

THE VERDUN FAILURE.

Verdun has been even a more deadly blow to German aims and hopes than the Marne Battle. It was possible for the General Staff to regard the Marne defeat as an accident which they could easily retrieve. There is every evidence that they did so regard it. As soon as they had temporarily recovered from it they confidently undertook the task of descending upon Calais. Foiled once again, although very narrowly, they set themselves deliberately and cautiously to work to prepare a third offensive. They took as they supposed no chances. They made no haste. During a year and a half they perfected their plans and their preparations before Verdun. All that science, art and industry, all that military knowledge and untiring effort could contribute they brought under requisition. They heaped up men and guns and munitions before Verdun. They constructed strategic lines of communication, of support and supply converging on the great French salient and fortress.

At their own chosen moment they struck and struck with all their might. Their expectation was to surprise their opponents. Their hopes depended on a speedy and crushing victory. They neither surprised the French nor were in any important degree victorious over them. The battle which they fondly expected would carry them, within a few days, or a very few weeks at most, into the heart of France, with the road to Paris wide open before them, has now lasted nearly two months, and on the whole has resulted in a bitter defeat for them. It has not to any appreciable extent furthered their designs. They have gained a few insignificant and more or less unimportant square miles of indefensible territory. They have gained at sacrifices of military strength so frightful that they represent appalling losses for them on the whole, instead of gains.

And now, after all their sacrifices and efforts, they have barely reached the real defences of the Verdun position. They are no nearer practical victory than they were at the beginning of their campaign. The encircling, steeped hills which guard the Verdun plateau are inch by inch held by the French. All the forts, with one exception, which guard Verdun remain intact. Douaumont, the one exception, has not been captured. It has merely been battered down by artillery, from a distance. The French still have its site. They have the attacking German forces everywhere morally at their feet. Physically the Germans are under the feet of the French. They are at the foot of the defending hills which the French hold. They are at all points under the fire of French guns which hold the important heights and sweep the surrounding country.

To fight their way up out of the hole in which they find themselves the Germans must scale steep and exposed heights in the face of the most wonderful artillery and the most valiant soldiery that war has ever developed. Is it any wonder that France is supremely confident that Verdun cannot be wrested from her, in view of the amazing powers of resistance which her troops have displayed during the past two months of continuous fighting, and in view of the insignificant gains which the Crown Prince's armies have made? Her situation is secure. That of Germany is desperate.

The Kaiser and his advisers staked all on this desperate Verdun cast of the military dice. They have won next to nothing. They stand to lose all. Their object was to convince the world at large, and the German people in particular, of their power to win. They have given a demonstration of pitiful failure and irretrievable loss. What must be the effect of their failure on neutral and hesitating nations? What on the exhausted and almost maddened people of Germany? The Kaiser and his associates have sown the wind. They will begin to reap the whirlwind as soon as their dupes and slaves in Germany come to realize fully their fateful failure at Verdun.

BRITAIN'S STRENGTH.
 The London Daily News notes with great satisfaction that the new British Budget is entirely free from the suspicion of Protection or Tariff Reform. Every tax is for revenue only and in so far as it is necessary to check imports Mr. McKenna very wisely prefers, the News says,

the method of prohibition. He explained the absence of any fiscal experiment on the ground that the whole Cabinet were agreed that in the present circumstances it was impossible to set up the machinery for such a fiscal change.

But there is a more obvious explanation in the Budget itself, the News affirms. It is the supreme witness to the triumph of Free Trade finance. While every Continental country engaged in the war is plunged into the gravest financial distresses by the effort to meet the enormous expenditure, Great Britain alone shows a resilience, a power of expansion, a resource that is well-nigh inexhaustible. It is discovered that Free Trade is not only adapted for the conditions of peace, but that it is supremely adapted to the conditions of war. When the strain of war came Germany had very largely to modify its high Protection and so, in the very hour of the greatest financial necessity, was compelled to cut down her chief source of revenue. The same thing in a large measure applies to the other countries engaged. "It is not too much to say," the News prophesies, "that, in the ultimate analysis, the liberties of Europe rest upon the foundations of British Free Trade. For the long purse will win the war, and the long purse is in our hands."

