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The second winter of ~~the~~ bitter fighting in Russia ~~has found~~ finds the Nazis forces no closer to their coveted objective of oil resources beyond the Caucasus, ~~and it is reported that they~~ <sup>which, by</sup> have finally abandoned their efforts to take Stalingrad. At <sup>itself, has become a symbol of Soviet resistance</sup> various points, both in the Don Valley, on the central front, and in the Northwest region fronting on the Baltic, steady gains have been made by Russian forces. +

The story of the resistance and effort of a whole people - perhaps no better description is necessary - is an epic of our time. The Russian resistance and the Russian offensive - for both are part of a tremendous struggle - depend partly upon the character and genius of the people, and partly upon the assistance which other nations are able to provide. In this assistance Canada has had some share, for in addition to munitions which have been provided over many months, the Government has extended to the Soviet authorities a credit of \$10,000,000 to cover purchases of wheat and flour.

What looked for a long time like a last-ditch defensive stand was turned into an offensive of such portents that the entire German Sixth Army before Stalingrad was annihilated. Losses of men and material on this front probably ~~were~~ heavier than in any other theatre of operations.

+ On January 18, while talks between Mr. Churchill and President Roosevelt were continuing at Casablanca, the siege of Leningrad was lifted. In addition to the relief which this brought to the remaining inhabitants of the