PORTUGAL, THOUGH PLUNGING INTO WAR, HAS KEPT HER PROMISES TO ENGLAND AND RENDERED GREAT AID TO ALLIES

Seizure of Ships Permits Great Britain to Render Promised Assistance to Italy.

SUPPLIES CAN BE SENT TO KING VICTOR'S REALM

Economic Situation There Has Stirred Keenest Dissatisfaction Among the People.

BY OLIVER OWEN KUHN.

Portugal has kept her promise to England and today finds herself in a state of war with Germany; the great battle of Verdun, in which hundreds of thousands of men are reported to have fallen, continues, with no decision yet in sight; the powerful German armada has defied the British war vessels, ventured into the North sea and after several days' scouting returned to its base without encountering the enemy; the Russians have extended their gains in Persia and Turkish Armenia to the point that both Bagdad and Trebizond face early capitulation, while along the northern end of the eastern battle front there has been renewed activity on the part of both the Germans and the Russians.

These are the events marking the progress of the European struggle of the past week, events which not only have been important in themselves, but significant as well.

Portugal is the thirteenth nation to enter the great struggle, which, as days go by, gives no indication of abating. Germany in her declarations, forwarded to Lisbon on the day war was declared, asserted the Portuguese nation by its actions had announced to the world that it was but the vassal of England, but whatever the view of the central powers may be, Portugal has lived up to a promise made to England almost at the outbreak of the war, in which she declared that when the time came to take decisive action on behalf of the allies she would do so, promising at the very first to send a force of 10,000 men. As time has gone on Teutonic nations have made several tenders to the Portuguese nation to gain, at least, continued neutrality, but that these all were futile became definitely known on February 27, when a large number of German and Austrian merchant vessels in home and colonial ports were seized by the Portuguese government and the war flag run up. Germany considered this action an affront and the Lisbon government at once began preparations for eventualities, fully realizing just what the future would hold. That expectations were correct was fully proven on Wednesday, when the German government presented its decree of war to the Portuguese government.

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Though Portugal was at any time expected to render assistance to England in a firm fashion once the proper moment arrived, the exact purpose of seizing all German ships in Portuguese ports was not thoroughly made clear until later in the week, when it was announced that Portugal, through special charter to a large Lisbon shipping firm, had placed the Teutonic vessels in the hands of England for the transportation of supplies to Italy and Saloniki. This assistance may be discounted by some, but it is an established fact that the amount of supplies forwarded to Italy in recent weeks has been curtailed to the point where the government at Rome has been forced to ask greater assistance of the allies in relieving the economic situation in that country. Conditions have grown so acute that there is keen dissatisfaction among the Italian people over the conduct of the war and the burdens thrust upon them owing to the conflict. The German submarine campaign may be discounted to a large measure in allied capitals, but the fact nevertheless remains that the greater part of the vessels which heretofore have been operating in Mediterranean ports have fallen victim to the dread torpedoes of German and Austrian underseas craft. England has been unable to render the full meed of assistance promised to Italy when that nation entered the war on the side of the allies, and particularly so since the inauguration of the Saloniki expedition, owing to the necessity of using large tonnage for the sole purpose of transporting troops. With the seizure of the vast amount of German tonnage in Portuguese ports and its consequent transference to British registry, England will now be able to relieve Italy's dire need materially. Thus it may be seen that Portugal has in reality rendered England great assistance and has stepped into the breach when her services really were needed.

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Ship Seizure Now Is Made Clear.

There has been much speculation as to just what Portugal may be able to do from a military standpoint. The regular army consists of 30,000 men, with 230,000 reserves. Portugal is credited with a total available military strength of 870,000. A force of 260,000 well trained effectives, it may be said, would be the height of her power on land. The Portuguese naval strength is of negligible character. There are several courses open to Portugal, the following of any one of which would render invaluable assistance to the allies. She might send a large force to the Suez canal to assist the British at that point; might dispatch a great force of reserves to the western battle line of France, or, on the other hand, place a large force of effectives at the disposal of the French and British at Saloniki.

Possible Strength of Portuguese Army.

At the first glance it would seem that the open declaration of war by Germany against Portugal will react decidedly in the allies' favor, for the Germans, only by eventual victory in the European war, or by defeat of the British fleet, thereby freeing her mighty armada for general coastal operations, will be able to injure the Portuguese, owing to their comparative isolation from the main battle arenas. On the other hand, the Portuguese are now able to assist the allies in numerous ways, already having rendered yeoman service.

