

CAN CANADA BE GERMANISED?

By THE MONOCLE MAN

TO those people on this continent who imagine that a German success in this war would not affect their individual lives, I cordially commend a careful consideration of German psychology. To the German mind, the only perfectly happy world is a completely regulated world. They have a profound dislike in Germany for that individual initiative and liberty of action which makes up so large a share of our notion of happiness. The individual cannot possibly know as well what is good for him—as a rule—as the composite wisdom of the best brains in the community will. That is the German theory of life. They say that it is better that the individual shall get the best of everything than that he shall be allowed to choose for himself. They allow no play for personal preference, the free exercise of which is our idea of heaven.

THIS has been beautifully illustrated several times during this war. When our good neighbours, the Americans, demanded that they be allowed to exercise their right to travel at will on any ship they chose between here and Europe, without being drowned by an illegal torpedo attack from a German submarine, the Germans replied with a complicated plan by which American travel across the Atlantic would be systematically regulated in such fashion that no Americans, following the plan, would be so drowned. The Germans undoubtedly thought this a complete and satisfying reply to the American demand. The Americans wanted to get across the Atlantic safely. Well and good. The Germans would fix up a scheme by which they would be carried across the Atlantic in safety. And what more could anybody ask? The German mind could never be brought, in a hundred years, to understand why the American mind rejected that captivating plan. Here was safe travel assured the Americans by Government regulation—the very acme of German perfection. Yet the Americans were not satisfied. They perversely asserted that they did not want to be regulated. They wanted to choose for themselves what ships they would patronize, and still be safe in so doing. It is no wonder that the puzzled Germans thought that they saw "the shadow of England" behind President Wilson.

GERMANS have been applying their system of regulation in another place as well—in those portions of Russian Poland that they occupy. They have established a whole code of regulation—sanitary, vehicular, sumptuary, et al—in these Polish towns. They say that the people living in them are far better off than they ever were before. That is, they are better protected against disease—better supplied with means of transport—better fed and housed—than they were when they managed their own affairs before the war. So they infer that these Poles must be delighted with the German occupation. But they are not—not so you would notice. They are ungratefully sullen and furious at this impudent Teutonic interference with their private lives. Does that put a stop to the interference? Not for a minute. The Germans are going to "do them good" if they have to put them all in jail—or underground—to make them accept these benefits. That is the German idea—make people live by rule, whether they like it or not.

NOW, that will be the underlying idea of any German anti-individualistic attempt to extend the benefits (?) of German "Kultur" to the whole world; and extend them they infallibly will if they get the chance. We British ought to understand something of that feeling, much as we detest and rebel against German "Kultur." We insist upon extending the benefits of our system of government to peoples under our control. Even the Americans have taken up "the white man's burden" in the Philippines. The chief difference in the German point of view is that they feel themselves superior to most white men as well as to races with more pigment in their skins; and they are bound to try to extend the benefits of their system of government to Canadians—and to Americans—if they get the opportunity.

IF they win this war—and then win another in a few years which will enable them to dismember the British Empire, provided they do not do it this time—they will almost certainly get the chance in Canada. For they will take over Canada and make it a Prussian Province. Once they have brought Europe to heel, sunk the British Navy, and gained the power to carve up the British Empire, the American people will not be able to utter a peep against such an occupation of Canada, no matter what they think it will do to the Monroe Doctrine. For them to oppose the planting of German garrisons in Halifax, Montreal and Toronto, would only be to get German garrisons in New York and Chicago. So they will carefully withdraw the Monroe Doctrine out

of range, and accept the theory that the substitution of one European flag for another, north of the Great Lakes and the 49th parallel, does not damage that Doctrine.

