

explosion of a gun on a war vessel—an explosion which had sent him to the hospital for some months. "Please give me your version of the explosion", he was asked.

"Well", he said, "I was standing beside the gun, there was an awful racket, and the doctor said: 'Sit up and take this.'"

GARFIELD THOMSON, (age 9).
R. R. No. 1, Centralia, Ont.

Dear Puck and Beavers.—This is my second letter to you charming Circle. I did not see my first letter in print but still have courage to write again. For pets I have a team of ponies, a heifer, two cats, and two dogs. I go to Elgin school. Our teacher's name is Miss Duffield and I like her fine. She seems to take great interest in our work and helps us all she can. I would like some of the Beavers to write to me. Hoping the w. p. b. is asleep, I will close with a riddle:

Which death would you prefer to die—Joan of Arc's or Mary Stuart's? Ans.—Most people prefer Joan of Arc's because they like a hot steak better than a cold chop.

Elgin, Ont. JAMES ROBERT POWELL.

Junior Beavers' Honor Roll.—Wilmont Clarke, Meaford, Ont.; Alice Clark, Ettyville, Ont.; Hazel Robertson, Elder's Mills, Ont.; Annie Davidson, Markdale, Ont.; Genevieve McPhee, Park Hill, Ont.; Harold Kirkpatrick, Petrolia, Ont.

Beaver Circle Notes.

Mabel I. Martin, Denfield, Ont., says if Mary Seward will write to her first she will reply as soon as possible.

Puck hopes that every Beaver who has won seed in the competition will write a letter to the Circle about his or her garden, later on.

Genevieve McPhee, Park Hill, Ont., wishes some of the Junior Beavers to write to her.

The Dollar Chain

For the soldiers and all who are suffering because of the war.

Contributions from March 15 to March 22: J. B. Krauskoff, Dublin, Ont., \$1.00; M. Thomson, Mildmay, Ont., \$2.00; Mrs. H. P. Wilson, Dundas, Ont., \$2.00; Fred Robinson, Victoria Harbor, \$1.50; Alex. Bell, Milliken, Ont., \$2.00;

"Charity", Watford, Ont., \$10.00.
Previously acknowledged.....\$5,331.90

Total to March 22.....\$5,350.40

Kindly address contributions to The Farmer's Advocate and Home Magazine, London, Ont.

Current Events

Spring farm work has begun in South Saskatchewan, the earliest in 7 years.

Canada's parliament, which was formally opened on March 18, contains 122 new representatives and 100 from the last parliament.

Sir George Foster has introduced a resolution providing that vegetables be sold by the pound, that a dozen of eggs weigh 1½ lbs., and that packages containing food be marked with the names and addresses of the fillers, and the weight, measure and quality of their contents.

On March 20 Sir Robert Borden introduced a bill to extend the franchise to all women on the same terms as men, only those married to an enemy alien being disfranchised. Women will not, however, be permitted to be candidates for seats in the Dominion Parliament.

John Dillon, the new leader of the Nationalists in Ireland has warned the Sinn Féiners and their leader, Eamonn de Valera, that it is useless to discuss an Irish republic.

It seems evident that the great battle now going on in Europe, the most terrific in the history of the world, is the result

of the big drive so long threatened by the Germans. The Kaiser has, nominally at least, assumed command of his armies in person, but with him are the Crown Prince, Field Marshal von Hindenburg and General Ludendorff. The attack was launched on March 21st against the British lines over a front of 50 miles, chiefly along the battle-worn Somme front, while a smaller attack was at the same time made in the Ypres sector. Now 1,000,000 Germans are said to be in the battle, hurling themselves in the solid formations which are so destructive to life, but of which the Kaiser and his leaders reckon nothing so long as their objective is gained; as one observer says, "The German military caste are out for victory, even if to gain it they must destroy the people to whom they have promised its fruit."

