

Declares Greatest Aim Of France Is To Survive

Georges Clemenceau States Grave of the Unknown Soldier
Expresses Intention of People Never to Forget
Horrors of War.

This article is the fifth of a series
written by Georges Clemenceau.
Editor's Note.

By GEORGES CLEMENCEAU.
At the termination of the most formidable and the most glorious of wars, France did not assemble as trophies in her public places the booty surrendered by the enemy. Piously and with dignity she placed there her most celebrated arch of the capital, and under a simple flagstone, the remains of an unknown soldier who had died to defend her.

Who does not grasp the significance of that gesture? It was a tender act of homage to all those who had fallen; it also expressed our intention never to forget the horrors of the conflict, and it served to remind us of our promise made to those sleeping in the dust: that we should assure their descendants the benefits of peace, give them justice and prosperity and watch over the maintenance of that pact of reparation and justice signed by twenty-seven states at Versailles. Such are the sentiments of France, and yet it is France who is accused of disturbing the peace of the world, who is denounced as a militarist nation, and who is suspected of being responsible for the birth and development of all European quarrels.

Wishes to Live.
What does France wish? To live! She all but succumbed under the blows of the enemy. Four times she wavered; four times she recovered again; four times, despite all, she managed to resist the "last quarter of an hour" which enabled her to await the help of her allies. In September, 1914, she had thrown herself impudently forward with insufficient war material. Not enough machine guns; no modern heavy artillery. Our troops, repelled in their ardor, retreated back over the Marne, and how diminished in numbers! Then, with a tremendous effort, as if the touch of Paris had galvanised them, they turned round to face the enemy and they hurled him back. Exhausted, the poilus proceeded to dig themselves in, but in French soil. A considerable part of our territory remained occupied for four years. This produced disaster from the industrial viewpoint. Coal production diminished by 74 per cent, iron by 92 per cent, linen by 70 per cent, and wool by 80 per cent. If I give these figures, it is because they illustrate the reason of our indebtedness. Were we not obliged to buy from outside the raw materials which failed us? Were we not compelled to construct substitute factories of all kinds far removed from the front, once the war had settled down into a conflict of slow attrition instead of an affair of three weeks or three months, as foretold. Incidentally, we had no reserve of guns or of munitions. What better proof could there be of our pacific intentions? Had we only been able to continue supplying shells for our 75's perhaps our pursuit of the Germans after the Marne might have been much more efficacious.

Had Grown Thirty-Five Times.
No expense was spared in order to manufacture with a minimum of delay all the arms possible. By the end of March, 1916, our daily shell production had grown to thirty-five times what it had been in December, 1914, and we were turning out machine guns at a rate ninety-eight times quicker. We had a hundred old heavy guns upon mobilization; we possessed 2,730 heavy pieces two years later.

How did we finance this effort?

Without a murmur, the civilian population did its duty by bringing to the treasury in the year 1916 alone eighteen milliards of francs, largely in National Defense bonds. We obtained credit in the United States permitting us to pay for the orders for war material which we placed there. In October, 1915, the Anglo-French loan placed 1,250,000,000 francs at our disposal. France and England, solidly linked on the battlefield, guaranteed this loan. It was the first economic scheme of the war affecting the three allied countries and it was an urgent and necessary one for solidarity. In 1916 France seemed her old self again. She gave

such an impression of resolve, of vitality, of energy that Germany decided to strike her to the heart, to kill her by surprise before she and England could get together to ward off the decisive attack. Verdun followed. They did not pass!

Did Not Penetrate.
Despite their furious attacks, continuing for five months, despite a massing of guns such as history had never before known, they did not penetrate over the Vaux-Douaumont line, on the right bank of the Meuse, nor did they take Hill 304 or Dead Man's Crest, on the left bank. Every division in our army came to Verdun to be decimated. France lost there the best of her blood. Enfeebled to a point of exhaustion, yet she remained on her feet, sustained by those young soldiers "entering upon their careers," as our "Marseillais" says, their elders no more. Sending back our wounded to the firing line directly they left the hospital, sacrificing, without considering a moment, an irreparable loss of life. The army of France succeeded in mobilizing between the ages of eighteen and fifty. A prodigious effort and one only equalled in the domain of war material production.

