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MONDAY MORNING, MARCH 25.

The Operations for the Somme.

In the battle of northern France the magnitude of the German effort is seen from the employment of no fewer than 97 enemy divisions up to an early hour yesterday morning. In the first German onset at the beginning of the war, which culminated at the Marne, the Germans, on reliable computations, threw 700,000 men thru Belgium, so the weight of their present attack is twice as great in men alone and, perhaps, three times as great in artillery, for they have since largely increased the number of their heavy guns.

Against this onset the British are employing an elastic defence. They are attempting to contain the enemy by a struggle in a deep zone, rather than on banking upon the successful holding of one or two lines of trenches. The giving of ground before an onset of this sort is not remarkable. It was expected and deliberately planned beforehand.

Two British armies, the second and the fifth, bore the shock for three days at least, and the defence which they offered against the enemy will make a new record for historians. The British appear to have met the enemy with only half his number of divisions. He threw his greatest violence into the initial attacks with fifty divisions and from 6000 to 10,000 guns. As his casualties grew he hurried into the fight other divisions to keep his battle line intact and powerful, so the fact that in three days 97 of his divisions were dragged in, according to an official despatch sent to Washington, gives us some guide to the estimating of his losses. Already nearly half of his picked troops have become so exhausted and so decimated, by the withdrawal, or their reinforcement and replacement by fresh divisions.

Since the allies are still wedded to the policy of a strict war of attrition this result must be eminently satisfactory, for their object is to use up completely the German strategic reserve and shock battalions so that after this offensive the enemy will never be able to attempt another. In order to induce the Germans to attack them and to use up their men, as well as their shells, the allies would have to yield ground in the beginning, so that the German general staff would feel confident enough to proceed with its contemplated operations. Having induced the Germans to come on, the next procedure would be to devote the defence exclusively to the infliction of as heavy casualties as possible, so as to destroy the German attacking columns. This is the plan which the allied high command apparently carried out until the present. The next proceeding would be the applying of brakes to the German advance. The allies would slow it up and gradually bring it to a standstill.

The battle appears to have gone against the German staff plans from the outset. One of their chief attempts was to separate the British from the French and to roll them up, but instead the firmness of the defence forced them to follow the line of least resistance. Then ensued the advance against the British right centre from St. Quentin, and the pushing of it back to the Somme by Ham and Peronne. The British flanks, however, held firm and converted the gains of the enemy into a sharp salient, not unlike the salient at St. Mihiel. The German attacks then became diverted to the widening of this salient instead of the further prosecution of the advance.

If captured documents, which purport to show that the enemy planned an advance of 25 miles in three days, are authentic, he has already failed in his vast design. The fact that while the battle is still proceeding with the utmost fury, the Kaiser and his higher command are claiming a victory, may imply the fact that they are perceiving that they have gained their maximum advantages and are putting their claim in first in order to forestall any claims of the British field marshal.

Until the conflict is decided, the issue must be regarded as hanging in the balance. What the British must do is to prevent the breaking of their front. The loss of this or that defensive position matters comparatively little; the infliction of the maximum punishment on the enemy matters very much.

Of one thing the public may be

sure and that is the British defence is the work of master minds. Every eventuality has been foreseen and provided against; every division has received careful and perfect training in its duties. In having General Sir Henry Wilson as chief of staff the British have a scientific soldier, exactly acquainted with the battlefield, the capabilities of the British troops and the fighting capacity of the German army.

Battle Ideals for Canadians.

In the presence of the most furious encounter the human race has staged in historical times there is no room for light-mindedness, but neither is there any need for any feeling of fear or despondency. No ordinary mind is capable of grasping the vast military problems involved, or comprehending the extraordinary concentration of force on either side. But very few minds are incapable of appreciating the principles which inspire the contending armies. On one side the ideal is world power, and the subjection of the human race to the will of one man or one group of men. On the other is the ideal of human liberty and the opportunity for each man and each nation to develop the qualities that God has given them, in harmony with all others. In the very nature of things there can be no hesitation in such a choice, except to a mind distorted and twisted by false training. The recognition that the German system is a false system goes deep and to the root of all false methods.