FOR FEDERAL AID.

The obligations resting on the Federal authorities as regards adequate subsidies to promote industrial training form the subject of reference in the annual report of the Minister of Education for the Province of Ontario for the year 1915:

"This claim, in the matter of agricultural development, has been nobly met," says the report. "It would appear that the need for special vocational instruction for returned soldiers may hasten the decision in respect of industrial aid generally. The Province has already been in consultation with the representatives of the Dominion with a view to provision for enabling returned soldiers to take up useful occupations."

"Under the Constitution," the report continues, "the Provinces control education, and all branches of it must be carried on under their authority and supervision. The Government is willing to pay the cost of such instruction as the existing Provincial facilities cannot provide, and it would seem probable that special classes of instruction will be required. This is true in the cases of soldiers who desire short courses in various branches so as to enable them to earn a livelihood as quickly as possible."

German official casualty lists up to the end of February show total losses of about 2,700,000 with deaths aggregating 671,000. Add fifty per cent. to these figures and approximately the right totals are obtained. Neutral observers like Col. Feyler, of Switzerland, have agreed, in their conclusions, with the carefully worked out calculations of the French General Staff showing total German casualties of four millions, with over a million deaths.

With reference to taking over the distilleries Mr. Lloyd George remarked: "I have taken over the whole of the patent still distilleries in the country, and I am doing my best to provide whiskey for the Germans. If the whiskey pellets do half as much harm to the Germans as whiskey has done in this country then I and every other patriot will be truly thankful."

WHAT LOVE MAKES A FATHER DO.

She slept last night in her father's bed,
 In her father's arms the long night through;
 But ere her prayer for the night was said
 She got the cow that would moo-oo-oo
 When its sides were squeezed, and she placed it
 where
 The bed was softest and it would rest;
 Then got her doll with the golden hair
 To sleep with her, for she loved it best.
 Then she got her blocks, though we did not
 know,
 And put them in with the doll and cow;
 We were so used to her to-and-fro,
 And we were talking, and that is how
 She went from play-room to father's bed
 And back again, in her baby way;
 And then she knelt, and with bended head
 And baby voice said her "Now me lay—"

The prayer went up from mother's knee,
 And tightly squinched were the eyes of blue,
 And our souls went with the prayer, and we
 Bent down with kisses when she was through.
 And then she went to her father's bed,
 As proud as ever she'll be, I know;
 Such a little bit of a touslehead
 For grown-up people to worship so!

Her father's a man of affairs, austere
 And difficult to approach sometimes;
 But she runs to him without a fear
 And twists his ears and his nose, and climbs
 Between his book and his eyes, and he—
 To show what love makes a father do—
 Slept in the bed with the toys, and she
 Hugged him and the cow that can moo-oo-oo.
 —Judd Mortimer Lewis, in Houston Post.

Other Editors' Opinions

THE COMPLEX OF CONSTANTINOPLE.

