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RUSSIAN CZAR SENDS NICHOLAS TO FIGHT TURKS

Grand Duke Nicholas, Idol of Russian Army, Sent to Caucasus by Emperor—Is Unimportant Position—Action Is Sensation of Hour, as Efficiency Due to Late Commander.

PETROGRAD, Sept. 8.—Grand Duke Nicholas has been transferred to the Caucasus by Emperor Nicholas.

The emperor took this action on assuming command of the military and naval forces of Russia.

In transferring the grand duke he appointed him viceroy of the Caucasus and commander in chief of the army in the southern front.

The action of Emperor Nicholas in transferring his cousin, the Grand Duke Nicholas, to the Caucasus, is perhaps the most important change of this nature which has been made by any of the belligerent nations.

The only comparable incident was the retirement by Emperor William last October of Lieutenant General Count Helmuth von Moltke as chief of the German army staff.

Unimportant Post The post to which Grand Duke Nicholas has been transferred is of relative unimportance as compared with the prestige and vast powers of his former office as commander in chief of all Russia's great fighting forces.

The Caucasian campaign plays only a minor aspect of the war. The Russian and Turkish forces involved in the struggle in the Black Sea region are not large. Although there was heavy fighting in the Caucasus earlier in the war hostilities have been conducted in only a perfunctory manner for several months, as both of the nations involved had need of all available forces in other quarters.

Nation Deeply Stirred The transfer was made in connection with a general reorganization of such importance that it has stirred the nation deeply.

The grand duke replaces the famous viceroy of the Caucasus, Count Vop Vorontzoff-Dashkoff. Emperor Nicholas addressed to the count a communication acknowledging the value of his labors, and stated that "he yielded to his request to be permitted to devote his energies to work for which his state of health is more equal." The emperor therefore relieves him of the post of viceroy and attaches him to his personal staff.

In relieving the grand duke, the emperor addressed a communication to him which read:

Emperor's Communication "At the beginning of the war I was unavoidably prevented from following the inclination of my soul to put myself at the head of the army. That was why I entrusted you with the command in chief of all the land and sea forces.

"Under the eyes of all Russia your imperial highness has given proof during the war of a steadfast bravery that has caused a feeling of profound confidence and called forth the sincere good wishes of all who followed your operations through the inevitable vicissitudes of war.

To Go to the Front "My duty to my country which has been entrusted to me by God impels me today, when the enemy has penetrated into the interior of the empire, to take supreme command of the forces and to share with the army the fatigue of war and to safeguard with it Russian soil from attempts of the enemy. The ways of Providence

(Continued on page six)

LIBERALS CONTROL RUSSIAN DUMA

PETROGRAD, Sept. 8.—The Novo Vremya announces the formation of a new majority in the duma, which comprises the liberal and progressive elements, replacing the conservative majority.

The newspaper, which is considered a weather vane, editorially comments favorably on the formation of the new majority. Its support of the new duma majority, therefore, is regarded as highly significant.

GERMANS DENY HESPERIAN SUNK BY SUBMARINE

Officials Declare Steamer Must Have Struck a Mine or Was Destroyed by Some Agency From Within—Submarine U-27 Blamed for Attack Upon Arabic.

BERLIN, via London, Sept. 8.—The commander of a German submarine which has returned to its base has reported to the admiralty that he torpedoed the liner Arabic in the belief that the Arabic's action indicated that she was about to attack the submarine and that he fired in self-defense.

BERLIN, Sept. 8.—Persons in a position to speak with authority assert positively the conviction that the steamship Hesperian was not torpedoed by a German submarine, at least under the conditions thus far described.

The assumption that the Hesperian was sunk by a German submarine is met with ever-increasing doubt in official circles. In official quarters it is believed that the Hesperian must have struck a mine, or possibly was destroyed by some agency from within; that it may be regarded as certain she was not torpedoed by a German submarine under the conditions set forth in press dispatches and in accounts given by passengers.

May Have Hit Mine These persons point out that details given in press reports may be adapted quite as well to the theory that the Hesperian struck a mine as to the assumption that she was torpedoed. Moreover, it is said, there is not a single positive indication that a submarine was concerned.

The degree of assurance with which this theory is advanced seems to be based on knowledge of additional instructions issued to submarine commanders since the Arabic was sunk. Now that the U-27 has been given up definitely as lost, an official statement probably will be issued soon concerning the Arabic, setting forth that all submarines which might possibly have been involved have returned, with one exception.

