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Four Years' War for Peace

(Continued from last week.)

When the British Expeditionary Force landed, Belgium and France had already been fighting for ten days. On the very day when the German Ambassador in Brussels declared that his Government would respect Belgian neutrality, three Army Corps in the German field-grey were massing against her frontiers. The swift thunderbolt of Thor was to smash France through Belgium and then to swing back on Russia. Speed was of the first moment to Germany. A day lost might turn the fortunes of the world-war. We must, said the German Chancellor, "hack our way through."

Liège stood in the path. A scratch force hurriedly swept together manned its defences. Germany flung her men upon it. They were repulsed again and again. In two days the David of Europe had broken the long legend of the Prussian giant's invincibility. Then the mighty German guns smashed the twelve-foot concrete and the wrought-iron cupolas of the Liège forts like egg-shells. The guns had not been brought up at the outset because arrogant Germany despised her tiny adversary. That pride was a cause of the great fall; for it lost priceless days to Germany. From the south-eastern forts to the city, from the city to the north-west forts, General Leman drew back his men, but still held the gap. At last the heroic General was dragged from the "débris" of his last fort and the long retreat began.

To recall and record the story

COALING SHIP.



(Dispatch from Draft 74, Canadian Engineers, England.)

"Lieut. McCaul, O.C., Coal Heavers Squad, on it being suggested that he needed 'to carry a gun' on the job, promptly borrowed one from the Chief Officer."