

## THE STORY OF KITCHENER'S ACTIVITIES

How England's "Grand Old Man" Remade an Army.

Mobilizing India's Forces and turning the Old Guard into an Up-to-date Unit—Testing out every Battalion—Plans which made it possible to send 70,000 Veterans to France.

(L. Fraser in the London Mail.)

It is not yet generally realized that the landing of a great Indian expeditionary force in France is the supreme test of one of the greatest pieces of work ever accomplished by Lord Kitchener. There have been five dominant phases in Lord Kitchener's career. The first was the fashioning of the Egyptian Army into a powerful military force. The second, which was the natural sequel, was the reconquest of the Sudan. The third was the slow but inexorable organization of final victory in South Africa. The fourth was the entire reorganization of the forces of India. The fifth we are now witnessing—the creation of a strong shaft to drive our steel spear-head already in France into the heart of Germany.

Lord Kitchener will live in history as the maker of armies. Like Carnot, he is an "organizer of victory." He never hurries and he has always reached his goal. This time his goal is Berlin. Just at the moment that the war was breaking out people marvelled to find many who had opposed him in the past eager for his appointment to the War Office. The explanation was very simple. It was not only because he was the best man, the one man who could make the new armies. Far more potent was the feeling that once in the Cabinet, he would never relinquish the task till victory was won, if it took him twenty years. He remembered that in those early days we did not know all we know now. Mr. Asquith had not made his magnificent speeches, and there was a fear in many quarters that the Ministry as a whole might grow faint-hearted if the struggle was a long one. Hence the cry for Lord Kitchener, about whom one thing was absolutely certain, that if he once took his coat off he would never stop fighting till Berlin was as vanquished as Omdurman. We know now that the Minister of the Ministry cherishes a like determination, we trust the Cabinet in this matter to the end, and in this crisis we know no politics.

The great achievement of Lord Kitchener in India can be stated in a single sentence. He converted the army of India into a first-class fighting machine. He made all the millions could not have been reservedly applied to it when he went there. Before his day the army of India was an army of proud traditions, composed of splendid fighting material, but organized upon obsolete conceptions, and in many respects still controlled by the standards framed immediately after the Mutiny. There was no broad view regarding the ultimate purpose for which it was maintained. The authorities had never made up their minds whether the army was primarily intended to preserve order within the frontiers or to repel invasion from without. Its distribution had never been made to conform with the wonderful development of the Indian railway system. Small, isolated cantonments were still maintained all over the country, and in many cases their original object had been almost forgotten. One found stray detachments garrisoning ancient Indian forts, for no better reason than they had been thus garrisoned a hundred years ago. Even British battalions were sometimes split up into three or four widely separated segments, so that in such a case the regiment never drilled together.

The staff organization was deficient, and English officers in the native army had to come to England for their staff training. There was no efficient mobilization scheme, and the then military department only professed to be able to put four divisions in the field at the outbreak of a great war. Supply and transport arrangements were woefully lacking, the medical branch was insufficiently equipped for the field, and India was far from self-sufficient in the matter of the manufacture of warlike stores. For many of these defects the Government of India were not to blame. The existence of defects was recognized, but a series of lean years had prevented reform. Lord Kitchener was fortunate enough to arrive when the exchequer was full.

The first thing he did was to make a thorough examination of the long marches of the North-West frontier. He rode over the border almost from end to end. Then he made up his mind about what he was aiming at. In those days the Anglo-Russian Convention had not been thought of, and the Indian authorities looked over and anxiously towards the Oxus. He decided that the army of India could no longer be regarded as required for purposes of police, that it must some day face larger duties than the punishment of frontier tribesmen, and that the time might come when it would have to take the field against a powerful European foe. He bent all his energies towards preparing it for that ultimate possibility. We see the result today, although the foe is one whom almost undreamed of.

Lord Kitchener's original object was to enable India to send into Afghanistan two formidable armies, one to the line of the Helmand and the other to the heights beyond Kabul, while still keeping enough troops in India to maintain order. Instead of the old scheme of four divisions his new mobilization scheme provided nine infantry divisions of three brigades each, and eight cavalry brigades. Each infantry brigade consisted of two Indian

## WHERE THE RUSSIAN AND TURKISH FLEETS ARE OPERATING.



### RUSSIANS ATTACK TURKISH FLEET IN BLACK SEA—SEBASTOPOL BOMBARDED.

Turkish war ships, after bombarding Theodosia (1), threatening Novorossiysk (2), sinking a Russian steamship near Kertch (3) and firing shells at Odessa (4) and its suburbs, proceeded to bombard Sebastopol (5). A Russian fleet is reported to have attacked the Turkish vessels.

battalions and one British battalion. The old system was to send Indians with each British soldier, and thereby expanded his striking strength. The Russian menace happily vanished while he was still at work, but his work stands good. It had to face the fire of much criticism at the time. Now that his scheme has sent 70,000 troops from India to France, with possibly more to follow. It has survived all attacks, and is amply vindicated.

