

It was through the speedy attack of our boys that the situation was saved, for had the advance been less rapid the Germans would have had time to ensconce themselves in their orchards near by, and it would have been a hard task to remove them.

The drawback to drill-book tactics is that if one side does not keep up the rules the other suffers. For example, after the charge one of our battalions put up a little arrangement with our ever-adaptable artillery in its rear. The artillery opened heavy fire on a section of the German trenches while the battalion made rather ostentatious parade of fixing bayonets, rigging trench ladders, and whistling commands, as a prelude to an attack the instant the bombardment ceased. The Germans, who are experts in these matters, promptly retired to their supporting trenches and allowed the storm to rage in front, ready to rush forward the instant our boys commenced the attack, but they were doomed to disappointment, for instead of attacking the battalion stood still and the artillery raised their fire and placed it nicely in the trenches, with the result that the Germans advanced to the front trenches in hundreds. No sooner had they done this than artillery changed the range and placed it again on the front trench, with the result that very few Germans were left alive to tell the tale.

The German wireless, however, reported next day that a desperate attack had been repulsed, but the general sense of the enemy was more accurately represented by a "hyphenated" voice which cried out next evening, "Say, Sam Slick, no dirty tricks to-night."

ATTACK ON BEXHILL.—On May 20th, at 7.45 p.m., all the battalions, including Strathcona's Horse and the Royal Canadian Dragoons, prepared for a new attack, and this battle continued incessantly until 5 a.m. on the 24th (Queen Victoria's birthday), when Bexhill was captured, also 130 yards of trenches.

We had every reason to be proud of our gunners that day, for several times during the morning the Germans made a vigorous attempt to counter-attack, but were driven back by our artillery, thus allowing our infantry to rest for a few hours.