

RUSSIANS HOLDING GERMANS WEST OF THE DVINA; THE BALKAN SITUATION HAS ALMOST REACHED THE CLIMAX

RUSSIANS CONTINUE ORDERLY RETREAT

Some Small Batches of Prisoners Captured by the Austro-German Forces--Belgrade Bombarded by the Enemy--Successful Air Raid Pulled Off by the French--Heavy Fighting in the Argonne District and on the Yser.

London, Aug. 15--Having recorded from the check inflicted on him early in the week by the Russians, General Von Below, commanding that portion of the army of Field Marshal Von Hindenburg operating to the west of the River Dvinsk, again has taken the offensive and, according to the official report published by Berlin today, has beaten the Russians in a battle in the vicinity of Kubisko, and pushed them in a northeasterly direction, taking over two thousand prisoners.

To the south before Kovno the Russians, according to the same source of information, made an unsuccessful sortie from Kovno, which the Germans are now approaching.

In the Polish sector the various German armies are slowly drawing in their line and advancing from the northwest and south on Brest-Litovsk, while they continue to take comparatively small batches of prisoners they make no claim to the capture of artillery or booty, which is considered by military observers as a fair indication that Grand Duke Nicholas' armies continue their orderly retreat, and that for a long time to come will be able to prevent the Germans from detaching any part of their army for large ventures elsewhere.

NEW AUSTRO-GERMAN ATTACK

The only evidence of activity outside of Poland and the Baltic provinces is on the Serbian frontier, where a bombardment of Belgrade by the Austrians and a counter-bombardment of Semlin and Panscova by the Serbians have been resumed. According to Nish, Austrian attempts to cross the Danube near the Serbian and Roumanian borders have been repulsed, but it is believed by the military experts here that this region will be the scene of the next Austro-German offensive. There is some speculation in military circles as to whether Roumania, as well as Serbia, will be attacked because of Roumania's refusal to allow munitions of war to pass through to Turkey, which is being pressed both on her Caucasus and Dardanelles fronts.

There is no late news from the Dardanelles, but information is hourly expected of a new movement, of which the landings by the Allies last week were the preliminaries.

Artois, the forest of the Argonne and the Vosges Mountains continue to be the scenes of activity on the western front, but no serious battles are in progress in any of these regions.

AIR RAID BY FRENCH

Paris, Aug. 14--After violent hand-to-hand fighting near Puisseleigne, in the region between the Oise and Aisne rivers, French troops yesterday succeeded in occupying the excavation caused by the explosion of a mine under a German trench, according to the statement issued this afternoon by the French war department.

Exceptionally violent artillery duels are reported in the Artois, the Champagne and the Lorraine districts. Nineteen French aeroplanes dropped one hundred and eight bombs on German depots in the valley of Spada, near Mithel.

The following is the official communication issued this evening:

"The day has been quiet on the whole of the front.

DR. McNALLY WARNED THE HORSE BUYERS

Kentville, N. S., Aug. 14--Dr. G. J. McNally, of Berwick, one of the witnesses at today's sitting of the Davidson war contracts commission, which has been here this week investigating purchases in Kings county last year of horses for the first Canadian contingent, related a conversation which he had with W. P. McKay, the government buyer at Berwick at the time of the sale last year.

McNally said today that McKay asked him whether he thought that the horses which he had purchased for the government were a good class of animals. McNally then told McKay that some of the horses were all right but that he had also bought a lot of old skates which he should be ashamed to send out of the country.



DR. G. J. McNALLY

McKay replied that he expected to "get stung" in some of his purchases.

John Burns, who sold a horse to the government for \$150, denied to day that his horse was 25 years old.

Several venerable nags which were purchased by the government officials were told of at today's sitting.

The commission adjourned until Tuesday, when it will meet at Wolfville.

(Dr. McNally formerly practiced his profession in Fredericton and city.)

was at one time mayor of the

PREACHED AT KESWICK.

Mr. A. C. M. Lawson of the city occupied the pulpit of the Methodist church at Mouth of Keswick yesterday in the absence of pastor Esty who is critically ill.

AN ABLE PREACHER.

Rev. George Ross, pastor of the Methodist church at Florenceville occupied the pulpit of the local Methodist church at both services yesterday. He spoke with great vigor and earnestness and his discourses were much enjoyed.

stopped this movement and on Saturday took eight hundred Austro-German prisoners and some machine guns.

"On the right bank of the Bug there have been no serious changes. On the Zlota Lipka, in the region south of Durskuv, our advance guards won Friday, in the course of a successful reconnaissance, destroyed wire entanglement and took two lines of German trenches, killing the defenders.

"On the Dniester front Friday and Saturday night in the district near the confluence of the Stripa and Zlota Lipka there were actions which were supported on the Austrian side by a heavy cannonade both from field and siege guns."

London, Aug. 16--Military operations in the eastern field are developing slowly. Both sides show the effects of the intensity of the Warsaw struggle. The German advance now centres on the efforts of Field Marshal Von Hindenburg to force troops across the Dvina river and eastward in a general direction to Petrograd. Notwithstanding the steady pressure of the Germans the Russians have succeeded thus far in holding them west of Dvina.

CLIMAX OF WAR AT HAND

(SPECIAL CABLE TO THE MAIL.)

London, Aug. 16--The Balkan crisis is drawing near a climax. The National Assemblies of Serbia and Greece meet today with a probability of a definite decision as regards Bulgaria's territorial demands. Upon which hinge the question of united action of the Balkan states with Allies. In the best posted quarters here the outlook is regarded with a degree of pessimism. It is expected that Serbia will seek a compromise and Greece will reject the Bulgarian contentions.

London, Aug. 16--Reports from Athens indicate that King Constantine is insisting that his new cabinet must maintain the strictest neutrality.

PIRATES STILL BUSY

(SPECIAL CABLE TO THE MAIL.)

Christiania, Aug. 14--The Norwegian steamer Albis, 1,381 tons, has been sunk in the North Sea by a German submarine. The crew is reported saved.

HUNS PUSHING AHEAD

Petrograd, Aug. 16--The German troops have invested Nevo Georgievsk, according to a despatch from the front.

SERBIAN CAPITAL BOMBARDED

London, Aug. 16--Bombardment of Belgrade, the Serbian capital, has been resumed by the Austrians with large calibre howitzers, according to an official statement issued at Nish Friday, and telegraphed here by the Reuter correspondent. There is said to have been no loss of life.

GREECE AND NEUTRALITY

Rotterdam, Aug. 16, via London--The Nieuwe Rotterdamsch Courant prints a despatch from Berlin which says the Tageblatt learns from Athens that the King of Greece, after the opening of parliament next Monday, and the resignation of the cabinet, will ask M. Venizelos, the former premier, whether he is ready to form a new cabinet on the principal of the strictest neutrality.