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Semi-Weekly Telegraph and The News

ST. JOHN, N. B., FEBRUARY 16, 1916

THE GREATEST OF FIELD GUNS.

What happens in and about an ordinary German trench when the French 75-millimetre guns are turned upon it is told in a remarkable way by one of the French writers whom the government permitted to see the army in action a few weeks ago. The French writer is now regarded as the greatest field gun in the world. It is capable of twenty-five aimed rounds a minute. It fires either shrapnel shells of sixteen pounds or high explosive shells weighing a little less than twelve pounds. The lighter shell has a muzzle velocity equal to that of the small bore rifle. The bursting charge is melinite.

On the day when the writers were permitted to see the French field guns in action the batteries were getting ready to shell an expanse of German trenches two miles away. The observers were stationed with a captain of artillery, some distance from the batteries, under an old roof, from which position they watched the German trenches through powerful field glasses. The artillery captain gave his orders by telephone. The first shell was fired at 8,000 yards. It went a little too far. The next was at 8,400 yards. It was a little too short. The observers then expected the captain to say 8,400, but he said 8,440. They were astonished to see a battery commander handling fractions of fifty yards in a range of two miles. Also, they were a little sceptical. But that shell burst on the parapet of the trench. Then, to their greater surprise, the captain changed to 8,440 yards, and that shell burst in the trench itself. Then he gave the order for rapid firing from the whole group of batteries, and they burst into the much dreaded rattle, or storm of fire. One of the observers who was watching the German trenches through a fine field glass describes what followed.

"At this the din becomes deafening. The thumping begins to merge into a dull roar, but only for a moment. Suddenly the whole German front for a width of 200 yards is black with bursting melinite. The inferno dominates everything else. The air is filled with complete chaos of the situation. The rifle fire dies down on both sides and our infantry stands rap in amazement in the midst of the confusion. The rate of fire dies not for a moment. If anything it increases in intensity. Lumps of shrapnel debris, whole sandbags hit by beams, bits of planking, shrapnel, the head and shoulders of a lifeless boy, the arms flailing loosely in a way which tells of broken bones. One after another the scrap heap begins to rise in the air as the melinite explodes. In the very midst of the German dugouts. The lumps of stuff turn slowly over in the air, lumps following lumps as a juggler balances glass balls. Bang! bang! Stick your fingers in your ears; shut your mouth and eyes, in a vain effort to keep the noise out of your head. The tiles on the rafters above begin to shake loose; ah, stop it! stop it! An unreasoning irritation seizes you. Can't you stop the beastly din?"

Then the storm of fire is over, and as the smoke rises they see the result: "A long shallow depression full of debris where once the trench had been. The Germans are wiped out. Slowly one clay colored lump detaches itself from the rest, and with an infinitely painful weakness scrambles to its feet. Blind, half-dead, groping with outstretched arms, it stumbles towards us and falls flat on its face. All is still."

The French have great confidence in the future owing to the rapidity and precision of this gun, the advantages of which they are sure will be found even greater when fighting above ground replaces the trench warfare of the day. The whole nation worships the seventy-five, and the whole nation knows the story that while the Germans worked for a long time to steal the plans of the seventy-five they only succeeded in stealing dummy plans which had been carefully prepared and jealously guarded as if they were the real ones. The Germans made a gun after the false plans—and found that it wouldn't work.

WAR COMMENT.

The Russians are strongly on the offensive in Galicia. They have been able to withstand all the attacks of the Austrians in that territory, and are now beginning an important drive towards Cernowitz. The capture of the capital of Bukovina would be a serious blow to the Austro-Germans. Russian leaders declare that while their position with respect to munitions was tragic in the summer of 1915, a crisis no longer exists. With the national production and enormous supplies

of guns and ammunition from abroad, they look to the future with confidence. Russia, no doubt, has still much to do before her armies are at their full strength, but the grave gaps are filled. A smashing victory for the Czar's troops in Galicia, military writers believe, would bring Rumania into the war with the Allies.

