



BRITISH INFANTRY CHARGING THROUGH GERMAN WIRE ENTANGLEMENTS
From the Official Motion Pictures of the BATTLE OF THE SOMME
to be shown at the Nickel Theatre, Kentville, Dec. 29 and 30

THE WAR DAY BY DAY

Aside from the Roumanian theatre little fighting of moment is taking place on any of the numerous fronts.

In the northern Dobrudja the Russian and Roumanians have faced about and giving battle to the Teutonic Allied forces, who have been pursuing them. Just how strong the stand they are making is, has not yet been made known, the German official communication they have "again offered resistance." Petrograd reports that Parlika, on the left bank of the Danube, were repulsed, and says also that operations successful for the Russians and Roumanians are being carried out by scouting parties in the direction of Rimnik-Buzdu.

On the front in France the British near Gommecourt and Arras have carried out successful raids against German trenches and bombarded other hostile positions at Gommecourt and near Loos and Hulluch. The Germans, for their part, shelled the British line north of the Somme near Festubert and Ypres and south of the Somme bombarded the French at numerous points, the French replying energetically.

Berlin reports the repulse of the Teutonic allies in the Cerna River bend region of Macedonia. In Galicia, southwest of Brody the Teutonic allies, after a heavy bombardment of Russian trenches, essayed an infantry attack, but were forced by the fire of the Russian guns to seek their own trenches again. Petrograd reports the breaking through barbed wire entanglements on the Bystritza River sector by the Russians and compelling the Teutonic allies there to flee.

The Austrians are actively bombarding the Italian advanced positions on the Carso front of the Austro-Italian theatre.

WESTERN FRONT

Paris, Dec. 20.—The bulletin issued by the War Office tonight on the campaign in France reads:

"South of the Somme the enemy violently bombarded our lines during the day, especially in the sectors of Belloy-en-Santerre, Berry, Pressoirs and Abtaincourt. Our artillery replied energetically. There were intermittent artillery actions on the rest of the front."

The Belgian communication: "After a relatively quiet morning, the enemy opened, in the course of the afternoon, a violent artillery fire in the region of Het Sas. The Belgian artillery silenced the enemy guns."

London, Dec. 21.—The official statement from British headquarters in France reads:

"During the night the enemy lines were entered by us in the neighborhood of Gommecourt, and considerable damage was done. A number of prisoners were taken in the course of another successful raid against other successful raid carried out by us early this morning

against the enemy trenches north of Arras.
"In a patrol encounter this morning north of Neuve Chapelle the leader of the hostile patrol was killed, his men were taken prisoner. The enemy exploded a camouflet south of Ypres.
"The enemy's artillery was particularly active on the right of our line north of the Somme and in the neighborhood of Festubert and Ypres. Our artillery vigorously replied.
"Enemy trenches at Gommecourt and in the neighborhood of Loos and Hulluch were also bombarded by us."

ITALIAN FRONT

Rome, Dec. 20, via London.—In the Arsa Valley our artillery fire dispersed an enemy detachment and silenced enemy batteries says today's news from the War Office.

"In the Upper Astico Valley and on the Asiago plateau the activity of the artillery on both sides was marked.

"On the Carso the enemy's artillery was rather more active against our advanced positions. Our batteries dispersed enemy troops on the march at several points, while our infantry drove off, without difficulty, an enemy force which was attempting to advance."

RUSSIAN FRONT

Petrograd, Dec. 20.—via London.—(British Admiralty, via Wireless Press)—Fighting has been in progress on the west bank of the Danube, nearly opposite Hirsova, Dobrudja, between Russian and Teutonic forces, the War Office announced today. Attacks on the Russian lines were repulsed. Outpost engagements of considerable violence have also taken place on the Dobrudja side of the Danube.

GENERAL

London, Dec. 18.—The British forces on the Tigris front have improved their position in the last few days no resumption of offensive operations on a considerable scale is indicated in the official report on these operations. The gains made below Kut-el-Amara last week were achieved with comparatively small losses.

