

THE DAILY NEWS
 THE LEADING NEWSPAPER IN NORTHERN BRITISH COLUMBIA
 Published Daily and Weekly
 Guaranteed Largest Circulation

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HEAD OFFICE
 Daily News Building, 3rd Ave, Prince Rupert, B.C. Telephone 98.

TRANSIENT DISPLAY ADVERTISING—50 cents per inch. Contract rates on application.

DAILY EDITION  Thursday, March 18, 1915.

EDITORIALS

Notwithstanding the truce declared by Sir Wilfrid Laurier at the beginning of the war, it appears that the Conservative party at Ottawa has failed to keep faith. On several occasions in the past few months movements were on foot to hold a general election. The first time the patriotic members of the Conservative party declared that they would not support the government if they appealed to the country during the war without a good reason. The next time the Governor General told Premier Borden flatly that he considered an appeal to the country entirely out of place and refused to sign the dissolution papers.

We find the same influences, headed by Bob Rogers, making another move, and it is doubtful if any influences will be thrown against them at this time. Seeing that they are so anxious to try their strength, why not let them have their fling? The existence of the war can have no effect, as both parties are unanimous on that score, although the paper boots supplied to the Canadian soldiers by Tory contractors may have some influence on the issue, especially if the soldiers are given a chance to vote, as is considered. It is safe to say that the Liberal party is much stronger today than it was in 1911, and the Liberals should welcome an election at any time they wish to call it.

It will be remembered that Sir Wilfrid Laurier went out of power over a foolish cry about American annexation of Canada, brought about by his reciprocity proposals. Since that time the people have realized that the prosperity of Canada is largely tied up with the States and that it is national suicide to persist in holding up a high wall between the two countries. The people have also seen that if the United States wanted to annex any country they would ere this have taken Mexico, which is suffering for the want of a protector. Naturally, therefore, the people are looking to Sir Wilfrid for assistance in breaking down that tariff wall that thwarts our prosperity, and when the time comes they will vote him back into power.

Prince Rupert has a good sample of the value of freer trade with the States. Nineteen-tenths of the fish that is caught in the Prince Rupert waters find its way to the

American markets, and what has happened in the fish business would happen in hundreds of other industries if the tariff wall on natural products was knocked down. True, it was the Americans who took the duty off fish; but they will not continue to deal so favorably with Canada unless this country shows some tendency to reciprocate. Indeed, there is a strong movement on foot now to restore the duty on fish and if Canada doesn't hurry up the chance of a lifetime may be lost. The return of Laurier and the Laurier prosperity would be welcomed in Canada.

The inconsistency of the tariff makers is wonderful. Machinery for manufacturers is admitted duty free, but when the farmer wants machinery he must pay a heavy toll. Both men are producers, and there is no reason why one should be treated different to the other. Sir Wilfrid Laurier wants to remove the duty from machinery and Sir Robert Borden wants it sustained. The price of wheat is always higher in the States than in Canada and there is always a ready market there, yet Canadian wheat in normal times is allowed to rot in Canadian storehouses for want of a market and for want of Canadian transportation. Why not knock down the tariff on wheat and give the farmer the benefit? The same applies to many other lines of natural products. We need in this country an adjustable tariff and one that can be operated to the best interests of all, not an artificial and inconsistent thing like we have at present. This is what Sir Wilfrid wants to give.

