

# The St. John Standard

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## GERMANY'S STAR WANES

British military experts have advised against attaching too much importance to the fact that the allied armies have succeeded in driving the Germans back many miles from the gates of Paris. It marks a successful operation but not, necessarily, a decisive one, they say. It may be possible for the Germans to rally again on French soil and turn back their pursuers, but, until they do, then the people of the Empire are entitled to their opinions as to the importance of the successes daily being achieved by the arms to which their faith is pinned.

When the Germans, a few days ago, were marching triumphantly on Paris, the gloom was heavy; there was a haunting fear that the British army was numerically too weak to cope with the invaders, that the French army was less powerful than had been hoped, and that about all the allies could do would be to take refuge behind the great fortifications of Paris and there hope to keep back a foe flushed with success and nerved with the stimulating tonic of having met and defeated the enemy. Britons were grimly confident that things would right themselves, that the men at the head of the British and French armies were masters of war craft, and those in the ranks as valorous as their forefathers of Waterloo, Alma and Sebastopol. Confidence was justified, and in such striking fashion that now it almost looks as if the German armies could have been hurried back at almost any time after they crossed from Belgium into France if the plans of the strategists had deemed such a move advisable. But it evidently was not deemed to allow the Germans to rush to their own doom, to proceed to a point where their lines of communication daily became more difficult to guard, and then, at the psychological moment, turn the might of the allied force on the Kaiser's hosts, with the result as the past few days have shown it to be.

It is but natural that the successes of the allied troops should lead to the impression, and we believe it to be a correct impression, that if the operation in which the forces are now engaged is carried through as successfully as it has been begun, and the Germans are forced out of France and Belgium and back into Germany, then the road to Berlin will be practically clear. It is true that the allies will find their way blocked by fortresses of some strength, but it is not believed the obstacles of this nature will be as strong as the fortifications of Paris would have proven to the Germans.

Those familiar with things military in Germany are authorities for the statement that the Germans, in their schemes of defence, attached much less importance to fortifications than did the French and the result of the tendency is apparent today. The French frontier bristles with powerful forts and they have not yet been reduced. One of them, at Verdun, is holding a German army in check, and, report says, can continue to do so for some time, even should the unexpected happen, and the fleeing Germans turn in force and hack their way back toward Paris.

It is unlikely, though, that the Germans will be able to perform any such feat. On the contrary the despatches unite in stating that the sole idea now seems to be to get back to German soil as quickly, and with as little loss as possible. It is to be expected that once on their own territory, the Kaiser's men will make a stubborn resistance, but demoralized, weary as they are, it is not apparent where they will be able to gain the time to effect an organization capable of administering any serious check to the oncoming allies.

If British and France were the only foes they had to face, it might be possible, by abandoning all their eastern positions and concentrating a mighty army of defence at the most favorable points near the German capital, to keep the allies engaged for weeks before gaining entrance to the city. But even then, defeat for Germany would be but a matter of time, as the allies, constantly reinforced from the British Dominions and from French colonies, could eventually wear out the men opposed to them.

However, Germany faces no such favorable opportunity. Serious as her plight is on the French frontier, it is critical in the territory between Berlin and the Russian boundary. The Russian army is not yet all in action, and yet the force assembled has proven sufficiently strong to bring Austria to the verge of submission. The Austrian army may not yet be completely crushed, but it is becoming every day more apparent that the process is well under way and must soon be completed. Then the whole weight of Russian resources can be turned to the advance on the German capital. The battering force of hundreds of thousands of well-

armed, well-equipped brave men must have its effect on a city more strongly defended than Berlin well can be, and Berlin must fall.