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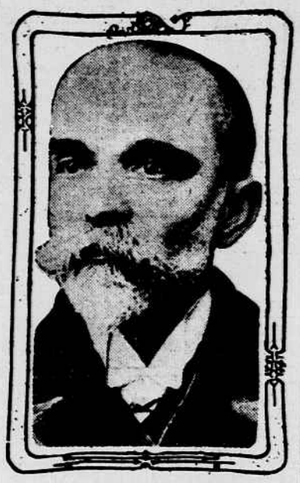
Keenest interest now is being evinced in the continued successful operations of the Russians in the near east regions, where the Turkish armies, their morale greatly affected by the fall of Erzerum, still are fleeing toward the westward. Their stands at isolated points are half-hearted in character, and the Russian army operating toward Sivas, in the heart of Turkish Armenia, has been able to advance at the rate of three miles a day, despite the serious handicap of bad weather. It cannot be expected that the central Russian army will attempt more rapid strides until the army operating along the Black sea coast, which also is making steady progress, takes

Russians Gain Steadily in Near East.



DR. BERNARDINO MACHADO.
President of Portugal and former minister to Washington, whose country has plunged into the European war.

Trebizond, the great Turkish port. The Rusians have captured Riza, a distance of twenty-eight miles east of Trebizond, and are reported to be swiftly moving on the last important port held by the Moslems in this region. The occupation of Riza by the Russians materially aids their forces operating in Asiatic Turkey, it being already reported that this port will be used as a temporary base for supplies to be sent across the Black sea from Odessa. However, the Russians want Trebizond, which will to an even greater extent enhance the chances of future successes in this region. The Russian fleets, which are now said to completely dominate the waters of the Black sea, are keeping up a tremendous and continuous bombardment of Turkish coastal towns and are expected to operate in unison with the land forces when they arrive under the Turkish guns at Trebizond. The Turks give all indications of making a stand at Trebizond, but Petrograd is confident that with a combined sea and land attack the Moslems will be pushed out of this fortified point and forced to seek junction with scattered Turkish armies farther to the westward. With the fall of Trebizond it may be expected that the central Russian forces will move forward with greater speed, as there will be a direct route from Odessa via Trebizond, and it is expected that this line of communication can be maintained with little difficulty.

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Russians Take Campaign Seriously.

That the Russians are taking the near east campaign seriously is indicated by the dispatch that a large force of reserves which were intended for operations on the eastern front have been dispatched to Asiatic Turkey to help wrest the dominions of the near east from Turkish control. The capture of Constantinople even is declared to be within the bounds of possibility.

While the Russians are gaining in the Armenian regions they also are taking rapid strides toward Bagdad. During the week they captured the Turkish fortified position of Sehna, in Persia, and it is declared that Bagdad is only a comparatively short march away. In the meantime the British have not been idle in the Mesopotamia region, it being declared that Gen. Aylmer, who has been greatly reinforced, is now within seven miles of Kut-el-Amara, where Gen. Townshend and a force of ten thousand men has been penned up for months. Gen. Aylmer when previous dispatches were received was twenty-eight miles from Kut and was meeting strenuous resistance, but it is believed that the Indian troops sent to his assistance have enabled him to sweep aside resistance up to late in the week, when he failed in an attack on Essin.

The much expected and much desired union between Russian and British forces in Mesopotamia seems to be near. Once this junction is effected the combined British and Russian armies will be able to completely dominate the Mohammedan regions in and around Persia, and the German effort to stir up sedition possibly will fail. That there is continued effort to fan the coals of Mohammedan prejudice into flames of holy war, is indicated by advices that the Emir Ibnalrashid of Resht, Persia, has decreed a holy war in all the towns and cities of his province. This is the most recent evidence of the attempts along this line, which heretofore have proved futile. But should the Russians and British once gain a firm grip on the near eastern situation it may be safely stated that India and regions further east will be comparatively safe from anti-ally agitators.

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Verdun Battle Passes Twentieth Day.

Staggering in its intensity, the number of casualties and the number of great guns being used, the battle of Verdun has passed its twentieth day, with no decisive blow struck. The Germans are striving as they have never striven before to gain their objective, and slowly, almost inch by inch, they are eating into the French positions surrounding the stronghold. They have been content to lose 10,000 men to gain a half mile. They have been content to advance at all. It is this spirit of "do or die" on the part of the crown prince's armies, coupled with the effective use of thousands of big guns, that has been responsible for the German gains along the twenty-five miles of front in the vicinity of Verdun. The Germans during the week just closed have made further gains. The jaws of the great steel "nut cracker" have closed appreciably upon the defending French armies. To the northeast the woods of Hardamount have been occupied and the villages of Forges and Regnieville captured. To the southeast, where the other section of the German vise is seeking to press the French back and force eventual evacuation of Verdun, the Germans have occupied Fresnes, while at several points the French domination of the Meuse heights has been threatened.

