WEATHER.
Continued cool tonight; tomorrow cloudy, gentle winds.
Temperature for the past twenty-four hours: High, 79, at 4 p.m. yesterday; low, 55, at 5 a.m. today.
For full report see page 12.

CLOSING NEW YORK STOCKS PAGE 12.

The Evening Star.

"From Press to Home Within the Hour"

Last Week's Sworn Net Circulation—Daily Average, 68,444; Sunday, 52,422.

No. 20,048. WASHINGTON, D. C., WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 18, 1915.—SIXTEEN PAGES. ONE CENT.

GERMAN ACTIVITY AS TO PHILIPPINES IS TOLD OFFICIALS

Berlin Foreign Office Said to Have Furnished Maps "in Confidence."

SHIP THAT TOOK ARMS SAID TO BE MAVERICK

Former Lieutenant of Kaiser's Army Reported Bidder for Ship at San Francisco.

BRITISH FEARED FOR INDIA

But Vessel Held Up in Java Sea by Dutch Warship Was Believed Bound for U. S. Islands—Was Searched July 27.

While no direct confirmation could be obtained in Washington today of the report printed in yesterday's Star that German officials have sought to bring about a seditious uprising in the Philippine Islands against the government of the United States, certain corroborative circumstances turned up, from widely separated quarters, tending to give color to the story that German agents attempted to ship arms and ammunition to the Philippines two months ago for the alleged attempt at sedition. The report has interested Washington government departments, in connection with the charges of the New York World that German officials have been spending $2,000,000 a week in the United States for secret diplomatic efforts which might have the result of involving the United States in the war

Corroboration of the statement that an American oil steamship bound from the Pacific coast of the United States to the far east was held up under mysterious circumstances by a Dutch warship in the Java sea July 27, as stated in The Star yesterday, was obtained today by a search of the records. The ship was the Maverick, and she was brought to Batavia, Java, by the Dutch warship, and after a search was allowed to proceed.

Two Germans Suspected.

It was disclosed today that officials of the British embassy some time ago called the attention of the State Department to the activities of two Germans in the Philippines. They were suspected of being concerned in a plot, it was said, to smuggle arms and ammunitions from the United States to Germans in India, but not much stock is taken in stories of attempts to smuggle arms and ammunition into India by way of Java, for which the Maverick was said to be bound, for the reason that the Java sea route would be far out of the way for a ship designing to land cargo in India, and would, in fact, be much nearer some of the Philippine Islands.

That there has been German activity of more than one secret kind in the Philippines seems evident today from a report that President Wilson, according to the Providence Journal, has requested that newspaper to lay before Secretary Daniels and the members of the neutrality board information concerning a proposal made by the Telefunken Wireless Company, a German corporation, to place wireless stations in the Philippine Islands, in accordance with maps supplied them "in confidence" by the German foreign office.

Other information said to have been laid before Secretary Daniels in this connection had to do with alleged attempts some time ago by Germans to gain information about United States fire-control systems on battleships.

Another charge presented to Secretary Daniels is to the effect that a civilian employed in the electrical service of the Navy Department has been in the pay of the German government. The latter charge, it is understood, is being considered in connection with the charge made yesterday that two employes of the State Department and four employes of the Treasury Department are reported to be in the pay of Germany, and, while it is at times officially denied that investigations are being made, it is not doubted that these reports, multiplied day by day, are receiving important attention.

Wireless Charge Probed.

There were no developments today in the report that a wireless station in the northwest part of Washington is "taking off" messages to and from Arlington which might interest the German government, but Secretary Daniels of the Navy Department and Acting Secretary Sweet of the Department of Commerce both are investigating the charge.

The United States oil steamship Maverick, which was held up as a suspect by a Dutch warship in the Java sea July 27, was said, in Associated Press dispatches from San Francisco at that time, to have been engaged for some time in missions of which shipping men profess to know little.

