

WAR SUMMARY

THE WEEK'S EVENTS REVIEWED

BY W. H. STEWART.

(Continued from Page 1.)

a point to the southeast of Posloff, southeast of Lemberg, and they also occupied the Villages of Latchka and Melevka on the Dniester after a fight.

It was reported from Petrograd on Friday that the Russians had captured all of the German lines and barricades on the Olipa sector, southwest of Dvinsk. They also repulsed desperate counter-attacks in the Jacobstadt sector where they had pierced the German lines on the preceding day. In addition to this the Russians destroyed trenches of the enemy at many other points. They forced the crossing of the Dvina near Friedrichstadt and captured a machine gun. As a sort of reply to the German claims of Sunday last that the Russians made no gains anywhere, the general headquarters of the emperor announced that the Russians took prisoners nearly 1500 officers and men and captured, to the northwest of Postavi and around Lake Narozin the three days' fighting, the following: 18 machine guns, 26 field mortars, 10 trench mortars, 2 mine throwers, 1 howitzer of 15 centimetre calibre; 4 searchlights, 637 rifles, case of bombs, 300 grenades and 12 carloads of shells.

The Germans Sunday made fresh attacks against the French positions at Douaumont and on the Vaux-Damloup lines to the north of Verdun Saturday night and were repulsed by the French. Much aerial activity prevailed on the part of British and French aeroplanes Sunday. Giving up their offensive, at least for a time, north of Verdun, the Germans made an attack Monday on the Malancourt-Avocourt sector on the western bank of the Meuse and west of Bethincourt where fighting was proceeding the previous week. The attack was repulsed everywhere except at a small part of the Avocourt wood in which the Germans gained a footing by the use of flame projectors. The Germans Wednesday made a violent attack on the same front and were firmly resisted everywhere, meeting with a general check excepting at a small hill of Haucourt, about five-eighths of a mile southwest of Malancourt, where they gained a footing. Thursday and Friday the Germans made no important infantry attacks.

General Jan Christian Smuts, commander-in-chief of the British Expeditionary Force in East Africa, defeated the Germans and drove them from their lines on the Ruwi River, driving them to retreat to the south. The Germans were compelled to withdraw as a result of a brilliant turning movement by South African mounted troops and they were severely punished by a frontal attack of the British.

The Germans made an aeroplane raid with four machines on Kent Sunday, killing nine and injuring 31 persons. Flight Commander Bone of the navy, pursued and brought down one of the German seaplanes after a fight of 15 minutes.

The chief fighting of last week has been going on in Russia between the lake region southwest of Dvinsk to the Jacobstadt sector, where General Kurapatkin has brought up heavy reinforcements, whether the Russians merely intend to give the Germans a good knocking about, whether they struck first to anticipate an offensive which the Germans were preparing to counterbalance their loss of prestige at Verdun, or whether they have really started the opening stages of their great offensive which is to be conducted in union with the allies in the west, can only be known by more developments of the future and perhaps, not until the official history of this war comes to be written. At least it is certain that the combined general staffs of all the allies are governed in their plans and by more exact information which is withheld from the world, and they alone know the exact reasons for striking as to when and where. The Russians, for instance, may only wish to give their new troops some experience in battle.

Not Yet Reached Climax

The fighting so far has not reached its climax. It may be certain that it has already set in motion large forces of Germans from other portions of the front, and that they are being hurried forward to the danger point. So the decision should be arrived at in the next few days whether the Russians are to end the battle by a counter-attack, or to be content with a considerable success, and the knocking out of large numbers of German troops as to put out action for months the ten or twelve army corps which Von Hindenburg had concentrated for ulterior operations.

Two Successes

The two chief successes won by the Russians this week was the piercing of the German line near Jacobstadt, and the capture of all the German line and barriers in the Olipa sector, to the southwest of Dvinsk. The Germans have hurried up reinforcements and are expected to make attacks at these two vital points, but the Russians were still much too strong for them, and refused to be stayed in their advance, dispersing these hostile forces by fire and bayonet.

The Russians have also collected a great superiority of artillery, which has been effective in demolishing the German defences, and in helping their infantry to advance under its protection. The Germans in this district, owing to their shortage of men, have entrusted the defence of many positions to a great amount of war machinery and a comparatively small number of men as witnessed by the spoils captured around Lake Narozin and near Postavi in the three days' fighting which opened the offensive.

Verdun Most Important

In order to make clear the importance of the battle of Verdun it is well to review some of its features in the light of later events. The attack on Verdun was the beginning of the great German push, the charge with the bridge over an assault to be pressed thru at all costs.

