-- THE YEAR OF EBB AND FLOW -- 1917.

ies and munitions which they had the terrible mauling given them by picious and careless years. Posses- West. and having, thanks to the British Navy, access to those of the rest of the world, they were certain, sconer or later, to make up the leeway and the Anglo-French and German armobtain a preponderance of power, les at the beginning of the year grap-This they did definitely in 1916. The pling in the last stages of the Battle Verdun marked the end of the initia- deed, already been won by the Allies. tive which the enemy had hitherto Bad weather in the previous autumn monopolised. With the opening of the robbed them of the victory that was battle of the Somme it passed to the almost within their grasp, and by giv-Allies in almost dramatic fashion. It ing Germany time to prepare a rehas never since left them, though late treat, robbed them also of its best fensive, made possible by her interior not yet won the last heights whose position, of which she has not failed possession meant that also of Ba-

events had followed in more or less continued the attack vigorously, their normal and logical sequence, it would artillery giving the Germans no rest. not have been unreasonable to expect The unrelenting pressure soon began 1917 to witness the military defeat of to have its effect. The enemy gave Germany, decisive if not final. But way on the Ancre River, at Serre, the Russian situation, arising out of Beaucourt and Grandecourt, giving a welter of political corruption and the British a further advance towards economic disorder and followed by Bapaume Ridge. The advantage was the weak and irresolute rule of Ker- followed up by progress towards ensky and his Provisional Govern- Sailly-Saillisel, in the direction of ment, which greatly aggravated these Peronne. The effect of these gains weaknesses, resulted in the collapse was seen when, on February 25th, the of the Russian armies as a fighting I:ritish advanced on an 11-mile front force and their utter demoralisation. from Gueudecourt to Gommecourt. The entry of the United States came Thereafter, in a succession of small and loss this year, though it will after village, until by the middle of nore than compensate it before the March they were practically establishbut to win a great and spectacular lines were no longer tenable, and on victory against, staly, victorious March 17th, taking advantage of hitherto and unsuspecting. It is foggy weather, the enemy withdrew to hus quite impossible as yet to sum prepared positions in the rear. Ba-1917 upon the course of the great the Entente forces, who followed struggle, though its salient features close on the heels of the Germans tre easily distinguishable—the British along a front from Arras to Noyon, offensives in France and Flanders, recapturing about two hundred vil-

huge odds which ended ultimately in did far more to bring about Germany's War. the preservation of her armies from everthrow than is yet in any way apthe peril that constantly threatened narent. She has gained a breathing them, Britain, France and Italy were space, with Russia's aid, but her speeding up the manufacture of arm- broken armies will never recover from neglected through so many unsus- Taig's and Petain's forces in the

THE GERMAN RETREAT. paume and Peronne, the twin obejct-1916 may thus be correctly de- ives of the offensive. But, contrary to

ARRAS AND THE AISNE.

retreat to the Hindenburg line had elaborate preparation. Up to a cersing greater resources than the enemy THE BATTLE OF THE SOMME AND tain point the claim was correct, for it is undeniable that the Allies would they had been able to break through the German front on the Somme before it was withdrawn to the new failure of the German offensive at of the Somme. That battle had, in-9th he delivered a smashing blow against the flank of the Hindenburg line in the Arras region. It came as a complete surprise to the enemy, ley lying before Laon. Quite recently Sir Julian Byng, dispensing with the from the war. the Germans were compelled to re- usual artillery bombardment, sent treat, and the French line now runs forward their tanks clean through a within a few miles of that important large front of the Hindenburg line, centre. Owing, however, to the tre- the infantry surging after them. The mendously strong character of the Germans were completely surprised and it was probably owing to that Moeuvres and Marcoing, and allowed with the brilliant capture of Gorizia. to a head in March. In that month the cause, coupled with the Russian col- the British almost to reach the outlapse in the summer, that the French skirts of Cambrai. Unfortunately the were unable to conduct an offensive British were almost as much surprissimultaneously with the British in ed by their success as the enemy, and Flanders, as had been pinnead. Dis- were not ready with sufficient forces satisfaction in Paris with the net re- to drive the victory home. The Gersults of these attacks, valuable as they mans rapidly massed huge forces, were, led to the removal of Nivelle, counter attacked in great strength who was succeeded by General Petain and succeeded, by a very clever piece as commander-in-chief. Yet too great of strategy, in winning back a third praise cannot be given to the French of their losses. Attacking at Bourlon for the victories they won here and to and Fontaine for two or three days, the eastward at Moronvillers and Ver- they suddenly advanced at the southdun, which we have not space to ex- ern and quiet part of the new salient, plain in detail. The constant threat captured some 6,000 British prisonof an advance which they held out ers and a number of guns, and broke operated in no small degree to pre- the old line. The regrettable reverse

