

The Weekly Ontario

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W. H. Morton, Business Manager. J. O. Herity, Editor-in-Chief.

THURSDAY, MARCH 25, 1915.

THE STAND AT YPRES.

"They took up their final stand before Ypres. What that stand has meant to England will one day be recognized." In these words Lieutenant-General Sir H. S. Rawlinson prefaced the order in which he eulogized the work done by the 7th Division of the British Army in the early days of the campaign. The story of this great campaign. The story of this great stand against heavy odds, and of the marching and counter-marching which preceded, is told in detail by Mr. C. E. Underwood in the March number of Blackwood's Magazine. To quote General Rawlinson again:

"After the deprivations and the tension of being pursued day and night by an infinitely stronger force, the division had to pass through the worst ordeal of all. It was left to a little force of 30,000 to keep the German army at bay, while the British corps were being brought up from the Aisne. Here they hung on like grim death, with almost every man in the trenches, holding a line which of necessity was too long—a thin, exhausted line—against which the prime of the German first-line troops were hurling themselves with fury. The odds against them were about eight to one. . . . When the division was afterwards withdrawn from the firing line to rest it was found that out of 400 officers who set out from England there were only forty-four left, and out of 12,000 men only 2,236."

The retreat was over country which the Allies are still endeavoring to win back—through Ostend, Bruges, Roulers, and numberless other places the names of which are now familiar. There was one day when the British were so hard pressed that not a single man was held in reserve to support the firing line; the line might, in fact, have given way at any moment.

"This was the seventh day since we first engaged the Germans, one division extending over an unheard-of front of eight miles, and holding up what I understood from one of the prisoners yesterday to be a hostile force of three army corps—i.e., 15-20,000 men up against 150,000! The ordeal of the last three days had been terrible. These brave fellows actually had no sleep for seven days, and had never left the trenches, fighting night and day sticking to them until they were literally blown out of them or buried alive. They were now becoming pieces of wood, sleeping standing up, and firing almost mechanically."

But help was at hand—the Highland Light Infantry and the Scottish Borderers were coming up as reinforcements, and the line was not broken. This is the British way. The story stirs the heart.

ANOTHER BLUNDER.

The sinking of the American ship, the William P. Frye, by the German raider Prinz Eitel Friedrich is occasioning sharp comments in the leading American papers. The action of the German commander is another case of German blundering. The William P. Frye carried a cargo of wheat, not owned by the British Government and not consigned to it or its agents. Germany has never put on the contraband list food not intended for the use of the armed forces of the enemy, and fiercely denies the right of any other belligerent to do it. Neither the cargo nor the vessel was subject to greater penalty than formal detention and examination in a German port. It was therefore, on its face, the New York Tribune says, "a gross violation of neutral rights on the high seas to jettison the wheat which the Frye carried and then to destroy the vessel."

"Here," says the Times, "is a case of high-handed interference with neutral commerce on which the United States can set a helpful precedent of uncompromising resistance. President Wilson pledged himself in his note to the German Government of February 10 last to take any steps necessary to safeguard American lives and property and to secure to American citizens the full enjoyment of their acknowledged rights on the high seas. That good pledge should now be made good."

Unless there is some evidence, hitherto undisclosed, of bad faith on the part of the owners of the Frye and its cargo, or some evidence of the consignment of the wheat to the British Government direct, the Tribune contends that

German cannot avoid making ample reparation for Captain Thierich's blunder. It would be good diplomacy, it thinks, for the Berlin Government to offer amends at once without waiting for a protest from Washington, for the commander of the Prinz Eitel Friedrich has sinned as grievously against German military policy as he has against neutral rights.

But, says the Tribune, "of reparation there can be no doubt. By a queer irony of fate the warship which sank the Frye is now within our jurisdiction. We also hold nearly half a million tons of German merchantmen as hostages. Germany will probably pay promptly for the destruction of the Frye because it is to her interest in every way to do so. But, under any circumstances, she would have had to pay eventually, since there is no tribunal in which she could possibly hope to maintain a case against us." The United States holds the cards if its State Department has the courage to play them.

CONSTANTINOPLE.

Constantinople, which in a few weeks will pass from Turk to Christian, has a population of nearly two millions, made up of Turks, Bulgarians, Greeks, Armenians, Jews and Arabs, with a sprinkling of natives from most of the countries of Europe. Where Constantinople (or Stamboul) now stands, once stood the great city of Byzantium, which in 328 A.D. was destroyed by the Roman Emperor Constantine the Great, who laid the foundations of the present city, and named it after himself. From that time until 1453, when it fell into the hands of Mohammed, the greatest of Moslem warriors, Constantinople was ruled by the Roman Empire.

