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SITUATION IN BALKANS

Our despatches of the past week or more have told of skirmishing and some minor battles on the Greek-Bulgaria frontier, and the opinion has been expressed that the Allied offensive, from Greece so long looked for, had really begun. There is nothing to indicate that any extensive movement has occurred here yet, and there is considerable speculation as to the cause of the delay in view of the fact that there has been an Allied army of seven or eight hundred thousand men at Saloniki for months. Military critics are agreed that when this move begins it will be the most important move of the whole war. The latest theory regarding the cause of the delay is that it is hoped Bulgaria may abandon her Teutonic Allies and join arms with the Entente Allies. It has been evident for some time that Bulgaria is tired of the war. It is known that she has more than once sent out feelers for peace, which were not heeded, and that there has been, since the beginning of the war a powerful minority that deprecated the idea of fighting against Russia. It is also known that the Bulgarians are at heart friendly to Britain and France. Their only enemy was Serbia, and it was on her account that they entered the war. The Bulgarians despise the Turks, whom they had recently fought. Now that she has finished the job that she set out to accomplish, the conquest of Serbia and Montenegro, she wants peace and in order to secure it, and also to save something out of the wreck, which already has been a terrible one to her, there are indications that she is ready to take sides with the Entente Allies who, she knows, is winning and going to win. In any case her position is extremely critical. Austria and Germany can do little more for her, and have told her so, and on the south there is the Allied army of seven or eight thousand men ready to gobble her up. Prudence, if nothing else, would dictate an immediate alliance with France and Britain, and it is believed that such an alliance would not be altogether unacceptable.

Then there is another possible cause of delay in the expected Allied drive for the reconquest of Serbia, in the fact that the Grecian elections are approaching. The elections may result in the return of Venizelos, which might easily mean participation by Greece in the war on the side of the Entente Allies. This attitude on the part of Greece would drag Roumania into the struggle. As it is, Roumania is so threateningly near in that Bulgaria is maintaining a considerable army on the border to prevent a raid. With the existence of these complications delay on the part of the Allies seems justifiable.

As to the thrust when it comes, there is also considerable speculation. The objection will be of course Nish, the capital of Serbia and its chief railway centre. When Nish is taken, the railway which connects Berlin and Vienna with Constantinople, will be cut and Bulgaria and Turkey will be separated from their allies, except for Danube steamers. There is also certain to be a joint operation by the Serbs, who are already active before Monastir, and the Italians, who hold Valona. The former will undertake to clean the Bulgarians and Austrians out of the Monastir Plain, taking the city of Monastir. The latter will endeavor to clear Albania and reach the old Montenegrin frontier, with the city of Scutari as their objective.

Finally, there is bound to be some effort made to move east and drive the Austro-German troops out of the lower reaches of the Struma Valley and eastward along the Salonica-Adriatic railway. Swift success is not to be looked for. The fighting will be much like the fighting on the Austro-Italian frontier, a climb through canyons and up mountains in which the numerical superiority of the Allies will not instantly bring forth its full fruits. The path will have to be blown out by artillery. Nevertheless, the distances to be traversed are not great, and the effect upon Bulgaria and Roumania may be speedier than is now imagined.

THE IDEAL RURAL SCHOOL

If our Province is going to keep pace with its neighbors in the matter of rural schools, and if Saskatchewan is going to set the pace, we shall have to

do some hustling in the very near future. In a pamphlet recently issued by the Department of Education of Saskatchewan, the ideal rural school which, it hopes, will be in evidence in the near future, is described. It will indeed be ideal, and when attained will be something to be proud of, and something also to build up the Province with. Here are a few extracts:

"We hope that many rural schools will be established in Saskatchewan where the buildings will be surrounded by ample gardens and playgrounds which will be suitable for or adjacent to public picnic grounds. There will be plenty of wind-breaks and other shade trees. On one corner of the property will stand the teacher's residence, which, in many cases, will be also the local post office. There will be outdoor workshops and, of course, proper stabling. The playgrounds will be supplied with swings, sand piles, and other simple and useful apparatus for outdoor gymnastics and games, and the play will be properly supervised."

