

Week's War Summary

One week ago The Guide's summary reported that the German offensive which had been launched so fiercely in the vicinity of Cambrai and St. Quentin, and all along the fifty-mile front between Arras and La Fere, had been checked, and that it remained to be seen whether or not the expected counter attacks of the allied troops would be sufficiently strong to sweep the Germans back from their newly acquired territory.

While the activities along the west front have not been anything like as vigorous during the past week as they were in the previous eight days, all the fighting has favored the British and French armies, and also the Canadian artillery which has been doing effective work in the country immediately north of Arras. Spent by their tremendous efforts of their first drive, and having suffered terrible casualties, the Germans rested for three or four days early last week, and then again, on Thursday, April 4, commenced the second phase of their great offensive along the Somme. The second attack was directed more in a north-westerly direction, against Albert, than the first attack which aimed to envelop Amiens from the South. After three days of determined fighting, the general German advance was broken by the stubborn resistance of the British and French troops, and resolved into several isolated battles in which the allies more than held their own. Successful British counter attacks resulted in the regaining of considerable ground west of Albert from which German prisoners were captured and machine guns taken. While no widespread gains have been made by the British forces during the week, the Germans have not only been prevented from gaining extra ground, but have been repulsed with severe losses on every occasion.

Pressed for Space

The chief attention of the Germans, at the present moment, seems to have been turned again to the lower end of the battle zone in the vicinity of Noyons and Montdidier, where the Hun is evidently trying to enlarge his position so as to gain adequate space in which to move the vast masses of soldiery which have been crowded into that part of the recently projected salient. On Sunday, the French artillery had marked successes in checking the attempts of the enemy to make progress against the allied line north of Montdidier where the road to Amiens is being strongly guarded. Farther south and east in the famous Verdun sector, the French put down a German attack, inflicting severe losses and capturing several officers amongst the prisoners who were taken.

Despatches from Paris say that General Foch, the Commander-in-Chief of the allies on the west front, is biding his time, meeting the assaults of the enemy with powerful and effective resistance, and here and there conforming his line to the necessities of the battle. It is confidently stated that Foch will not be drawn into a false move, where each move is of the most vital importance, but will strike with his reserves at the proper moment. It is regarded also as significant that the German Emperor is reported to have left the Western Front in company with his chiefs, von Hindenburg and von Ludendorff, and to have proceeded to Roumania. At the outset of the German offensive, when it was sweeping the allies before it with the force of the combined strength of 100 divisions against some twenty-eight divisions, it was announced officially from Berlin that the Kaiser was in personal command. That announcement undoubtedly indicated that the Kaiser expected to realize a complete and decisive victory. Since that time, however, British, French and American reinforcements have strengthened the allied lines with the result that during the past week, Germany's bold stroke has been shown to have failed utterly in reaching its objective.

Japan's Activities

One of the most interesting features of the week's war news has been the

landing of Japanese and British troops at Vladivostok on the far eastern coast of Asiatic Russia. Admiral Kato, the Japanese Minister of Marine, has issued a proclamation concerning the landing of troops on Russian territory, and gives as the reason, the murder of a Japanese soldier. The Admiral also says that while sympathizing greatly with Russia in her present situation, he has been obliged to take action in Vladivostok because of the lack of law and order in the Siberian port. It was impossible for him, he contended, to find any institution which would accept responsibility for the arrest of the murderer of the Japanese soldier. On the other hand, President Soukhanoff, of the Vladivostok council of soldiers' and workmen's deputies, reporting to the council of national commissaries at Moscow, states that, in his opinion, the killing of the Japanese was a political offence. He also says that the landing of troops was effected in the presence of the Japanese consul and Admiral Kato, and without the consent of the British or American consuls, and it is said, no warnings of the landing was given to the local officials. As a result of Soukhanoff's statement, the national council of commissaries issued a declaration to the effect that Japan has started action against the Soviet republic. Orders have been given to all Siberian councils of soldiers' and workmen's delegates to resist an armed invasion of Russia.

While British forces have also landed at Vladivostok, it is not yet clear as to what role Britain will play in this important development in the far east. It has been known for some time that Japan, which supplied the old Russian government with great stocks of munitions and money, has had her eye on Siberia as well as upon China. Will this action on Japan's part now identify Russia as an enemy of the Allies, or will America and Great Britain endeavor to stall their ambitious partner, Japan, in taking further aggressive measures in the far East?

