

# DULUTHIAN RECALLS BOYHOOD IN KOVNO, SOUGHT BY ARMIES

## Henry Shark Tells of Fortified Russian City That Germany Would Like to Capture.

Kovno, Tilsit, Kalawarja and other and less-easily pronounced names in the war dispatches mean little to the average American, too busy to con a geography book, too disinterested in the far away east European war front to halt. But to Henry A. Shark, tailor at 328 West First street, they are as interesting and as welcome as they are easily pronounced.

Down the Niemen river, which forms a junction with the little Vilio before the Russian town of Kovno, Shark, when a boy of 11, helped float rafts of logs to the mills of Germany. Between times of rafting he and other boys plunged into the stream as boys do the world over. But rafting was business, important business that netted 30 kopecks—15 American cents—a day in pay.

And in Kovno and Tilsit and the other towns in that war-racked territory Shark played and romped and worked.

Shark was born in Tilsit 28 years ago, and when 11 joined a logging crew in Kovno. In those days Kovno was not so much of a town. Today its population is 85,000. Nine forts, in horseshoe formation on hills, surround it.

"Its great barracks house the reserve corps of Russia. She needs it badly," said Shark. "It's the end of her great right wing, something she can fall back on in time of stress. Germany wants it as badly. From it, a new north base of communication, she could hurl her armies against Russia's and sweep her way down Galicia to a new junction with Austrian troops, crushing the Russian forces between, like meal between stones.

"The taking of fortified Kovno would mean Russia must straighten



HENRY A. SHARK.

out, by retreating, her line where it bulges out in front of Warsaw.

"Germany would like Kovno. But to take it she would have to invest it completely and take each fort separately, something harder than at Liege."

Shark left Russia when 13, worked his way across Germany and when 17 landed in America. He has been in Duluth six years.