

SOME SIDELIGHTS ON MESOPOTAMIA

An English correspondent, with the forces in Mesopotamia, writing of the drab (camp follower or driver), says: "In the old days before the war the drab was a worthy drudge, and as such respected. He got more kicks and less halfpence than anybody else in the army. Perhaps it is adversity that has moulded him. Now, like so many of the obscure, he has achieved distinction. No one any longer thinks of the drab as a non-combatant. At Sahil and Shalab along six members of the corps were awarded the Indian Order of Merit. And in France the drab's reputation was high. It was a drab who pursued his escaping mule almost into the German lines at Loos, crying out that the beast had broken his heel rope and that his sahib would be angry. It was a drab who sat through the whole of the bombardment at Neuve Chapelle when all the rest of his column had taken cover. He wandered about all night unable to find his destination. His cart was written off, for the bombardier in charge, who had obeyed the order 'All into your dugout,' said that nothing could live through that fire. In the morning Muhammad Altin turned up at brigade headquarters with his ammunition, explaining that he had lost the way. When asked what the fire was like, he said that the wind from the shells was like the monsoon in the hills at Dharmasala."

The same correspondent says: "If beasts were decorated the mule would be covered with ribbons. He also knows not defeat. His hardness is proverbial; none of the plagues of Mesopotamia have affected his sagacity. The pack mule as a rule serves the first line; in the second line the brunt of the work has fallen on the ponies and mules of the Jampur and Bharatpur Imperial Service Transport Corps. The ponies are country breeds, unaged, and stand about 13.2. One seldom sees a stranded Indian Army Transport cart among the wreckage of a battle. The A. T. carts were at Shalab in January last year, being daily between the camp and Basra through five miles of flood, in two or three feet of water with frequent bogholes in which the animals and carts were submerged. The ponies had to unhooked, the carts unloaded, manhandled with drag-ropes, and loaded again. From Shalab they went to Hawa, and thence on that historic desert march in June through sand and swamp by Ilah and Bilestin, to Amara, thence to Ali Gherbi, Kut-el-Amara, and Ctesiphon, back to Ali Gherbi, and on again in the new advance. Thirteen months with little halt in their daily convey work, with constant covering of their tracks. The same carts, same animals, same men. And they

look as if they could do it again."

An English correspondent in Salonica discourses thus of a local hostility: "From four o'clock till eight Ploca's yard for yard, is more densely populated than any spot in Salonica. It is an epitome of the commissioned ranks of the Allied armies, officers at the base who have been at their desks all day, officers from the camps who have come to town to buy a stove for their wind-blown tents, embarkation officers from the quays, staff officers from A. H. Q., naval officers ashore for their afternoon walk, flying officers who were bombarding a Bulgarian camp before luncheon, French and English, Serbian and Greek, a varied collection of officers of every rank and corps. Here R. N. R. assistant paymasters learn to recognize a general by the 'crossed gadgets' on his shoulder-strap; here midshipmen smoke cigarettes and devour chocolate cakes with such set expressions of solemnity that the responsibility of the whole Balkan expedition might seem to weigh on their unaided shoulders; a machine gun officer confides his professional griefs to an A.S.C. officer, who relates in turn an involved story of troubles connected with cases of bully-beet and 'M. and V. ration'; Indians and waylaid men who last saw one another as schoolboys meet again at Ploca's; naval men who sleep in a cold iron lighter compare discomforts with army men who sleep on a cold stone mountain. Rumor unlike the clients of the establishment, circulates with freedom among the close-wedged tables."

Mr. Hughes, Prime Minister of Australia, recently addressed a number of convalescent Australian soldiers at Westminster. He said: "In Australia we have watched, as well as we were able through the meagre stories of your great deeds, your every act. We have imagined, in some fashion, what terrible things you have been through. We have seen, we have heard, we have gloried in your achievements. When you have been overwhelmed by the storm and stress of circumstances we have wept for you. When you have been victorious we have rejoiced with you. Always we have been prouder to call ourselves Australians since you made your name in Gallipoli." There was something about the Australian redoubt of those vast spaces which distinguished his great country, something of that air of freedom which marked his land, something of that intolerance of interference with personal freedom that was possibly at times not very ready to accept discipline. There was that passion, that readiness to endure and to dare all things, that had made him one of the finest fighting men on earth.

