

## DISINTEGRATION OF ALLIES IS WHAT HUNS ATTEMPTING

Considering Germany's  
Success of Last Two Weeks  
Avoid Confusion.

OFFENSIVE ADVANCE  
IS NOT A VICTORY

Victory or Defeat Will Come  
Only at the End of the  
Final Action.

(Continued from page 3)  
between April 23 and May 27. It is  
the safe factor of the comparative rate  
of loss which will determine the pres-  
ent enemy effort in his favor or ours,  
according to the price which each side  
is paying on the battlefield.

The defensive, however, sorely tried,  
must always work to hold the offen-  
sive with a minimum number of  
men up to that moment when the de-  
fensive phase shall terminate. Its  
whole object is to compel the offen-  
sive to waste men until the equi-  
librium is restored. This mere calcu-  
lation, however, suffers from two great  
disadvantages which gravely affect  
military practice in the field. The  
first is the effect upon civilian feeling  
in a great war of invasion which the  
continued advance of the enemy is  
sure to produce, coupled with the cer-  
tain and increasing effect, greater or  
less, according to the intelligence and  
discipline of the retreating troops, up-  
on the army which is compelled to re-  
tire. The second is the loss in mater-  
ial and prisoners which the retire-  
ment involves.

Offensive Can Afford Greater Loss.

The loss of prisoners is equivalent  
for the purposes of war to an actual  
loss in killed. The men whom the  
enemy seizes in his advance, many of  
them unwounded and many more only  
slightly wounded, are a complete loss  
to the retreating side, a loss perma-  
nent and irreparable, whereas the force  
which is advancing recruits itself in  
time from the recovery of its wound-  
ed. Therefore, the offensive can af-  
ford a much higher rate of total casu-  
alties than can the defensive and will  
yet remain superior.

We had a very good example of  
this fact during the great movements  
of last March. The first losses of  
the enemy were very high. After a  
two days' interval came another pe-  
riod of heavy loss in the battle for  
the ridges of the Somme Valley. Then  
four days later there was another pe-  
riod of heavy loss on the line where  
the enemy was at last held. But  
though the rate of loss—that is, the  
number of men hit—on the German  
side was very much higher than the  
French and British their capture of  
prisoners was on such a scale that no  
sort of equilibrium was established and

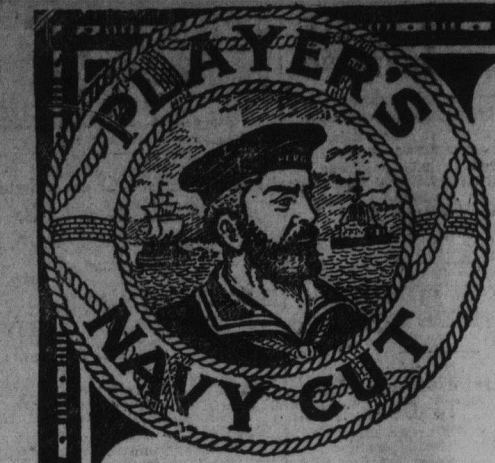
the battle went on for another month  
unsuccessfully to the north.

At the same time the loss of ma-  
terial was so heavy that though it was  
rapidly replaced it also delayed the  
moment when the enemy was com-  
pelled to halt. On this last point,  
however, we have to remark that the  
present war with its vast industrial  
bases fully developed as it now is in  
the west differs from wars of the past.  
In the past a great capture of materials  
was often in itself decisive of the  
campaign. Today even such losses as  
those suffered last March are replaced  
in a few weeks.

Enemy Losses Light at First.