In the first great onslaught, which centered at Cambrai, —the thinnest part of the line, held by the Third and Fifth armies in command of Sir Julian Byng and General Gough—the British were greatly outnumbered, with the result that the Germans broke through three lines of defence. Elsewhere also, the lines were bent back, so that at time of going to press the enemy has captured a strip of 45 miles in length and varying in width from 3 miles to 14½ miles just west of St. Quentin. The British lines, which retired in excellent order, fighting furiously and inflicting heavy losses on the enemy who were obliged to advance over thousands of their own dead, reached positions prepared long before, and for the past two days have been holding firmly and fighting with the greatest gallantry, while reinforcements are coming up in great numbers. As yet it is not known whether the Germans contemplate driving through to Amiens and thence to the coast, or following the valley of the Oise down to Paris—possibly the latter since during Saturday and Sunday the city has been bombarded by shells said to be aerial torpedoes fired from a point 76 miles away.

Truly this new Battle of the Somme is the world's climax of warfare, and yet both British and French are calmly optimistic. The aims of the German autocrats have been thwarted before this and may be again, to their confusion. Deeds of the most heroic valor and sacrifice are being daily reported from our armies. In several instances small bodies of men have deliberately sacrificed themselves to secure advantage to the rest of their divisions. Some London and Irish, too, have distinguished themselves by defending redoubts and outposts after they were entirely surrounded by German troops, pouring out machine gun fire for hours.

Canadians, apparently, have not yet been in the thick of this struggle, but in the strip of country between Lens and Hill 70 have been undertaking an adventure of their own, having carried out the greatest gas bombardment in the history of the war, so that the Germans were beaten off with heavy losses. Before this reaches its readers many more events will have taken place, for still the battle rages with unabated fury.

In Russia, notwithstanding the fact that the peace signed by Premier Lenin and Foreign Minister Trotsky was ratified by the Congress of Soldiers' and Workmen's delegates, German troops are pushing on towards Moscow. Also they have entered Nikolaiev, the chief grain storehouse of Southern Russia. As yet the Japanese have made no move into Siberia, but the A are ready and only await the assent of the United States to take active part in the war.

In Palestine General Allenby has made another victorious advance, three Turk towns falling into his hands.

In the House of Lords, on March 19, Lord Parmoor moved a resolution approving the principle of the League of Nations and the constitution of an international tribunal to prevent war. Lord Lansdowne said he believed that if such a league were able to apply sufficient pressure—economic and otherwise—an almost sure step would be taken towards making an end of all war, but he desired to see the Central Powers also included in the League, as only so can Prussian militarism be most satisfactorily overcome.

The Entente Allies are to use 1,000,000 tons of Dutch shipping, 600,000 of which have been requisitioned by President Wilson and 400,000 by the British Government, compensation to be made to Holland for all losses and damage during the war.

25% Better— "Gold Dollar" Calf Meal

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Condensed advertisements will be inserted under this heading at three cents per word each insertion. Each initial counts for one word and figures for two words. Names and addresses are counted. Cash must always accompany the order for any advertisement under this heading. Parties having good pure-bred poultry and eggs for sale will find plenty of customers by using our advertising columns. No advertisement inserted for less than 50 cents.

BARRED ROCK EGGS—O. A. C. STRAIN. Two dollars per fifteen. J. Acres, Thornbury.

BRED-TO-LAY BARRED ROCK EGGS FOR HATCHING—the big, healthy kind that have free range. Should hatch well. Eggs \$2 per 13, \$5 per 50. Biggar Bros., Oakville, Ont.

Bronze Turkeys—SELECTED FOR SIZE and vigor. Eggs \$5 per 9; also eggs from White and Barred Rocks, Brown Leghorns and Rouen ducks. J. H. Rutherford, Albion, Ont.

BARRED PLYMOUTH ROCKS—200 EGG line. Champion Guelph winners; write for circular. Eggs, \$2.00 per 15. Jno. Fenn, Plattsville, Ontario.

BLACK, WHITE AND TAN PURE-BRED Collie females; handsome, intelligent heifers. Price \$4. A. Bawtinheimer, Shedden, Ont.

BLACK MINORCA EGGS—BOTH COMBS, two dollars for fifteen; good layers. Write: Fred. Reekie, Camperdown, Ont.

