

OLITA FORTRESS EVACUATED BY RUSSIAN ARMY

Fortress of Grodno Now the Only Strongly Defended Position Remaining to Russians—Invaders Continue Advance Well Into Old Russia—Balkans Doubtful.

LONDON, Aug. 27.—The Russians apparently have decided to evacuate Grodno, the one important stronghold on their principal line of defense which they still retain. A message from Petrograd to Reuter's Telegram company quotes the Russian official as stating that Grodno will be given up when the retreat of the defenders has been covered.

BERLIN, Aug. 27.—The Russian fortress of Olita on the Niemen river 30 miles south of Kovno has been evacuated. Official announcement to this effect was made here today.

In all the wide sweep of Russian territory south of the Baltic provinces which has been covered during the great Austro-German offensive movement, the fortress of Grodno is now the only strongly defended position remaining in the hands of the Russians. Olita was on the principal Russian line of defense, midway between Kovno, already in the hands of the Germans, and Grodno. It is about 50 miles southwest of the important railroad center of Vilna, which is on the direct trunk line to Petrograd.

Olita is the ninth important fortress to fall before the invaders in the last three weeks.

Well Into Old Russia LONDON, Aug. 27.—The Austro-German invaders have not only pressed their opponents into old Russia, beyond the political borders of ancient Poland but have penetrated well beyond this district.

Well beyond the district of Russia proper, inhabited by the Poles. This enormous advance has now reached a stage in which the troops of Emperor Nicholas are fighting for existence on the soil of White Russia, which for the first time during this war is feeling the effects of invasion.

The main object of the German attack around Brest-Litovsk for a number of days has been the railroad running eastward from the fortress toward Moscow. This line, with a branch running in a southeasterly direction, provided the means for Russian evacuation of the fortress. The Austro-German advance against this railroad has been so slow that it is believed here the evacuation was accomplished successfully before the fortress surrendered.

Doubt Bulgaria Treaty Serbia's reply to the note of the quadruple entente, which has not been made public, although reported to have been delivered, evidently is awaited by these other Balkan states before they take further action. Doubts are now being cast on the accuracy of the report yesterday, that a Turko-Bulgarian agreement had been signed.

Although the admiralty thus far has not issued a report on the recent bombardment of Zeebrugge, on the Belgian coast, additional details of the damage inflicted continue to reach London. The latest despatch states that the harbor defenses were damaged seriously and several submarines were destroyed.

NEW ZEALAND IMPOSES FIFTY PER CENT TAX

WELLINGTON, N. S., Aug. 27.—A super-tax of 50 per cent on all imports from countries hostile to Great Britain was announced today by the minister of finance, Sir Joseph Ward, in introducing the budget in parliament. A number of tariff schedules are to be raised. Automobiles, chassis and bodies, are to pay 10 per cent ad valorem.

PERSHING'S WIFE THREE CHILDREN PERISH IN FIRE

General Pershing's Wife and Daughters Suffocated in Blaze Which Destroys Roof of Their Residence at the Presidio of San Francisco—Was Daughter of Senator Warren.

SAN FRANCISCO, Aug. 27.—Mrs. Frances Warren Pershing, wife of Brigadier General John J. Pershing, U. S. A., and three of her four children were suffocated to death in their quarters at the Presidio of San Francisco early today. A Mrs. Boswell, a relative, and her two children escaped, as did Warren Pershing, five years old. The dead children are Helen, Anne and Margaret all under eight years old. Mrs. Pershing is a daughter of Senator Warren of Wyoming. Her husband, commanding the Eighth brigade, United States Infantry, is at El Paso, Texas, in charge of the border troops.

The bodies of the four victims were badly burned. The fire is believed to have been caused by a night lamp, although this was said to be only conjecture.

Only Roof Burned

A burst of flame from the roof of the general's big two story frame house, which stands on the parade ground directly in front of the headquarters flagpole was the first intimation of trouble. The presidio army fire department rushed to the house, and believing that the occupants had all escaped, centered their energies on the flames. Only the roof of the house was burned. When the firemen entered to look over the damage they found the mother and her three little girls. The boy Warren, Mrs. Boswell and her children and three servants slept in other parts of the house.