With all their faults, great and many as they be, the nations of the entente alliance stand for human liberty. The great ideals that inspire them have been inwrought by long experience of freedom. What they have they would give to others, and had the Germans followed such conceptions of life there would have been no war. But the war has been joined and approaches its culmination. It is for the welfare of the German peoples as well as their enemies that liberty should not perish from the earth.

We in Canada have imbibed these ideals with our mother's milk, and we have grown up hardy and strong, and for the most part unhesitant when the word called for help. Those who hang back when liberty is in distress are poorly trained, and Canada as a nation has done her part.

It is significant that the Canadian army has been given the important position at Lens, which may prove the key to the allied strategy. We were told a year ago that the Canadians could take Lens any time they wanted it. Perhaps this is the time. Should the German forces in the south be reduced to a point of exhaustion, a flank attack on the north, a threat in their rear, a menace to their main lines of communication might precipitate a retreat as disastrous as that at the Marne. The Germans are in no shape for retreat. Their morale is not capable of supporting such a movement without demoralization. The next two days will decide whether we are to have an early close to the war in the most tremendous military collapse of history, or whether it is to drag on until the American forces are able to exert their full strength in Europe.

Other People's Opinions

Service Men to Be Preferred.

Editor World: I have heard and read so much about the reckless extravagance of both the board of control and board of education, and the calous attitude of the board of control towards the financial interests of the ratepayers, which, as we have often told, is due to the power behind the throne, i.e. political and kinship influences, as a taxpayer I cannot refrain from expressing the only medium, i.e. the papers, thru which I can reach my fellow-ratepayers, to comment on the board of control's attempt to obtain legislation to purge the board of education from its sins of extravagance, which, no doubt, is urgent, and, perhaps, put my fellow-taxpayers to thinking. I believe that it is inopportune for the board of control to ask to be clothed with authority to sit in judgment over the financial life of the board of education. The board of control should cleanse first its own house, at present it's case of the letting calling the pot black. The board of control is as calous as the board of education, as far as the financial interests of the ratepayers are concerned. That fact is very often demonstrated, and, no doubt, Sir W. Hearst, premier, had in mind St. Luke, Chap. 6, V. 42, when he replied to the request of the board of control. The board of control is not a willing subject for purification, any more than the board of education. It is a good thing that several weeks ago, when the members of the board of control repudiated the suggestion made by the central council of ratepayers that would have eliminated the possibility of any political influence successfully exerting itself, had the suggestion been accepted, including the wirepullers around the hall that Controller O'Neill told us about the other day.

It would have also lessened the possibility of any civic representative improving the appointing power for places, as well as take from the appointing power the right to appoint men of his own selection, or men urged by outside influence, thus establishing a condition that would have secured for the taxpayer a certain amount of efficiency and economy in the civic departments.

Every sane person knows that inefficiency means extravagance, and a system analogous to the spoils system means both inefficiency and extravagance; yet the board of control, otherwise, or, rather, gave as their reason for rejecting the suggestion that, while it would be good thing in some respects, it would shut out a lot of returned soldiers, and that returned soldiers are (at last) to get the jobs in the city service in the future. I hope they will. Well, the members of the board con-

THE WORLD'S STRANGEST TALES OF ROMANCE AND ADVENTURE

By George Barton

The Phantom Spy "O" and How He Foiled Napoleon

It was the secret archives of Dublin Castle that first brought to light the authentic details of one of the most amazing adventures in the history of international warfare, and it was thru an industrious historian, William J. Fitzpatrick, that the identity of a famous spy known as "O" was partially made known to the world.

It all came about thru the pugnacious qualities of General Napier Tandy, who is not so well known as he should be. Tandy was one of the Irishmen who went over to France during the Napoleonic era and offered his services to the "Man of Destiny." Napoleon recruited him to utilize his services. General Tandy urged the famous soldier to attack England by making a descent upon the coast of Ireland. Napoleon thought well of the plan and went so far as to get into correspondence with certain Fenians whose aid could be counted upon. But in the meantime other things came to the attention of Napoleon. Instead of going to Ireland in 1798, Napoleon changed his plans and went to Egypt.

But Tandy did not change his mind. He knew just what he wanted and he prepared to go about it in the quickest way possible. He held a meeting in Paris to arrange the details of the invasion. There were present a number of Fenians, including Blackwell, Morris and Corbett. Several of those who participated in the council in that back room of a house in Paris were unknown to Tandy personally. Some one had vouched for them and he accepted them on faith. That was the beginning of his mistakes.