Constantinople is a city of vivid contrasts. No other city in the world it at once so beautiful and so ugly, so magnificent and so squalid, so picturesque and so plain. Splendid temples, palaces and mosques are cheek by jowl with hovels and filthy alleys. The gorgeous buildings of the royal palaces, notably the famous Garden of Delight, are in some respects unsurpassed for architectural beauty, but the homes of the populace are as a whole of the crudest, human wares, lacking in modern sanitation and the commonest comforts that mark the homes of the western world. The Turk through all the centuries has done nothing to improve the living conditions in his capital.

Constantinople is laid out in the form of a triangle with water on two sides, the city resting on a peninsular which extends from the Sea of Marmora to the Golden Horn. On both its land and water sides the city is protected by a series of forts, but unless they have been made especially powerful by the German artillery experts in the Turkish army, they will not prove a hard nut for the Allies to crack.

Once more Christian, with the civilization that it will mean, Constantinople should rapidly develop into a modern metropolis of the first rank. Under the Turks it has made no progress. Perfectly situated to control the commerce of a large portion of the near east, it has had but a small fraction of the trade it might have controlled but for the indifference of the Turk to material progress.

COMING EVENTS.

There are many evidences that we are on the eve of very important events in the momentous struggle at arms. From all points on the far-flung lines where the battle rages, there come reports of renewed activity, and never has the gigantic character of the conflict been so evident as it is at the present time. A Paris report states that the British and French armies are about to begin their general offensive, and that the "forward order" will be given as soon as the fields are dry enough for the artillery to be moved over them. It is unlikely that this order will be immediately given. Some weeks may yet elapse before the offensive is undertaken in earnest, but the great preparations which Great Britain and her Allies have been making are nearing completion, and before very long the struggle will have entered upon its most crucial and perhaps its final stage.

Indeed, the attack upon the Dardanelles which came as a surprise to everybody, has been regarded by the British press as marking the approach of a crisis in the military operations. The extreme importance which the British Admiralty attached to the operation is shown by the fact that the Queen Elizabeth, the newest of the super-dreadnoughts had been sent to the assistance of the Allied fleet, and while the task before the attacking force is still difficult there appears to be very general satisfaction with the success so far achieved.

The Manchester Guardian, which attaches to these operations the greatest importance, is of the opinion that the ease with which the forts at the entrance to the Dardanelles were reduced is most encouraging. The heaviest guns mounted in these were 10.2 in. At Chanak and at Kilit Bahr, where the Narrows begin, there are believed to be bigger guns, but it is unlikely that they will be a match in range for the 15 in. guns of the Queen Elizabeth. So far as it depends on gun-fire, what has been done to the forts at the entrance it should be possible to do to the forts in the Narrows also. The difficulty, however, is

that the battleships in the straits have not the same freedom of manoeuvre as they had when they were bombarding the outer forts from the sea, and they are in greater danger from drifting mines which the Turks are sure to turn loose on the strong current which runs through the straits. The operations will become progressively more difficult as the fleet enters the Narrows. But "dangers exist to be avoided and difficulties to be overcome. The Allied fleet is engaged in an enterprise which suits its humor. It has begun brilliantly."

The fall of Constantinople, as the Manchester Guardian says, would be the most sensational happening in the war so far, and it would have a moral effect on the enemy of even greater importance than its material results. Yet these would be tremendous. The first consequence would be the fall in the price of flour by the release of the Russian stocks which have been held up in the Black Sea ports. A second would be the easing of Russian finances and general importations of war material, of which the Germans believe that the Russian supplies are beginning to run short. Next in importance to that is the political effect on opinion in the Balkans. With Constantinople in the possession of the Allies, Turkey in Europe would be completely cut off from Turkey in Asia. If the seat of government were transferred to Asia, as is most probable, it is difficult to believe that Bulgaria could resist the temptation to lay her hands on Adrianople, and in that case Roumania would be rid of danger on that side, and would be free to come in if, as she probably would, she decided that it was in her interests.

The chief hope of an early termination of the war lies in "the formation of a third battle-front, rolling up from the south, and the fall of Constantinople would bring that prospect appreciably nearer. The news from Russia is also good, and though it leaves a great deal unexplained there seems every reason to think that the German invasion from East Prussia is definitely breaking down. If that hope is fulfilled it will leave Russia free, as soon as the weather improves, to concentrate against Hungary. A crisis in the war is approaching, and there is solid reason for expecting that its issue will be very favorable for us."

Who got the quarter of a million dollars on the submarine deal?

The acrimonious tone of Premier Borden's speech on the Budget suggests that his thoughts are troubled by the tales of the "boots."

