BATUM IS CRUX OF SITUATION IN NEAR EAST STRUGGLE

Red Armies Are Forcing Sway Over Whole Contiguous Territory—Relief Workers Assembled There.

A despatch from Batum, via Paris, says:—All American women relief workers in the Caucasus have been assembled in Batum.

The bridge at Mobletti, 43 miles north of Batum, and the pipe line which carries oil from Baku have been damaged by explosions.

The military Governor of Batum has received orders from Constantinople to concentrate his forces in the city. The Georgian troops are on the border of the province, but have not crossed it.

The Congress of Labor Unions in Batum have passed a resolution that the city be placed under Bolshevik rule. The Mussulmans in Batum are against government by the Georgians.

Three thousand British troops at Batum probably will be ordered to evacuate if necessary.

The British frontier Aradzch is proposed to be named Gargari Pass, south of Sarikamish, where the Bolshévik troops in Crimea, that efforts to make terms for him with the Bolsheviks are not encouraging. They say the Bolshevik Foreign Minister is trying to obtain a political concession they cannot grant. It seems probable they cannot reach an agreement for the volunteers. They assert a continuation of the struggle will have only one result if there are no shipments of material and supplies.

Martial law has been declared throughout Georgia, and the railroads are operating under the Military Council. The situation is critical in Tiflis, where it is expected the local Bolsheviks will take over the Government in a few days. Work of the Near East Relief is greatly reduced and is carried on under difficulties. Col. Haskel, United States of America, Allied High Commissioner for Armenia, orders that no further purchases be made in the United States for relief in Armenia. The Georgian Government refuses to permit oil export to Armenia, which is stopping the railroads there.

Protesting against civic positions being filled by other than ex-soldiers, representatives of the large Canadian Veteran Clubs paraded before Mayor of Toronto recently. Photo shows J. H. Flynn on left, organizing Secretary G.W.V.A., J. V. Conroy, G.W.V.A., and E. A. Lestrange, Army and Navy Veterans.

GERMAN TROOPS MAINTAINED UNDER GENERAL ERHARDT

Hanover, May 9.—General Erhardt, who has mysteriously disappeared from Muenster Camp, had, according to estimates of allied officers approximately 10,000 troops under his command here. Of these 5,000 belong to the Marine Brigade, while in spite of his denials there are a considerable number of Baltic troops, together with a majority of the State troops who were driven into the British occupied zone by the workmen's army in the Ruhr fighting and have since been returned to Germany.

Then, too, numbers of nondescript soldiers of various regiments of the old regular army have flocked to the camp, and there, in the heart of the pine forest, they are living in concrete and wooden huts, supplied with good food and money from Berlin, and splendidly equipped, is an excellent fighting force, the most formidable and emphatically reactionary in Germany to-day.

The soldiers I saw at the camp are certainly the smartest I have seen this side of the Rhine. They walk with energetic steps, their appearance is neat and clean, they salute their officers with military precision.

"We are just waiting here for any orders," one of these Pretorians told me to-day; "we want to remain marines, we do not want to be disbanded."

REBELS OCCUPY MEXICO CITY: CARRANZA FORCED TO FLEE

Revolutionary Forces State President Carried Out Wholesale Slaughter of Political Prisoners Before Abandoning City.

Washington, May 9.—Official confirmation of the occupation of Mexico City by rebel forces at noon on Friday, May 7, was received to-day by the State Department from the American Embassy. There was no disorder and no foreigners were interferred with, the message said.

El Paso, Texas, May 9.—General Francisco Murguis, Carranza Military Commander at Mexico City, before leaving the Capital, which now is in complete possession of revolutionary forces, carried out a wholesale slaughter of political prisoners at Santiago, the military prison, according to a bulletin issued at revolutionary headquarters here to-night.

Fifteen Mexican Generals were among those reported slaughtered.

"The city was shocked over this bloody epilogue for the Carranza regime," the bulletin said.

Nogales, Ariz., May 9.—Reports that President Venustiano Carranza of Mexico had been captured by the forces of Gen. Alvaro Obregon and Gen. Benjamin Hill were received last night from Hermosillo, Sonora, at Obregon headquarters, Nogales, Sonora, opposite here.

