

FRONT

Is Found Acting as for After Men Have Fled.

IS INTREPID FACING THE ENEMY

Are Forced to Restrain Aggressiveness to Face the Enemy's Bullets.

we left for Paris, passing On the road it to meet the "train de combat" of all kinds, which only in order that the enemy aware of the manoeuvre.

standing of this letter I had to go more into the detail of the "Secours National," but I letter has degenerated into one of incident and actuality.

It is that I am convinced by the seen of the functioning of the Society (Secours National) set seriously, economically and administered. The detail taken by Mr. Hanotaux, for instance that only real cases of relieved, making those able to also the absolute honesty of dials, bourgs and towns with in their not exaggerating rate of things, but confident of by hook or crook, to pull this I call the bravery of the they all have immense response who have been left behind.

have shirked or decamped for are out of it and will never but those who have stood the have said before, have all their them, deserve all help, appreciate deeply and, in spite of their I feel need it.

ation is widespread. vines which are now occupied mans are vacated the conditions be pitiable beyond imagination.

I have seen passes description ration is concerned, but as yours and the good curés said: have suffered, it is still bear- of what has happened in." For instance, Craonna, five beyond Beaumont, and still ardment, is absolutely evacuated and pillaged. When the ants return, think that "everything gone." In many the walls of the houses, along and the roofs, and some the cellars, are caved in.

will all grow up again—more an ever, let us hope—but it to duplicate these charming villages—the work of genera- centuries of love and care.

—for they are admirable—we owe much to the resurrection ope of that which we all love France.

lete confidence in their tralyalty, their generosity and their courage and their spirit Let us help, to our tided over. I am convinced have seen that the Secours the best channel to employ, nomenclical and the best admin- reover, any gifts for a specific will gladly take care of: for arlotte told me that her maid's Hericourt, was in distress, the Secours National I have reach it.

into Sea"

reach Calais is the Kaiser's weeks of bombardment along ad the inevitable effect on the morale of the German troops. stale through sitting in un- nches day and night, and did fever began its ravages ration increased rapidly. The cal retreatment to entrenched ters behind the Meuse was the General Staff, but the convinced that he had only a "contemptible little army," dramatic dash to the coast. the battle cry of "Conquer ould rally the troops and give petus which could not be

riors have voiced the Kaiser's y in the cafés of Brussels and what I write is an accurate their views.

an army was thought to be broken by the fall of Ant- in spirit as well as in German spies overdid their de- fragmentary retreat, and Staff believed that the troops fight again.

army was thought to be too stand for long a series of her blows which would drive France.

too, was the forecast of the he French army. The Kaiser it would not effectively invasion directed primarily and not at Paris.

er's mandate was obeyed His troops gained the empty Ghent, Bruges and Ostend, the sea with wild enthu- the disillusionment began- rors had to fight night and les of battles that were for often than not a massacre mere defeat.

RUSSIAN DEFENCE IS SUPREME

Are Meeting Only One Attack—Austrian Retreat From Serbia Was Costly

(By Special Wire to the Courier) LONDON, Dec. 23.—The Daily Mail's Petrograd correspondent telegraphs:

"Only one of three sides of a square on which the Germans were attacking the Russians a few days ago is being assaulted. This is on the line before Warsaw, where the efforts of the enemy to pierce the Russian line of defence continue with uninterrupted vigor.

"The Germans are keeping up a supply of troops wherever they are needed for filling up gaps. It is now stated that the number of troops on the western front has been reduced, but that the places in the first line units are being taken by garrison and second line troops. If the Russian's dam which has been constructed in order to hold back the torrent of Ger- mans that is being poured toward Warsaw, can resist the pressure, the situation must improve."

The Daily Telegraph's correspondent at Petrograd telegraphs:

"At Muntia the Germans shot down one of their own aeroplanes, which they thought was a Russian machine. It was broken into fragments in the fall and both occupants were instantly killed.

The Morning Post's correspondent at Petrograd telegraphs:

"There is great rejoicing in Russia over the Serbian rout of the Austrian army, which is more complete than was supposed. According to figures received here from perfect- trust worthy sources, the Serbians took 280 officers and more than 42,000 men as prisoners. They captured three stand- ing arms, twenty-nine limbers, 382 ammunition carts, seventy maxims, about two thousand carts of a supply train, two thousand horses, thirty two field kitchens, thirty four field bakeries, three military bands, enormous numbers of rifles, quantities of military stores and every species of war material."