The rumor now current that Germany is willing to concede to the Bulgarians the possession of Constantinople is important, even if it be not true, because of the light which it throws on the Bulgarian expectations of the future, and on the real reason why the Balkan nations cannot make up their minds to agree either with themselves or with the Allies. The "Balkan League," which was so successful while it lasted, was concerned only with the distribution of national property in Macedonia and Thrace; it did not contemplate any change in the ownership of Constantinople. Had it done so it could not have held together for a day, for to possess Constantinople is part of the secret dream of every good Bulgarian and of every good Greek. But at the beginning of the first Balkan war neither Greek nor Bulgarian thought that the capture of Constantinople was practical politics. Now the situation is different, and much of the difficulty felt in this country in understanding Balkan politics comes from failing to realize the importance of the difference. It is true that the dispute as to the division of contention is Constantinople. The diplomats of the Allies may be very skillful in arranging for the readjustment of Macedonia, but what do they propose to do with Constantinople, if they get it. Should they decide to give it to Russia that is exactly what Bulgaria not only would not support, but would probably resist to the last. So long as Constantinople is Turkish there is always a chance for Bulgaria, but if it once becomes Russian all the dream of a Bulgarian Byzantium would be rendered vain. That is the real reason why Bulgaria, whatever terms she may be offered by the Allies, is likely to remain pro-German or neutral until Russia abandons her claim to Constantinople.

The question is, however, obvious. How can Germany offer to Bulgaria the capital of her own ally—Turkey? The answer is that we do not know the real origin of the story. There are three possibilities. It may be a German story. If so it means that Germany foresees the fall of Constantinople, but hopes to reconquer it. Or it may be a Bulgarian story. If so, it is another method of publicly hinting to Russia that the price of Bulgarian support is the surrender of her claims to Constantinople. Finally, it may be a story originating among the Allies, to prepare their publics for the admission that the price of Bulgaria is really not Macedonia and Thrace, but Constantinople. In each of the two latter cases the story is a canard, but in diplomacy canards are useful as well as succulent animals, and those who pursue them with skill make much profit always provided that they recognize their quarry for what it is.—Boston Transcript.

THE RAILWAYS

The country faces serious difficulties about its railways. It has on its hands the National Transcontinental from Moncton to Winnipeg, which, built out of the public revenues at a cost of more than 180 millions, is operated at a loss from Cochrane to Winnipeg. If has at the door of its treasury, the C. N. R. and the Grand Trunk Pacific, neither of which is said anything to apply on upkeep, renewals or interest. Mackenzie and Mann demand, it is said, \$5 millions to meet interest and the unpaid debts of construction. The G. T. P. demands the whole amount, at least, of its interest charge.

Parliament broods over the matter in silence, and the press ventures only to clamor for the expropriation of the worthless common stock, or to suggest public ownership or abandonment to the bondholders. It is clear that the Dominion and the Provinces must meet the obligations of their guarantees, amounting approximately to 340 millions, of which the share of the Dominion seems to be 143 millions, and that of the Provinces 195 millions. Abandonment to the bondholders would, therefore, mean only abandonment to the governments, which might choose between public operation and abandonment of the unprofitable sections. Operation would involve outlays, in addition to interest, for maintenance, repair, equipment and the support of operation, the amount of which cannot be accurately estimated. It would not be surprising, if the annual outlay were 50 millions. How is operation to be carried on? Will the guarantors act jointly, or will the whole burden of provincial improvidence be shifted to the Dominion? For the burdens of public operation none is prepared. The Dominion votes for this year a civil

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- Pure Coffee lb. 30c.
- Shredded Wheat Biscuits 2 pkgs 25c
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- French Mustard, Jars 5c.
- Wafers Sliced Beef, tins 25c & 35c
- Herrings in Bouillon, tins 10c.
- Brands A.I. Sauce 25c
- Quaker Molasses Candy pkg 5c.
- Hawaiian Pineapple, (Finest) tins, 25c, & 35c.
- Salad Dressing Powder 10c.
- Milk Powder, tins 10c.
- Baker's Unsweetened Chocolate ¼ lb 20c. ½ lb 20c.
- Snyder's Tomato Ketchup 20c.
- Brands A.I. Sauce 25c.
- Pickled Red Cabbage (C. & B.) 25c.
- Clark's Soups, tins 10c.
- (Clark's Soups—made in Canada) (equal to the best.)
- Stuffed Olives, small bottles 10c.
- Potted Sandwich Meats, tins 5c & 10c

