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OFFICIAL GERMANY WAR SICK AND ANXIOUS FOR EARLY PEACE

Secret Negotiations Set on Foot in Holland Have Fallen Flat

A despatch from Amsterdam says: Germany's secret negotiations for peace have fallen flat in Holland, even the most pro-German Dutchmen considering the terms preposterous. It is believed that the man behind the plot is Dr. Solf, German Colonial Secretary. Dr. Solf recently visited Holland, presenting great secrecy about his identity, but his visit to the Dutch newspapers. It was officially announced in Germany that he was merely travelling to Brussels and had stopped in Holland to visit the picture galleries. Dr. Solf stayed three days at The Hague and paid visits to the Dutch Foreign Secretary and Dutch politicians who are known to be friendly to Germany. Other Germans of no repute were in Holland at the same time, including it is said Count von Radowicz, of the German Foreign Office. Before Dr. Solf left Berlin he had interviews with the Kaiser and Chancellor von Bethmann-Hollweg. Those who saw him at The Hague gathered the impression that even in official circles the Germans are war sick and in a hurry to finish the conflict before Christmas.

NO LONGER JEER AT BLOCKADE

Food Crisis in Germany Growing to Alarming Proportions Admitted by German Press.

A despatch from London says: Although it is not true that Germany is starving, it is certain the food crisis is growing to alarming proportions. The high prices of provisions throughout the empire furnish a problem of the gravest nature. One necessity of the present is engaging the attention of the Emperor. An entire page of the Frankfurter Zeitung is devoted to the new Imperial food laws. The decree consists of 12 paragraphs. One explains the special potato regulations. Another gives the rules concerning fish and game prices, another the restrictions on the consumption of meat and fat.

The entire German press is arming against the scarcity in the necessities of life. The printing of startlingly frank admissions is permitted. The Frankfurter Zeitung says: "While our troops are fighting like the heroes of the classic ages, want is growing acute at home, where the people are beginning to interpret the miserable existing conditions as the defeat of the empire. We jeered at the blockade, but to-day we laugh no longer. The sinister aspect of things certainly provides no food for laughter. But as our worries increase, so day by day grows our hatred against the enemy who is responsible for this misery. This hatred is so potent that it will nourish and sustain us and inspire us to hold on until finally we hack our way through, even though we have drawn the belt so tight around our bodies that the mere act of breathing becomes a trouble and weariness. Our hatred will enable us to show the world of what tenacity and endurance Germany is capable when once they are sure of their cause."

Maximilian Harden, editor of Die Zukunft, says on the same subject: "Let us frankly admit that the German people are in distress."

SEEB WOMEN BOMBERS CONSTITUTE THE FOE

A despatch from London says: "There are nearly 2,000 women in Serbia's army when I left and more women soldiers were being organized," said Dr. Grutch, a Serbian army doctor now in London. "The women are not in special battalions. Some of them wear the complete uniform of a soldier for the sake of comfort, while others wear skirts with a blue tunic. The younger women go with their brothers or their husbands. The women are of every class of the population, and we cannot prevent them from serving. They inspire the men, with whom they march side by side, and with whom they eat and serve shoulder to shoulder in the trenches."

RUSSIANS TO USE THE DANUBE ROUTE NOW

A despatch from Rome says: The German Minister at Bucharest has formally demanded that two Russian torpedo boats moored in the Danubian port of Turnu shall be disarmed and the crews interned. The Government has refused, and notified the Minister that since the navigation of the Danube was free Roumania's neutrality was not violated. The reply is considered significant as implicitly recognizing Russia's right to Bulgaria along the Danube. Probably troops will be embarked at Rani and landed near Silistra.

Up Above the World So High.

Astronomer Royal Sir F. W. Dyson, at the British Association's meeting at Manchester, said that the number of stars in the whole sky was inferred to be between 1,000 and 2,000 millions. The comparative brilliance of stars shows extraordinary variations. He pointed out that two faint patches of light seen in the southern hemisphere, which are called Magellanic clouds, contain a group of twenty-five stars, which are 600 times as luminous as the sun, and it has been calculated that they are 186,000,000,000,000 miles from the earth.

