

CAUCASUS BREAKS AWAY FROM RUSSIA

Province Declares Separation and Forms Parliament of Its Own.

SOCIALISTS ARE DOMINANT

Ambassador to United States Declares He Does Not Recognize Authority of Extremists Now in Petrograd.

LONDON, Nov. 24.—A Petrograd dispatch from the semi-official news agency says that the Mayor of Petrograd had announced that the Germans have declined to receive the parliamentary representatives sent by order of the Maximilian commissioners, declaring that peace negotiations would only be conducted within the constitutional government of Russia.

One of the preliminary conditions for entering upon peace negotiations imposed by the Germans is the withdrawal of Russian troops for a distance of 100 kilometers (62 miles) while the Germans retain their present positions.

PETROGRAD, Nov. 24.—The Caucasus has declared its separation from Russia and formed a Parliament of 40 Deputies, members of the Socialist parties, including one Bolshevik, according to reports brought by M. Tseretelli, former Minister in the Kerensky Cabinet, on his return to Petrograd.

The text of certain confidential communications between Russian Foreign Office and foreign governments were published by Bolsheviks and Socialist reactionist newspapers at the instigation of Leon Trotsky, the Bolshevik Foreign Minister.

Trotzky says the documents are those of the czarist, bourgeois and coalition governments, and from the "Russian nation and all nations in the world must learn the truth of the plans secretly made by financiers and traders through their parliamentary and diplomatic agents."

General Austrian politicians, Trotsky declares, may try to make capital out of these documents, but he warns them that when the German proletariat by means of a revolution succeeds in these their chancelleries they will find there documents which will show up in better light than those now published.

The documents published by the Bolsheviks include secret treaties and telegrams of the Russian Foreign Office, Ambassadors abroad and Ambassadors in Petrograd, the correspondent in Petrograd of the Exchange Telegraph Company reports. In all 17 documents were published.

Allies' Demands Set Forth.

The first state document published details the demands of France to acquire the Dardanelles, Constantinople, the west shore of the Bosphorus and certain defined areas in Asia Minor. It sets forth the demand of France and England that Russia agree to the freedom of navigation of the Black Sea from or to Russian ports, the retention of the hold of the Musselman on places in Arabia under a separate Musselman government and the inclusion of certain provinces of Russia in the sphere of British influence.

This document indicates that Russia agreed, on the whole, but proposed an amendment demanding a clearer definition of the right of the movement of Musselman territory and the freedom of pilgrimage. It defines the Russian sphere of influence and indicates her concern about the northern boundary of Afghanistan and also sets forth Italian interests provided her claims in the East are recognized.

The second document is a telegram from M. Izvolsky, Russian Ambassador to France, dated March 11, 1917, and states that France recognizes Russia's freedom to define her western boundaries.

Boundaries Are Considered.

This was followed by a telegram from Sergius Sazonoff, former Minister of Foreign Affairs, assuring M. Izvolsky that the agreement with France and England in regard to the Constantinople Straits did not mean examining and stating the willingness of Russia to give France and England the freedom of defining the western boundaries of Germany, in exchange for the freedom of allowing Russia to do the same, but insisting on the exclusion of the Polish question as a matter of international discussion, and instructing M. Izvolsky to counteract any attempt to place the future of Poland under control of the powers.

M. Sazonoff's telegram, continuing, says Russia must prevent Sweden from becoming unfriendly and by all means must earn the friendship of Norway and that all political efforts to influence Roumania already had been made. That the Japanese had excluded Germany from the Chinese markets, but says this must be subject to an economical conference at which Japan should be represented.

AMSTERDAM, Nov. 24.—An interpellation in the Austrian House of Deputies, Premier von Seydel, at Vienna, declared up to this time, no German offer had been received. He added that an offer would be examined in a benevolent spirit and that accommodating terms would be accepted.

STOCKHOLM, Nov. 24.—All goods for Russia have been stopped at Haparanda, Sweden, opposite Tornea, Finland, and are being returned to Narvik, according to a dispatch to Dagblad today from Haparanda.

Progress of the War.

Hard fighting continued in the battle of Cambrai Saturday, with the British pushing determinedly northward on the Fontaine-Querant line west of Cambrai.

Unofficial reports in the day indicated the probability that General Byng's troops had wrested possession of the hotly-disputed Bourlon Wood from the Germans and had recaptured the town of Moevres. The village of Poperinghe, less than three miles from Cambrai, was reported in ruins, suggesting the probability of an impending German retirement from that place.

The Germans are resisting desperately the British advance which is being pressed forward along the northern sector-west front. General Byng's evident intention is to drive in behind the main Hindenburg line breached in Tuesday's surprise attack, and the Querant-Drocourt sector, while still pushing his encircling movement of Cambrai to the north and east.

Friday's British attacks were chiefly developed on this same front. Gains were scored, but Bourlon Wood and Moevres still remained in German hands.

Byng's troops had even captured

Bourlon village to the north of the wood, Berlin's official statement indicates, but were driven back by a strong counter-thrust. The British have pushed considerably to the northwest of Moevres, however, and are hammering at Inchy, which the Germans are battling determinedly to retain.