It was at one time believed that this vessel was concerned in attempts to take arms and ammunition to Mexico as part of what was charged as a German plot to bring about conditions in Mexico inimical to the interests of the United States. The Philippine report and the Mexico report, as stated in The Star yesterday, are on all fours, the charge having been made that German agents were back of both alleged

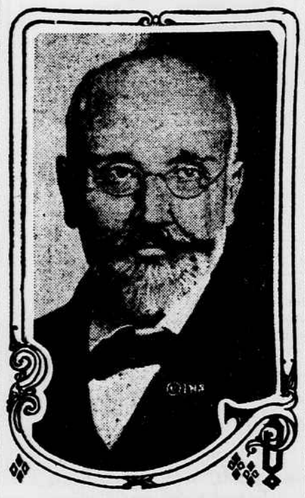
(Continued on Second Page.)

VENIZELOS AGREES TO ACCEPT OFFICE

Returns to Greek Premiership and Will Form New Cabinet.

MAY HAVE AN AGREEMENT WITH KING ON PROGRAM

Allies Think His Advent Into Office Means Intervention of Greece in War.



ELEUTHERIOS VENIZELOS.

LONDON, August 18, 12:48 p.m.—Ex-Premier Eleutherios Venizelos today notified King Constantine of his readiness to form a new Grecian cabinet in succession to the Gounaris ministry, which resigned at the opening of the Grecian parliament yesterday, according to a dispatch to the Central News Agency from Athens.

May Have Understanding.

There is said to have been no restraint during the interview today between the king and the liberal leader such as has been reported at previous audiences. It is believed in Athens that the two have arrived at an understanding which is virtually complete.

The Times' Athens representative sums up the situation thus:

"Until it is known whether Venizelos will succeed in forming a cabinet he cannot be said to have triumphed. Even should he become premier his sympathy for the allied cause might be hampered by circumtances which would preclude a return to the policy of Greek intervention which he advocated in March.

Think Greece Is Won.

ROME, August 17, via Paris, August 18.—The press of Rome today is a unit in welcoming the victory of former Prime Minister Venizelos in the Greek parliament, which is interpreted by the newspapers as definitely committing Greece to the cause of the entente allies.

Reports received by the Italian government from Rumania, Bulgaria and Greece show that military preparations in those countries are being carried on with intense activity. In some quarters here this is taken as an indication that these states are nearing a decision as to their policy in the war.

Envoy Sees Rumanian King.

GENEVA, August 17, via Paris, August 18.—The Tribune prints the following under a Bucharest, Rumania, date line:

"King Ferdinand yesterday gave a long private audience to the Greek minister, who is a member of the party headed by Eleutherios Venizelos."

Quits as Premier of Greece When Overruled by the King

The voluntary retirement last March of Eleutherios Venizelos from the premiership and public life in Greece following a disagreement with King Constantine, his brief self-imposed exile and the sweeping victory of his followers in the parliamentary elections of June, followed by his resumption of the liberal leadership, constitute one of the dramatic political chapters of the war.

His resignation as premier in March of this year because the king did not approve his foreign policy, which would have enlisted Greece in the war on the side of the allies, caused a sensation throughout Europe. He had insisted from the beginning of hostilities that they afforded Greece an opportunity such as might never come again for realizing her territorial aspirations.

Made Good His Threat.

When it became known that the king would insist upon the maintenance of neutrality the premier declared that he would resign if overruled by the crown, and made good his threat.

For more than a month after his retirement, M. Venizelos conducted an active anti-neutrality propaganda and engaged in a controversy with M. Gournaris after the latter became premier.

He then announced his retirement from public life, and declared that he would leave Greece, not to return until he was summoned by his king. He chose Alexandria, Egypt, for his exile, and was given an enthusiastic welcome there. He later went to Cairo, but returned to Athens June 12 and scored a victory in the elections two days later, his candidates winning 193 seats in parliament.

Dispatches from Athens late last week stated that King Constantine would offer the premiership to M. Venizelos only with the understanding that he adhere strictly to a policy of neutrality. There has been no official information as to whether this statement was authoritative.