Capture of Forges—declared necessary because the French position overlapped those of the Germans, enabling the allies to take the attacking forces from flank and rear—indicates that the Germans now are intending to press the battle on the west side of the Meuse. The earlier operations of the Teutons largely were on the eastern bank. The German attack at Forges is said to have swept the French back for a distance of two miles.

The loss of Fresnes, according to advices from Paris, is a severe blow to the French scheme of defense as it opens the way for attacks on Combres from both the east and the south. This position is one of the most vital in the scheme of operations in the Verdun region.

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Fiercest Fighting in Corbeaux Region.

Probably the fiercest fighting of the week, however, has been in the Corbeaux wood and in the vicinity of Fort Vaux and the village. The Germans early in the week, by tremendous artillery power

Russians and British on Verge of Achieving Their Goal in Near-East Regions.

CAPTURE OF TREBIZOND MEANS SWIFTER ADVANCE

Slavs Almost Knocking at Gates of Bagdad—Germans Still Gaining at Verdun.

and strenuous infantry attacks, were able to rid the Corbeaux wood of the enemy. By a series of attacks the French in the main were able to regain all lost ground at this point, but the Teutons have pressed back into this region.

Fighting between Fort Vaux and Douaumont has been particularly deadly, the Germans still being intent on smashing through the French lines at this point. Wednesday the Germans claimed to have wrested both the village and fort from the French, but this was denied in Paris immediately, and even Berlin in later official reports indicates that the French have been able to regain much lost ground. Fort Vaux is southeast of Douaumont, and the position is under intermittent crossfire of the Germans. The fall of Fort Douaumont and the capture of the Hardamount redoubt, the connecting work between Vaux and Douaumont, left Fort Vaux exposed and unsupported to fire from the north and east. The position is one which exposes French forces defending it to great dangers.

While the great battle rages about Verdun there are signs of German offensive movements at other points along the western front. It is reported during the week that the Teutons have moved a force of 40,000 additional men to the Ypres section, where an offensive by the British has been expected for several days, but which so far has failed to materialize. The Germans, however, may be expected to move forward at almost any moment in this section. While rumors are heard that the Germans intend to strike at the British in the Flanders regions, reports also come of almost feverish activity on their part in the region of the great fortress of Belfort, close to the Alsace frontier. In fact, the Teutons, should they once realize that Verdun cannot be taken, may be expected to move forward at any one of the numerous strategical points on the western front. It is not believed in allied capitals that the kaiser or the crown prince ever will admit of failure, and will not rest until some material success has been scored at some point, in order to reconcile the German people to some extent for the gigantic losses suffered at Verdun. But as stated last week, there is no valid reason to believe that the Germans will not be successful at Verdun, despite the heavy reinforcements brought up by the French and British. No matter how heroic the struggle the French and British are making, the Germans continue to gain, and that after all is the acid test in arriving at immediate conclusions in regard to any battle.

In the light of recent events and in view of the tremendous losses suffered by both sides in the present terrible struggle, it may be expected that the tide will turn one way or another within the next ten days. That the battle at this point will continue with its present ferocity for an indefinite period is hard to conceive.

WESTERN ARENA.

Chronological Events.

SUNDAY.

Germans forced back in terrible attacks between Fort Douaumont and Haudremont.

French claim to hold outskirts of Douaumont.

Heavy artillery engagements along whole semi-circle to the east of Verdun.

Germans evacuate positions taken from the French in the forest of Thiaville in Lorraine.

Intense big gun action in regions of Haudomont and Fresnes.

Germans said to be striving to take Fort Tavannes, northeast of Verdun.

MONDAY.

French claim check of German attempt to advance along the Meuse east of Vacherauville.

Germans capture village of Forges.

Teutonic attacks at Cote de L'Oie reported repulsed.

Germans occupy section of French trench near Maisons de Champagne.

French blow up German post near Courtes Chaussees in the Argonne.

Leveling of Forts Devaux, Moulainville and De Tavannes by Germans is reported.

TUESDAY.

Germans claim capture of Fresnes in the Woevre.

German division captures Hill 265, near Regneville.

Reports received that British troops and artillery are co-operating at Verdun.

Germans penetrate French redoubt in region of Douaumont.

German iron jaws reported to be swiftly closing in on Verdun.

Germans claim to have stormed 3.7 miles of French territory below Bethincourt.

French claim to have recaptured trenches near Maisons de Champagne.

WEDNESDAY.

Germans claim capture of Fort Vaux and the village of the same name. Paris reports repulse of vicious attacks.

French claim to have checked advances of Germans in Bethincourt region.

Berlin claims capture of French positions four miles in length and two miles deep north of Verdun.

French drive Teutons out of large section of Corbeaux wood.

Germans recapture Hardaumont redoubt east of the Meuse.

Crown prince reported to be bringing up 100,000 fresh men at Verdun.

Germans report capture of Regneville.

