

Hair on the Upper Lip Gradually Disappearing

From the British Army

THE British army is strong for tradition. There is a regiment, for instance, that was once attacked simultaneously from front and rear. It fought back to back, and ever since has worn its facings and its numerals fore and aft. Now when you see that regiment you don't know whether it is coming or going.

Then there is the tradition about the salute. One of the first things a British private soldier is told is that it is not the man he salutes, but the uniform.

But the Great Tradition is the moustache. It has come down from time immemorial. It started in the days before safety razors. It has been handed down from father to son. It has been groomed and petted and pampered and twirled, and it has been the source of great pride. About the time of Bonnie Prince Charlie it became official. The army regulations recognized it. Ever since every officer has had to wear a decoration on his upper lip. It has become a sort of frank in the service, much like the "On His Majesty's Service" printed in the top left-hand corner of the War Office envelopes.

But the moustache is no more. At least its official standing has gone. It is only semi-official now. Paragraph 1696 of the King's Regulations, just amended, makes it optional with an officer whether he shall shave his upper lip.

The Compulsory Moustache has been a source of great contention in the present war. Tommies have shuddered at the thought of promotion because of it. The Red Hats, as the staff officers are called, debated it at mess when the French ordered their soldiers to be clean shaved because some one of the French High Command had figured out that the French army was carrying, all told, about five tons on its back, or rather its face, because of hirsute adornment.

Now, the wording of unamended paragraph 1696 deserves mention. It is particularly adroit. It does not say that officers in His Majesty's service must grow moustaches. That would be difficult for some of the young subalterns. It reads that officers in His Majesty's service must not shave their upper lips. In that, there's all the difference in the world, as Robinson could have told you. Robinson, who was only seventeen, but a somebody, received a commission when the General Staff was writing "want ads" for officers. His colonel was a stickler for the regulations, and at least once a week Robinson would blush for shame when his commanding officer would belabor him: "I say, Robinson, when are you going to grow that moustache?" There are many Robinsons in the new army.

In the old army moustaches ran into styles quite their own. There was the drooping walrus effect, for example, which gave one a particularly silly-ass appearance. It was affected by those of the seniors who had a falling for moustaches. The moustache matched the monocle and vice versa. Then there was the moustache that was drawn out into a long, thin, straight line at each end. The length of the ends depended upon the amount of moustache pomade the officer could afford. In the Guards the length was great because the officers of the Guards were rich. In the Engineers the ends were comparatively short because brains were considered more than money at Woolwich.

Because pomade is not included in the emergency ration served out when an officer goes active service, the twirled ends disappeared in the trenches. Gradually the moustache took on a Charlie Chaplin architecture. The Red Hats looked at it and at once ordered all the pomade in the world, only to find out that the pomade was made in France and that the foreman of the factory and all the hands were at the front. Of course, there was nothing else to do but abolish the moustache after that, or at least to make it optional, which would amount to pretty nearly the same thing. It was too much to expect a moustache to be a triumph of triumph. Italy's brilliant attack on Gorizia and the undertaking by the British and French troops of a series of methodical operations on the Somme.

All honor to the soldiers of Verdun. The name of Verdun represents henceforth what is finest and purest and best in the French army. It has become, as it were, a synthetic synonym for patriotism, bravery, and generosity. The pride inspired by universal respect does not pass without great sadness before the melancholy spectacle of the savage devastation imposed on the towns of the region, but Verdun will be reborn from the ashes, the destroyed villages will rise again, and for centuries the name of Verdun will continue to resound as a clamor of victory and a cry of joy uttered by delivered humanity.

President Poincare then handed to the town of Verdun the crosses awarded by the sovereigns of the Allies as follows: On behalf of the Czar, the Cross of St. George, for the King of Great Britain the Military Cross, in the name of the King of Italy the Gold Medal for Military Valor, on behalf of King Albert the Cross of Leopold First, on behalf of the King of Serbia and the Prince Regent the gold medal for military bravery, on behalf of the King of Montenegro the Obilitch gold medal, and for the government of the French Republic the Cross of the Legion of Honor and the French war cross. The President pinned each cross upon a cushion, which he presented to the mayor of Verdun.

The Turkish Turban. A Turkish turban of the largest size contains twenty yards of the finest and softest silk.