Meanwhile, on their side our English comrades were organizing their own examination of conscience. I only mention the offensive of the Chemin des Dames to illustrate the terrible shock France sustained. Germany thought that the moment had come to finish us, though circulating treacherous peace offers while the defeatism among us worked havoc. But Britain restored confidence to the armies as he had restored the situation at Verdun. The nation dealt with the pusillanimous and silenced bad citizens. France breathed and lived again.

America Enters.
In 1918 America had entered the war. The enemy grasped that the arrival of our troops would mean the knockout blow for him. He would have to act beforehand. Hindenburg announces to the world that "France had dug her own grave" and brings back half a million men from the East, troops liberated by the Russian debacle. He bombards Paris. He deluges the English line with mustard gas. He breaks through. We hurriedly stem the flood that threatens to submerge us. None the less we are paralyzed by the loss of our ally and ourselves we assemble all our forces under a single command. The troops are as always admirably heroic and the nation remains its calm. The Germans would cross the Marne. Large strips of territory before Paris and Calais pass into their hands. But the hour of victory is about to ring for the Entente. In two months all the lost ground is regained.

Such are the trials we have been through. At the armistice France was "all in," as you say, but she was alive because she had willed that she should survive.

The war cost our country 150 milliards of francs and a further 200 milliards in damage to property and individuals. Almost all our foreign investments, constituting a goodly portion of our national wealth, had had to be realized. From Belgium, a creditor and lending nation, we became heavily indebted. Above all, we lost 1,400,000 of our children and 800,000 were maimed and 5,000,000 wounded. France made all these terrible sacrifices with one heart, because she knew that defeat would imply destruction. Germany, on the other hand, claimed the fact through its emperor, through its chancellors, through the declaration of its industrial and agricultural associations, through its intellectuals, that, victorious, she would annex the iron mines of Briey, the coal of the north and the Pas de Calais, the coast line from Belgium down to the mouth of the Somme, plus the hinterland, in order to give to the ports involved their full importance economically and strategically. Finally, Toul, Verdun and Belfort. The inhabitants were to be dispossessed. Nor did it suffice to dismember France, to take from her provinces providing a third of her wealth; she was to be left without resource of any kind. In the interests of our own existence we must

weaken this country politically. It is necessary to impose a big war indemnity on France without exhibiting any regard for her." I recall this phrase—taken from a secret memorandum forwarded to the German chancellor by the League of Industrials and Agriculturists, the league of the middle classes, in order to emphasize our own moderation. Not an inch of German territory annexed, not a protesting deputy in our parliament, no economic servitude, no war indemnity. Nothing but reparation.

Deserves Co-operation.
A nation like France that has proved in a superhuman way her desire to live has the right to obtain from her allies the co-operation necessary for the execution of the peace conditions. It does not suffice to sign peace; you must realize it. So long as the last shocks of war have not trembled away, there is no room for individualism putting into question once more all the victories so dearly won in common. To realize the new order all must co-operate. France will not as much as remind her allies of the promises made to her, and which have never come to anything. She declares herself proudly decided to keep all the engagements entered into by her. She asks only one thing: that she shall not be rebuffed through the passiveness of her friends. Reconstruction and security are for France necessities. If France is not paid, if the devastated areas are not rebuilt, there is no chance of her economic regeneration. If her frontier may be invaded by a neighbor, who dreams only of a peaceful life, it would be suicide for France to renounce this dual policy of reparation and military security.

The Treaty of Versailles will only have marked a truce in the tragic history of the world, ruined by allied discord, by allied negligence and allied indifference. Versailles will only have marked a truce in the tragic history of the world, ruined by allied discord, by allied negligence and allied indifference. Versailles will only have marked a truce in the tragic history of the world, ruined by allied discord, by allied negligence and allied indifference.

