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and The News

ST. JOHN, N. B., OCTOBER 10, 1914.

YESTERDAY'S REPORTS.
The line of battle across northern France has not been changed by the violent fighting of the last few days. The Germans, apparently, are making everything with the readiness of their attacks upon the Allies' left wing. A new and determined effort has been made to smash through the British and French line north of the Oise, but the desperate expedition has failed, although the Allies have been forced to yield ground at certain points. On the whole, it is thought the allied forces have withstood the shock and the deadlock continues.

Night and day attacks in the Argonne region have been repeated. Beyond that statement the official report from Paris gives little information, and it may be many days before a decisive result is announced. The enormous length of the battle line stands in the way of a quick, smashing defeat of the enemy, although the success of the Allied enveloping movement on the German right would cripple not only Von Kluck's army, but to some extent, all the German armies in France.

The victory of the Russians over the Germans in the Suwalki district seems to have been complete. Grand Duke Nicholas has personally sent tidings of the success of the Czar's troops to General Joffre.

There is little news of the Russian army advancing directly from Warsaw toward Breslau, but it is assumed that it is endeavoring to break the German line of defence while the Russian armies to the south are engaging the Crecow defenders.

Germany is between two fires—two great forces that are slowly but surely pressing forward. She is not yet broken, and may succeed in winning temporary victories on both battlefronts, but her position becomes more critical every day.

A FOOLISH WEEKLY.
The Manitoba Free Press has drawn the attention of the Postmaster General to a pro-German weekly printed in Lincoln, Nebraska, and widely circulated in western Canada, which devotes itself to a sweeping condemnation of all that is British. It is called the Lincoln Free Press and contains display advertisements headed "Specially for Canada" in which a strong bid is made for Canadian subscribers, and for Americans living in Canada to use their influence in promoting anti-British feeling in the Dominion. This flamboyant pro-German publication shows a choice collection of epithets upon the British and declares that Germany will never sheathe the sword until she has made Britain bite the dust. It contends that all the news coming from France and England about the war is an unparalleled heap of falsehoods.

The Free Press quotes the following from the latest issue of the weekly:
"One thing is certain, Madame Britannia does not take any liberties with us or treat us with discourtesy. And even in Canada she has got to take account of the susceptibilities of our American immigrants. They are in Winnipeg, Saskatchewan and Alberta many hundreds of thousands of them."
"The history of Texas could only too easily be repeated here. In the end, San Houston might also be found. And Alaska would be more valuable to us if the Canadian West were to be Americanized."

In the year 1800, England, France, Spain and Russia shared North America. Three of these powers have already withdrawn from this continent and Great Britain's dominion over Canada will also not last forever."

The Free Press feeling that such delectable utterances are calculated to create mischief, which reputable citizens of the United States would be the first to condemn, declares the paper should be rigorously excluded from the Canadian mails. It would seem to be a case for prompt attention and probably Mr. Pelletier will not long delay action.

THE LONG STRUGGLE.
Six weeks ago military observers writing for some of the better class newspapers were discussing the likelihood of turning movements and enveloping movements on a vast scale, and were forecasting events like Sedan but more serious. The last month has produced a marked change of view on the part of such onlookers. Few of them now expect that the battle of the Aisne will result in a decisive defeat of the Germans or French or British, or that any great division of either army will be captured or virtually destroyed. This lesson of the war was anticipated after the Russo-Japanese campaign in Manchuria, but what happened there was so far removed from the present war that it was fairly under a new sky. One observer puts it in this way:

"The Japanese inflicted defeat on the Russians in three great battles—Liao-yang, the Shaho, and Mukden. At Liao-yang and Mukden the Japanese won by successfully conducted flanking operations. They threatened to surround Kuropatkin at Liao-yang, but he made an orderly retirement. He was beaten only in the sense that he gave ground. He inflicted heavier loss than he suffered. He kept his army intact, and he fell back some fifteen miles to the Shaho. Beaten there with heavier loss than the Japanese suffered, he fell back thirty-five miles to Mukden. There in the course of a seventeen days' battle the Japanese succeeded in flanking a circle about the city, but Kuropatkin was not inside it. It is true that he lost nearly a third of his army of 800,000 men; but after Mukden he stood with a very respectable army of 250,000 men, thirty-five miles north. If we measure the distance from the Matsui to the Yellow Sea to Tieling, we see that it took the Japanese nearly a year, and three great battles, to drive the Russian one hundred and thirty miles, and just about the distance from the Aisne river to Liege."

He goes on to draw for our information a more extended comparison between the campaigns in Manchuria and northern France, leading to the conclusion that the definite outcome which much of the world has been expecting from the struggle on the Aisne may be long postponed, or may never come. He says:

"For the situation in northern France is very much like that in Manchuria. In other words, the Germans on the present line might lose 400,000 men and yet make another stand on the same line. The Allies might conceivably be driven back to the Marne with the same enormous loss, without being forced to the wall. Unquestionably, the loss of nearly half a million men is a disaster, but we are speaking now of strategic results."

Thus all indications point to a painfully protracted struggle in the western campaign. At any one point the fighting may assume the character of sharp victory or defeat, but balanced along the whole line the contest resolves itself into one of slow pressure of line against line. As fresh forces are thrown into the field, the battle line only lengthens. Today the battle front runs from Nancy to Arras. In a few days it may reach into Belgium. Before a decision is reached it may stretch all the way from Reims, near the Swiss frontier, to Antwerp. But even when a decision is reached, it will only mean, in all probability, a comparatively short retreat one way or the other. Neither 'outs' nor the capture of great armies will decide the war, but a slow agony of attrition and exhaustion. And not unlikely before the physical breakdown there will come a moral exhaustion, when the will of the combatant nations and the world will rebel against the fearful price in human life paid for meagre gains in position."

This seems a reasonable view of the case, considering the length of the battle line and the unparalleled number of combatants on both sides. Nevertheless, the day comes when one side must give way, no matter how long the line, or how great the number of men involved. And this fact brings us back to the relative position of the Germans and the British and French as affected by a long campaign. The Allies, if it were necessary, could fight indefinitely on their present front. They are in no trouble concerning their communications; they have no difficulty in bringing up reinforcements and supplies. It is not so with the Germans. Their communications are in danger, and while they are stretching themselves to the utmost to hold the Allied forces in check, the Russians are making steady progress to the eastward. It therefore becomes necessary to German success that the Kaiser shall inflict a staggering defeat, not only upon the Anglo-French forces, but upon the Russians in turn. Today it seems far beyond his power to win in either quarter. To go on fighting defensively would mean a steady diminution of his strength, whereas the forces opposed to him would be much stronger a year from now than they are today. He can make the Allies pay a heavy price for victory—but they will pay it. For Germany there is only certain defeat in sight.

"FIFTY MILLIONS FOR CANADIAN AGRICULTURE."
The St. John Board of Trade—and every other board in Canada—will be asked to support a plan put forward by the Port Arthur board, asking the Dominion government to provide \$50,000,000 to be loaned to Canadian municipalities for the purpose of stimulating agricultural production. The great war emphasizes Canada's failure to grow greater crops. It was said by Judge McKay, who supported the new plan before the Port Arthur Board of Trade, that less than ten per cent of Canadian land fit for cultivation is at present in productive use. "He suggests a loan, not a grant, but increasing power in the present on

the earth. The moral goal is the final goal." Hence, he concludes that there will be a new heaven and a new earth after the war. His words will help many to recognize the fact that the success of the Prussian war machine would mean that for a long time might, regardless of right, would be enthroned, to the wrecking of our civilization. It becomes necessary not only to break the faith of the German people in the false idols which their military autocracy have led them to embrace.