All Nations Do Honor To the City of Verdun For Its Heroic Defence

PRESIDENT POINCARE recently distributed at Verdun the decorations awarded to the town by the Allies and France. These present at a very simple, but impressive ceremony included Generals Joffre, Petain, Nivelle, and Dubois, representatives of the town and the department and the military missions of the Allies.

The President first mentioned the idea of honoring the defenders of Verdun by decorating the town upon which they had shed such lustre, had come spontaneously from the Czar at the very time when the government of the Republic was considering a similar proposal. Representatives of the allied countries had agreed to meet in the inviolate citadel to offer in common a tribute of recognition to the brave men who had saved the world and the proud city which had warded off so many blows against liberty.

The supreme hopes of imperial Germany had been shattered against the walls of Verdun, where the Germans had tried to secure an astounding spectacular success. With tranquil firmness France has replied, "You do not pass."

President Poincare then spoke of the double objective which the Germans had had in view, on Feb. 21, namely to forestall the general offensive of the Allies and to strike at the same time a resounding blow and rapidly seize the fortress whose historic name would enhance in the eyes of the German people its military importance. The debris of these Ger-



PRESIDENT POINCARE.

manic dreams now lies at our feet, continued the President. The staffs of the armies of the Allies did, in fact, adopt at the beginning of December a plan of action for a campaign in the following year in which on one indivisible front the troops of the coalition would take concerted offensives in order not to leave the Central empires free to utilize successively their reserves in the various fields of operations. Instead of submitting to our law, President Poincare added, Germany tried to impose hers on us, choosing the place and date of attack. The admirable troops of Generals Petain and Nivelle permitted all the Allies to work with growing activity on the manufacture of war material, foiled the enemy's designs, and spread confidence throughout the universe. Confidence in our final victory permitted the preparation and initiation of triumphant offensives. Italy's brilliant attack on Gorizia and the undertaking by the British and French troops of a series of methodical operations on the Somme.

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THE MARK OF THE BEAST.

Inability of Germans to Understand Ordinary Humanity.

There is something almost pathetic about the vain reachings of the Germans for neutral sympathy, says The New York Tribune. They murder neutrals, they sink neutral ships and they violate neutral rights, and then, in their desire for neutral approval, they buy newspapers in neutral capitals and eagerly reprint the comments appearing in the purchased columns. Thus it is that for the latest Belgian outrage Berlin finds warrant in the comment of Copenhagen and Stockholm newspapers.

And yet the most astonishing thing about the whole war is the complete inability of the German to understand the rest of the world. He sent his troops into Belgium; he permitted, he commanded them to murder, burn, rape; under his orders children were slain and women violated, cities were destroyed and homes ruined, and then the Germans produced a hocus-pocus of documents discovered in Brussels to defend his course, to justify not merely his fences against Belgian neutrality but his offences in Belgium against all humanity.

And from the outset of the war the Belgian episode has endured as a final damnation of Modern Germany. It is one thing about which there is no argument in America. It is one phase of the war which is settled, not for the duration of the war, but for the life time of men and women now alive. We are numb with the horrors of this war, we are deafened with the charges and counter-charges, but in the matter of Belgium our minds remain clear and fixed.

It is not surprising that the nation which murdered Belgian women and children is now enslaving Belgian men. It is not surprising that the nation which is responsible for what was done, not merely in Louvain, but in all the villages from the frontier to Dinant, through which the troops passed, should now be invoking the methods of African slave traders in the conquered regions.

The true meaning of this Belgian episode is that there can be no peace while the spirit which is responsible for it dominates Germany. Europe cannot make peace with such statesmanship of murder as rules in Berlin. To do this would be to recognize the spirit itself. A native village might as well make terms with a man-eating tiger which by its paws upon its children as could France, and the world make peace with a neighboring Germany in its present mood.

Famous Oarsmen Killed.