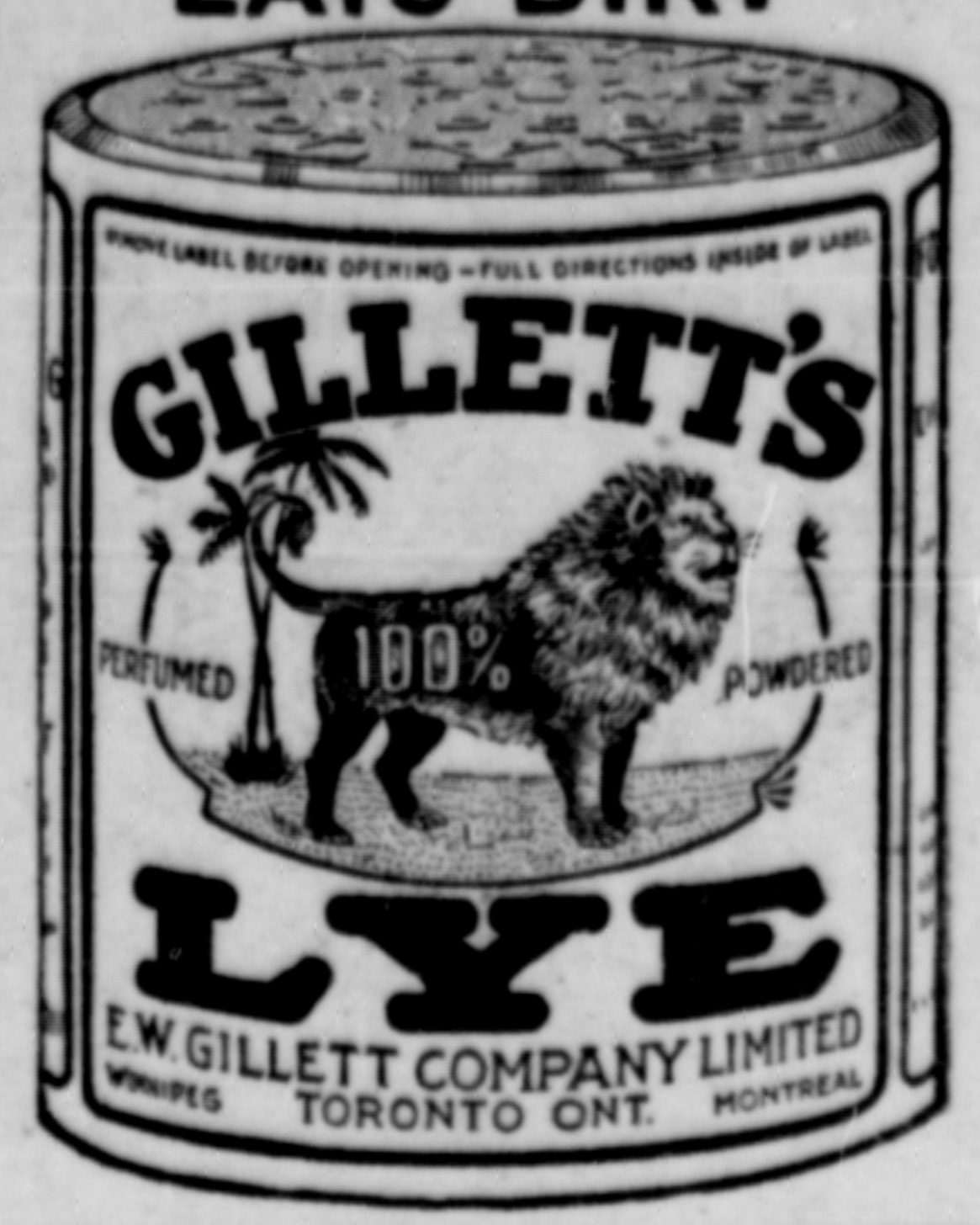
NEXT GREAT BATTLE TO BE WITH BAYONET

London, March 17.—Captain Campbell, of the Gordon Highlanders, lecturing to the officers and non-commissioned officers at the Canadian base training depot, said the next great battle would be a mighty struggle with the bayonet and victory would be with the fittest. Only practical knowledge of the way to use bayonets would win in the fight. Bayonet fighting is being practiced by the Canadians both morning and afternoon, with parades daily.

Some fellows can't scratch their heads because their arms won't reach that far out.—Macon Telegraph.