In a month or six weeks, depending upon spring weather, the ground in France and Flanders will be dry enough to permit the free movement of heavy artillery. It therefore is expected that heavy fighting on the western front will come in March, or certainly in April, and some expect it earlier. There has been heavy fighting on several parts of the front, particularly in the neighborhood of Arras where the Germans have been attempting to wrest some commanding ridges from the French. Their offensive in that quarter is said to have caused them 60,000 casualties. If that is a sound estimate, taken with the losses in the battle of Loos and Champagne last autumn, some idea is afforded as to the nature of the fighting to be expected when the spring campaign has begun.

The military expert of the London Times urges the British and French to concentrate on the western front and settle the war there. He estimates that Germany has to-day in the field 6,000,000 men, that she has suffered casualties amounting to 2,700,000, and that she has 2,000,000 reserves still available for active service. He is disposed now to think that unless Germany's losses are very heavy during the next few months the enemy would have men enough to fight almost indefinitely. If the German losses should amount to 280,000 a month, as they did during a portion of last year, the enemy would exhaust its power of reinforcement by next September. But Colonel Repington points out that during January the enemy's losses were comparatively light. He says:

"If we insist upon fighting Turkey, Bulgaria and what not instead of Germany, we make a great mistake. We have only one enemy that counts and whose fall will bring his confederates down with him. We should concentrate upon him and act against him offensively with all our might, recall all useless detachments, liquidate all foolish adventures which waste our army while causing the Germans no loss, and act defensively with the least possible numbers in every theatre other than the principal one."

"This should be the cardinal plan of the war, and victory is assured if we pursue it relentlessly."

Dr. Koht, a Norwegian historian, who has just returned after a prolonged stay in Germany, and who is said to be pro-Christiania in tendency, has published in Christiania a series of articles in which he says the German nation is yearning for peace, not because of its weakness, but because of its recognition of the fact that Germany's many enemies, especially Great Britain, cannot be crushed. "The fact that Great Britain still retains all her territory and cannot be attacked by land and that she is less affected by the war than Germany," the writer adds, "is rapidly growing upon the whole people, who are beginning to realize that in spite of her military strength, Germany will never be able to enforce a definite decision in her favor."

A French manufacturer who recently returned to Paris from Germany where he was interned for some months, warns France that the enemy will not be beaten by economic pressure, but only by the loss of untold thousands of men—"a loss which is already acutely felt throughout the nation."

Sir Arthur Conan Doyle is one of several well known public figures who are urging the British to send ships to drop bombs upon German cities by way of reply to the recent Zeppelin raids. He says: "Had we an aviation centre near Nancy we should be very much nearer than to that great German centre of population. The distance from there to Wiesbaden would be 100 miles, to Bonn 180, to Frankfurt 140, to Cologne 120. If, then, London is vulnerable, these are very much more so. Without any delay we should establish such an aviation centre, defend it with numbers of the best aircraft guns against the persistent attempts which will be made to destroy it, and announce to the German government through the American Embassy at Berlin that we can tolerate no more outrages upon our civilian population, and that any further raids will be followed by immediate reprisals."

WHAT SIR WILFRID SAID.

Because Sir Wilfrid Laurier and the Liberal party consented to an extension of the term of Parliament for one year from next October in order to prevent an election struggle during the war, some Conservative journals, the Standard among them, are already trying to make it appear that the Liberals in Parliament thus pledged themselves to refrain from all criticism of the government in connection with war material and supplies. It is charged, for example, that the Liberal proposal to press for an inquiry into shell contracts is in some way a contradiction of the Liberal position in consenting to the extension of the life of Parliament.