German Super-Submarine Caught on First Trip

A despatch from Liverpool says: The Daily Post publishes a report of the capture of one of Germany's latest super-submarines, 250 feet long and carrying, in addition to torpedo tubes, four guns of fairly large caliber. The submarine was launched at Stettin a fortnight ago. The Post states that within a few hours after leaving her base she was caught "in one of those traps we have so skillfully laid for these craft somewhere in the German ocean."

GREEK CABINET IS VOTED DOWN

Zaimis Ministry Resigns on Being Defeated, 114 to 147, in the House.

A despatch from London says: The Zaimis "neutrality cabinet" has resigned, defeated by the pro-war faction in the Greek Parliament headed by ex-Premier Venizelos. A vote of confidence was denied 114 to 147. It had been asked by Zaimis as the climax to a tilt between the War Minister, M. Yanakitsas, and Venizelos, the immediate cause, however, being the latter's opposition to the Government's foreign policy.

The issue between Venizelos and the War Minister was first raised at the Chamber's meeting in a controversy over proposed military lands. Venizelos, considering a certain remark made by the War Minister as an insult to the national Assembly, demanded an immediate apology. Premier Zaimis announced that M. Yanakitsas had the full backing of the Government. He then asked for a vote of confidence, which was denied him by a majority of 33 votes.

By handing the resignation of his Cabinet to King Constantine M. Zaimis again places on the King the responsibility of deciding the future policy of his country. In London the first impression was that the defeat of the Government would mean the immediate recall of M. Venizelos and the fulfillment of the original agreement between him and the allied powers to go to the assistance of Serbia.

FOOD VALUE IN FLOWERS.

Field Squash Blossoms are Delicacy, Nasturtiums Another. The food value of flowers is a matter just beginning to interest the scientific world. Violets are said to contain considerable nourishment. They formed the basis of a refreshing drink, and in other forms figured conspicuously in the feast of the ancient Persians. The modern confectioner crystallizes them in sugar. The old Turkish confections made of rose leaves are declared delicious by those who have eaten them. A number of cooks have discovered that a handful of rose petals imparts a flavor of unparalleled delicacy to desserts of many kinds.

For those who do not care for sweets, the gayly colored nasturtium offers delight to the palate. It may be used as a filling for sandwiches, mixed judiciously with other materials in salad. Its delicious pungency appeals to the palate, while physicians say it aids digestion. A favorite Italian dish now being introduced into the United States consists of fried squash blossoms. When properly prepared this food is both appetizing and nourishing. The yellow blossoms of the common field pumpkin may be cooked in the same way, and to some tastes are even more pleasing.

DOUBLE REPORT FROM GUN.

Curious Phenomena Found in War in the Alps.

One of the curious phenomena connected with the sounds of flying bullets is the apparently double report from the shot of a single gun. This is observed with especial frequency by the Austrians fighting in the Alps against the Italians. They were disposed to believe the second report was the echo of the first, but the curious fact remained that the second was louder than the first. Moreover, the German soldiers fighting in Belgium, where the land lies as level as a table, often heard two reports.

The explanation now put forward is that the flying bullet compacts the air in front of it, and that this produces sound waves which, when they first strike the ear, give the effect of an explosion. As the small-caliber bullet of the modern rifle flies considerably faster than sound travels, the main report arrives later, and is naturally louder than the first.

FOUR AVIATORS KILLED IN AERIAL COLLISION

A despatch from Paris says: Two military aeroplanes collided while making a landing at Le Bourget. They caught fire and the four aviators manning the machines were burned to death.



The Week's Developments in the War Areas.

Outside of the Balkans there have been no notable developments in the various war areas during the past week. On the Western front the Germans have resumed their attacks in the Champagne district, and every point on the Western battle-line is absolutely unchanged. On other parts of the Western front there has been little activity, infantry attacks being almost completely suspended, and the fighting restricted solely to local artillery duels.