SCORES MEET DEATH IN TEXAS HURRICANE

Twelve Soldiers Killed at Texas City and Many Civilians Reported Dead.

PROPERTY LOSSES GREAT; RUN INTO THE MILLIONS

Casualties and Damage to Galveston Still Unknown—Wires Remain Broken.

GALVESTON, Tex., August 18, by wireless from United States transport Buford.—There is considerable suffering in the city.

The water system, lighting system, gas and street car systems are out of commission.

There is no drinking water in the city.

Three hundred feet of the causeway has been destroyed.

All officers, classified employes, enlisted men and their families are safe. (This refers to garrison at Fort Crockett.)

DALLAS, Tex., August 18.—Scores of persons perished in the West Indian hurricane that swept Texas coast points, according to roundabout reports received here today from the stricken district. Property damage will run into the millions.

Twelve soldiers, it is said, were killed at Texas City, the regular army camp near Galveston, and thirty or forty civilians also are reported dead.

Six deaths are reported from Laporte, Tex., eight from Morgans Point and three from Sylvan Beach.

Between fifty and sixty soldiers are said to have been injured at Texas City.

Military rule has been established at Texas City, and soldiers are taking bodies from the water as fast as they can be located.

Galveston Damage.

Disappointingly brief wireless reports received from the army transport Buford by the station in Fort Sam Houston, at San Antonio, gave only the most meager account of conditions at Galveston. No mention was made of loss of life, but a report of demolished buildings along the water front left the inference in the minds of many that deaths resulted.

Reports from Houston brought by trainmen late last night told of two or three persons killed, although other reports declared there was no loss of life. A like situation obtained in the matter of the probable damage at Houston. Conflicting reports as to damage to property in Houston were received. Some placed it at $1,000,000, some at $5,000,000.

All reports early today indicated that the force of the tropical storm had spent.

Most places in the storm district with which it was possible to communicate reported a falling of the wind, and it is believed recovery from the storm would be speedy.

Prepare for Relief Work.

While no measures had been taken for relief because the extent of the needs of the distressed cities was not known, the state officials announced that they were prepared to take the situation in hand and promptly extend help where required.

That thousands of residents in the coastal plains country about Port Lavaca, a hundred miles west of Galveston, are sufferers was said in reports received here. The district is one of fruit and truck farms, and the character of the country is such as to offer full sweep to the gale. It was feared considerable loss of life may have resulted.

A long-distance telephone message received today from Eagle Lake, Tex., sixty miles west of Houston, said the hurricane had completely subsided there at 11 o'clock last night. There had been some property damage at Eagle Lake, but no loss of life reported in that immediate vicinity. All means of communication with Houston, it was said, still was interrupted.

Transport McClellan Aground.

A wireless message received late yesterday by Fort Sam Houston, at San Antonio, told of the army transport McClellan being left high and dry half a mile inland. The tug Waverly of the Gulf Steamship Company, which had been towing the lost Guyton barge No. 1, containing 15,000 barrels of oil, arrived at Corpus Christi late last night. She had battled for thirty-three hours with the storm in the Gulf of Mexico and put into port in a battered condition. It was believed the aggregate damage to craft would be heavy.

Loss of Life Detailed.

WACO, Tex., August 18.—A copy of the sixth edition of the Houston Chronicle of Tuesday says:

"Twelve soldiers were killed at Texas City during last night's storm when the Thompson building, a new three-story structure, collapsed. Eight were killed by falling brick, while four drowned later. About thirty or forty civilians, many of them women and children, also lost their lives.

"Those killed were enlisted men and no commissioned officers lost their lives.

"Military rule has been established at Texas City and the soldiers are fishing corpses out of the water as fast as they can be located."

The first rumor to reach Houston was

(Continued on Seventh Page.)

HUNTING BLANKETS.