But Sir Wilfrid Laurier made it very clear in his speech the other day that while it was most desirable to avoid a party struggle which would divide the country during the war, and while the Liberals in the House would give the government ready support in all proper measures connected with the prosecution of the war, they did not intend in any way to abandon the right of needed criticism. Conservatives have no excuse for misapprehension on this subject. We take a report of what Sir Wilfrid said on this point from the Conservative Montreal Gazette:

"The leader of the Opposition then quoted his words at the opening of the emergency war session of 1915, when he had stated that the Opposition was not

disposed to be critical if in anything which had been done or remained to be done for the successful prosecution of the war there was anything that should not have been done. These passages had since received very singular interpretations, even on the floor of the House, said Sir Wilfrid. To such interpretations the Opposition did not subscribe. What Sir Wilfrid's words had meant had been that all measures which had for their object the successful prosecution of the war, the Opposition was prepared now, as in the past, to support. All measures which might be detrimental to the successful prosecution of the war, it would be the duty of the Opposition to oppose. There would be determined opposition to all wrong and all fraud. These must be exposed."

Sir Wilfrid's course has been consistent and patriotic throughout. Last year the Liberals criticized the fiscal policy of the Minister of Finance on the ground that it impaired trade between Canada and Great Britain, and to that extent was detrimental to the successful prosecution of the war. In the present session, it may be expected that the Opposition will criticize and attempt to investigate any expenditures of money in connection with which there is good ground for suspicion either as to mismanagement or graft. It would be a very bad thing for Canada if the Opposition had consented—as it did not—to the theory that it ought to be dumb and blind with respect to such expenditures.

WAR OUTLOOK.

"Now, unless Germany can outlast Britain, or find some way to exercise compulsion upon Britain, she must ultimately lose the war," said a leading British official. He said that he was not a soldier, but he was a man of business, and he must ultimately lose the war. "And what British holds makes all of Germany's conquests of little value. Germany is, as I have said before, in the position of a burglar, who has entered a house and collected the silver but cannot get out to dispose of it."

"If Germany cannot find a way to break the British blockade, the fact is self-evident that Germany must persuade Britain to raise it. To do this is to surrender on British terms."

These conclusions are taken from an article by the leading neutral critic of the war, Frank H. Simonds, in the American Review of Reviews for February. Mr. Simonds' text is "Sea Power and the War." For many months, in fair weather and in foul alike, he has written from the standpoint of one having firm faith in the ultimate success of the Allies, and ready to defend that faith by arguments which, while they might not always be conclusive, were at least honest and supported by striking examinations of the entire theatre of conflict and the marshalling of impressive historic parallels.

Before examining the let us hope—two optimistic views by Mr. Simonds, perhaps we all should be reminded of that, while he is confident that the Allies will win, he does not think the war is over, or nearly over, or that it can be won without further great sacrifices, the utmost steadfastness and resolution, and unbroken unity on the part of the Allies. "As we read what he says, and as we hope his reasoning is well grounded, we never for a moment should lose sight of the duty of Canada to enlist volunteers at an increasing rate, remembering that the Allies are certain to fail unless they have a steady increasing stream of recruits to make up their losses in the field and to carry through new operations made necessary by the development of the war."

Coming to the beginning of the nineteenth month of war, Mr. Simonds takes advantage of the fact that there has been no recent fighting of a decisive character during the last few weeks to review once more what has been done, and what the outlook seems to be, disregarding surface indications and attempting to weigh those influences which in the end must impose a decision. In saying that the first eighteen months of the war have brought nothing decisive he recalls the parallel of the American Civil War, reminding us that during the first eighteen months of that struggle the North met with little but disaster, and that when the nineteenth month began "there was hardly an observer of experience in a neutral country who believed the North could win, or questioned the ultimate independence of the South. Not until the two-year mark had been passed, and until Gettysburg and Vicksburg in July, 1863, had restored the Northern prestige, and the Federal Ball Run in July, 1863, did the lost at Appomattox begin to be appreciated. The South from gaining a decision in the earlier years, the North, with superior resources in men and in money, above all with the control of the seas, had in fact, won the war, however long it might take to enforce a decision."