One of his earlier expedients caused an immense amount of grumbling in the classic land of the grumbler. He insisted on subjecting every battalion of India to a separate prolonged and quite tremendous examination under service conditions. The "Kitchener test" was loudly commended, and the newspapers teemed with complaints; but it served to reveal such weaknesses as existed, and when it was all over there was not an officer in India who did not admit its value. The same principle will assuredly be practiced in a modified form with the armies now in process of creation in this country. Whatever be the exigencies, we may be certain that no new regiment will be permitted to go to the front until Lord Kitchener is thoroughly satisfied that it can stand exposure and stand fire. He will not suffer the new line to be thrown away through imperfect training.

Out of his great principles in India was the devotion of power and responsibility. He made all divisional and brigade commanders responsible for their own supply and transport, and abolished all the old circumlocutory correspondence to head quarters about missing buttons and similar trifles. He insisted that the commanders who trained the troops in India, and who were responsible for peace, must lead them in war. He established a Staff College at Quetta, and increased the proportion of British officers in Indian regiments. He swept away many of the small cantonments, and as far as possible massed his troops along the great lines of railways. He was a benefactor to the Indian soldier, for he gave them free outfits, increased pay, better pensions and other concessions. He thoroughly overhauled and enlarged the factories which make equipment and munitions of war, and he revolutionized the mobilization scheme. Had he not done so there would have been very few Indian troops in France today. Lord Kitchener spent seven years in India, and the empire still knows little about his great work there. If the empire looks towards France it will very soon see.

## WHAT SOLDIERS ON ACTIVE DUTY EAT

(Mail and Empire.) As long as it is possible soldiers on active service eat about the same sort of food as they eat at home, but in larger quantities, due, of course, to keener appetites. They have fresh meat of all kinds, vegetables, even fruit, bread and butter and jam, tea, coffee, and even beer, to say nothing of an occasional "lot" of rum or some other spirit. But few of them are so lucky as to be long at the front before having to fall back upon the specially prepared concentrated foods that each army provides in tremendous quantities. The concentrated rations supplied to the various armies in Europe differ quite as much as do the home and length of their rifles. In fact, each nation pins its faith on a different sort of food, or a different combination of the same foods. The problem of feeding the Japanese is the simplest of all, for the Japanese can live for months and

fight like demons on rice alone. It is cooked and then the moisture is taken out of it. The rice is subjected to tremendous pressure, and turned out in the shape of little balls. One of these balls dropped into a pot of hot water will provide a nourishing meal of soup for half a dozen men. By way of variety the balls are sometimes cut into little strips and toasted.

The British emergency ration, that is to say, a ration that each man carries in his knapsack and is supposed only to be eaten if he becomes detached from his comrades and is in danger of starvation, consists of a compressed pea soup. It came into use first in 1878, when an enterprising Englishman supplied the British army during the Afghan War. When Roberts made his famous march to Kandahar his troops were fed almost exclusively upon this pea soup ration, which was so thoroughly concentrated that a single canister could carry a day's food for a whole battalion. It is generally conceded that peas are the best of all food, when the choice is limited on any variety. They are more nutritious than even lean meat, and are a "balanced" ration, that is to say, contain both fuel-producing elements and the protein that makes bone and muscle.

The British army also uses a sort of dog biscuit, four inches square and weighing three ounces, and made of compressed whole wheat. Some time ago an effort was made to introduce the German emergency ration in the British army, but the soldiers would not eat it. National tastes must be considered as well as the nutritive value of the food, and the British soldier could certainly not live and fight on rice as does the Japanese, nor on the "erbswurst," or pea sausage, that the German does his fighting on. The German ration is held to be largely responsible for the great marching of the armies in the war against France in 1870. It not only suits the German palate, but can be reduced to an extremely small bulk, and is carefully prepared that it does not show any sign of deterioration years after its manufacture. The German army also depends, a good deal upon evaporized carrots, which are granulated to the size of small shot. This is not an emergency or so-called "iron" ration, but is used daily by the army cooks when fresh vegetables are not to be had.

The composition of the Russian emergency ration is a State secret, but it is said to taste like fresh bread after a piece of it has been placed in hot water. The French have a concentrated mixture of vegetables and meat which is put up in six-ounce boxes, each containing 21 tablets wrapped separate in paper. One of these, when dropped in hot water, yields a plate of delicious soup. The Belgian army eats evaporated corn, and the American army rations consist of dried lean meat, toasted cracked wheat and chocolate. Bernard Shaw's comedy of "Arms and the Man," in which the soldier hero ate chocolate, was not far from the truth, as all the armies recognize the great value of chocolate. Candles are found with all the armies in the field today when their commissariat is working smoothly, and they are valuable not only because of their heating qualities, but because the soldiers are very fond of them.