The French in an official resume of the first phase of the battle said that the spot was well chosen for the launching of the great offensive, for the lines originally held to the north of Verdun, had in part of their rear a river, for the Meuse takes a bend to the east just north of where the main defensive position of the French lies, and if they had elected to make their stand on the front line instead of retreating, their troops would have been in grave danger of being cut off. So the point of striking in the great German offensive in the west on which hung the future of the war was fully chosen.

Did Fox Strike Too Soon?

It cannot be told until the history of the war is finally written whether the Germans struck too soon, or whether they had any other choice than striking as they did, and at the time they did, or whether they were at liberty to strike later, even had they so wished. Hilaire Belloc says that the whole

thing is yet one more proof of how numbers are now the determining factor of the whole campaign. It is true of all war, and it is particularly true now.

The enemy's strategic plan, says this authority, is already governed by the exhaustion of his useful reserve. Against this, the allied superiority in numbers is getting more and more striking. In such numerical situation, the enemy in the west was in need of a very immediate offensive.

Enemy's Three Objects

Three points formed the objects of the enemy.

1. To break the French front, and at the very best get right thru, separating the French armies, and thus being able to operate on either flank, or either part, and in general, determining the campaign in his favor so far as the west was concerned.
2. But breaking the French line was something of a very doubtful achievement. Failing this, he might obtain results of high political value to him at the moment, including the capture of many cannon, of prisoners in thousands, of vast stores of war material, but chiefly, the occupation of Verdun itself, or some point in the magic circle of Verdun. Thus, he might prevent one army and, perhaps, two, from appearing in the field against him. Even if he lost many men, he could hope to strike at the moral of the foe, at least on the civilian side.
3. Even if he failed in the foregoing two objects, he might be able to point to the capture of thousands of guns and thousands of prisoners, which would still have a singular effect on opinion in neutral and allied countries. The French object was not the mere negation of the German object. It was the infliction of such military

A Most Extraordinary Cure of Epileptic Fits

Mother Had Appealed to Three Doctors in Vain—Cured Four Months Ago by Use of Dr. Chase's Nerve Food.

This letter from Mrs. Noxell is endorsed by Mr. H. J. Mahaffy, druggist, Port Colborne, Ont., as being true and correct. While it reports a most remarkable cure of epileptic fits by use of Dr. Chase's Nerve Food, it only goes on to corroborate similar cases reported by others.

Mrs. Henrietta M. Noxell, R.R. No. 1, Hamberstone, Ont., writes: "I cannot help writing to you, as I want you to know what a blessing Dr. Chase's Nerve Food and Kidney-Liver Pills have been to my boy. He was taken with very violent fits, would twitch all over, his eyes would turn towards his nose, his jaws set and his lips turn almost purple. He would clench his fists tightly, become unconscious and then go into a long sleep. After several hours he would wake up sighing and so weak he could not stand. I was afraid he would die and took him to the doctor, who pronounced his case epilepsy. As his medicine was not effective and the fits continued I took him to another doctor at Port Huron, but his medicine seemed to make him worse.

As the boy's nerves were in such a state that he could not sit down or lie down, and the fits continued, I took him to a third doctor, who said that

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losses on the enemy in comparison to those sustained by themselves that this great offensive of the enemy should be a strategic defeat. In that alone the whole energy of the French command was determined. It was the object of the entente alliance to make that offensive as costly to the Germans as possible. It was the object of the entente alliance to make that offensive as costly to the Germans as possible. It was the object of the entente alliance to make that offensive as costly to the Germans as possible.

Methods in Contrast

The methods of the French and the Germans are also in contrast. The French strategic plan consists in defeating the advance of the enemy by small force as can possibly maintain the full shock of the enemy and in maintaining in reserve all the men that possibly can be spared with the object of bringing such forces into play just at the right moment to achieve the maximum result. It requires great knowledge of the resisting powers of your troops, it requires careful mathematical calculation of the possibilities, it is an extremely risky business, but like all risky business, it is a game of chance. The German method is to make a great strategic scheme was seen in its grandest scale in the vast encounter of the Marne. It is exactly suited to the French genius.

German Scheme Different

The Germans' tactical and strategic scheme is altogether different. It is wholly for the offensive and not for the defensive. It embodies the massing of large forces in a great battery, reinforced by heavy guns in thousands, and shells by the million. The German genius argues that when once this sort of offensive is launched and fed by reserves no losses can stop it provided that the time is right. It includes the dragging of men with ether, and the raising of the Douaumont position. The operation will be more forward in delicious enthusiasm and brutal ferocity without stopping to consider their losses.