He believes that is the situation today—that however long it may take to enforce a decision, the Allies, and chiefly Great Britain, are in their safe margin of sea power the certain element of ultimate success. To the parallel of the Civil War he adds the parallel of the Napoleonic wars. Napoleon won decision after decision on land, beating down one ally of Great Britain after another, yet British sea power pulled him down in the end. He maintains that Germany, much as it has done, has failed where Napoleon succeeded, for "he conquered his land foes, occupied their capitals, and paid the cost of his war from their treasuries. All this Germany has been unable to do."

Mr. Simonds returns repeatedly to this consideration: That however Germany may succeed on land against Britain's Allies, there never can be peace until Germany has won, by force or by bargain with Britain, the right to use the seas again. "Sea power, navalism if you please, has so completely beaten militarism, that the situation that exists, unless

Germany can find some way to modify it, by success over the British, insures German defeat exactly as Napoleon's defeat was insured when he failed to dispose of sea power and faced the Continent in arms."

In looking ahead to the spring campaign, Mr. Simonds expects that Germany, if she still has men enough, "will make one more great bid for a decision in the East and seek to resume and complete her march to Moscow and Petrograd." He looks for a great Anglo-French offensive in the West, the success of which will depend upon how many men Germany is forced to take from her western line for her new offensive eastward. He does not believe the French and British will reach the German frontiers this spring, or clear Belgium, though they may rescue that part of France now held by the Germans. He considers what the situation would be if Germany should be able by next autumn to batter its way to Moscow or Petrograd. Assuming that such a German success is possible, saying for the sake of argument that Russia should be beaten to its knees before next winter, Mr. Simonds asks "if Germany would then be able to throw enough weight against the French and British lines on the western front to break them. It seems to him utterly improbable. He marks the steady increase of the British army and what he regards as more important still, the stiffening of British national determination. He predicts that by next autumn Great Britain will have as many soldiers as Germany and that they will be, physically far better men than Germany's, whose best are dead or wounded already."

"The British," he says, "have waked up as never before since the war began. They have appreciated the value of their weapon of sea power, and they have now prepared to make good all that Admiral Mahan has written of the possibilities of sea power, and to repeat against Wilhelm II. the absolute success won against Napoleon."

The much advertised drive at Egypt does not impress Mr. Simonds. This, he says, is only another German dream. It is characteristic of the German genius that it builds for itself one colossal dream after another, and the collapse of one only inspires greater faith in the next. He does not believe the Germans or Turks can take Egypt, or if they could, that the advantage gained would be worth the price. Sea power, in short, will win. It is only a matter of time.

WAR COMMENT.

How are the Allies to break the German line in the West? Military writers have given this question increasing attention of late. Soldiers and laymen have long been busy with it. The soldiers, if they are of high rank, do not publish what they think of such matters, but sometimes their views are printed by military writers. There was, for example, the London Times agitation over the shortage of shells last year, following a visit to British field headquarters by The Times military correspondent. It was intimated afterwards that General French had given him the information he published.

The German front can be broken, The Times writer maintains in a recent article, but not in one battle. He expects it will be done by a series of attacks by the Allies all along the main fronts, in which they will improve upon their tactics at Loos and Champagne where the infantry, after successes which were good enough for one action, were allowed to take other positions which they could not hold because time was not given the artillery to advance to new positions. "How," he asks, "can we expect to break the German lines in one battle? There are lines upon lines, and when we have taken the Aisne Ridge and the Vimy heights (the scene of heavy fighting a few days ago) there will be Lille, the Dendre, the Scheldt, the Meuse, the Rhine, and many more lines, as there will be for us if the Germans attack us, so that this, best idea of breaking the line, is good for Trafalgar, it is really out of it. It is even harmful, for when we win a serious victory like that of September, when we dispose of 100,000 Germans and capture 150 German guns, we are not content because we have not attained the unattainable, or our cavalry have not streamed through the famous Gap. It is lucky that they have not, because the country is unrideable, covered with obstacles, and confining cavalry to roads where a division can be held up by a few machine guns."

What was done at Champagne must not be regarded too lightly. Properly viewed, he says, it was a great feat over which there would have been much satisfaction but that too much was expected, even attempted, under the circumstances.

