

IN STOCK:

Brown and White Rim and Mortise Locks, Bronze Finish; Inside and Front Door Sets, Steel Butt Hinges, L.P. Steel, Japd. and Bronze Hinges, Tee, Galv. and Black H. & E. Hinges.

Wood, Pot. and Iron Axes, Chisels, Augers, Braces, Levels, Oilstones, Square, Axes, Grindstones, Felt, Glass, Nails, Mixed Paints, Oils, Varnishes, Brushes.

Sewing Machines, Mattresses, Scrub, Stove and Shoe Brushes, Polishes.

Cutlery, Enamelware, Galvanized Buckets and Slop Pails.

Just received a shipment of

COLORED AND WHITE ENAMEL BEDSTEADS.

Prices on application.

Martin Hardware Co., Ltd.

Wholesale and Retail.

The Fishermen of Newfoundland



have helped to build up the largest Ready Made Clothing business in the Colony.

BECAUSE

they know where to find value.

They

compel their suppliers to stock our goods because the store

Must Cater to the Customer.

Our well known brands are:

Americus, Fitreform, Truefit, Stylenfit, Progress.

WHOLESALE ONLY.

Newfoundland Clothing Co Limited.

SUGAR! SUGAR!

ON THE SPOT:

500 Brls. Gran. Sugar at **LOWEST WHOLESALE PRICES**

George Neal

PHONE 264.

WHY THE GERMANS HAVE PERSISTED IN VERDUN BATTLE

While the French Hold the East Bank of the Meuse and the Salient Remains, The Teutonic Communications Will Be Threatened in Case There is a Successful Allied Attack at Another Point of Line.

By a Military Expert.

The world is at a loss to find a thoroughly satisfactory reason for the persistence of the Germans in forcing the fighting about Verdun. To the world it has seemed as if the Germans had been defeated in this battle long ago. Two months have passed since a German gain of any importance has been chronicled. In that attacks, prepared by artillery fire and delivered by infantry in their final stage, but all have shattered themselves against the wall of the French defense. The German losses have continued to be heavy, indisputably heavier than those of the French, yet the attacks continue. It is no wonder that the neutral world looks on in amazement and asks why.

There are undoubtedly political reasons. What these might be were mentioned in the first of these reviews dealing with the German offensive. It is needless to repeat them, but it might be said that the most potent seems to be the necessity at home for a justification of the military existence of the Crown Prince, augmented now by a justification for the many thousands of German lives he has sacrificed in the Verdun fighting. Had the Germans, in accordance with their original hopes and expectations, taken Verdun in the first two weeks of the fighting and thrown the French back of the Meuse River from the Argonne to the Vosges Mountains, they would have accomplished something that might well be calculated to have revived the waning belief in the irresistible power of the German Army. It would have echoed throughout the world, both neutral and belligerent, where the ancient glamour which surrounds the idea of the French fortress still exists. It would have been a serious blow to the French, not only in their pride, which is deservedly great, but in actual loss of men and material.

The crossing of a river like the Meuse, with the attendant congestion of bridges and roadways, subject always to the fire of the German artillery, would have cost the French heavily. But the problem during the first two weeks was a simple one to what it is now. In the first place, the French have caught their breath; the moral effect of the retreat of the first few days has been dissipated, and instead there is the belief that they have successfully resisted the terrific battering of the very best that Germany had to produce for a period of at least two months without wavering. All the clan, the high morale is now with the French. This is an important element in considering the military fitness of any army, just as it is in any walk of life. We can do and generally do those things which we believe we can do. If anything happens to shake that belief, our efficiency dissipate in the degree that our confidence is lost.

Again, there is the question of shell. No commercial or manufacturing people in the world to-day, no matter how well organized or how efficient they may be, can manufacture shell at the rate they are consumed in a modern battle. It is estimated, for example, that two batteries of French 75-millimeter guns can use up in one day the output of 5,000 men for a week. At no battle or series of battles yet fought has artillery been used so lavishly as in the battle of Verdun. The depletion of shell, therefore, is a serious matter to any side contemplating an offensive this year. This is said to be one of the German objects in projecting and in prolonging this battle. If so, the chances are that they have so far been successful.