U-27 Sank the Arabic It has been established that the Arabic was not torpedoed by any of the submarines which have come back to port since that time. Whether the missing boat, which was operating in the vicinity of the Arabic disaster at approximately the time thereof, torpedoed steamships, and if so, what justification her commander had for her action, can never be known positively. Germany therefore will be unable to furnish the definite report on the case, which is desired by the United States.

BILLION BUSHELS WHEAT FORCASTED BY GOVERNMENT

WASHINGTON, Sept. 8.—Prospects of a billion bushel wheat crop this year were increased by today's government report which forecasts 981 million bushels, based on its September 1 census.

Spring wheat indicates a crop of 322 million bushels, an increase of 15 millions since the August prediction was made. Estimates are as follows:

- Corn 2945 millions. Oats 1468 millions. Barley 223 millions. Buckwheat 15 millions. White potatoes 496 millions. Sweet potatoes 63 millions. Tobacco, pounds, 1120 millions. Flax 18 million bushels. Rice 26 millions. Hay, tons, 81 millions. Apples, 214 millions. Peaches 84 millions.

MILITARISM TO CONTINUE SAYS KING ALPHONSO

More Arming Than Ever After War Says Spanish Monarch—Unable to Visit America—Great Reforms Are Ahead—Socialists' Dreams to Be Partly Realized.

PARIS, Sept. 8.—King Alfonso of Spain has had to abandon plans for a visit to America because of the war, he told Senor Cevillier, an Argentine journalist.

"It is quite impossible to prophesy when the war will end," the monarch is quoted as saying in a report of the conversation printed by the Espana Review.

"It was my pet dream to visit America, but I shall not be able to go now for years. When the war is over the work here will be enormous. To hasten reforms, we shall have to abandon all outward forms, and if I do not deceive myself the role Spain will have to play will be such that her progress, which hitherto has been at a snail's pace, will be increased to a tremendous speed.

Arm More Than Ever "The same progress may be expected for all humanity if the war results in disarmament," observed Senor Cevillier.

"No," returned King Alfonso. "After the war nations will arm more than ever. When one sees a country like Belgium, neutralized by agreement of all nations, eventually finding no other defense than her own armed force, it is easy to understand that other countries, big and little, realize that to exist it is indispensable to work in times of peace and surround ourselves with the most positive of guarantees."

"Does not your majesty think the lower social orders will exercise pressure on the governments to prevent them from increasing the burden of armed peace?" asked the interviewer.

Socialism to Advance "I think, and you may repeat this," replied the Spanish ruler, "that socialism will become daily more governmental and that socialists will obtain satisfaction for their more just aspirations by legal methods without having to use violence, but I think also that as they evolve they will find out they have been deceived by certain politicians who have made of international pacifism a banner on which they have lived.

"Even the pacifists will recognize after this war while the instincts of human nature remain unmodified there are no better safeguards for right in international questions than foresight and strength. Besides, after the war there will be no unemployment. On the contrary, there will be work for all, and it will be necessary to work. The world will continue to be what it is, and in ten or twelve years we shall ask ourselves, astounded, 'but what happened?'"

TAX GRANT LANDS AT \$2.50 PER ACRE

SALEM, Or., Sept. 8.—After discussing at length the question whether county assessors should put the lands embraced in the Oregon and California railroad land grant on the assessment rolls at a greater value than \$2.50 an acre, the state tax commission today decided to defer instructing assessors on it until after the conference to be held here on September 16, when plans for the disposition of the grant will be framed to present to congress.

All county boards of equalization will meet Monday, and in view of the recent decision of the United States supreme court, which referred settlement to congress, the assessors have been asking the commission for instructions as to the value they should put on the lands. The terms of the grant provide that the land shall be sold at \$2.50 per acre, but it has a real value much higher than that.

ALBANY, N. Y., Sept. 8.—Prospects of an agreement between 1000 striking employees of the United Traction company here and in Troy, and the officials of the road were remote today.

RUSSIAN WAR LEADER REMOVED BY CZAR



Grand Duke Nicholas of Russia, who has been acclaimed as one of the greatest strategists of the war for his masterly retreat in the face of the Austro-German onslaught, has been relegated to the comparatively unimportant post of leader of the Russian forces opposing the Turks in the Caucasus. Nominally the grand duke is succeeded by the emperor. What military man or what general staff officer will in fact assume the active leadership of Russia's hard pressed forces is not announced in the emperor's order relieving the grand duke.