French retake trench near Seppois, in Upper Alsace.

Metz-Sablons railway station bombarded by French.

THURSDAY.

Crisis reported reached in battle of Verdun.

French claim more gains, but Berlin reports reverses for enemy in Corbeaux woods.

French bombard enemy defensive organizations west of Navarin, east of Butte de Mesnel in the Champagne.

Fierce aerial battles are fought at several points around Verdun.

Germans claim capture of Ablain wood and admit French have regained foothold in Fort Vaux.

FRIDAY.

Germans retake part of village of Vaux.

Germans claim capture of 1,400 yards of trenches near Ville-au-Bois, near Rheims.

Intense artillery fire in all Verdun sectors continues.

AUSTRO-ITALIAN ARENA.

Chronological Events.

SUNDAY.

General quiet prevails over whole front.

TRIMMING THE HAIR OF A WOUNDED SOLDIER

BY REASON OF THE PRESENCE OF MOST OF THE BARBERS AT THE FRONT, WOMAN NURSES NOW ACT AS TONSORIAL ARTISTS IN BRITISH HOSPITALS.

MONDAY.

Infantry and artillery actions renewed on the Isonzo front, despite heavy snows.

TUESDAY.

Artillery actions of desultory character.

WEDNESDAY.

Italians extend line of occupation between two Tofanta peaks. Progress in middle Isonzo valley and in Zagora sector is claimed.

THURSDAY.

Italians keep up heavy fire on Krn and Tyrol fronts and in Rombou sector.

FRIDAY.

In the vicinity of Castelo Dante, in the Lagarina valley, and from Citerna, in the Terragnolo valley, to Luserna, in the Alto D'Astico; on the Vezzana height, in the Val D'Assa, as well as at Mortier, in the Val Sugana, there were several small infantry actions.

EASTERN ARENA.

Chronological Events.

SUNDAY.

Russians demolish German barricades on the Dniester near Zamuschime.

Russians occupy advanced German trench near Uscieczko, in the Mikhaltchie region.

German attacks on Alssevich and Kroschime reported repulsed.

MONDAY.

Russ artillery demolishes German trenches south of Lake Babit, in Riga sector.

Fighting for mine craters goes on near Illoukst.

TUESDAY.

Russians report repulse of all German attempts to occupy craters near Illoukst.

Germans fall back before Russian advance south of the Poniawesch railroad.

Teutons twice repulsed near Clyka station on the Kovel-Rovino line.

Slavs check German advance in the upper Stripa region.

WEDNESDAY.

Berlin claims repulse of Russian attacks everywhere.

German aeros attack railway establishments on Misok line and enemy troops in Mir.

THURSDAY.

Russians repulse Germans east of Koslow, with heavy losses.

FRIDAY.

People of Czernowitz reported fleeing in anticipation of Russian attack.

NEAR EAST CAMPAIGN.

Chronological Events.

SUNDAY.

Russians, continuing pursuit of the Turks, occupy village of Maprava, between Atina and Riza.

Petrograd announces capture of Atina (March 4), on Black sea coast east of Trebizond.

MONDAY.

Occupation of Bagdad by the Russians is reported near.

Reports declare Russians massacred hundreds of Turks after capture of Bitlis.

Gen. Aylmer engages Turkish troops along the Tigris in vicinity of Nasria.

TUESDAY.

Turks claim check for British, who seek to advance on Felasia, in the Mesopotamia region.

British claim to have dispersed Turks north of Nasiriyeh.

Russians continue to bombard Black sea coastal points.

WEDNESDAY.

Russians capture Riza, on the Black sea, and Selma, north of Kermanshah, in Persia.

Russian fleet reported to be causing great destruction to Turkish Black sea ports and defenses.

Gen. Aylmer attacks Essinn, but fails to dislodge enemy.

THURSDAY.

Petrograd categorically denies Turkey has asked for separate peace with Russia.

FRIDAY.

Russian forces operating on the Black sea press toward Trebizond from Riza.

SCARCITY OF SEAFOOD NOTED.

Dealers, However, Expect Increase of Supplies the Coming Week.

According to the dealers in fish at the wholesale wharf market, foot of 11th street southwest, there has been no increase in the receipts of seafood, but they are hoping with the coming of good weather on the coast there will be an increase in the supply this week.

Yesterday, according to the records of the wharfmaster's office, the bulk of the fish supply received consisted of three barrels of bass and 800 shad from southern waters. There were no herring to amount to anything, and only a few of other varieties of fish. Fishermen are setting out their nets along the Potomac, and if there are any fish in the river they will be caught, it is claimed, and the supply on the market augmented.

Within the next ten days shad and herring should appear in the Potomac, and this will add to the local supply of fresh fish, as two big haul seines are now ready for the fish as soon as they come.