the enemy from his strong positions the war. When the year opened, Britin what would then be practically ain was still smarting under the dishis rear. The next attack accordinging race of Kut-el-Amara and the loss by was delivered between Ypres and Arras against the formidable Ses-But their revenge had been well pre-

vent reinforcement from that area of is now the subject of an inquiry and

the German lines when the British has lost several officers their com-

attack was initiated on the Flanders mands. Nevertheless the net gains

N our past reviews of world Verdun regions, the Russian revolu- side pillaged and devastated in the and produced the greatest engineer- conditions, up the Tigris a second Although Germany left her ally to Duma, backed by the army and the events, which for the last tion and subsequent collapse and de- most athless and methodical man- ing feat of the war. The whole ridge time. Success attended it from the tackle Italy alone during the sumthree years have been virtual- feat, the campaigns in Mesopotamia ner, open the fruit trees being cut was blown into the air by the suc- start, and on January 9th strong mer, Russia was already for all prac- openly that the only alternative to ly reviews of the war, we and Palentine, the great Italian re- down or mutilated. The German re- cessful explosion of 20 mines, the re- Turkish positions at Kut, now be- tical purposes out of the war, and it anarchy was a general reform, an have endeavoured to give to each treat and the entry and preparations treat spread beyond Soissons and sult of two years of secret tunnelling. sieged by General Maude's forces, is eloquent of Austria's exhaustion providentially acted just in the nick of year a distinctive name connectative of of America. But before we review ended finally when the famous Hin- The Canadians, pouring into the great were captured. Other important that she was unequal to the task even time. A little longer delay would the chief feature that has character- each of these developments in turn denburg Line was taken up. This ex- breach formed, captured Messines gains were added during that month with that advantage in her favour, have resulted in Nicholas' making ised it. Thus, from the Allies' point and in the broadest manner, devel- tended along a front running roughly and Wytschaete, advanced a consid- and February; successive lines of The fighting raged for months along separate peace with Germany. As i of view, the years 1914 and 1915, the opments great enough to mark the east of Douai, Cambrai, St. Quentin erable distance and took 8,000 prison- Turkish trenches were taken by di- the Isonzo front, from Tolmino to the was he was compelled to abdicate of year as a most momentous and his- and La Fere to the south of Laon. ers. Later the inevitable counter at- rect attack; and on February 4th the Adriatic, and the Italians literally March 15 in favour of Grand Duk almost years of pure defence. Taken toric one, we should like to express After some vigorous engagements be- tacks were repulsed and further enemy, outflanked, surrendered Kut blasted their way from position to Nicholas as Regent. A provisional unawares and unprepared, they had the opinion that it is not correct, view- tween the advanced Allied forces and progress made towards Warneton. to the British. In brilliant fashion position. By the autumn they had es- Government was formed under the to ward off the tremendous blows ing the reverses that the Allies have the German rearguards this line as- From that date, since we are only Maude drove them back into Bagdad, tablished themselves on the Carso leadership of Prince Lvoff. The which Germany struck at them in sustained towards its close, to call it sumed the rigidity of the old one, and sketching the campaign in outline, advancing on both sides of the river, plateau. Only the Hermada heights change was effected with wonderfu succession, and this they did with a an unfortunate or unfavourable one the Allies made no immediate effort to we must pass over an interval of and on March 11th he took Bagdad it- stood between them and Trieste, and quietness and little bloodshed, a testi success for which present and future to them. We believe that when the break it. An attempted diversion by fierce but comparatively unimportant self as the culmination of a really only the formidable Mount San Ga-mony to the universal feeling of the generations cannot be too thankful. end comes and historians are the enemy in a big attack on the fighting, to the opening of the real great strategic campaign. The rest briefe in the way of an advance down country. But new forces were le But they were also years of prepara- able to survey the war in its entire Verdun front was completely repulsed Flanders offensive in the third great of the Mesopotamian operations can the Chiapovano Valley, leading to the loose which soon broke out of con tion. While they held Germany at course, it will be seen that the battles by the French. Thus ended the Bat- battle of Ypres on July 31st. On a be shortly told. Maude pursued the plains and Laibach. Optimistic ob- trol. In their revolutionary enthusi bay in the West, and while Russia of 1917, and in particular the great the of the Somme in the first great of front of fifteen miles, from the Lys Turks northward up the Tigris for servers spoke of the end of the war asm the new leaders made a fata was fighting a gallant battle against offensives of the British in Flanders, fensive victory of the British advanced, some time, until the summer heat tem- being in sight with Laibach, and cer- mistake in sending the Grand Duki simultaneously with a French force porarily put a stop to the fighting. It tain it is that Austria faced a grave the same way as the Tsar. The same on their left, which made important was known that Germany and Tur- double peril. Then came the great socialistic tendency