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RUSSIAN ARMY NOW WELL EQUIPPED

Is Twice As Big Today As When War Started.

BELIEVES IT'S DARKEST DAYS ARE OVER

Aim of Germany Was to Crush Russia and Conclude a Separate Peace After the Fall of Warsaw.

By William Philip Simms.
PETROGRAD, July 1.—(By mail.)—"The Russian army is twice as big as it was when the war started, is better fed, equipped and munitioned. Militarily, we are able to carry our part of the load."

It was President of the Duma Mikhail Rodzanko who told me this, a leader known to Russia as a frank, out-spoken man. This man knows something about armies. He began life as an officer from a military academy. He is actively engaged on army problems now.

Duma Member Sergius Shidlovsky, leader of the progressive Bloc, controlling element of the assembly, gave the same answer, adding:

"The army is better than it has ever been. Its spirit is perfect. In the country the people are too busy to be pessimistic. Townspeople love to tell alarming tales which grow. At the front with the soldiers it is an another world. Everybody is cheerful. To some neutrals, the Russian army has been a disappointment, judging it by German standards of perfection. Judged otherwise, the Russians have accomplished heroic things.

Russia stretches twice as far from east to west as the United States. She is as wide as from New York to San Francisco. Her population is thinly distributed over this tremendous area—40 times that of Germany—railways are few and, for a campaign against Germany, inconveniently laid.

When war began, the Russian army was undergoing complete reorganization. Mobilization caught it at the worst moment. The new untried mobilization scheme was stopped and the old one resorted to.

Russia is 80 per cent peasant and reserves cannot be notified quickly as in Germany. Once notified, many must walk great distances to the nearest settlement. From here the first small group walks or rides to a village on a railway and from here to a city to be equipped and despatched to the army. It is a slow process, hard to improve upon until Russia has better transportation and communication.

Quick-mobilizing countries mobilize on the frontier. Russia, unable to throw millions of men on the enemy's boundary line in time, concentrates in the interior. She cannot hope to begin a war on the offensive but expects to commence hostilities in a clash inside her own territory against invaders.

Russian then performed a heroic thing when she threw herself across the border into eastern Prussia five days after the war began, unprepared by at least a month, though she knew herself to be.

The world knows the disaster to the Russians among the Mazurian marshes, of Rennenkampf's defeat at Osterode late in August after he had thrown von Hindenburg back from Insterburg, Konigsberg, Allenstein and Gumbinnen. This was Russia's first sacrifice.

It is only 180 miles from the nearest point on the Russian frontier to Berlin. Looking at the map, sidewalk strategists opined that Russia ought to make the distance in 30 days. But even had Russia mobilized, struck via short line, she would have reached Berlin only to receive a mortal blow from north and south cutting off and booming her invading army. Both eastern Prussia and Galicia had to be occupied before the Posen route to Berlin could even be attempted.

So Galicia was invaded. Tarnopol was stormed and occupied, Lemberg and Przemyel taken by the forces under General Russki who mastered the country clear to the crests of the Carpathians.

Then time, distance, lack of railway facilities, bad roads and other physical hindrances antediluvian—these and greatly reinforced Austrian armies framed with Germans and led in part by German officers. The Russian retreat from Galicia was the result.

Blocked on the western front by the French and British, unable to advance an inch there, the Germans

HER FIRST FISH STORY.



Blanche Sweet, Lasky Star, in Paramount Pictures.

Blanche Sweet, the beautiful Lasky star, caught her first fish last week at Bear Lake, while on location for the exterior scenes of "The Storm," a Paramount Picture which was directed by Frank Reicher. Disinterested persons assert that it was not so much of a fish, but Miss Sweet is having it stuffed, and it will occupy a prominent position in her home, provided the cat does not see it first. The fish was enticed from the waters while Miss Sweet was out in a canoe with Thomas Meighan, her leading man. As soon as the fish was captured, Miss Sweet insisted upon immediately returning to camp—consequently Mr. Meighan was left fishless.

perfected their trenches, barbed-wire entanglements and machine gun system from the channel to Switzerland, then threw her remaining strength on Poland. Lodz was captured, Plock taken and one by one, quickly the historic cities and fortresses of all Poland, including Warsaw, the capital, fell.

It is said Germany aimed to crush Russia and make a separate peace after Warsaw. But Russia was not crushed. She knows defensive fighting too well. She lost much, but her army is stronger now than ever. A high French official said to me: "Russia is unbeatable. She is too big. She can keep on retreating until at last the enemy will be swallowed up."

In the retreat from Poland the army had much to contend with. It was badly munitioned. The minister of war, General Soukhomlinov, deemed responsible for the army during

this period, has been relieved of his duties and now awaits trial in the fortress of Peter and Paul, on an island in the Neva.

When Grand Duke Nicholas was sent to the Caucasus, the czar himself took command of the Russian front proper. He now spends little time in Petrograd.

For the last few months, the citizen organizations of Russia have been backing up the army with vigor. So unified are these groups that there are today two armies fighting for Russia—a soldier army and a citi-

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zen one. Thus, after two years of war and many disasters, the Russian army believes its darkest days are over.

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