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BOWRING'S COVE.

BRITISH ARMY SINGING PRAISES OF THE GUNS AND PLANES

In the Bombardment of Loos the Roar of the Guns Had the Power of Niagara Falls—Wave of Men Swept From British Trenches Toward the Enemy

BRITISH HEADQUARTERS, France
Oct. 15.—(Correspondence of the Associated Press)—Since the taking of Loos all the army is singing the praises of the guns and the planes. No such bombardment has ever been heard on the British front as that which preceded the attack.

There seemed no interval between the reports of the guns; not even those of the beat of a snare drum. The roar had the power and continuity of Niagara Falls. House windows in the surrounding country kept up a continuous rattle.

"It is the sweetest sound in the world," said one of the surviving veterans of the retreat from Mons. "It means you will get into the German trench and have a fair fight of it and you won't charge into the play of the machine guns or be hung up in the barbed wire. A year ago when we held the Germans back from the Channel ports we were doing it with flesh and blood against the outnumbering German artillery. The most comfortable sight in the world is an eight inch howitzer; and next to that it is a motor truck loaded with high explosive shells."

As morning approached after the bombardment, officers on the British front were looking at their wrist watches. In front of Loos the figure six making half hour—half past six—was the goal of the creeping minute hand. At that moment a wave of men rose from the first line British trenches, and the volume of shell-fire was lifted from the first line German to the second line as the stream from a hose is lifted from one flower bed to another. Meanwhile every man in the charge tries to outrun every other man. The sooner they were in the German trench the less likelihood of the Germans coming out of their dugouts and recovering their senses after the bath of shells and firing on the advance. If only one machine gun can be manned before the charge goes home, the charge may be stopped in that immediate section. It is all a matter of wrist watches, of speed, team play and of seconds.

Birds of War.

With the first flush of dawn the birds of war had come from their aerodromes. The shell-fire and the planes were all that the onlooker might see.

I should think that we had eight planes that day to one of the Germans," said an aviator. "We had concentrated planes as well as guns."

Only when the secret of the point of concentration is kept can such an attack succeed against a modern defensive position. The Germans had learned that the British were preparing an attack; for their soldiers called out from their trenches to the British: "When are you coming?" to which one Briton replied: "I'll let you know as soon as Sir John French tells me."

Attacks were made that morning at several places; but the Germans expected the real attack elsewhere than Loos.

"There has been a good deal of talk," said a staff officer, "to the effect that the element of surprise has disappeared from war. It is as vital as it ever was. Only concealment was never so difficult."

Troops and guns had to be moved at night when the German planes might not note the concentration. British planes must ward off German planes by day.

In infinite labor and pains in detail are required of hundreds of thousands of men for such an attack. That of the medical corps alone is stupendous. On the morning of the attack beds were ready; and the countless ambulances and the clearing stations and all the intricate organization for caring for the wounded ready.

Flock of Planes

At the attack proceeded a veritable flock of planes was cutting circles and dipping and turning over the battlefield as if in an exhibition of air-manship. They appeared to be in contact with the battle; but no participant was more busy or intent than they. All the panorama of action was beneath them; they alone could really "see" the battle if they chose. But each aviator stole only passing glimpses of the whole; for each one was intent on his part which was to keep watch of whether the shells of the battery to which he reported were on the target or not.

To distinguish whose shell-burst in the midst of that cloud of dust and smoke over the German positions seemed as difficult as to separate the spout of steam from one pipe from another when a hundred were making

Every youth in England apparently wants to get into the aerial service. So the corps has its pick. Promotion is rapid; the romance and the excitement of the work appeal. It is easy to learn to fly in the very stable latest types of machine which, as the saying goes, are "fool-proof." It takes only two months to train a man with aptitude to do the routine work of reconnaissance. But he must be young. Men do not learn readily after they are thirty with few exceptions, and they are very poor pupils indeed after they are thirty-five. It is not difficult to spot shells when only a few batteries are firing, but when perhaps a hundred guns are dropping shells on a half mile front of trench a highly trained eye is required. Occasionally a plane was observed to slip down like a hawk which had located a fish in the water. At all hazards that intrepid aviator was going to identify the shell bursts of the batteries which he represented. The Germans might have him in rifle range but they were too busy trying to hold back the English infantry to fire at him.