Amsterdam, Dec. 20, via London.—Some of the Vienna newspapers, commenting on the speech of David Lloyd George, express the opinion that the rejection of the peace offer of the Teutonic Allies by the Entente Allies is virtually certain. The Fremdenblatt says:

"After Mr. Lloyd George's speech the continuance of the world war is inevitable. Great Britain does not want to end the war until her aim has been attained. This aim, Mr. Lloyd George designated by the dark word 'reparation.' He obviously demands reparation for the fact that the Central Powers dared defend themselves against world enemies standing under England's command. Fate will now take its course, and the day doubtless will come when Mr. Lloyd George, shudderingly, will recognize that England, by rejecting the peace offer, has really stuck its head into a noose with the rope in our hands."

The Neue Presse, however,

however thinks that Mr. Lloyd George's speech still leaves open the possibility that the question will be put to the Central Powers as to what proposals they have to make, and adds that the declaration of Italian foreign minister justifies this thought. The Socialist paper Het Volk says, with reference to Mr. Lloyd George's speech:

"The elements which could lead to negotiations are not lacking."

The Catholic Tijd is also hopeful that "Lloyd George's speech still leaves Germany the possibility of a reply."

The Cologne Gazette says:—"The language of the British Prime Minister must not be taken too seriously. We are taught this by some reflections on English peace conclusions in the past, such as that in which she lost the United States, and the peace of Amiens in 1802. There is a limit where the blindest obstinacy finds itself confronted with the impossible, and this limit is being brought nearer and nearer by our submarines."

Another possible contingency compelling England to make peace would be the secession of one of her Allies."

NOTE TO KNITTERS

The following lines were sent by a soldier at the front to a Montreal lady. A hint is enough for our Canadian knitters.

Thanks, Lady, for the socks.
Some fit
I used one for a helmet and one for a mitt
Here's hoping to see you when I've done my bit.

In the meantime, where in blazes did you learn to KNIT?

WHO BRINGS THE TOYS

Tariff, machines, figures what have they to do with Toyland?

You grown people may smile a little wistfully to see another leaf of romance fall away from the tree of life forever. But the thousands of little boys and girls the world over know better. They know who makes the toys and who brings them. They know how old Santa Claus comes down with his heavy pack from the snowy spaces between the star-down, straight down through the chimney in a skirt of wind and a flurry of powdery flakes and gets not one whit the sootier for it; and how he lands as good natured and jolly as ever on the smoldering hearth, with fairy gifts for his children.

And what cares little Jack or Jill anyhow whence they come as long as they get their toys?

At Meteghan the 4-masted schooner Letitia L. Mc Kay, built by Dr. T. H. MacDonald for Mr. A. B. McKay of Hamilton, Ont. is nearing completion. The riggers are now at their task of rigging the vessel. Capt. George Wetmore of Yarmouth will take command of her and the maiden trip will be from Yarmouth to Montevideo with a cargo of lumber. It is said that Dr. MacDonald will lay the keel of another large schooner as soon as this one is launched. Yarmouth Light.

"THE FIGHT FOR HUMANITY AN CIVILIZATION SHALL BE FOUGHT TO A TRIUMPHANT ISSUE."

—Lloyd George's Message to the People of Canada.

OTTAWA, December 19—Premier Lloyd George has sent through the Colonial Secretary and the Governor General of Canada, the following stirring war message to Sir Robert Borden for transmission to the people of Canada.

"On taking up the high office with which His Majesty has charged me, I send to you, on behalf of the people of the Old Country, a message to our brothers beyond the seas. There is no faltering in our determination that the sacrifices, which we and you have made and have still to make, shall not be in vain, and that the fight which we are waging together for humanity and civilization shall be fought to a triumphant issue. We realize that we shall still need every man that we can put into the field, every pound that rigid private and public economy can provide, and every effort which a united people can put forth to help in the heavy task of our soldiers and sailors. The splendid contributions to the common cause, already made by the Dominions, give me sure confidence that their determination is no less higher than ours and that, however long the path to final victory, we shall tread it side by side."
(Signed) LLOYD GEORGE.

STRIKING PASSAGES FROM SPEECH OF BRITAIN'S NEW PREMIER

LONDON, Dec. 19.—The following are a few of the most striking sentences from the latter part of Mr. Lloyd George's speech in the House of Commons today:

"An absolutely new army. The old had done its duty and spent itself in the achievement of that great task. This is a new army. A year ago it was ore in the earth of Britain and of Ireland. It became iron. It has passed through the fiery furnaces, and the enemy knows that it is now fine steel."