If the Borden Government springs a General Election it will not be to help the Empire but to prevent disclosures which are feared on every side.

Samuel Bowles, editor of the Springfield Republican, died a few days ago at his home in Springfield. Mr. Bowles was the fourth of that name in his family, and the third in succession to have directed the policies of the newspaper with which it has become so closely associated as to be practically synonymous. His grandfather, Samuel Bowles, was a printer in Hartford and New Haven, who moved later to Springfield and started the weekly Springfield Republican, in 1824. The founder of the newspaper in its present form and the man who as an editor established its national influence and reputation, was his son, who controlled its interests from the death of his father until 1878, and dominated its expressions of opinion in writings of a force and style which made it a leader of opinion. It was to the control of a strongly developed agent for shaping social progress that his son succeeded, after an education designed to train him especially for his hereditary function.

As was expected, Japan has considerably modified her demands on China to such an extent, it is said, that an amicable arrangement between the two powers is assured. When the original Japanese demands were made public it was at once apparent that they could not be accepted by the Government at Peking. Their acceptance would have meant practically a Japanese overlordship of the Celestial Kingdom. Tokio had no expectation of such a thing. The Japanese simply placed their demands high in order to get as much as possible when it became necessary to modify them. To have granted Japan's requests would have struck a blow at European and American trade in China that the powers would not tolerate, and both China and Japan were well aware of this.

This was probably the basis upon which the negotiations were opened. There will be no closing of the door to the rest of the world, and the injection of Japanese trade vigor and enterprise into the sleeping Chinese giant will help wonderfully to develop the natural commercial instincts of that great race. Also it should tend to rid the American nation of the nightmare of a Japanese invasion of the United States, as it is clear Japan is looking to the future on the mainland of Asia, not the Pacific coast of North America.

It is noteworthy that on last St. David's Day, and for the first time the Welsh Guards

were on duty at Buckingham Palace. The new regiment is not yet completely organized, but it is already assured of success, and Wales will rightly be pleased with what this year's St. David's Day brought with it in recognition of their national spirit. At Llandudno the Chancellor of the Exchequer was witnessing a ceremonial parade of the North Wales Brigade of the Welsh Army Corps, and in the evening speaking at an Eisteddfod. Mr. Lloyd George is properly proud of the way in which Wales has given her sons to the new Armies. In the past Wales has only raised three regiments. Its national spirit has been slumbering—but only slumbering—for centuries. "The occasion came, and the great old warlike spirit that maintained the independence of these mountains for centuries woke up once more. Woe be to the German army when they turn up." Wales has splendidly shown, says the Westminster Gazette, that "to be a good Welshman is to be a good Briton—if that is the best word for expressing citizenship of the British Empire."

In a recent speech Mr. Asquith spoke of the cost of the war. Up to March 31 it is estimated that Great Britain will have spent a sum of \$62 million pounds, made up as follows (in round figures):

Navy and Army	£ 275,000,000
Advances to Dominions	38,000,000
Advances to Allies	11,000,000
Miscellaneous	38,000,000
Total	£ 362,000,000

As the war on March 31 will have been in progress for eight months this is an average of almost exactly 1 1/2 million pounds a day.

Mr. Asquith pointed out that this is gross expenditure, since it includes considerable sums which will ultimately be repaid; but after making full allowance for this the daily average is not less than \$6,000,000. More, this is an average sum, and the present rate is a good deal higher. When the war began Britain spent less as it goes on and the Armies grow in size, the expenditure grows too, so that from April 1 Britain will be spending \$8,500,000 a day above the normal, in consequence of the war. This sum includes the amount spent on separation allowances and pensions. These are enormous totals, and the war is much the costliest ever known. The Crimean war only cost Britain 70 millions, less than a quarter of what the present war has already cost the Mother Country.

Sir Robert Borden, in the course of his somewhat heated and partisan defence of his Government's new taxation burdens, undertook to disclose to the House of Commons a confidential discussion between Sir Wilfrid Laurier and himself concerning the business to be brought before Parliament. To this remarkable action on the part of the Prime Minister, Sir Wilfrid made a dignified but stinging reply. "Everybody," he said, "has a sense of honor. To me a confidential conversation is confidential and is never revealed. If my Right Hon. Friend chooses to bring this before the public, I have no objection."

THE SOLDIER'S ENGLAND.

My England was a draper's shop,
And seemed to be the place to fit
My size of man; and I'd to stop
And make believe I fancied it—
That and a yearly glimpse of mountain blue,
A book or two.

A bigger England stirs afloat;
I see it well in one who's come
From where he left his home and boat
By Cornish coasts, whose rollers drum
Their English music on an English shore
Right at his door.

