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DAILY EDITION



Thursday, Sept. 30, 1915.

THE CAUCASUS

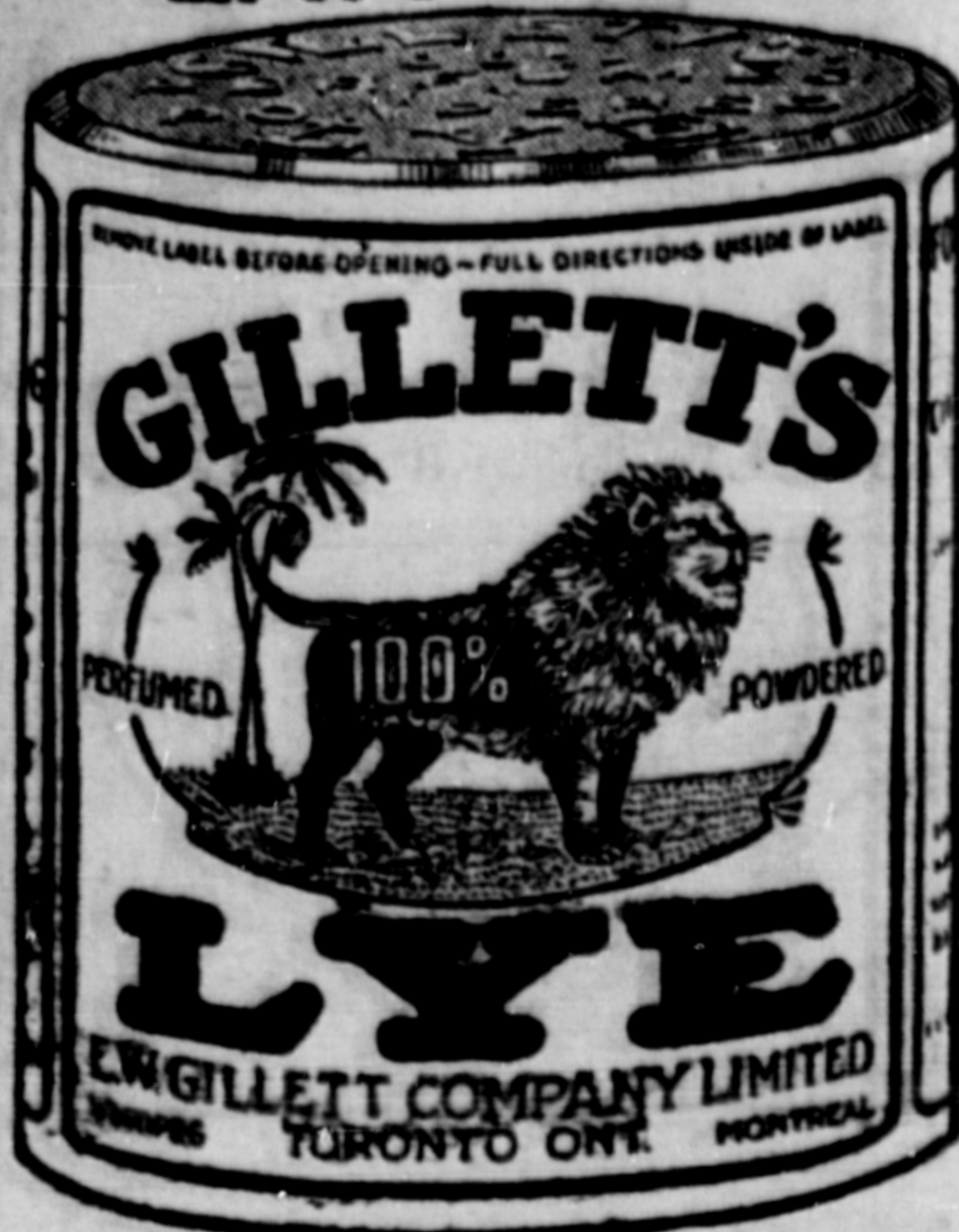
The term "Caucasus" is the name of a chain of mountains extending from the Black Sea to the Caspian; it is also loosely used to connote a large area of country traversed by the mountain chain. In a general way the Caucasus range has long served as a boundary between Turkey in Asia and Russia in Europe, but during the present war the latter has been able to hold Turkey to her own side of the mountains and make some progress in pressing her armies back toward Mesopotamia on the east and Asia Minor on the west. In the former direction the Russians have been moving toward, the British forces advancing from, the Persian Gulf. In the latter they are likely before long to be found meeting the approaching forces of Italy and Greece.

