

THE EVENING TIMES AND STAR, ST. JOHN N. B., MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 1914

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THE WAR NEWS

During the last week the war news has been decidedly favorable to the allied armies. While the military observers have from day to day cautioned their readers not to take too optimistic a view of the situation, they have also told a daily story of German and Austrian reverses. They still tell us we must not build too much upon the fact that the Germans are retreating along almost the whole line in France; but there is much more ground for optimism now than there was a week ago, and there does not seem to be any good reason why the armies which have forced the Germans to retreat for a week should not continue the driving movement until the enemy has been driven entirely out of France and Belgium.

Germany has failed in the attempt to repeat her success of the war of 1870. There can be no doubt on this point. The armies now retreating from Paris will not return to the attack. They will have quite enough to do to get back again into Germany without suffering tremendous loss. The case might be different if there were no Russian armies moving toward East Prussia and by way of Posen toward Berlin.

The French government may safely return from Bordeaux to Paris. The Kaiser and his friends must give their attention to the safety of Berlin. There will still be fierce fighting in France, and a considerable time may elapse before the German armies are driven out of that territory; and there will be still harder fighting for the allies when the Germans take the defensive in their own country; but the measure of the German war machine has been taken. It is certainly formidable, but the retreat from Paris and all along the line to the borders of Alsace has shown its limitations. The world has seen what it can do as an offensive machine. It is now to be put to the test in defence.

While British readers have naturally been most interested in the struggle in France, some of the most terrific fighting of this war has taken place in Galicia and in Russian Poland, where the hosts of Russia have been at grips with the combined armies of Austria and Germany. The Austrians had invaded Russian Poland, and a series of terrific battles have been fought, with the result that the Austrians were hurled back in defeat, and the information received by the British war office is that "the Russian victory is considered to be absolutely decisive." The reinforcements which were brought up by Germany to the aid of the Austrians arrived too late to prevent the catastrophe. It is claimed that the total Austrian and German forces exceeded a million men, and the Austrian losses in the series of battles which have taken place are estimated at 130,000 men, of whom 90,000 were taken prisoners. The Germans as well as the Austrians were repulsed, and reports appear to indicate that the power of Austria as an important factor in this struggle has been broken. In East Prussia the Russians have gained fresh successes, although the Germans are bringing up reinforcements and making a stubborn fight. The Russians admit that they have suffered heavy losses in driving back the enemy, not only in East Prussia, but in South Poland and Galicia; but they can much more easily fill the gaps in their ranks than can the Austrians or Germans. It will probably be found when the history of the war is written that among the bloodiest battles, marked by the most desperate fighting, must be numbered those of the last two weeks in the eastern field of operations.

PROF. SAUNDERS

Professor William Saunders, LL.D., C.M.G., whose death in London, Ont., at the age of 78 years, is announced, will long be remembered because of his eminent services to the cause of agriculture and forestry in Canada. He was appointed director of experimental farms in Canada when they were first established, and retained the office until he retired on a pension in 1911. Professor Saunders was a native of Devonshire, Eng. Morgan's Men of the Times tells us that he was long a manufacturing chemist in London, Ont., also an extensive and successful farmer; professor of materia medica in the Western University in 1882-85; public analyst, Western Ontario, 1882-86; one of the founders of the Ontario College of Pharmacy, and for two years president; assisted in founding the Entomological Society of Ontario, and president for three years; also president of the Ontario Fruit Growers' Association, 1882-85, and of the society for promoting agricultural science. He was one of the original Fellows of the Royal Society of Canada; Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, and one of the organizers and an active member of the American and Dominion Forestry Associations.

Professor Saunders originated many promising varieties of fruit and grains by successful hybridization. Under his direction information collected by a

commission, of which he was a member, on fruit growing, forestry, insectivorous birds, insects and bee-keeping was published. In 1885, under instructions from the Dominion government, he visited experimental stations in the United States and Europe, and following his report the act was passed which provided for experimental farms in Canada, of which he assumed the direction. The magnificent work done by these institutions has been in large measure due to the energy, scientific knowledge and executive ability of Professor Saunders. He was made a Fellow of a number of scientific organizations in Great Britain and the United States; his work was commended by the British Association in 1904, and he received the C. M. G. from King Edward in 1908. He had previously been awarded the Mantua gold medal for distinction in scientific knowledge. Professor Saunders lived to a ripe old age, and in his declining years had the satisfaction of seeing throughout Canada the fruits of his labors for the advancement of the great basic industry of agriculture.

A STRONG RULER

Opinion is growing that the rule of Yuan-Shih-Kai in China is permanent. It does not conform in many particulars with ordinary republican government. The press is under the editorial supervision of the police. Editorials must not attack the government, while any person under thirty caught editing a periodical is to be imprisoned. A list of subjects not to be commented on or discussed is furnished from time to time by the police, and the right to hold public meetings of any kind has been done away with unless the gathering be for some purpose which the authorities approve in writing.