CILICIAN PLAIN A COCKPIT WHERE ARMIES CLASHED

Historic Place of Remote Past May Become a Great Commercial Port.

One of the historic places of the remote past that may yet be destined to range itself alongside of Bagdad and Mesopotamia in present-day interest is the Cilician plain, a small territory ranged around the extreme northeastern corner of the Mediterranean sea.

It was to a harbor on its coast, Alexandretta, that German capital turned for an outlet for the Bagdad railroad when checkmated in its desire to reach the Persian gulf; and it was here that the Germans were beginning to build a modern commercial port in the near east before the European war broke out.

In a statement prepared today by the National Geographical Society, whose headquarters are in this city, a striking picture is drawn of the historic plain.

Flanked by High Mountains.

"A glance at the map of the Mediterranean shores will reveal the fact that the gulf of Alexandretta is a deep indentation in the extreme northeastern coast of that sea. Flanking it on either side are high mountain ranges, running back from the water's edge into the deep interior of Asia Minor. Many miles to the north of the narrow gulf these ranges come together, and the triangle thus formed is a watershed drained by three historic rivers, which once borne the classic names of Sarus, Cydnus and Pyramus.

"Through the ages that have coursed down the sides of the Taurus, Anti-Taurus and Amanus mountains they have brought down the weathered materials from their great slopes, and have built up at the head of the gulf a magnificent alluvial plain of about 800 square miles.

Once Great Crossroads.

"This little plain was once the crossroads of civilization, through which ran the great highway between the east and the west on which stood Tarsus, Adana and Mopsuestia. This great highway, descending from the Anatolian plateau to Tarsus, was built through a narrow defile called Ghulek Baghaz. Farther to the east it passed through a masonry gate before entering the plain of Issus. From this latter plain one road extended south and another north, each of them through giant masonry gates.

"It is thought to have been due to the fact that Alexander knew nothing of the pass to the north that Darius was able to cross the mountains prior to the battle of Issus. From those times onward the Cilician gates figured in history, and the Cilician plain became a cockpit in which armies strove for mastery."

OYSTER SEASON NEAR END.

Dredging Not Permitted in the Potomac After March 15.

Under the oyster protection laws of Maryland and Virginia, the season in which oysters can be taken from their beds with instruments other than oyster tongs will end March 15, the law reading: "It shall be unlawful for any citizen of Maryland or of Virginia, to take or catch oysters with scoop, scrape, dredge or any such instrument in the waters of the Potomac river between the 15th day of March and the 1st day of November of each year."

As only residents of the states named are allowed to engage in the oyster industry on the Potomac, the law effectually puts a stop to oyster dredging, as the law specifies: "Every person found guilty of violating any of the provisions of this section shall be fined not less than $50 nor more than $500 for each offense, and the vessel, together with its equipment and cargo, used in the violation of such provision, shall be forfeited to the state."

The stopping of the dredging season does not mean the close of the oyster season, as it is lawful to take oysters with tongs until April 25, but it does mean a decided decrease in the supply. Many oyster dredge boats have already cut out and returned to their home ports to be made ready for general freighting work on the river.

BONDHOLDERS FILE BRIEFS.

Argument Dispensed With in $20,000,000 Suit Against Railroad.

TOLEDO, Ohio, March 11.—Argument was dispensed with and briefs filed today in the United States district court in the suit against the Toledo, St. Louis and Western Railroad Company, involving more than $20,000,000. The briefs were upon the application of the Central Trust Company, New York city, to foreclose on $11,577,000 worth of underlying securities, and that of E. G. Merrill et al., to foreclose on their lien of $9,000,000. A decision will probably be announced next week.

ORGANIZED TO AID JEW WAR VICTIMS

"Women of the Hour" Invite Contributions From All Who Sympathize.

MILLIONS ARE HOMELESS IN SNOW-COVERED RUSSIA

Mothers With Babes in Arms, Children and Old Men, Wanderers in Cold.

In Washington a group of sympathetic women have banded themselves together under the title, "Women of the Hour" to raise a fund for the support of Jews outcast by the war who have no friendly country to receive them. There are more than three million of these destitute wanderers.

By small weekly contributions made by the housekeepers and mothers who daily realize, as they see their own loved ones about the table, the anguish and suffering among the war-driven Jews, it is hoped to raise sufficient relief. All of the organizations of Jewish women in the District have been asked to co-operate. While the Jewish people have always prided themselves on their ability to take care of their own, in this extraordinary instance of hardship and misery they will gladly accept contributions from sympathetic Christians.

Officers of the Association.

Mrs. Louis Ottenberg, 1622 Lamont street, is the president of the Women of the Hour; Mrs. Julius I. Peyser, 1940 Biltmore street, the treasurer, and Mrs. Emanuel Simons, 1740 18th street, the secretary. The next meeting is to be held Thursday, at 3 o'clock, in the Eighth Street Temple.

