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Battle Was Fought 5,000 Feet in Air.

Spectacular Aerial Combat on Somme, in Which 70 Planes Took Part—Allies Proved Victors—Fighting in Sky Much Closer and More Savage Than Formerly

LONDON, Nov. 18.—The News correspondent at British headquarters, giving the particulars of the great aerial battle on the morning of November 9, in which 70 aeroplanes were engaged, says:

It took place well over the German lines in the direction of Vaulxraucourt, north-east of Bapaume, whither certain of our aeroplanes were bound on a bombing expedition. With them were fighting machines and scouts, making in all a fleet of thirty. Near the Villa of Mory, just before reaching Vaulxraucourt, they sighted an enemy squadron somewhat outnumbering themselves, its actual strength being something from thirty-six to forty aeroplanes. We attacked at once, some of our machines flying at a higher level than the enemy, and they plunged headlong, joining in a general engagement, which was fought at an average height not much above 5,000 feet.

A 20-Minute Battle. Of the melee which followed it is impossible to get any accurate account, for no man in it had time or thought for anything except the enemy machines, which he successively engaged, but for twenty minutes there ranged among the clouds such a battle as the world has never seen before. The inextricable tangle of single combats, of daring, swirling machines; the air filled with the roar of seventy propellers and the clatter of guns.

Four of our machines were lost, that is to say they were compelled to descend in German territory, the strong westerly wind drifting the battle as it raged more and more to the enemy's sail. In the ships which came home one brought a dead observer and two others arrived with wounded pilots, and had difficulty in beating up against the wind and landing in our lines. Of the enemy we know six machines were sent to earth, to which three are known to have crashed. What happened to the other three beyond that they were falling out of control is not known. In yet another the pilot was seen to be shot dead.

Germans Fled for Safety. What further casualties the enemy suffered he alone was aware, but the best evidence that the victory was ours lies in the fact that the whole enemy formation was broken, and the scattered Germans fled for safety in all directions, leaving us in possession of the sky. Then we went upon our business. We punctually dropped our bombs on stores and ammunition depots of Vaulxraucourt, and then came home, proudly flying in regular formation, no German daring to interfere.

The Times has received the following despatch from its special correspondent with the armies in France: "The German airmen have grown bolder. They are making a more serious attempt to dispute the mastery of the air with us. This winter probably will see some bitter fighting. Air fighting now is much closer and more savage than ever it has been before. The old, leisurely combats are no more. Now it is a headlong plunge, a single shot, a dip, a swerve, another shot, a loop, a single shot again, a duel swifter, more breathless, more reckless than any fighting that ever was before on earth or sea."

Statesmen and The People.

The New Age (London) Politicians tell us—the late Lord Salisbury was very fond of telling us—that nowadays, what with democracy and the growth of public opinion and what not, the danger to peace springs less from the plans of statesmen from the passions of the people. For my own part, I always felt rather skeptical about that view, and recent experience has not strengthened my belief in it. Up to the very eve of our government's declaration that it was necessary for England to draw the sword, I could see no signs of a bellicose spirit in this country. On Saturday, August 1, 1914, I happened to be going down to Dorset for the week-end. The European crisis had by this time reached to cash cheques, and I had to drive to the station on credit. My compartment (third class) was full of average Englishmen. The journey, owing to the incipient military preparations, was exceedingly slow. During all the five hours it took me to get to my destination, I can depose on oath, I never heard one word about war. My fellow-passengers talked about all sorts of things, told stories, joked about the jerks and halts of the train, but never once did they allude to fighting.



PUBLIC NOTICE.

UNDER the Provisions of the Stamp Duties Act, 1914, and the Act in amendment thereof and the Regulations issued thereunder, all receipts for any sum of money exceeding Ten Dollars must be stamped by the issuer thereof.

Any person issuing a receipt without a stamp for the amount of the duty payable thereon, shall be subject for the first offence to a fine not exceeding Ten Dollars. For the second offence to a fine not exceeding Fifty Dollars and for the third and subsequent offences to a fine of Two Hundred Dollars, and in default of payment of such fine shall be subject to imprisonment not exceeding One Month for the first offence, Three Months for the second offence and One Year for the third and every subsequent offence.

JOHN SULLIVAN, Insp. Gen. of Constabulary. November, 18th, 1916. nov18.61

CEMENT, BRICK, DRAIN PIPES, CHIMNEY TOPS & FIRE CLAY, For Sale by **HENRY J. STABB & COMPANY.**



Published by Authority

UNDER the Provisions of the War Measures Act, 1914, His Excellency the Governor in Council has been pleased to order that the Regulations, published in the ROYAL GAZETTE under date 17th October last, in connection with Precautionary Measures taken against the incursions of hostile ships of war, be suspended as from the 15th November instant.