And one who's left the North a spell
Has found an England he can love,
Hacking out coal. He's learnt her well
Though mines are narrow and, above,
The dingy houses set in dreary rows,
Seem all he knows.

The one of us who's travelled most
Says England, stretching far beyond
Her narrow borders, means a host
Of countries where her word's her bond
Because she's steadfast, everywhere the same,
To play the game.

Our college chum (my mate these days)
Thinks England is a garden where
There blooms in England speech and ways,
Nurtured in faith and thought we share,
A fellowship of pride we make our own,
And ours alone.

And England's all we say, but framed
Too big for shallow words to hold.
We tell our bit and halt, ashamed,
Feeling the things that can't be told,
And so we're one and all in camp tonight,
And come to fight.

—Punch.

Other Editors' Opinions

THE DAYLIGHT SAVER.

The death of William Willet, the foremost champion in Britain of the daylight-saving movement, and the father of the Daylight-saving Bill in the British Parliament, is a reminder that some Canadian communities have profited considerably by adopting the scheme. Mr. Willet was a builder, and an untiring advocate of construction that would admit of the use of sunlight to all buildings, particularly those where many people congregated. The bill which he had brought before the House of Commons in 1907, daylight-saving proposed to advance all clocks in the United Kingdom twenty minutes each on four successive Sundays in April, and reverse the process in the four Sundays in September. Between April and September the time would be therefore an hour and a quarter ahead of standard. Though it was supported by many public bodies throughout Britain the bill was referred to a special committee, and did not reach the third reading.

It was worth noting that some of the reasons advanced in support of the bill, that it would lead to a saving of artificial light, has been demonstrated to be sound in a Canadian experiment. Last Summer Regina put on the clock an hour in early summer, and reported that a saving of \$29,000 in the cost of light had been effected by the people. This is the only direct statement of economic saving in Canada the scheme yet announced in Canada. Other Western cities followed the Saskatchewan example last year, and in Saskatchewan the movement was far enough to lead to a proposal that the Legislature should make the daylight-saving scheme obligatory in all communities. That was too drastic, however, and the municipalities still have the matter at their own option. In Eastern Canada special attempts have been made to get the scheme into operation, Orillia having tried it a couple of years ago with poor results, but nowhere has the scheme been so much in vogue as in the Western Provinces with the exception of bright days. To few Canadians, perhaps, is the name of Willet known, but his death a few days ago marks the end of their thought. —Mail and Empire.

ARTILLERY'S BIG PART.

In their advance through Belgium last August, and in their advance to Calais, the German army advanced invariably employed the tactics of going first to the front. The German strategists have held that their armies could advance anywhere at will, and that the only real danger to them was the strength of the British man present in the annual military manoeuvres in Prussia several years ago noticed the mass tactics being employed, and expressed his surprise to the Kaiser. "Germans do not fight well in any other way," replied the Kaiser. Though at Mons and on the Eastern front the projecting salient of phalanxes of men at the front, posing troops has time and again been held at bay, the cost has been enormously extravagant. At least half a million Germans have been wantonly sacrificed in the determination to advance "at any cost." The artillery attack so destructive that the German defending troops will be wiped out or demoralized before the Allied infantry moves forward. At St. Chapelle the large British gains were made at slight expense, because the artillery tore up the German positions as if they had been made of Lloyd George has explained to the makers of war munitions that the huge supply of shells will save the lives of hundreds of thousands of British troops, and possibly millions. Joffre has refused to move forward notwithstanding that he has his troops ready, until he can rely on the artillery. The Allies are not going to throw men in great blocks at the German positions, but intend to sweep their way through with heavy guns, leaving to the infantry the job of work and the holding of positions against counter-attacks. The main mistake of callously and wantonly throwing away the lives of half a million or more brave men is not only ample for imitation by the Allies, but also for the Allies.

ZION HILL.

We are having quite nice weather now. Mr. Peter Halliday had the good fortune to lose a valuable cow. Drawing saw logs seems to be the order of the day. Miss Minnie Ketcheson gave a party to a number of her young friends in honor of her cousin, Miss Blake and Miss M. Ketcheson on Monday evening. We are glad to see Mr. Roy Smith out again after being ill with smallpox. No doubt his Foxboro friends will be glad too. Mr. and Mrs. H. Hamblin spent Sunday afternoon at Mr. H. Casey's. Mr. and Mrs. Stevenson and Mr. R. Reid spent Saturday in Strathroy. Little McMillen is spending a few days with her cousin, Miss Effie McMullen. Mr. and Mrs. W. Ray took dinner with Mr. M. Hawley's on Sunday. Mr. and Mrs. J. Clapp spent the evening last week with Mrs. B. Deane.

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