Vera Cruz, May 9.—President Carranza, who fled from Mexico City at the approach of Gen. Obregon's army, is a fugitive in the eastern part of the State of Tlaxcala, and is believed to be trying to reach this city.

The railroad train in which the President left the Capital was stopped at the City of Tlaxcala by detachments of Gen. Obregon's army, and the President was forced to leave his car and flee on horseback. Gen. Sanchez, an adherent of Obregon, is attempting to intercept the President in the mountains.

Instructions that the life of President Carranza be spared have been issued by Obregon, who has given guarantees to the residents of cities under control of his forces.

ALBERTA SEEDING A MONTH LATE

Feed Situation Improved With Milder Weather.

A despatch from Edmonton, says:—The first semi-monthly crop and live stock report issued by the Department of Agriculture states the seeding in Alberta is from [illegible] to thirty days later by the calendar than it was last year, vary in locality. In quite general seeding is possible, the prospects are [illegible] a dozen years.

There is a depth of from [illegible] a half to four feet of snow [illegible] the driest parts of the Province the report states that over [illegible] is in it has a moisture supply germination and growth to [illegible] crop well into June.

Central Alberta has received, beginning [illegible] dry spots. River is below [illegible] except [illegible] valley. The late season [illegible] curtail the seeded acreage [illegible] in the central and north [illegible] are much better prepared. [illegible] total acreage that [illegible] ed at one time. The [illegible] has greatly improved since [illegible] and horses have not [illegible]

A despatch from Moose Jaw says:—Seeding will be general [illegible] Moose Jaw district [illegible] weeks, according [illegible] Bureau Agri[illegible] receiving many [illegible] from the farm[illegible]

RUSSIAN BORDER STATES ARE ALLIES

League Formed to Oppose Red Armies.

[illegible] 9.—Under the influence of Polish victory over the Bolshevik [illegible] a proposed alliance of Finland, Esthonia, Lettland, Lithuania and Poland against Russian aggression definite shape. [illegible] Warsaw, Helsingfors, Riga and Reval [illegible] Finland, Lithuania and Poland are progressing favorably. [illegible] has arrived at Bucharest with proposals from the Polish Government to Roumania, which [illegible] to a satisfactory agreement. [illegible] military and economic [illegible] Poland, Roumania, the Ukraine and the Baltic [illegible] expected to result.

New Building for the Bank of England

A despatch from London says:—The Bank of England, known the world over as "The Old Lady of Threadneedle Street," is to be rebuilt. The new structure, according to expectations, will be many stories high and embrace some wonderful architecture.

Canada to Receive Nine Airships

A despatch from London says:—Nine non-rigid airships have been promised as gifts to Canada by the British Government, which is disposing of its surplus war equipment. The airships include some used for coast recognaissance and also of the zero type. South Africa is receiving a number of zeros.

Refugees Not Wanted in Switzerland

London, May 10.—Switzerland is about to expel as undesirables the many royal refugees who have found asylum within her borders. From a diplomatic source it is learned that these exiles are keeping away thousands of summer visitors and tourists.

Ex-Emperor Charles of Austria, ex-King Constantine of Greece and Ludwig of avaria, and the many Princes and their retinues are not what might be called "paying guests." On the contrary, they all practice rigid economy.

Another objection is that most of them are continually engaged in intrigues for restoration.

Atmosphere Measures 350 Miles

Paris, May 10.—All previous conjectures of the depth of atmosphere and the belting of the earth have been smashed by the successful experiments of the Norwegian astronomer Stormer, by which he has actually measured the belt of the earth. He has found the limit of atmosphere 350 miles from the earth, or 150 times the height of Mount Whitney.

Incidentally, it has been established that the real color of the sky is black, not blue.

The "infinite blue" is merely a political delusion.

Prince Wires Appreciation to R. C. M. P.

Ottawa, May 10.—Hon. N. W. Rowell to-day received the following cablegram from the Prince of Wales, who is Honorary Commandant of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police:

"Wellington, N.Z.

"Please convey to all ranks of the Canadian Mounted Police my sincere thanks for their telegram of good wishes sent from their first dinner, which I much appreciate.

"Edward, P."