THUS we in Canada, in that case, will be Germanized. We will be "regulated." "Verboten" signs will dot our streets and parks. German "Kultur" will be our governing code; and the German spiked helmet will enforce it. For particulars, apply to Alsace-Lorraine. Zabern incidents will become common in Canadian cities; for there will be no virile

British Empire ready to take fire at them. A Prussian Lieutenant, with a guard of "goose steppers," will be able to set aside all our local authorities with a wave of the hand. I don't think we will like it. As for the Americans, I suppose I should not prophesy. But if they imagine that the appearance of a new Germany on Canadian soil, backed by a German Empire which holds the world in the hollow of its mailed fist, will have no effect upon their future, they have a soaring and optimistic imagination.

THERE is just one way for us to prevent it; and that is for us to fight. It is quite possible now for us to lose the war. It is quite possible for Canada to invite the fate of Alsace-Lorraine. But, thank God, it is also quite possible to avert it. When the British peoples, as a whole, do as much as the French peoples and the Russian peoples—from a military point of view—we can make peace at Berlin.

THE MONOCLE MAN.

Warsaw, the Abandoned?

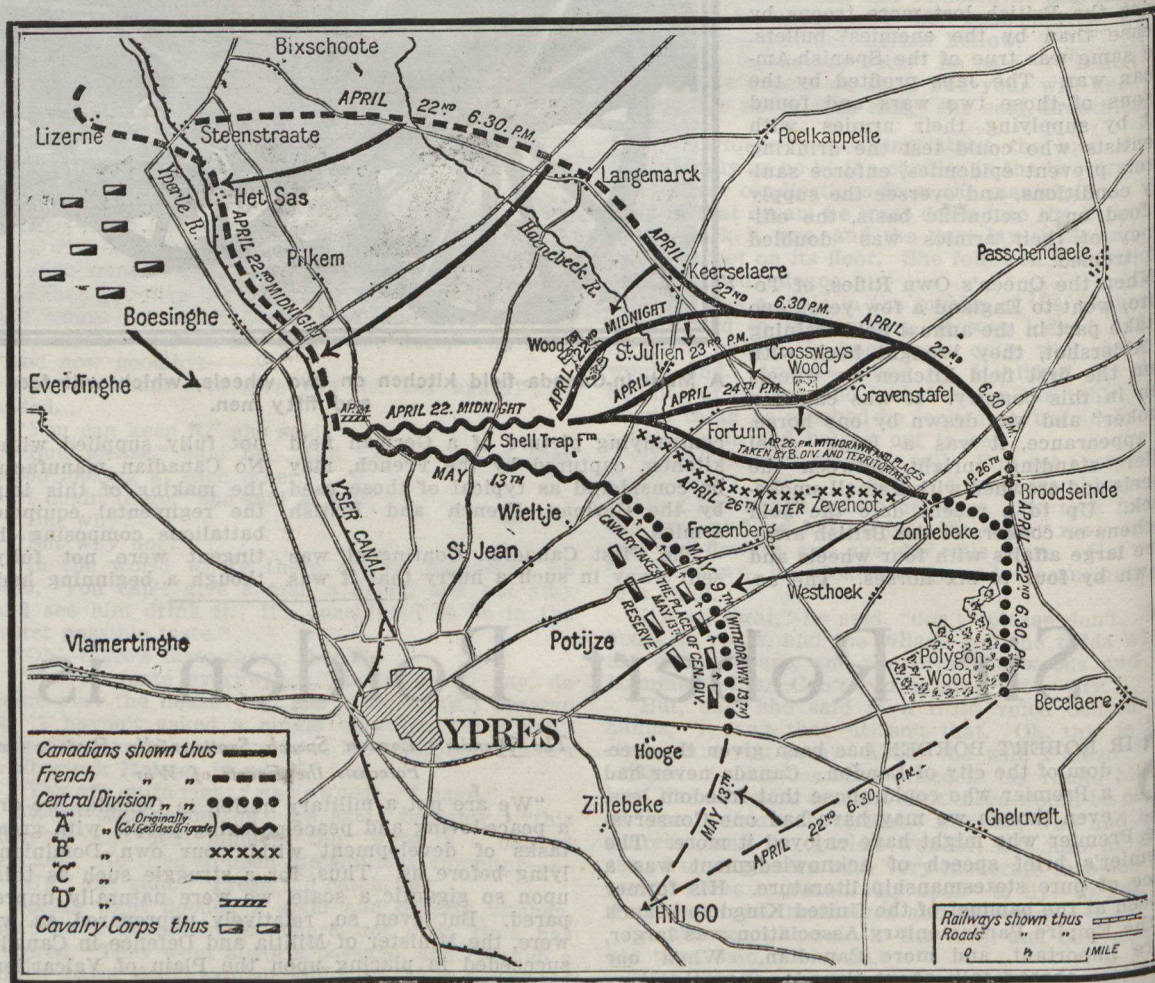
MORE than ever Poland resembles Belgium. Brussels, the capital of Belgium, was peacefully evacuated without destruction by the Belgians early in the war. Warsaw, the capital of the Russian Province of Poland, was reported, in a recent cable despatch, evacuated by the Poles under the direction of the army of the Grand Duke Nicholas. Warsaw, the empty, disorganized hulk, the Stonehenge ruins of what it was a few days ago, was to fall into the hands of Mackensen's armies as Przemyśl and Lemberg did a few weeks ago. According to the programme of the Kaiser, Warsaw should have been in his hands last fall, soon after the invasion of Poland began. He wanted it as a consolation prize for not having got Paris.

