

"SOMEWHERE IN FRANCE"

June, July and August they drove the Russians back step by step, out of Austria, out of Courland, and out of Poland. They got territory, they got broken railways and broken bridges, they got sick and wounded prisoners, they got some garrisons and some guns, but they got no Russian armies. For these four months they have been trying to "envelop" some army or armies, to force a decision in the Eastern theatre. The Salient at Warsaw was a dangerous one for the Russians, but the troops were, for the most part, safely taken from between the jaws of the nut-cracker. For a while there was another dangerous salient at Kovno, but again the Russians escaped. Again there was another at Vilna, and again they escaped. The Germans have driven the Russians back, but they have not been able to force a decisive battle.

RUSSIA has retreated, but Russia is not broken. At Waterloo, Wellington found the French willing to risk a decision, as he himself was. Hence Waterloo was a decisive battle. Austerlitz, ten years previous, was a similar decisive victory for Napoleon, and was followed by the treaty of Prosburg. Mukden, in our own time, was a deciding battle, and was followed by a treaty of peace between Japan and Russia.

The Germans have fought four months for a decision. Russia has fought four months against a decision. As Wellington prayed for wet weather, so the Russians have prayed for wet weather or October. When September passes, the German advance stops. Already it is slowing up. If there is no decision in September or early October, there can be no decision this year.

Russia is still inferior in men and munitions. In spite of the serious losses of the Germans and Austrians, in spite of their "dragging at each remove, a lengthening chain," they are still superior in numbers, guns, transport and shells to the Russians. Therefore, Russia is still retreating, and Russia must continue to retreat or halt and accept battle. It may be humiliating, it may be discouraging, but that way only lies ultimate victory—so the Russians think.

AND after all, Russia's action is not so different from that of the other Allies. When the five great German columns moved down in their resistless march through Belgium and Northern France, the Belgians and British and French retreated day after day. They retired slowly in order to gain strength themselves and weaken their enemy. When they thought they had retired far enough to put them on an equal footing with the pursuing enemy, they turned and fought. Joffre was both wise and lucky and the battles of the Marne and Aisne were allied victories. What the Allies in the East did in August, 1914, and what the Austrians did later on in Galicia, the Russians have done from May to October of 1915. Whether it was wise or not is hardly the question. It was absolutely necessary. Had the Russians attempted to hold their ground in Poland and Galicia, they would have been overwhelmed by numbers and artillery. Had they been overwhelmed they would have been compelled to sign a separate treaty of peace, which they had sworn not to do.

Russia is paying a tremendous price, because she underestimated, as we all did, the resources and hostile intentions of a powerful enemy. She is paying in territory, in men and in prestige. But Russia is a great Empire, and Russian resources are unlimited. With the help of her Allies, Russia will come back with new armies and new supplies, and once again the Teuton will be swept back into his own territory, there to await the final onslaught of those who have resolved to crush him once and for all.

Proud and Jealous

A MEMBER of the Toronto "Telegram" staff, who is in the fighting line in France, writes as follows to his paper:

"A pretty good story is going the rounds arising out of the rivalry existing between the first and second contingents. An officer of the second remarked to an officer of the first, in London on sick leave—
"We've had a h-ll of a time living down your reputation in England."
"Ah, um," said the sick man, as he slowly surveyed the spick and span officer of the second contingent, "Is that so? Let me tell you, you'll have one h-ll of a time living up to our reputation in France."
"So you see we are already becoming jealous, as well as proud, of our fighting fame."

Speech Doves

A CARTOONIST in the Philadelphia "Inquirer" pictures Mr. W. J. Bryan as a street-vendor of speech doves. Mr. Bryan offers these to the passer-by with these words:
"Won't you buy my pretty little peace doves? Only \$1,500 a Peace."
Some people are wondering if Dr. J. A. Macdonald of the Toronto "Globe" is still drawing his salary as a peace advocate. Perhaps the Doctor will relieve the public suspense—eh, what?



KEEPING THEIR MINDS DIVERTED.

The concerts at the front are a part of the British system. Nearly two thousand of them have been given by entertainers sent over from England. Even the passing ammunition waggons pause for a moment to join in the fun.



WHERE THERE ARE ONLY HUMAN SIGNPOSTS.

This picture shows a motor cyclist scout of the Armee de Sault, as the Salvation Army is known in France, asking a French soldier the way. It will be noted that the roads are none too good.