These Regulations comprised, amongst other things, the closing of the port and harbor of St. John's at night, and the extinguishing of the lights at certain light houses, and in the city of St. John's.

ARTHUR MEWS, Deputy Colonial Secretary. Dept. of the Colonial Secretary, November 14, 1916.

(Under the distinguished patronage of His Excellency the Governor and Lady Davidson.)

Nfld. Poultry Association WILL HOLD ITS FIFTH ANNUAL EXHIBITION at the PRINCE'S RINK, NOV. 29TH, 30TH and DEC. 1ST.

Birds for exhibition will be received at the Rink on Tuesday, Nov. 28th, up to 10.30 p.m. A nominal entrance fee of 10c per bird in any class (except that of trios, for which a fee of 50c) is charged to cover feeding expenses, etc.

\$140.00 in Cash Prizes, 11 Silver Cups, 3 Clocks (one for Outport Competition only) and several other prizes will be awarded.

The Association will be pleased to welcome a large number of Exhibitors from the Outports. The Reid-Nfld. Co. has kindly granted excursion rates to outport visitors.

Entries close Nov. 23rd. Entry forms may be obtained from **JNO. F. CALVEE,** Hon. Secretary, 160 Duckworth Street, nov8.11,12,13,21,24

Britain's Enormous Task in Clothing Her Volunteer Army

In a general way everyone has realized that the mere recruitment of men and the supplying them with arms and ammunition was only a part of the work required by the War Office to put the new British army in the field, but not one person in a thousand realized the enormous task and the multitude of incidents which go into the equipment of a force capable of taking its place in the field under modern war conditions. The War Office has been faced with the necessity of providing everything, from socks to uniform buttons, from mess spoons to greatcoats, for an army grown in 24 months from less than 200,000 to more than 4,000,000. And the success with which this situation has been met is one of the industrial romances of the war, says the New York Herald.

Keeping Down Prices. Figures, as a rule, tell little, but the Government has compiled some statistics behind which can be seen the feverish industry, the unceasing toil, which has permitted the men at the front to take their place as an effective fighting machine beside the French and the Russians and the Italians; the labor which made possible the development of the little contingent which crossed to France in August, 1914, to the greatest volunteer army in the history of the world. These statistics are based on reports up to April 1. To avoid unduly enhanced prices for necessities, not only to the War Office, but to the population at large, the Government carefully guarded all information which might indicate in the earlier days of the war the real extent of the army's needs. Some prices have advanced, but considering the huge additions to the output of clothing, equipment, tools, drugs and all the other stores needed by the armed forces, there has been virtually no scarcity so far as the civilian population is concerned and only small increases in prices. The buying by the Government has been done on a definite principle that has kept the widest resources and requirements of the Empire always in view.

Woolen, Flannel and Cotton. During the first twenty months of the war the amount of woollen cloth required for the army has been 90,000,000 yards, which would suffice to put a girdle twice around the earth. Shirt flannel has been bought to the total of 34,000,000 yards. These figures, it must be remembered, represent solely the army's needs. Here in a table is a comparison of the War Office's needs in textile products in peace years and in war-time in yards:

	Average August in peace, 1914, to years, April 1, 1916	
Woolen and worsted	1,149,000	117,000,000
Totten	1,234,000	84,000,000
Cotton cloth	632,000	194,000,000

To understand more clearly what this implies to the country's industry, however, it would be necessary to take twelve-twentieths of the amount shown in the second column to compare with the average demands in peace years. It will be found that the demand for flannel has been increased 41 times, for woollens 61 times and for cottons 175 times. It is estimated that about 25 per cent. of the woollens and worsteds and 20 per cent. of the cotton textiles manufactured in the country were for use of Britain's allies.

Making Uniforms and Shirts. After the fabrics were turned from the looms there was the question of making them into uniforms and shirts. Of the latter more than twenty-six million have been required for field and training wear, apart from the further huge total needed in the hospitals. The soldier, whether in training camp or on active service, wears out his clothes rapidly, and the supply department at the War Office has found that the replenishment demands as much clothing now in a week as did the entire army in a year in the days before the war. It is not

ECONOMY.

A Gas Cooker saves time and temper. Where Gas Fires and Cookers are installed, it has been found that one servant can do the work of two as compared with a house where coal is used.

