

CRUSHING OF GERMAN MILITARISM HOPE WHICH ANIMATES FRENCH ARMY

Editor of Le Matin, Well Known French Journal, Talks on War.

FRANCE FEELS NO HATE FOR THE ENEMY

Righteous fervor of the crusade, a consciousness of having suffered much, but not in vain, is sentiment in France.

Aroused first by the necessity of self-defence, now fighting for an ideal, not in hate but in the quiet determination that before arms shall be laid aside, peace shall have been assured at least to the third and fourth generation of its children—that is, the France which Hugues Le Roux, the eminent French man of letters and explorer, who has come to the United States, will picture in lectures and addresses he is to give there.

And this guarantee of a long period in which their country may feel free from a tightening grip about its throat, the soldiery of France, according to M. Le Roux, view as an object already attained. They count Germany's overwhelming military power already broken, he asserts, and count it only a matter of time before Germany herself must admit it.

Few Frenchmen are better qualified for this delicate mission of interpreting each republic to the other than M. Le Roux, officer of the Legion of Honor, and Colonial-Councillor. He comes from a long line of Havre ship-owners who had commercial relations with this country since its infancy. He himself has visited it repeatedly. His wife, who was Mrs. John Van Vorst, is an American woman, author of "The Woman Who Tells." He is one of the editors of Le Matin, the powerful French daily, and he is fresh from much the same sort of mission in London.

There he spent two months striving, by representations to the British people and in articles written for Le Matin, to bring the two nations more closely in rapport at a time when there were murmurings in France at what was supposed to be the backwardness of her ally. From America he will send articles to his journal reflecting American opinion of the issues for which the nations of Europe are fighting. And speaking before university students and clubs, he will endeavor to point out what he thinks may be learned by a country whose democratic aims and ideals are so nearly identical with France's.

His Son Killed in Action

The war is a very real thing to this French writer. For the few months following the outbreak of hostilities he was the editor-in-chief of Le Matin and responsible to the Military Governor of Paris, with whom he was in daily conference for its utterance. He did not himself serve at the front—in spite of his well-set appearance, due to much life in the open, and an alertness which belies his fifty-five years, he was not accepted by the medical examiners. But he saw all the horrors of the trench when he went there to get the body of his son a young officer killed in a gallant attempt to rescue the body of his colonel. He speaks without bitterness and hate. France feels no hate he said. What M. Le Roux described to his interviewer was something else. It was rather the righteous fervor of the Crusades, a consciousness of having suffered much, but not in vain.

"We have suffered," said M. Le Roux. "Our dead number 800,000 men. Germany has lost three times as many. Every one has felt heavily. Take my own case: Last June at my country home we gave a dinner to my son, who was soon to be married. There were present at the dinner, including him and his best man, seven young officers of the reserves. Today every one of those young men—between twenty-one and twenty-eight years old they were—is dead, killed in battle.

Unprepared for Belgian Advance

"France was not prepared for the German advance through Belgium. She thought as treaties had been signed, honor pledged, we need not fortify that approach. She counted on meeting the invader between Toul and Belfort on her own frontier. When the attack came she was forced to throw up a wall of soldiers to bear the brunt of it. As this wall crumbled, a fresh wall was ready behind it, and finally when the enemy got further from his base of supplies, and the French army nearer the capital, the tables were turned. Now we believe that the wonderful German offensive has been broken, and from now on Germany will become weaker."

Asked what he thought might be looked for in the way of peace negotiations, M. Le Roux said that it was too early to predict. The new British army, of which he expects much, ought, he said, to be able to force the invader out of Belgium. What France would expect to get was Alsace and Lorraine. But that regaining of territory and the money which Germany would have to pay were of small consequence compared with the other results of French victory.

The complete crushing of Germany's great military establishment," he said, "is what must be achieved. That is the feeling in the breast of every soldier of France. These soldiers have suffered much; the families of many of them were left in need when their protectors marched away to fight.

"They do not want their sacrifices to be in vain, and, as it should be, the opinion of the men in the armies of France is the opinion which must rule the day. These men are determined that their children and their grandchildren may come into the world and live their lives without the constant danger of being overwhelmed by a militarist empire.

"There is little feeling of hate for the Germans. The soldier in the ranks is fighting because he feels that it is his duty to do so. But there is a great contrast between the Germans now and when they fought us before, then they had an ideal. They were struggling for German unity, for a principle. Now they are fighting for something three hundred years old. They do not understand the freedom of a republic, and they reject that which is spiritual and sentimental as weak and ill-fitted to survive."

One of the most noteworthy things about his countrymen under arms is, according to M. Le Roux, the contrast between the young French soldier of today and his prototype of the Franco-Prussian War. The difference, he asserts, grows out of the wide spread of the "sports" idea during the past twenty-five years in France. In that time the French youth have made much progress in disciplining their bodies and their wills, after the fashion demanded by vigorous outdoor sports.

M. Le Roux's view would seem to be the counterpart of that which saw Waterloo won on the playing fields of Eton.

Able to Stay on the Defensive

"We all know," he said, "that French soldiers were strong on the offensive—in a charge for example. There had been some doubt about their ability to withstand long drawn-out attacks, and to remain inactive on the defensive through long periods. That is where the surprise came."

