

prisoners were taken in the course of a few weeks. Volhynia was re-conquered, Bukowina was overrun and the Eastern part of Galicia came back into Russian hands. It was not until well on in the year that the tide turned against Russia when she suffered a reverse near Lemberg. But she had served the purpose; she had eased the pressure on the Italians and on Verdun. Then came the fourth great campaign. Before the fate of Verdun was settled the British and the French together on the banks of the River Somme on Dominion Day, the 1st of July, began the battle of the Somme, the greatest battle in human history, beyond all question. The objects were to relieve Verdun, hold German troops in the West, and try out their lines. At first our losses were terrible, naturally greater than the losses of the enemy, but steadily as the struggle proceeded our staff work improved rapidly; the infantry and artillery were still better co-ordinated; munitions were piled up, and the artillery fire was unprecedented. It was observed that more and more prisoners were taken and that the morale of the enemy was steadily deteriorating. The disparity in losses decreased and then German losses became greater than ours. At the end of the battle of the Somme (and that came only when weather conditions permitted no further offensive), the morale of the German force on the West was seriously shaken. Verdun had been so effectively relieved that in November the French were able to take the offensive there and recover in a short time all the ground that the Germans had won so painfully and at so great cost. The German soldier realized that his defences were not impregnable. He realized that though he was confronted with a new army and new officers and new generals this new army was equal to the best of his own. Then came the last of the campaigns, the Rumanian campaign. This has been unfortunate in the highest

degree. Yet let us not exaggerate its importance. Probably not more than 200,000 Germans have been involved. They have used Bulgarians and Turks and Austrians; and you cannot expect to have the ultimate decision effected by a German army of 200,000. We need not go into the question of the military or political mistakes that were made. The Rumanians are paying bitterly for whatever mistakes they did make. I think it was a question fundamentally of munitions. Be that as it may, the Germans have overrun the greater part of Rumania and have widened the corridor from Berlin to Constantinople. Now, from many points of view the real prizes that Germany seeks are the prizes in the Balkans. Certain watchwords that have been sounded out for years wonderfully express deep national aspirations. We Britons have been speaking of an all red route from "Cairo to the Cape." We are going to realize it, and that bit of German territory in East Africa that seemed to block the way will soon be all red. (Hear, hear.) The Russians have had their phrase "from Petrograd to Peking." The Germans have had their political cry "from Berlin to Bagdad." Towards the East through the Balkans was their outlet. This expresses the policy they persistently tried to carry out. Austria and Germany together were to dominate the smaller Balkan States, and to be allied with the Turk. In this way, they were to have free running rights into Asia Minor, down the Mesopotamia Valley and on to the Persian Gulf. At the present time Rumania is in the hands of the Teutonic forces, and yet the booty has not been as great as supposed. They have not got the expected oil and grain in full measure. Remember the Teutonic forces are still in a state of siege. They still have not been able to break that cordon of steel that is about them. They still have not been able to break out into the open sea. Beyond a doubt the Rumanian tragedy