On the Isonzo front the Italians have won difficult positions from the Austrians, and their offensive continues successfully. As a result of statements made in the British House of Commons and the French Chamber of Deputies, the situation in the Balkans has been made somewhat more plain. Both Great Britain and France are determined to do their utmost to save Serbia, and the landing of troops continues steadily at Saloniki. Allied troops are also reported to have been landed at Kavala.

On the Southern front in Serbia, the French and British troops have met and defeated the Bulgarians, and driven them across the frontier. Further north, however, the Bulgars have made considerable progress, and are now bombarding Nish, the capture of which is imminent. The Serbs are offering heroic resistance, even the women joining in the fight against the invader.

Austro-German forces on the northern front are making slow progress, and are waging a war of extermination. A Serbian force has been despatched to deal with the Albanians, who are also attacking. If the Serbian army can hold out for a short time yet, the Anglo-French forces are likely to join hands with them, and check the invading armies, before Serbia is entirely overrun.

The new political crisis in Greece complicates the situation in the Balkans, and the actions of both Greece and Rumania are still problematic. A strong British force is now approaching Bagdad, while a Turkish army is reported on its way to defend that ancient city, and it will be a race between the two columns. On the Russian front, the enemy has made no progress, while the Russians report several local successes of some importance. The Austro-German troops are being withdrawn from this front to assist in the campaign against Serbia. It is expected that the Russians will have their opportunity against the weakened line of the enemy, and that important results may be looked for on this front in the near future.

The Leading Markets

Breadstuffs.

Toronto, Nov. 9.—Manitoba wheat New crop, No. 1 Northern, \$1.11 1/4; No. 2, \$1.08 1/4; track lake ports, immediate shipment. Manitoba oats—No. 2 C.W., tough, 43c; track lake ports. American corn—No. 2 yellow, 73c; track Toronto. Canadian corn—No. 2 yellow, 72c; track Toronto.

Ontario oats—New crop, No. 3 white, \$1.08 1/4; commercial, outside, 37 to 38c, according to freights outside.

Ontario wheat—No. 2 Winter, per car lot, 94 to 96c; wheat, slightly sprouted and tough, 90 to 94c, according to sample.

Peas—No. 2, nominal, per car lots, 81.90; sample peas, \$1.25 to \$1.75, according to sample.

Barley—Good malting barley, 55 to 60c; feed barley, 47 to 54c, according to freights outside.

Buckwheat—Nominal, car lots, 77 to 78c, according to freights outside.

Rye—No. 1 commercial, 85 to 87c; rye, tough, 72 to 77c, according to sample.

Manitoba flour—First patents, in jute bags, \$5.75; second patents, in jute bags, \$5.25; strong bakers', in jute bags, \$5.05, Toronto.

Ontario flour—New Winter, \$4.10 to \$4.40, according to sample, sea-board or Toronto freights in bags, prompt shipment.

Milled feed—Car lots, delivered Montreal, Bran, per ton, \$21; shorts, per ton, \$25; middlings, per ton, \$25; good feed flour, per bag, \$1.40.

Country Produce.

Butter—Fresh dairy, 27 to 28c; inferior, 22 to 23c; commercial brands, 32 to 33c; do, solids, 30 to 31c.

Eggs—Prices are firm; storage, 30 to 31c per dozen; selected, 32 to 33c; new-laid, 38 to 40c, case lots, 10 to 11c; do, retail, 12 1/2 to 15c; combs (wholesale), per dozen, No. 1, \$2.40; No. 2, \$1.50 to \$2.

Poultry—Chickens, 14 to 16c; fowls, 12 to 13c; ducklings, 15 to 16c; geese, 14 to 16c; turkeys, 20 to 22c.

Cheese—The market is firm; large, 15 1/2c; twins, 16 1/2c.

Potatoes—The market is firm, with car lots of Ontario quoted at \$1.10, and New Brunswick at \$1.15 to \$1.20 per bag, on track.

Business in Montreal.