At the last meeting of the Council of Jewish Women envelopes were distributed to about 400 women who were urged to bring their contributions to the March meeting, which is to be held Tuesday.

The Savoy Theater Company has donated the use of the theater for Tuesday afternoon, March 21, from 1:45 to 5 o'clock.

Joseph Abel of the United States Department of Agriculture, who spent a year at the Panama-Pacific exposition, is to deliver an illustrated lecture Wednesday at 8 p.m. at the Washington Hebrew Congregation, 8th and I streets.

Mrs. Ottenberg, the president, in describing the plight of the refugee Jews and the purposes of this relief organization, says:

War's Greatest Sufferers.

"Prophesy in 1914, at the outset of the war, that Belgium with its population of 6,000,000, and the Jews of Russia, over 7,000,000 in number, would be the greatest sufferers of the war would have been deemed preposterous.

"Far worse, if possible, is the plight of the fleeing Jews of Russia, who, unlike the Belgians, have no friendly country to take them in, nothing before them but the great snow-covered plains of Russia.

"The American Jewish committee has published a detailed and comprehensive report of the Jews in the eastern war zone. The report, in book form, is the result of a careful investigation of authentic information. It states that the Jews now bearing the brunt of this war constitute one-half of the Jewish population of the world.

"In normal times the Jews of Russia are in a deplorable condition, forbidden to live outside of the enlarged Ghetto known as the Pale of Settlement, burdened with special taxes, denied even the scant educational privileges enjoyed by the rest of the populace; in brief, economically degraded and politically outlawed.

"Russia has virtually converted the pale into a penal settlement, where six million human beings, guilty only of adhering to the Jewish faith, live in constant terror of massacres and without legal rights or social status.

Loyal When Test Came.

"Upon this background of ever-spreading persecution the great war broke upon the Jews. They accepted it as loyal Russian citizens, the few rich Jews donating large sums for the hospitals for use of wounded of all creeds. They held patriotic meetings in the synagogues, the rabbis urging the Jewish youths to enlist. The Russian press commented that the Jews set an example of readiness to sacrifice everything for the army. More than 400,000 Jewish soldiers are fighting today. More than 1,000 have received the Medal or Cross of St. George.

"By their unfortunate geographic position the Jews were foredoomed. The Poles have always been bitter enemies of the Jews. With the invasion of Poland by the Germans the Poles denounced the Jews as spies, first to the Russians, then to the Germans. In one instance twelve Jews were sentenced to death upon false testimony given by their enemies. Instances of Polish slander are many and served their fell purpose of branding the Jews as spies.

"Not one story of treachery on the part of the Jews was ever substantiated. Yet the summary expulsion of the Jews from their native towns followed.

"As reported by the Russian Jewish relief committee, the atrocities of this expulsion are unbelievable even in this day of wholesale slaughter on the battlefields.

Suffering Beyond Description.

"Terrible disaster has befallen the Jewish population of the Pale of Settlement and of Poland. Hunger and thirst and disease and death and moral sufferings beyond the power of human pen to describe are the lot of hundreds of thousands of Jewish old men, women and children driven from their homes, whose houses and hearths have been plundered and destroyed. Hundreds of thousands of our unfortunate brethren are staring in hopeless despair into a future that spells nothing but new tears and suffering. Forced to leave their homes and belongings, the fruit of years of hard toil, the unfortunate exiles wend their weary way on foot to towns thirty miles distant—old men, sick women clasping their little children in their arms fill the silent roads with the sound of their moans and sobs. Here an old man breaks down, breathing his last. There a woman kneels by the roadside, staring in despair too deep for tears at the child that lies dead in her arms. Many are those who succumb on their way; undescribable are the sufferings of those who survive.

"Mothers were separated from their children, entire families were dispersed and separated all over Russia. The liberal Russian press has a long list of victims trying to find their relatives. Children were born on the roads.

"Many public-spirited Russians are deploring this terible treatment of an inoffensive people.

"Entrance of the Russian soldier into Galicia has added to the terrible list of crimes perpetrated upon Jewish women and old men.

Destitution in Palestine.

"The Jews of Palestine are also destitute. The relief food ship Vulcan, however, sent by the Jews of America, and a monthly allowance also sent from here has helped to ease the situation considerably.

"To Austria, Hungary and Galicia $180,000 has been sent since the tag day collection. The Jews of America are nobly responding. Close to $3,000,000 has been raised since January 1. The President's proclamation and tag day helped. The problem is enormous. More than 3,000,000 persons are destitute. It is urgent that some plan for a permanent relief fund be evolved which will provide a steady income as long as the need remains. Six million non-Jews of Russia, who have had to flee upon the approach of the enemy, are also starving and wandering, so needs of the Jews could not be supplied by either the Rusians in Russia or by the Germans in the so-called German-Poland. It seems to be up to America to help.