No imperialism, but no oligarchies. Such should be the order of the day. If it is intended to consolidate the peace in allied harmony, we must go quickly. And now let us consider the post-war French effort. Immediately from the armistice and despite the sapping of her strength by the war, France returned energetically to work. The dimensions of and the speed with which the work was accomplished deserve the world's praise lavished on the allied soldiers for their magnificent heroism. Take the number of inhabitants brought back to their homes. Of 4,890,062 residents of 1914, 4,056,883 had been re-established in the devastated areas on July 1 last. Railways had been entirely reconstructed and roads repaired; 19,900 factories had been rebuilt out of 22,000 destroyed; 90 per cent of the war-scarred countryside had been rid of buried shells and put into cultivation. 7,700 schools had been reopened out of 8,301 in existence previously. Finally, out of 600,000 houses destroyed or damaged, 400,000 had been repaired either provisionally or definitely. That is what we have done!

Taxes Are Heavy.
How did we manage to afford all this expenditure? By means of the heaviest taxation imaginable and, simultaneously, by raising through internal loans as excellent as history can record. No Parliament has voted such new taxation as the French Chamber did in 1920. We were paying barely four milliards of francs in taxes the year preceding the war. We have paid twenty-one milliards this year and next year we shall pay twenty-five milliards. An income tax habitually of 2 per cent was successively raised to 10, 15, 20 and even to 50 per cent. Taxation per capita is about 25 per cent heavier in France than in the United States. The conquered Germans pay the equivalent of \$13 per capita in taxation; the conquering French pay \$45. Sums lent the state by subscribers to loans between 1914 and 1921 amounted to 190,000 milliards of francs. The total internal debt is 232 milliards of francs; the foreign debt at the present rate of exchange totals about ninety milliards. Payment of interest and amortization of debt will take up 12 milliards in our next budget, or 51 per cent of our total expenditure. We paid back 13 1-2 milliards of the debts incurred by us, 12 milliards of this sum having been paid out abroad. We have been compelled to consolidate our credit by reducing our fiduciary circulation of 27 milliards, 800 millions in 1920 to 26 milliards, 400 millions in 1921. Meantime we are reacquiring the gold which we had placed in the Bank of England during the war.

In another field we have not only signalled our desire for peace by reducing our duration of military service from three years to eighteen months, and by the suppression of many organizations; we have written these naval and military modifications into our budget as follows: In 1913 naval and military expenditures stood at 13 milliards; in 1921 it totalled 6 milliards, 400 million francs. This year there has been a further reduction to 4 milliards, 900 millions. Compared with 1912 and taking into consideration the divergence in the cost of living then and now, these last figures show a reduction of 8 per cent. Meanwhile, in England, this same expenditure remains 19 per cent higher and in Japan 71 per cent.

We have made a similar serious effort in civilian expenditure. From 11 milliards 300 millions in 1920 this fell to 9 milliards 900 millions in 1921 and 7 milliards in 1922. During the opening six months of this year 28,000 government employees were dismissed.

France Aided Herself.
In the existing state of things, who in the world is going to say that we could have done better? Is France destined to succumb through the indifference or under the criticisms of her Allies? France vigorously aided herself. What have the Allies done to help her? What have they done to assure her of that reparation without which she cannot exist? What have they done to assure her of her security? Guarantee pacts, if she agreed to announce her project of annexing the Rhine, were offered her, but what became of them? One may well ask if France is not more isolated today than she was back in 1914 when she had a formal alliance with Russia. Has the peril diminished? Who can sincerely imagine so when they assassinate with impunity in Germany such architects of peace as Eraberger and Rathenau, the Catholic Deputy and the Jews industrialist, and to the applause of the crowd; when Ludendorff remains the master of ultra-militarist Bavaria; when they deny the fact—and when Hindenburg is seriously spoken of as a candidate for the presidency of the "Republic."

France symbolizes and stands for victory on the frontiers of Germany. Should she disappear, then all the victorious nations will be threatened. If the sentry is thrown to the ground, what becomes of your own security? The same applies to reparations. It was England which showed herself the most intractable in this regard. It was she who insisted that Germany should pay for war pensions as well. England's general election was fought to the cry of "Make Germany Pay!" Yet less than six months later, under the influence of her businessmen and on account of strikes, she

commenced to draw us along the path of concessions.

