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Fighting in the Balkans Different From Flanders

No Long Line of Elaborate Trenches, But Shallow Dugouts Scattered Here and There--No Concealment Necessary, as Enemy Has No Aeroplanes.

FRENCH HEADQUARTERS, near Strumitsa Station, Nov. 30.—With the permission of Gen. Sarrail, in command of the French troops in the Balkans, I have spent an interesting day at the French front on Belaschitsa mountains in the north part of the so-called Doiran enclave in Southeast Serbia. It is a picturesque corner, this. It is Serbia's Macedonian ultima thule. The higher mountains to the north are Bulgaria. The first radiance of white dawn illuminates the Kruscha mountains to the east, and the Pavik plateau to the south, and these are Greece. At breakfast, time Gen. Ballou received me and placed an officer and motor car at the disposal of a small party, so that we might visit the French position to the right of the line in this part of the country. We sped along past camp after camp. Here were the French: there the British batteries were hidden in corners, and activity was everywhere.

The first place to be visited was Hill No. 160, which the French took a few days ago after a severe fight. The tower of eminence was pointed with shell holes and shrapnel bullets could be picked up by handfuls. From there we crossed the Bulgarians' artillery fire zone to reach Hill No. 16, which dominates the surrounding region. "In single file," cried out the officer to the little party, and just at that moment the enemy's shrapnel began to scream overhead and burst on the brow of the hill to the south. The aim was wide, or the range was too long for the shell found a harmless billet on the vacant bare hillside.

Hill No. 516 was much as it was when the French a few days ago put the Bulgarians out of their positions there. The hill having been thoroughly searched with heavy shell fire, the French took it with a splendid rush, and their losses were well under 150. The Bulgarians lost at the lowest estimate, 500 men. One

trench, a half dozen yards long, had 50 of the enemy dead in it, and many dead were found on top. Rifles were abandoned by the hundreds and cartridges by the thousands. The Bulgarians have several times attempted to retake the hill, but were easily repulsed.

A striking feature of this new campaign is the complete dissimilarity to that of France and Flanders. There are no lines of elaborate trenches. The latter consist of shallow dugouts at the brows of the hills and at any convenient spot. They are only a few yards long. They are broken and the scrub covered ground provides an excellent cover. Little concealment is required as the enemy is unprovided with aeroplanes. The French positions struck me as being very strong, though it should not be forgotten that fighting in this campaign is as yet in the nature of manoeuvring for position until the definite advance begins.

I also visited the extreme right of the position here at Gradets. That village was carried a few days ago by a brilliant French dash, and strong positions beyond the village were taken and consolidated immediately after. During the last day or two fighting on the Cherna front has been more severe than elsewhere. A fierce combat in the gorge of the River Raydeheke, a tributary to the Cherna, marked the farther point of the French advance from the direction of Dreobno, on the right bank of the Cherna. The French, however, hold a strong position in the gorge, and at an important bridgehead at Toyarsarts. This is a controlling point of the communication between a strong French position on the heights of Archangel, facing Grandsko on the Solanika-Nish railway, and a dominating route towards Veles. To-day light infantry is in possession of the gorge, which makes a strong position though open to fire from heights in possession of the enemy.

JOHN BULL'S WAY

Under the above heading a well-known United States paper says:

"Nervousness among those who sympathize with the Allies, over any cabinet shindy in Britain would probably be quite without warrant. That's the way John Bull usually does it. In the life or death struggle with Napoleon he turned out half a dozen cabinets. He had no sooner got the Crimean War neatly upon his astonished hands than he indulged in a parliamentary spasm and fired the ministry.

When foreign relations are bad as they can be and brickbats are coming through all the windows like hail, John's first idea is to grasp the government firmly by its whiskers, break a chair over its head and kick it under the table—after which he feels fit to attend to the little matter outside.

We have heard a good deal lately about British decadence, and maybe it is all so. But to judge simply by Britain is all yammer and wail, with everybody shaking his fist in everybody else's face, and there's a howl here over a broken head, and a shriek there as the stove lid catches papa in the eye—why, then everything is most promising and the outlook could not be better.

Judging by the past if Britain fought as silently as France does we should suspect it, yag, out of wind and could not last long."

