

The Weekly Ontario

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THURSDAY, JULY 8, 1915.

AT THE DARDANELLES.

Reports of the operations in the Dardanelles come so infrequently that naturally the public may feel somewhat disturbed over the situation, and be inclined to be impatient on account of the slowness of the progress made. The latest report, which we have seen, from Sir Ian Hamilton, stated that the "three days' battle," in the first week of May, showed that the only way of carrying the position was by the slow methods of trench warfare. The gains reported on the Gallipoli Peninsula look very small when compared with the operations in France and Flanders, where the distances would have to be multiplied many times to obtain the same effective results, but they represent a material advance, when the Allied forces are within a comparatively few miles of victory.

There are, however, compelling reasons why the operations in the Dardanelles should not be prolonged. They are costing a large number of men, and as an English writer points out, for the purpose of this war, the loss of ten Turks is not a satisfactory equivalent for the loss of one British, Australian or French soldier. "A war of attrition against the Turks is emphatically what no one wants here for even our success in it would weaken us much more than it would injure the Germans."

But there is another reason given by the Manchester Guardian why a long campaign is fraught with danger. The defence has now the assistance of at least two submarines. One, operating at the Black Sea end of the Straits, has recently sunk a Russian armored ship; the other has sunk two British battleships in two days. In other words, the enemy's campaign on sea is making very much faster progress than ours on land.

"It is well," says the Guardian, "that the facts should be faced at once. Time is not on our side in this Dardanelles campaign. The German submarine has presumably entered the Mediterranean through the Straits of Gibraltar, and there is no reason to suppose that where one submarine has come others may not follow. The narrow enclosed waters of the Aegean are ideal for the operations of these craft. They will have no difficulties in obtaining supplies and concealment is easy. Prolonged operations therefore may inflict losses on the fleet for which even the forcing of the Straits would be an unequal compensation. Two conclusions are forced upon us. It is now the first interest of the Allies that the Dardanelles operations should be forced to a satisfactory conclusion, and it is to be hoped that the Italians may be able to spare a stiff expeditionary force to take part in them, or, at any rate, to assist by engaging the Turks elsewhere. Secondly, the protection against the submarine, if there is one, is obviously still in the brain of inventors. It must be got out."

The clearing of the Straits at the Dardanelles becomes more imperative now that Russia requires more munitions if she is to free her position and make any headway against the enemy.

AN ERROR IN TACTICS.

Exactly a month ago the London Spectator remarked that Russia would not be beaten if the incredible happened and the Germans were to get Moscow. Indeed to do that, the Spectator said, would only make their destruction the more certain. This view of the situation on the Eastern front is borne out by the military correspondents who seem to agree that the Austro-German drive in Galicia was far less successful than many of us believed it to be, and that the enemy is no nearer victory over the Russians now than before the fall of Lemberg. Indeed, it is held by many that, while the German movements in Galicia, regarded as detached operations, may be accepted as considerable military successes, they may be regarded, when the whole story of the war comes to be told, as a cardinal error in tactics. This view is set forth with great lucidity by the military writer of the London Nation. His review of the situation is of particular interest at this time:

"The aim of Germany in the offensive in Galicia, was to produce a decision. She could have no other aim for the sufficient reason that no other aim would profit her. She entered the war with a vastly greater part of her total force immediately available than Russia and Britain have even now a much

smaller proportion of their force available than Germany had of hers at the outset. The consequence of this is that so far as Germany has any chance of final victory it grows daily less and less. Relatively, her force must decrease. She is now more and more striving to give it an adventitious preponderance by the use of huge masses of artillery over small areas, by an immense expenditure of ammunition, by the use of asphyxiating gases, and so on. The massed artillery formation in Galicia is the latest device, and, it must be said at once, it has proved extremely formidable. It has carried her armies across Galicia into Przemysl. It enabled her to break the Russian line toward Stryj; but the line was healed and the piercing force annihilated. If she could have kept the gap open and poured in some hypothetical force, she would have had the Russian line from Stryj to the east at her mercy. She could then have rolled this line up—and so forth. Up to the present moment there is no suggestion that Brusiloff or Dimitreff, or the Russian staff suffer from the status lymphaticus. Indeed, if we could regard the issues with sufficient detachment, it would be pleasurable to show that the Russian tactical movements in the Galician area have again shown more finesse than the German.

