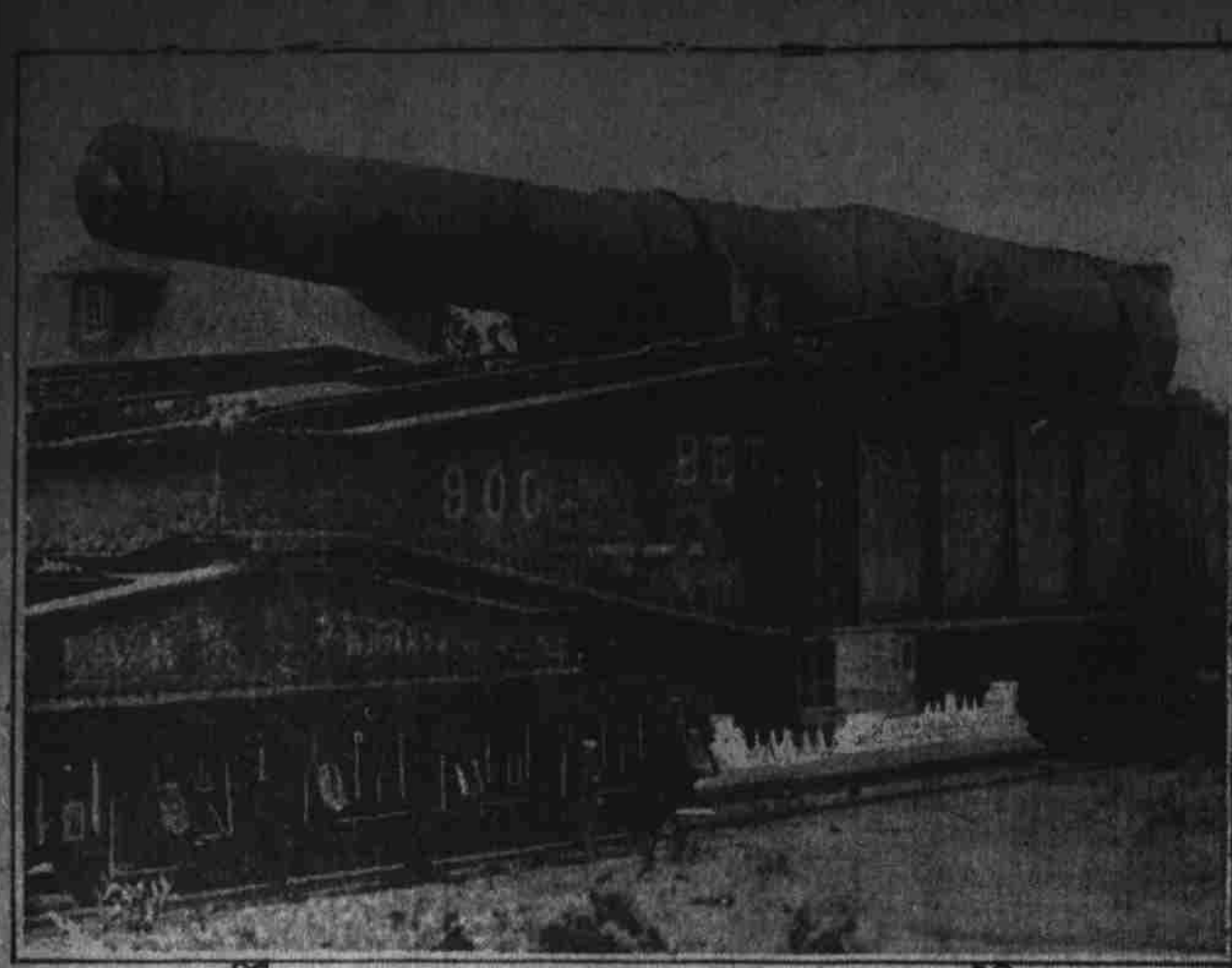


NEW 16-INCH GUN TO REPLACE SMALLER ORDNANCE IN OUR COAST DEFENSES



NO 16-INCH GUN FOR COAST DEFENSE

Washington, Aug. 27.—Information obtained regarding the plans of the War Department for the mammoth fortresses to be erected at Cape Henry, Va., discloses the fact that the department intends as rapidly as Congress will permit to replace the guns now installed in all the coast fortifications of the country with gigantic sixteen inch rifles, excelling in power and accuracy any guns ever constructed before.