At Wallbridge & Clarke's

ANNOUNCEMENT

Messrs. Greenleaf & Son wish to announce to their old patrons and friends that they have found it advisable to incorporate their business under Ontario Companies Act.
 The new Company, under the same management as heretofore, and under the firm name of
GREENLEAF, Limited
 have purchased the property known as the Brown Foundry, together with the free will and equipment of Mr. George Keith.
 It is their intention to remodel these buildings and install suitable equipment to meet the growing demands of their patrons.
 The management takes this opportunity of thanking their old friends and soliciting their patronage in the new venture.
GREENLEAF & SON
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and military expenditure exceeding 400 millions, which, if the war continues, may fall 100 millions below the actual expenditure. By virtue of the public guarantees, the main question for the public consideration seems to be whether operation of the unprofitable sections shall be abandoned. Another question about which violent feeling may be aroused, is whether the Dominion Government shall relieve any creditors but the bondholders to whom it is already bound.—Toronto Weekly Sun (Ind.)

Simple and Sure—Dr. Thomas' Electric Oil is so simple in application that a child can understand the instructions. Used as a liniment the only direction is to rub, and when used as a dressing to apply. The directions are so plain and unmistakable that they are readily understood by the young or old.

VENUS, a zepppelin.
 The report of the Women Police Service in England tells how some of its members reassured a crowd who suspected the planet Venus of being the light of J. Zeppelin. That is one of the results, no doubt, of the popular ignorance of astronomy in large towns owing to the competition of the municipal with the heavenly lights. The suspicious populace could not believe that a mere star would make all that display.
 Yet ignorance of the heavens is shared by many who should know better. The late Lord Avebury used to tell how he walked from the House with a well-known M.P. across St. James' Park one beautiful moonlight night. "I wonder," speculated his companion, "if we shall ever know how it is that the moon so constantly changes its shape? I suppose that is one of the things we can never hope to know!"

Homes for Returned Soldiers.
 A valuable homestead in New South Wales has been offered to the Government at a moderate figure, for the use of returned soldiers, who may wish to settle on the land. The estate comprises 1,550 acres of land, and is one of the finest properties in New South Wales, having been used for the past eight years as a stud farm for Jersey cattle and thoroughbred horses. The suggestion is that the estate might be used for the purpose of training returned soldiers in all branches of farm and stock work.

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 GREATLY IMPROVES
 BRIGHT'S DISEASE
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 Our prices lower than low.
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 Our Decorating while superior in style and workmanship will not cost you any more than the ordinary kind.
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Children's Hats a Specialty
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 During the Alterations to our store we will occupy the store a few doors west, recently used as a real estate office for the Forester's Bldg.
 We trust our numerous friends and customers will bear with us for a few weeks during our inconvenience. We will do our best to serve in our temporary quarters.
 Phone 243.
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BLOCK BUILT
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Editor Ontario...
 Just a few lines how we are enjoying...
 We have had a far. There has not out the sun shining kept in doors.
 On our arrival he gale. They all say baggins. I only put down when I put down of the lady owner the route in advance and I had to come.
 We have winded and open doors a like the plan of some might waken some and one of us miss they have a nice around the "open" some 400 fishermen whom are colored and some small flags and retail it on back. They have not doing a large trade kept for the past there were more last year than in years prior to this record so far has as we would like that while the law well obeyed the city as it did before it was owing to it being a and four hundred men who go out Spanish mackerel.
 We tourists go out costing \$2 per trip persons. Tackle furnished to see as come back from 20 to 30 King fish as much as 20 15 to 20 lbs, but bite you. When we have to take shark weight from 200 to 300 then with a a them near our boat that we have a 18 boats which come 4 year and follow up they come south. The Texas and other sea to New York and do around that city.
 As to the game out shooting deer in also quail, ducks, called groundhog he same as we have some are larger. T and many other kind are here, including to which comes out to the garden and the the Whip-poor-will woods. He has all so can enjoy, not a

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