brought into It was the German boast that the gains on the Yser Canal. On August key would not consent to the loss of disillusion and counter-stroke. Ger- prominence before long the organiza-10 another attack was made, counter- Bagdad without a struggle, and Maude many saw the danger to herself, and tion of Soldiers and Workmen which forestalled and paralysed the con- attacks having been beaten off in the was prepared for a counter-offensive. was enabled by Russia's weakness to finally obtained control in Petrograd templated offensive of the British in meantime with great losses, and an- He did more than prepare, however, come to Austria's aid with a great Meanwhile it had also brought to the the West and nullified much of their other greater one on the 15th, in for he anticipated and crushed it army. Meanwhile she had employed fore the man who was to be the first which the Newfoundlanders again when, on September 29th, he sur- with no little success the same in- figure in Russia for many months distinguished themselves. In this at- prised, and surrounded, a Turkish sidious propaganda behind the Italian Kerensky. He became Minister of tack Langemarck was finally taken, force at Ramadie, on the Euphrates, lines that put the Bolsheviki in pow- War in May, and through his power have achieved far greater results if after changing hands several times, capturing their headquarters staff er in Russia, basing it, as there, on and influence with the proletarial Thereafter the story is an almost un- and utterly routing them. Following the bad economic conditions that pre- Russia repudiated the idea of a separbroken one of attack and counter up his advantage, he pushed as far vailed and the peace longing of the ate peace which thousands of German attack, the prize at stake being the north as Tekrit, on the Tigris, when people. Add to these agencies an emissaries were seeking to force upon high ground of Passchendaele and he again won a decisive victory. Con- over-confidence on Cadorna's part the people. Meanwhile the spirit of pone for a day the larger designs Poelcapelle, commanding Roulers. sidering all danger past, particularly and a very inadequate system of bas- licence and anarchy had spread to and which Haig had in mind. On April The next distinct phase came on Sep- in view of the successes in Palestine, es and supply lines, and the ground infected the army. It was not at first tember 20th, when the British attack- and having no object in advancing was prepared for the dramatic change apparent, but Germany was fully ed again with great success, taking further for the present, he then fell that came. Late in October, after aware of it. In June the Duma in Inverness and Glencopse Woods, back again, when his sudden death fooling the troops opposite them with secret session voted for an immediate Veldhoek and other places. A week robbed the army of one of its most overtures and fraternizing, the Ger- offensive, knowing that only in that who expected a continuation of the at- later progress was made along the brilliant leaders. Things did not mans threw great masses of picked way could the rapid disintegration of great opportunity for a counter-of- descended the British and French had monstrated the tremendous superior- followed on October 4th when further side of the desert. Rafa, in Egypt, Italian front, at Tolmino, and broke Brussiloff led the Russians to an atity attained by the British artillery. progress was made east of Ypres and was taken from the Turks, and the completely through it. Such was the tack in Galicia which opened as a From south of Arras to the Vimy ridge five German divisions were crushed. British began a great advance upon nature of the terrain that the whole brilliant success, the Austrian lines the British broke through the Ger- A determined attempt was made on Palestine. But, although successes Italian line was then compelled to being penetrated and a great advance man lines, taking some 9,000 pris- the 12th to storm the Passchendaele were gained against the Turks on the give way and retire, in order to avert made. But the victory was a mere scribed as the turn of the tide. If former precedent, the Entente forces man lines, taking some 9,700 prisnew fines, ta great German strongholds in the West possible conditions of the battered aiming at the capture of that city, low captured about 300,000 prisoners ed until the Russian front had become and the grave of thousands of brave ground, converted by rain into a sea failed, though reported at the time in all and a great number of guns. a long salient and then struck at both French and British soldiers, was car- of mud. This part of the front was as being successful. For his faulty Into the masterly Italian retreat flanks. Many Russian regiments, fillried completely by the Canadians, now taken over largely by the Cana- management of the campaign, Sir A. there is no need to go in detail. The ed with the new socialistic and pacific after a terrific bombardment. The dians, who had meantime all but in- Murray was relieved of his command armies were saved and preserved ideas, refused to fight and abandoned advance was pushed almost to the vested Lens and made life a hell for and Sir Edmund Allenby appointed in their continuity. Delaying actions the lines in a disgraceful retreat. A outskirts of Lens, the fall of which its defenders. To them belongs the his place. The change was fully jus- were fought on the lines of the Tag- rout followed, the enemy recovering would have threatened Lille and the credit, purchased at a heavy price, tified in its results. Fighting was im- liamento and Livenza Rivers, and a the whole of Galicia and pushing on whole German line. The German re- of finally taking Passchendaele on possible during the summer, and final stand was made on the Piave, far into the Russian province of Volsistance, however, was here very November 6th. This