War Wrecked French Coal Mine Opens Again

A despatch from Paris says:—The first coal mine, wrecked during the war, to resume operations was opened at Ancier early this month. It has been equipped with the most modern electrical machinery, and it is expected its pre-war production will be eclipsed.

RAIDERS DESTROY IRISH BARRACKS

Explosives Used in Attacks on Police Depots.

Dublin, May 9.—After an attack lasting upwards of two hours, a party of 200 armed men set fire to the R. I. C. barracks at Cloyne, County Cork, on Saturday night, compelled the garrison of six men to surrender and burned the building to the ground. Three houses close to the barracks were also burned down. The assailants were armed with rifles, shotguns and bombs, the police replying with carbines and hand grenades. About 1 o'clock in the morning an explosion occurred which blew in a portion of the gable end of the barracks, and the raiders then inserted explosives which made the opening wider. They tried to enter the building through the breach, but were prevented by the police, who used hand grenades and rifles freely.

Finally the attacking party, finding it impossible to overcome the resistance of the garrison, set the barracks afire, whereupon the police evacuated the place.

In preparation for the attack the roads had been blocked for miles around with trees, and the telephone wires cut.

Another attack was made by a gang of armed men early Sunday morning on the police barracks at Newton Hamilton, County Armagh. The garrison, consisting of a sergeant and four constables, put up a splendid defense. The attackers, after picketing the loyalist houses in the locality, attacked the barracks with rifle fire and bombs. They captured the house next door and bound the occupants.

Queen Mother Stricken With Influenza

London, May 10.—Queen Alexandra, it is learned, is prostrated with influenza, which swept through her household. She has been confined to bed for several days, but her condition is not regarded as serious. There is anxiety because of her advanced age.

Britain Selects Palestine Commissioner

London, May 10.—Herbert Samuel, former Home Secretary, is slated to be Britain's first commissioner for Palestine, the Daily News announces.

EIGHT HISTORIC FIELDS MARKED

Memorials to Canada's Fighting Dead in France and Belgium.

A despatch from Ottawa says:—Memorials to Canada's fighting dead will be erected at eight historic battlefields in France and Flanders if the recommendations of the Special Committee on War Memorials is adopted as submitted to Parliament.

Representatives of Canada's returned soldiers of Canadian colleges and architects' societies and Government officials have completed their investigations and submitted their proposals for war memorials. With the proposals are the report of Brig.-Gen. H. T. Hughes on military sites, and of Professor Percy E. Hobbs, professor of architecture at McGill University, on the proposed competition in which designs will be invited, and from which the prize design will be carried out. The total cost of the work is estimated roughly at $1,600,000.

The committee has selected eight sites for the memorials. In Belgium sites at St. Julien, Crest Farm, Passchendaele and at Hill 62, Observatry Ridge have been accepted as gifts from the Belgium Government.

A site at Bourlon Wood has been accepted as a gift from Comte De Francqueville, Mayor of Bourlon, and four other sites, at Hill 145, Vimy, at the cross roads of Dury, at Corrcelette and at Hospital Wood between Caix and La Quesnel have been acquired by the committee at a total cost of $1,500.

All-Red Cable Links British Empire

A despatch from London says:—An important new London link with Canada and the other Dominions has just been inaugurated. The Imperial cable route is now connected between the General Postoffice in London and Halifax direct, via Penzanne. The cable, at present used exclusively for business messages for Australia and New Zealand, will pass over the route via Halifax, Vancouver and Norfolk Island.

Sir Hamar Greenwood Re-elected

A despatch from Sunderland, Eng., says:—Sir Hamar Greenwood, Chief Secretary for Ireland, was re-elected to Parliament on Friday in the by-election necessitated by his recent appointment to the Irish Secretaryship. Sir Hamar received 22,813 votes, as against 14,379 for V. H. Rutherford, the Labor candidate, and 5,065 for W. Howe, Independent Liberal.

Boom in Babies Cheers London

London, May 10.—London has been cheered by a baby boom. The latest British statistics show that the birth rate has been trebled since last year. Boy babies are running away ahead.

TO BREAK H.C.L. IN GREAT BRITAIN

Labor Leaders to Break Vicious Circle of High Wages and Increased Costs.