One of the men in the room when they planned the invasion was the English spy "O." The meeting had scarcely adjourned when all of its details were being hurried over to the foreign office in London. "O" told his English employers that the ship that was to take the invaders to Ireland and the number of men likely to go upon the expedition. He even sent a letter to Napoleon, telling him of the details of the invasion. Napoleon was so pleased with the information that he ordered a large force of men to be sent to Ireland to meet the invaders.

And while the decision was being made the spy "O" stood in the corner of the cabin drinking in all that was being said. General Tandy prepared for the landing with great care. He was a fastid-

taily did not comprehend the resolution presented to him by the resolution of the central council of ratepayers, for, if the resolution has any chance of being carried out, it will mean that they are in favor of the returned soldiers. Now, let us see if this is true.

As far as the returned soldiers are concerned, the resolution, word for word: "No discrimination is to be made on account of race, color, or political or religious opinions, with age limit not to apply to any person honorably discharged from the military or naval service of Canada, by reason of disability resulting from wounds or sickness incurred in the line of duty."

The resolution further provides that no one will be employed against the person whose standing in the examination is less than 70 per cent. of complete proficiency, except in the case of a military or naval personnel, who only need to make 60 per cent., and that the returned soldiers, who are to be employed, are to be registered, in order of their percentage, ahead of the successful civilian competitors, and are to be certified to run appointment in order of their percentage, until their list becomes exhausted, when the list will be certified for appointment. It is obvious, then, that the soldiers would get the jobs and would not have to depend upon the will of the city council or any outside influence.

The merit system, as suggested by the central council of ratepayers, would secure the returned soldier against any political influence for any civic position that he may seek to enter and is qualified to fill. They are taking vocational training in all the branches of service, and positions in commercial life, as well as training themselves to win a livelihood by merit, and not by pull, is my belief.

Why not take a public vote and let the best civil jobs the merit system will give them?

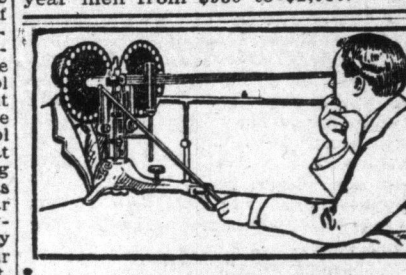
At present he is confined almost exclusively to positions on the civic cars.

Why not take a public vote and let the people settle the question?

Dr. Geo. W. McIntosh, V.S., 41 California road.

INCREASES FOR FIREMEN.

The board of control Saturday made a number of changes in the pay of the members of the fire department, but will probably have to meet again to correct several features of the new wage scale. Salaries of first class firemen were increased by \$104 a year, but by doing so they have made them higher than the salaries of Lieutenants who receive \$1,300. Other increases are as follows: Fourth year men, from \$1,150 to \$1,250; third year men, from \$1,050 to \$1,150; second and first year men from \$950 to \$1,050.



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lous man and he put on his uniform and made ready for the descent upon Irish soil. As the ship approached the shore an Irish flag was hoisted at the mast-head. It contained the words "Erin go Bragh," and was intended as a sign to the Irishmen on shore who were to join in the attack upon the British.

Circulars, proclaiming the object of the invasion, were distributed to the people. Quite a crowd gathered and listened to a harangue from General Tandy, one of the party, who had seen service with Napoleon, and who was expected to be useful in the present enterprise.

But before they could even get a start they received the worst possible news. The first expedition of French troops had landed at Killybegs, and after winning the battle of Castellar had been compelled to capitulate to Lord Cornwallis. Within twenty-four hours Tandy discovered that a large force of British troops was on its way to Rutland, and did the only thing possible under the circumstances. He retreated, taking with him a number of the natives, including one man named Turner, who has been immortalized in the song of the "Wearing of the Green."