General and Mrs. Pershing were married at Cheyenne, Wyo., January 26, 1905. The general's career was among the most remarkable in the army records. Graduated from West Point in 1886 he fought in the Indian wars of those days, but the outbreak of the Spanish war found him still a captain. He was promoted from a captaincy to be brigadier-general with the support of President Roosevelt, in 1906, and has since conducted several campaigns, including one against the Moros in 1913 which won him considerable recognition.

Pershing is notified Mrs. Pershing was devoted to her home and children and also took an active interest in suffrage and other women's movements.

Margaret was six years old, Anne was seven and Helen eight. General Pershing was at once notified at El Paso of the death of his wife and children.

Mrs. Walter A. Boswell, wife of Lieutenant Boswell of the Twenty First Infantry and her two children, Philip and James, aged three and six years, and Mrs. Boswell's maid, jumped from the roof of a front porch, and were caught by officers and men. Mrs. Boswell suffered a sprained back and is at the presidio hospital.

The fire was discovered by Mrs. Boswell about 4:30 o'clock this morning. She was aroused by the smell of smoke and immediately awakened her children and called to Mrs. Pershing.

Threw Children Down

When the three men ran around to

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WILSON APPRECIATES GOVERNOR'S SUPPORT

BOSTON, Aug. 27.—A message from President Wilson in reply to the telegram sent him Tuesday was read when the governors' conference reassembled today. Addressing Governor Walsh, the president said: "I deeply appreciate and am greatly heartened by the generous resolution of confidence and support passed by the governors in conference, and beg that you will convey to them my heartfelt thanks and my cordial best wishes for a successful and profitable conference. I wish that I could bring the greeting in person."

SCENES AT CRATER LAKE DURING RECENT PYTHIAN CONCLAVE



Above—Pythians embarking on Crater lake for Wizard island. Below—Class of candidates, initiated in the crater of Wizard island. —Photographs by John P. Palmer, Medford —Courtesy Oregon Journal.

BISHOP OF WINONA SHOT TWICE BY DEMENTED PRIEST

WINONA, Minn., Aug. 27.—Right Rev. Patrick R. Heffron, bishop of the Winona diocese, was shot this morning in his library by Rev. Father Al Lesches, a demented priest, who had been spending the past week at St. Mary's college, diocese headquarters, seeking an appointment, which Bishop Heffron had refused to give him.

The priest entered the library in which the bishop was reading and without warning drew a revolver and shot twice at the bishop. One bullet took effect in the right side of the chest. The other wound was a flesh wound in the thigh. The attending physicians, although admitting the chest wound is serious, are hopeful that the wound will heal if no complications set in.

Father Lesches is 40 years old, of French birth and came to this country in 1885.

EAST SHIVERS IN COLD WAVE

WASHINGTON, Aug. 27.—Weather bureau experts said today that the cold weather which covered the east Thursday will last only until Sunday and Monday and vanish into the Atlantic with summer close on its trail.

The cold wave came down from Medicine Hat, over Lake Superior to the borders of the south, and today extended east from the Missouri river. The coldest place in the United States in the affected zone this morning was Sault Ste. Marie, with a temperature of 34, but White River, Canada, recorded 32. The low temperature, however, lasted only until the sun rose, and weather bureau experts figure that practically no damage has been done to crops.

Frost is probable in interior New York and Western and Northern New England tonight and Saturday. High temperatures continue in the extreme west.

WELSH MINERS AGAIN ON STRIKE IN COAL FIELDS

LONDON, Aug. 27.—Reports from the South Wales coal fields this afternoon state that 25,000 miners already have joined the strike which began this morning when 10,000 refused to go to work.

The recurrence of labor troubles is due to growing dissatisfaction with the award of Walter Runciman, president of the board of trade, who acted as arbitrator in the recent strike. The situation was strained further when the colliers learned that Mr. Runciman had declined to see a deputation representing them.