A cable to The Tribune from Petro- grad says:

The Austrian press is using every device to conceal from the public knowledge of the disaster to the armies that invaded Serbia.

One of the immediate results of the defeat is to rob Austria-Hungary all the benefits of her loan of \$25,000,000 contracted with the United States two years ago. The Austrian Gov- ernment still has on its hands \$12,800,000 of this paper, which she has never been able to place. The other half of the loan, which was realized at that time is now wastepaper, owing to the absence of buyers.

German Paper Vorwaerts on Number of English Labor Men in the War.

(By Special Wire to the Courier) NEW YORK, Dec. 23.—A cable from London to the Tribune says:

"The Vorwaerts, the organ of the German Socialist party, publishes the numbers of members of English trade unions who have enlisted since the war began. 'Many people,' it says, 'will be surprised to learn on com- paring statistics available in both countries, that the percentage of or- ganized workers in the army at the front is far greater in the case of England than in that of Germany.'"

It adds: "If Germany should in the future be tempted to speak with contempt about English mercenaries, it would be advisable that they remem- bered this fact."

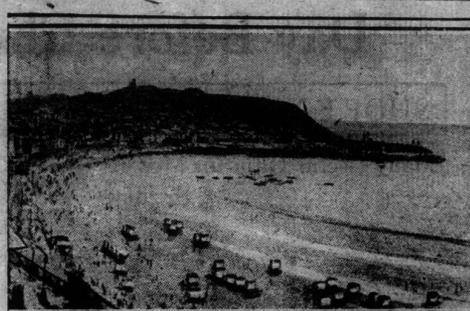
HEART SONGS

The Courier to-day re- ceived a fresh consignment of the jolly, popular "Heart Songs."

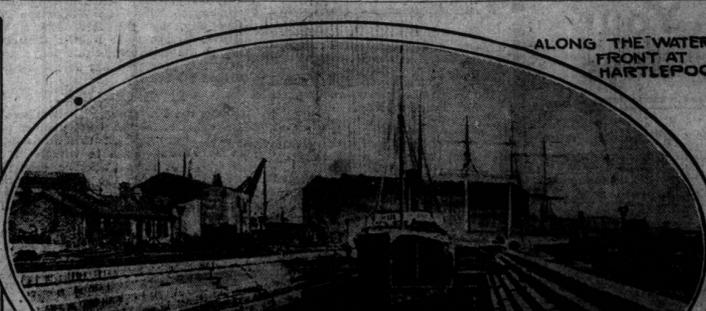
Those whose orders it was impossible to fill because of the big rush for the same, will kindly call at this office and secure their copies.

EVENING SLIPPERS.

A very suitable gift for sister would be a pair of evening slippers or pumps. We have them in all styles and colors. Coles Shoe Co.



ENGLISH PORTS THAT WERE BOMBARDED BY GERMAN WARSHIPS FROM HELIGOLAND.



WHITBY BEACH

GERMANS TALKING OF FAITH

Observance of Truce at Christmas is Subject of Vitriolic Remarks in German Press.

(By Special Wire to the Courier) LONDON, Dec. 23.—The Daily Chronicle says:

"German newspapers deeply deplore the carrying on of hostilities during the festival which they regard as a purely Germanic institution, but they all profess satisfaction that the efforts made by the Pope and the American pacifists to call a truce of God for Christmas Day have come to naught. The Berlin journals would willingly enough see the men at the front enjoying a day's rest, but what guarantees is there that the enemies of Germany, while promising faithfully to observe the conditions of a Christmas truce, would not be guilty of some base treachery."

"The sächsische Zeitung scornfully exclaims:

"Imagine a Russian's word of honor. Imagine British faithfulness to treaties."

"Credit is given to the pope and the pacifists for their admirable intentions, but Germany, says the journal, has only one duty, and that is not to take her hand from the plough—it is God's will—until the certainty of victory is assured."

"Germany," concludes the writer, "now recognises amidst all the terrible sufferings which her sons are enduring, that God is with her, that God desires her to wage this war to the end. It is not a war to be concluded by negotiations of cabinets. Germany is called on to bring to the world a better condition of things—something better than the selfish policy of England, better than the civilisation of Russia. Germany is conscious that God has given her this task; that she has a mission of Kultur to humanity, and this ease of conscience it is which gives her irresistible force in this war. Her faithfulness to God, her confidence in her world mission, will not permit her to lay down her arms, not for an hour, until both in the east and in the west she has brought about conditions which are favorable."