With a Gas Cooker the heat is utilised and directed just where and when it is wanted. There need be no waste. There is less loss of weight in food cooked by Gas than by old methods; meat cooked in a Gas Cooker loses one ninth of its weight; in a coal range it loses one third, thus the saving in 9 lbs. of meat is 2 lbs. when Gas is used. This more than pays for the Gas used.

St. John's Gas Light Co.

difficulties. Buttons might seem to be of small consequence, but more than eight hundred and forty million of them, in all shapes and grades, have been used since the war began; not an unimportant commercial factor in itself. In the actual work of making up uniforms and their accessories, the army clothing factory was soon swamped when the first contingent took the field. The great clothing contractors of London, Leeds and other cities were called on, and with the adjustment of the necessary labor difficulties the work of keeping the new army clothed was thoroughly systematized. This table will show some startling figures:—

Some Staggering Figures.

Articles	Annual Average in Peace Yrs.	Total for 20 Mths of War.
Cardigans and Boots, pairs	227,000	21,750,000
Service jackets	78,000	11,490,000
Service trousers	92,000	11,004,000
Khaki drill frocks	58,000	1,134,000
Khaki drill trousers	73,000	1,167,000
Pantaloon	13,000	2,507,000
Greatcoats	34,000	4,836,000
Service dress caps	222,000	11,038,000
Socks, pairs	980,000	54,684,000
Jerseys	77,000	7,555,000
Drawers	194,000	23,144,000
Vests	8,855,000	8,855,000

The new situation in regard to boots is especially interesting. In the vast total noted in the table ordinary marching boots alone are considered, and the millions of pairs of canvas shoes and hospital slippers are not included. About one-sixth were supplied in the allied armies, but the figures are exclusive of 7,000,000 pairs of boots made for Russia. Summarizing the clothing statistics, the Government finds that the army's needs in twenty months increased between seventy and eighty times the normal requirements. And to the clothing figures may be added properly between nine and ten million pairs of woollen gloves and 13,000,000 "cap comforters."

EVERY MAN AND GUN REQUIRED

London Times Military Writer on Question of Main Power—The Resources of Germany Are Still Considerable—Entente Allies Must Make a Great Effort

London, Nov. 15.—The military correspondent of The Times writes as follows on the question of the man power of the Allies and the Central Powers:

"Germany's wise economy of her young contingents and her constant re-examination of the medically unfit and her refusal to consider the claims of the 'conscientious objectors' and also of the civil service, her success in restoring to the colors a high proportion of the German wounded, the use of prisoners in factories and on farms, the forced labor of the population of the occupied territories, and finally the trap she has baited to catch the Poles, all enable her to maintain in the field units of full strength much longer than any one would have thought possible."

"She has been able to build up 100 field divisions, and cannot now safely be credited with less than 1,500,000 men in her field armies. On lines of communication, guards and reserves generally, owing to the measures Germany is taking, she cannot even now be reckoned to have less than 2,000,000 men."

"The situation broadly is that the Allies are faced with the necessity of straining every nerve to place in the field next year every man, gun and shell that all the countries can produce."

"We Allies are quite able to make this effort, and to overmatch Germany. We in these islands have still between three and four million men of military age, not counting men over 41. We are in far better position than Germany to maintain the war. Our gallant dominions have still large reserves of man power."

"Russia has still ample reserves and will produce larger armies each year the war lasts. Italy increases and improves the quantity and quality of her armies monthly, and France has been most successful in drawing more men from civil employments. She now excels in the field with relatively slight losses."

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A Biograph Mystery Drama produced in Two Reels.
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A Western Drama featuring Lillian Gish.
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SEND THE CHILDREN TO THE CRESCENT'S BIG SATURDAY MATINEE—EXTRA PICTURES.

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GRAND OPENING, Monday, Nov. 27th.
The Latest and Best Pictures From First-Class Firm.
Pictures will be changed 3 times weekly.
All entirely new.

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New Crop Tomatoes
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MAY DETAIN NEW AMBASSADOR
Paris, Nov. 13.—The Echo de Paris to-day publishes an article in which the allies may refuse to furnish safe conduct to Count de Tarnow Tarnowski, newly appointed Austrian ambassador to the United States to succeed recalled Ambassador Dumba.
The article says the Count may possibly be charged with efforts to stir up the Poles and anti-Catholic Slavs against the entente allies and that inasmuch as Tarnowski is an officer in the reserve his mission may be considered warlike.
ADVERTISE IN THE MAIL AND ADVOCATE