"In this school all the children of school age in the community will be enrolled and in regular attendance and many older boys and girls and adults also will be encouraged to study there whenever they can. The school will have the "atmosphere" of a happy, healthy, self-respecting farming community. Much less book work will be done than is now expected, but it will be done much better. The healthier bodies and clearer brains of the students, with the curriculum most carefully adapted to the future man and woman in their activities, will contribute much to more efficient scholarship in mathematics, history, grammar, and every other study. In the afternoons much of the study will be done in the open air, when the occupations of the pupils will be chiefly handwork and the like. The teachers and children will eat noonday meal together, like civilized and Christian people, and it will include regularly at least one warm dish prepared in connection with the training in domestic arts. No pupils with defective eyes and teeth will suffer through neglect. No pupil will have a task too great for successful accomplishment; and everyone will be encouraged to put his whole energy into the task or sport proper to the hour."

"The school building itself will be attractive in appearance and properly heated and ventilated. It will have verandahs on two sides. Over the door will be the name and a brief motto expressive of the essential purpose the school is intended to serve. The present absurd rows of immovable and unadjustable seats will be replaced by furniture devised and manufactured to meet the special needs of rural communities in Saskatchewan, and thus will be adapted for use by fraternal societies, religious bodies and other assemblies of adults. There will be far more window space than would be necessary in latitudes where the winter days are longer and brighter than here. Of course, the public reading room for the community with copies of the most popular and excellent newspapers and magazines, as well as the public library, will be found in the school building. It will also contain various apparatus for wholesome indoor games. In short, everything practicable will be done to make the school a suitable place for the citizens of the rural community to meet in the evening, or other leisure hours, for self-improvement, and the enjoyment of social intercourse. There will be a public telephone, some such instrument as a Victrola, and a magic lantern. One special use of the latter will be in connection with public lectures. The teacher will be a real rural expert, a settled resident of the community, happy in the present and looking forward to a rural superintendency to crown his career."

NOTES

The Germans may not be faced with the prospect of starvation, but that the food situation really is serious is proved by the cutting down of the fighting troops' meat supply. Hitherto the restrictions have been chiefly confined to the people at home. The new order must be far from comforting to both the soldier and the civilian.—Ex.

When the war broke out many Americans were caught in Europe, and a goodly number were soon in desperate straits. The United States government appropriated \$2,750,000 for their repatriation, most of which was used. It is now announced that about 70 per cent. of the rescued have reimbursed the public treasury. The rest are to be sued for the debt, which is in the nature of an honorable one. Perhaps some are not in a position to pay, but it is quite probable that most of the shirkers are of the class that does not regard it as a crime to get ahead of the government.—Montreal Gazette.

PROSECUTION OF MR. ROGERS

"Sir,—I am not a lover of autos, but I think when a loyal and kind hearted gentleman undertakes at some expense to convey to his home a gallant soldier, who was anxious to take leave of his family before proceeding overseas to fight in defence of the Empire, he is doing a commendable act. Mr. Rogers did no injury to anyone; he is, as I know, careful and considerate in the driving of his auto. Had he gone on private business his prosecution would have been right, under the circumstances it looks to me to be an act worthy of the Germans and I hardly think there can be any loyal British blood in the perpetrators of it. I think the feeling is general that the magistrate would be justified in dismissing the case. I am, Sir, etc. J. T. JENKINS.

An Explanation

"Sir,—In discussing the subject of "Teachers and their Work," etc., at the sessions of the Summer School of Science recently closed, reference was made to the case of Miss McKinnon, as reported in The Guardian, to a "certain school district, where the teacher, in two years, prepared seven pupils for entrance to Prince of Wales' College, at the end of which period her supplement was lowered to ten dollars, leaving her no alternative but to give up the school."

This was a serious statement to make, and one of the school inspectors in the matter called out: "I know the school." Afterwards this same inspector enquired of a gentleman from a neighboring school district if this report about the school was true. This would seem to prove conclusively what school was meant. The facts are, that the teacher referred to announced definitely before the year was up that she was going to leave; and this, after receiving a very definite understanding that a second year of supplement was assured should she remain for a third year. At the annual meeting the supplement was, unwisely, lowered to 25.00 as a protest against imaginary influences that were erroneously stated to be at work in behalf of some other teacher; at the same time the people do not relish the spectacle of their school being made a butt of in public educational discussions, and the fact that the teacher in question is of a different faith from our own adds a distinctive element of the episode. In conclusion it may be remarked that if there is any point left to the argument that this teacher was unfairly treated by the school in question, it is taken away by the fact that we have at present in the school a teacher recommended by her predecessor as "the saint" religious faith, and by all appearances of the same diligence and aptitude to her work. I am, Sir, etc.