The roll of honor of the winners of the Diamond Sculls at Henley, the proudest trophy of amateur single-sculling, grows with the progress of the war. Last week's casualty lists included the name of Capt. Frederick Septimus Kelly, Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve, killed in action. Within the last few weeks the names of the wily A. T. Blackstaffe, of the Vesta, and Giuseppe Singaglia, the giant Italian sculler, were also reported. Kelly was an Australian, but had done practically all his rowing in England for Oxford and the Leander. He won the Diamond Sculls in 1903 and 1905, but was beaten in 1904 by Lieut. Lou Scholes, of the 180th Sportsmen's Battalion, then representing the Toronto Rowing Club. They met in the semi-finals, and Kelly was so badly done up in the struggle that he had to give up about 50 yards from the finish, and did not complete the course. Lieut. Scholes had beaten D. C. Stuart, of Cambridge, and Wells of Balliol, earlier in the week, and in the final he won from A. H. Cloutte, of the Thames Rowing Club, though he had to be helped by the Leander crew before he disposed of Cloutte. Kelly, who also won the Winkfield Sculls over the full Thames course, was a fine sweep oarsman, as well as a sculler, and was in the winning Grand crew of the Leander on several occasions. He and Scholes were exactly the same weight the day they met—170 pounds. In civil life Kelly's profession was one that would hardly be associated with the idea of an oarsman, as he was a piano virtuoso.

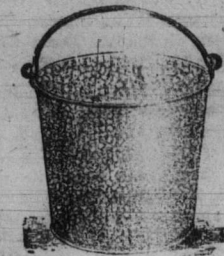
Effect of War on Oxford.

The effect of the war upon the University of Oxford is strikingly shown by the reduced number of freshmen coming into residence. This year the number has gone down to 126, including twenty-seven American Rhodes scholars. Last year the freshmen numbered 239, and in the previous year 532. The average for the four years previous to the war was 934. It is officially stated that about 10,500 members of Oxford University are serving in the army or navy, and nearly 500 more are in other Government employment. Over 1,200 of them have obtained distinctions of various kinds. There are nine Victoria Crosses, 120 D.S.O.'s, and 267 M.C.'s; 700 have been mentioned in despatches, besides four D.C.M.'s and D.S.C.'s. Besides these there are forty-eight foreign orders, including twenty-two French and eight Russian. But the proportion of losses is high. No less than 1,230 Oxford men are reported killed and 106 missing. The University retains its predominant military aspect. In the colleges there are companies of officer cadet battalions. The Royal Flying Corps school of instruction occupies five, while the hospital in the examination schools has overflowed into one of the colleges adjoining.

Both Male and Female.

A Welsh vicar, who has recently been advertising for an organist, was very much bewildered on receiving the following amongst his replies: "Dear Sir,—I notice you have a vacancy for an organist and music-teacher, either lady or gentleman. Having been both for several years, I beg to offer you my services."

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W. J. MUIRHEAD

Poles in South America.

If it is true that the Russian Government is planning to foster colonization of Poles in South America, as is reported from Petrograd, the movement will mark a departure from the customary policy of that Government. Despite the vast population of the Russian Empire, estimated recently at 185,000,000, with an annual increase of more than 4,000,000, Russia has not appeared among the nations encouraging emigration of its own inhabitants. The great area of Russia is in proportion to its population, and there is room for many millions more before the food problem will become at all acute; in addition to which the Czar is credited with definite colonization ambitions in the direction of certain regions in Northern China contiguous to his own Asiatic Russia.

One explanation suggested is that the Poles have proved a thorn in the side of the Russian Conservatives ever since formation of the Duma, and that it is desired to reduce their relative political power by finding homes for them elsewhere. The Poles have long been strong individualists; they charge their lack of development in their own country to repressive measures rather than to lack of Polish enterprise; they assert that in a freer atmosphere they would take a place among Russians corresponding, for example, to that of the Bohemians in Austria.

The plan of colonization to which reference is made is said to contemplate the sending of 400,000 or 500,000 Poles to Venezuela. This would be a boon to Venezuela, and perhaps it might work out to the advantage of the new arrivals. The South American country is rich in natural resources and, so far as its soil is concerned, it could feed a goodly part of the world. Its need has been an industrious citizenship. The present population of mixed Latin and Indian is temperamentally better fitted for revolution than for continuity of effort in the direction of domestic development.

Forgetful. Caretaker—Sir Walter Scott spent a night in this room. "Ere we've a complete set of 'is works. Intelligent Sightseer — Left 'em be'ind I suppose?—Passing Show.

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