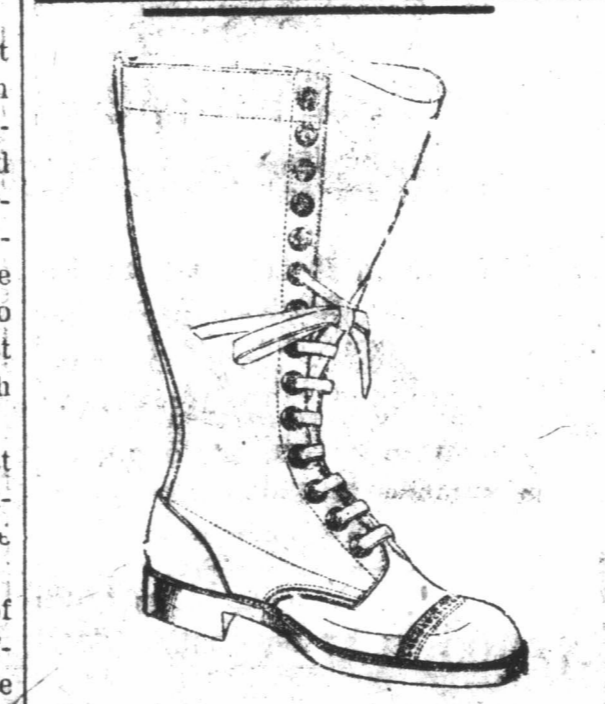
Bombs and Trains

Other planes were dropping shells on railroad trains and bridges, to hinder the Germans once they had learned where the force of the attack was to be exerted from rushing reinforcements to the spot. For that kind of work as for all long reconnaissances aviators like low-lying clouds. They dip down out of these to have a look around and drop a bomb and then rise to cover before the Germans can bring their anti-aircraft guns to bear.

The first thing was to hold what was taken in this advance. All the labor of turning the wrecked German into British trenches, of making new dugouts, traverses and parapets and laying out barbed-wire had to be done before the German concentrating swept back in a counter attack which was expected and which came. A Niagara of German gunfire added to that of the British announces another German effort. So far the British have held their new positions; and when the Germans were attacking in one part of the line the British repulsed the Germans attack and took five hundred yards from the German in an adjacent part.

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Temperance Topics

How can the exponent of liquor temperance fix his race to offer prayer to God?

How can he even quote the Lord's prayer from a sincere heart?

How can he say, "Hallowed be Thy name," when he favors the continuance of a business that does more to render that name unhallowable than all other evils combine?

How can he plead, "Thy kingdom come," when his ballot is a practical bid for the continuance of the kingdom of Satan?

How can he pronounce the words "Thy will be done," when he has done all he can to establish a system which subverts the divine order and arranges humanity against the benevolent and gracious purposes of the Almighty?

How can he ask, "Give us this day our daily bread," when he has authorized unprincipled men to wrest from the needy, the suffering wives and children of drunkards, the last crusts which would keep them from starving?

How dare he request, "And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive them that trespass against us," when he has gone his political length to keep alive an institution which leads to more trespassing and wrong-doing than any other that subverted the rights of mankind?

How can he muster courage to ask God to "lead him not into temptation," when he has done all he could to place temptation in the way of his fellows, or at least has done nothing through the most sacred agency of his citizenship to remove temptations out of the way?

And how can he add, "But deliver us from evil," when his voice and vote counted for the continuance and prosperity of the greatest evil under the sun?

Let men of sense think on these things.

Where is our consistency? What are we thinking about anyway? Or are we already helpless in the grip of the enemy?

Have we so far degenerated that the religious spirit of our forefathers has died out of our hearts, or at least is no longer a forceful quantity in the practical conduct of public affairs?

We will not believe it.

The Christian men of this nation could have things pretty much their own way if they only knew, and would make known in a practical manner what their own way is.

The policy which has so long dominated many church members, viz., that in politics they have no need of religious convictions, ought to be annihilated at a stroke, and all Christians of whatever name should be found in solid phalanx against our common enemy.

It is a sin against high heaven to fail to carry our religious convictions into politics.

He that keeps the whole law, and yet offends at one point is guilty of all.

Men have no more liberty to tolerate a political wrong than any other wrong.

Their political affiliations and actions should be just as unimpeachable as any other affiliation and actions.

They should feel it to be just as serious an offense to keep alive the whiskey devil through political agencies as to keep that devil alive thru any other agency under their control or support.

What if the liquor traffic were kept alive by the church direct? Yet if a political union of all church members and sympathizers would crush that traffic, are we not responsible if we fail to come together?

Every Christian must be governed by his own conscience which will permit its owner to work an evil by his ballot which it would not allow him to work in any other way, needs a vast deal of enlightenment—Michigan Christian Advocate.

Will Botha Retain Premiership

"Will Botha retain the Premiership of South Africa" is the question being asked in London. Although the election results are satisfactory as assuring the supremacy of the two parties which support the Empire policy, Botha's personal following does not give him the majority. Prior to the election he declared his intention not to retain office unless backed by the Dutch majority. Herzog, who has swept the Orange River Colony, which may prove a serious menace to internal harmony, unless a strong coalition is formed between Botha and the Unionists. The latter party embraces practically all the English, and the wealthiest commercial elements in South Africa. The fusion of these two parties will inevitably mean a strong opposition from the Nationalist forces, led by Herzog. The Labor Party attribute their defeat largely to the fact that many miners from Kimberly and Johannesburg are in Khat.


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