The young Frenchman in the trenches today is quite a different man from the Frenchman of earlier wars. I attribute the difference to the good results of his going in for sports. At the first many of the old officers of the line—I do not refer to the heads, but to the colonels and their inferiors—could not comprehend this difference in the temper and capabilities of their men, and many of these old timers had to be swept aside."

M. Le Roux thinks that the end of the war would be even nearer than it now is had not the Russians faced remarkably unlucky winter conditions. They had mud to contend with, he pointed out, instead of ice and snow, over which they might have solved the transportation problems—their greatest obstacle. So important is this question of Russian transportation facilities, that he does not hesitate to assert that Germany had them in mind when she chose the present year for the great war. Russia, according to M. Le Roux, had in course of preparation plans for a great system of frontier railroads, by which she would have been able to concentrate troops rapidly on the German border. Germany chose to take the fatal step, he declares, before this dangerous power was acquired by her neighbor.

His responsibilities in conducting a newspaper in the French capital during the early months of the war, as described by M. Le Roux, bring home the completeness with which the freedom of a republic is curtailed by the necessities of war. To prevent sensations among an impressionable people the newspapers were forbidden to print headlines greater than two

columns in width. And every word that went into them was subjected to the closest scrutiny by three censors.

"Every night at twelve o'clock," said M. Le Roux, "my paper, and every other Parisian journal, was sent to the censor's office. At one o'clock it was back in our offices, with notes here and there as to what must be altered or left out. The penalties for failing to meet these suggestions were severe. The first time would come a reproof, then the paper would be temporarily suspended, and upon further offences, the principal editor would be imprisoned."

"Some offences were committed quite innocently. For example, we printed a report of how a train moving out of Versailles ran over two English soldiers who fell under the wheels. This was vigorously objected to by the censor as likely to give the enemy an idea of the movements of troops. Gen. Gallieni, the Military Governor, who is an old friend of mine, told me that the dynamiting of a bridge by Germans was directly traceable to a similar news story which indicated that British troops were being moved on a particular route. Some of our editors of Paris newspapers conferred with the Military Governor every evening, and were governed by his orders. Even the official communications of the French General Staff in regard to the progress of the war, as conservative and temperate as they always were, were frequently deflected by Paris censors, who knew better what might inflame their fellow-countrymen."

"You may have wondered why French newspapers have carried no account of the dreadful atrocities which have been committed. They are omitted by the direct order of the Military Governor. Early in the war it was decided that the object of the Germans was to establish a dread in the hearts of the villagers when the cry was raised, 'The Uhlans are coming.' This purpose would have been the better served if the newspapers had chronicled every case of brutality to women and children. Therefore, they were suppressed, the best judgment being that the French cause would better served when the inhabitants of a village kept to their homes when the enemy appeared than if the officials and all the inhabitants made off in terror."

HOTEL ARRIVALS.

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Palmerston, Ont., June 20th, 1915.

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MRS. H. S. WILLIAMS.
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ELECTED OFFICERS.

Newcastle, April 7.—Following is a list of the officers of Steadfast Division, No. 470, Sons of Temperance, Maple Glen, for the present quarter: P. W. P.—Daniel Jardine, W. P.—Miss Carrie Sobey, W. A.—Neil Gordon, Chap.—Edward Jardine, R. S.—Miss Sarah Sobey, A. R. S.—Douglas Dunnett, P. S.—Fred Gordon, Treas.—David Gordon, Con.—Miss Janie Sobey, A. C.—Douglas Sobey, I. S.—David Smallwood, O. S.—Lorne Jardine.

FUNERALS.

Mrs. Charles T. Burgess, Hampton, Kings Co., April 7.—The funeral of Mrs. Charles T. Burgess, of Hampton Station, took place this morning from her home, where the

Anglican burial service was read by the Rev. A. H. Crowfoot, rector of the parish, after which the body was taken to the old Norton cemetery, where the commitment sentences and prayers were offered and interment. Many very beautiful floral emblems testified to the love and sympathy of the many friends of the deceased, who had been a patient sufferer for so many months, and the large attendance of mourners expressed their respect and condolence with the bereaved husband and family.

The funeral of Mrs. Fenwick McKelvey took place yesterday afternoon at three o'clock from her late residence, 77 Elliott Row. Rev. J. A. MacKelgan conducted the service. The remains were laid to rest in Fernhill cemetery.

The funeral of Patrick Ferrie took place yesterday morning at a quarter to eight from his late residence, 154 Waterloo street, to the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, where requiem high mass was celebrated by Rev. William Duke. Relatives of the deceased acted as pall-bearers. Interment was in the new Catholic cemetery.

DANGERS TO NAVIGATION

Abandoned schr M D Cressy (before reported) was sighted drifting about two miles NE of Wimbles Shoal buoy at two p.m. 5th.

At 7:45 a.m. in lat 34 22 N, lon 75 32 W, derelict barge Northwest, awash with three lower masts standing, was passed.

Twelve miles SW of Cape Lookout Lightship, a vessel, bottom up, was passed.

The search for Cape Charles lightship, which broke adrift from her station on Saturday, has to far been unsuccessful.



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You want to know about them, about the battles in which they may be engaged, and the successes which may attend their efforts.

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