Montreal, Nov. 9.—Corn—American No. 2 yellow, 77 to 78c. Ontario—Canadian Western, No. 2, 50c; No. 3, 48c; No. 2 local white, 45 1/2c; No. 3 local white, 44 1/2c; No. 1 local white, 43 1/2c. Barley—Malt, 6 1/2 to 6 3/4c. Flour—Manitoba Spring wheat patents, firsts, \$5.95; seconds, \$5.45; strong bakers', \$5.25; Winter patents, choice, \$5.60; straight rollers, \$4.90 to \$5; do, bags, \$2.30 to \$3.40. Rolled oats—Bbls., \$5.15 to \$5.20; do, bags, 90 lbs., \$2.45 to \$2.50. Bran, \$2.1. Shorts, \$2. Middlings, \$2.9 to \$3. Meal, \$3 to \$3.2. Hay—No. 2, per ton, car lots, \$17.50 to \$18.50. Cheese—Finest westerns, 10 to 10 1/2c; finest easterns, 15 1/2 to 15 3/4c. Butter—Choice creamery, 32 to 32 1/2c; seconds, 31 1/2 to 31 3/4c. Eggs—Fresh, 42c; selected, 33c; No. 1 stock, 30c; No. 2 stock, 26c. Potatoes—Per bag, car lots, 90c to \$1.10. Dressed hogs—Abattoir killed, \$13 to \$13.50. Pork—Heavy Canada short mess, bbls., 35 to 45 pieces, \$28 to \$28.50; Canada short-cut back, bbls., \$1 to \$5 pieces, \$27 to \$27.50. Lard—Compound, tierces, 27 1/2 to 28 1/4c; wood pallets, 20 lbs. net, 10 1/2c; pure tallow, 375 lbs. net, 12 to 12 1/2c; pure wood pallets, 20 lbs. net, 13 to 13 1/2c.

United States Markets.

Minneapolis, Nov. 9.—Wheat—De-

LIFEBOAT MADE OF PAPER.

Vessel That is an Improvement Over All Others.

A paper lifeboat that can be packed away in a space of about one cubic foot, but which, when inflated, is sea-worthy and durable, is the invention of a retired admiral of the Japanese navy. The boat is constructed from Japanese paper called "hashikiraku," which is treated chemically to make it waterproof. The paper comes from the mulberry tree. It is unusually light and possesses great strength when the stresses are in the direction of the fibre.

A thin sheet of paper that is strong when stressed in any direction is made by pasting together two sheets with the fibres crossing at right angles. This is the way in which the paper boats are constructed. The first boat manufactured by the admiral consisted merely of a large pillow with a depression in the centre, the whole being inflated with air. Because of the ease with which paper can be punctured it was necessary to change the method of construction, so several pipe-like bags were made and placed side by side in the form of a raft, which finally was modified to the form of a boat.

The result is a life-saving craft practically immune to wreck, for even if one or two of the pipes are punctured or broken the boat still has sufficient buoyancy to be seaworthy.

Owing to the strength and lightness and its waterproof qualities, this paper is evidently adapted to a wide range of uses, among which are the making of coverings for aeroplane wings and for dirigible balloons.

APPEAL TO WILSON TO SAVE ARMENIANS

NAPOLÉON'S MAXIM.

"Providence Was on Side of Big Battalions" Only Adopted.

"Napoleon's maxim, that Providence is on the side of the big battalions." The phrase has cropped up frequently of late, but by what right it has become the property of the Little Corporal is not quite clear. Though he may have acted upon it, he did not invent it, and it is his merely by right of conquest.

In the first place, we can trace it back to Tacitus, who, in the fourth book of his history, written somewhere in the second century, says: "Deus fortioribus adesse" ("The gods are on the side of the stronger"). From Tacitus we jump to M. Bussy-Rabutin, a French litterateur who lived in the seventeenth century. "God is generally on the side of the large battalions against the little," he wrote. From him, or more probably from her mother-in-law, Mme. de Sevigne, his contemporary, wrote: "Fortune is always on the side of the largest battalions." That letter was written in 1770, when Napoleon was but one year old. Thus we come to him whose maxim it is said to be, but here the reference books help us a little and help Napoleon less.