GERMANY RUSHING TROOPS BACK AGAIN FOR FRENCH ADVANCE

(By Special Wire to the Courier) LONDON, Dec. 23.—The Daily Express publishes the following dispatch, dated "On the Belgian frontier, December 22."

"Another great movement of German troops in the direction of West Flanders is now in progress, apparently in order to check the advance of the allies, which grows increasingly menacing. With this object in view, a portion of the Kaiser's army in Poland has been released, and a long line of troop trains has been passing through Liege, Namur and Brussels since Saturday.

"Neutral travellers, who arrived to-day at Maastricht from Germany, stated that Aix-La-Chapelle was full of soldiers who had been temporarily halted for rest on their way to the western theatre of war, and were awaiting their turn to proceed along the congested Belgian railway. The first of these new reinforcements have already arrived in Bruges and Ghent, where they had an enthusiastic reception by the garrison because they were participants in the latest supposed victory in Poland."

NEW WAY SECURED FOR KNOCKING DOWN BARBED WIRE BARRIERS

(By Special Wire to the Courier) LONDON, Dec. 23.—The Daily News publishes the following des- patch from a correspondent in Paris:

"I was talking last night with a group of soldiers from the front and in the course of their stories of life in the trenches, one of them told me of an ingenious device they have for tearing down the German barbed wire entanglements. There are hundreds of miles of these barriers in front of the German trenches in France and Belgium. They bring the most im- petuous bayonet charge to a stand- still until a way is cut through them. Now, I am told, the French are ex-

perimenting with an appliance similar to a rocket apparatus, which throws a grappling iron attached to a rope over entanglements, which are then dragged down and hauled into our trenches.

"By posting a few good marksmen under cover to command the spot where it is intended to hurl the grap- pling, the French secure a number of victims, besides destroying the en- tanglements. Instantly the Germans see it, they dash out of their trenches to try to secure the grappler before it is hauled taut and catches the wires, and these are almost invariably shot down."

ANOTHER BRANTFORD MAN IS AMONG THE WOUNDED, SERGEANT KING FORMERLY OF "G" COMPANY OF DUFFS

It is reported from Boulogne that Pte. Phil King, late Sergeant G Company, 38th Dufferin Rifles, and employed at Massey-Harris' until recalled to his regiment, the 2nd E. Kents, residing at 33 Alfred St. E., has been severely wounded and he anticipates an early removal to England. The news was conveyed to his wife by an active service card, which simply stated he was wounded and at the base hospital, Boulogne. King was an active member of G Company, and an all-round favorite, the men of his old company of the Duffs being now engaged in subscribing for a Christmas present to send him. The postcard stated that a letter was following, and as it will contain fuller details of his injuries, it is eagerly awaited by his wife, who resides at his old address. Mrs. King stated last night that they had been over nine years in Canada, and had been happy and successful since coming here. They had felt this, their first parting, very much. "I hope he returns soon, or I'll go back to be nearer him in the spring," were her parting words.

INFERNAL MACHINES ON HORSE SHIPS. NEW ORLEANS, La., Dec. 22.—The police have arrested ten Ger- mans charged with placing infernal machines aboard horse and mule ships destined to England and France. One of the Germans has confessed, and the police claim they have conclusive evi- dence against others. The scheme was for the bombs, operated by clockwork to explode when the ships were several days at sea.

SEVEREST FIGHTING GOING ON

An Eighty Mile Battle Front Between Germans and Russians—Tremendous Losses.

(By Special Wire to the Courier) LONDON, Dec. 23.—19 noon.—The eighty mile front in Russian Poland, to the west of Warsaw, where the Germans and Russians are at grips on the banks of the Bzura, Rawaka, and Pilica Rivers, continues to be the scene of the most desperate fighting in either the eastern or western arenas of the war.

When the weather conditions under which the troops there are fighting, recalled, the sufferings of the men in the trenches, may to some extent be appreciated. The country is experienc- ing the full force of winter. Each side has sustained tremendous losses in this battle of the rivers, and al- though the Germans claim to have forced the Russian line at a number of points, it is nevertheless a fact, ac- cording to reports reaching London, that the Russian front has been straightened out and it is difficult to visualize which contender has the strategic advantage.