With rifles of this character, army officers say, no hostile warships would be able to get in range of the American coast forts before being subjected to a deadly fire. At present the coast defenses outside New York and other seaport cities are manned by twelve and fourteen inch guns, with a range less than those of the guns on some of the biggest warships of Germany, and in England, including the British superdreadnought Queen

Elizabeth, which carries fourteen inch guns. The new sixteen inch rifle will exceed in power the two guns of the same bore recently constructed for the Panama Canal defenses, one of which is shown in the illustration. The latter have a total length each of forty-five feet, whereas the guns now planned will have a length of sixty-four feet and will be capable of hurling a projectile a ton almost twenty-five miles.

AUSTRIAN VIEW OF WAR TO DATE

Official Statement Recounts Successes and Reverses of Teutonic Allies.

ATTITUDE OF RUSSIA

Asserts That Russia and Other Countries Had Been Preparing for War for Years.

Washington, Aug. 28.—The Austro-Hungarian Embassy gave out for publication a review of the first year of the war from the standpoint of the Teutonic and Turkish Allies. The matter as issued by the Embassy was described as "A Summary of the Notable Results of the Conflict to Date," and it came to the conclusion that "the position of Austria-Hungary and Germany is most encouraging from a military, economic and financial point of view," and that the second year of the conflict had been under "the most promising auspices for the Allies of Central Europe."

growing influences of the English and the Russian jingoes. As far back as 1912 the military party in Austria-Hungary openly inaugurated aggressive preparations, including the projects for bringing the colored troops of the French colonies into line against Germany and for the increase of the standing army by the bill known as the "three-year service law," which was enacted by the French Parliament in 1913.

The aggressive attitude of Russia was apparent even to the casual observer for many months before the firing of the first gun. The subversive agitation carried on by Russia in Austria-Hungary and especially in Galicia; the tariff war inaugurated against Germany in 1913; the thinly veiled military preparations dating as far back as 1909, under the guise of the so-called "trial mobilization," and finally the conclusion of a loan of two billion francs for the sole purpose of the construction of a network of strategic railways directed against Germany and Austria-Hungary, gave the Allies the official assurance from St. Petersburg that the Russian Empire was bent upon preserving the peace of Europe in the face of German provocations.

In anticipation of the conflagration, the resources of the Triple Entente had been employed to their utmost in an endeavor to secure the co-operation of other countries against Germany; to tamper with traditional friendships; to disrupt traditional friendships; to employ diplomatic, press campaigns and the lever of the powerful Franco-British financial groups were applied to the task of encircling the rising German Empire with a ring of enemies. The late King of Italy, the Emperor of Austria-Hungary from her treaty alliances with her Western neighbor. With French support, financial, political and other advantages were offered to the Dual Monarchy as unavailing inducements to an act of imprudential treachery which finally has been committed by Italy. In the light of these events, now recalled by tragic events, it would be futile to deny that a plot to crush Germany had been carefully and tenaciously prepared by the Triple Entente, and the pretensions of the British, French and Russian Governments that the war had been forced upon them will not bear scrutiny.

In August, 1914, Germany and Austria-Hungary found themselves face to face with the most powerful coalition in history. The military superiority of the central Powers, are, therefore, all the more remarkable. With the sole exception of a strip of the eastern part of Galicia, which is being evacuated by the Russians, the territory of Austria-Hungary is absolutely cleared of the huge Russian armies on the eastern front, like those of the French in Alsace, have proved disastrous to the invaders. These two striking failures illustrate the negative results of the mighty offensive launched simulta-

aneously in the East and the West against the Dual Alliance.

The part played by the Austro-Hungarian Army in the initial phase of the operations deserves a special honorable mention. Though outnumbered, and with a numerically inferior artillery, the Austro-Hungarian army effectively undertook in August, 1914, the surprising drive against Krasnik and Lublin, across the plains of Russian Poland. This movement succeeded in its aim to cause a strong diversion which compelled the Russians to withdraw a considerable part of their forces from the North. This determined, though short-lived, offensive frustrated the sweep which the Russians had inaugurated toward Berlin. But the Austro-Hungarian advance into central Poland was greatly impeded by the many forests and the absence of roads and railways. The proportion of the Russian forces at that time concentrated against the Austro-Hungarians was approximately three or four to one. Eastern Galicia, where the numerical superiority of the Russians was even greater, had to be abandoned. This vast advantage in numbers on the part of the Russians is to be explained solely by the "trial mobilization," which practically had brought the Russian Army up to its full fighting strength long before war had been declared. The Austro-Hungarian retreat before the overwhelming Russian armies was misinterpreted by the Triple Entente as a collapse of the military power of the Dual Monarchy. More recent events have served to correct this erroneous impression.