Some fifty years later came Voltaire, who wrote in a letter to M. le Riche, "It is said that God is always on the side of the heaviest battalions." That letter was written in 1770, when Napoleon was but one year old. Thus we come to him whose maxim it is said to be, but here the reference books help us a little and help Napoleon less.

"Providence is always on the side of the large reserve," is given as this version of the trite phrase, and even this is not credited to him freely, but only "attributed to Napoleon I."

BRITISH TRIUMPH IN EAST AFRICA

A despatch from London says: The Colonial Office reports that the British Nigerian forces occupied Bamenda, in the German Kameruns, on October 22. The British captured Baiyio, in German East Africa, on October 8. The Germans lost twenty-five native soldiers killed. The British losses were four natives killed and nine wounded.

GETTING THE RANGE OF THE ENEMY

SOME USEFUL HINTS ON JUDGING DISTANCES.

Distances Are Over-Estimated When the Observer is Kneeling, Sitting or Lying.

Every man who is taking up arms in defence of his country should at once set to work to make himself a good judge of distance. A man's life may easily hang on his ability quickly and accurately to estimate the range of a foe. Apart from this, judging distance is quite a fascinating pursuit. It is very interesting to learn by experiment how the condition of the atmosphere, the character of the ground, or of the distant object, and other circumstances, all tend to deceive the eye.

The beginner should start by familiarizing his eye with short distances, up to 800 yards. This can easily be done.

Measure out a distance of, say, one hundred yards, and carefully study it. Then pick out objects in other directions which in your estimation are one hundred yards away, and test your judgment by actual paces. In this way you will come automatically to recognize a distance of one hundred yards or thereabouts, and you can then estimate a longer distance by reckoning it as being so many times one hundred yards.

To Study and Note.

Another useful exercise is to get a friend to show himself standing, kneeling, and lying down at various known distances. You should then carefully note and memorize the different appearance he presents according to the distance he is away from you.

For example, you will find that at say, one hundred yards you can clearly see details of his clothing, which are only partially visible at 150 yards, and quite invisible at 200 yards.

These are useful practices, but to become an expert you must carefully study and note the causes of over-estimating and under-estimating distances.

Distances are over-estimated when the observer is kneeling, sitting, or lying; when both the background and the object are of a similar color; when heat is rising from the ground; when the ground is undulating or broken; when the object is in a valley; when the object lies in the shade, is only partially seen, or is viewed in mist or bad light.

Further, in long streets, avenues, and ravines, things look farther away than they really are.

On the other hand, distances are under-estimated when the sun is behind the observer; when both the background and the object are of different colors, and again when the object is large or is seen in a bright light or clear atmosphere. Should the intervening ground be level, or covered with snow, the object will appear nearer than it is. The observer should also add five to ten per cent. on his original estimate when he is looking over water or a deep chasm, or, again, when looking upwards or downwards.

Sight Comes First.

In the case of long ranges it is useful to remember that sound travels at the rate of, roughly, 1,100 feet a second, whereas light is practically instantaneous.

The fact that we hear the thunder after we see the lightning is a familiar example of this truth. Thus, if three seconds elapse between the flash of a distant gun and the sound of the report, it is safe to say that the range is roughly 3,300 yards.

In judging even short distances the beginner should not be disheartened if he finds himself one hundred yards or so "out" in his calculations, but with practice his margin of error should not exceed ten per cent. It is a good plan to make two estimates, and then to take the average, or mean, between them.

Thus, if you reckon an object is between 200 and 300 yards away from you, your final "shot" should be 250 yards.

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LITTLE FATHER OF ALL THE RUSSIANS

HOW THE TSAR MOVES AMONG HIS PEOPLE.

His Personal Bodyguard for Two Years Tells Some Interesting Incidents.

The Tsar of Russia, unlike his arch-enemy, the German Emperor, is a man whose life is largely shrouded in mystery.