Now, if we turn to the present great  
action which is going on upon the  
waterhead between the basins of the  
Oise and the Marne, though we have  
very few indications to guide us on  
this question of the proportion of  
losses, yet we have a few hints afford-  
ed even by the meagre news which has  
reached us so far. It would seem that  
the enemy's losses on the first day  
were comparatively light. The blow  
was a sudden advance, it was very  
rapid, and the opportunity for engaging  
the enemy heavily in the centre was  
clearly not presented. His losses be-  
gan to be heavy on the two wings in  
front of Rheims and in front of So-  
issons; then came at the close of the  
second day and throughout the third  
what evidently were very heavy losses  
all along his line; that was the day  
when he was fighting his way for-  
ward over the Vesle River and up  
the slopes of the Tardenois plateau.  
Much of the country during this day's  
fighting was wooded and confused and  
he by that time was opposed even in  
the centre by forces which may have  
been as much as a third of his own.  
On the flank he lost very heavily in-  
deed in failing to debouch out of So-  
issons, and he lost heavily in the se-  
ries of attacks and counter attacks out-  
side of Rheims. In the forty-eight  
hours following, during which he again  
advanced rapidly in the centre, his  
losses were once more light, but to-  
wards the end of that period he met  
heavy counter attacks on both his  
flanks, and his loss must again have  
been very high. Lastly came the  
great action of Saturday, June 1,  
in the valley of the Ourcq, which  
gave him a pocket of about five miles  
in depth by eight miles in breadth and  
brought him as far west as Reuilly.  
I take it if one could have a curve  
plotted of the enemy's losses during  
these six days, from the morning of  
May 27 to the evening of June 1,  
we should have not a steadily rising  
line, but one rising in three great  
waves, of which the last is perhaps the  
steepest.

In the Dark About the Main Elements.  
Unfortunately we have no indica-  
tion, whatsoever, of the actual num-  
bers of loss as contrasted with the  
comparative rate. The whole thing  
has developed with such rapidity that  
the estimation of the opposing divi-  
sions is always difficult and often im-  
possible. All we can say by this time is  
that something not far short of fifty



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divisions must have been thrown in  
within this six days. Certainly there  
was much more than forty. That  
means of infantry alone say 400,000  
men. What proportion of these were  
put out of action we do not know.

Neither do we know the second ele-  
ment in the affair, which is the propor-  
tion of strength in which the Allied  
command has chosen to meet and en-  
gage this offensive. No one knows  
how an action is proceeding unless he  
knows at least the mere numerical  
standing of the opposing forces. It is  
impossible for that element in calcula-  
tion to be made public. Nevertheless  
there is something more than a mere  
negative point here and it is import-  
ant that public opinion should appre-  
ciate that something.

This is the fact that the defensive  
up to what it judges to be the climax  
of any action works on the principle of  
the use of the minimum numbers. The  
defensive may misjudge the moment  
of the climax and if so it loses the bat-  
tle. It may, as was the case at the  
Marne, judge its moment exactly, in  
which case it wins the battle, however  
impressive the previous successes of  
the offensive may have been.

But the thing to remember is that  
up to this chosen moment the defen-  
sive must in the nature of things keep  
back as many men as possible. In  
those words "as possible" resides, of  
course, the whole difference between  
victory and defeat. But the command-  
er, whether he is good or bad, whether  
he will be victorious or defeated, while  
he is on the defensive works on the  
minimum. That is the very meaning  
of his position.

The Military Theory of Defence.

People sometimes write as though  
the defensive were a sort of hurried  
attempt to stop the attack by throw-  
ing in everything one has and rush-  
ing up all available resources just as  
men rush up water to put out a fire.  
The offensive always builds always  
represents the defensive in this light,  
because that is the one which must  
unfavorably describe it to the public.  
All the more must in the present  
crisis remember that the reality is  
far otherwise. The defensive is al-  
ways doing out men sparingly and  
thinking of the attack with which  
the task at hand can be accomplished.

We do not know how many divi-  
sions the Allies command has put  
forward to meet the attack. That is  
the point we must keep fixedly in  
mind during the whole course of the  
action up to the point where the coun-  
ter attack is engaged. Of that mo-  
ment and of the fate of such a counter  
attack neither we nor the enemy know  
anything.