"An absolutely new army. New men, new officers taken from schools, boys from schools, from colleges, from counting houses, never trained to war, never thought of war; many perhaps, never handled a weapon of war; generals never given an opportunity of handling great masses of men."

"They have faced the greatest army in the world, the greatest army the world has ever seen, the best equipped, the best trained, and they have beaten them, beaten them, beaten them."

"Battle after battle, day after day, week after week, in the strongest entrenchments ever devised by human skill, they valor which is incredible when valor which is incredible when you read the story of it. I have no doubt that the old Cabinets were better adapted to navigate the Parliamentary river, with its shoals and shifting sands, and perhaps for a cruise in home waters. But a Cabinet of twenty-three was rather top-heavy for a gale. I do not say that this new craft is best adapted for Parliamentary navigation, but I am convinced that it is best for war."

"It is true that in a multitude of countries there is wisdom. That was written for Oriental countries in peace time. You can't run a war with a Saahedrin. That is the meaning of our Cabinet of five, and of its members doing sentry duty outside, manning the ways and defending the Council Chamber against attack, while we are trying to do our work inside."

"You can't have absolute equality in sacrifice. In war that is impossible. But can have equal readiness to sacrifices from all. There are hundreds of thousands who have given their lives; there are millions who have given up comfortable homes and exchanged them for daily communication with death. The multitudes have given up those which they loved best. Let the nation, as a whole, place its comforts, its luxuries, its indulgences, its elegances on the national altar consecrated by such sacrifices as these men made. Let us proclaim, during the war, a national lent. The nation will be better and stronger for it, mentally and morally, as well as physically. It will strengthen its fibre and ennoble its spirit. Without it we shall not get the full benefit of this struggle."

APPLE GROWTH IN DIFFERENT PROVINCES

Named varieties of apples are very numerous, being over probably 3,000. W. T. Macoun Dominion Horticulturist, in Bulletin No. 86, of the Division of Horticulture at Ottawa, entitled "The Apple in Canada. Its Cultivation and Improvement." At the time of the census there were 10,390,457 bearing apple trees in Canada and 5,578,965 non-bearing. The production of apples in the year preceding the census that is in 1910, was 10,408,457 bushels. Mr. Macoun sketches the history of the apple in every Province. In Prince Edward Island apple trees made their appearance in 1753, with the first settlement of the English. New Brunswick has made slow progress in cultivation of the apple, although climate and much of the soil are adapted to the growth of the harder varieties. In Nova Scotia apples have been grown since the advent of the French settlers in the early part of the seventeenth century. In 1911 1,704,000 barrels were packed and sold from the Annapolis and adjacent valleys. Records show that the apple has been grown in Quebec since 1663. It was in this Province that the famous Fameuse is supposed to have originated. Ontario produces more apples than any other Province, having in 1910, six and a half million bearing trees, to one million and a half in Nova Scotia and one million, two hundred thousand in Quebec. The industry, Mr. Macoun points out, is developing rapidly,

although in British Columbia apple growing has only been cultivated to any extent since 1887, the development has been very rapid, especially during the past ten years. In the finest orchards to be found in the Dominion, Manitoba produces more apples than either of the prairie provinces, partly due to earlier settlements and to the adaptability of the climate and soil of southern Manitoba. As to Saskatchewan, Mr. Macoun says "The fact that the small or crab apples originated by the late Dr. Wm. Saunders can be grown so successfully in many places in the Province and that some hardy Russian varieties have been matured, leads one to believe that in the future there will be other varieties originated which will succeed more generally." In Alberta, the best results have been obtained in the southern section but apples have been produced in Edmonton where the climate is moister. The farthest north in Canada that apples have been grown, as far as Mr. Macoun is aware, is at the sub-station at Fort Vermillion, in the Peace River district, where crab apples have been gathered. The bulletin, which can be had free on application to the Publications Branch of Agriculture, Ottawa, is a compendium on the cultivation of the apple and treatment of the orchard.

During the four months of July, August, September and October, the Allies have captured on the western front about 73,000 officers and men.

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Express for Halifax.
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and connecting at
of the Intercolonial
Windsor with express
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Buffet parlor cars
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