He counts upon bigger and better results next time. "A general offensive by all the Allies at once, and a general offensive on each front, are the tactics which will hurt Germany the most, and they are therefore to be commended. They are being rendered more possible every day by the rapid increase of our heavy howitzers and munitions generally, enabling us to devote an increasingly large number of heavy guns to all of our sectors, and to maintain a good rate of fire for a longer time. It is not the case that we have yet delivered a serious attack without any concern for our supply of shells. Neither we nor the French have been wholly so fortunate as that, but as time goes on each one of our attacks will be more deadly than the last. The artillery point of view, and we may often enjoy the luxury of driving the enemy out of his trenches by shell fire alone."

Long periods of comparative inaction, he explains, have been due to lack of an unlimited supply of shells. Such periods

will evidently be few this coming spring and summer. While infantry is the principal arm—"the queen of battles"—the predominance of modern artillery in present day fighting has been very marked, and it is a question whether, in this trench warfare, we should not use the infantry as a complementary arm, and see what happens when we subordinate its action to that of the guns. If we knock to pieces the first line system of hostile trenches and obstacles with our shells, from our barrage of fire beyond, counter-batter the German artillery more effectively, and then use our infantry to occupy and consolidate the ground gained and await the advance of our guns to break positions before we continue our attack, we may hope to gain solid successes and to cause the enemy much greater losses than we suffer ourselves. The official account of the losses and exhaustion of the Germans under the French shell fire in Champagne must be read and understood."

The Allies have stood up successfully, first against German superiority in both men and guns, and later against artillery superiority. The Times says a time coming—and near—when the Allies will be superior in numbers and in artillery as well, when not in a single battle, but in a series of attacks, on all fronts, the enemy will be gradually broken."

IS IT PRUDENT?

One is not quite sure that "prudent" is the word needed here, but it will serve. It is provided after eighteen months of war, and after the knowledge we have gained of German tactics, not only in the theatre of war but in the United States and Canada—is it still prudent to retain in important positions in the public service men of German birth, even though they are naturalized and vouched for by ministers of the Crown? Why should ministers of the Crown take any chances?

On Saturday the Standard published an Ottawa telegram saying that Frank Bopp, formerly German Consul at Montreal, now indicted at San Francisco for entering into conspiracy against Canada, is suspected of having hatched the plot which destroyed the Canadian Parliament buildings. The Standard's despatch continues as follows:

"Bopp had an excellent opportunity of making himself thoroughly acquainted with the conditions of the war. He was a frequent visitor to the city, attended parliament often and has been at government house on state occasions. He is acquainted with all the leading officials, and it is a matter of fact that he is an active and persistent student of Canadian institutions."

Presumably when Herr Bopp went to Ottawa it would be natural for him to meet, among others, those Germans who were then, as most of them still are, in the public service, occupying positions of trust and importance.

Suppose we give Mr. Hazen credit for believing that his German secretary is a patriotic Canadian. Although Mr. Hazen may believe it, it is not so easy for others to do so, remembering that Germany does not recognize such naturalizations and holds fast to the doctrine, "once a German, always a German."

In discussing this question the other day the Toronto Star's Ottawa correspondent said:

"How many men of British birth are holding positions of trust within the bounds of the German Empire? Echo answers with conviction, 'none.' 'How many men of German birth are today holding positions of trust within the bounds of the Dominion of Canada? Echo answers, with a complete knowledge of the facts, 'many.'"

"It might further be asked how many of the sons of British parents are holding such positions in Germany, and the answer would be 'very few.' Such a question concerning the number of men of German parentage holding prominent positions in Canada, would simply be smiled at as not mattering very much. The truth remains that numerous persons not only of German parentage, but of German birth, whose relatives are fighting Great Britain on the continent are in possession of positions of trust in Canada, and even in the very heart of Canada. The Central of line is that some of them have not yet received full naturalization, and many of them only received it after the war commenced."