RATEPAYER.

Kilmuir

"Sir,—In a recent issue of The Guardian, considerable space was devoted to an article on "This Thriving Settlement," which was of absorbing interest to the residents in general, and a source of information to a number of persons, to whom, perhaps, the significant name Kilmuir in Scotland was an unknown story. "Observer," the author of the narrative referred to, requires not to make apology in regard to his efforts as a scribe. His account of Kilmuir, Scotland, with its associative historical memories, marks him out as a student of considerable range, while his lurid description of our own "Island Beauty Spot" suggests the possession of an imagination entirely free from the aches and pains so common to amateur pen-wielders. If it is not presuming too much on the generosity regarding newspaper space which has made The Guardian such a popular rural journal, another amateur would like to submit a few further remarks in regard to Kilmuir, observations which, to his somewhat uncultivated imagination, appear rather appropriate at this particular time, during which conferences are being held in order to determine upon methods by which rural progress may be inaugurated and stimulated. Kilmuir has certainly been favored, as far as natural beauty of location and surroundings are concerned, but it requires the deft hand of man properly applied to make it the attractive rural locality which it is possible for it to be. Past circumstances have been somewhat against its progress. "Father Time" together with the inevitable operations of the "Grim Reaper" is responsible for a great many changes during the past few years, and Kilmuir, in common with other parts of our country, was called upon, in various ways, to part with rather too many of its inhabitants. The soil fertility was also depleted to an excessive extent through the successive annual crops it was called upon to bear, and which were invariably exchanged for that commodity which abideth not. These conditions, however, are being gradually overcome. The land is being better cultivated and fertilized, and is consequently producing more abundantly. Our governments are taking a sympathetic hold and are in various ways rendering effective aid and encouragement to the farmers so that we find today the young men of our country, who emigrated to other climes in a state of discouragement, returning to the happy and prosperous conditions they dreamed of long ago. Taking these conditions into consideration, and noting the pleasing results obtained from the adaptation of systematic farming, insofar as such a method is applicable, the value of the community may be enhanced and our homes made still more attractive as a place to live in. The eastern section of this district, perhaps, affords a more concrete opportunity for practical development than any other, for here we find the McKinnon farm, eastward, for a distance of a mile, or to be exact, to the school which is practically unhabitable, and which is being gradually reclaimed by the possible exception of a note of a farmer who resides along the wood island road by which their farms are intersected. Most of the

land in the tract referred to is lying dormant—a prey to weeds and shrubbery—and, besides being at present non-producing, is decreasing annually in value.

That this land can be redeemed to usefulness by subjecting it to a reasonable degree of proper cultivation is no theory, but has already been proved by the fact that several sections have been intelligently dealt with and are today yielding handsome returns. For instance, we might quote the McPhee and Nicholson properties which have been operated to splendid advantage by our hustling merchant, M. C. McGowan, for a number of years, and are apparently yielding profitable returns. Also the old Cameron homestead which last year produced a crop of hay at the rate of at least three tons to the acre and other crops equally well, as a result of the mental and muscular activity of our respected fellow-farmer Ewen McPhee.

Other lands in close proximity and adjoining those mentioned would produce equally well if similarly treated. Most of them are available to buyers and their lack of occupants is much to be regretted even socially if in no other way. If the farmers would take a keener interest in more intensive and modern farming methods, in keeping their buildings in proper repair and appearance, in laying off and beautifying their farm yards, it would go a long way towards making this settlement an even more beautiful locality than it is at present, and of far greater comfort to themselves, and value to the state. I am, Sir, etc.

AMATEUR PEN-WEILDER.