It will be most unexpected and surprising if the French are found to have enough shell to launch an attack this year of any great extent. They had naturally a great reserve when the battle started and are manufacturing at the estimated rate of about 250,000 a day of all calibres. But in two days fighting in Loos and in the Champagne they used up nearly 2,000,000. How many they have used since Feb. 21 no one knows, or could even approximate. The Germans, too, will be handicapped for the same reason. It is probable that their reserve supply, in spite of all the offensive work they have done, was greater than was that of the French. But their expenditure, particularly of heavy shell, has been much more lavish. The French apparently have not used as great a proportion of heavy shell in this battle as the Germans have, principally for the reason that there has been no such necessity. The Germans have had to pound to pieces and ruin innumerable pieces of the French have had to disable men, the

German problem was to make every shelter held by the French, a shelter no longer by blasting it; the French problem was to put out of action as many as possible of the men who were coming forward. The former requires heavy artillery, the latter quick-firing light artillery and machine guns.

To return to the military reasons why the German attack is still continuing after what seems to have been already a defeat, we must look at Verdun in its relation to the entire line from Neupport to the Swiss frontier. Suppose the French were to launch a successful offensive from Verdun, what would then be the German situation? The battle line from Neupport to Verdun is a huge semicircle, an enormous salient, the apex of which, if we may speak of any geometrical figure so rounded as having an apex, is at Soissons. Looking at the battle line in this light, let us see what Verdun does.

In the first place it threatens one of the great arteries on which the Germans place a great deal of dependence—the line through Metz. More particularly in its relation to the salient, it threatens the line through Luxembourg. If the French were to start an offensive along the chord connecting Verdun with Neupport, the first thing that would happen in the event of a success would be the cutting of the German line of communications, and the consequent retirement of a great part of their western front. This is so obvious a danger that it needs no dilution. A glance at the map will show the whole thing. For this reason the existence of the Verdun salient, with the French holding the eastern bank of the river, is a threat which the Germans cannot ignore. If the Verdun area could be taken and the French line forced to move back from the Argonne to St. Mihiel—an unqualified possibility if Verdun falls—the German position would be very much bettered. The French could hardly attack from this quarter at all, owing to the difficulty of crossing such a stream as the Meuse, where they would be under the concentrated fire of German artillery skillfully posted on the heights of the opposite bank.

By the capture of the position the Germans would gain control of the entire river, which would make a French offensive not only from Verdun, but from any point along the river an improbable occurrence. There is here, then, a reason why the Germans place, or seem to place, such a high value on the Verdun area. There is also an apparent though not an evident reason, why the French are willing to make such an effort to hold it. But there is more to it than this—the character of the French defense, in their plan of battle.

The combined British and French armies on the Continent greatly outnumber those of the Germans. This, of course, is generally admitted. The French, therefore, are able, should they see fit, to concentrate a much greater force in the Verdun area than the Germans can confront them with. Therefore, if the French had any idea of using Verdun as a point from which to launch an offensive later on, their fight would have been an entirely different one. They would never have permitted the Germans to drive them back from the outlying positions, had they been willing to sacrifice the men to hold their ground. The strength of the modern defensive is admitted. The superiority in numbers cannot be denied. The French artillery is equal, and, if we consider the light field artillery, superior to that of the Germans. In equality their individual soldiers are just as good, even if they cannot be driven like the Germans. By counter-attacking them from the very beginning, wherever they were thrown temporarily out of a position, there can be no doubt that the French could have held the Germans back in the advanced line for weeks.