Now will he get it? Warsaw has been a huge sentimental job on the Grand Duke's hands. With the Russian lines where they have been since the numerous retrogrades, the capital of Poland stuck out as an abrupt salient with three sides exposed to the enemy. But the Grand Duke did his best to save the Russian city next in size and importance to Petrograd and Moscow, because the Czar has proclaimed freedom for the Poles at the end of the war, and Warsaw was to become not only a great commercial, industrial and splendid city, but a city of freemen.

All that is yet to be. Warsaw will be a city of democracy; but it will be a new Warsaw. How magnificently the Russian army scuttled the city of nearly a million inhabitants into a skeleton, denuding it not only of inhabitants, but of metals, factories, bridges, railways lines, food, clothing and stores, everything that could be of any use to the enemy—has been graphically described in the despatches. The Warsawians, half of whom were Jews, and the peasants on the farm lands for many miles about the capital, were said to have massed on to the miles of trains provided by the army.

So the city was left when even the church bells—and there were hundreds upon hundreds of bells—were taken so as not to be melted into bullets by the enemy. Even the wires and the trolley tracks were torn loose and taken away. A city almost as big as Montreal and Toronto combined, under organized direction, uprooted itself and moved away as never a city did in the world before, when so many people went with it. So the cable despatch most eloquently said. The evacuation of Warsaw is the most profoundly dramatic thing about this war of tremendous super-dramas, so many of which originate in the impatient imagination of the correspondent. We still await news of the fate of Warsaw.

CANADA'S BIRTHPLACE AS A NATION



It was at the Battle of Ypres, the old Flemish town of cloth halls and beautiful architecture, that the British Army in Flanders did its greatest fighting against the Germans on October 31 and Nov. 11, 1914, in the first Battle of Ypres. The second struggle at Ypres was greater and briefer than the first. It began on April 22 and lasted four days. It blazoned the name "Canada" in the world's honour roll of hero peoples. Langemarck, St. Julien and Festubert were all phases of the resistance to the great struggle to capture Ypres. In a long article by Percival Landon, in the London Daily Telegraph, the writer describes the battle of which the above map was made from sketches furnished by himself. He recalls eloquently the words of Gen. Otter at a dinner after the Battle of Paardeberg in 1900: "You have had some of our blood already, and you may have as much more of it as you need." At the second Battle of Ypres the words of the Canadian General were memorably realized.