

The Herald

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Marching To Victory

The war news that has come to us for the past three weeks or so is most satisfactory. The intelligence of the victories achieved by the Allies during this time on the western front is exceedingly gratifying, and is rendered still more so by the splendid part our Canadian troops have taken in them. Let us hope that the good fortune now attending the Allied forces may continue until the final victory is achieved, and the enemy is completely overthrown.

Viewing the great achievements by the Allied forces since the 15th of July, it is not unreasonable to enquire what has been the main cause of the great success at the present time, and why something of this nature had not occurred earlier in this tremendous struggle. Such enquiries, while not unreasonable, are very much easier made than positively answered. As was pointed out by Lloyd George, Premier of Great Britain, not long since in a speech in the House of Commons, we have to consider that when the war started four years ago the flower of the German army, admirably trained, fully equipped and ready for battle at 24 hours notice, was quickly on the march; while the Allies were not at all prepared for war. Lloyd George also pointed out that, had it not been for the efficiency of the great British Navy, no one could begin to conjecture what the result of the conflict on the western front would have been. In the language of the British Prime Minister, these "vast wildernesses of the sea," not only silently and unostentatiously kept constant vigil, but patrolled every known trade route. They convoyed troops across the oceans; they guarded every portion of the vast coasts of Great Britain and her Dominions, and coped with the submarines, mines and every other instrument of warfare brought into play by the enemy. Continuing his observations regarding the great Royal Navy, Lloyd George tells us that at the beginning of the war the tonnage was two and a half millions, but that now it has increased to eight millions. As a sample of the great work effected by the Navy, the Prime Minister shows that the number of enemy submarines is now 150 less than at the beginning of the conflict. Had not our Navy done such great execution among the submarines, or had Germany succeeded in her objective in this direction, it is extremely doubtful if any success on land would have been of supreme advantage to the Allies.

Since Aug. 1914, including the troops then ready for action, Great Britain has recruited for the army and navy 6,250,000, mostly voluntarily. The Dominions have contributed one million and India has given

1,250,000. This constitutes 8,500,000 in all, from the British Empire. Comparing this with what the United States have done up to the present time, Lloyd George points out that, comparatively speaking, to make a contribution of equal strength, the United States would require to have about 15,000,000 of troops in the field.

Comparing the condition of things on the western front on the 21st day of March last, when the Germans began their great drives, with that of the present time, it is seen, according to Lloyd George's statement, that there is a vast difference; a vast improvement in the position of the Allied forces. When Germany started her first great drive in March there were three conditions that handicapped the Allies. First, the failure of Russia, and her capitulation to the Germans enabled the enemy to bring the greater number of his best troops from the east to the western front. Then again a united command of all the Allied forces had not become an accepted fact. Each general was mainly concerned over his own front, and, as a consequence, reserves could not be quickly brought into action at the particular point where they might be most needed, in consequence of a sudden attack by the enemy. The third condition that militated against the Allies was inferiority of forces in line. At that time there was only one American division in the battle line. It is true there were three or four additional divisions behind the lines, that were brought up after the attack commenced. Confronting our forces thus handicapped was the flower of the German army with their position chosen according to their own liking, and everything that stood for success in their favor. Of course these were anxious times, and the falling back of our armies was not encouraging; but it was the only humane practical move that could be executed. Not only were our forces inferior, but they were also very tired, and the wonder is, not that they were unable to drive back the invader, but that they were able to stand their ground as well as they did. But from March to July, during the time that the Germans seemed to have matters fairly well their own way, General Foch and his associates in command were not idle. In two weeks time 260,000 men were thrown across the channel onto the battle plains, and in a month's time no less than 355,000 troops had been sent over, and preparations were steadily going on to meet the next onslaught. As Lloyd George points out, it seemed hard to call into action lads of 18 years, but the necessity demanded it and they were sent to the front with only very brief training, but when the time came for action they acquitted themselves like veterans.

When the Germans made their last effort to push back the Allied forces, three weeks ago, a different condition of things confronted them, General Foch was ready and now, instead of fighting a defensive battle, took the offensive, and from that time to the present the enemy has been steadily pushed back. Every gun that had been lost, from the 21st of March, was put back and every machine gun was replaced. Every deficiency was supplied and increased, so the news of the splendid achievements of the allied forces came to us from day to day. We must certainly be elated at the splendid success achieved by General Foch and his associate commanders. Whatever the final result may be we must place on record our appreciation of the splendid generalship; the marvellous tactical operations and the wonderful unity and clarity that has marked the movements of the Allied armies, in their present splendid onward march to victory.