marks the fur- nothing of importance was reported, Meanwhile a wonderful wave of pa- hynia. Kerensky himself visited the strong, and the battle concentrated thest point of the advance to date, though there were signs of an ad- triotism, sweeping over Italy and front and succeeded by sheer personal most of its fury further to the south, and it is as far as Haig wishes to vance being prepared, until the cap- converting all parties to the one purcentering around Monchy-le-Preux, go until the ground is more favorable ture of Beersheba was announced on pose of saving the country, followed troops with some spirit of resistance. The name will be forever memorable to an attack. On the left the very November 2nd. Thereupon followed the invasion; while Britain and The Germans and Austrians, either in Newfoundland for the splendid strong Houthulst Forest still holds almost a triumphal march for the France immediately began to rush because they lacked the force to purtoo late to offset this great defection victories, Haig's troops took village deeds of the Regiment on April 14th, out, but it is commanded, as is Rou-British up the Mediterranean coast, aid. This has now arrived, in the when our lads undoubtedly saved the lers below, by the big British and assistance being lent from the sea form of several divisions of seasoned because they did not wish to antagonvillage and the British line, though at French guns. When this wood is tak- and all the impedimenta of modern troops, many guns and great stores of ise Russia into solid enmity, stopped en it will be reasonable to expect a war, including tanks, being utilized, supplies. For a time, however, the and merely to delay the great decision the whole position. The German too well. After desperate and bloody general retirement of the German too well. After desperate and bloody general retirement of the German too well. After desperate and bloody general retirement of the German too well. fighting the line settled down into the Belgian front, but in view of the Jaffa followed in quick succession, brunt of the fierce attacks of the position which it has since held with great reinforcement of the German the last sealing the fate of Jerusalem. Austro-Germans, made with the lost at a blow all the fine territorial slight change. It was a brilliant vic- lines in recent weeks, we may have Advancing northward in the interior knowledge that victory must be comtory for the British arms, and by re- to wait a long time for such a devel- and castward from Jaffa, Allenby plete to be of lasting value. They of 1916. Powerless to stem the tide ip even the broad effects of the year paume and Peronne were occupied by ducing the famous Vimy ridge reopment. The great victory of the succeeded brilliantly in cutting off the bore it magnificently, and after being of anarchy that was rising against moved one of the greatest obstacles to British at Cambrai belongs logically Turks in Jerusalem almost complete- repulsed in bloody fighting on the Allied progress in the West. But an- to this section of our review. It is ly and in forcing its surrender, with- lower River, the enemy shifted the later agreed to form a coalition govother surprise was in store for the impossible even to indicate, in so out the necessity of bombardment. It spearhead of the attack to the Asiago ernment which included many Soviet cnemy. Exactly a week after this short space, the proportions of the fell to the British on December 10th. mountains, in an effort to break into members, the Bolsheviki as they were he French advance in the Aisne and lages. They found the whole country- the Since then further advances have the Venetian plains. There also he now called. There was still a chance launched a great French attack be- fect on the war, but they have been been made to the north, and detach- was held and has been held since. The tween Soissons and Rheims, a front of very great. One of the effects was to ments of Turks rounded up to the arrival of the Franco-British rein- bungling and Kerensky's infatuation. twenty miles, carrying many positions draw the greatest German forces, in east. Indications are that the camand capturing over 10,000 prisoners. cluding their air service, to that part paign will be pushed vigorously opposed an impassable barrier in his that the only chance of salvation lay The fighting in this offensive was very of the front, and to induce them to throughout the favourable winter way. The enemy's subsequent rebitter and the losses heavy on both neglect the line further south, in the weather. The successes in Palestine verses and costly failures to break endeavoured to persuade Kerensky to sides. The French followed up the strength of which they had implicit and Mesopotamia are a great feather through, coupled with the possibility his view, but though the latter gave a victory with another advance early in confidence. This gave the British in the British cap, and it is probable of an Allied advance next spring, May, in which they captured Craonne the opportunity for one of the most that they will exert a far greater ef- have gone far to counterbalance the and established themselves firmly on brilliant strokes of the war. A great fect on the course of the war than is gains he has made in what appeared Early in September, Korniloff, the high plateau known as the Chem- force of men and an unprecedented at present apparent. But for the at first an undiluted disaster to our through what appears to have been a in des Dames. Looking some months number of tanks were assembled op- Russian collapse, much greater pro- side. ahead, we later find these gains ex- posite Cambrai, and on the morning gress would certainly have been made tended so as to command all the val- of November 20th, the British, under towards the elimination of Turkey THE RUSSIAN REVOLUTION AND rograd. The move was premature. THE ITALIAN ADVANCE AND RE-