ISLANDER TELLS OF THE TERRORS OF WAR

Mr. Bruce Stewart, City, has received the following letter from his nephew, Milton Stewart, which is most interesting:

France, July 27, 1916. Dear Uncle,—I was surprised to receive such a small letter from you a few days ago, but nevertheless was glad to get anything at all. The fact you sent me a dandy, and would not be without it for anything. Had a box of chocolate from Miss E. Kestead, yesterday, from Philadelphia. You know she is a sister nurse of Aunty Anna's, and I thought it was very kind of her indeed to send a box to me, having never seen me. Well, things are going very favorably with us just now, no casualties of any account lately, except Mr. Hooper, (Lieut.) was hit just below the knee with a piece of shrapnel when up a tree observing the effect of our fire, but not very serious. He has gone to hospital with it, as I think the piece is still in his leg. Yesterday morning I got up at 4 a.m. and went out to my new position in the car with Mr. Ritchie and the chauffeur. It was very quiet just then. I saw four or five horses that were killed on the road that night, and had not been buried; and lorries and ammunition wagons blown to pieces, etc. So you see it's a pretty hot shop. The Major's car was hit twice by shrapnel and one piece knocked a piece off the radiator and came through the horn, which is right in the middle of the car, and smashed the shield all to pieces, and came through the next glass in the back part of the car, and out through the top. The other came in the back of the car and through the cushion, but in both cases they had just left it and got into the dug-outs as it was getting too warm for traveling. Very good news today,—we have taken Wood—, and it looks very dark like holding it, if we get enough artillery up in time as wood is a very hard position to hold, it being such a good target, and also liable to be set on fire by petrol shells, etc. I don't know whether you have heard tell of tear shells or not, but they are H. E. shells, with some chemical in them, and it makes one's eyes run water till you can't see to work. We had one very bad night. Some of our men were very hot next day with swollen eyes, etc. Mr. Ritchie was out in the O. P. yesterday and did not get back till 10.30 p.m. I tell you he had some pretty narrow escapes, and he was just all in. I tell you it takes the good out of the best of men. It's a peculiar thing, but one is safer if an H.E. falls within 10 or 15 ft. of you than 60 ft., as the pieces of shell blow up in the air more. There was a 6-inch German shell landed about 12 feet away from Major MacNevin (Percy's brother), yesterday, Mr. Ritchie said, and never hurt him except a bit of a shaking up and shock, etc. Some really marvellous escapes aren't there? The 109th Siege Battery (English) that we were training with are over here, just in ahead of us, and there was a 12 inch shell came in through their "mess" when all the officers were sitting, and killed the Major, Captain, and four Lieutenants. Some "mess," wasn't it, Uncle? But these do not always happen so unfortunate as this. Are you doing anything in the car business this year. I have learned to ride a motor cycle since coming to France, and was on despatch riding before going to the hospital. The traffic and roads are in a terrible state over here. It's something to keep things on the road. We have Douglas cycles, and they are very good, light and easy to handle. I may take one home with me when I get. Give my love to all. Sincerely, MILTON.

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DAILY SELECTIONS FOR GUARDIAN READERS Furnished by W. S. Louson. WOMEN HAVE MADE GOOD. There can be no question that the behavior of the great mass of women has not simply exceeded expectation but hope. It is not simply that there has been enough women and to spare for hospital work, and every sort of relief and charitable service; that sort of thing has been done before, and was in the tradition of womanhood. It is that at every sort of occupation, clerking, shop-keeping, railway work, police work, they have been found efficient beyond precedent and intelligent beyond precedent. And in the munitions factories, in the handling of heavy and often difficult machinery, and in adaptability and inventiveness

and enthusiasm and steadfastness, their achievement has been astonishing. More particularly in relation to intricate mechanical work is their record remarkable and unexpected. There is scarcely a point where women, having been given a chance, have not more than made good. "Be strong, quit you as women," runs the message of this age and its stern opportunity. While administrators are running, calling, and praying women to help in attitude and word; "Keep calm, we are ready, our lamps are burning, our hearts are strong, our hands are ready; give us the opportunity and the place beside you, and once again in this old world's story we shall show we are created to be your comrades and your helpmates." —H. G. Wells. I fell from a building and received what the doctor called a very bad sprained ankle, and told me I must not walk for three weeks. I got MINARD'S LINIMENT and in six days I was out to work again. I think it the best Liniment made. ARCHIE E. LAUNDRY. Edmonton.

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