"It is not too unduly optimistic to consider that the Germans have put forth their greatest effort against the Galician front. In the immediate future it is difficult to imagine they can strike with any greater violence than they have done in the last month. If, then, they are to secure a decision, in the only sense which means anything to them, either the Russians must be worse prepared for the new outset than they were for the last, or there must be a sudden collapse of Russian fighting power (including generalship), or the Russians must have been driven to positions less defensible than those on which they fought at the end of April. No Russian positions could offer more hostages to fortune than those which she held at the commencement of the new offensive. Her line from the upper Biala ran over the Carpathian crests for some 70 miles or so. Its security depended upon the strength of the Dunajec-Biala line. But this was not a strong line, though the Germans had never contested it for some four months. The Russian line this moment was nowhere so weak. Przemysl was its weakest point, and its abandonment will permit of a stronger front being occupied. The Germans have secured no decision; but they have paid the price. Their advance in Galicia has been made in the most costly fashion. If the Russians have lost heavily, the Germans have suffered even more. And it is much the same case as with the navy. If Great Britain and Germany lost equally, Germany would have lost more, Germany cannot afford to lose as heavily as her enemy; but she staked all on securing a decision. She has bought Galician acres at a price never paid before. And if she should now draw off any appreciable force to hold the gate against the new enemy in the south, even if she should draw off an appreciable proportion of her heavy guns, there can be little doubt that the Russian line would soon be in motion again; and if she could hold an entrenched line from the San along the Dniester, she might come to realize that she had merely purchased immunity for Hungary at the expense of Silesia.

"Germany, if she fails to secure a decision is worse off than before. She has depleted her reserves of men and munitions lavishly, and their supply is limited. The Russians are growing in strength, both as to personnel and as to material. The Russian staff within the last few days has shown itself as alert and capable as ever. It is almost impossible to believe the Germans can now obtain a result worth the price already paid. They have captured Przemysl. They may even break the Russian line again; but it is difficult to think the same virile brains which have devised so many expedients will not be able to cope with any new situation. And, as we have suggested before, the sorties of a besieged garrison, unless they secure a decision, but make the final, issue more certain. In the south, fresh forces are in motion. In the west the Allies hold a number of commanding points, the advantage of which will appear when the great offensive begins. For the past month the Russians have had to bear what is probably the fiercest attack of the war. That they have so far robbed Germany of the only result which could justify so ample a preparation, and so unstinted an outpouring of blood should impress us still more with the fighting qualities of our Eastern Allies."

Germany and Austria according to the London Times correspondent have suffered enormous losses, amounting it is estimated, to three quarters of a million men. Russia, on the other hand, all the time continues to increase the area of operations and consequently the German lines

of communication. She has been acting mainly on the defensive, fighting rear-guard actions, and, therefore, she loses fewer men, and will be able to continue the game indefinitely. The Germans, according to the view of the Times correspondent, must continue pouring in fresh troops in order to hold their positions. In other words, the position of the Germanic forces in Galicia, as one writer illustrates, is much that of the man who has a wolf by the ear. He cannot let go; and has nothing to gain by holding on, especially if quite a number of other wolves are in the field against him.

THE SILENT CALL.

There's a call which comes to a British heart; 'Tis the call of the sod and King. A silent call to the ends of the earth, Brought along by the same old wing, The wing of the silent morning ray: Gives a silent message to a steady heart. No question is asked, no doubt, nor nay; It's enough that a Briton must do his part.

From the lure of the gold and the Yukon cold, Come the men of Canada—true. From the East to the West the call is told; It travels, where skies are clear and blue. On the wing of the silent morning ray, Comes the message that Britons must fight again; Fight to uphold a God-sent way— Britannia must rule the ocean main.

That silent call brings the men from Gaul, And the men from Australia, too, From the desert sand of many lands; Bengal Hears the call; which cometh through On the wings of the silent morning ray, From the Isles of the free; the home of the brave.

To every port—in the same old way, The same old song, "We shall rule the wave."

'Tis the silent call which ruleth all, The call of loyal, true heart; It's the flag we love, both great and small; A love no foe can seyer apart. It comes on the wings of the morning, too; Enveloping the Briton wherever he be He answers the call of the silent true, "God Save Our King," we shall rule the sea. —H. M. MacSweeney. (In Victoria Colonist)

The Rev. L. Maclean Watt, of Edinburgh, the well-known preacher and writer, has been describing some of his experiences at the front. He illustrated the heroism of the men by the story of a sorely wounded Gordon with whom he commiserated. "Ah, well," replied the Gordon, "it's all in the day's work, and we are not here on holiday, ye ken." "And do you expect to win?" The Gordon looked at him with astonished eyes, and said—"That's what we are here for." Mr. Watt was struck with the wonderful organization of the Army in all its departments. From the base at Havre 300,000 loaves are despatched to the front every day. Mr. Watt mentioned a Cambridge B.A. whose father was a K.C. in London, and who himself owned a yacht, who was working in the humble capacity of cook. He cooked a steak for Mr. Watt, which was "like a razor strop!"

