

Verdun As It Appears To-Day---General Petain Confident of Victory.

Verdun Is Almost Bare of Civilians and Only Military Are Allowed to Enter.

"Somewhere in France," we have come by motor from Bar-sur-Seine to this unknown village, whose name will some day be historic, although it must remain anonymous at the present writing. For here General Petain has his headquarters, and so here momentous decisions are being taken daily for the checking of the German attempts against Verdun. If the work of the General Staff in the Marne of this little village continues to give such good results as it has up to the present moment, it will not be forgotten when the annals of this war are written.

Nor will the name of the man who has risen so rapidly and so well deservedly in less than two years from one of thousands to one among thousands be forgotten. Since the last week of February the whole world has been looking to General Petain with increasing confidence and admiration. I had hardly arrived in Verdun this morning and had just gotten out of the motor to stretch my legs after a long early morning ride when I was told:—"That house over there with the guard in front is where General Petain lives. He will be coming to his office in a few minutes, for he is always at work promptly at eight o'clock."

The General came on the very stroke of eight, picking his way along down the muddy road and gravely returning the salute of all whom he met. Twice later in X— have I seen him, each time unaccompanied. There is no blare of trumpets about this man, no ceremony. But no general in the field has graver responsibilities than he.

Road Barred to Civilians.
X— is almost as devoid of civilians as is Verdun. The people of the village remain, but the road is barred to others. Not that there is fear of espionage. The control is too strict for that. General Headquarters has

is wholly of a military character and due to the presence of soldiers in repose and the revictualment corps. But when once you pass out of the towns into the country farmers and farmers' wives and farmers' sons, horses and ploughs, grazing cattle and sheep would make one feel that war was far away were it not for the distant thunder of the cannon.

My officer cicerone pointed out to me laughingly, however, one abnormal thing that had escaped my notice. We were not bothered by stupid chickens flying across the road in front of our automobile. The barnyards are more or less deserted.

"We have not always been able to keep our men from indulging a fondness for fowls somewhat similar to that of your Southern negroes," he explained.

When one goes "out to the front," so far as the fighting is concerned, he hears rather than sees. The cannon do thunder; there is the tit-tat-tat of the machine guns and the occasional crack of a rifle. The shells whiz and burst. If you are at a distance you have a view of the ensemble of the operations, but you see very little except smoke, even through good glasses. When you approach near the lines your field of vision is naturally contracted and you have a confused notion—if any notion at all—of what is going on. In the trenches one sees nothing.

I have found out in former wars that "eyewitness" accounts of fighting are practically of no value, owing to the very restricted field of vision and experience of the eyewitness. In this war of trenches it is even less valuable, so far as giving an intelligent account of the ensemble operations goes, than ever before.

What one gets, then, by a trip to the armies in the field is certainly not a clear idea of the military operations. Even were I allowed to do so I could not write a single paragraph worth reading about the technical side of all the fighting around Verdun.

The staff officers who have been directing the operations from the very first day tell me that all they know at the present moment—is how things stand. The results are tangible. How these results have been obtained is by no means clear, even to those who have obtained them.

Confident of Victory.
But what the outside can see and write about with some degree of assurance is the spirit of the men who

WEDNESDAY and THURSDAY at THE NICKEL

"THE GRAY FRIAR"

A thrilling episode of that wonderful serial story, the

"ROMANCE OF ELAINE."

BERT STANLEY Sings "CHINATOWN" by Request.

The Thanhousser Coy. presents in three parts,

"THE VALKYRIE."

The Valkyrie is a beautiful "Goddess of War" believed to cast evil spells over all who cross her path. A beautiful social production with a Star Cast including THE BARONESS VON DEWITZ—Mlle. VALLYVIEN.

EVERY AFTERNOON AT 2.15.

EVERY NIGHT AT 7.10.

THE CRESCENT PICTURE PALACE.

A BIG 4 REEL FEATURE TO-DAY

Presenting Myrtle Tannehill in

"THE BARNSTORMERS"

A Broadway favourite's feature in 4 reels.

"CUTEY'S AWAKENING"

A Vitagraph Comedy with Coally, Van and Nitra Frazer.

MR. FRANK DE'GROOT, Bass Baritone. Singing Classy and Popular Songs.

Good Music and Effects.

A Comfortable and Well Ventilated Theatre.

Take Baby For a Ride.



Sunny days, soft breezes and dry, clean roads are coming fast; this means that all the little folks will be living out-of-doors, and Baby must have a dainty, new carriage in which to go with them.