There is no other deduction of which the situation is capable than that the object of the French is purely and simply to make the Germans pay the highest possible price for everything they take. If this is not so, the French would seem to be conducting their operations about Verdun without rhyme or reason or plan. Such an assumption is, of course, ridiculous.

remain entirely on the defensive. There has been a complete absence of counter-attacks, except at such times, and in such localities as distinctly menaced some important position. They have never made any consistent effort to regain the ground which they had lost. Invariably their retirement has been slow, careful and deliberate, with a stubborn resistance at chosen points. Counter-attacks have been made at Avocourt to regain the redoubt near the southern edge of the woods; at Vaux, when a further success would threaten the plateau on which the old fort is situated; at Douaumont, when the plateau of that name was threatened; at Le Mort Homme and at Hill 304, because of the importance of those positions to the maintenance of the line's continuity. In each case the counter-attacks were successful, but were not pushed beyond the point where the French had attained the particular object at hand.

And yet there has been a constant superiority in numbers. No other deduction seems possible than that the French plan is simply one of exhaustion. They know with fair accuracy the German situation with respect to numbers. In fact, they know it almost certainly. The Germans have published many casualty lists in which the numbers of dead, wounded and missing appear. From this the proportions can be readily figured. The French know how many prisoners are in the hands of the Allies. The rest is easy. They know also their own numbers and those of their allies, and from this knowledge appreciate much more deeply than do the case with a neutral whose only figures are estimates what losses mean to the German cause.

The whole thing is an excellent indication that there is a strong probability of truth in the claim so often made by military critics in this country, that German numbers are truly fading and that the Verdun fighting was inaugurated to take advantage of the time at which these numbers were at their maximum. As time passes, and the Germans are no nearer their goal, the entire conception of the battle of Verdun seems to have been a terrible blunder on the part of the German higher command. Not many weeks must elapse before we can tell whether this is really true.

One more point before I take up the week's operations in detail. It is apparent that the reports issued from Germany are not as trustworthy as those which were given out a year ago. There have been several examples of this in the last few weeks, one of which I have commented upon in former reviews. By way of illustration, I will mention several of the more important errors that have come to my attention:

Early in the fighting Berlin announced that the Plateau of Douaumont was in German hands. It has never been held by the Germans since the battle began.

Somewhat later a report was issued that the village and fort of Vaux had been taken. The Germans were for a short time in possession of the village, but they have never yet reached the plateau of the fort.

Early in April Berlin announced the capture of Le Mort Homme. There has been published in an American magazine an article written by a German, who tells how the Germans captured this hill and the advantage it will be in future operations. Le Mort Homme is still where it was on Feb. 21—in French hands.

attacks gained ground, the gain extending over a mile of front. In fact, the gain which the French recorded having made last week was the greatest gain that has been made since the salient at Bethincourt was snuffed out. It is merely an indication of what the French might do if they considered the sacrifice of men worth while. But they do not seem sufficiently worried about the outcome of Verdun to be forced into an attack where a great sacrifice would be involved.

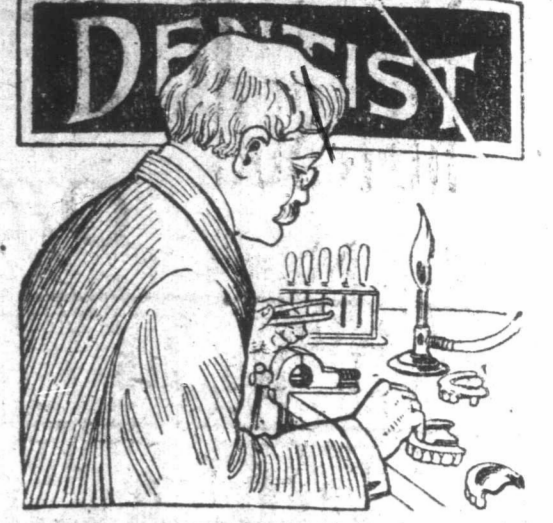
The French offensive occupied all of one week. The Germans were either resting or bringing up ammunition for a new assault, because they attempted nothing. The new assault broke out early in the week past and equalled, if it did not surpass in intensity, the fiercest fighting that has yet been seen in the Verdun sector. It was directed at but one point, Hill 304, the dominating point of the Goose Crest on the west side of the river. The French held the summit and all of the northern slopes down to the foot. The Germans, giving up the effort to force the fall of this position by driving in between it and Le Mort Homme and banking the French out, directed their attack headlong against the slopes. Seven different assaults were made on this position during the week. They have been successful in a certain measure, in that they have gained ground. The Germans claim to have reached the summit. In view of the "errors" noted above in the German claims, it is extremely doubtful. More truthful probably, is the French admission which allows Germany a stretch of trenches on the northern and north-eastern slopes of the hill.