TREAT.

While Haig and Petain were ham- sia. An intolerable state of affairs in Korniloff himself, knowing his rebelmering the German lines in the West, that country caused by widespread German defences which were captur- and in the following three or four Cadorna continued methodically the economic distress, political corruped, the French losses were very high, days lost many villages, including advance begun the summer before tion and governmental misrule, came

misunderstanding, at the head of a force of Cossacks advanced upon Pet-Kerensky was forced to oppose him, many of his forces deserted him, and he was obliged to surrender. Keren-

(Continued on 5th page.)

The most startling and momentous development of the year came in Rus- sky, however, took no action against lion was dictated by patriotism. Thereafter the story is one of a struggle between Kerensky, striving for a

Bolsheviki, becoming more insisting int in their demands as they felt the am nfluence growing. It ended, early pe eviki, headed by Lenine and Troll and the flight of Kerensky, wisar ed forces with Korniloff at firmo after failure to regain control capital, disappeared altogethtain d has not since been heard of. Suas quent events are too recent to necol unting. After some preliminariesu

nine and Trotzky proceeded arry into execution their announces esign of concluding an armistibu hich should lead to a general peacan ow far they have succeeded we ca e in the actual agreement for mistice, the large withdrawals erman and Austrian troops to tt lest, and the peace conference n ceeding at Brest Litovsk. Mea ly tile hope for Russia emerges fro e south and east, where Kaledine S etman of the Cossacks, is gatheria reasing forces behind him, with the bable ultimate purpose of seizi scow and then Petrograd. Such very brief outline of the unhap of tory of Russia in 1917.

ENTER AMERICA. Wore than offsetting the defection Russia has been the entry of the ited States on the side of the A It came in dramatic fashion agh. In December of 1916 Pres r Wilson had addressed his f s note to the warring powers su ing a basis of peace. It was n favourably received by the A

who resented being placed by virtually the same moral plane ing which it engendered toward States rapidly disappeared. ruary 1st Germany announce submarine campaign, a direct r ation of her pledges to America result the States on Februar severed diplomatic relations, ar ed the German ambassador ports. War could not be decla

ntil Congress met in April, whe n delivered his famous speed e resolution was passed in bot f s. Meanwhile a squadron yers had already been dispate British waters to help com submarines. As the States,

for her navy, concerning whi ecy is necessarily observed, l yet taken any large part in at length with her activi her preparations for the g prodigious. She represents reservoir of the Allies, bot and of food. She has approp pillions to war purposes; she atched, probably, over half on men, with equipment, ce; she has put well over a under arms at home and cities as training camps: taken over control of foodst many other supplies; she has ken a great shipbuilding

me to repair the inroads of parines: she has taken over erted to war uses the great fi emy ships interned in her por s building a huge fleet of ae s and raising an army of pil mechanics: and she has d erless other things indicative ntention to see the war throu finish and to spare no efforts ds final victory. When her es take over an increasing fronts the West and the great offens resumed, Germany will at len the extent of her folly and kn ertain fate.

> SUBMARINES AND AERONA TICS.

e two departments of warfa special notice for the dime nd importanece they attained the past year. The former,

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front in August. THE FLANDERS BATTLE.

plans. Haig's object, which he still gains, pursues, was to drive northward from Ypres towards the Dutch frontier, literally squeezing the Germans from the Belgian coast. He had first to clear

almost as much in the huge losses The fine Arras victory was but the sustained by the Germans in their ecessary preparation for larger counter attacks as in the original PALESTINE AND MESOPOTAMIA.

to the British in the Cambrai opera-

tions have been very large, consisting

The story of these campaigns is a bright one in the British records of

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