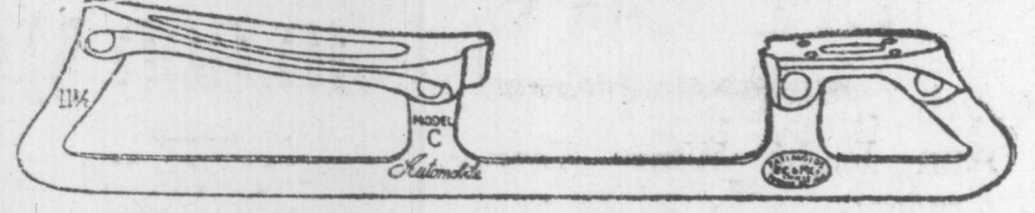


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Now is the time to procure one of our **BABY SLEIGHS**, as being purchased before the advance, we are in a position to sell them at a very low figure.



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Automobile & other Hockey Skates Hockey Sticks, Pucks, Snow Shoes, etc.

N.B.—We have also a stock of Hockey and Acme Skates left over from the fire which we are selling from 40c. pair up.

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All Lines of General Provisions.

HEARN & COMPANY
St. John's, Newfoundland.

CENTRAL DOORWAY TO FRANCE BANGED, BARRED AND BOLTED IN THE FACE OF THE GERMANS

The Great Fortress of Verdun Constitutes the Well-guarded Gateway, Still Un-assailed

NEAREST GERMAN GUNS 20 MILES AWAY

The Enemy Has Not Approached Near Enough for Some of the Forts to Fire Any Guns at all

In the French Lines, Verdun, Dec. 2.—This great central doorway of the Lorraine frontier is banged, barred, and bolted against the invader. Verdun has been advertised by the German commanders as subject to a close investment. They even claim to have captured some of the forts. The German people may imagine that it is besieged, but I wish some of their representatives could have accompanied us in the last part of the tour of inspection which has been of extraordinary interest. No better proof, perhaps, could be offered in such a small compass of the futility of the adventure in which the Prussian Generals had involved them.

Verdun Not Besieged.
Verdun has never been besieged, its communications are unbroken it is the centre of a district in which there is no menace. On the north-west, and east there is at least twenty miles before the zone of German gun fire is reached. The road to the city through the Argonne is as safe and quiet as the road from York to London.

On the south the Germans touch the Meuse at only a single point, St. Mihiel. To reach it from Metz, there is but one single difficult road and all along that line the position of the Germans is exceedingly precarious. Around the semi-circle north of Verdun the French armies make slow but steady progress. They are prepared for winter as well as any armies can be. I spoke to many of the men at different points, and there was no doubt about the height of their spirits and confidence.

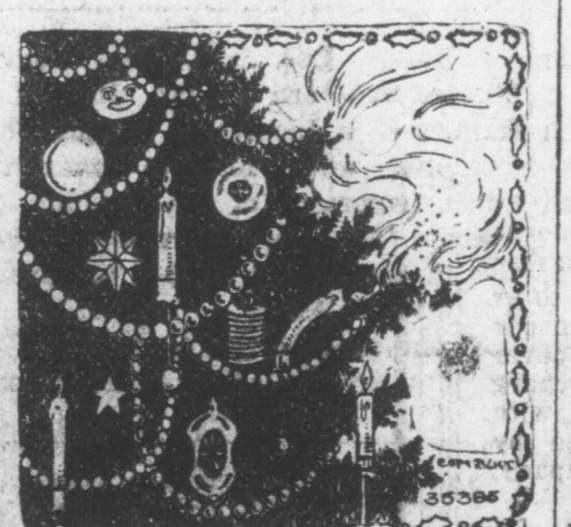
I spoke also to a number of officers. They struck me as men of intelligence and vigor, possessed by a modern and liberal spirit, and watching closely over the safety and comfort of their men.

