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THE WEATHER.
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POSITION OF THE SERBIAN FORCES IS NOW BECOMING DESPERATE; THE ITALIANS CAPTURE STRONG AUSTRIAN POSITION

THE BALKAN SITUATION IS VERY DISQUIETING

Main Serbian Army Operating in the North is Almost Cut Off--Serbian Position in the South is Not Much Better--Greek Vessels are Being Held in British Ports--British Hospital Ship Anglia, Sunk by a Mine.

London, Nov. 17--Both the military and diplomatic situation of the Allies in the Balkans are disquieting, if not critical, a fact which, doubtless, led to the visit of the British prime minister, Mr. Asquith, David Lloyd George and A. J. Balfour to Paris for a conference with the French cabinet and General Joffre, the French commander-in-chief.

The main Serbian army, under General Putnik, which is operating in the north, is now encompassed on every side but one, and being cut off from the south by the Bulgarian advance beyond Tetovo, must depend upon the rough roads through Montenegro and Albania for any supplies from the sea.

In the south the Serbian position is almost as bad. The success of the Bulgarians flanking attack on Babuna Pass and their advance from Veles have prevented the hoped-for junction of the Serbian and French forces. This leaves the Serbians only two lines of retreat, one into Albania, where they may be harassed by unfriendly tribes, and the other across the Greek border, where they are in danger of being disarmed and interned. It is to prevent the latter eventuality that the Entente Powers are putting forth every effort and unquestionably this matter has been discussed in Paris by the British and French ministers.

GREEK VESSELS HELD.

The British government has taken further action by the issuance of an order that no Greek vessel, except those loaded or loading, may proceed to their destinations. While Denys Cochran, member of the French cabinet, who was given an enthusiastic reception at Athens by the municipal authorities and the people, is expected to express very firmly the French view of what is considered the unsatisfactory reply of Greece to the Entente Powers for the safe conduct of both Serbian and allied forces, should they become compelled to retire from Greece.

Lord Kitchener, the British war secretary, who, it had been stated, was to back M. Cochran, is now reported in Gallipoli, although, according to rumor, King Constantine expressed a wish to see him.

Like Italy and France, England now demands that Greece shall either join the Allies or translate her benevolent neutrality towards the Entente into a clear declaration that she will attempt to disarm neither the Serbians nor the Allies, should they be forced back over her frontier, and that she will afford further facilities for the landing and transportation of allied troops.

SUPPORTED BY WARSHIPS.

There are no changes on the French, Italian or Russian fronts, but the presence of Russian warships on the coast of Courland, where they have been bombarding the German positions, suggests that General Ruzsky has not concluded the offensive which he undertook west of Riga.

The loss of the British hospital ship Anglia in the English Channel and another steamer which went to her assistance is believed to have been due to mines which broke from their moorings in the recent storms. Of less than four hundred persons aboard the Anglia, three hundred were saved by a patrol boat.

Dover, Nov. 17--The hospital ship

ALLIED WAR COUNCIL HOLDS A MEETING

Paris, Nov. 17--The first meeting of the joint Anglo-French war council was held here this afternoon. Those taking part were Premier Asquith, A. J. Balfour, first lord of the admiralty; David Lloyd George, minister of munitions, and Sir Edward Grey, secretary of foreign affairs, of the British cabinet; while the French participants were Premier Briand, General Gallieni, minister of War; Admiral Lacaze, minister of marine, and General Joffre, the French commander-in-chief.

The four British ministers on arriving in Paris were met by Premier Briand, who gave a luncheon and reception in their honor before the holding of the war council.

This afternoon the British ministers had a conference at the admiralty. Tonight they will dine with President Poincaré and will return to England tomorrow morning.

The trip of Premier Asquith and inauguration of the meetings of the his colleagues to Paris signifies the Allied war council of which the Premier spoke in the house of commons on Nov. 10.

The fact that the premier is accompanied by naval and militia advisers is an indication that wider co-operation of the staffs of the two nations also is about to be instituted, as foreshadowed in the premier's speech.

The developments on the Balkan peninsula perhaps hastened the meeting in Paris of the allied war council, as the outcome of the present situation which, from the Entente Allies viewpoint, is disquieting, may weigh heavily with the Greek government in deciding on Greece's final attitude.

The quartette of British statesmen forms the war council recently appointed by Premier Asquith, with Sir Edward Grey taking the place of Andrew Bonar Law, secretary for the colonies, on it. Mr. Law, with Reginald McKenna, chancellor of the exchequer, the fifth member of the war council, will be in charge of the house of commons during Premier Asquith's absence.

London, Nov. 17--An order-in-council will shortly be issued declaring that during the continuance of the war all Britishers of military age desiring to leave the United Kingdom, even on a trip, must obtain special permission. This permission will not be given without good cause.