This writer recalls that the government, early in the war, decided not to interfere with any alien if he went quietly about his business, not showing by word or act any hostility to our cause. But, as the Star says: "It may be that the man who keeps his own counsel, and is careful of his acts, is at the present time a more dangerous enemy than the openly and foolishly hostile individual." The Star correspondent took up the case of Mr. Hazen's assertion that "Hedemann does not have access to any papers or information which would be of use to the enemy. The minister says Mr. Hedemann is a faithful and patriotic man, and Sir Sam Hughes gives the same certificate of character to Captain Hahn now at the front as a Canadian officer." The Star correspondent says:

"Probably the most conspicuous case on record is that of Gustav Hedemann, secretary of the minister of marine, and naval service, Hon. J. D. Hazen. Mr. Hedemann was born in Germany, and has been a long time in Canada. He is reputed as an able and efficient secretary. His name appears on the most recent list issued from the secretary of state's department as having received full naturalization. But Mr. Hedemann has access to all correspondence connected with Canadian coast defence, wireless, harbor, patrol, and marine matters which come to the office of the minister of marine and naval defence. It is not conceivable that Admiral Von Tirpitz, the head of the German navy, would permit the administration of his department, the administration of his department, to be in the hands of a man whose name was so well known in Germany, and who was so well known in Canada."

General Sir Sam Hughes has boasted through the press that his chief intelligence officer overseas is a German by the name of Captain Hahn. The name of an intelligence officer is about what the name would imply, and it is intelligence concerning the disposition of the Canadian troops very much desired."

Ordinary prudence—to use no stronger word—argues against the continued em-

ployment of these men. Ordinary prudence would have found other employment for them early in the war—if it was desired to deal with their cases in a spirit of kindness—and their places would have been filled by Canadians who required no naturalization papers. As a result of the open debate on this subject in the House of Commons and the publicity given the whole question by the press, undoubtedly the whole country is asking:

What business has Hon. Mr. Hazen to retain a German as his secretary?

Presumably the Minister intends to retain Hedemann and defend his course in the face of a growing volume of public hostility to the principle involved in such a course. But can the matter be allowed to rest where it is now?

THE POSITION OF ROMANIA.

A French despatch says that the Rumanian Powers have notified the Rumanian government that the election to Parliament of two Transylvanian candidates, both of whom fled to Rumania from Hungary on the outbreak of the war, would be considered an act of hostility like the recent sale of grain to Great Britain. The Rumanian reply, it is declared, has given little comfort to Austria and Germany, and for this and other reasons it is believed the tension between the Central Powers and Rumania is approaching the breaking point.

Rumania has taken the ground that the sale of grain was of an economic nature in the interests of the country. It is significant, however, that the sale was made to the Allies in spite of the fact that the natural purchasers of Rumanian wheat at the present time are Germany and Austria who are in great need of it. This has led military observers to conclude that those members of the government who are known to be strongly pro-German have at last decided to let the people, whose sympathies are with the Allies, sell their grain wherever they will to sell it—and that, clearly, is not to the Austrians."

The military expert of the New York Journal of Commerce points out that Rumania's feeling against Hungary is very strong because of the flagrant disregard by successive Magyar governments of the stipulations of the Law of Nationalities, which provided that the Rumanians and the other non-Magyar peoples in the Kingdom of Hungary should enjoy full political equality and the freedom to use their own language.

As a matter of fact, the law has remained a dead letter, and while there are only about 8,000,000 Magyars out of a population of 20,000,000 people in Hungary the minority has ruled with an iron hand and the majority has been compelled to suffer all kinds of oppression and injustice. The Magyars have monopolized the schools and universities and in 1901 one of the 418 members of Parliament was of Rumanian nationality. In 1910 only five were Rumanians.