ZEPPELIN RAIDERS KILL TEN AND INJURE 36 NEAR LONDON

Men, Women and Children Among Victims of Night Attack By German Aircraft.

LONDON, August 18, 3:03 p.m.—The outskirts of London were raided last night by Zeppelins. Ten persons were killed and thirty-six injured. The damage to property was not important.

One Zeppelin is believed to have been hit. The raid was over the eastern counties of England.

Official Report Issued.

A statement given out by the official press bureau said:

"Zeppelins visited the eastern counties last night and dropped bombs. Anti-aircraft guns were in action and it is believed that one Zeppelin was hit.

"Air patrols were active, but owing to the difficult atmospheric conditions the Zeppelins were able to escape.

"Some houses and other buildings, including a church, were damaged.

"The following casualties have been recorded: Killed, seven men, two women and one child; injured, fifteen men, eighteen women and three children.

"All the above were civilians."

Four Zeppelins Sighted.

A Central News dispatch from Amsterdam says four Zeppelins were sighted passing over the islands of Vlieland and Wieringer, off the Netherlands coast. The dirigibles were sailing from the east toward the English coast. The hour of their approach is not stated.

London has been visited previously by German dirigibles during the war. The night of May 31 Zeppelins made an attack on a district described in the official communication merely as "in the metropolitan area." On that occasion about ninety bombs were dropped. Four persons were killed and a few others were injured.

The latest raid is the third of the new series of aerial attacks which after a lapse of several weeks began Monday of last week. On the two previous occasions twenty persons were killed and thirty-seven injured.

Report on Previous Raid.

BERLIN, August 18 (by wireless to Sayville, N. Y.).—According to the Overseas News Agency, the Zeppelin attack on the English coast made last week resulted in considerable damage.

"Travelers arriving in Holland from England report that the last Zeppelin attack on Harwich caused serious damage, the extent of which has been suppressed by the official press bureau," the news agency says. "The explosion of heavy bombs and the resulting catastrophe caused great confusion. Coast guards deserted their posts. The number of killed is not known. Seventeen persons were wounded.

"One bomb struck the post office, and the mail bags were destroyed by fire. Postal service between Harwich and Holland has not yet been re-established."

MAY FIX A STANDARD FOR STREET CAR LOADS

A fixed standard of street car loading may be adopted by the public utilities commission.

Request by the Washington and Old Dominion Railway Company that it be advised as to what constitutes an overcrowded car is expected to result in a revival of this question, which previously has been considered by the commission.

It is understood that the utilities board has tentatively under consideration a plan which would recognize as a crowded car one in which from 50 to 75 per cent of the seating capacity is occupied as standing room. When this limit is reached the motorman would be required to display a "crowded" sign and additional passengers would not be admitted.

The railway company's request was the result of its having been served with a notice that observations made by the utilities commission's inspectors showed overcrowded conditions on the cars leaving for Great Falls during the afternoon rush hours.

Conditions Pointed Out.

"In a number of instances," the commission stated, "as many as twenty-seven, twenty-eight and thirty-three passengers in excess of the seating capacity were observed on cars having a seating capacity of forty-four. Such conditions appear to be conducive not only to inconvenience and discomfort, but actual danger as well, particularly as passengers are sometimes found riding on the steps."

To this letter the company replied that while some cars leave the terminal at 36th and M streets with a large percentage of standing passengers, they begin to discharge at Rosslyn and other points not far beyond the Aqueduct bridge, and within a few minutes the cars usually have less than a seated load.

FLAG WITH 35 STARS NOW BEING SOUGHT

A flag that was flown on some building in this or some other city during the civil war period is being sought by F. D. Owen, chairman of the grandstands committee of the citizens' committee in charge of arrangements for the G. A. R. encampment. The flag is to be used in connection with the decoration of one of the stands to be erected along the line of the parade. Mr. Owen has not yet announced on just which one of the stands it will be shown, but declares the flag will be given a position of honor which will render it all the more valuable to its owner. The best of care will be given the flag and every precaution will be taken to see that it is not damaged in any way.