The miners charge Mr. Runciman with going behind the arrangement made by David Lloyd-George and demand that Mr. Lloyd-George make good his promises to them.

Dispatches from Cardiff at the time the strike was settled last month said that the terms accepted by the miners as a result of Mr. Lloyd-George's trip to Wales provided for a substantial increase in wages and other concessions to the strikers, which were considered by them as tantamount to an admission of their claims on nearly all the outstanding points. Mr. Lloyd-George won the men over, not only by promising concessions, but by emphasizing the fact that uninterrupted operation of the coal mines was highly essential to the conduct of the war.

Mr. Runciman's award contained wage concessions, hours of labor and arbitration arrangements.

INTERNAL REVENUE RECEIPTS A RECORD

WASHINGTON, Aug. 27.—The greatest total of internal revenue receipts in the history of the government was recorded in the annual report of the commissioner of internal revenue today.

The aggregate receipts during the fiscal year ended June 30, including the corporation and individual income taxes, reached \$415,000,000 against \$330,000,000 for the previous year.

CARRANZA PLANS MOVING CAPITAL NEXT SUNDAY

WASHINGTON, Aug. 27.—General Carranza will move his capital to Mexico City Sunday.

President Wilson's appeal to the Mexicans for peace, especially referred to Mexico City as the place where the capital of any government applying for recognition must be established. Carranza's move was regarded in Latin circles as one of the steps in his effort to obtain recognition by the United States. Carranza's reply to the Pan-American peace appeal had not reached here today.

Advices from Vera Cruz to the state department today said that furniture and documents belonging to the Carranza government were being sent to Mexico City. Officials here expected to hear that Carranza would leave for Mexico City in the near future.

General Carranza's inquiry as to whether the Pan-American diplomats in appealing to him for a peace conference were acting personally or with the sanction of their respective governments, will be answered today. Officials stated that Carranza would be informed that they were acting with authority of their respective governments.

General Carranza today cabled his agency here saying: "It is utterly untrue that any deaths from starvation are taking place in Mexico City. The food situation has grown steadily better from the date of General Gonzalez' occupation to the present time."

GREECE RATIFIES TRADE PRIVILEGES

PARIS, Aug. 27.—Representatives of the entente powers and Greece, according to a dispatch from Athens to the Havas agency, have reached an agreement upon greater trade privileges, which produced an impression that public opinion in Greece favors the allies. Henceforth all importations to Greece will be allowed without hindrance on the basis of trade statistics.

LUSITANIA CASE FOLLOWS ARABIC IN SETTLEMENT

Bernstorff Guarantees Administration "Full Satisfaction," More Than a Mere Disavowal If It Is Found Vessel Sunk Without Warning—Policy Satisfactory.

WASHINGTON, Aug. 27.—Count Von Bernstorff, the German ambassador acting on instructions from Berlin, notified Secretary Lansing today "that full satisfaction" would be given to the United States for the sinking of the White Star liner Arabic. The ambassador explained that Germany would make more than a mere disavowal, if it is found the Arabic was sunk without warning.

Satisfactory Policy

The ambassador said he believed the negotiations over the Arabic would be followed by negotiations over the Lusitania, in view of the official statement in Berlin that a submarine policy satisfactory to the United States would be announced.

It is known, however, that Ambassador Gerard's dispatch agrees with Count Von Bernstorff's advice.

The president will remain in Washington until the controversy is settled.

Count Von Bernstorff conferred with Secretary Lansing nearly half an hour. It had been suggested that perhaps Germany was ready also to make reparations for the Americans lost on the Lusitania, but that subject was not discussed. The disposition of the German embassy is to take up one step at a time.

Full Reparation Promised

The ambassador did not make public the extent of the instructions from Berlin on which he acted, but it was understood they coincided entirely with the statement of the German chancellor yesterday, expressing the willingness of the German government to make fullest reparation if it is shown finally that the Arabic was torpedoed without warning. The German admiralty has received no official report. Further communications now are expected from Berlin which will advance the negotiations to a point where attacks on passenger-carrying ships will be definitely discontinued.