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NOVA SCOTIA HOUSE OPENED FOURTH SESSION

The fourth session of Nova Scotia's present Parliament opened with a more than ordinary display of the oldtime ceremonial, the guard of honor being made up of a company of a regiment destined for overseas service, while the main stairs of the interior of the province building were lined with a detachment of the heavy battery of artillery which has been mobilized here for the second contingent. The company of infantry which was drawn up in front of the building was from the 25th Royal Nova Scotia Battalion and was commanded by Captain Stanley Bauld of that regiment. A large concourse of people was attracted to the province building by the military display and the music of the military band. In his speech from the Throne, His Honor, Lieutenant Governor MacGregor alluded to the special conditions prevailing throughout the country because of the war, and to the part which Nova Scotia has contributed for the defence of the Empire and for the relief of the destitute Belgians. He expressed his gratification at the increased production of farm lands and spoke hopefully of the agricultural outlook. The fruit crop was larger than last year, and the growers are now realizing satisfactory returns. The most outstanding agricultural advance of the year is the development of the dairy industry, which shows a 30 per cent increase in output. The Agricultural College continues to enlist the interest of our farmers, and the attendance at present is the largest in its history. The output of coal, notwithstanding adverse conditions, exceeded seven million tons, and our collieries are now equipped and developed for a yearly production of ten million tons. The great value to the country of the technical education now provided in the splendid system of technical schools and the Technical College in Halifax was dwelt upon, and allusion was made to the improvement of the highways under the legislation of recent years, and especially during the past year. The adoption of the speech was moved by Messrs. Wickwire and R. H. MacKay, who spoke briefly along the lines of the address itself, emphasizing the points which seemed to them of greatest importance.

The lazier a man is the more hope he can generate.

McBRIDE'S DAY IS DONE

PEOPLE OF VICTORIA FLOCK TO LIBERALS

Victoria, March 17.—An unprejudiced citizen looking round on the magnificent meeting at the Knights of Pythias Hall last evening, when the Liberals of the city met to organize for the provincial election, and comparing it with similar gatherings in 1909 and 1912, would have to admit that a tremendous change in public sentiment has been brought about.

The wave of enthusiasm surprised even the leading Liberals, and when the time for organization of ward bodies came, there was competition in every ward of the city by men anxious to be of service in returning the party's candidates. Every reference to the name of the Provincial leader, Mr. Brewster, struck a responsive cord with the audience, which cheered heartily whenever the speakers, President A. B. Fraser, Duncan Ross, ex-M. P., and Candidates John Hart, Aldermen Bell and H. C. Hall, referred to the urgency of terminating the tenure of the present administration at the earliest moment. Mr. Brewster was unable to appear personally, being engaged at a meeting in Nanaimo, but he sent a letter expressing his confidence that Victoria Liberals would do their part as good citizens "in smashing the machine, and that Liberalism, would again be triumphant in the Capital City of the Province."

WHAT RUSSIA GAINS.