BEULAH FARM WHITE WYANDOTTES—Winners at the principal egg-laying competitions. Official records over 200 eggs. Hatching eggs from two-fifty per setting. Mating list free. McLeod Bros., Box A, Stoney Creek, Ont.

BRED-TO-LAY BARRED ROCK COCKERELS and Indian Runner Ducks. Bred right. Priced right. John Annesser, Tilbury, Ont.

BARRON'S FAMOUS S.-C. W. LEGHORNS—world's greatest laying strain, stock imported direct. Eggs, \$3.00 and \$2.00 per 15; \$9.00 per hundred. Mating list free. J. Hollingsworth Milton Heights, Ont.

BARRED ROCKS—GREAT LAYING STRAIN. Cockrels, three dollars; pullets, two dollars. Central Poultry Yards, Colborne, Ontario.

CLOVER LEAF BARRED ROCK PULLETS won every first prize at five different fall fairs, 1917. They are excellent layers. Eggs three dollars per fifteen. Satisfaction guaranteed. R. C. Waterbury, Selkirk, Ont.

DAY-OLD CHICKENS FOR SALE—Wyandottes Rocks, Reds, Orpingtons and Leghorns. Guaranteed safe delivery. Send for free price list—it tells you how to raise them. This is the cheapest and safest way to start a flock of poultry. Hind, 5 Sandford Ave., Toronto.

DAY-OLD CHICKS—EGGS FOR HATCHING—from trap-nested, bred-to-lay S.-C. White Leghorns, White Wyandottes and Barred Rocks. Write for mating list. Brockville Poultry Farm & Hatchery, Brockville, Ont.

EGGS FOR HATCHING FROM OUR NOTED winter layers, O.A.C. Bred-to-Lay Single-comb White Leghorns, \$2.50 per 15; \$4 per 30; \$6 per 50; \$10 per 100. Roseheath Poultry Farm, Richmond Hill, F. R. Oliver, proprietor.

FOR SALE—A FEW CHOICE UTILITY Silver Wyandotte cockerels from my exhibition stock, at \$4.00; hens, \$3.00, 2-year-old. Eggs from my best stock at \$3.00 per 15. Guarantee hatch of 9 or replaced at half price. Look up my winning at Dunnville Poultry Show. Member, Silver Wyandotte Club. J. O. Moore, Grassie, Ont.

HATCHING EGGS, BABY CHICKS, UTILITY Laying Strains, Barred Rocks, Rhode Island Reds, White Leghorns, White Wyandottes. Hatching eggs only from White Rocks, Golden Wyandottes, Non-Bearded Golden Polish. Write for price list. Satisfaction guaranteed. Tay Poultry Farm, Perth, Ont.

MAMMOTH BRONZE TURKEYS—NO breeders left to sell this spring. I am booking orders for eggs at five dollars per nine eggs. Sixteen good females, ten of them being Guelph winners in the last two years, mated to my first-prize year-old tom and first and second-prize young toms, Guelph, 1917. My customers get the benefit of my best birds when buying eggs. Geo. Neil, Tara, Ont.

NOTICE—I HAVE PURCHASED GEORGE Buttery's entire stock of prize-winning, bred-to-lay White Rocks, White Wyandottes and S. C. White Leghorns. Eggs \$1.25 per fifteen. Satisfaction guaranteed. Jack Buttery, Strathroy, Ont.

PLYMOUTH ROCK EGGS—O. A. C. LAYING strain, \$1.50 per setting. Mrs. Berry, 52 Queen's St., Guelph, Ont.

RINGLET BARRED ROCKS; TRAPNESTED, heavy winter laying strain. Eggs, \$3.00 setting. guaranteed. F. Coldham, Box 12, Kingston, Ont.

R.-C. BROWN LEGHORNS—LOOKI SPECIAL sale. Now is the time to invest in good selected laying stock. Trios of 1 cockerel, 2 females, \$10. We must have the room for our young chicks. Eggs \$3 per 15. Galloway & English, Ingersoll, Ont.