France has advanced to Germany 90 milliards of francs and she has received back, in diverse ways, but 7 milliards. And our reconstruction is a long way from being finished. And with the collapse of the mark, they are talking freely of German bankruptcy. Is it not already announced that the reimbursement of private pre-war debts standing to Germany's account is to be postponed to 1923? Meanwhile German industry is going at full steam and the big banks pay bonuses and are extending their activities. All the depositors hold foreign investments, but the Reich, stepping forward, gives as its reason for demanding a further five years' delay in the payments due since the armistice the fall of the mark. Is it not ridiculous?

It is nothing but a gross injustice that the victims of an uncalculated aggression should have to make innumerable sacrifices in order to staunch their wounds, while their assailant steadily recovers himself and begins once more to act with hatred. If our Allies of war continue to distrust themselves in this matter of reparation, they will be called upon to support the consequences as well as ourselves, in the last analysis. Strikes, financial chaos, economic confusion. How can those doctrinaires who expound theories of "economic solidarity" in favor of Germany dare to refuse its benefits to our country?

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PREPAY REQUIREMENT ON FUEL SHIPMENTS VETOED

New York, Dec. 6.—The Coal and Coke Association announced today arrangements had been completed to accept, beginning next week, all rail coal and coke shipments from United States points to Canadian destinations with charges to collect.

This follows the announcement of Canadian railways that they had withdrawn their requirements that freight charges to the border on coal and coke shipments to Canada must be prepaid. The withdrawal order is effective Dec. 10.

The prepay requirement was put into effect at the time the Canadian rate of exchange was considerably below par.

WANT ROAD LABOR BY STATUTE ENDED

H. W. Irwin, Provincial Engineer, Addresses Oxford County Council.

FAVORS TOWNSHIP PLAN

States Roads Good, But Maintenance Costs Are Too High.

Special to The Advertiser.
Woodstock, Dec. 6.—A discussion on the abolition of the statute labor system of road work was the chief item of interest at today's session of the county council, which was addressed on the subject by H. W. Irwin, provincial engineer. As matters now stand, five townships still have their road work done by statute labor, while the others have the township system, with a township road superintendent. The engineer pointed out that the cost of road work under the statute labor plan was \$1.09 per year, while on the other plan it was only 38 cents. He strongly urged the adoption of the township plan all over the county, with the work centralized under the county road superintendent. In response to a question, Mr. Irwin said that the roads in Oxford County were in a very satisfactory condition, but that the maintenance costs were too high. He pointed out that the township plan would save the county \$1.09 per year, while on the other plan it was only 38 cents. He strongly urged the adoption of the township plan all over the county, with the work centralized under the county road superintendent.

James Stuart, county clerk of Middlesex, and C. E. Vining, reeve of West Nisour, addressed the council in the interests of a London war veteran who formerly resided in Oxford County, and who had lost both his legs in an accident. This soldier now wants to take a course in business training, and these gentlemen appealed to the county council of Oxford to contribute \$450 towards the cost of an eight-months' course at a business college, including tuition, fees, books, board and clothing. The matter was referred to the finance committee for their consideration.

Discussion of the committee's report on the patrol system of maintaining roads occupied the attention of the Oxford county council this afternoon. The committee recommended the adoption of this method of maintenance, and their report was adopted by the council without amendment. The report also recommended that the work be placed in charge of the road superintendent, and that the necessary machinery be purchased, and these recommendations were also adopted. The council also adopted the recommendations of a special committee which was authorized to investigate the buying of road machinery, and the purchase of a 10-20 Titan tractor and a crushing machine, at a total cost of about \$2,700, was approved by the council.

HARLTON IS GIVEN TWO YEARS IN JAIL

Blanshard Township Man
Convicted on Three
Charges.

Special to The Advertiser.
Stratford, Dec. 7.—Edward Harlton of Blanshard Township was sentenced Wednesday afternoon to two years in jail on each of two charges of house-breaking and theft and escaping from custody. An additional sentence of three months or a \$300 fine was given for a breach of the O. T. A.

PROPOSE BATTERY REUNION IN GUELPH

Members of 29th Association
Decide To Hold Banquet
January 6.

At a meeting of the 29th Battery Association, held last night at the Richmond House, it was decided by the London members that the annual banquet would be held in Guelph Saturday, Jan. 6.