With the Kaiser it is a case of "power and publicity." With the Little Father of all the Russias it is a case of mighty influence, swayed by a man whose personal side is seldom revealed.

One of the officers closest to the Tsar is his personal bodyguard. This position was held two years ago by Count Simon Rodianoff, and after he relinquished it he gave to the world many personal stories of his Imperial master which otherwise would never have become public.

On one occasion his Majesty announced his desire to have a drosky brought, so that he might go for a drive in the country incognito. While Count Rodianoff went to inform the necessary members of the Household of the Imperial wish, the Tsar strolled in the park. When the bodyguard came upon him, about half an hour later, he was helping a gardener to lop off the dead limbs from a tree.

Sentinels Were Surprised.

In civilian attire the Tsar and his bodyguard walked past a wing of the palace, and through an open window, heard voices. They approached, and looking in, saw about a dozen sentinels seated at a round table, drinking vodka and playing cards. One of the men was telling his companions of a love affair, at which they all laughed heartily. The sentinels sprang to their feet, saluted, and presented arms.

The Tsar Smiled.

"How do you do, boys? Go ahead, and don't be disturbed by me," he said.

When the drosky came they drove into the country, enjoying the sunshine and the delightful rural scenery, until they came to a typical Russian inn, where the Tsar stopped the horse, and, announcing that he was hungry, entered the hostelry.

His host was deep in a discussion of politics with a number of peasants that had stopped on the way to market with their produce to drink vodka.

Enjoying His Meal.

"We want something to eat," said the Tsar.

But all the innkeeper had in the house were some old, dried-out ham, herrings, and eggs. However, one of the peasants had a cartload of crabs, and the Tsar asked the innkeeper to buy a couple of dozen and boil them.

"I have no time to boil you crabs," quoth mine host. "If you are hungry eat herring and drink vodka."

"But suppose I pay you ten roubles?" persisted the Tsar.

The innkeeper looked at the speaker with surprise.

"I'm sure your money doesn't grow on trees," he replied. "You buy the crabs from the man and pay me fifty copecks for boiling them, and I shall be satisfied. I don't wish to be too greedy."

Half an hour later his Imperial Majesty and his bodyguard sat down at table with the peasants and partook heartily of a repast of boiled crabs and tea, of which the Tsar afterwards said that he had never enjoyed a meal more.

Later in the day the Tsar and the scout took part in a wedding they found in progress in the cottage of a humble fisherman. They were greeted at the gate by the host, who mistook them for wedding guests, but, when they explained that they were tourists, he asked:

"What Is Your Business?"

The question was a confusing one, and the Tsar hesitated.

"I know pretty well from their appearance," said the old peasant, smiling shrewdly. "I know from your face that you are either a commercial traveller or an agent for a drapery house."

Nevertheless, the two distinguished tourists attended the wedding, and drank with the bride and bridegroom; and the next morning the Tsar sent a present to the bride, consisting of a fine service of silver, a five-hundred-rouble note, and a personal message, which ran:

"I congratulate the newly-weds, and send my wedding-present. — Tsar Nicolas I."

Though the Tsar enjoys a stroll incognito, he is guarded at his various residences in the closest possible manner. Count Rodianoff's room at the summer palace was situated so that, on a call from the Royal apartments, he could reach it immediately. During six hours each day he had to stay at the door of the Royal apartment, to follow the Tsar whenever he left it.—London Answers.

RUBBER GUESTS TOBACCO.

In British North Borneo Estates Are Growing Less Weed.

Strange are the capers of competition! As far away as British North Borneo the rubber estates are gradually forcing tobacco growing to the wall. The United States consul at Sandakan says that only a few tobacco estates are now remaining, but that no less than 20 rubber estates, averaging 26,360 acres each and a capital of \$11,970,000, are under cultivation, and 19 of them are producing rubber. Within three years more all estates will be exporting crude rubber, and in five years all trees now set out will be ready for tapping. In 1914, 1,573,000 pounds of cultivated rubber was produced. Lack of regular rainfall makes against tobacco. Coconut growing competes with both, and is setting limits to the expansion of rubber production.