany has been far less discommoded than you think or than she herself expected. I have heard no complaint of shortages in Germany except as respects cotton. Just now she is busy talking wood pulp. That, I fear, is the same kind of German device as the bread tickets which caused so many soft hearted neutrals to believe that the British navy was cruelly starving German women and children. As regards wood pulp, Germany is not making any effort to get it. Most of it formerly came from Russia. But what she is striving with all her strength and cunning to obtain is cotton, without which the war cannot be continued."

B.

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