

The War's Lost Battles

By Lieut. C. Vince.

It is indeed fortunate for Germany that she possesses (or possessed till she pretty well wore it out with hard work) a highly-trained army and a public contented to trust blindly to its large body of expert officers.

It is plain that had the country been left as England was, to the energy of the individual or to the inspiring leadership of her political chiefs, she would long since have perished from sheer lack of individuality and inspiration.

Of late, since the catastrophic failure of her summer campaign, Germany has had to appeal to her leaders for some sort of spiritual consolation in her hour of misfortune and anything less calculated than their response to nerve the German people to meet its approaching fate cannot well be imagined. The man who stands outside a fifth rate provincial picture palace and acts forth its spurious attractions would have made a better job of it.

There was the Crown Prince, who bravely int'ed all his earlier boasts and explained that a complete victory meant sitting in a cellar, with the trapper barred, to starve. There was Dr. Solf, a person of no great importance in the German government (as the Frankfurter Zeitung unkindly pointed out), being secretary for the non-existent colonies (a sort of "friend professor" of snake-ology). He could do nothing more effective than denounce England as a land-grabber, proclaim Germany's moral right to own territory in Africa, and call upon his countrymen to accept the world's challenge to a fifth year of war. To a people which cares very little about its colonies (of which comparatively little use was ever made—except, perhaps, as a sort of training-ground for the Belgian atrocities) and desires only to get out of a fifth winter, there was nothing in this speech to set the crowd cheering.

Prince Max of Baden, a reputed liberal, was another royal propagandist. All he could find to say was that it was to Germany's (and particularly Baden's) royal families that she owed her greatness and happiness. If the merits of German princes are to be measured by the present happiness of their subjects, they can scarcely be said to have made good. Also, when he had warmed to his work a little, he told his audience that he did not think much of western democracy. He rejoiced that "we are not compelled, in every upheaval of popular passion, in every flood or ebb of opinion, to see an inflexible revelation of the will of the people, for which we must sacrifice our conscience. Mob-law, lynch-justice, the boycott of opponents, pogroms of foreigners, and the other despotic customs of western democracy, whatever they are called, will, it is to be hoped, always remain as foreign to our nature as they are to our language."

None of your democratic camouflage for Prince Max. But by now things had got so bad that the great von Hindenburg himself had to take a hand. He, preferring the hoarding to the platform, spread abroad mysterious festoes urging his countrymen not to be afraid and not to listen to the fierce threats of their enemies. And to save them from all these keepers their ears open to these threats, he proceeded to paint as lurid a picture as any enemy propagandist ever attempted of the horrors in store for them if they did not keep their mouths shut and their hands out of Germany. If a bank manager sought by such means to allay his depositors' fears, he would within the hour have a queue two miles long

GETTING THE ANSWER READY

By Courier Leased Wire

Berne, Friday, Oct. 18.—The grand admiral of the fleet and the chief of the naval staff have arrived in Berlin for consultation over the answer to Wilson.

It is believed that the reply will be neither a full acceptance nor a refusal, but worded so that the door will be left open for further negotiations.

The Berlin reports show the holding of a peace demonstration by thousands of workmen on the other hand the patriotic and economic associations, including the great German manufacturers association, have passed resolutions urging the organization of a stubborn defence.

outside his doors, clamoring for their cash.

Finally the great Pan-Jun-drum himself had to come down and speak to his loving subjects in that resort of the well-fed and the well-paid Krupp's works.

Here, at last, and at least you might have expected dignity, courage and a defiance that would have revived the courage of so sympathetic an audience. King Albert of Belgium would have said something worthy of the occasion. A descendant of Maria Theresa might have made an impressive scene of it. But the Kaiser could do nothing but snivel and whine. The words are undignified in connection with so famous a personage, but they sink no lower than the facts demand.

The war, said the Kaiser, was not our fault. We are jealous and we want to go on hating us. We don't know how to hate, we haven't got it in us to hate anyone; but we must go on fighting, though how it will all end, God only knows!

And everyone, of these speakers has not only been unimpressive in his tone, but singularly unfortunate in his facts.

Herr Solf's speech has been rapidly followed by the publication of the Blue book on German administration in Southwest Africa, which is enough to convince anyone of the criminality of allowing Germany to lord it over natives of any race.

Prince Max's aristocratic, self-praise coincides with a particularly vigorous "democratic" peace offensive under the auspices of Erbranger and Scheidemann, the same Socialist, and also by a renewed demand for suffrage reform.

Hindenburg's appeal to Germans to have confidence in himself and his men is followed by a further nasty crack in the famous defence line that bears his name.

