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WANTED.—GENTLEMEN ROOMERS. Apply in writing to Box "M," Chronicle office.

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WAR SUMMARY

(Toronto Globe.)

Of the Zeppelin raid over the English Midlands and eastern counties last night no details are yet available. The War Office statement says considerable damage has been reported. But as six or seven airships took part in the raid, and each Zeppelin is capable of carrying from two to three tons of explosives besides the petrol necessary for the double voyage over the North Sea, there must have been a good deal of property damage and some loss of life. The avoidance of London may have been due to atmospheric conditions. Fog was reported yesterday in northern France, and it probably extended to the English side of the Channel. The Midlands are often free of fog when London is hidden beneath it.

The Russian War Office announces that the operations of the past two weeks in the Caucasus have justified expectations. The Russian advance guards are in touch with the forts of Erzerum. "We now descend," continues the report, "from the mountainous regions, with their rigorous

climate, into regions well populated and easily accessible and favorable for the encampment of our troops for the period of the winter." This is an intimation that the Russians do not intend to press westward into Asia Minor until spring. The siege of Erzerum will be conducted, as was that of Przemyśl, with the object of starving out the Turks rather than carrying the fortifications by assault.

Along the front in European Russia there has been greatly increased German artillery activity, particularly on the Riga-Dvinsk sector. This is so persistent, and is accompanied by such aerial activity, that a general attack is not improbable. Petrograd reports a great increase in the number of enemy deserters recently. They are for the most part Slavs forced to fight against their brethren of Russia, and ready to take the first opportunity of quitting whenever they can do so without being shot down.

The German attacks on the banks of the Somme and at Neuville have ceased. Berlin claims that the ground recently captured is firmly held. The French night report makes no claim to the recovery of the lost trenches, but tells of the steady hammering of heavy guns and trench artillery against the German works, particularly in Belgium and south of Roye. East of the Meuse there have been long-range bombardments over a wide extent of territory. A statement of interest in Sir Douglas Haig's night report is that when a party of British soldiers entered the enemy trenches on Sunday night south of Ypres on the Wytschaete-Kemmel road they found them to be full of men. The Germans had about forty casualties in the fight that followed and the British brought back three prisoners and destroyed two machine guns. It would seem that the Germans are gathering in force all along the western front. The steady pounding of the artillery of the Allies is doubtless due to the knowledge that many thousands of the enemy are in the first-line trenches waiting the word to attack.

Another of the significant straws which indicate the direction of the current comes in the form of a despatch from Berne, Switzerland. It states that at the Austrian village of Hoechts, just across the frontier, a military order has been received for the delivery of the larger church bells and of copper from roofs of churches to the authorities for the manufacture of war munitions. The strain is undoubtedly telling, and the extension of the activity of Austria over a wide area of the Balkans is adding to it. Copper is increasingly scarce, and the Swedish supply does not nearly equal the depletion.

While the enemy's stores of munitions and of raw materials for their making of munitions decrease, almost everyone returning from the western front who is in a position to know speaks of the growing reserves of projectiles behind the lines of the Allies and predicts that the battle-front of the Germans will be broken at the next big attempt. Here and there some less optimistic person may assert that the German lines are no less impregnable than those of the British and French, and that the decisive battles of the war must be fought on the western front or in the Balkans, but the overwhelming consensus of opinion is that the Allies plan to exert their greatest strength in Belgium and northern France, and will shatter the enemy's lines when they set about it.

British control of Lake Tanganyika, on the western frontier of German East Africa, will prove of great importance in the campaign about to begin for the subjugation of that colony. During the early months of the war the Germans controlled the lake, on which they had four armed steamers. This enabled them to transport troops and supplies, and dominate the frontier of British Central Africa as well as of the Belgian Congo. To make an end of this, light-draught war vessels were built in Great Britain, shipped out to Africa in sections, and put together on Lake Tanganyika. The first fruit of this policy was the capture of the German steamer King, and a month ago. Now the British have reversed the former position of affairs. British troops can now be transported safely, and can menace the whole German lake boundary, hundreds of miles in extent. To guard their lake shore the Germans will have to separate their forces and keep continually on the move.

The British War Office has issued a denial of the Turkish official report regarding a victory near Kurna, on the lower Tigris, in which 100 British were reported killed and 1,000 camels captured. Bagdad, under the Caliph, was one of the world's chief centres for the study of mathematics, and is still famous for skill in multiplication. The affair magnified into a Turkish victory was an insignificant skirmish, in which the Arabs had distinctly the worst of it.

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