Have Not Fired a Shot.
The secret of this important success at the pivoting point of the western campaign is not the strength of the fixed defences of Verdun, for many of the forts have not fired a shot. It is that the army has never lost its freedom of action. For the moment

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Jan 20, tu, th, sat



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PERCIE JOHNSON,
Insurance Agent.

all danger is now passed on the eastern frontier. In the course of the journey, we were privileged to meet and spend some hours with General (name deleted) and it seemed to me that the fullness with which he explained to us the course and character of the operations exemplified the new type of mind that modern conditions reproduce even in places where the conservative spirit lingers most obstinately. A tall slight man with a short white beard and moustache, soft grey eyes and gentle manner, General looks the scholar and thinker rather than the man of action we know him to be.

In answer to a question about the present morale of the German troops, he said: "Que voulez vous." It is a ship in a tempest and the sailors run hither and thither. "There was no sound of hate or triumph in his tone, but I thought that if a symbolical picture of the defence of France were needed, one could hardly find a better one than a portrait of this general.

The "Highland" Brigade

("Spalpeen," in Glasgow Star.) Some of the papers are finding fault with the Irish because they are not joining Kitchener's army in larger numbers, but they have only to read the list of killed and wounded in English and Scottish regiments to find an answer to their question. Among the various arrivals of wounded in Stobhill Hospital are to be found the following names in Scottish regiments:

Come, listen to me you who seek for our aid. Till I read you some names from the "Highland" Brigade, Who went to the front all the Germans to kill. And a batch of these wounded are now at Stobhill. I find on the list an O'Malley and Boyle. A Murphy, a Kelly, a Riley and Doyle, A Casey, a Carney, a Rorke and M'Cann. All strapping young Highlanders, every man. There are Rooneys and Dohertys. There by the score, And Gallaghers, too, you'll find in galore; While Muldoons and O'Connors can also be had. Troth, the ould boy himself couldn't bate such a squad. And, bedad, there you'll find Piper Riordan, from Cork. The skirl of whose pipes could be heard in New York; And Meagher who plays the big drum in grand style. Who, I'll swear, never slept in the shire of Argyll. There is Driscoll, a bandsman, and Piper-Major Foy. With Carney, M'Laughlan, Maginn and Malloy. And O'Leary and Doogan, M'Bride and M'Gill. All hooching and dancin' about in Stobhill; You can find, if you wish, a Delaney and Burke, A Carrol, a Clancy, a Toole, and M'Gurk; A Foley, a Welsh, a M'Guire and a Quinn. All pledged to assemble some day in Berlin. There was Gunner O'Donnell and Sergeant M'Fall. Who can both cut the tartan of ould Donegal; And Barney M'Luskey, whose hair isn't dry, And who says he belongs to the Island of Skye. It would do good to your heart to see Paddy M'Gee. The calves of whose legs are as thick as a tree; And big Darby Dolan, who comes from Strabane. Has his "wee deeh an' dorus" whenever he can. I don't think that Britain need care for the Huns With such fine "Highland soldiers" to handle the guns; And I lately was told that Von Kluck and his men, Are praying to the Lord not to meet them again.

Live Fox

For Sale a Live Fox, dark red in color, with silver hairs on back. In perfect health and beautifully furred. Female. Just the thing for a ranch. **JAMES LITTLE of Geo., Bonavista.**—nov9,tf

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St. John's, N.F.,
March 15th, 1914.

Mr. Stebaurman,
Dear Sir,—I have much pleasure in informing you that I am perfectly cured of my stomach trouble after having used two bottles of your medicine. I feel as well as ever. I was fifteen years suffering. Doctors said they could do me no good and told me I would never be cured. I gave up hopes of getting better till a friend advised me to try your medicine, and after using two bottles I am well.

You are free to make any use of this that you think proper. I feel that I am completely cured and I trust that other sufferers will find the blessing of health again by using your medicine.

Yours truly,
MRS. STACEY.

23 Goodview Street,
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