Mr. Watt found a good deal of humor in the letter writing experiences of the soldiers. They were eager to write, but not always fluent. There was one man whom he watched puzzling his brain for an opening, and who did not get beyond the address. His Christian name was William, and Mr. Watt suggested that he should write, "I am quite well, and on my way to have a bang at my namesake, Bill." The soldier said it was the very thing he wanted to say, and other men of the name of Bill took the epistle as a model. There were other letter writers who were imaginative, like the man who wrote: "I am standing up to my knees in seven feet of mud." The soldiers have apparently a fondness for doleful music, and Mr. Watt said that after a concert of jolly songs a Scotsman rose, and in the most lugubrious tones sang, "Why left I my Home?"

Do you realize how hard water is when a boat sails through it at full speed? asks Youth's Companion. Water passing at fifty miles an hour is not the limpid liquid we are accustomed to bathe in. If you put your arm overboard from a hydroplane, running fifty miles an hour, and strike a wave crest, the probability is that you will break your arm or wrist, because at that speed the water has not time to give, or even to change shape, and striking it is like striking so much metal.

If a swordsman should enter one of the great hydraulic arias, where a stream of water, under enormous head, is used to wash down hillsides, and attempt to cut into one of these streams, his sword would fly in pieces without being able to penetrate the water. The stream is like a bar of iron.

The Scott Act continues to win the favor of the temperance people of Ontario. Perth is the latest County to vote for the Canada Temperance Act. Huron and Peel both adopted it last year, and the vote in Perth is regarded as "a significant victory for the prohibition forces."

"If you want to conquer Germany, do not be German," says Mr. G. K. Chesterton. "Do not let us be hysterical at this crisis, or go mad at the mischief done by these madmen. It is for us to fight or to do our best for those who are fighting; broadly speaking, the less we do of anything else the better. If the Germans manage to make us nervous and excitable about them, they will have gained what all hysterics desire. But they will have succeeded as they succeed with their green and yellow fumes, not by striking a blow, but by communicating a disease."

A CANADIAN "SONG OF HATE."

By William Henry Taylor, author of "Canadian Seasons." The Beaver is an animal pre-eminent for brains; For industry and patient pluck, above the rest, he reigns, He is the emblem of our land—the last, the best, the free— Our God's Own Garden of the West, the School of Liberty; The Beaver has the artist power, to change, and take a part In world-wide war, and show the foe he has a lion's heart. The superhuman Prussian sneered, when he the Beaver's met, But less he'll sneer, when more he meets, to his black soul's regret.

When the Beavers build a dam they gnaw the trees until they fall, Then float them down the stream and build a scientific wall; So, Beaver Boys at Langemarck built a dam which "saved the day." They hewed and stayed the foe so well, that heaps on heaps they lay.

Yes, and they gave their thousands, too, to guard that river's shore— The story of that human dam will live for evermore; Not Albuera's famous fight, nor Balaclava's charge, Nor e'en Thermopylae itself, will read more bold and large.

The polecat is a hated beast, his German name is "skunk," Among the other animals his breed has always stunk; This hellcat dines on rotten eggs, a chicken thief is he: He robbed the Belgian coasts to show he came from Germany.

This cultured German polecat knows the art of showing hate, By calling Beaver odious names, most inappropriate; He calls the Beaver Brand of men the vile Canadian "rats." But what's a name? He tasted steel when met by Princess Pats.

Not satisfied with submarine, balloon, and bomb, and shell, These Huns now use a deadly gas, imported straight from hell; The Devil feared his eldest son, the Kaiser, could not win By baby-killing tactics, so he taught him how to sin Against the morals of the worst, the vilest of vice Assassins of the human race, whose names our tongues defile; When Germans failed in open field, on sea, on in the trench, They gave a tuffest of gas—their polecat's body stench.

Huns crucify in flesh again, the Man of Calvary, They nail our wounded to His Cross, with fiendish cruelty; By God's right hand! Sir Kaiser! you shall taste a cup of woe; Canadian blood is boiling o'er, and you its wrath shall know; Your "Songs of Hate," as well as deeds, your worthless Iron Cross, Make you of Butcher Pharisees, the Hohenzollern Boss; Forever off the Irish coast will sirens moan with hate, And from sepulchre caves bewail the Lusitania's fate.

—Toronto World, May 21, 1915.