An Old Project Revived

The project for the construction of a tunnel under the English Channel, which had been for years under consideration, has been revived. Representatives of the Allied nations have approved of the plan and French and Italian delegates at the International Parliamentary Conference in London voted in favor of commencing operations at the earliest opportunity. The progress made by engineering science brings the Channel tunnel well within the realm of possibility and it is no longer regarded as a visionary scheme. Sir Francis Fox, builder of the Simplon Tunnel and of similar great works, is one of the promoters of the project. In a recent address upon the subject he said that the value of such an underground passage between England and France could be realized when it is considered how strongly instrumental it would have been in the transportation of troops. It would have saved wounded from the danger and the suffering of the water route; it would have brought immunity from the peril of mines and submarines in the line of communication between England and the continent. The Allies are already forming plans to direct travel and traffic by the Orient Railway through Germany and Austria to the railroads across France and Italy. If London was the terminal of such railway connection it would be of inestimable value to the British capital. Sir Francis Fox predicts that travelers from London will be able through the medium of the tunnel to reach distant parts of Europe, Asia, and Africa by railway travel alone. St. John Standard.

Receiving The U-Boats.

The revelations of the naval correspondent of the London Times of the manner in which "mystery" ships of the British navy decoy German submarines to their fate are of a kind to bring a chuckle of grim satisfaction to the throat of the Anglo-Saxon. It is with intense pleasure that one visions the incident in which a private U-boat was sent to Davy Jones locker by a bomb that appeared to be a baby in the arms of a woman—the woman a sailor dressed in woman's clothes—left on board a British ship the Germans were preparing to sink. It is good to hear of U-boats being sunk by depth bombs or in any manner, but there is a special quality of revenge in this method of the British navy of luring them into their own death trap in the belief that they have found another victim for their inhuman lawlessness. And it must be especially irritating to the German authorities to find their submarines being disposed of in this manner in view of the fact they have counted so much on taking advantage of the traditionally open and trusting character and above-board methods of the British. Deception was the last thing they would look for in the British.

The Rougher the Better.

The attitude of the American soldier who said: "The Germans have asked for a rough time and by Heaven, we are here to see that they get it," is the attitude that all concerned should have towards Germany till this war is over. The rougher the Germans, in the army or out of it, are treated the sooner the war will be over. Rough treatment, their own medicine, is the only thing that will make them have sense, and it will do that. The Americans who put aside their own business to go three or four thousand miles to see that the Germans are beaten are not likely to handle the murdering Hun any too gently. They'll let them have war in their own way.

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London, Aug. 9.—Field Marshal Haig's statement concerning the new offensive by the British and French troops shows that the enemy line has been driven in about seven miles and a half in the center of Plessier, which lies southeast of Moreuil. It shows that goodly gains also have been made eastward over the front of fifteen miles lying between Plessier and Morlancourt. The statement says that no estimate can be made concerning prisoners, guns and material captured, but that several thousand prisoners and many guns had been taken. The text of the statement follows: "The operation commenced this morning on the Amiens front by the French First Army under command of General Debentry and the British Fourth Army under Sir Henry Rawlinson, are proceeding successfully. The assembly of Allied troops was complete under cover of night, unnoticed by the enemy. At the hour of assault, French, Canadian, Australian and English divisions, assisted by a large number of British tanks, stormed the Germans on a front of over twenty miles, from the Acre River at Braches to the neighborhood of Morlancourt. The enemy was taken by surprise and at all points the Allied troops have made rapid progress. At an early hour our first objectives had been reached on the whole of the front attacked. During the opening of the advance of the Allied infantry continued, actively assisted by British cavalry, light tanks and motor machine gun batteries. The resistance of the German divisions in the line was overcome at certain points after sharp fighting and many prisoners and a number of guns were captured by our troops. The French troops, attacking with great gallantry, crossed the Acre River, and despite the enemy's opposition, carried hostile defences. North of the Somme the greater part of our final objectives were gained before noon, but in the neighborhood of Chipilly and south of Morlancourt parties of the enemy observed prolonged resistance. In both localities the fighting was heavy, but ultimately our troops broke down the opposition of the German infantry and gained their objectives. South of the Somme, the gallantry of the Allied infantry and the dash and their vigor had gained during the afternoon the final objectives for the day on practically the whole of the battle front."