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SIZE OF APPLE BARRELS

Q.—Is there any standard size for apple barrels and apple boxes? If so, what are the standards?—J.A.F.

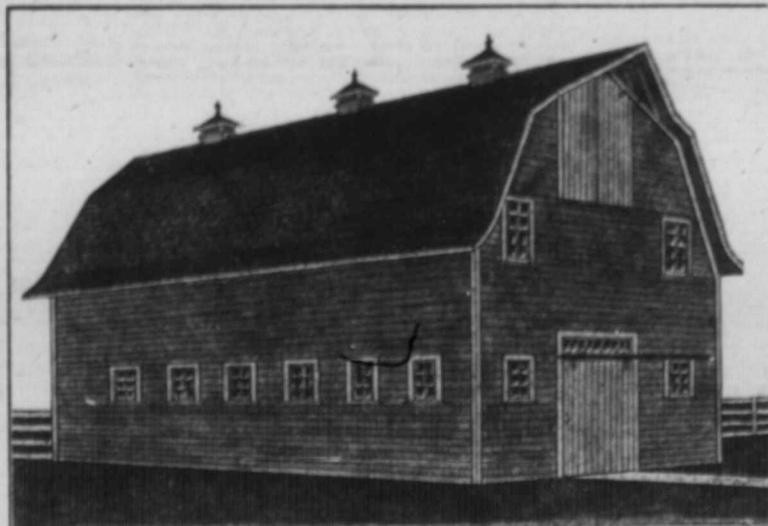
A.—Barrels used for packing apples must be 26½ inches between the heads, inside measure; 17 inches in diameter at head, and have a middle diameter of 18½ inches, containing as nearly as possible 66 quarts. Boxes used for packing apples must be not less than 10 inches deep, 11 inches in width and 20 inches long, representing as nearly as possible 2,200 cubic inches. Every such barrel or box must be marked with the name of person or corporation doing the packing, and the name of the variety and the grade, namely, Fancy No. 1, No. 2, No. 3, etc.

The weight of a barrel of apples varies considerably according to the variety. The standard weight as accepted by the railway companies is 165 pounds. The average would be probably about 155 pounds. This includes the weight of the barrel which is about 15 pounds.

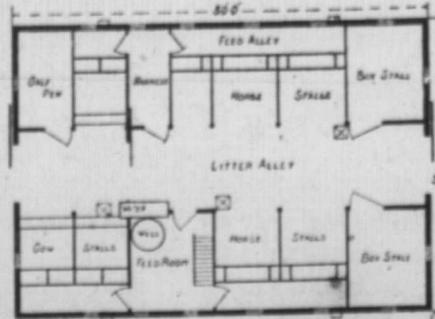
Have you seen a flotilla of ships of all sizes riding at anchor in the tide way, and have you seen the tide turn and suddenly begin to flow? Which came round first? The little cock-boats, then the ships a little bigger, then the three-deckers, and then the grand man-o'-war wheels round with the others. When the tide is strong enough, the statesmen—the tide waiters—will turn round with it. But don't you hurry these statesmen. They are far cleverer than we are. They won't do the right thing until the right time, and the right time is when you tell them they must do it.—Sir Wilfrid Lawson.

An Average Farm Barn

Suitable for the Man who Farms a Half Section



Guide Barn Plan No. 6 provides stable room for nine horses, with two roomy box stalls in addition, a pen for young stock, a feed room and harness room. The size is 36 feet by 50 feet. The wall is 14 feet 10 inches. Sliding doors at each end and in the partition between the cattle stable and horse stable allow a load being driven right through the barn. Any alterations can be made in the suggested layout, or additions could be made at either end by adding sections. The foundation is of



concrete. A few loads of coarse sand or gravel will considerably add to the ease of cleaning and the appearance generally. The siding is made up of half-inch re-sawn up to the top of the joists. This is covered with paper and fir drop

siding used for the outside. However, many excellent building materials are on the market which could be used—for instance, outside metal siding instead of lumber and metal shingles or prepared roofing materials, the basis of which is felt and asphalt.

Complete working drawings for The Guide Barn Plan No. 6 can be obtained for \$1.50 from The Book Department, The Grain Growers' Guide, Winnipeg.