Says Best of Germany's Troops Have Been Lost

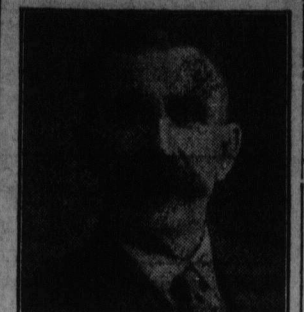
Prince Poniatowski, of Poland, was passenger on board the Espagne, the French line, which reached New York from Bordeaux, a few days ago. Prince Poniatowski is here to care for private interests. After having checked carefully the German attack Verdun he told an interesting story of the mistakes of the German troops and stated that in the early attacks the French stronghold the flower of the German army was used with satisfactory results. I do not care to discuss the war in a manner that would disclose any act that has been or might be taken by the allied troops," said Prince Poniatowski. "But I may be able to throw some light on the first days of Verdun, in a position to know that the

Germans used the flower of their army during the attacks of the first four days and though the attacks were valiant the result must have been discouraging to the offensive. The first four days marked the most severe fighting. The German attacks were repulsed, the best German troops beaten, and since that time the attacks, while determined, have been growing weaker and weaker. Verdun will not fail. I might say right here that at the beginning of the war the German soldier was a professional, while the Frenchman was more or less an amateur. But since that time, through experience, the French have become professional and better professionals than the Germans.

The French losses at Champagne

WILL WE EVER WALK ON AIR?

Train of Thought Inspired by a Letter About "Fruit-a-tives"



MR. D. McLEAN
Orillia, Ont., Nov. 28th, 1914.
"For over two years, I was troubled with Constipation, Drowsiness, Lack of Appetite and Headaches. I tried several medicines, but got no results and my Headaches became more severe. One day I saw your sign which read 'Fruit-a-tives' make you feel like walking on air. This appealed to me, so I decided to try a box. In a very short time, I began to feel better, and now I feel fine. Now I have a good appetite, I eat everything I eat, and the Headaches are gone entirely. I cannot say too much for 'Fruit-a-tives,' and recommend this pleasant fruit medicine to all my friends."

DAN McLEAN.
"FRUIT-A-TIVES" is daily proving its priceless value in relieving cases of Stomach, Liver and Kidney Trouble—General Weakness, and Skin Diseases. 50c. a box, 6 for \$2.50, trial size, 25c. at all dealers or sent postpaid by Fruit-a-tives Limited, Ottawa.

taught a lesson. The French are now letting the artillery and machine guns meet the German attacks, and the infantry is saved. At present we can make better soldiers out of the French civilians than Germany can out of her civilians in a given time. The Germans pursue their old methods of warfare, sacrificing their best troops, and as they do the odds between the two armies become less and less.

Losses of Prussian Guard.

"As an example of how the Germans have used their best troops, I call your attention to Ypres. The famous Prussian Guard was wiped out. There

is a new Prussian Guard, but the new guard lives in the same only. Among the prisoners taken before Verdun there were many soldiers of the class of 1916, the best now available. True, our best troops are at the front, but we are saving them for the general attack. We find that what might be termed second class troops, protected by trenches and aided by artillery and machine guns can hold off the attacks of the best German soldiers. I believe that the ratio of loss between the Allies and the Germans is approximately four to one, with Germany on the losing side.

"I might add a word with regard to the Zeppelins. They have been a rank failure as an engine of war and have acted as boomerangs to Germany. The attacks on England, London in particular, have only served to arouse the anger of the British and caused patriotism to arise to a high pitch. The enormous cost has not been justified by the results, for from a military standpoint the result has been zero, and the killing of women and children has aroused the disgust and anger of neutral nations. Germany argues that the Zeppelin attacks are justified, even though women and children be killed, because war is war.

"If this is so, and the Zeppelin is a military engine of destruction, why have they not been used along the entire battle front, where bombs dropped would have killed combatants and not defenceless ones?

Safer to Attack London.

"As for the continued attacks on London, it is because the Zeppelins are much safer in attacking that city than they are Paris. In attacking the latter city they must pass over the fighting line, and their approach is signalled by wireless to Paris fully forty-five minutes before they reach there. They are subjected to the fire of the anti-aircraft guns from the trenches and from the city, again, on the return they must meet the guns in the trenches. When attacking London they merely have to cross a body of water and they are upon the city before their approach can be heralded."

Prince Poniatowski will remain with relatives while in New York. He expects to return within fifteen days.

COAL BRANCH

Coal Branch, April 11—Mr. Harold Lawson, of West Branch, visited friends here, last week.

Mrs. Andrew Hudson spent Sunday in South Branch, with his brother, Thomas, who is very ill.

Mr. Noble Beers spent a few days of last week with friends in Moncton.

Mr. Felix Bourque has completed a large cut of lumber here, for John

Brown, and moved his mill to Galloway Ridge, where he has another large cut.

Miss Annie Little, and brother, Talmage, spent Sunday in Moncton.

Mr. Simon Gallan has moved his family to Chipman, where they will in future reside.

Mr. Frank Rogers, of Moncton spent Sunday at his home here.

Mr. Amos Boucher, of St. Norbert, visited friends here, recently.

Mrs. Thomas Spencer spent Wednesday, in Moncton.

Miss Bella Pastrack returned to Lakerville, on Wednesday.

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