The government of Yuan is bloody and autocratic, but able, and in a very ruthless way he has made it as efficient as his material allows. He has decided not to make Confucianism a state religion; has organized the government by attracting to himself the cleverest and best-informed Chinamen in the country—those who have traveled and have imbibed western ideas are given the preference.

But the government that may be called republican, and that is republican in form, depends upon a strong personality like Yuan-Shih-Kai. With his death it would fall to pieces. Yuan realizes this and his troops protect the young heir of the late dynasty night and day. A limited monarchy with Yuan in the position of viceroy may be the next development. Sir Robert Hart says that it is essential that the monarchical form of government be maintained, and in this opinion he is supported by the most careful observers. If the old dynasty is restored it will be with greatly decreased authority and limited powers. Whatever the outcome may be the first President of China is proving himself one of the greatest of rulers and the conditions in his country call for the exercise of all his powers.

General Louis Botha, Premier of South Africa, announces that his government has undertaken to carry out military operations against the Germans in south-west Africa. He further declared that the Boers would today ten times rather be under the British flag than any other. This declaration, coming at the same time as the news from India, will give the Kaiser another bad quarter of an hour.

The gambling instinct in human nature was well illustrated during the period of the exhibition. Whatever else might be going on in grounds or buildings there was always a crowd surging around the various games of chance in the Pike. Large sums of money were spent by individuals in vain efforts to secure prizes. The patrons of these "attractions" included people of all classes and conditions. Under the stimulus of the gambling instinct, very many persons, including mere boys, threw away money they could not afford to lose. Despite the evident popularity of such features it is worth while for the directors to consider in connection with future exhibitions whether features of entertainment of this class should not be entirely eliminated and others of a healthier tendency provided.

An Ottawa despatch says that Col. the Hon. J. S. Hendrie, minister without portfolio in the Whitney government, will probably be the next governor of Ontario. Col. Hendrie is a native of Hamilton, and has been prominent in public affairs in Ontario for many years. He has been a successful railway contractor both in Canada and the United States, was general manager of the Hamilton Bridge Works for some years, is a director of many large concerns, and has held many important positions. He was a member of the Hydro-Electric Power Commission and of the National Battlefields Commission. He was formerly at the head of the Hamilton Jockey Club, and with his brother owned a racing stable with a continental reputation. He has been mayor of Hamilton, and a leading member of its board of trade. As a military man he holds the long service decoration and has received other honors. He has been a member of the legislature since 1902, and has been a member of the Whitney administration since 1905.

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THE MOTHER'S PRAYER.

This poem by Kathleen Norris voices a bitter reproach against the well-to-do for their unconcern about the poor unfortunate. No mother actually makes such a prayer as this, yet does not the petition substantially express the attitude of too many persons?

Lord, if some little children of our day
Must spend their lives beside our factory wheels,
Watching the endless minutes drag away
Must learn how heartache feels, how hunger feels
If they must toss and mutter in their sleep
Too tired to rest when fevered rest might be,
I care not, Lord, I only ask to keep
Mine safe with me!

Lord, if the street's unwholesome noise
And mirth
When the day's poor-paid drudgery is done
Must draw the wearied little maids of earth
Into a hell that waits them, one by one,
If scared and starved, like fall'n leaves
Helpless blown
These must the shame of living still endure
I shall not murmur, Lord, but keep mine own
Guarded and pure!

And Lord, if there be many who complain
In bitter poverty and toil and tears
Who know their loved ones hungry and in pain,
And faint beneath the burden of the years,
Keep Thine mine eyes from sight of such as these,
Keep Thine mind from knowing this must be,
And gracious Lord, still grant Thine wealth and ease
To mine and me!

LIGHTER VEIN.

A Recycler.
"Green's bought a car,"
"What kind?"
"One of those that make a man look as though he was riding in a bath tub."

In a Restaurant
Patron—I suppose you have a good many queer people to serve.
Waiter—Yes, sir; all things come to him who waits.

Smoking Rules.
"Just come from the club. Nothing left but smoking rules."
"What?"
"Oh, no; everyone but half a dozen cigarette fiends had gone home."

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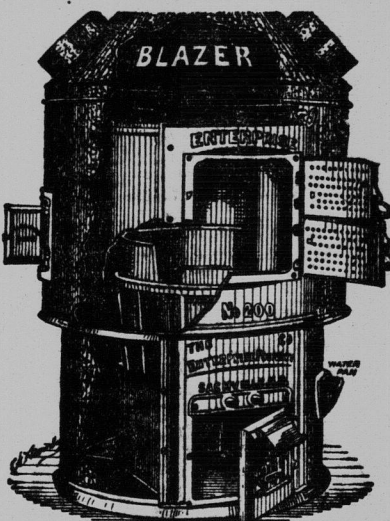
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DRIVE GERMANS FARTHER BACK

British and French Continue Successes—Another Great Victory by Russians

London, Sept. 13.—The sixth week of the war has brought a vast transformation. The pushed are now the pursuers. The irresistible sweep of seven German armies through Belgium into France met an immovable force at the Marne River.

