

WHERE GERMANY GAINS

Keeping Danube Open Enables Traffic to Be Continued with Austria and Turkey.

HIGHWAY FOR COMMERCE

(Correspondence of The Associated Press.)

HELGRAD, Serbia, Jan. 5.—What great military and economic advantages were gained by the Germans and their allies with the opening of traffic on the Danube, has been shown by the activity in shipping which developed directly the Serbs had been driven from the banks of the river. Fighting along the Danube was still in progress when the Austrians started to clear a channel through the fine fields which the Russians, Serbs and English had laid out. Meanwhile large tows, carrying military supplies needed by Turkey and Bulgaria, were being brought down the river from Austro-Hungarian and German ports and assembled at Semlin, ready for the minute when navigation became possible.

Austrian river monitors, notably the Sava and Temes, had in the meantime patrolled the Danube as far as Lom Palanka and later to Rusechuck, both Bulgarian ports, and in so doing had cleared the river of some Russian armed merchant vessels stationed in the Roumanian port of Turn-Severin. That these vessels were not captured by the Austrians is due to the fact that, on the day which the Associated Press correspondent made the trip up the river as a guest on the Sava, they were being conveyed down stream by Roumanian monitors, the Russians themselves flying the Roumanian flag.

Scene of Activity.

The Bulgarian port of Lom Palanka was the scene of great activity. For over fifteen months no boats from up stream had arrived there. Now the jetties were crowded with barges from Austria and Germany. On the previous day King Ferdinand of Bulgaria and Premier Radoslawoff had been at Lom Palanka to assist in the resumption of traffic between Bulgaria and the central powers, an event which Germany and Austria-Hungary thought important enough to have inaugurated by Duke Albrecht of Mecklenburg, brother-in-law of Emperor William, who was a passenger on the first convoy arriving.

For the first two weeks nothing but military supplies were shipped down stream, principally arms and ammunition for Bulgaria and Turkey. Both these countries stood in need of heavy artillery and artillery ammunition. Some of the later boats brought a large number of heavy motor trucks, combat and scout aeroplanes, ambulances and sanitary supplies. Since then ordinary merchandise has been admitted to shipment. The returning barges and boats carry raw material of all sorts and foodstuffs. During the last few days a regular passenger and mail service to Lom Palanka has been in operation, until today traffic on the Danube may be considered normal with the difference that never before had it known such proportions. The military supplies of which Bulgaria and Turkey can make use are many, and on the other hand, Austria-Hungary and Germany offer an eager market for the agricultural and animal industry products of the two first mentioned countries.

Some Anxiety is Felt.

Some anxiety had been felt in Constantinople, and lately, in Sofia, that the heavy demand which the war made on their relatively scant stores of artillery ammunition might soon create a problem. It would be difficult to solve in case a free route of communication were not opened up. This, in fact, was the principal reason why the long-delayed offensive against Serbia was undertaken, when it was, though the attitude of Bulgaria necessarily played an important part in this.

But German and Austrian war stores were not the sole factor. The central powers could make good use of Turkish and Bulgarian wool, skins, hides, cereals and copper ores, and Turkey and Bulgaria needed the revenue which would come from the sale of these materials. It is to be doubted that history ever before presented an instance in which the opening of a line of communication met so adequately the needs of four allied peoples engaged in war, or that from this condition so urgent a necessity had sprung.

End of a Shortage.

The shortage of copper in the central states has been ended by the taking of a copper mine near Milanovac and elsewhere in Serbia. Bulgaria, too, has a large number of copper mines, the best of them near Mesdra, on the Mesdra-Lom Palanka branch railroad, and the Turks can meet any possible shortage with ores from Anatolia, notably from the Smyrna region.

Chemical raw material also may be brought from Turkey in Asia, and a paucity of cotton for explosives is now altogether unlikely, since this staple is produced in considerable quantities in the Cilician plain. It is of interest to learn that even a placer gold field has fallen into the hands of the central powers, that near Milanovac, Serbia.

In a single day The Associated Press correspondent saw as many as nine tows go down the river, each carrying the equivalent of 100 freight cars, giving the day's traffic a total of 4,300 carloads, or 215 trains of average size. For the five days spent on the river the total cannot be less than 40,000 carloads, or, with bulk and weight brought into relations, over 1,000,000 tons.

Many Tows from Germany.

Many of the tows came directly from Germany, the names of the barges' home ports and the distance traveled indicating that they had been concentrated in the Austrian reaches of the Danube when the offensive against Serbia had not yet begun. As an example of German and Austro-Hungarian thoroughness, the preparations for the resumption of Danube traffic are noteworthy.

Already train connections for military purposes exist between Berlin and Constantinople and, according to assertion, a side here, a through passenger and express freight service will be in operation within three weeks, via Belgrade and Nish.

The Serbs were not given time enough to destroy this line as thoroughly as it was expected they would, and as a result of this people here hope to travel soon on the "B" Express, a train that will link "Brussels-Berlin-Budapest-Bulgaria-Byzantium."

RUSS DRUGGISTS SELL BOOZE

Boom in Trade Immense Since the Prohibitory Order of Government in Effect.

HISTORY IS REPEATING ITSELF

(Correspondence of The Associated Press.)

PETROGRAD, Jan. 5.—After more than a year's trial for the anti-liquor decree it appears that some American prohibition history is being repeated in Russia. A memorial to the city council at Petrograd sets forth that the union of drug clerks finds the demand for eau de cologne and a variety of bitters has been growing steadily.