How French Won Out

Against such an offensive the French had to contend. This is how they did it. Instead of getting into the firing of two million shells in a few hours against their forward lines, which extended in a curve about Verdun, the French general staff kept cool and left to the covering troops the task of holding the French line during the day. As the attack of the French developed they were to retire on prepared positions in their rear during the night. They were to all the time inflict the maximum losses on the Germans, and to make them pay dearly for every inch of ground they gained. As to the losing of guns, it was considered that a gun amply paid for itself by the time it was lost. The whole shock of the German offensive was to be met by the French for the first four days of the fighting, during which the French retired to their present line on the ridge of Louvemont. The Germans started the fighting by throwing units from 14 divisions against the French, and by Saturday of the first week, they had increased their striking forces to 35 divisions.

Time of Greatest Danger

The time of the greatest danger to France and to the civilized world was on the first Saturday after the offensive began, when the Germans seized the Douaumont position. If they had possession of this ridge might have enabled them to pierce the French

centre, and to pour down thru the gap thus made like an angry, raging flood. It was then with exact calculation that the French threw in their fresh troops, probably two divisions, one of which was Breton. These reserves by their counter-attacks regained the ridge and saved the situation. The Germans fought desperately until Tuesday, when the events on this line ceased to interest the writer of the German official communiques. Then the first offensive failed.

Next Stage in Battle

The next stage was a change in the direction of the German attack. The enemy brought up fresh troops along the highway from Metz and attacked the fort and Village of Vaux. This new movement was in itself a sign of defeat. The first day he stole a march on the French, and some of his units got into Vaux village, but were promptly expelled by a French counter-attack. Later he made some progress here, but the main defence of the French held firm, and the Germans again confessed to failure by attacking the French on the western bank of the Meuse. The French made a first made headway, but it was again arrested at the main defensive position of the French. Next, the Germans tried again to capture the Douaumont ridge, but they were foiled in a series of attacks. The next move of the enemy was to attack the Avocourt sector, but here the French only ground that they gained was through the employment of flame projectors. The French are now planning to employ these in retaliation. Measures are also being studied to protect the soldiers against them.

Losses of Germans

As to the losses of the Germans, it is safe to place them at 300,000. The French did not lose one-fifth of this number of men. The French also probably did not employ over 200,000 men in this battle, while the Germans probably employed half to three-quarters of a million men. It is said by competent judges that the German losses have been so great in this misadventure as to cripple their striking power in the west for months to come, if not for good.

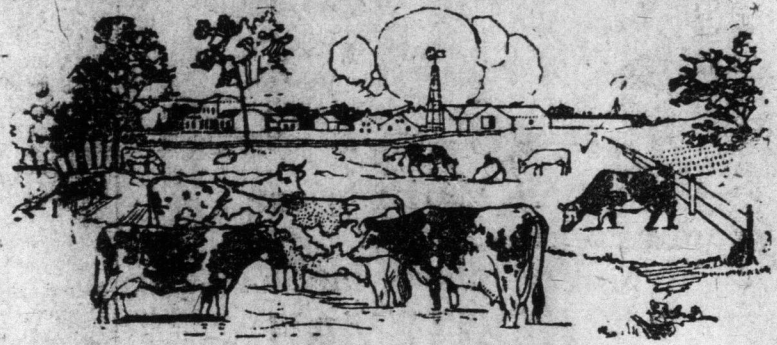
Events in East

Events have not followed fast on each other in the Armenian, Persian and Mesopotamian theatres of the war, for the simple reason that in these countries there are vast distances for armies to traverse. The poor economic condition of the inhabitants who live in constant misery owing to the predatory habits of the Turkish masters, makes it impossible for them to give adequate support to an invading army in the shape of forage and provisions which have to be carried with the troops as they advance. It is probable that the Russians have adopted the depot system of supply which consists in sending small forces forward to clear the way for the main body of the army, for the simple reason that in these advanced detachments come the commissariat officers and men who accumulate stores ahead of the army so as to have supplies waiting for it as it comes up. This is a work which requires several months. The Russians have been enabled to merit to drag them forward in a solution of the transport problem in this theatre of action has been proved by their bringing much siege artillery over mountain tracks for the capture of Erzerum. As heavy siege guns weigh from 50 to 100 tons, according to their calibre, it was a feat of considerable merit to drag them forward in the rapid manner that they were dragged up.

On Road to Sivas

Latest information which has been sent out from Petrograd shows that the main forces of Russians have begun to

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HUN GOLD CACHE FOUND.

TIENTSIN, March 25.—After a lengthy search the Japanese military administration at Tientsin (the German port in China which was captured on November 7, 1914), have recovered the specie which the Germans buried there. It was concealed in orange boxes.

CROWN PRINCE'S NEW POST.

PARIS, March 25.—M. Marcel Huin, writing in The Echo de Paris, gives currency to the report that the crown prince has recently been appointed commander-in-chief of the eastern group of armies operating in Argonne, Lorraine and Alsace.

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