What Mr. Owen wants is a flag having thirty-five stars, the official flag of the period of the civil war. He is particularly anxious to obtain the use of such a flag. If he can obtain the use of two such flags he will adjust his scheme of decoration so as to include both of them. If more than two are received he promises to put all of them to good use. All will receive the same careful handling and will be returned to their owners at the conclusion of the encampment. The flags will be draped by skilled professional drapers, who will be instructed to safeguard them against harm.

Mr. Owen does not want any war flags—that is, flags that were actually used in engagements. In the great parade that will be the leading feature of the encampment, since it will commemorate the fiftieth anniversary of the grand review of 1865, many war flags will be carried by the various veteran organizations.

BIG GENERAL STRIKE NOT NOW PLANNED

Machinists Will Use All Peaceable Efforts to Achieve Their Demands.

DETERMINED, HOWEVER, TO BETTER CONDITIONS

Heads of Metal Trades Unions to Convene Here Monday to Discuss Present Situation.

Although no general strike among machinists is contemplated, it was made plain this afternoon at the meeting of the International Association of Machinists that a fair share of responsibility for keeping down strikes would be placed on the shoulders of employes. President W. H. Johnston of the International Association of Machinists announced following today's session of the board of directors that additional requests for permission to strike had been made. He intimated that many of the machinists were pressing the question.

"No general strike is contemplated," he said, "and permissions to strike will not be granted until all peaceable efforts have failed. At the same time where an employer will not give his men proper consideration we are going to back up the men."

Information was received today that between 500 and 600 employes of the Porter and Johnson Company of Pawtucket, Conn., had gone out on a strike. There is a possibility that it may spread among other firms in the vicinity.

Seek an Understanding.

A large force is also out at Wilmington, Del. Special representatives have been sent by the association to meet with the employers and employes and try to bring about an amicable understanding. In both instances the strikers are makers of machine tools.

Executive officers of all the metal trades unions affiliated with the American Federation of Labor have been summoned to meet here Monday to discuss a general campaign for improvement of labor conditions and wage increases commensurate with the profits they say are accruing to American manufacturers through war orders.

The meeting of the metal trades will follow the session of the executive board of the International Association of Machinists.

Discusses General Strike Idea.

Before the executive board resumed its session today Mr. Johnston had his attention called to a declaration by Vice President J. J. Keppler that he would urge an immediate national strike in plants which have refused to grant an eight-hour day.

"Some of our officers believe," said Johnston, "that a general strike is the only successful weapon to enforce conditions which our men deserve and for which we are pressing in different localities, not alone in munition plants, but in machine shops generally. I do not believe that the general strike plan will meet with favor, but there certainly will be a determined movement to improve conditions of the machinists."

Vice President Keppler was expected to arrive in Washington today to participate in the deliberations of the executive board and he proposes to lay his general strike plan before it, urging that the time is opportune.

Bankers Meet in San Francisco.

SAN FRANCISCO, August 18.—More than 500 bankers from every part of the United States are in San Francisco to attend the opening today of the thirteenth annual convention of the American Institute of Banking. The session will be opened with an address by President William S. Evans of Philadelphia.

GEORGIA GOVERNOR TO PROBE LYNCHING

Will Seek to Determine Members of Mob Killing Leo M. Frank.

PENITENTIARY OFFICIALS HELD TO BE BLAMELESS

Prison Commissioners Discuss Case. Body of Alleged Slayer Being Brought North.

ATLANTA, August 18.—All the legal machinery available to Gov. Harris will be put into motion to ascertain who constituted the members of the mob that lynched Leo M. Frank at Marietta yesterday, the governor said today. Gov. Harris came here from Fitzgerald, Ga., as soon as he heard of the lynching. He was attending a state Confederate veterans' reunion there.

"This affair is shocking, and I am going to have it investigated to the very limit of my power," said Gov. Harris, soon after he arrived at his office today.