Experts have long recognized the fact that soldiers who are in good spirits will fight better and march further and faster than soldiers who are conscious of deprivations. For that reason tobacco is a regular ration in all armies. An American lady in London who contributed \$20,000 to a British patriotic fund requested that the money be used to purchase smoking and chewing tobacco for the soldiers. The value of tobacco and some other stimulants or sedatives that have no sharp reaction is attested by

the United States War Bureau, which reported not long ago that "under the influence of tea, coffee or tobacco a man seems to be brought to a higher pitch of efficiency than without them." A wise military leader will see to it that his men are not deprived of tobacco, or he will regret his carelessness.

### WESTFIELD BEACH.

Westfield Beach, Nov. 4.—Mr. and Mrs. E. L. Jarvis have closed their summer cottage here and returned to St. John.

Mr. Aubrey Caulfield of Regina is visiting his mother at Lingley.

Mr. Harry Baxter spent the week end with his sister Miss Ruth Baxter, who

is attending Provincial Normal School at Fredericton.

Mr. and Mrs. Ronald S. Machum are now residing in their bungalow at Hillside.

Mrs. Harris Young, of Freeport (N. S.), has been a few days guest of Mr. and Mrs. S. V. Prime this week.

Mr. Harry Nise spent the week end with his sisters at Woodman's Point.

Miss Annie Gilliland has returned from a pleasant trip to Boston.

Mr. George W. Crawford is having a new dwelling house erected here.

Miss Lister of St. John West spent the week end with her cousin, Miss Dorothy Finley.

Mr. and Mrs. Fred G. Spencer have closed their cottage at Ononette and returned to St. John.

By today's Boston train Mr. and Mrs. William J. Stephenson returned from a month's visit to their children in the United States.

Mr. and Mrs. Parker H. Currier, of Gagetown, spent last week with Mrs. Currier's parents, Rev. and Mrs. L. A. Cosman.

Miss Sadie May Lingley is one of the nurses who graduate this month from the General Public Hospital training school in St. John, the exercises in connection with which will be held in Centenary school room. Miss Lingley has many warm friends here who are pleased to know she has been so successful in her training.

Rev. L. A. Cosman is visiting friends at Kingston, N. B.

Mr. and Mrs. Frank McDonald motored from St. John to their residence at Woodman's Point, on Sunday.

The combined pie social, entertainment and dance held last evening at Lonsdale Farm, the residence of Mr. and Mrs. R. M. Burden, in aid of the Patriotic Fund, was a grand success.

Still another effort will be put forth on Thursday evening to raise more money for the Belgians. Under the auspices of the local Orange lodge an entertainment and pie social will be held, which it is hoped will be a grand success.

HOPEWELL HILL.

Hopewell Hill, Nov. 3.—Joseph B. Tingley of Lynn, Mass., who came to

attend the funeral of his brother, Mariner, on Friday last, returned to his home on Monday morning.

J. C. Stevens, postmaster, who took an overdose of medicine on Sunday evening, has been seriously ill since. Dr. J. E. M. Carnwath is in attendance.

N. Lloyd Peck and wife and family of Haverhill, Mass., are visiting relatives in Riverside.

The Norwegian steamer "Braema" is loading lumber for Smith and Peck at Five Fathom Hole.

GASPEREAUX STATION.

Gaspereaux Station, Nov. 2.—Miss Ida McNeill spent the week end the guest of Mrs. Robt. Moore.

William Darrall of Chipman and Geo. Briggs and Burpee Briggs of this place were hunting last week and succeeded in shooting two fine deer.

Miss Tillie Fraser who has charge of the school here this term returned Saturday after having spent a few days at the Teachers' Institute which was held in Sussex.

Miss Mayne Jardine who is in the employ of A. P. Day, Chipman, spent Sunday with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Jas. Jardine.

Mrs. Geo. Briggs who has been spending the last few days with friends in St. John has returned home.

To what extent railroad economies are being practiced, may be judged from the September statement of the Pennsylvania system published today. For the operation of all the lines of this vast system, \$2,968,000 less was expended than in September of last year; the saving amounted to more than 10 per cent. Gross earnings declined about 7 per cent. A part of the decline in expenses can be attributed to the lessened call upon the system to move freight and passengers. But also a part—and perhaps the largest part—can be attributed to the decided taste for economy which has been acquired by the railroads this autumn. The taste is a commendable one, and

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This is the feather-weight loaf of snow-like purity, golden-domed and lofty, porous, satin crumb—of course you use FIVE ROSES.



Five Roses Flour

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