One version of that popular ballad runs thus: "I met with Napier Tandy and he took me by the hand, 'Twas a poor old Ireland, and how does she stand?' 'Tis a most distressed country, for 'tis plainly to be seen. They are hanging men and women for the 'Wearing of the Green.' On the return home Tandy and his associates captured two English vessels, and then finally landed in Norway. They landed at Bergen and sought to reach France by land. Weary and footsore, they reached Hamburg at twilight on November 22, 1798. There a man who was associated with the spy 'O' recognized Tandy and invited him to take supper with him. He accepted, little thinking that he was walking into a trap that had been set for him. Tandy stayed up the night writing letters, but at 5 o'clock in the morning there was a knock at his door and in walked an officer, followed by Sir Jas. Crawford, British minister at Hamburg.

Tandy was quickly overcome and placed in a prison to await the action of the British authorities. After ten months of horror he was transported to England, where he was later confined to a hospital. But Napoleon finally had him released as a French officer, and he went back to France where he became a popular hero. But his imprisonment had broken his health and in a short time he died at Bordeaux.

The spy "O," who thus foiled Napoleon long after Tandy, and in fact lived on, was a large fortune, which enabled him to live in ease and luxury.

Wednesday—How Blamark Provoked the Franco-Prussian War by Altering a Telegram.

FOURTEEN ORIGINALS ARRIVE SUNDAY

Party of Thirty-Four, Most of Whom Belong to Outside Points, Reach Toronto.

In high spirits and delighted to be back in Toronto again, 34 "originals" members of the first Canadian contingent home on furlough—arrived at the Union Station at 8 o'clock Sunday morning. They were met by a very enthusiastic reception by the 300 relatives and friends present to meet them. The official reception committee, headed by the mayor, included Sir John A. Macdonald, representing Toronto military headquarters; Sergeant-Major George Crighton, representing Mayor Church, and a Deputation of the citizens' reception committee.

Fourteen of the "originals" arriving yesterday were Toronto men. The other 20 were from London, Winnipeg, Windsor, Brantford, Guelph and Woodstock. Some of these immediately boarded a train for western Ontario and the others went to the Red Triangle Club, East Queen street. The men for Guelph were informed there was no Sunday train for that point, and they are taking vocal point, and she at once commenced to talk of other things. The last book she had read, which she pronounced most interesting; the latest play, which she criticized as rubbish, not worth seeing, and adding that she hoped something worth going to would follow it, as then we might enjoy going. In every way she seemed to be endeavoring to make me, her willom hostess, and the mistress of the house, at ease, and in the end of trying to be entertaining on her own account.

A Better Impression. Before we had finished dinner I was quite enjoying myself. I knew I had made one or two slips in what I said, but, to my surprise, she did not correct me. Simply answered in a slightly indulgent manner, as she might to a child. It nettled me, but was better, far easier to endure, than correction.

After dinner she asked: "Do you play cribbage?" "No, I never have learned."

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EXAGGERATED STORIES.

Returned Soldier Denies Statements Regarding Liquor at Front.

At the regular meeting of Lodge Cambridge, No. 54, S.O.E.B.S., in Snell's Hall, East Toronto, presided over by W. J. Stratton, president, and J. J. Stratton, secretary, was given by Capt. E. A. Godfrey, late of the 75th Battalion, in which he served as sergeant, and who also the statement regarding soldiers drinking. Following his remarks a resolution was adopted calling for the suppression of such statements, and the resolution will be sent to the supreme executive of the society. The lodge also went on record as favoring the postponement of this year's supreme lodge session.

ORDERED INTO UNIFORM.

For failing to observe the conditions under which he had been granted exemption, William Mitchell was on Saturday ordered into khaki by Judge Winchester. Mitchell had been granted exemption on condition that he remained a farmer. When he appeared yesterday he was formally informed the court that a reference must be shown to his every wish, as he was a "friend of God."

"So is the Kaiser," said Judge Winchester. "But I am ante-Christ sent to prepare the way for Christ's coming." He was sent to the armories in the company of three khaki-clad escorts.

UP A TREE



THE WOMAN WHO CHANGED

BY JANE PHELPS

Mrs. Sexton Arrives.

CHAPTER XXXVII.

About four o'clock I heard a commotion in the front hall and upon looked out I saw that Mrs. Sexton had arrived, "bag and baggage," as I afterwards told Evelyn.

I wondered if she would have me called, if she would think it necessary to consult me in any way. I needn't have been in doubt. Everything had evidently been attended to by George before he left.