A despatch from London says:—The continuous demands for higher wages in one trade after another are beginning to alarm the Labor leaders themselves, and they are realizing that they can only lead to disaster.

The Executive of the "Triple Alliance" of miners and transport workers, which is now in session here, although it has before it several wage demands, has embarked upon a determined effort to break the vicious circle of high wages and the increase in the cost of living.

Another Big Three, the Parliamentary Committee of the Trades Union Congress, the Labor party and the co-operative movement, are to be called upon to join the alliance in an exhaustive inquiry into the reasons for the high cost of living, and to evolve a plan for its reduction.

The members of the alliance discussed this question, which they regard as the "most vital affecting our social life," for the greater part of an afternoon's meeting.

They will meet again at an early date to receive the report of the joint body, and their views will be submitted to the Government with a view to the latter taking "such action as will substantially reduce the present high cost."

WHEAT BOARD ADVANCE PRICES

Ontario Millers Must Pay Increase of 40 Cents.

Winnipeg, May 9.—The Canadian Wheat Board issued new regulations effective at midnight, May 8, advancing the price to mills of all grades of Western wheat 35 cents per bushel, and British Columbia, Ontario and Quebec wheat 40 cents per bushel. Another regulation, effective at the same time, increases the maximum prices of bran and shorts to the extent of $3 per ton.

British Survey of Mesopotamia Oil Fields

London, May 11.—The British War Office, according to the Daily Express, has ordered a special survey of the oil fields of Mesopotamia, with a view to developing them.

Denmark Contributes to Rheims Rebuilding

A despatch from Copenhagen says:—More than one million francs, collected in Denmark for the rebuilding of the Cathedral of Rheims, have been delivered to M. Chadel, French Minister in Copenhagen. The Minister thanked the Danish people, expressing his admiration of the fine result reached by Denmark ahead of all other countries.

EXPECT NO CHANGE IN IRISH POLICY

Sir Hamar Greenwood Sworn in as New Chief Secretary.

A despatch from [illegible] Hamar Greenwood, [illegible] Secretary for Ireland, was [illegible] before the Irish Privy Council [illegible] Dublin last [illegible] him. The Irish papers [illegible] comment upon the arrival [illegible] Irish Times, which said [illegible]

"We [illegible] Secretary will [illegible] for the [illegible]

The fact is however [illegible] mar is general [illegible] affairs in Ireland [illegible] intentions [illegible] believed that [illegible] not going to [illegible] to cope with [illegible] until Redmond [illegible] against, and that [illegible] will come from [illegible] officials and [illegible] Macpherson's [illegible]

Despite Sir [illegible] in Dublin [illegible] lightened [illegible]

Canada's Wheat Will Bring [illegible]

A despatch from Winnipeg, [illegible] James Stewart, [illegible] dian Wheat Board, [illegible] value of the [illegible] will now be [illegible] bushel. This, [illegible] $2.15 already [illegible] antees will [illegible] the price [illegible] United States [illegible] Many of the farmers [illegible] price will end [illegible] the most optimistic [illegible] hope [illegible] account of the [illegible] the price of [illegible] left the farm [illegible] pean buyers.

Britain Bears Heaviest Direct Burden of War

A despatch [illegible] Chancellor of [illegible] Chamberlain [illegible] chuta [illegible] great powers [illegible]

United States [illegible]

Canada [illegible]

France [illegible]

Italy [illegible]

The change [illegible] is referable [illegible] people of Great [illegible] the heavy [illegible]

Discover More German War Pots

A despatch from Berlin [illegible] Discoveries [illegible] portion [illegible] Island of [illegible] disposal [illegible] were secreted [illegible] platters, [illegible] miles around [illegible] have just been [illegible] gether [illegible]

Franchise for South African Women

A despatch from Capetown [illegible] of South Africa [illegible] Assembly passed [illegible] ing extension of the franchise to women.

Price of Bread Soars in Britain

A despatch from London says: The price of the quartern loaf bread will be raised to 27 cents next Monday. This is the second rise in a month.

One of the few remaining one-cent papers in Canada, La Presse of Montreal, has increased its price to two cents daily and three on Saturdays. The days of cheap newspapers are ended.