Course Not Yet Mapped Out.

He had not made up his mind exactly what would be done immediately. It is believed much will depend upon the findings of the Cobb county coroner jury, which adjourned to meet Tuesday, after having a short session yesterday. The governor had not decided when he reached his office whether a reward would be offered for apprehension of members of the lynching party.

E. L. Rainey, a member of the state prison commission, arrived here today from Milledgeville. He, with other members of the commission, were at the prison farm when Frank was taken away. He, like R. E. Davidson, chairman of the commission, is of the opinion that nothing would be gained by an investigation of the events at the penitentiary. Mr. Davidson left Milledgeville this morning, and is expected to arrive in Atlanta this afternoon.

Exonerates Prison Officials.

Prison officials at Milledgeville are held to be without blame for the situation arising from the taking of Frank from the state's principal penal institution by Mr. Davidson.

The prison commission has full power, not excepting that vested in the governor, to conduct or order any investigation that it may deem fit.

Mr. Davidson is accredited with the statement that as the mob worked so quickly, and was so well organized, and immediately upon its arrival at the prison so completely controlled the situation, that "no responsibility rested upon either the commission or anybody at the farm."

Some comment was heard today as to why the mob had to deal with only five men—the warden, the superintendent, two guards and a "trusty" in charge at a gate.

Officials Powerless.

That Warden J. T. Smith and Supt. J. M. Burke were powerless with facilities they had at hand when the mob arrived is not questioned at Milledgeville. Burke says the mob completed its work in five minutes; Smith says five or six minutes.

First, all wires were cut at the prison. Then Warden Smith was made prisoner by a part of the mob, while another squad handcuffed Burke and led him to the gate they wished to enter. A command to the "trusty" to open the gate was demurred to, but a threat to kill him if it was not opened immediately quickly gave the mob easy access to the inside. As the gate was opened a guard came up. He was overpowered. Another guard was encountered, but soon was at the mercy of the mob. Frank was grabbed by five men, according to most reports, hurried outside and thrust into the tonneau of an automobile along with a long rope that was dangled in front of his eyes.

He did not utter a word. An occasional groan escaped his lips. What he said, if anything, during the five or six hour trip from Milledgeville to the outskirts of Marietta probably never will be generally known.

The statement of Mr. Davidson, chairman of the prison commission, seemed to indicate that the prison feature may not be investigated immediately.

The mob had planned its work so carefully and acted so quickly that little excitement was caused at Milledgeville. Marietta rapidly assumed its normal poise after Frank's body had been cut down from a tree near the town and brought to Atlanta.

Some of Mob Near Town.

Those who today studied more closely the movements of the mob at Milledgeville were convinced that a few members were in the vicinity of the town before the main body arrived. It must have taken some time to cut the telephone wires in the manner in which this detail was handled.

Although none of the automobiles bearing the gang was seen near here until they approached the prison, as far as could be learned today, it is believed the entire gang would have avoided any movement, such as having all the men on the scene to cut the wires, that would lead to detection.

Many in Marietta are of the belief that plans similar to those which were successful Monday night were frustrated a month ago. The Milledgeville company of militia was ordered to hold itself ready to proceed to the state prison. As far as generally known, reports that a mob might attack the prison were no more persistent then than they had been for some time. Prison officials never said exactly why they requested the militia to be held ready. It was intimated at Marietta there had been a "leak."

Plans Carefully Arranged.

Those who tried to follow the decoy automobile, which carried the part of the mob to near Eatonton, where a demonstration took place, reported today that these plans had been carefully arranged. Chains were placed on the tires to make trailing easy. After the machine left the bridge over Little river the chains were removed, which made it difficult to follow the automobile when it was out of sight.

Although nearly every town between Milledgeville and Marietta over any route the mob might have taken had been communicated with today, only one man was found who had seen the several automobiles proceeding toward the lynching scene. He resides within a short distance of where Frank was hanged.