Faced by Russia on one side, and the British and French on the other, with all hope of aid from Austria dissipated, with food supplies diminishing and little or no likelihood of replenishing them, save through the charity of a foe; commanding a far weary army; with the men of his cities viewing through sullen eyes the blood and desolation he has brought upon them, with the lamentations of weeping women over their stark dead loved ones ringing in his ears the dirge of his Empire, the war-mad Kaiser has much cause to reflect. Well may William of Germany wonder if the Deity, whose name ever glibly frothed from his cruel lips, has not utterly forsaken him; if that God, to whom he accorded a junior partnership in the regulation of the universe has not left him to the darkness of his iniquity and the scarlet shame of his bloodlust. Arrogant, flagrant, ignorant the Kaiser basked in the dream of his own omnipotence. But his vain-glories were now being caused his undoing and will bring about his fall. And as he sinks into the grave of world-wide obloquy then will his people arise and curse him. Free from the manacles of militarism, with which he subdued them, the men and women of future Germany will heap anathema upon the memory of the Royal pervert who plunged them into conflict as shameless as it was disastrous.

## A TRADE OPPORTUNITY.

As the result of the conflict in Europe a rich market of vast purchasing power, formerly supplied very largely from Germany, is now open to buy goods on this continent. Brazil, Argentina and other South American countries have been more or less inconvenienced through the outbreak of hostilities, as to the warring countries they looked for practically all their imported goods. Great Britain and Germany supplied the greater part of this trade, which is almost exclusively in manufactured articles. Including fabrics and clothing, export trade, mostly food stuffs and cattle, is also chiefly with Great Britain, although German firms have important connections in South America. It is estimated that Canada can compete with Germany in some lines of manufacture, and in most lines of food products. In most cases the needs of Brazil and Argentina, taken well be met from Canada. One thing is certain that the business men and manufacturers whose plants are located south of the Canadian boundary line will not be dilatory about getting their representatives upon the ground to capture all the trade within reach. They cannot be blamed for it is simply good business for them, but there is a reason why Canadian manufacturers should not investigate at the same time, and see if the inability of the South American markets cannot be made to work to the benefit of Canada. It seems like a good trade opportunity.

Over zealous police officers in Montreal arrested a business man on suspicion of being a German spy, and after they had ransacked his place of business were forced to admit that could not support the suspicion by evidence. Now he has entered an action against the city for false arrest and claims damages in the amount of \$10,000. Zeal is a good quality but so also is plain common-sense.

Germany may be able to explain some of her actions, which at first appeared unwarranted, on the ground that the needs of the case were great but it will take a whole lot of that sort of stuff to justify some of the atrocities practised by German troops in Belgium.

German and Austrian reservists in the United States will not invade Canada. The United States government is not likely to permit any such undertaking. The days of "Panama Raids" have passed.

After reading the war news of the past few days we begin to understand why the Germans have wings to their army. They are so useful in flying from the enemy.

## THE NAVY IN THE RIGHT PLACE.

(Mail and Empire.)  
 Britain's navy was in the right place. Those critics who found fault because in time of peace it was not dispersed in squadrons over the Empire, with special strength in the Pacific, and who represented its large concentration near home as showing want of confidence in Germany, should never again be heard from on the subject of naval policy. If at the beginning of this war the British navy had had to be collected from the Seven Seas, how different would the military situation in Europe be today! The British army would have been absent from the battlefields of Belgium and France, and without its help by which German

forces several times as great were held in check, and greatly reduced, the brave troops of France would certainly have been overcome. The British navy's presence in strength in the North Sea alone rendered possible the transportation of British expeditionary forces to the European scene of their glorious operations. Also the reinforcing of the allied armies in France by large bodies of troops from Russia would have been impossible had not the British navy been where it is. The German navy, now covered and sent in places of safety, would have been perilously active if the strength of the British Home Fleet had not been overpowering in the waters where it now rides.

## Kaiser Tremendous

Son of a soldier humane, brave and true.

Whose honor to him was as brute force to you,  
 Are you mad, bloody tyrant, or fool all through?

With God's holy name ever glib on your lips,  
 You value Him less than your bayonet tips;

Professing allegiance to Christ as your Lord,  
 His gospel of peace is mocked by your sword.