And the Kaiser's Wall of "please, sir, it wasn't me!" had just been recipitated by an admission of the General Council of German Trades Unions that it is precisely the German jingles who have been at the bottom of all the trouble, and the declaration by yet another prominent neutral, the Norwegian ex-minister, Sigurd Ibsen, that whoever else wanted war, neither France nor England did.

It is really time von Tirpitz, the Pirate King, said something cheering. But for him such a task must be particularly difficult. It is a pity Count Zeppelin is dead.

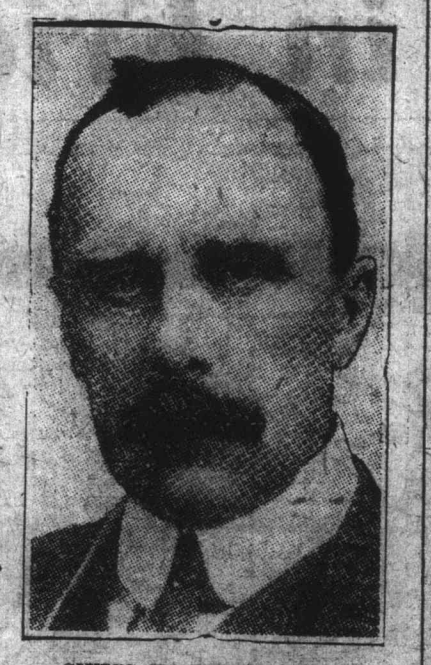
It was one of Marshal Foch's favorite maxims when he delivered his famous lectures on the art of war at the French Staff College that a battle is only lost when one believes it lost.

It is the same truth as that great saying of so many British fighting men that "they never knew when they were beaten;" and now the deputy chief of the German general staff has been applying it (in a lecture before the German Society) to the German retreat from the Marne and Amiens back to the Hindenburg line.

"Is it suggested," he said, "that we have suffered defeat when regarding the position as a whole there is no defeat. Savant's saying that a lost battle is only one that one believes lost applies here to-day, two moral factors alone are decisive in war."

So both sides accept the same test of defeat, "a lost battle is only one that one believes lost." Let us apply the test.

The great example of that truth was the retreat of the French and British from the Mons canal to the



SWISS IN PUBLIC EYE
Frederick Oederlin, the Charge d'Affaires of the Swiss legation in Washington, is just now in the public mind as having handed the messages, which his government has transmitted from Germany to President Wilson. Oederlin is only 38 years of age, and until a short time ago was commercial adviser to Hans Sulzer, Minister from Switzerland. He is a mechanical engineer, with experience in the United States and Canada.

Marne. The battles of that retreat were none of them lost battles, for none believed them lost.

Those who were there have described how the British troops retreated day after day, wondering all the time when the order to turn and advance would come; cursing because they still kept retreating, although every time they fought the Germans they drove them back; and how when at last the order to advance came "there was a cheer which must have reached to Bordeaux."

Thus it was that all the time the German press was announcing great victories, and all the while the Germans were retreating, and the people in all the German towns were drunk with excitement and delight, not a battle was lost by the Allies for none believed them lost.

Apply the same test to the German retreat. "Is it suggested that we have suffered defeat?" says the deputy chief of the German general staff. "Is it suggested, and that they have suffered defeat and by his own test, that lost battles are those which an army knows it has lost."

"I will tell you of our strategic retreat. I have never seen anything like it. The danger was great of being taken in flank and swept away by the French. In short all the ground which we have conquered at the price of such precious blood is now completely lost."

It was written by a man in a German regiment on August 18th. It was found on his body. It is not the letter of a man who refuses to believe that a battle has been lost.

But there is no need to go to the check letters of individual soldiers. Their leaders speak for them in the same way, confessing the truth which they would have hidden if they could.

Hindenburg would not have issued his manifesto warning Germany of the attack on the spirit of the German army by the propaganda of the Allies, if he really believed, as he said, that "the spirit which dwells in our troops and our people makes us unconquerable." If his troops had that spirit he would not have been afraid of the "drum fire of printed matter" with which he said that his front was bombarded. He spoke as he did, in fear, for he knew that he spoke of an army very ready to believe that it had lost the battle.

Nor would Ludendorff issue such army orders as he does, to troops who would never believe that the battle was lost.

"I have the feeling," so his order of August 4th said, "I have the feeling that on many sides the prospect of an enemy attack is regarded with a certain fear."

It was in that way that he addressed an army which according to the German press had just won the most stupendous victories in history.