AMERICAN LOST WHEN TORPEDO HIT HESPERIAN

LONDON, Sept. 8.—Wesley Frost, American consul at Queenstown, informed the American embassy here today that he had received an unconfirmed report that one of the missing sailors of the Hesperian was an American citizen. Thus far Mr. Frost has been unable to verify the report. A seaman named Wolf is said to have been an American.

The loss of Wolf, the American, is referred to in today's state department dispatches, but officials regarded their information as inconclusive that they let it be known they did not regard it as final.

If the news dispatches and the official advices finally agree in showing conclusively that an American life has been lost, it will not alter the situation until the manner of the Hesperian's destruction has been established.

The state department expects Berlin will make every effort to clear up the doubtful points and that some satisfactory explanation will be given.

The fact that the lost American was a member of the crew instead of a passenger will not alter the case. Pending receipt of further and more definite information the situation remains unchanged.

NICHOLAS' REMOVAL SURPRISES ENGLAND

LONDON, Sept. 8.—The removal of Grand Duke Nicholas came as a great surprise in England. With winter approaching, it was believed that, what with a shortage of ammunition and other difficulties he had accomplished all that was humanly possible. His transfer, therefore, was from a clear sky and marks the most important change of command in any army during the great war.

It is the general impression here that Emperor Nicholas will not determine personally upon the strategic formula to be followed, but will intrust the destinies of his armies to the chief of the general staff.

As the religious head of the Russian nation, the emperor's move, it is pointed out, should prove to be a great moral stimulus to his troops. It is also regarded here as disposing effectually of rumors that Russia contemplates conclusion of a separate peace.

MILITARY RULE GOVERNS MEXICAN BORDER IN TEXAS

BROWNSVILLE, Texas, Sept. 8.—The United States army today took the most important step it has yet made in the border complications of the lower Rio Grande valley when an order was issued here giving to army officers command over the actions of the civilians on the river bank in case shooting across the international boundary is resumed.

Local peace officers heretofore have been permitted to participate in returning the fire of Mexicans from the other side of the river. In some cases the peace officers have pursued bandits fleeing from the Texas side to the river banks and then held battle with them across the international line. Hereafter the army will attempt to handle all situations.

There is a double purpose in this. The Carranza authorities have announced that they believe they can co-operate better with Americans in suppressing bandits if there is no divided authority on the river bank.

It is expected that further important orders will follow and that the army with four thousand men available in this section can throw out patrols so strong that Mexicans trying to escape from the American border or those trying to invade Texas, will have difficulty in trying to cross the Rio Grande.

WEATHER FIGHTING FOR THE RUSSIANS

LONDON, Sept. 8.—Weather conditions, which in past wars have proved an efficient ally of the Russians, are again intervening on their side. The rivers have been swollen by autumn floods to such an extent that they promise to form an impassable barrier to a further advance of the invaders. This dispatch represents the immediate objective of the Austro-German campaign to be the seizure of the entire railroad system from Riga to Lemberg, thus insuring control of lines of communication for a further penetration of White Russia.

On the other fronts events point to a concerted movement by the allies. British warships and the guns along the Belgian coast have joined the chorus of artillery fire along the western front. All this gives support to the growing belief in London that an offensive movement of some nature will soon mark operations of the allies in the west.

WILSON CONFERS WITH LANSING OVER DR. DUMBA

Austrian Ambassador's Interference With Employes of Munition Plants Causes President to Break Precedent by Calling Upon Secretary of State Lansing.

WASHINGTON, Sept. 8.—President Wilson went to the state department today and conferred with Secretary Lansing. It was generally understood they discussed the case of Dr. Dumba, the Austrian ambassador.

The president's action was so unusual that white house and state department attaches were slow to realize what had happened. So far as officials could recall the only precedent for a president going to call on a secretary of state was recorded when President McKinley went to call on Secretary Hay.

Visit a Surprise The president's call was not arranged in advance. He left his study and passed out of the executive offices through a little used entrance, crossed the avenue which separates the white house grounds from the state, war and navy building, and walked up the main stairway unattended, while dozens of surprised tourists and employes stopped to look. The president continued on up the inner stairways and into one of the long corridors leading to Secretary Lansing's private office, where he passed by the messenger on the door and entered unannounced.

Late yesterday Ambassador Dumba conferred at length with Secretary Lansing about the correspondence taken from an American correspondent by British secret service men which disclosed that the Austrian ambassador was concerned in a project to interfere with the operations of American munition plants. The ambassador explained that his government had instructed him to give the widest publicity to a decree making it a criminal offense for any Austro-Hungarian to be concerned in the manufacture of munitions of war for his country's enemies.