With impious tongue you called God your "Ally,"  
 Then hellishly doomed vast thousands to die—

Brave Belgians to die if they dared to defend  
 Their country, their homes, children, women and friend.

While bidding your legions to trust in the Lord  
 You planned your faith to your slaughtering horde;

Afraid to fight France by honorable code,  
 You murder the Belgians to hew you a road.

Your country's signed contracts are naught in the scale,  
 Its honor is lost in your murderous hall.

When you came to the throne which Bismarck had built  
 With help of your grandsons, you fore-  
 cast your evil.

Slighting the people, the army you first hallied,  
 Called yourself war lord, lunged out your bat-mailed.

Proclaiming yourself the appointed of God,  
 You blazed to the world your vicarous rod;

Your foul use of that rod in Europe today  
 Will make your name loathed for ever and a day.

Whether mad or bloody tyrant, or fool all through;  
 Son of a soldier humane, brave and true.

William Tremendous!  
 Butcher studious!

—W. H. Nowers.

## A Famous Old Prophecy

There is in Germany a famous prophecy. It is called "The Prophecy of Mayence," and dates from 1854. It comprises eighteen verses of prediction, of which the first nine have been fulfilled in the most remarkable manner. Here are the verses:

1. When the little people of the Oder shall feel themselves strong enough to shake off the yoke of their protector and when the barley is sprouting from the ears their King William shall march against Austria.

2. They will have victory upon victory up to the gates of Vienna, but a word from the Great Emperor of the West shall make the heroes tremble on the field of victory, and the barley shall not be gathered in until he has signed the peace, shaken off the yoke and returned triumphantly to his country.

3. But at the gathering in of the fourth barley and that of the oats a dreadful sound of war shall call the harvesters to arms. A formidable army followed by an extraordinary number of engines of war that hell alone could have invented, shall start towards the West.

4. Voe to thee, great nation, voe to you who have abandoned the rights divine and human.

5. Napoleon III, mocking his adversary at first, shall soon turn cowardly and flee.

6. In spite of the heroic resistance of France, a multitude of soldiers, blue, yellow, and black, shall scatter themselves over a great part of France.

7. Alsace and Lorraine shall be carried away from France for a period and half a period.

8. The French shall only take courage again as against each other.

9. Voe to thee, great city, voe to thee, city of vice! Fire and sword shall succeed fire and famine.

10. Courage, faithful souls, the reign of the dark shadow shall not have time to execute all its schemes.

11. But the time of mercy approaches. A prince of the nation is in your midst.

12. It is the man of salvation, the wise, the invincible, he shall count his enterprises by his victories.

13. He shall drive out the enemy of France, he shall march to victory on victory until the day of divine justice.

14. That day, he shall command seven kinds of soldiers, against three to the quarter of Bouleaux between Ham, Woerl and Paderborn.

15. Woe to thee, people of the North, thy seventh generation shall answer for all thy crimes. Woe to thee, people of the East, thou shalt agree after the cries of affliction and innocent blood. Never shall such an army be seen.

16. It is the day the sun shall rise upwards on the heads of the combatants without being seen through the clouds of smoke.

17. Then the commander shall get the victory; two of his enemies shall be annihilated, the remainder of the three shall fly towards the extreme East.

18. William, the second of the same, shall be the last King of Prussia. He shall have no other successor save a King of Poland, a King of Hanover, and a King of Saxony.

All the first part of this prophecy up to the ninth verse, inclusive, is verified by the war of 1866, then by that of 1870, and then by the Commune of 1871. Here are the last nine verses.

19. Courage French patriots, Germany cannot carry out its schemes of supremacy.

20. The time of retaliation approaches. The Tsar shall come in the midst of you to seal the alliance.

21. That is the man of salvation. He shall chase the enemy of France, he shall conquer Germany until it is completely destroyed.