The Italians have now completed a successful two weeks' defense of the Plave line and the northern front protecting its flank. Although they have had to yield ground during this time on the front of the upper Plave and the Bresca plateau, their defensive front remains unbroken. The Italians' fourth army, under General Robilant, was on the aggressive between the Plave and the Brenta on Friday, while the first army, that had been attacking between the Asiago plateau and the Brenta, and the third army foiled further efforts by the Austro-German forces to bridge the Plave with pontoons.

In Palestine the British are closing in on Jerusalem, their official statements claiming added interest because of their increasingly frequent mention of Biblical names. The site of the ancient Mizpah, some eight miles west of Jerusalem, was carried by storm. Northward on the Jordan the British were still closer, but their mounted troops near Beltona in this sector were forced back a short distance by a strong Turkish counter attack.

American destroyers in the war zone were successful recently in sinking a German submarine, seemingly beyond all question, according to both official and unofficial accounts. The U-boat fell victim to a depth bomb rising to the surface after the shock and sinking just after the destroyer had attacked a line and was attempting to tow her.

ITALIAN MORALE BETTER

SIGNOR MARCONI DECLARES GENERALS ARE CONFIDENT.

Soldiers Said to Be Desirous of Themselves on Fee That Won Advantage by Lies.

ROME, Friday, Nov. 23.—"The reorganization of the entire Italian army is proceeding apace," said Signor William Marconi, inventor of the wireless, in an interview today with the Associated Press. "It makes us confident that the onward march of the enemy will be definitely stopped."

Signor Marconi has just returned from a tour of the front, from the mouth of the Plave to Monte Grappa, during which he inspected the wireless apparatus.

"I saw the Duke of Aosta, commander of our army; General Diaz, commander-in-chief; General Badoglio, second in command, and other leading commanders," he continued.

"All were filled with hope that the worst is over; that the revival of the morale of the soldiers, which is constantly more noticeable, may give every soldier the courage to fight everywhere that the spirit of the troops is very high. The men are desirous of taking revenge. They are filled with hope that the reverses suffered and are furious at the thought that any Italians had been cheated into believing Australian and German lies when the enemy army, imbued with a new republican spirit, will take the field in the war is certain to end disastrously."

"Peace and Land Is Motto.

From the Russian standpoint it makes little difference who puts forward the formal demand for peace.

Krylenko is not expected to take active technical command of the army. His function is to negotiate a three-months' armistice. And it is significant in this connection that Socialists now gathering at Moghillow, where army headquarters is located, though planning opposition to the government, are not compelled to adopt the public opinion to adopt as their motto "Peace and Land for the People."

"Peace and a partition of land among the people" now are fundamental that no political party can escape. Any effort to do without it without Russia, that disregards these issues and aims to push Russia further into the war is certain to end disastrously.

New Army May Take Field.

If, however, the soldiers at the front, having made every effort to create a revolution in order to bring about a peace with Germany, meet with failure, due to the refusal of the central powers to agree, a new volunteer Russian army, imbued with a new republican spirit, will take the field in the Spring.

This must be kept in mind, through all changes now in progress. The attitude of the soldiers at the front, of those most tired of the war, is evidenced by a resolution from the front that arrived at Smolny recently.

"They said they represented tens of thousands of soldiers who would leave the firing line immediately and go to their homes if peace was not concluded. Trotsky said to them:

"You want peace. We are doing everything possible to get it. You want land. It is yours now by decree, but you cannot cultivate it in the winter, and you leave your positions now the government will come and take the land from you so that you will not have it at all."

"You want clothing and food. If you stay where you are the machinery of distribution will furnish you. If you leave the front and go to your homes it will mean chaos. Whole cities will starve."

"Go back to the front. Tell your comrades to wait."

"And the delegation, convinced of the truth of Trotsky's argument, went back to their posts, bearing the message to the front that must hold the lines for the present in order to get the peace and the land it wishes."

An order declaring that all employees of ministries who strike against the government will be outlawed, has only partially broken the striking. Trans-

portation is being maintained to a cer-

tain extent. The amount of food that had arrived in Petrograd during the past few days has steadily increased.

But the situation is serious and a new difficulty has been encountered in the reluctance of cities further south to permit food trains to pass through them on their way north to Petrograd. Soldiers are also diverting the food intended for the city to their own use.

General Kaledines, head of the Cosacks, has failed in his attempt to cut off the coal supply. This is now helping the new government in the present crisis.

General Kaledines, in the eventful kickish situation with regard to those vital necessities—food and transportation.

ARMISTICE OFFER SURE TO BE MADE

Resignation of Dukhonin Merely Causes Slight Delay in Presentation.

PEOPLE ALL DEMAND PEACE

Any Effort, Says Arno Dosch-Fleurot, That Aims to Push Russia Further Into War Certain to End Disastrously.

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BY ARNO DOSCH-FLEUROT.
PETROGRAD, Nov. 22.—(Delayed in transmission.)—The only effect of the resignation as commander-in-chief of Dukhonin has been to cause a slight delay in the formal offer of an armistice to Germany, but the government is determined to make this step at all costs.

The appointment of Ensign Krylenko as commander-in-chief to take Dukhonin's place, does not change the orders of the army who would carry out the orders of the military revolutionary committee.

Krylenko formerly was a member of the First Machine Gun Regiment. He took prominent part in the revolution of July and was thrown into prison by the Kerensky government.

There is great interest here in the probable effect of the offer of an armistice on the German commanders. Dukhonin is known to be a man of great ability.

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