After reviewing these facts the writer in the Journal of Commerce places up the present situation as follows: "Under such circumstances Rumania's co-operation with the oppressors of her people must be held to be inconceivable. On the other hand, there have been considerations, not solely due to the prospect of pecuniary gain, that helped to keep Rumania neutral. Among these was the difficulty experienced by the Powers of the Triple Entente of controlling the territorial demands of the government at Bucharest. Rumania, but not only Russia to cede a part of Bessarabia, so that the enlarged Romania might become a State of 15,000,000 inhabitants. Up to a comparatively recent date Russia has proved obdurate in regard to the Bessarabian question, but it is highly probable that some understanding has been reached on that score. However this may be, it is certain that the enlarged Romania, with its highly valuable oil, while Rumania has a much smaller army than Italy, the frontier of Austria-Hungary toward the frontier of Russia is a very short one. Italy continues to attack the tremendous barrier of the Alps, and keeps employed in conquering the part of the Austrian army, Rumania should succeed in entering Hungary, the situation of the Dual Monarchy would become decidedly perilous. It would be still more obviously so should Russia resume her triumphant march through Galicia and the armies of the two Powers finally meet on the great Hungarian plain. Obviously, Rumania's policy should be to keep her neutrality, and to keep her neutrality as long as possible."

There was nothing in the bald report from the War Office regarding the recent victory of the Anglo-French troops in West Africa to indicate the kind of fighting that has been going on there. A statement just given out by Lieutenant J. H. Howell of H. M. S. Astrea, who was wounded while he was with the British force in the Cameroons, is therefore of special interest. It shows that the Germans in Africa are just as savage and brutal as the Germans in Belgium. Here are Lieutenant Howell's words:

"The Germans had armed the natives for the most part with elephant guns and had supplied them with explosive shells. It was the most brutal kind of warfare. Dumdum bullets were used by the millions by the Germans, and some of the natives used poisoned arrows. The German advance pickets were almost always fortified by trenches or deep holes. It meant sure death to fall into one of these holes, for spikes similar to those used on harrows were on the bottom. Each of these spikes was tipped with a poison, which meant sudden and sure death to those who were impregnated by it."

Observers who know most about conditions in Rumania declare that, broadly regarded, there never has been any doubt on which side her interests lay. Her government has fearlessly protested against any violation of her neutrality by Germany and Austria, and it has paid no attention to Austro-Turkish threats. It is the hope of the Allies that the Russian armies in Galicia will inflict a crushing defeat on the Austrians in the terrific fighting that is now going on in that territory. A Russian victory there, if it were at all decisive, would be expected to cause Rumania to make her decision at once. The developments of the next few weeks, therefore, will be watched with tremendous interest by belligerents and neutrals alike.

NOTE AND COMMENT.

The German government can do no worse in its treatment of Allied merchantmen than it has done. Its latest announcement, therefore, regarding "armed merchantmen" means little to the opponents of slaughter and piracy on the high seas.

The last year has not been a good one for the American railways. Howard Elliott, president of the New York, New Haven & Hartford Railroad Company,

says that less mileage was built in the United States in 1915 than in any year since 1894, and that there was never a year, except 1893, when more mileage went into the hands of receivers. If the United States were at war, Mr. Elliott thinks, the railways would be unable to handle all the men and material necessary for military purposes.

La Press, the leading French Journal of Canada, publishes an editorial eulogy of Brigadier-General H. H. McLean, evidently remembering that he stood up for the French-Canadian regiments at Valenciennes last year.

The Moncton Transcript charges "scandalous wastefulness and corruption connected with housing troops at Amherst," and challenges the Dominion government to hold a sworn inquiry. The Transcript's charges are too serious to be ignored by Parliament.

The British military authorities have found it necessary to punish a Canadian officer "for parading at Salisbury in a uniform of higher rank and wearing a Victoria Cross without authority." That man is not likely to make much of a name for himself at the front—if he ever gets there.

It has been decided to raise another crack battalion at Ottawa to show the Huns that it is a great mistake to send crooks and murderers to blow up Canadian public buildings and munition plants and murder Canadian men and women. How do the young men of New Brunswick feel about it?