Weekly Market Report

Wholesale Grain [illegible]

[illegible] Manitoba wheat [illegible] No. 2 North [illegible] $2.30; No. 2 North [illegible] No. 3 [illegible] $2.75, in Store at Fort William.

[illegible] C.W. $1.19½; No. 1 feed, [illegible] No. 2 [illegible] $1.14½; No. 2 feed, [illegible] in store Fort William.

Barley—No. 3 C.W. [illegible]; No. 4 C.W. $1.[illegible]; rejected, [illegible] feed, [illegible] in store Fort William.

Rye—No. 2, [illegible] $2.20; [illegible] No. 3 [illegible] $2.20; [illegible] prompt shipment.

Oats—No. 2 white, $1.05 to $1.0[illegible], according to freights outside.

Ontario wheat—No. 1 Winter, per car lot, $2.[illegible] to $2.03; No. 2 do, $1.98 to $2.0[illegible]; No. 3 do, $1.95 to $2.01, f.o.b. shipping points, according to freights.

Ontario wheat—No. 1 spring, per car lot, $2.0[illegible] to $2.03; No. 2 do, $1.98 to $2.0[illegible]; No. 3 do, $1.95 to $2.01, f.o.b. shipping points, according to freights.

Peas—No. 2, $3.00.

Barley—Malting, $1.85 to $1.87, according to freights outside.

Buckwheat—No. 2, $1.75 to $1.80, according to freights outside.

Rye—No. 2, $2.15 to $2.20, according to freights outside.

Ontario flour—Government standard, $10.90 to $11, Montreal, $11 to $11.10 [illegible] in jute bags, prompt shipment.

Millfeed—Per ton, delivered Montreal freight, bags included: Bran, per ton, $51; shorts, per ton, $58; good feed flour, $3.75 to $4.00.

Hay—No. 1 per ton, $30 to $31; mixed, per ton, $25, track.

Straw—Car lots, per ton, $16 to $17, track Toronto.

Country Produce—Wholesale.

Cheese—New, large, 30½ to 31c; twins, 31 to 31½c; triplets, 31½ to 32c; Stilton, 34 to 35c; old, large, 32 to 33c; do, twins, 33 to 33½c.

Butter—Fresh dairy, choice, 57 to 59c; creamery prints, 64 to 68c.

Margarine—33 to 38c.

Eggs—New laid, 55c.

Dressed poultry—Spring chickens, 38 to 40c; roosters, 25c; fowl, 35c; turkeys, 55 to 60c; ducklings, 38 to 40c; squabs, dozen, $6.00.

Live poultry—Spring chickens, 30 to 32c; fowls, 35 to 40c; ducks, 35 to 40c.

Beans—Canadian, hand-picked, bus., $5; pinks, $4.50; Japans, $5; Madagascar Limas, lb., 15c; Japan Limas, lb., 12c.

Honey—Extracted clover 5-lb. tins, 25 to 26c; 60-lb. tins, 25c; buckwheat, 60-lb. tins, 18 to 20c; comb, 16-oz., $6 to $6.50 doz.; 10-oz., $4.25 to $4.50 dozen.

Maple products—Syrup, per imperial gal., $3.50 to $3.75; per 5 imperial gals., $3.25 to $3.50.

Smoked meats—Hams, med., 40 to 42c; heavy, 32 to 34c; cooked, 56 to 59c; rolls, 31 to 32c; breakfast bacon, 45 to 50c; backs, plain, 50 to 52c; boneless, 54 to 57c.

Cured meats—Long clear bacon, 28 to 29c; clear bellies, 27 to 28c.