Permanent Fund Proposed.

"'The Women of the Hour' of Washington were organized January 25 to create a permanent fund to be raised by a small weekly money donation from the housekeepers' table. The members of the Sisterhood of the Washington Hebrew Congregation, the Council of Jewish Women, the Ladies' Auxiliary of the Adas Israel Congregation, the Ladies' Auxiliary of the Hebrew Home for the Aged and the Young Women's Hebrew Association and other women not affiliated with any organization were asked to join the 'Women of the Hour.'

"It should not be difficult to visualize the horrors which are going on in Europe when seated at a dinner table in company of the family loved ones. Nor should any mother as she puts her dear little ones to bed and is reasonably certain that they will be safe through the night forget that at this minute mothers are clasping starving babes in their arms and weeping over them because they cannot keep them alive.

"Twenty-five cents weekly is not much to give in view of these terrible demands. The Jews have prided themselves on being able to take care of their own. But in the face of this awful calamity the 'Women of the Hour' of Washington will gratefully accept any such weekly contribution from any mother who feels the call to put food in the mouths of these unfortunates."

ASEPTIC FIBER PLANT BURNS.

Chattanooga Concern Working Night and Day on Army Orders.

CHATTANOOGA, Tenn., March 11.—The large plant of the Chattanooga Aseptic Cotton Company was completely gutted by fire of unknown origin, which started in the dry room, this morning. The plant has been in operation night and day for several months with a big order for medicated cotton for the European allies. The estimated value of the plant is $65,000. It was insured for $50,000.

Transport Sails for Cristobal.

GALVESTON, Tex., March 11.—The United States Army transport Kilpatrick sailed today for Cristobal with about 500 men of the 4th Field Artillery.

FRENCH DEFENSE OF HAUMONT HEROIC EPISODE OF THE WAR

Correspondent Tells How Germans Advanced, Line After Line, Under Withering Fire of Machine Guns.

PARIS, March 11.—The story of the defense of Haumont, one of the heroic episodes of the struggle around the fortress of Verdun, as told to the Associated Press by a participant, reveals how French soldiers died on the spot under the concentrated fire of heavy artillery and the shock of the masses of infantry in order to gain time for the reserves to come up.

"The Germans concentrated their fire on Haumont at the outset," said the eyewitness. "They must have suspected that it would be the center of our resistance. They undertook by systematic destruction to prepare for the capture of the place without too much loss to the infantry when they had taken Haumont woods.

"Every passage, every ravine, every clearing and every crossroad that could serve us was swept by a devastating fire. The effect of the shelling was such that, little by little, our advanced lines weakened, and at 6 o'clock on the evening of February 21 the Haumont woods were invaded.

Germans Forge Ahead.

"The troops defending it resisted stoutly and won local successes, but the Germans came on, line after line, in increasing density. The shelling, which all night was so intense that it was impossible to counter attack, increased in fury at 6 o'clock in the morning, when projectiles searched every yard of ground, felled trees and demolished houses.

"It seemed to us that the maximum destructive power of the cannon had been exercised already, but at 8 o'clock the seeming impossible was surpassed. The prodigality of German ammunition redoubled and the men on watch in the advanced positions saw the German infantry attack the trenches in Consenvoye woods with trench mortars, while detachments descended the Haumont ravine, marching toward the western edge of Haumont woods.

"Caught between the German shells and our own curtain of fire in front of the village, it was impossible for us to move either ahead or in the rear. We were cut off from all communication, the telephone and telegraph wires having been literally hashed by the shelling. Our men, installed in what remained of the defense works on the two flanks and in front of the village, waited stoically under a storm of gatling fire for the attack.

Twenty Big Shells a Minute.

"From ten big shells per minute at 10 o'clock, the number went to twenty at 2 o'clock. Ruins piled on ruins, yet in the midst of the inferno our men preserved remarkable placidity.

"The village had seemed to sink into the earth, while the concrete redoubt on which we had counted crumbled and buried eighty men and several machine guns and destroyed our ammunition depot. Still no one budged. What we then held was nothing more than a razed village, with the earth upheaved and transformed into a series of crevices devoid of shelter. The only thing resisting was the redoubt occupied by our colonel.

"At 5 p.m. a German battalion advanced in three columns simultaneously from the east, the north and the northwest. Those of our men surviving arose to meet this enveloping maneuver. The machine guns that were still intact were fired with maximum speed, making holes in the enemy's ranks and obliging the German left to stop before our barbed wire.