SHEPPARD STRAIN S.-C. ANCONAS—TWO dollars setting fifteen eggs. Utility, one-fifty setting fifteen eggs; nine dollars a hundred. Order from this advertisement. E. W. Bennett, Victoria Ave., Niagara Falls, Ont.

S.-C. W. LEGHORN EGGS. PEN 1 THESE 16 yearling hens averaged 191 eggs each last year, headed by a cockerel whose dam laid 115 eggs from Oct. 1 to Mar. 1.—\$2.25 per 15. Pen 2.—Hatched from Pen 1 last year, headed by a rooster whose dam laid 232 eggs in her pullet year. \$2.00 per 15. Cash with order. Frank R. Howson, Wingham, Ont.

TURKEY EGGS—WE HAVE 50 HEALTHY Bronze Turkey Hens, mated to strong, husky, young and old toms; eggs ready in season at \$4 per 10 eggs; few toms left. Send in your order, we have the eggs ready for you. Everything in pure-bred poultry—write us first. We want your surplus of eggs and baby chicks. Stamps highly appreciated. Yamaska Poultry Farms, St. Hyacinthe, Quebec.

WHITE ORPINGTONS—ALDRICH STRAIN, from New York winners, low down, massive kind; hens, pullets, cocks, trio \$15.00. Eggs \$3 and \$5 per fifteen. Wm. Kappler, St. Mary's, Ontario.

50,000 HATCHING EGGS FROM HIGH-CLASS strains of bred-to-lay stock. Single-comb White Leghorns, White Wyandottes, Barred and White Plymouth Rocks. Eggs \$1.50 per 15, \$7 and \$8 per 100. Limited number of baby chicks. Send for circular. C. E. Smith, Scotland, Ont.

32 cents 30 cents

For chickens (dressed) For large hens ALIVE

Above price paid by

WALLERS, 702 Spadina Ave., Toronto Write for price list.

Rose-Comb Rhode Island Reds and Barred Rock eggs for hatching, \$1.50 per 15. Rose-Comb Rhode Island Red cockerels \$3 each. Alex. McKinney, R.R. No. 1, Erin, Ontario

Our Serial Story An Alabaster Box.

BY MARY E. WILKINS FREEMAN AND FLORENCE MORSE KINGSLEY.

By arrangement with McClelland, Goodchild & Stewart, Publishers, Toronto, Ont.

CHAPTER XIX.—Continued.

He sprang from his chair and began pacing the room.

Wesley Elliot stared at his visitor without speaking. He perceived that the man dragged his feet, as if from excessive fatigue or weakness.

"I had no thought of such a thing," the stranger went on. "I'd planned, as a man will who looks forward to release from—from a hospital, how I'd go about and see my old neighbors. I wanted to have them in for dinners and luncheons—people I haven't seen for years. She knows them. She can't excuse herself on that ground. She knows you."

He stopped short and eyed the minister, a slow grin spreading over his face.

"The last time you were at my house I had a good mind to walk in and make your acquaintance, then and there. I heard you talking to her. You admire my daughter; that's easy to see; and she's not such a bad match, everything considered."

"Who are you?" demanded the young man sharply.

"I am a man who's been dead and buried these eighteen years," replied the other. "But I'm alive still—very much alive; and they'll find it out."

An ugly scowl distorted the man's pale face. For an instant he started past Wesley Elliot, his eyes resting on an irregular splotch of damp on the wall. Then he shook himself.

"I'm alive," he repeated slowly. "And I'm free!"

"Who are you?" asked the minister for the second time.

For all his superior height and the sinewy strength of his young shoulders he began to be afraid of the man who had come to him out of the storm. There was something strangely disconcerting, even sinister, in the ceaseless movements of his pale hands and the sudden lightning dart of his eyes, as they shifted from the defaced wall to his own perturbed face.

By way of reply the man burst into a disagreeable cackle of laughter:

"Stopped in at the old bank building on my way," he said. "Got it all fixed up for a reading room and library. Quite