

THE STRUGGLE TO TURN BACK INVASION OF ITALY

AUSTRIANS REPEAT THEIR MANOEUVRES OF YEAR 1916

On Asiago Plateau They Have Better Chance Than on Mountain Line Between Lake Garda and the Swiss Border—The Situation.

By HILAIRE BELLOC
Author of "Elements of the Great War" and Britain's Most Distinguished Military Critic.

The Austrian offensive cannot be understood without a full realization of the situation of the opposing forces on both sides of the sector where the great attack was launched.

Last autumn the enemy achieved for the first time a true rupture of the Western line. He broke through at Caporetto on the Isonzo, outflanked the whole mass of the Italian army south of that point and imposed upon it an extremely arduous and rapid retreat, involving the loss of over 200,000 men and 2,000 guns. Many explanations have been offered for that disaster, but the main underlying cause should be sufficient for us: It was the first effect of the Russian collapse.

With the Russian collapse the whole centre of gravity of the war was shifted. A very great preponderance of numbers returned to the Central Empires, which on the West front had been on the defensive. We never had on the West front against the Germans and Austrians anything like the superiority which they now have against us. It was this special training and to develop that tactic which enabled them to break the line.

There followed in succession the breaking by them of our line near St. Quentin in March, the breaking of it in front of Lille in April, and the breaking between Soissons and Rheims in May, and the war became in the main a war of movement in which the initiative had passed to the enemy. In spite of the immense losses, on both sides his calculation was and is that his great numerical superiority will serve him in the mutual attrition which he has begun and that he will exhaust the Allies before the American recruitment can turn the scale against him.

Ready to Sacrifice All For Victory

He is occupied now in extending that war movement to Italy. The retreat from Caporetto last autumn landed in what are known as "the lines of the Piave." In the kind of warfare which the French in Napoleon's time used to call a "logical war," that is, a war which is fought with no consideration at all except that of victory, and at any price and with any sacrifice in view of victory, the obvious line upon which the Italians should have retired was the Adige River, some miles behind the Piave. The Adige is a broad, rapid and permanent river, of considerable volume, with banks which are difficult to cross. It, instead of following it to its mouth, the defensive lines are carried to the Po and thence follow that river to the sea, they run along a still stronger obstacle for the Po is broader, deeper and more rapid even than the Adige, and more difficult to traverse. To hold that line of the Adige to the mouth of the Po would be to hold the strongest bulwark against the invasion of Italy from the northeast. The Adige has always been rightly called the strategic front of Italy.

But there is a very strong reason against carrying the Italian retire-

ments so far. Some of these reasons were political, but one of them was strictly strategic: to wit, that basing the lines on the Adige would have involved the loss of Venice, which they uncovered; that is, the loss of the only maritime depot and arsenal which the Italians have on the Adriatic proper. Therefore it was determined to hold the far less strong lines on the Piave.

Better Chance on Asiago Plateau

If the mountain line were not so very strong between the Swiss frontier and the Lake Garda that would be the point for the Austrians to strike with their greatest weight, but in practice their opportunities for manning here are too small and the line opposed to them is too strong. On the Asiago Plateau they have a much better chance. The great main international railway runs down through the Trentino Valley and supplies all this part of the Austrian front; that is why the great offensive of 1916 started here.

Today we are seeing exactly the same manoeuvre begun again, though with only this difference—that the line being much shorter, the Austrians can attack all along it, exercising pressure on the Piave, at the same time as they make the main effort on the flank to the north.

The forces opposed are upon the Austrian side at least fifty-five divisions, a preponderant number rendered possible by the elimination of Russia and Roumania and the consequent power of the Austrians to mass nearly all their available forces against the Italians. Of the numbers opposed to them we may not speak, but at any rate we know that there is here, unfortunately, the same numerical superiority in the enemy's hands as he possesses all along the west today, and certainly he has here an even greater preponderance of artillery.

ROMAN CATHOLIC PAYS TRIBUTE TO ANGLICAN

Rev. Father Walsh Speaks From Altar on Death of Archdeacon Martell.

At the eleven o'clock Mass, on Sunday morning, June 9, Rev. Father Walsh paid the following tribute to the late Archdeacon Martell, Anglican: "I have known him only for a short time, but he always struck me as being a man of true piety and broad sympathies. His charity was not by any means confined to his own denomination, and his loving way endeared him to all with whom he came in contact. He was always to be found taking a prominent part in every good and patriotic work, and his death will be a severe blow to this community. His missionary labors in Maliland for a quarter of a century were such that no man could possibly accomplish unless he was sincere in doing the work of his Divine Master. My sympathy, and I know the sympathy of this congregation, go to the bereaved widow and son in their great loss.—Windsor Journal.

NO BOOTLEGGERS OR BAD LADIES FOR TOWN OF SUSSEX

Lieut.-Col. McAvity, Mayor McKenna and Chief Asbell Sitting Hard on the Lid.

Sussex, June 21—Sussex is not to be a mecca for bootleggers or ladies of questionable character. Already some of the latter have been escorted out of town and others will be given a short shrift if caught here. The sale of liquor will be met with a firm hand. Premises upon which the sale of liquor is suspected will be similarly dealt with. If any disorderly houses are opened they will be placed under guard if necessary. Military squads will be on duty in all parts of the town and the civil and military authorities will work together. This decision was arrived at following a conference by Lieut.-Colonel J. L. McAvity, camp commandant, and Mayor McKenna and Chief of Police Asbell.

DANGEROUS LUNATIC KILLED IN FIGHT

Burly Negro Attacks Attendants in Protestant Hospital and Dies of Injuries.