The army of Gen. Von Kluck, which so long battled to turn the Allies westward, was itself slowly and steadily outflanked. Its retirement before the small but hardy British army turned the tide of battle. Today, if the French official reports are correct, all the German armies, except that facing Verdun and a few miles southwest, are retreating.

Gen. Von Kluck's army, which a week ago was a few miles to the southeast of Paris, has retired more than sixty miles to the northeast, while on the extreme right the army of the Bavarian crown prince, which was attacking the French eastern line from Nancy to Epinal, has fallen back to the frontiers of Lorraine, leaving the French to recapture Lunenburg and several other towns.

The battle of Marne, which was decided in a week, is regarded by military experts as the most marvellous reversal of roles of two armies known. In their views it appears to have decided the first phase of the war, and to have made impossible the plan which the German staff is supposed to have had of smashing the French by one comprehensive stroke, and then turning the bulk of the German forces eastward to confront the Russians.

The military experts, however, are still cautious. While realizing the possibility that the German armies may yet rally and draw a strong defensive line, they recognize also the possibility of the almost complete evacuation of France and Belgium.

While there is deep satisfaction in England over the progress of events on the French battlefields, there are no signs of rejoicing or celebration. London today wore its usual Sunday calm. The newspapers continue to counsel the people against over-optimism and any belief that the war will be other than a long and costly one.

The war information bureau, reporting on Russian operations in South Poland says that by the capture of Tomaszow on Sept. 10, it is possible that the Russians drove a wedge through the Austrian line. "Today a brilliant Russian victory is reported in which 30,000 prisoners and several hundred guns were taken. This is probably the immediate result of the Tomaszow action."

A despatch to the Reuter Telegram Company from Paris says: "The Matin learns from Petrograd that the first Austrian army under Gen. Von Auffenberg has lost 900 officers, 25,000 soldiers and 400 guns; and that the second Austrian army has lost as prisoners, 800 officers and 70,000 men. "The Russian victory is considered to be absolutely decisive."

Tribute to Joffre.

Paris, Sept. 13, 4 p. m.—Reports from the different regions of north France continue to indicate a general with-

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drawal of the Germans. Lille and Amiens have been evacuated. The disorder which accompanied the retreat of the Germans is shown by the capture of numerous groups of stragglers.

A Havas Agency despatch from Troyes says that four German flags were brought there and were received with a great demonstration. The press pays a tribute to the military genius of General Joffre, who, after ten days of retreat, was able to reform his army and repulse an enemy so redoubtable as Gen. Von Kluck.

German Starving.

Paris, Sept. 13, 7.35 p. m.—Seven hundred German prisoners have arrived at Brienne Le Chateau. They expressed surprise that the British were fighting against Germany.

Another party of fifty Uhlans has surrendered at Montreuil, in a starving condition.

Bourse Open at Bordeaux.

London, Sept. 13, 8.40 p. m.—A despatch to the Central News Agency from Bordeaux says that at the request of M. Ribot, the minister of finance, the brokers have associated and decided to re-open the Bourse at Bordeaux.

Stories of Wounded.

London, Sept. 13, 7.25 p. m.—The stream of wounded from the battlefields of the Marne and Ourey is being directed past Paris to the hospitals in the rear, says a Paris despatch to Reuter's Telegram Company. The obvious reason for this is that until it is quite certain that Paris will not have to defend herself against attack it would be unwise to fill the hospital accommodations of the capital.

A British soldier of the Sixth Dragoons, suffering from bullet wounds in the hip, told of a grim incident at Compiègne. The night before the battle his squadron was on outpost duty. Some firing could be heard and he rode ahead of his squadron to find out what was happening in the belief that French cavalry were engaged with the Germans close at hand.

He cantered along the moonlit road until, suddenly in the shadow of trees, he found himself in the midst of a group of horsemen—Germans. He had a carbine across the neck of his horse and he fired point blank into the breast of a German trooper with whose horse his own collided. The German was as quick with his weapon, and both men fell to the ground, the German dead, the British soldier with a bullet through his hip.

An instant later the British squadron came clattering up and cut the German detachment—about thirty strong—to pieces.

British cavalry men in the hospitals say that they were a good deal pestered by the German aeroplanes during the retreat from Mons. Whenever a German aeroplane appeared over the bivouac the order was given to change camp, and the weary men and horses had to move further on, for they knew that the appearance of the aeroplanes meant their position would soon be subjected to a hail of shrapnel.

An Army Divided.

London, Sept. 14, 5.10 a. m.—A despatch to the Times from Ostend says that the Prussian and Bavarian soldiers are quarrelling, and that a serious collision has taken place near their barracks at Etterbeek, a suburb of Brussels, in which ten lives were lost.

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