### NEWCASTLE

Newcastle, June 8.—A very excel-  
lent concert was given in the Kirk  
Hall on Thursday evening by the  
C. S. E. T. boys of the Presbyterian  
church, assisted by a large number of  
friends. The hall was filled, and the  
proceeds were about \$10.00, one-half  
of which will go to the Red Cross.  
Rev. L. H. MacLean presided.  
The C. S. E. T. boys who took part  
were Royd Bell, Dick and Jack Cor-  
bett, Charlie Dickson, Blair Jardine,  
Frank MacAnlay, William Russell,  
Robert and Sandy Sutherland and  
Byron Taylor. The girls were Flor-  
ence and Katie Cassidy, Helen Dick-  
son, Addie Falconer, Helen Forrest,  
Jean Jardine, Marjory Kennedy,  
Marion Malby and Margaret McCurdy.  
The Comrades C. S. E. T. boys  
have elected officers for the ensuing  
quarter as follows: President, Austin  
Clarke; vice-president, James Sarg-  
ant; secretary, J. Walter Stuart;  
treasurer, Fred McCormack; captain  
of baseball team, Russell O'Donnell.  
Douglas McKay was given charge of  
the key to the athletic rooms.  
Rev. Father McLaughlin of Rexton  
was a visitor in town this week.  
Mr. and Mrs. Angus Kenny of Nor-  
dina are rejoicing over the arrival of  
a son on Sunday last.  
F. D. Sydnor of Deakstown was in  
town yesterday.  
Gr. Sterling Jardine is home on fur-  
lough from Woodstock.  
We regret to have to chronicle the

death of little Joseph Clement, son of  
Mr. and Mrs. Clement Ryan, which  
occurred on May 30th, at the age of  
two months. Interment was in St.  
Mary's cemetery on the 31st. Dis-  
eased leaves his parents and following  
brothers and sisters: John, Katherine,  
Margaret and Loreta, also a half-  
brother, James W. Ryan and a half-  
sister, Mrs. W. F. McGrath.

Much sympathy is felt for Mr. and  
Mrs. Henry Carter, because of the  
death of their little son, Edward Her-  
bert, on Monday, aged five weeks. In-  
terment was in St. Mary's cemetery  
on Tuesday afternoon. Deceased is  
survived by his parents, two brothers,  
Frank and John, and one sister, Nan.  
Miss Mary Marguerite DeWolfe of  
Nordin has graduated from the Bos-  
ton City Hospital Training School for  
nurses.

Mr. Charles Robinson of St. John  
spent Sunday with his mother and  
sister here.

Mrs. John Russell was a visitor to  
St. John this week.

Pte. Ernest Robinson, returned  
soldier, was before the Medical  
Board in St. John this week.  
Sergeant B. A. Burdon of Frederic-  
ton, who enlisted in Regina as a  
private in the first contingent and  
went overseas as a signaller in the  
fifth battalion and climbed up to rank  
as sergeant by bravery on the battle-  
field, where he won each of his strip-  
es, has been gazetted as a lieutenant  
and transferred to St. John. Lt. Bur-  
don has seen 22 months service in the  
trenches and was called back to  
Canada to instruct the 236th as wire-  
less operator and signaller. Lt. Bur-  
don's father is a hagganman in the  
Newcastle-Fredericton C. G. R.

### ONE WAY TO GET FUEL.

When Mike Flaherty abandoned  
South Boston for Lynn, and hired a  
cottage with a bit of back yard, the  
first thing he did was to hurry back  
to the Hub of the Universe and pur-  
chase a motor. "Devil a word" of  
his scheme would he disclose to his old  
cronies in Boston. But afterward he  
let out:

"'Twas like this: I chained the monk  
to a stick in me yard, and the coal  
thrains do be passin' all day forentist,  
and on iv'ry cairn do be a brakeman.  
In one walk, begorra, I had two tons  
of coal in me collar, and the monk  
never want hit."

AN EX-PARTE PROCEEDING.

Two Tuakagee graduates represent-  
ed, respectively, plaintiff and defend-  
ant in a municipal court the other  
day. The question at issue being

### Renew the Joy of Living

Don't let ill health any long-  
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late your bowels and im-  
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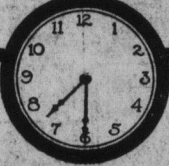
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