The German advance in the West, with Paris as its objective, failed of the desired swift realization because of the resistance offered by Belgium and the intervention of England. The failure to reach the French capital and the consequent delay in the German campaign was not brought to a successful end; but it is most unreasonable to talk of a defeat of the Germans or of a victory for the Triple Entente on the Marne, or the sense that the operations that region have accomplished results which can be regarded as in any way decisive. The Germans fell back on the line of the Aisne, where they had prepared formidable intrenchments. Notwithstanding the frequent assaults carried on with great violence by the Anglo-Franco-Belgian armies, the Germans have never budged from the positions which they had so wisely chosen. The result of the military operations in Western Europe can be defined as a German victory which has yet to be completed. A brief glance at the actual situation in the West will furnish ample proof of this estimate of value.

No one conversant with the facts can deny the military importance of Antwerp and of the ports on the Scheldt, such as Zebrugg and Westende, held by the Germans. The commercial and industrial significance of the territory taken from the enemy is no less impressive. Belgium and the wealthiest part of Northern France are occupied by the Germans. In Belgium, the coal mines and the iron works of Liège, the steel works of La Vieille Montagne, the steel works of John Cockerill in Seraing, the Fabrique Nationale of Armes in Herstal, with the affiliated industries, are operated by and for the Germans. In the same manner, the Northern departments of France, which are the chief centers of the French iron and textile industry, have been made available to German productive enterprise.

The shortage of ammunition and other war materials from which the Triple Entente Allies are admittedly suffering is the result, to a great extent, of Germany's conquests in the West. The tremendous stocks of raw material of every description which were stored in Belgium and Northern France have augmented the economic power of Germany and correspondingly weakened that of the Allies. It is estimated that the wool and raw materials seized by Germany in this region are likely to keep German factories busy for a long time. Similar results may be said incidentally, have been achieved by the Dual Alliance to some extent in Russian Poland, where coal and other mines are held by them. The cotton stored in Lodz and other Polish textile centers has been removed partly to Germany and partly to Austria-Hungary, for use in the mills of those countries.

In the Eastern theater of operations the Dual Allies have practically eliminated the Russian army. The temporary occupation of Galicia by the Russians failed to prevent the successful passage of the plans to reduce the Russian armies by a process of attrition. The outcome of this military policy is to be seen, not only in the reduction of more than a million and a half of Russian prisoners—a number hitherto unheard of in war—but also in the seizure of tremendous

stocks of the most valuable military supplies and munitions. The Russian army, in the face of the Russian victory, has been reduced to a skeleton force. In the West, the Russian offensive has been converted into a retreat which has been continuous since the Dual Allies began their drive in the East, inaugurated at Gorlice on May 22. The unbroken line of the Teutonic advance, from the Baltic Sea, with Libau and Riga, down to the eastern frontier of Bukovina, shows the constant retreat of the Russian before the onslaught of the Austro-German forces. The fall of Warsaw stands out as the salient event in the taking, actual or impending, of the entire line of powerful fortresses which have cost the Russian tax-payers unlimited sums of money.

Whether the bulk of the Russian armies of a considerable part of them will be able to fall back upon the second line of Brest-Litovsk is still an open question. But in any event it is pure nonsense to speak of the Russian forces as intact and unbroken after the heavy losses inflicted upon them in the last three months. The number of Russians captured since May 4 certainly amounts up to a total of between 750,000 and 800,000 and several hundreds of thousands in addition have been wounded or otherwise incapacitated. Even admitting that the Russian armies who forced the Austro-Germans at the beginning of May had a fighting strength of 4,000 men—a figure which is rather too high—those armies lost in three months between 25 and 30 per cent of their effective resources. In men, there are hardly any officers left, a fact indicated by the extraordinary disproportion of officers to men among the prisoners captured. The ratio often amounts to four or five officers to a thousand men, whereas it would be 30 to 1, 1,000. The loss of more than one-third of Russia's guns, and the known lack of ammunition, are factors of vital value, which, taken with the other losses, leave no doubt that the offensive power of Russia is broken at least for the moment. It is not likely that she will be able to resume an active part in the operations before the beginning of next year, or possible not until next Spring.

