

CURRENT EVENTS.

Throughout the last month with irresistible force, the victorious German and Austrian armies have continued their advance, defeating the Russians in a series of battles along their front of a thousand miles, and driving them back beyond their second line of defence. This wonderful advance is like the swift movement of the German armies through Belgium and France a year ago, but on a much larger scale; and we must still wait to see whether it can be checked in the end; as that was checked by the battle of the Marne. Even more marvellous than this tremendous onset has been the Russian retreat, avoid a decisive action, and weakening the German armies as they advanced over territory that was deliberately laid waste so as to give them neither food nor shelter. The want of munitions is believed to have been the chief cause of the Russian retreat. The strongest positions were abandoned without a struggle or used only to protect the rear of the armies that were retiring and the migration of the inhabitants who fled before the enemy. In all this Russia has been doing her part well by keeping large German armies engaged, waiting for the exhaustion of the Germans, which, it is hoped, will end the war.

Germany, with her armies victorious on every side and her fleet almost uninjured, having conquered Belgium and the mining regions of France, Poland and the Baltic Provinces of Russia, is now ready for peace. Her terms it is said, would be Egypt for the Turks, Poland for the Austrians, with the rest of her conquests, or some part of them, and some of the French and British colonies, including the Atlantic Provinces of Canada, for herself. Neither Russia, France nor Britain is yet ready to consider peace proposals on such terms, or on any terms.

The Russians are building a railway to the Murman coast, on the Kola Peninsula, which is on the Arctic Ocean north of Finland and northwest of the White Sea. Here, where a branch of the Gulf Stream strikes the coast, they will have the much needed open winter port when the harbours on the White Sea are blocked by ice. Apart from its military uses, the new railway will open up a valuable region. The natural harbours on the Murman coast are excellent, and its waters full of fish.

Very slowly, and at great cost, the Allies are gaining ground at the Dardanelles. There are many who believe that the small gains there are of more importance than the hundreds of miles of territory which the Russians have been compelled to yield. It does not matter so much where the Russian armies stand at present, if within a short time the way to Russia can be opened through the straits.

It is asserted that forty-two German submarines have been sunk or captured by the British, with others by the French and Italian navies, so that in all the Germans must have lost more than fifty of their undersea boats.

The United States government has decided to assume control of the financial affairs of Hayti for ten years, and has taken possession of the capital, which is now under martial law. In the Mexican situation, there is little or no change to report.

That the struggle now going on in Europe is one which does in truth involve the continued existence of our Empire and that the people of Canada have it in their power to make the allied cause triumph, is the message which Sir Robert Borden has brought back from Europe; and he urges Canadians to make the effort to accomplish that great purpose, upon which hangs the future destiny of the world. Our young men are enlisting, and must still enlist in larger numbers for service at the front.

The British line in France and Belgium has been lengthened to more than a hundred miles. Formerly it was only forty miles long. The total number of British troops now actually on the firing line there is eight hundred thousand. From the sea southward, the first army is now the Belgian; then comes a French army, and next the first British army; then another French army, with the new British army to the south. Beyond that again are the French, who still hold nearly three-fourths of the whole line.

A reserve militia is being enrolled in Canada, to supplement the regular militia if needed. No man will be eligible for the reserve who is under thirty-five years of age. Drill and training are to be voluntary. The reserve may be called out in case of any real or apprehended danger of invasion or insurrection.

The Indians of our northern regions are indirectly suffering from the effects of the war. They will do very little trapping next winter, because the prices of fur are so low.

The war stamp on letters and cheques has increased the revenue of the Canadian post office department by about one million dollars in the first four months of the present fiscal year.

There are ninety-four thousand men employed in the Canadian fisheries; and the annual value of the fisheries has increased from twenty million to thirty-four million dollars in a comparatively short time. There is a rapidly growing trade in fresh and mildly cured fish which are carried inland in refrigerator cars.

King George has conferred upon the Canadian Minister of Militia the rank of Knight Commander of the Most Honourable Order of the Bath, and he will hereafter be known as Sir Sam Hughes, K. C. B.

Italy has been at war with Austria for some time, and has now declared war against Turkey, but is still nominally at peace with Germany. The Italian troops invading Austrian territory have been slowly but steadily advancing, and an Italian expedition has sailed under sealed orders, presumably to make a landing somewhere in Turkish territory. As there are conflicting stories in regard to an uprising of the native tribes in the new Italian colonies in Africa, it is possible that the troops are needed there.

Red Rose Tea "is good tea"