Three previous banquets have been held with fair success, and it is the aim of the members to make this one a bumper meet. This idea was the main theme that President Friend brought up for discussion, as he, as well as the other members of the association, realized that the boys of the old 29th are gradually drifting off to various parts of the country, from which they cannot readily attend.

The 35th Battery, which was amalgamated with the 29th Association last year, was represented by William Blackwell, who urged that this meeting be made a success for every standpoint, so that members would come from the distant parts in the future. The general feeling of the meeting was of the same regard. Means of financing the special features were discussed, but not decided upon. This point was held for decision at a later meeting, to be held in two weeks' time.

Members are urged to watch the papers for notices regarding further meetings, which will be advertised in the daily papers.

SUFFERED SO FROM HEART AND NERVES LIFE WAS A BURDEN

Mr. A. H. Lee, Beamsville, Ont., writes: "I am delighted to let you know what I say regarding the good Milburn's Heart and Nerve Pills did me."

A short time ago I suffered with heart and nerve trouble, and was so bad I could not sleep, only about two hours each night. My heart was so bad I had spells when driving on the road and would faint away, and neighbors would carry me in from my wagon. I also took these pills in the night and during my daily work on the farm. My nerves were so bad I would jump out of bed, and was then compelled to walk the floor before I could settle down again, but after taking a few boxes of

MILBURN'S HEART AND NERVE PILLS

I can honestly say I am a relieved man. I now feel in the best of health. In fact, the best I've been in for three years, and can do any class of work with pleasure where before life was a burden to me."

Price 50c a box at all dealers or mailed direct on receipt of price by The T. Milburn Co., Limited, Toronto, Ont.—Adv.

Bert Stacey of St. Marys will receive a free course in stock and seed judging at the O. A. C. as winner of a feeding hogs for profit competition, held under the direction of Mr. M. C. McPhail, B.S.A., Perth agricultural representative, among the members of the Perth Junior Farmers' Improvement Association. Mr. Stacey fed his hogs at a cost per head of \$5.49, and a net profit gain of \$6.92 per hundredweight. Mr. Earl Tiler of St. Pauls, the second highest, fed his hogs at a cost per head of \$6.98, and a net gain of \$5.34.

Formal opening of the new chamber of commerce quarters will take place on Tuesday next. The rooms have been equipped in the most up-to-date manner possible.

Century Salt

OVERSHADOWS
ALL OTHERS FOR
PURITY AND FLAVOR

DOMINION SALT Co. Ltd. SARNIA, ONT.

Give a Victrola

His Master's Voice

New Console Victrola 260 \$200

-and this host of Great Entertainers will bring joy and gladness to all for years to come

WHEN you give a Victrola you give all music; music appropriate to Christmas; music for every day in the year; music so lifelike that the greatest artists select the Victrola as the one instrument to bring their art into your home. Buy a Victrola this Christmas—but be sure it is a "Victrola."

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New Console Victrolas \$135. to \$485. Other Models \$37.50 to \$615.

"His Master's Voice" Victrola

A Clear, Beautiful Skin

There are millions of tiny openings or pores in the skin and these must be kept open and clean if the beauty of the skin is to be maintained.

Because it cleanses these pores and encourages the healthful action of the skin, Dr. Chase's Ointment is most effective as a skin beautifier. Roughness, redness, pimples and all sorts of skin blemishes disappear by its use, and the skin is left clear, smooth and velvety.

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60 Cents a box, all dealers, or Edmanston, Bates & Co., Ltd., Toronto

"CASCARETS"—CONSTIPATION

Clean Your Bowels! Stop Sick Headache, Dizziness, Colds, Sour Stomach, Gases, Bad Breath

Clean your bowels—then feel fine! Enjoy the nicest, gentlest bowel cleansing you ever experienced by taking one or two candy-like Cascarets tonight. They physic your bowels fully. All the constipated waste and sour bile will move out of the bowels without griping or straining you. There will be no

bowel poison to cause—colds, sick headache, dizziness, biliousness or sour stomach when you wake up in the morning. More men, women and children take Cascarets for the liver and bowels than all other laxative-cathartics combined. 10-cent boxes, also 25 and 50-cent sizes. All drug stores.—Adv.