One thing in connection with this latest phase of the attack is worth watching, and that is the unusually narrow front selected by the Germans for their thrust. How many men took part in the attack is not definitely stated, but it seems that at least three divisions, about 60,000 men, were engaged. The entire front of operations was not over a mile and a half. And yet the gain was insignificant.

It is beginning to look as if the Germans were weakening in their great effort and that the last phase of the battle were now in progress. It is to be expected, of course, that from time to time there will be periodic outbursts of activity. But the consistent effort by which battles are won seems to be expiring. If indeed it is not already dead, it has not been characteristic of the actions of the German higher command to continue a fight when the attainment of the end seemed a hopeless task. At the same time it has not been characteristic to stop suddenly an action once begun. More probable is the theory that these attacks will go on from time to time, each one being less severe than its immediate predecessor, until they die out entirely.

FOR SALE SHEET LEAD Slightly used, in Rolls of about 100 lbs. each at 7 cents per lb. CABOT WHALING Co. Harvey Building May 12, 1916

OUTPORT MERCHANTS We are selling cheap some Second Hand Salmon Tierces, Trimmed and in good condition for 1916 pack. SMITH CO. Ltd. Telephone 506.



ESTABLISHED 1891.

For nearly a quarter of a century I have practised Dentistry in Newfoundland, and to-day there are many thousands perfectly satisfied with my services. Our Artificial Teeth are now, as at first, the very best obtainable, but the fee has been reduced to \$12.00. We repair broken plates and make them just as strong as ever at a charge that will surprise you. If you want a new set, or the old ones repaired, consult

DR. A. B. LEHR,
(The Senior Dentist)
203 WATER STREET.


NOTICE TO MOTOR OWNERS

Kerosene Oil in 8 hooped bbls.
Motor Gasolene in Wood and Steel bbls. and cases.
Poleline Motor Oil (in 5 gall. tins) @ \$2.95 each.
Special Standard Motor Oil (in 5 gall. tins) @ \$2.90 each.
Special Standard Motor Oil in bbls and half bbls. @ 55c. per gallon.
Motor Greases at lowest prices.
See us before placing your order.

P. H. Cowan & Co.,
276 Water Street.

PORTABLE AIR-O-LITE LAMPS AND LANTERNS

MEANS plenty of light, and the best of light. Give a most brilliant illumination with little attention, and at trifling expense. Satisfactory to an extent not thought possible in former years. Burns only one quart of ordinary kerosene in 15 hours.



Robert Templeton,
Agent,
333 Water Street,
St. John's.

J.J. St. John

The TEA with strength and flavor is **ECLIPSE,** which we sell at **45c. lb.**

ROYAL PALACE BAKING POWDER 20c. per lb. Small Tins 5 cts.

SCOTCH OATMEAL, PATNA RICE, JACOBS' BISCUITS, HARTLEY'S JAMS, 1s. and 2s.

J. J. St. John
Duckworth St & LeMarchant Rd

HALLEY & COMPANY

—MERCHANTS—

ELIMINATE YOUR PURCHASING TROUBLES

By visiting us when you are in town, by doing so it will benefit your business and sustain our reputation for Service, Quality and Reliability.— Besides, it will make satisfied, repeating customers of you, and best of all sworn patrons.

Troubles in your purchasing department hurt your entire business. The way to eliminate such a condition is to send your orders to us.

THE SUCCESS OF OUR BUSINESS IS BUILT ON QUALITY OF SERVICE, MATERIAL AND PRICES

If you need one of our Price Lists before you, phone or write us.

HALLEY & COMPANY
St. John's, Nfld.

106-108 New Gower St. Leonard St., New York
P.O. Box 786 Phone 722

HALLEY & COMPANY