I heard James talking to her, then they both came up the stairs, past my room, and to my relief, James ushered her into a guest room, across the hall, and a little further down than was my room. I had been so afraid she would stop at the room connecting with mine, that I breathed an audible sigh of relief when they passed on down the hall.

I saw nothing of her until dinner time. She informed me she had been unpacking, and making herself feel at home.

"A hard thing to do in unaccustomed surroundings," she said pleasantly. "I should imagine so." I curtly replied.

But she had evidently made up her mind not to pay any attention to my inhospitality, as she at once commenced to talk of other things. The last book she had read, which she pronounced most interesting; the latest play, which she criticized as rubbish, not worth seeing, and adding that she hoped something worth going to would follow it, as then we might enjoy going. In every way she seemed to be endeavoring to make me, her willom hostess, and the mistress of the house, at ease, and in the end of trying to be entertaining on her own account.

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After dinner she asked: "Do you play cribbage?" "No, I never have learned."

"Suppose I teach you. I am called rather an expert at the game, and often when there are two people spending the evening together, it helps pass the time."

I agreed and was soon completely absorbed in the game. So much so, that I was surprised when she laid the cards down and said:

"It's eleven o'clock. Suppose we stop for tonight. I am a little weary, you know I am not as young as you. We will play frequently. You are a very apt pupil," and bidding me good night, she left me.

To my surprise, I had no uncomfortable thoughts as I picked up a magazine after she left me. The evening had passed quickly and pleasantly. Had I been alone, I should have wandered around the rooms unhappily because George had left me alone; and wondering if he loved me.

"She wouldn't be half bad if she were always like she was tonight," I said aloud as, half an hour later, I followed her example and went to bed.

A Day of Surprises.

At breakfast the next morning she remarked:

"Mr. Howard said we were to use the cars all we wished. How would you like to take the touring car—it is too lovely to use the closed one—and call for Mrs. Reeve and take a spin out into the country? Perhaps we might lunch somewhere, and come home in the afternoon."

"Oh, that would be lovely," I exclaimed enthusiastically, then, remembering, who had proposed it, I said more coldly, "I should enjoy it very much—if Evelyn can go with us."

"Suppose you telephone and find out," she returned brightly, ignoring entirely my implication.

Evelyn was delighted with the invitation. And was all ready when we called for her. Mrs. Sexton had seated herself in the tonneau with me, but now she got out and, yielding her place to Evelyn, said graciously:

"You two friends will have much to talk over. I'll ride with the chauffeur."

"I could hug her for that!" Evelyn whispered.

"It was thoughtful," I grudgingly admitted.

We had a wonderful ride. Never once did Mrs. Sexton interfere, or speak to us, save to direct our attention to some bit of scenery, and

then she would immediately ignore us again.

"She isn't half bad," Evelyn said in a whisper.

"Not today, but wait," was my enigmatic answer.

"After riding about two hours, Mrs. Sexton turned to me: 'We are nearing an excellent road house. Shall we stop?'"

"Certainly, I am hungry, aren't you, Evelyn?"

Tomorrow—The Road House Luncheon.

SPLENDID EXAMPLE SHOWN TO HIS MEN

Second Lieut. George V. Laughton to Be Awarded the Military Cross.

Following the prorogation of the Ontario Legislature tomorrow afternoon Sir John Hendrie, Lieutenant-governor, will present to Second Lieut. George V. Laughton, of Toronto, the Military Cross, which he won at Vimy Ridge by "displaying conspicuous bravery and devotion to duty and by his splendid example and lack of interest in his own welfare, encouraged his men to remarkable results. He led a bombing squad against a machine gun which was holding up the attack, and after the bombers were all killed, captured the gun single-handed and destroyed its crew. After all the officers in the battalion had been killed or wounded, he assumed the command of the battalion for the remaining days, and held the position unaided against repeated German counter-attacks."

NEEDED ON THE FARM.

George A. Carnaby appeared before Magistrate Denison Saturday morning, charged with a breach of the M.S.A. He had been granted exemption so long as he remained a farmer, but had been found by the military police working in a Toronto munition factory. Thomas O'Connor, his lawyer, read a letter from the farmer, but had been found by the military police working in a Toronto munition factory. Thomas O'Connor, his lawyer, read a letter from the farmer, but had been found by the military police working in a Toronto munition factory.

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