We have a large and well selected stock of Go-Carts, and Baby Carriages with Leather hoods, swung on the always comfortable Cee Springs, and upholstered in many dainty colors. These carriages are in great variety, and range in Price from **\$2.75 to \$30.00**

U. S. PICTURE & PORTRAIT CO.

HALLEY & COMPANY

MERCHANTS—ELIMINATE YOUR PURCHASING TROUBLES

BY visiting us when you are in town, by doing so it will benefit your business and sustain our reputation for Service, Quality and Reliability;— Besides, it will make satisfied, repeating customers of you, and best of all sworn patrons.

Troubles in your purchasing department hurt your entire business. The way to eliminate such a condition is to send your orders to us.

THE SUCCESS OF OUR BUSINESS IS BUILT ON QUALITY OF SERVICE, MATERIAL, AND PRICES

If you need one of our Price Lists before you, phone or write us.

HALLEY & COMPANY

St. John's, Nfld.

106-108 New Gower St. Leonard St., New York P. O. Box 786 Phone 722

HALLEY & COMPANY

Advertise in The Mail and Advocate

FULTON, FERRO & GRAY MARINE ENGINES.



AT LOWEST PRICES.

We buy cheaper and can sell cheaper than any other Engine house in Newfoundland.

NO. 6 DRY CELLS—Barrel lots, 33 1/2c. each; single sets, 36c. each.

K. W. SPARK COILS—\$7.50 each.

SPARK PLUGS—70c. to \$1.50 each.

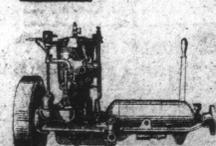
LUBRICATING OIL—Large tins, \$2.90 tin.

LUBRICATING OIL—Cask lots, 40c. to 70c. gallon.

All Engine parts at low prices.

Call and see our demonstrators.

A. H. MURRAY, Becks Cove.



Dillon's Attack on Those Responsible for Executions

(Continued from page 2)

"Let not our sympathy be entirely captured by the unfortunate, misguided victims of this unhappy and criminal act," added the Premier, who said that some sense of proportion must be preserved, as no fair man could blind himself to the "terrible inexcusable and unprovoked injury," which had been inflicted on the military and civilian population.

Premier Asquith explained that actually 13 persons had been shot, the last case being that of Kent, for murder. The Premier promised that further court martials for murder would be conducted publicly.

The persons executed, he said, could be divided into three categories. The first was composed of those who signed the proclamation of the provisional government and were the leaders of the actual rebellion in Dublin. Of these, five out of seven had suffered the extreme penalty. The second class comprised those who were in command of the rebels actually shooting down troops and police. Of these there were seven. The third class comprised men like Kent, who had been guilty of murder.

There were two other persons, Mr. Asquith said, under sentence of death. Both of them had signed the proclamation and had taken an active part—one of them a most active part—in the insurrection in Dublin. The Premier did not see his way clear to interfere with the discretion of Major General Maxwell, the commander of troops in Ireland, and say that the extreme penalty should not be inflicted. He was unable to reconcile it with his conscience or his judgment that differential or preferential treatment should be accorded in the case of men of equal guilt.

Proceeding to refer to the rank and file of the rebels as the "dupes," he said they had been misled almost unconsciously and the government desired that they should be treated with clemency and that every opportunity should be given them in the future to redeem their error. The government regarded the existing situation in Ireland as anomalous and in many ways unsatisfactory, but he had the greatest confidence in General Maxwell and believed that under the very trying conditions and in the exercise of very delicate and difficult jurisdiction he had shown discretion and humanity.

"I am personally perfect satisfied with the manner in which he has dis-

DENTIST



ESTABLISHED 1891.

For nearly a quarter of a century I have practised Dentistry in Newfoundland, and to-day there are many thousands perfectly satisfied with my services.

Our Artificial Teeth are now, as at first, the very best obtainable but the fee has been reduced to \$12.00.

We repair broken plates and make them just as strong as ever at a charge that will surprise you.

If you want a new set, or the old ones repaired, consult

DR. A. B. LEHR, (The Senior Dentist) 203 WATER STREET.

PORTABLE AIR-O-LITE LAMPS AND LANTERNS



MEANS plenty of light, and the best of light. Give a most brilliant illumination with little attention, and at trifling expense. Satisfactory to an extent not thought possible in former years. Burns only one quart of ordinary kerosene in 15 hours.

Robert Templeton, Agent, 333 Water Street, St. John's.

ADVERTISE IN THE MAIL AND ADVOCATE