CHINESE ORDERS FOR AMERICA

PITTSBURG, Dec. 1.—C. T. Hsia, an engineer of the Chinese Ministry of communications, arrived in Pittsburgh last week and spent some time in consultation with manufacturers of steel rails and other railroad supplies and equipment. He explained that the Chinese Government contemplates the construction of 4,000 miles of railroad, and has been commissioned to investigate American standards with a view to placing orders in this country. Heretofore, railroad construction in China has been under the direction of European engineers, who have inaugurated European methods. This has resulted in the adoption of European equipment. The war makes such purchases now so difficult that the Chinese Government turned to this country.

Some fools make more noise about it than others when they rush were angels fear to tread.

READ THE MAIL AND ADVOCATE.

Germans Starve Polish People

LONDON, Dec. 1.—A dark picture of conditions in Russian Poland, and incidentally an argument against the necessity of providing food by charity, is published in the Times today. "A leading member of the so-called Polish Independence Party," which remains in close touch with the supreme Polish national committee of Austrian Poland is responsible for the statements.

The Times explains that the latter committee created and is responsible for the Polish legions fighting with the Austro-Hungarian army against Russia, and says that the author of the memorandum therefore cannot be supposed to entertain hostile bias, at least against Germany's Austrian ally.

"One of the main features of the German administration in Poland," says the memorandum, "is the attempt to exploit the occupied territory economically to the utmost. Every new regulation aims at getting as much as possible out of the country, although the German authorities try to disguise this tendency in different ways."

The Worst Blow.

By an order on April 27, the memorandum continues, all grain and potatoes, after one and one-half pounds (about 55 pounds) had been left for each inhabitant until the harvest was to be delivered to a Posen company mentioned in the order.

Asserting that from the first the Germans "condemned the industries of Russian Poland to perdition," the memorandum gives lengthy details of alleged destruction or confiscation of property. It says that virtually all the coal mining machinery in the district of Dombrova was destroyed in the autumn of 1914 "for strategic reasons" and that the population, dependent on the mines, were made desperate thereby.

Payment for requisitioned property, the memorandum asserts, was made a matter of grace on a very inadequate basis and to be settled after the war. The worst blow is described as having been the inducing of skilled labor to go to Germany under pressure, 40,000 persons doing so.

The article says the Germans have established a monopoly on coal, for which they charge exorbitant prices, inflated the currency, compelled local authorities to pay for repairs to roads and railways, which are used only for military purposes; confiscated government estates, denuded forests, placed incredibly high customs tariffs on the necessities of life, compelled all persons to carry expensive passports, from which alone they have gained \$5,000,000, and levied high fines on towns and persons for violations of laws.

Germany Will be Crushed

LONDON, Dec. 1.—"In raising money for the war the government has resisted all temptations to unsound methods," said Lord Inchcape last week in his inaugural address as president of the Institute of Bankers. "Whether we continue in the paths of financial rectitude depends on how far the people respond to the urgent demands for thrift and economy."

"The amounts still to be raised for ourselves and our allies are enormous. We may be able to borrow a portion abroad, but the remainder must come out of the nation's savings. Any other course would involve us in inflation, and consequent rise in prices, but I am sanguine that the nation will make the heavy sacrifices."

Lord Inchcape said the financial policy of Germany bore the marks of recklessness and improvidence. None of the money required for the war had been raised by increased taxation, and each successive loan meant fresh inflation of the currency, which showed itself in a steady rise in prices.

The more this procedure was persisted in, said Lord Inchcape, the more would prices rise, and all official attempts to fix maximum prices, though they might be successful for a time in regard to individual commodities, would be powerless to meet the situation. The task of re-debasing the securities and retiring the notes would be left for an exhausted and defeated nation to face after the conclusion of peace.

"AS CERTAIN AS THE SUN WILL RISE TOMORROW," he concluded, "GERMANY AND HER MILITARISM WILL BE CRUSHED AND THE PEACE OF THE WORLD: SO FAR AS ANYTHING SHE CAN DO TO PREVENT IT, WILL BE SECURED FOR ANOTHER HUNDRED YEARS."

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



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NOTICE

St. John's, Nfld., December 2nd, 1915.

After this date the monthly allotment cheques payable to dependents of members of the Newfoundland Regiment, will be mailed to their addresses on the 7th of each month, and it will not be necessary for parties holding allotment certificates to call at the Regimental Pay Office in the Colonial Building for the purpose of receiving the same.

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