The Boston Transcript makes the stinging retort that "Germany never mentions the fact that, while we charge the Allies for their munitions, we feed, free of charge, the stricken Belgians, who, under Prussian guards, turn out the shells with which their husbands, fathers and brothers are to be slaughtered."

Pessimists say that as soon as the Germans have disposed of the Russian armies they will detach huge bodies of troops for another drive on Calais or Paris. We may take it for granted that such a probable event has been considered by the French and British commanders, and that they will not omit the necessary precautions.—Mail and Empire.

Other Editors' Opinions

RUSSIAN vs. GERMAN STRATEGY.

Lemberg has fallen, and the German-Austrian army has the satisfaction of knowing that it has driven the Russian foe before it for two hundred miles, and that the Russians have been compelled to relax their grip upon Galicia. No doubt the moral effect upon the Austrian and German armies will be considerable, and it seems probable that Roumania and Bulgaria will be impressed by this evidence of the German superiority in artillery. But we venture to think that the moral effect has been much over-rated. It is true that the Russians have been driven back, but the German and Austrian armies know well the price that has been paid, which probably reaches nearly half a million men. And after all the possession of Galicia with the huge Russian army still unbroken, and awaiting only fresh guns and ammunition to commence another offensive, is but an empty triumph. The truth is, the Germans have failed in their main objective. The German plan was, by tremendous concentration of artillery and men, to drive a wedge through the Russian army and then to deliver a crushing blow against the most isolated section of the army and secure a decisive victory. But the Russian commander-in-chief met the Germans by the most effective weapon at his command—a strategic, orderly retirement—and the German blow which was to have crushed the great Slav army has yet to be delivered. It was freely predicted that the German success would release 1,000,000 men for use either on the Italian or western fronts, but with the Russian army still intact, and superior in numbers to its foes, and lacking only guns and ammunition, which may be supplied any time, it is hard to see how the Germans can afford to withdraw any very large forces, especially in view of the fact that at any time, without warning, half a million Roumanians may be launched against their right wing. The loss of Galicia may prolong the war, but only until the Allies have secured the preponderance in artillery toward which they are now bending every energy.—Christie's Gazette.

USING SCHOOL BUILDINGS.

Boston is learning how to make use of the school buildings during most of the day than the restricted hours when children are in them. Review of the year's activity at the school centres, under the direction of the department for the Extended use of the Schools, shows that more and more adults are coming to enjoy the privileges which they may enjoy at evening meetings, whether of social or educational character, arranged in the schoolrooms. Seven such centres are now maintained in various parts of Greater Boston, and these organizations, ranging from orchestra to classes in manual training, have been formed and successfully maintained. The academic courses are not neglected, and the type of instruction requested in them has been of significance. The men have been asked to be given next year further knowledge of American Government, of economic problems, of the means to personal efficiency, and the women have expressed interest in courses on pure food, the appreciation of music and other subjects, each of value in its kind. Only a small appropriation is now being given the school centres and hence they have had to be made in large measure self-supporting, but surely the city will not be slow in helping those who show such an eagerness to help themselves.—Boston Transcript.

The members of Belleville and Misses Lodges I.O.O.F. are requested to meet at Belleville edge rooms, Wednesday morning, July 7th at 10 o'clock to go to Trenton for District Field Day, by boat E. T. Thompson, Sec. 127; S. A. Barclay, Sec. 81. 75-1td

Garden Party on St. Michael's Presbytery Lawn, Tuesday, July 6th, 4 to 10. Band in attendance. Afternoon tea Admission 10c. 753-2td.

Tabernacle S. S. excursion to 12 o'clock Point, Wednesday, July 7th, per Str. Brockville. Boats leave wharf 8 a.m. and 2 p.m. Moonlight to Trenton leaves 7:30 sharp. 11 o'clock boat will run into Trenton only, with passengers for I.O.O.F. demonstration held there that day, and will bring same back on moonlight leaving Trenton 9:30. Carriages will be at University E.E. and corner Victoria Ave. and Bleeker Ave. to meet 8 o'clock boat. Tickets 25c. Children 15c. 753-3td.

The Canary Circle will hold a Victoria evening on Jno. Muir's lawn, 20 Pine street, Thursday evening, July 8. Refreshments and attractions. Silver collection. The pitcher donated by Miss Strong will be awarded. Proceeds to buy comforts for our boys. 75-1td

Baptist and Emmanuel Church picnic, Twelve o'clock Point and Lake Ontario, Steamer Brockville, Tuesday, July 6th. Boat leaves nine-thirty, two o'clock. Tickets 25 cents. Moonlight Excursion 8 p.m. I.O.O.F. attendance 752-3td.

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