"Their center and right, however, came on, and what was left of our force retired to new trenches southeast of Haumont, while machine guns decimated our assailants, who had succeeded in advancing from the north and the northwest.

Germans Too Numerous.

"But they were too numerous. They got into the hollow of the village and took the colonel's post in the rear, setting fire to the redoubt by liquid flames projected through a cellar window. The colonel and his staff, who had grabbed rifles and were being aided by the survivors, were on the point of being captured or being burned alive.

"They came out of the redoubt with heads erect and marched through the galling fire of the machine guns. The colonel was untouched and the retreat was accomplished without further loss.

"With the machine guns left intact we made another stand and barred the road to the Germans from the Samogneux ravine, to the south of Hopaumont, and the fight went on."

TEUTONS WEARY OF WARFARE, DECLARES LORD NORTHCLIFFE

British Publisher Says Capture of Verdun Will Not Open Way to Paris—Visits Great Battlefield.

LONDON, March 11.—Lord Northcliffe, who has just visited the Verdun battlefield, in a message to the Weekly Despatch, declares that Verdun is a great deal more interesting than important. The newspaper publisher continues:

"It does not need a personal visit to the battlefield to realize this. If the Germans think that an attack on the unarmed and dismantled forts of Verdun opens the road to Paris, they have a very faint notion of the French preparations and the French power of resistance."

Compares German Troops.

Comparing the present German troops with those who fought early in the war, Lord Northcliff says:

"Last week I saw German prisoners who had escaped the hellish fire of the French 75s at Verdun. Where had gone those splendid stalwarts captured at the battle of the Marne? Much of the rank and file now left of the Germans is undersized and badly dressed, with faces that bear a look of fright that seems as if it would last a lifetime. Their appearance is such as to move a heart of stone. * * * With two exceptions among those with whom I spoke, all were utterly weary of warfare and begged to be told when peace could be expected.

"The fact about the whole war is that Germany is in the position of a besieged city, and she is striking out blindly by land at Verdun. She will presently, I am convinced, strike out by sea."

Day of Horrible Slaughter.

Turning to the actual fighting at Verdun, Lord Northcliffe says:

"Not a word is hinted in anything sent out from Germany of the horrible slaughter to which the German troops have been subjected this week. Thursday was a black day for Germans, when, drugged with ether, the men came on in mass formation, to be mown down by the French 75s and machine guns, as usual.

"Reports published in the English newspapers from Paris are to my personal knowledge on the whole most accurate, and they show that for one or many reasons the crown prince is gambling with human life to an extent unprecedented even in this war."

Gunners not Equal.

Baron Northcliffe asserts that "if the Germans possess a number of guns of greater caliber than those used by the English and French, they have no weapons in their army equal to the French 75, or gunners at all comparable to the Frenchmen."

Discussing the western theater as a whole, Lord Northcliffe says that the "allied defensive wall right across France, in so far as attaining any definite military position is concerned, is also utterly impregnable. This remark may equally apply to the German line across France and Belgium."

BOATS OF GOATSKINS PART OF WORLD NAVIES

Ancient Mesopotamian Kelek Now Turned to Purposes of War.

All kinds of ships of war and of commerce have been pressed into service in the great European conflict. There are over-sea boats, on-the-water boats and under-sea boats; there are superdreadnaughts, battle cruisers and disguised commerce raiders; there are great ocean greyhounds that yesterday were floating palaces of the ocean, carrying the wealth and beauty of civilization on their migrations across the sea, but that today are grim havens of suffering, where the wail of pain and the shriek of anguish have substituted the carnival of music and the sound of mirth.

Kelek Strangest of All.

But strangest of all the kinds of floating equipment that the war has drafted into service is the kelek. Describing this strange boat, the National Geographic Society, with headquarters here, says:

"The kelek is probably one of the earliest forms of water transportation used by our ancestors in Asia. It consists of goatskins inflated with air, tied beneath a framework of light poles. Often as many as eight hundred such skins are used to give the boat the desired buoyancy.

"The cargo is loaded on to the kelek just as though it were a flat-bottomed barge, after which the craft begins its journey down the Tigris or the Euphrates propelled or guided by oars. When it reaches its journey's end it is broken up and sold as skins and timber.

Crooked Rivers Uncertain.

"The two great rivers of Mesopotamia are very crooked and very irregular in their depths. The air line distance between Diarbekir and Bagdad is 400 miles, while the water route via the Tigris is about 1,000 miles. At many places the river is deep enough to accomodate boats of considerable draft, but at others it is so shallow that a man has difficulty in swimming. But even over shallows, where a man cannot go as a swimmer, a well laden kelek will float without accident.

"For thousands of years this buoyant boat has helped the people of Mesopotamia to move their commerce over the shoals and shallows of two of the earth's moodiest rivers, and has now come to play its small part in the greatest war of human history."