Montreal, June 21—Cornelius Boone, colored public patient at Protestant Hospital for the Insane at Verdun died at the infirmary of that institution yesterday from injuries received during a struggle with three attendants. It is claimed that Boone was trying to escape, and believing that he had a knife he was attacked by the three attendants. It is the first case of the kind which has occurred since the opening of the hospital twenty-eight years ago. A coroner's jury found the three attendants not criminally responsible for the death of Boone, who was a dangerous lunatic.

CANADIAN COMMITS HARAKIRI IN TOKIO

W. H. Price, Formerly of Toronto, Had Been in Ill Health.

Tokio, May 6.—Resorting to the classical Japanese method of suicide, W. H. Price, a Canadian, who was employed on the staff of the American Trading Company, killed himself yesterday at his home in Tokio by using a sword. The unhappy man, committed "Seppuku" or "Harakiri" as it is more commonly known. Mr. Price was a constant sufferer from insomnia. He came from Toronto twenty years ago and is survived by a widow, who is of Japanese birth, and a daughter.

COMMODORE STEWART WILL ABLY REPRESENT DESERVING N. B. MEN

Well Known Nestor of Journalism To Attend Imperial Conference of Editors in London.

Chatham, June 21.—Commodore Stewart of the World is to visit London and perhaps the continent as a member of the Imperial conference of editors. He starts Sunday for Montreal where the party will assemble for embarkation. He will represent the press of New Brunswick. Mr. McCurdy of the Halifax Herald will represent the press of Nova Scotia.

SUMMER SALE

Our Annual Summer Sale of Men's Furnishings and Hats is Now in Full Swing

HERE ARE A FEW OF THE WAR SAVING VALUES:

- Men's Shirts, regular price \$1.25 and \$1.50 Sale price \$1.19
- Men's Shirts, regular price \$1.75 and \$2.00 Sale price \$1.63
- Men's Shirts, regular price \$2.25 and \$2.50 Sale price \$1.98
- Summer Weight Underwear, regular 75c. per garment Sale price 63c.
- Summer Weight Underwear, regular \$1.25 per garment Sale price 98c.
- Combination Underwear, special value Sale price \$1.00
- Silk Lisle Half Hose, all colors 3 pairs for \$1.00
- Silk Half Hose, regular price 60c. per pair Sale price 49c.
- BLACK COTTON HOSE 3 pairs for 50c.
- Special price on Boys' Stockings 39c. per pair
- Police Braces, regular price 50c. Sale price 33c.
- 60c., 75c. and \$1.00 Silk Neckwear for 49c., 57c. and 79c.
- A real bargain in Men's Work Shirts 89c., \$1.29 and \$1.39

Regular prices \$1.00 to \$1.75.
Straw Hats and Panamas at reduced prices.
Soft Felt Hats, new styles Sale price \$2.79

Fifteen per cent. discount on all Travelling Bags and Suit Cases.
See windows for extra values.
Store open until ten p.m. Fridays and Saturdays.

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OBITUARY

Storey MacLachlan

Woodstock, June 20—A Telegram was received here on Monday announcing the death on Sunday, at the Soldiers' Home, Togus, Maine, of Storey MacLachlan. He was about 50 years of age and was a native of York County. Previous to his illness he was running a newspaper at Van Buren, Me. The late Mr. MacLachlan served in the Philippines during the Spanish American war. He was well known in Woodstock and worked on the Sentinel. He is survived by a widow and three children. John MacLachlan of this town is a cousin of deceased. Mrs. MacLachlan left here this evening to attend the funeral at Togus, Maine.

FUNERALS

Funeral of James McDonald

The funeral of James McDonald took place yesterday morning from O'Neill's undertaking parlors to St. Peter's church, where high mass of requiem was celebrated by Rev. F. Coglian, C. S. B. Interment was made in the old Catholic cemetery.

Funeral of Miss Mary A. Armstrong

strong took place yesterday afternoon from her late residence, Main street, Fairville. Services were conducted by Rev. Walter P. Dunham, assisted by Rev. J. V. Young, and interment was made in the Good Shepherd cemetery.

Funeral of Gordon S. O'Donnell

Funeral of Gordon S. O'Donnell of West Holden has been held in action in France. He came from New Brunswick six years ago and was the oldest son of a family of nine. He was 21 years of age.

HELP YOUR GUEST FIRST!



REMEMBER! YOU HAVE AS YOUR GUEST, AT EVERY MEAL, A SOLDIER WHO IS FIGHTING FOR YOU IN FRANCE. EVERY OUNCE OF FOOD YOU SAVE WILL HELP FEED HIM AS SURELY AS THOUGH HE WERE SITTING AT YOUR TABLE.

(Republished by courtesy of Fitzmaurice, Vancouver Province.)

This Will Interest You!

At 20 years of age, of 1000 healthy men, six will die within twelve months.

No one can tell who the six will be.

At 25 years of age, of 1000 healthy men, seven will die within twelve months.

No one can tell who the seven will be.

At 35 years of age, of 1000 healthy men, eight will die within twelve months.

No one can tell who the eight will be.

At 45 years of age, of 1000 healthy men, twelve will die within twelve months.

And no one knows the names of the fated twelve.

At every age of life similar statistics have been collected. A knowledge of such facts as these gave rise to life insurance and made it an exact science. Life insurance provides for all these contingencies and guarantees the payment of a given sum at the death of any and every member of these groups who happily may have secured Life Insurance Protection.

The Mutual Life of Canada Affords this Protection At Minimum Rates.

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With dinner and luncheon—with cold meats, salads and sandwiches, Red Ball is the drink ideal.

Keep a few bottles on the ice for your family and friends.

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