Compare the spirit of the German troops who needed to be addressed in such language at the end of a great advance, with the spirit of those British soldiers who, though retreating day and night, fighting and marching without rest, driven to the very limits of human endurance, yet never lost the conviction that they were beating the enemy and at any moment would turn and march to him—compare the spirit of those two and you have the full meaning of that truth, "A battle is only lost when one believes it lost."

You have lost the answer to that question of the deputy chief of the German staff. "Is it suggested that we have suffered defeat?"

SAVING THE FOOD. BRANTFORD MARKET

Observe Golden Rule and Help Win the War.

If you do unto others what you wish others to do unto you, you will win your relation to the community in which you live. If you wish to live in peace with your neighbors, you will show yourself peaceful. If you are quarrelsome, you will not have far to go to pick a quarrel. If you are unkind, you will not be equal, a man is treated as he treats others, and with what judgment he judges, so will he be judged.

Now as a man deals with his food habits, so may he exhibit the principle of the Golden Rule, for man does not eat to himself alone in these war times. Man never at any time lives to himself alone, for his existence includes the well-being of his personal relations upon the lives of others, whom he affects beneficially or perniciously. Much as man would like to live as a little tin god in solitary isolation, yet he never can, but continuously must be of service to others if he is to approximate to the human ideal.

If he eats more than he should eat, he is taking from the stocks what should be left for others. The gourmand would be the first to complain were his allowance of food curtailed by someone else. If he exercises his limited right to eat more than he should, he must be prepared to permit others to do the same. If everyone eats more than he should, the day of famine is hastened and the prospect for the man at the front who is under military discipline and on rations is not brightened.

Similarly, if a man persists in violating the food regulations, he not only does what he should not do, but he also endangers the food supply allocated to the men at the front, and comes dangerously near to being a traitor. If one and one-half pounds of sugar a month is fixed as the per capita allowance, it is so done through force of circumstances with the one object of meeting the needs of the Allies, both civilian and military. Regulations would not upset the calculation materially, but if all men violated it, the men at the front would go without sugar, and the civilian population in Europe famished. In principle, however, one man's violation is as vital as if all men were violators.

And in time of war, when food is a first-class munition of war, a man must form his food habits on principle and not on personal taste. No man can afford to eat what the food regulation says he should not eat, no matter how much he may desire to do so, for he will be interfering with a war measure and set his personal will up against the will of the nation in its efforts to win the war. A man can be a rebel, a renegade and a pro-German through his food habits just as well as by making a speech on a soap-box against the persistent prosecution of this war. A man can be a rebel, a renegade and a pro-German through his food habits just as well as by making a speech on a soap-box against the persistent prosecution of this war.

As a matter of fact, all Canadians are soldiers in uniform or out of it in this fight, and must first obey and argue the matter out later. Before the war argument came first, but during the war obedience is the first duty, and doing one's duty is the great responsibility resting upon every patriotic citizen. If you who stay at home were in the trenches, what would you want Canadians to do with their food habits? The Golden Rule in food control is as workable as it is in social relations. If lived up to without weakening it will win the war.

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The Ontario Railway and Municipal Board.

In the matter of the Application of The Glenwood Natural Gas Company, Limited, Southern Ontario Gas Company, Limited, The Ingersoll Gas Light Company, The Woodstock Gas Company, The Dominion Natural Gas Light Company, Limited, The Gas Light Company and The Brantford Gas Company, as to conservation and distribution of natural gas from the Tisbury Field and rates to be charged to distributors and consumers.

Appointment for Hearing.
The Ontario Railway and Municipal Board hereby appoints Wednesday, the twenty-third day of October, A.D. 1918, at the hour of half-past ten o'clock in the forenoon, at the Court House, in the City of Hamilton, for the hearing herein. Dated at Toronto, this Twenty-seventh day of September, A.D. 1918.

H.C. SMALL,
Secretary.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

In the Matter of the Estate of Michael Brennan, Richard Brennan and Margaret Gordon, all late of the City of Brantford, in the County of Brant, Deceased.

NOTICE is hereby given that all persons having any claims against the estates of Michael Brennan, Richard Brennan and Margaret Gordon, late of the City of Brantford, in the County of Brant, deceased, are hereby required to send same together with proof thereof to the undersigned, solicitors for the administrator not later than the 25th day of October, 1918, after which date the said Administrator will proceed to distribute the assets of the said estates among the parties entitled thereto, having regard only to the claims of which they shall then have received notice.

Dated at Brantford this tenth day of October, 1918.

BREWSTER & HRYD,
Solicitors for the Administrator.

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