Concerns Dumba's Visit So far as was known the ambassador did not disclaim his action nor did he disclaim having reported on the project to his home government in documents which were found on the American correspondent. The state department regards the use of an American passport for messenger to one of the belligerent governments as serious.

Secretary Lansing heard all Dr. Dumba had to say and let it be known

(Continued on page six)

GOLD SHIPMENT SENDS EXCHANGE RATES DOWNWARD

NEW YORK, Sept. 8.—Great Britain's third shipment of gold to the United States within five weeks, placed in the sub-treasury here, amounted to \$19,465,000, and not approximately \$66,000,000 as reported yesterday from Portland, Me., according to an official announcement made today by J. P. Morgan & Co., the consignees.

American securities accompanying the gold were unofficially reported to be worth approximately \$30,000,000, making the total value of the shipment about \$50,000,000.

The gold in the shipment consisted of American gold coin to the value of \$7,850,000 and 2,300,000 English sovereigns amounting to approximately \$11,615,000.

This makes a total of \$150,000,000 which has arrived here for England's account since early in August. This great sum, it is believed, has all been used in paying for munitions of war and other supplies to England and France from this country.

Whatever the balance due may be, it was still large enough to send the rate of sterling down again today to \$4.62 1/2 at the opening, a loss of 1/2 cent over night. This is 2 1/2 cents below normal and 12 cents above the low record here for sterling.

REBONDING PLAN TABLED AFTER WARM DEBATE

City Council Postpones Action on Medynski Plan to Bond City for \$1,020,000 to Refund Paving Indebtedness—Fiery Oratory on Tap—Sargent Leads Opposition.

An ordinance calling for a special election September 28 to vote upon the Medynski proposition to rebond the city for \$1,020,000 for the paving indebtedness was tabled at the regular meeting of the city council Tuesday night, for future consideration. It was the stormiest session in months, full of personalities and fiery oratory. Several times the feelings of the orators rose to great heights, and on one of these occasions Colonel Sargent called E. H. Fehl a "foolheaded kid." Just before this rejoinder the fiscal agent made a speech in which he said he was sorry he voted for the colonel. He said he thought the colonel was for the people, but that he was for the corporations now.

Sargent Opens Debate Colonel Sargent dominated the opening gun of the bond issue argument. He made a speech which he read from written notes. The gist of his remarks was that the city should pay its debt without impairment of credit and that it could be collected under the Bancroft act, favoring the bringing of a suit against all delinquent property holders. Colonel Sargent said that he doubted the legality of the bond issue as proposed, and that the repudiation of any municipal obligation would work a hardship. He also said the bond issue was unjust and inequitable.

During the remarks of Colonel Sargent citizens opposed to him granted their disapproval. The speech, however, was well received and revealed a sentiment against the bond issue.

Vawter Opposes Issue Attorney W. I. Vawter followed Colonel Sargent, and said it would be poor policy for the city to attempt a bond issue of over a million dollars on an assessed valuation of \$4,000,000. While not doubting the civic patriotism of those favoring the bonds, Attorney Vawter declared it seemed impractical and unwise.

Bert Anderson engaged in an argument with Colonel Sargent upon the merits and demerits of the bond issue. Mr. Anderson said he had paid all his assessments and was in favor of the city collecting the delinquent amounts under the Bancroft act, "if it could be done." This he doubted. He declared some solution should be offered and that those able to pay should pay without trying to dodge their obligation. "I lived in a town once that repudiated one interest payment," said Mr. Anderson, "and it never recovered. I spent twenty-five years of my life trying to rebuild that town, and it is now as it was then. Before I would go through the same experience in Medford I would give my property away and move out."

Miles Wants Collections After a ten-minute argument led by Mr. Anderson, in which everybody took part, Mayor Emerick rapped for order.

Councilman Miles arose and said that it was his opinion that the debts could be collected with concessions, and that if the city took the proper course it would be easy. He said at first he favored the bonding issue, but the more he thought about it the worse it seemed, and spoke against any upheaval of the finances of the city.

Councilman Medynski spoke in favor

(Continued on Page Four.)

GERMAN AIRSHIPS EN ROUTE TO ENGLAND

AMSTERDAM, Sept. 8.—Three airships, coming from the east, passed over Dordrecht, in South Holland, at 6:30 o'clock this morning toward the English coast.

Another airship passed over a suburb of Amsterdam. It came from the southwest and disappeared in an easterly direction.