The Zeppelins, says Berlin, destroyed a British cruiser and two destroyers. While the Berlin story is false, the British authorities denying it emphatically, it is a good reading for the deluded German people. Some day these people will learn the whole truth, and that will not be a happy day for the Kaiser and his government.

Those who have seen the marine wharf at St. John will understand the importance of Mr. Carvell's remarks in Parliament regarding it. They will also wait with interest further details with respect to the larger and more costly wharf to which Mr. Carvell briefly referred.

Why does the Standard keep on shrieking against a parliamentary investigation of the shell contracts and other purchases of war supplies? Now that Sir Wilfrid Laurier has formally demanded a free and above board inquiry under oath the Standard becomes hysterical. What have its friends to conceal? Why is an investigation under oath, with witnesses, papers and documents, so dreaded? Why the anxiety to keep the lid on?

What will our men at the front—and their friends and relatives at home—say about the employment of Germans in well-paid jobs in the Civil Service? Will the soldiers be satisfied with the statement that these Germans are naturalized and that Mr. Hazen and others say they are all right?—after eighteen months of desperate war?

Well, Hon. Mr. Hazen is going to retain his German private secretary, saying he is all right. Von Tirpitz, as the Toronto Star observes, would not be so trusting. Just why is it considered necessary, or prudent, to have Germans, naturalized or otherwise, in such positions? The Ottawa Journal asks these questions:

"Should the Chief Intelligence Officer of the War Department of Canada be a German, with brothers in the German army?" "Should there be other Germans in the government service here? A number there are."

"Is Canada at war with Germany or playing marbles?" There was nothing in the bald report from the War Office regarding the recent victory of the Anglo-French troops in West Africa to indicate the kind of fighting that has been going on there. A statement just given out by Lieutenant J. H. Howell of H. M. S. Astrea, who was wounded while he was with the British force in the Cameroons, is therefore of special interest. It shows that the Germans in Africa are just as savage and brutal as the Germans in Belgium. Here are Lieutenant Howell's words:

"The Germans had armed the natives for the most part with elephant guns and had supplied them with explosive shells. It was the most brutal kind of warfare. Dumdum bullets were used by the millions by the Germans, and some of the natives used poisoned arrows. The German advance pickets were almost always fortified by trenches or deep holes. It meant sure death to fall into one of these holes, for spikes similar to those used on harrows were on the bottom. Each of these spikes was tipped with a poison, which meant sudden and sure death to those who were impregnated by it."

Will the German Fleet Give Battle?

(Montreal Gazette.)

Rumors are again prevalent that the German fleet is preparing to make a dash into the open sea to give battle to the watching British navy. As the watchers are the stronger by a large margin, it would seem unlikely that the bridged-in navy would risk destruction by venturing out just for the glory of the thing. The fleet would endanger German territory also, which is not what the Germans desire. The Kaiser's ships may come out eventually, but when they do it will be with the hope of gaining some definite advantage. Navalists too much to be thrown needlessly away.

Local Looting Talent.

There is real doubt as to whether the fire in the Parliament buildings at Ottawa was the work of an enemy agent. The fire has been described as capable of incandescence, as has been proved on many occasions. He cannot be accused, however, of being responsible for the looting which began before the stones were cool. The winner and clear and other goods were stolen, and the desks were broken open and rifled of their contents, by local talent unimpaired by any outside miscreants' money or petition.

COUNTY HOSPITAL ALREADY PAYS OF SUCCESS

Thirty-nine Patients Date and Many Intendent Corroborate Can Death Rate

To see the working of the and follow the methods employed the object of a visit by a Telegraph hospital has been opened but a stated that the need for such a treatment there. Its use is not the matter of admission, preference where the accommodation may be

A talk with the medical staff on the treatment of the dread disease, the mind patients in retaining many popular misapprehensions, were taken up and explained the new hospital, in conjunction work, should be to greatly lessen the hospital is in full running of an administrative nature. Many visitors were with the Telegraph representative to make of which, the various means

Matter of Location.

In the matter of the location of