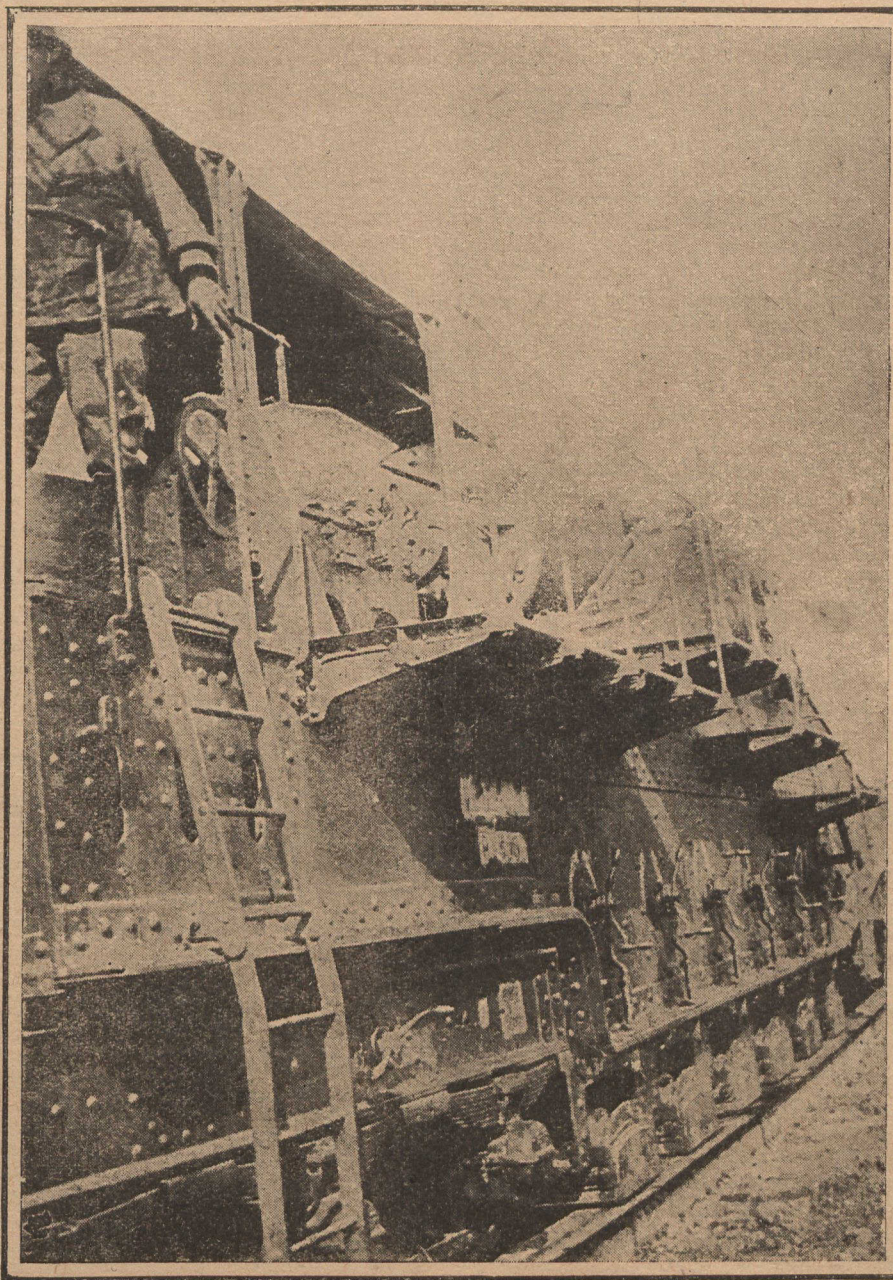


THE MONSTERS THAT BREAK THROUGH

AS was pointed out by Sidney Coryn, in last week's Courier, there has been a radical change in the character of the tactics on the West front. "New tactics of the most dramatic kind," he says, "will disclose themselves. . . . With Bapaume and Peronne taken we may expect that the policy of pressure against successive points will presently give way to a determined effort to break the line and to roll it up north and south from the two flanks. . . .

We need not suppose for a moment that the scope of the Allied offensive in the West will be confined to the present process of blasting their enemies from point to point. So far the British at least have been using only a small amount of their available force. They have vast reserves that have hardly yet been in action. But with the Germans in the open we are likely to see these reserves brought into play. They will be hurled against the weakest point on the German line with the view of breaking through at any sacrifice. If a break is once made, the attackers will then turn north and south and roll up the German lines."

The writer, who is absolutely neutral, further shows that the new offensive, which may happen at any unexpected moment, will no longer pursue a policy of nibbling and gradual weakening, but will substitute a programme of concentrated attack upon a weakened line, not for the purpose of pushing the Germans slowly back, as has been the method for so long, but for the purpose of smashing through. He shows that to compare the rate of present advance against heavy fortifications with the distance of the lines from the German



frontier is foolish. Once the line is thoroughly broken the present rate of advance will no longer be a factor and the distance from the German frontier will have little to do with the case.

Frank Simonds, another neutral American war expert, takes the man-strength of the belligerent nations and the total list of casualties as the basis of a further encouraging estimate. He calculates that the Allies' losses of 10,000,000 total casualties thus far represent one-third of their total man-strength, while the Central Powers' losses of 8,000,000 represent a total of two-thirds their strength at the beginning of the war. Even on a programme of attrition he estimates that the Teutons can hold out no longer than two years more, because the Allies have still a total of 20,000,000 to call upon, as compared to a total of only 8,000,000 in the Central Powers.

When the great advance of the irresistible force really begins, there may be less relative use for such French big guns as that shown on this page, a gun whose size, when mounted, may be estimated from the man in the picture and which requires a special railway track to transport it.

Speculation as to what those British tanks really are may be set at rest by the photograph below, which differs somewhat from the drawing made by the New York Herald artist, published in this paper a few weeks ago. There is no doubt that the tanks have done good, original service, and that they are a device that will prove of much value in helping to break through the German lines in any contemplated general offensive, which is as sure to happen as sunrise.