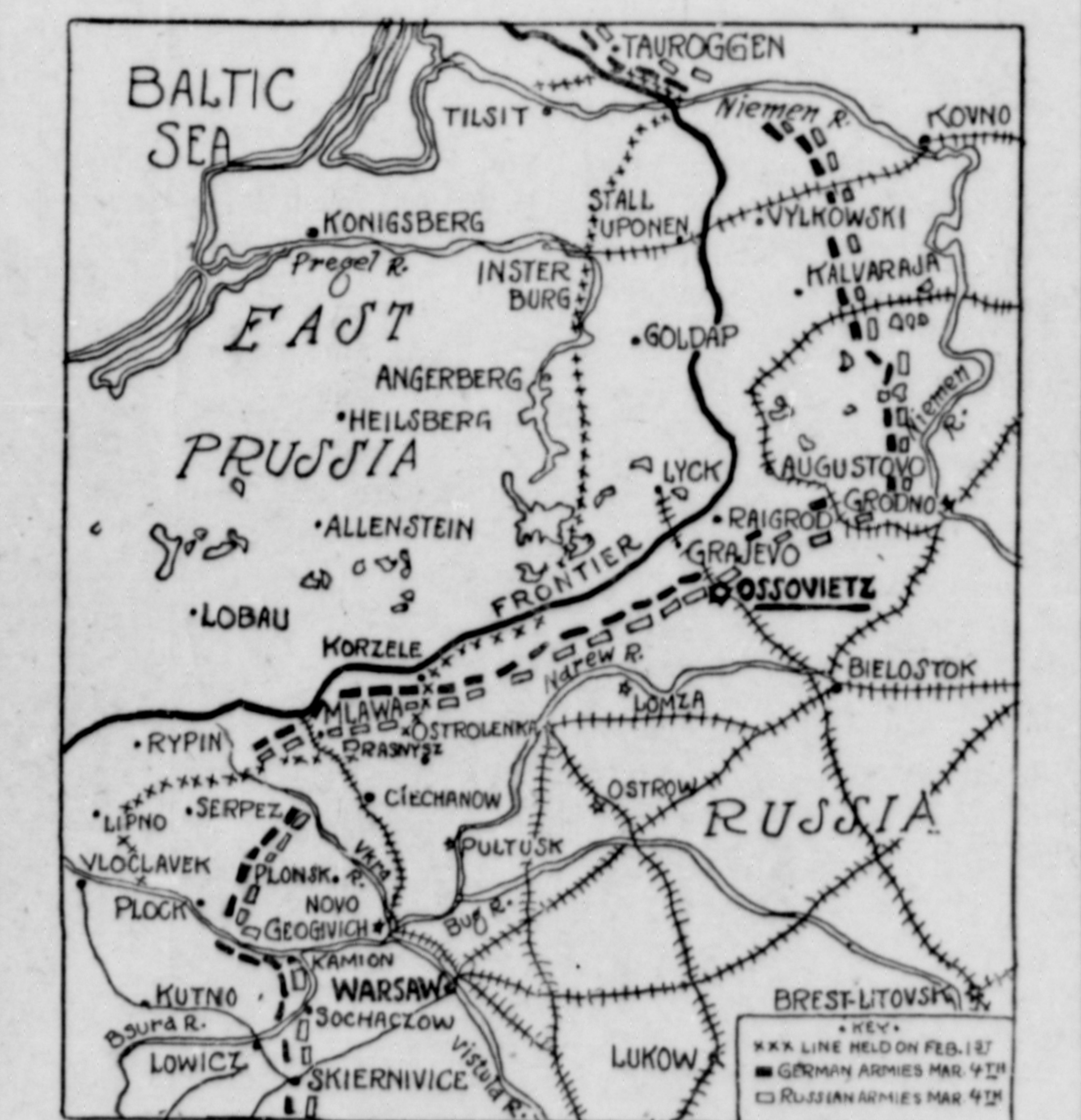
The loss of 500,000 men in war can be made good in less than ten years through complete abstinence from alcohol by all the inhabitants of Russia. This is not the statement of some professional temperance booster; it is the estimate of Arthur Hunter, actuary with the New York Life Insurance Company—Collier's Weekly.

THE BULGARIAN LOAN BORN OF NECESSITY

The reports of an Austro-German advance to Bulgaria, though a little obscure, do not necessarily indicate any change in the neutral attitude observed by that state towards the belligerents. It is not a new loan, says The London Chronicle, but a paper advance of six million pounds sterling on an old one. Bulgaria contracted this loan some time before the outbreak of the present war. It was for twenty million pounds; but fifteen millions of the money, which was largely to be spent in Germany and Austria on guns and munitions, did not actually pass. Guns and munitions—at least the first deliveries of them—did; and what appears now to have happened is that Bulgaria's debts to German and Austrian manufacturers for these deliveries down to the outbreak of war have been written off by the advance of six millions on the loan. As far as Bulgaria is concerned, this is a paper transaction; as far as Austria and Germany are concerned, their banks merely transfer the amounts from the loan account, and credit them to the manufacturers. It is possible, of course, that something more significant lies behind the transaction, but at present there is no evidence of it; and though the Cabinet which King Ferdinand maintains in power has an Austrophile record, it is unlikely that at this time of day it could commit Bulgaria to an anti-Slav course, which would be deeply disliked by the mass of Bulgarians.

UNIONS RAISE DEFENCE FUND.

San Francisco, March 17.—The raising of a defence fund for M. A. Schmidt and David Caplan, under arrest for murder in connection with the Los Angeles Times dynamiting in 1910, is in progress here by the Bulding Trades Council.



THE RUSSIAN VICTORY IN NORTH POLAND.

Between Mława and Korzele the Russians have pressed the the Germans back almost to the frontier, following the German defeat at Praznsysz. Farther east the Russian fortress of Ossowietz is being pounded by heavy German siege guns and will need the assistance of masses of infantry. The Russians are trying to advance to Plock, on the north side of the Vistula.

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