22. The last battle on the field of Bouleaux, near to Paderborn, in Westphalia, shall reunite seven allied peoples (French, Belgians, English, Dutch, Russians, Japanese, and Serbians) against three (Germans, Austrians and Hungarians).

23. Woe to thee, Prussia, thy seventh generation shall answer for the wars thou hast made upon all the people. (Seven generations make 30 years plus 10 years. The realm of Prussia dates from 1719. The seventh generation is, then, Hungary since 1893 and 1923.) Woe to thee, Austria! Never such a battle shall have taken place.

24. It shall last three days in the smoke of the conflagration.

25. Finally Prussia and Austria shall be annihilated. Hungary shall fly towards the extreme east (of Europe).

26. William II, shall be the last King of Prussia, Germany and Austria shall form three realms: Poland, Hanover and Saxony.

27. The British army is at present engaged in assisting the Prophecy of Mayence to a triumphal fulfilment.

## New World's Record In Bridge Building

The history of the establishment of Valcourt military camp is a record of remarkable engineering achievements. Within a few days the Canadian Northern Railway transformed an insignificant flag station, serving a small Irish Colony, into an important railway siding, giving a splendid impetus to the establishment of the camp and expediting the movement of the men and materials which went to make this city of thirty thousand souls.

And now comes news of a bridge-building record made by the men of the Royal Canadian Engineers under the direction of Major V. Bethune Lindsay, of Winnipeg. The Jacques Cartier River separates the main camp from the artillery practice grounds at the base of Mounts Iles and Irens. Across this 350 feet of waterway the Royal Canadian Engineers built, within a matter of a few days, a well ordered efficiency which characterises the efforts of the British bred. The race for the record with the Canadian Northern Railway. The materials—barrels,

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The extra ten minutes were accounted for by the fact that on one or two occasions passing bodies of other troops necessitated a temporary cessation of carrying operations.

Col. Burnstall, director of artillery at the camp visited the work during the morning and expressed his astonishment at the progress effected. Ordinarily it is a good day's work to throw a bridge of this class across a three hundred foot stream. Col. G. G. Maunsell, Director General of Engineering Services in Canada, who is attached to headquarters at Ottawa, also paid close attention to the task and was vastly pleased with the result. The brother officers of the artillery service hurried a gun across the bridge when completed, establishing its efficiency at once. Without doubt the brother officers of Major Lindsay, in all branches of the service were extremely gratified at the efficiency and despatch of the men making up the Royal Canadian Engineers at the big camp.

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## CANADIAN STORY

IMPERIAL'S FEATURE

Splendid Adaptation of Novel "Isobel"

Rae Eleanor Ball again captivates her hearers — Bumper bill greatly enjoyed.

With Rae Eleanor Ball and Arthur Haskins as the central figures in its programme of refined entertainment the Imperial Theatre was packed again yesterday afternoon and evening. The high standard set by the big house never seems to lower.

The present bill is more than ordinarily good. Doubtless the chief attraction is James Oliver Curwood's Canadian Northwest story of the snowy wastes entitled "In Defence of the Law," which is merely a filmed-version title for the well-known novel "Isobel."

Star players enact this strenuous tale of the north and it takes the best part of a whole hour to produce it upon the curtain. During that time watchers are spellbound with the intensity of the story—a narrative of an outlaw husband, whose wife pluckily saves his life; bad Indians, a faithful square, the Northwest Mounted Police and a pretty little baby girl. There is much human interest in the photoplay and those who enjoy con-

stant fiction will find it a most enjoyable treat.

Rae Eleanor Ball, umphs to her long "Dorack's" superb fully, captivated Hubay's "Zephyrs" of popular music of Scotch airs.

This was entitled "Isobel" was a genuine treat body enjoyed for the "Come Sing to Me" number, and responses.

The orch moving with its splendid pictures proved the feature, the Imperial Bushman picture in this was entitled "Isobel" and dealt with a newspaper man and rank and culture.