SLATON DOESN'T FEAR GEORGIANS

LOS ANGELES, Aug. 27.—John L. Slaton, former governor of Georgia, declared here today that the lynching of Leo M. Frank, the prisoner whose death sentence he commuted, was a perverted manifestation of that southern chivalry which makes the protection of women's honor its chief care.

"In the hot, blind ferment which prompted the act of the mob there is an element which challenges the admiration," said the former governor. "Shocking as it was in its manifestations, it had as its foundation the impulse of the strong to protect the weak, defenseless woman."

"The same feeling would have existed had Leo M. Frank been a Dane, a Hindu or a Chinese."

"I have no more fear of harm when I return to Georgia than I have right here in Los Angeles."

BRYAN GLAD LID ON TRAINING CAMP

KANSAS CITY, Mo., Aug. 27.—William J. Bryan, former secretary of state, today said regarding the developments growing out of ex-President Roosevelt's speech at Plattsburg, N. Y., military training camp: "I am glad to notice Secretary Garrison is disposed to restrict the camps to the work for which they were established. During the last two weeks they seem to have served more as a platform for jingoism to talk from than for instruction in the art of war."

BONDHOLDERS OPPOSE PAVING REFUND SCHEME

Holders of Bancroft Act Paving Bonds Condemn Plan to Refund Same, Increase City Indebtedness and Reimburse Property Owners for Assessments Paid.

The city council's proposal to bond the city of Medford for \$1,020,000 bonds to refund the paving indebtedness incurred by property owners under the Bancroft act, and refund those property owners who have paid assessments and interest, is not meeting the cordial reception expected from bank and bonding houses, according to letters received and on file at the city recorder's office.

The present bonded debt of the city is \$513,000. The assessment debt, secured by liens against abutting property under the Bancroft act, is, paving, \$564,250; sewer, \$79,500; water district, \$88,750; total, \$732,500, making a grand total for which the city is responsible of \$1,245,500. The council's proposal is to redeem the \$564,250 paving indebtedness by the issuance of \$1,020,000 general bonds, rebating the property owners who have paid \$455,750. This will create a general city debt of \$1,533,000, leaving still an assessment debt of \$168,250, or a total indebtedness of \$1,701,250, an increase of \$466,250 over the present debt, with nothing to show for it as far as the city is concerned. The assessed valuation of the city is \$4,200,000.

Bond Holders Protest

The principal purchaser of the paving bonds under the Bancroft act was the First National Bank of Cleveland, Ohio. They write objecting to the plan stating:

"We do not believe that your people really wish to carry out the thought suggested in the rebonding proposal as it would impose on the city a direct obligation for a large sum, extending over a long period of years, and even though you were successful in selling the bonds at a somewhat lower rate of interest than the prevailing Bancroft act bonds, which as a matter of fact we do not think you would be, nevertheless, the total cost to the people would be immensely greater than what was contemplated at the time the Bancroft act bonds were put out. You, of course, full realize that the bondholders would not for a moment consider exchanging their securities, which have specific liens back of them, together with the general liability of the city, for a bond which carries with it only the general liability of the city, to begin with, and it seems to us such a proposal would result only in a disastrous way to your city, and jeopardize its credit beyond all possible redemption.

Handled Many Bonds

"We handled, as you know, a large amount of these Improvement Bonds and were naturally very much surprised. . . . We, of course, would strongly object to any proceeding which would look towards giving up by the bondholders of their specific liens, for a general liability of the city, and really cannot see what would be gained by such a procedure even though it could be accomplished as the net result would be, to pass on to posterity a heavy interest charge, as well as a principal obligation for which they received no benefit, and it is our belief that if the people who are agitating any such arrangement would consider this latter phase of it, that they would not be parties to such a plan.

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NARROW ESCAPE FOR SWEDE KING

STOCKHOLM, Aug. 27.—King Gustave had a narrow escape from serious injury yesterday at Jorna. As he was entering his car to proceed to Stockholm the train started with a sudden jerk, throwing him down. His foot was jammed between the car and platform and he fell heavily. However, except for slight bruises he is little the worse for the accident.