At the close of the first year of the war the Czar of Russia announced his intention to take upon himself the active work of the office of commander-in-chief, which he holds as Emperor. The Grand Duke Nicholas, his near relative, who had been in control of the army in Poland, was transferred to a like position in the Caucasus region, with the added dignity and influence of governor. Whatever the chief motive of this change may have been, it is not hard to foresee some of

its effects. The Grand Duke is a consummate strategist, a forceful personality, a tireless worker, and an intelligent organizer. To him is due the credit of re-developing the military system of Russia, which had gone to pieces during the Russo-Japanese war, and which has since proved a formidable obstacle to the eastward progress of the German and Austrian armies. If there is important work to be done in the Caucasus he is able and willing to do it.

It is not hard to understand the importance of the Grand Duke's new command. The capture of Constantinople has proved a difficult enterprise by way of the Dardanelles, but in view of recent events the plan of campaign so far maintained is not likely to be abandoned. Constantinople is the military objective of the British and French, but if and when it is taken it will become the property of Russia. The latter, from lack of a sufficiently powerful fleet, cannot do much at the Black Sea end of the Straits, but she can create an effective diversion in the region of the Caucasus, and to do this is the task entrusted to the Grand Duke. In order to perform it he must have a powerful army, well equipped not merely with munitions, but with means of transport. The Russian fleet can no doubt render him use-

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ful aid, and so can the British forces in Mesopotamia, not to mention any enterprise that Italy or Greece may attempt in western Asia Minor as a speculative investment in view of the coming international settlement.

When this war is over the Black Sea will be a Russian lake, as completely as Hudson Bay is a Canadian sea. To accomplish this it is absolutely necessary that Russia should own a strip of territory of adequate width, extending from the Caucasus to the Troad, and commanding the navigable channel made up of the Bosphorus, the Sea of Marmora, and the Dardanelles. The compassing of this achievement will be the chief fame of his cousin and namesake; Nicholas the Grand Duke. —Toronto Globe.

GERMAN BATTLESHIPS ARE DRIVEN BACK INTO KIEL

Paris, Sept. 29.—A Petrograd special to the Temps says: "Russian and British submarines have driven all the German battleships and cruisers back into Kiel from the eastern Baltic."

"The Moltke, which was torpedoed several weeks ago, was towed into Kiel with a huge hole in her hull."

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MRS. HAROLD J. TENANT

Wife of the parliamentary under secretary for war, one of the two women members of a new committee named by Lloyd George to advise on questions of industrial fatigue, hours of labor, etc., in munition factories. Mrs. Tenant has been prominent in industrial work formerly as factory inspector.

HARD NUT TO CRACK SAYS LONDON TIMES

London, Sept. 29.—The Times military correspondent says:—

"The latest semi-official notice which the press received of the strength of the Germans in the west placed their numbers at 1,800,000 men or thereabouts. Most of the German cavalry is in the east, but there is an inordinately large proportion of heavy and machine guns in the west."

"We have a hard nut to crack, now that we have passed to the offensive. The ground in front of us is honeycombed with trenches. The Germans have all the best of the ground. The masses of German troops which came into Flanders in the autumn of 1914 are still for the greater part on our front. We have no Aisne or Argonne, or Reuthe, or Vosges—no natural line of defense, in short—to lighten our task. The Scheldt and Meuse in our front are all fortified by the enemy."

Japan plans to dredge a 35-foot channel, 17 1/2 miles long and 3,600 feet wide, through the historic Straits of Shimonoseki, the work requiring ten years.

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