It is estimated that the 150 licensed drug stores in the city have sold the equivalent of 216,000 gallons of pure alcohol since the anti-liquor edict took effect at the beginning of the war. While some of this is legitimate drug business, it is asserted that the trade mainly consists of sales to persons who use these alcoholic preparations in beverages.

Big Drug Store Trade.

Further, it is stated, the druggists have begun the sale of surrogates for various trade articles, such as acetates consisting of alcohol that has been allowed to stand upon aromatic seeds, roots and leaves, or which has been more simply doctored up with aniline ingredients. The drug store trade, in fact, seems to be carried on without false pretenses as to the purposes for which these surrogates are offered for sale.

The memorial has been taken into consideration by the city council.

Of still greater proportion than the sale of the drug preparations mentioned, has been the use of denatured alcohol as a beverage and the rectification of denatured alcohol into a palatable, if not a wholesome substitute for vodka.

Much Fuel Alcohol Sold.

The effort to render fuel alcohol repellent to the workman's taste does not seem to have succeeded. Equally fruitless has been the campaign of education undertaken by the government and the press. The government has finally been forced to adopt restrictive measures. In view of the temperance program adopted at the outbreak of the war, fuel alcohol may now be sold only to persons having a license from the police. But naturally the police cannot be certain that a great deal of the denatured spirit that is asked for to heat business and domestic premises and to prepare food is not later peddled for beverage. The relative scarcity of wood and coal has forced many householders and merchants and manufacturers to rely upon alcohol heaters for warmth. It is impossible to deny the requests of legitimate purchasers and it is difficult to draw the line between them and secret rectifiers.

STAG HAS CHARMED LIFE

For Fifteen Years It Has Eluded Hunters in Minnesota Woods.

For fifteen years hunters in the swamps near White Pine, Minn., have tried to send a fatal bullet into a great white buck that has headed the deer herds of that section. The mammoth stag plunges into the dense tamarack swamps at the opening of each hunting season and only occasionally do hunters get a glimpse of the animal, which seems immune to hunters' bullets.

William Lancette, sergeant of police at Ducaes station, while hunting in the vicinity of White Pine last week with others from St. Paul, caught sight of the white stag, seeing it rise from a thicket at the crest of a hill and fade into nothingness while he was bringing his rifle to bear on the spot. Others of the party caught a glimpse of the animal as it plunged into the thick tamarack, and although they scoured the swamp, they saw no more of it.—St. Paul Dispatch.

Six-Year-Old Had Croup.

"I have a little girl 6 years old who has a great deal of trouble with croup," writes W. E. Curry of Evansville, Ind. "I have used Foley's Honey and Tar, obtaining instant relief for her. My wife and I also used it and will say it is the best cure for a bad cold, cough, throat trouble and croup that I ever saw." Those terrible coughs that seem to tear one to pieces yield to Foley's Honey and Tar. Sold everywhere.—Advertisement.

Famous War Song.

Dispute having arisen lately over the authorship of the song, "We Are Coming Father Abraham," which the soldiers of the armies of the north were wont to sing during the United States civil war, it has been shown that William Cullen Bryant was not the patriot who wrote the stirring words, works of reference to the contrary notwithstanding. The composer was a Hockley Quaker named John R. Gibbons, whose aversion to slavery had led him into full support of the union cause. He was led, soon after Lincoln's call for 300,000 volunteers, to frame a verified response which would voice the sentiment of the people, and though never before or after was the gift of songmaking one of his assets, like Whitier, also a friend, he framed sentiment into a form that nerved warriors. The militant Quaker always is a doughty foe, but in his own way.—Christian Science Monitor.

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LONG BRITISH LINE IN SERBIA—This interesting picture shows a long British trench in Serbia. The British line here extends from one mountain top to another. The trench can be traced through the valley and up the side of the mountain in the distance.



BRITISH TRENCH IN SERBIA. (LITH. FILM SERVICE.)

No Political Books Found in Library of Old King Peter

(Correspondence of The Associated Press.) BELGRADE, Jan. 5.—European politics did not greatly interest the Serbian kings before Peter, if the contents of the royal library can be regarded as throwing light on the studies of the kingdom's rulers. No books of importance on political subjects were acquired before Peter's accession, but a very respectable number were added to the library in the twelve years of his reign. Another department of the library dating from his time is looked upon by the German and Austro-Hungarian conquerors of the city as significant. It is devoted to catalogues and works of general information concerning great arms factories of the world, including Puffloff, Cramont, Armstrong and Krupp. Many excellent illustrations included in this department.

Most of the treasures and furnishings of the royal palace were removed when the royal family left the city, but the library was left behind. A Vienna librarian for the last fifteen years in charge of the imperial library and department of the Vienna royal library, has been entrusted with the cataloguing of the Serbian royal library. He told the Associated Press representative some interesting details about the collection. The oldest book in the library, which is neither of great extent nor great worth, is a book from 1830, and is in German. Few old Serbian books were to be seen. The books acquired before the reign of Alexander are chiefly of the sort found in any middle class family's library. They are chiefly in French. The books added during Alexander's reign are many in number. No books of political importance were acquired by him.

An interesting collection dating from this period, comprises vast numbers of autograph papers, written by senators and children in praise of Queen Draga, who appears to have been greatly beloved by the common people. In the same department are many musical compositions, chiefly military marches, dedicated to King Alexander.

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