A situation of advantage for the Dual Allies is presented in the Turkish theater of events, as in the Balkans. The Ottoman Empire, whereas the Ottoman Emperor joined the Austro-Germans on vital considerations of self-preservation. The Turks knew that Russia and her Allies were bent upon driving her out of Europe; that the Russian expedition would mean the end of Turkey. The Ottomans, therefore, did not hesitate to attack themselves to their natural Allies, the Germans and the Austro-Hungarians. How effective from the military standpoint has proved the combination of forces can be seen by a brief glance at the situation at the Dardanelles. The historic straits have proved a common grave for the Allies of the Triple Entente; powerful battleships have been sunk in Turkish waters. British and French regiments have been annihilated, all to no purpose, as the Dardanelles have been made well-nigh impregnable even to the attacks of such formidable ships as the Queen Elizabeth. The glorious traditions of the gallant Turkish soldier have been maintained in the efficiency, are being confirmed anew by their heroic resistance to the desperate onslaughts of the Allies.

Italy, forgetful of her pledge and repudiating her National honor, has been misled into perpetrating the most shocking act of treachery, under circumstances which soon will be explained in detail in a column. From a military point of view the Italians are making what must be admitted to be a poor showing, despite the preparations which they had been carrying on for many months before the intervention in behalf of the Triple Entente. Austria-Hungary was forced however reluctantly to the realization that she had been faithful for more than 30 years to an ally who was ready to ignore all her own obligations when the first occasion arose whereby she might improve her loyalty. The superior leadership and fighting qualities of the Austro-Hungarian troops, however, are once more asserting themselves against the Italian naval and military forces. The consequences of Italy's unprecedented treachery will be far-reaching.

Greece and other Balkan States which might have been induced to align themselves with the Triple Entente are now more than ever inclined to maintain their neutrality. The outlook for the Dual Alliance in the Balkans is therefore, especially since the first stage of the war, Bulgaria has reached an understanding with Turkey, and Rumania is freely selling her grain and her mineral oil to the Central Powers.

It has now become conclusively evident that the attempt of the Allies to starve the civilian population of Germany, Austria-Hungary and Turkey has ended in complete failure. It may be pointed out, however, that the interference with neutral trade in non-contraband goods on the part of Great Britain has caused much inconvenience and some suffering to innocent civilians of the new Triple Alliance; but the ultimate aim of this high-handed policy has been frustrated, and Germany and Austria-Hungary as well as Turkey have convinced the world that they are self-supporting and cannot be starved. The British insular idea that the British navy could effectively blockade the coast of the enemy countries, and thus ruin those countries, dates back to the Napoleonic struggle and the Civil War in this country. It is an antiquated conception of the obsolete British Admiralty. This year's harvest has been a bumper one, and the crops are so plentiful that Germany and Austria-Hungary are amply assured of food supplies until the next harvest. The temporary discontinuance of the use of copper for electro-chemical purposes has not reduced the existing stock of the metal available for the manufacture of ammunition and other war materials. Should the supply run short, the chemists and engineers of Austria-Hungary and Germany have demonstrated their ability to produce substitutes. Prices of all commodities in the countries of the new Triple Alliance have not risen to a higher level than they have attained in proud Albion, which claims to rule the ocean-waves. Germany's submarine warfare has caused a constant rise in prices in the British markets; and this economic feature has contributed greatly to the unpopularity of the war among the laboring classes of Britain.

The remarkable achievements of the Kruppke in Essen, of the Siemens in Pilsen, of the Mannesmann works engaged in the manufacture of war materials for the German and Austro-Hungarian armies, have revolutionized all traditions of warfare. The complete success of these enterprises has caused a constant production of such mighty implements as the 20.5 and the 42 centimeter guns which batter down fortifications hitherto regarded as impregnable to the

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CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING

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WANTS

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FOR RENT OR FOR SALE—Seven-room cottage, East Seventh street, directly in front of playground. J. H. Ham.

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MISCELLANEOUS

NOTICE to our former customers: We will resume delivery of milk, cream and butter on Sept. 1. Phone us your order now. Springdale Dairy, D. H. Watkins, Proprietor. Phone 1044-J.

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WANTED—You to call us for information concerning train. Charlotte Transfer Co. Phone 258.

WANTED—Good second-hand touring car. Will trade 20-acre farm for same. Drawer 2, Shelby, N. C.

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FOR SALE—The complete outfit and stock of the Piedmont Tasting Clear Stand. Liberal terms to right party.

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FOR SALE—45 acres and gin and sawmill in Orangeburg Co., S. C. A bargain. Apply to E. G. Dal, Farmers, S. C.

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FOR SALE—National Cash Register, with electric and adding equipment, new. It cost \$195. Give me an offer. L. V. Fisher, Salisbury, N. C.

FOR SALE—A1 service price, 6-passenger Hudson, in good running order. New tires. Will also exchange for smaller car. Phone 345, Woodside Garage.

FOR SALE—Selling all cigars and tobacco at cut prices while they last. Piedmont Tasting Clear Stand.

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