Until the Teutonic philosophy is given a new direction there can be no permanent peace. The doctrine of force, carried to its logical conclusion in robbing France of two provinces in 1871, went far towards making the present war inevitable. Winston Churchill and other close-headed men have already pointed out the necessity for guarding against a similar legacy at the end of the present struggle.

Europe is now making war not only upon the German people in arms, but also upon the false lessons of Nietzsche and Von Bernhardi. In the heart of the German people there is probably yet no realization of the hopeless odds against the Kaiser, and little understanding of the real meaning of this war beyond the bid for more territory and more power. But with the failure of the Kaiser's army, with the drawing close about Germany of an impenetrable hedge of steel from the west, from the south, and from the east, there will come, in time, a gradual, unobtrusive, realization not only that Germany is beaten, but also that the idols set up by its philosophy had feet of clay.

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President Falconer, of Toronto University, is one of the thinkers who have been trying to forecast conditions as they will be after the end of the great war, that is, presumably, after the civilized world has had time in which to digest the results and lessons of the greatest conflict in which human beings were ever engaged.

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the earth. The moral goal is the final goal." Hence, he concludes that there will be a new heaven and a new earth after the war. His words will help many to recognize the fact that the success of the Prussian war machine would mean that for a long time might, regardless of right, would be enthroned, to the wrecking of our civilization. It becomes necessary not only to break the faith of the German people in the false idols which their military autocracy have led them to embrace.

Until the Teutonic philosophy is given a new direction there can be no permanent peace. The doctrine of force, carried to its logical conclusion in robbing France of two provinces in 1871, went far towards making the present war inevitable. Winston Churchill and other close-headed men have already pointed out the necessity for guarding against a similar legacy at the end of the present struggle.

Europe is now making war not only upon the German people in arms, but also upon the false lessons of Nietzsche and Von Bernhardi. In the heart of the German people there is probably yet no realization of the hopeless odds against the Kaiser, and little understanding of the real meaning of this war beyond the bid for more territory and more power. But with the failure of the Kaiser's army, with the drawing close about Germany of an impenetrable hedge of steel from the west, from the south, and from the east, there will come, in time, a gradual, unobtrusive, realization not only that Germany is beaten, but also that the idols set up by its philosophy had feet of clay.

WORTH THINKING ABOUT.
A famous French economist said a few days ago that Germany would have to pay a war indemnity of five billions or six billions of dollars; and he added that this vast sum could be paid by Germany if that country were to place a stiff tax on alcohol and tobacco. That is to say, if a certain proportion of Germany's 65,000,000 people who use tobacco and drink beer or spirits were to be subjected to higher prices for these necessary indulgences, they would contribute enough to make up the unparalleled fine which it is contemplated Germany will have to meet as a result of the war.

In time of riot or public disaster one of the first steps taken is to close the saloons. Russia, faced by a gigantic war, interrupted the sale of vodka until October 1 of this year. At last accounts strong efforts were being made to have the government extend the prohibition for a longer period. The sale of liquor in Russia is a government monopoly, and so, to that extent, the question is simpler there than in other countries where the sale of intoxicants has built up great vested interests which are invulnerable with legislatures and with voters who make legislators.

The Russian government is said to have derived from the sale of vodka \$300,000,000 a year. Russia needs revenue now, if ever she needed it, yet the government thought it more important to tune up the national physique by preventing the use of liquor than it did to continue to collect an immense revenue from its sale. National fitness, in other words, is more important even than revenue in time of war.

These things are worth thinking about. Men of reasonable views will give such facts consideration. In a time of national trial, of national danger, of supreme conflict, the value of temperance, and the real cost of intemperance, stand out very clearly.

AFTER THE WAR.
President Falconer, of Toronto University, is one of the thinkers who have been trying to forecast conditions as they will be after the end of the great war, that is, presumably, after the civilized world has had time in which to digest the results and lessons of the greatest conflict in which human beings were ever engaged.

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