Body Leaves Atlanta.

Frank's body left here at midnight on the Southern railway for the home

(Continued on Seventh Page.)

KOVNO IS CAPTURED BY TEUTON FORCES; RUSSIANS IN PERIL

Aeroplanes Bombarding Vitna, Which May Have to Be Evacuated.

SERIOUS DANGER FACED BY CZAR'S RIGHT FLANK

Victory Probably Will Enable Teutons to Consolidate Northern and Central Armies.

FURTHER RETREAT PROBABLE

Doubt Now Expressed Whether Russians Will Be Able to Hold Their Newly Established Line.

PETROGRAD, August 18, via London, 3:46 p.m.—German aeroplanes are persistently bombarding the city of Vilna, about fifty miles east of Kovno. The possibility of the capture of Vilna by the Germans is foreseen in Petrograd, and operations preliminary to its evacuation are in progress.

BERLIN, August 18, by wireless to Sayville, N. Y.—The following announcement was made here officially today:

"The fortress of Kovno, together with all the forts and an amount of war material which has not been determined, has been in German hands since last night.

"More than 400 cannon were taken. The fortress was captured by storm in spite of the most tenacious resistance by the Russians."

Serious Blow to Russians.

Military experts have agreed that the loss of the fortress of Kovno would be a serious blow to the Russians. The critic of the London Times in an article published this morning says:

"If the enemy succeeds in reducing Kovno and is thereby able to cross the Niemen he will be in the rear of the Russian line north of the Sventa, and with the junction of the two wings of Field Marshal von Hindenburg's army the position of the Russian right flank will be very difficult."

The official German statement of yesterday announced the capture of the forts on the southwest front of Kovno, together with 4,500 prisoners and 240 guns. This was interpreted as foreshadowing the fall of the fortress proper, but its accomplishment so speedily was hardly expected.

Von Hindenburg in Command.

The famous German general, Field Marshal von Hindenburg, personally took command of the army attacking Kovno. The selection of Germany's national hero for this task indicated the importance attached to it by the German general staff.

Kovno, capital of the Russian province of that name, is on the right bank of the Niemen. It is a fortress of the first class. The civilian population of the city is more than 75,000.

At the time of the fall of Warsaw the Austrian and German forces in Russia were operating in three large divisions. From the south Field Marshal von Mackensen pressed into Poland with the troops with which he had successfully swept through Galicia, recapturing the province from the Russians.

From the west Prince Leopold of Bavaria advanced directly at the Warsaw front. From the north came the forces of Field Marshal von Hindenburg, advancing through the Baltic provinces.

Enables Teutons to Unite.

After Warsaw was captured a junction was effected between the army groups of Mackensen and Leopold. The capture of Kovno probably will result in welding the northern and central Teutonic forces into a consolidated line from the Baltic provinces to Galicia. Kovno is a unit of a line of fortresses running from the Niemen south and east, connected by railroad. On this line are Grodno, Brest-Litovsk and Lutsk.

The capture of Kovno raises the question whether the Russians will be able to retain this line, or whether they will again be compelled to make a general retreat. Retention of the remaining positions on this front might expose the Russians to the danger of a flanking movement. The next line to which they might be expected to fall runs from Vilna, about fifty miles east of Kovno, through Lida, Baranovitshi and Pinsk to Rovno. This line is about 300 miles long.

German Advance Rapid.

The rapidity of the German advance since the fall of Warsaw, August 5, is indicated by the fact that they are within thirteen miles of Brest-Litovsk, which lies about 115 miles east of the captured Polish capital. The line to which they may now be compelled to fall back is about 200 miles east of Warsaw.

Kovno is 550 miles southwest of Petrograd, the possibility of an advance against which is now being considered in Russia and England. Surrounding the fortress proper, at an average distance of two and one-half miles, is a girdle of forts, eleven in number. The town lies for the most part in the fork formed by the junction of the Niemen with the Viliya, and is guarded by strong defenses.