London, Aug. 10.—Fighting was still continuing between the Anglo-French forces and the Germans southeast of Amiens, according to the British official communication received from Field Marshal Haig this evening. The general line of Pierrepont, Arvillers, Rosieres, Rainecourt and Morcourt had been attained by the Allied troops this evening. The text of the communication follows: "During the morning the Allied armies renewed their attack on the whole battlefront south of the Somme and have made progress at all points, in spite of increasing hostile resistance. French troops, extending the front of their attack southward, captured the village of Pierrepont and the wood north thereof. North and northeast of this locality French troops made rapid progress and realized an advance of more than four miles in the course of the day. On the front of the British fourth army the Canadian and Australian troops, with admirable dash having captured the line of outer defences of Amiens, advanced beyond them a depth of two miles after severe fighting at a number of points. Before evening the French and British troops had reached the general line of Pierrepont, Arvillers, Rosieres, Rainecourt and Morcourt. Fighting is still continuing on this line. North of the Somme local fighting is reported. The number of prisoners has reached 17,000 and between 200 calibre.

North of the attacked zone the barrage begun at four o'clock this morning and lasted four minutes. Tanks then rolled forward and with them the infantry swarmed toward the enemy lines. These lines were reached and passed as a mist started to roll in. All along the line, except possibly northward on the left flank, very little enemy shelling was experienced after the attack got well underway. Nearly all the country already fought over and that now in front of the Allied force is low and rolling, and especially adapted to open warfare. One new German division which had just arrived in the line before the attack was launched was told to expect local attacks. Paris, Aug. 10.—The official communication from the war office tonight says that the British and French troops continued their advance today and won new victories after breaking the enemy's resistance. The French troops took 4,000 prisoners, besides a great quantity of war materials and captured several important towns on the southern end of the battle zone. The text of the statement reads: "Continuing our advance on the right the forces of the British and our own troops won new successes today after having broken the resistance of the enemy. We have captured the villages of Pierrepont, Concoise and Hangest-En-Santerre. Beyond the railway east of Hangest we have reached Arvillers, which in our possession. Our progress in this direction has reached fourteen kilometres in depth. London, Aug. 11.—The wings of the salient which the Allies have driven into the German positions in the Somme area have crumbled away and with them the entire enemy defense in the Montdidier salient has collapsed. The Allied push has now become a straight ahead drive in which the divisions of the Crown Prince and those of Prince Rupprecht of Bavaria are fleeing heading for safety to the line of the Somme and the Neule and Noyon Canal. Between the Ancre and the Oise, the Allies have driven a hole in the German line with a width of fifty miles. Within the area between these rivers many hundreds of Allied tanks are ambulating about, smashing machine guns and stampeding the foe wholesale and taking thousands of prisoners, while cavalry squadrons are careening to and fro reconnoitering and cutting up enemy detachments. Behind the tanks and the horsemen follow Allied infantry in waves "mopping up" the enemy rearguards and weaving the somewhat patch advance of the tanks and cavalry into the solid infantry line.

OBITUARY

On Wednesday July 17th the news was received of the death of Siratus A. Bradley son of Patrick Bradley of St. Teresa's. This young man who was twenty years of age and in perfect health met a sad and sudden death while working in the ship yard at Hog Island, Pennsylvania. While stepping from a row boat on to a lighter he lost his balance and fell overboard. He was never seen to rise to the surface, and it is believed that he came up under the lighter which destroyed all chance of saving his life. After a search which lasted for an hour and a half his body was finally recovered by his brother Fred. The latter accompanied by his sister, Marcella and cousin John McPhee of New York and Gerald Kenney, of Boston, brought home the remains. The news was a sad blow to his family as he met his death on the eve of a visit home. The funeral which took place Sunday July 21 was one of the largest ever held at St. Teresa's, there being present over 200 carriages and a number of automobiles. The funeral service which was conducted by the Rev. I. R. A. McDonald was most impressive. The pall bearers were: Messrs. Cecil Trainor, Harry Bradley, William Collins, Patrick Curran, Gerald Kenney, and Harry Thompson. The deceased leaves to mourn his father and mother, two sisters and six brothers. Two have been badly wounded at the front and are now convalescing in England. All the relatives and friends extend their heartfelt sympathy to the family in the great loss they have sustained. May his soul rest in peace.

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August 7, 1918.