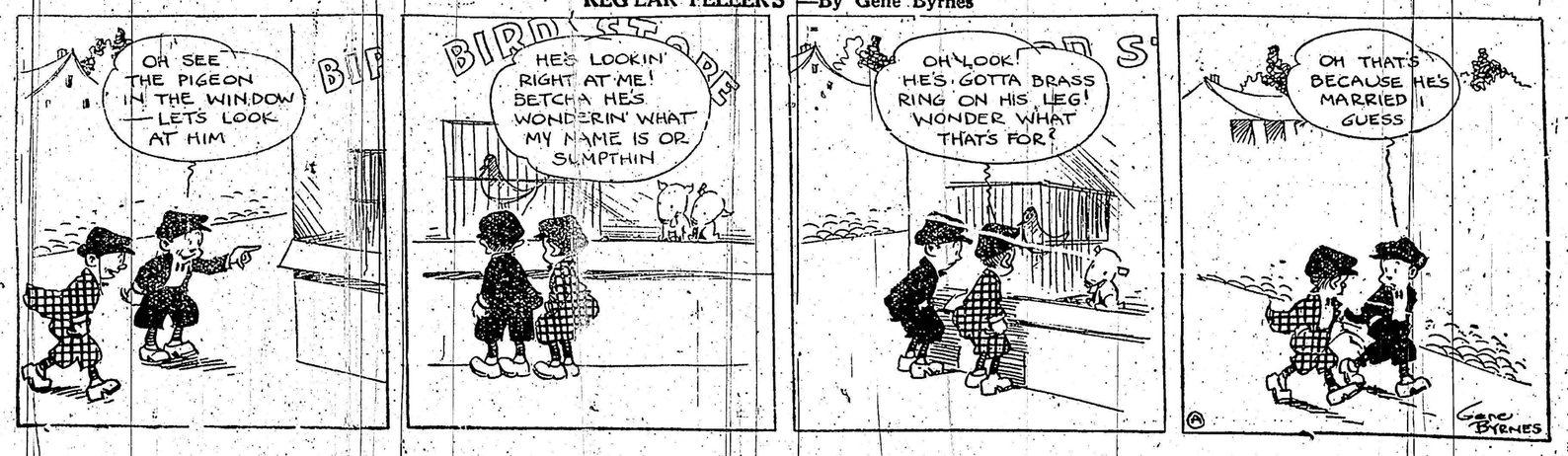
Lard—Pure, tierces, 28 to 28½c; tubs, 28½ to 29c; pails, 28¾ to 29¼c; prints, 29½ to 30c; Compound tierces, 27½ to 28c; tubs, 28 to 28½c; pails, 28¼ to 28¾c; prints, 29 to 29½c.

Montreal Markets.

Montreal, May 11.—Oats, Canadian western, No. 2, $1.23; do, No. 3, $1.25. Flour—Man., new standard grade, $13.40 to $13.70. Rolled oats, bag 90 lbs., $5.50 to $5.[illegible]. Bran, $51.25. Shorts, $58.25. Hay, No. 2, per ton, car lots, $33 to $34. Cheese, finest easterns, 28½c. Butter, choicest creamery, 62 to 63c. Eggs, fresh, 55c. Potatoes, per bag, car lots, $5.75.

Live Stock Markets.

Toronto, May 11.—Choice heavy steers, $14.50 to $14.75; do, good, $13.50 to $13.75; butchers' cattle, choice, $13.25 to $13.75; do, good, $12.75 to $13; do, med., $11.75 to $12.25; do, com., $10 to $10.75; bulls, choice, $11 to $12; do, good, $10.25 to $10.75; do, rough, $8 to $8.50; butcher cows, choice, $11.25 to $12; do, good, $10.50 to $11; do, com., $7.50 to $8; stockers, $9.25 to $11; feeders, $11 to $12.50; canners and cutters, $4.50 to $6.25; milkers, good to choice, $100 to $165; do, com. and med., $65 to $75; springers, $90 to $165; lambs, yearlings, $16 to $19; calves, good to choice, $16 to $19; sheep, $9 to $18; hogs, fed and watered, $20.25; do, weighed off cars, $20.50; do, f.o.b., $19.25; do, do, country points, $19.

Montreal, May 11.—Butcher steers, choice, $15; com., $9 to $11.50; butcher heifers, med., $11 to $12.50; com., $8 to $10.50; butcher cows, med., $7.50 to $10; canners, $5 to $5.50; cutters, $6 to $7; butcher bulls, com., 8 to 10. Good veal, $14.50 to $16.50; med., $10 to $14. Clipped sheep, $10 to $12.50; spring lambs, $10 to $14; ewes, $10 to $14. Hogs, off car weights, selects, $21; lights, $20 to $21; sows, $17.

"REG'LAR FELLERS"—By Gene Byrnes