REMOND AT THE FRONT.

John Redmond, leader of the Irish Nationalist party, has arrived at Boulogne, on his way to the western front. It was announced several days ago that as soon as arrangements could be made Mr. Redmond intended to pay a visit to the men in the trenches.

"THREE BLIND MICE" SING TRIO OF SOLDIERS

The following is an extract from the letter of an Australian soldier written at Heliopolis base camp, Cairo, Egypt: "Some of the troops left Australia with the idea that they were going on a picnic. The wounded have enlightened them, but they are now crazy to get a crack at the wily Turk—who from all accounts is wonderfully wily, but a clean fighter. In fact, the only cases of atrocities I have heard of occurred where German officers were in command. I'll believe anything almost of the Germans now."

"By God, but it makes one proud to see the wounded! Game? 'Game' is inadequate to convey a correct impression of their conduct."

"In one hospital ward are three men blinded for life. One afternoon two got on the third's bed and the trio sang 'Three Blind Mice,' then yelled, 'Are we downhearted? No!'"

Rome, Nov. 18--It is officially reported that a strong Austrian position northwest of Gorizia was captured by the Italians yesterday.

London, Nov. 18--Despatches from Athens today indicate that the position of the Serbian forces is desperate. The Bulgars have captured Perlepe and are now battering at the defenses of Monastir. The Anglo-French forces are said to have defeated the Bulgars and driven them across the Vardar river and to have taken the town of Kasturino.

BOMBARDING THE HUNS

Paris, Nov. 18--A concentrated French bombardment of the German trenches in some region in the vicinity of Hebecourt quarter and in the Aisne district, about Autreiches. A report in today's official communication tells of violent artillery duels progressing in the Artois region.

CHURCHILL FOR THE FRONT

(SPECIAL TO THE MAIL.)

London, Nov. 18--Hon. Winston Churchill, former admiralty head left this morning for France to join his regiment, the Imperial Yeomanry in the trenches.

NORWEGIAN SHIP SUNK

(SPECIAL TO THE MAIL.)

Amsterdam, Nov. 18--The Norwegian Steamer Ulriken has been sunk with a loss of five of her crew.

SAYS PRELEPE HAS FALLEN

London, Nov. 18--A despatch to Reuters Telegram Company stated from Athens dated Wednesday, says:

"Official war despatches are still lacking, but according to press despatches received here, Prelepe is said to have been occupied by the Bulgarians, who are now two hours distance from Monastir, and making a turning movement under the command of German officers. The situation at Monastir is reported to be most critical. The foreign consuls, except the French, have gone to Saloniki, to which place the perfect of Monastir has sent the cities archives."

SHIPS ALLOWED TO GO

London, Nov. 18--With regard to the reported embargo on Greek ships in British ports, the Greek legation here says Great Britain has consented that all Greek ships loaded or loading may proceed to their destinations, but that no fresh loadings will be permitted.

OFFICIAL REPORT.

London, Nov. 17--The following official communication concerning the Anglia disaster was made public:

"The war office reports that the hospital ship Anglia struck a mine in the channel today and sank. The total number on board was thirteen officers and 372 men of other ranks, of whom about three hundred were saved by a patrol vessel."

"Another ship, proceeding to the rescue, was also sunk by another mine."

Another official communication says "King George was shocked to hear that the Anglia, which so recently conveyed him across the channel, had been sunk. His Majesty is grieved at the loss incurred but trusts that the survivors have not unduly suffered from their terrible experience."

The Anglia was a merchantman that was taken over by the British admiralty after the opening of the war and refitted as a hospital ship. She was commissioned in August of last year.

There are four British steamships named Anglia. The one converted into a hospital ship probably is the former London and Northwestern Railway steamer, of 1,862 tons gross. She is 329 feet long and was built in 1909 at Dumbarton. The other three steamers are small vessels.

At the time she was commissioned the Anglia was in charge of Commander V. De Salze, retired.

CORRECTION.

In The Mail's obituary notice on the late Hon. George J. Colter yesterday a slight error occurred in respect to political events. It was stated that Hon. F. P. Thompson ran on the government ticket in the election of 1886, when Mr. Colter was a candidate. This was incorrect. Hon. Mr. Thompson resigned his seat in the House in 1885 to become a member of the legislative council and the present Judge Wilson was elected at a bye-election over Hon. J. D. Hazen, now minister of marine and fisheries. At the general election in the following year Mr. Wilson was again a candidate and was elected, along with the other members of his ticket. Mr. Colter and Hon. E. L. Wetmore were the successful candidates.

CASE OF TYPHOID

Mr. Fred Quarterman, Jr., Woodstock Road, is confined to his home with typhoid fever.