Again there come trickling through Holland reports of vast movements of German forces from the east and the west. A despatch reaching here from Amsterdam says that thousands of German troops have passed through

That the greatest measure of hap- piness is to be derived from giving, rather than from receiving. Christmas gifts is appreciated by a large num- ber of the rising generation in Brant- ford is shown by the numerous gifts for the Kiddies Christmas Tree, re- ceived from boys and girls of tender years. Already a number of these have been acknowledged, but since yesterday's list was published, two particularly fine gifts have been re- ceived by the committee in charge of the entertainment. One of these was a number of fine toys to be placed on the tree and distributed to the guests of Santa Claus. These came from the pupils of Miss Bell's class in Alexandra School. The other gift was from the manual training depart- ment of the public school, under the direction of Mr. A. Styles, and con- sists of a number of toys and useful gifts made by the boys themselves, a work which they say gave them a great amount of pleasure. Among the boys who joined in the worthy move- ment were: W. Nelson, A. McNally, J. Cook, L. Joyce, A. Hackman, S. Kerr, F. Potter, N. Andrews, G. Ad- am, M. Beckett, A. Ham, L. Rid- dells and H. Symons.

The distribution of the gifts will take place in the armories this even- ing, and Santa Claus has arranged to have a number of assistants present to assist him in his work. More than 1,100 children have received invita- tions and as each is to receive can- dies, nuts and an orange, in addition to a present, the jolly old fellow is going to have his hands full.

As already announced the children who have received invitations will enter through the south door and no child will be admitted there unless he or she has an invitation card to show. Mothers with babes in arms to whom invitations have been issued will also

MORE THAN 1,100 CHILDREN HAVE BEEN INVITED TO-NIGHT

Particularly Gratifying is the Number of Subscrip- tions—Amount Reached is Over \$500—Joy for All the Needy Ones.

be admitted through this door, but the general public will be admitted only through the north, or Dalhousie street entrance.

The following additional subscrip- tions for the Christmas Tree fund have been received:

Previously acknowledged \$535.38
Operators Bell Tel. Co. 5.50
Primrose Mabon 1.00
G. M. H. 1.00
Friends 3.00
J. I. Miller 1.00
M. H. Bowers 1.00
R. C. Daniel 1.00
J. E. Heaton 1.00
E. W. Ballantyne 1.00
C. Webber 1.00
G. M. B. 2.00
M. R. 2.00
Friend 1.00
Kitty Harris 1.00

Caledonia Had Disastrous Fire This Morning

(By Special Wire to the Courier) HAMILTON, Ont., Dec. 23.—Fire did thousands of dollars damage this morning at Caledonia, wiping out an entire business block and for a time threatening destruction of the whole town. A brisk wind fanned the flames which gained so much headway at one stage, that the revee called on Hamil- ton for assistance. A special train was hurriedly made up, but just as the Hamilton firemen were about to leave, word was received that the fire was under control.

A plot to blow up British horse transports was discovered at New Or-

Dardanelles Hero Awarded a V. C.

LONDON, Dec. 22.—The official London Gazette announces that the Victoria Cross has been conferred upon Lieut. Holbrook, commander of sub- marine B11, for his exploit in going under the mines in the Dardanelles and torpedoing a Turkish cruiser.

Resident in this city and em- ployed at the American Rail- road Company is Mr. James Wel- tor, an Englishman, whose son has served with Lieut. Holbrook, V. C., throughout the distinguished and daring exploit of his father. Mr. Weller has had many hairbreadth escapes and was submerged for over 36 hours at one time owing to a mishap. Friends of Mr. Weller are advancing him their congratulations on his exploit in a famous saying, "Proud be the father, who bred so brave a son."

OFFICIAL FRENCH NOTICE

(By Special Wire to the Courier) PARIS, Dec. 23.—The French war office this afternoon gave out an official statement as follows:

"Yesterday, in Belgium, we made slight progress between the sea and the highway from Nieuport to West- end, as well as in the region be- tween Steenstrawe and Bixschotte, where we occupied a forest, some houses and a redoubt."

LOW PRICES AND GOOD QUALITY AT COLES.

The most appreciated gift of all for Father or Brother is a nice club bag. We have the good ones, at low prices. Coles Shoe Co., 124 Colborne Street.

Toronto Hydro-Electric Commis- sion has submitted suggestions for the prospective drop in rates to consum- ers.

(Continued on Page Four.)