

GREAT AUSTRIAN FORTRESS FALLS INTO HANDS OF RUSSIANS

LOOKING AHEAD

No. IV.

BY H. G. WELLS

Written Expressly for The Toronto World and The London Daily News.

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LONDON, Sept. 8.—That war fog of which we heard so much lifts now a little, and we can begin to picture something of the battles that are in progress and the possibilities of the near future.

Many old prophecies have become actual and some have fallen thru a kind of conspiracy on either side to avoid methods that would have tested them. The Bloch prophecy, for instance, of invincibility of property entrenched for defensive, is one of these. I cannot understand why the French have not attempted an entrenched defence.

Opinion Sustained

On the whole, we who declared that the huge national service armies of the continent would necessarily include great masses of unskilled, that they would fight only in solid formations and immense inferiority to the specialized soldiers, such as our own, can claim to have had this opinion sustained. The strategy of the allies, which was not the English strategy, has put upon our men the obligation of difficult, unprofitable retreats, but where they have stood they have stood a line of men against a mass.

The German advantage in this great advance upon Paris has been due to these two things, plus their admirable transport methods and their superiority in aeroplanes and guns. It is indeed in these latter respects, in their elaborate equipment, their scientific arms and not in their millions of men that their real power resides. But for these two superiorities, which have nothing to do with the compulsory service, but only with the administrative efficiency, the great battle in the north of France would at the present time be a rout and massacre of the Germans.

A War in the Air
After all it becomes clear that this war is a war in the air. Its two surprises have been the vast swarm of aeroplanes that have been rapidly and secretly prepared by Germany, and the unprecedented quality of the guns whose fire is directed by these scouts. The Germans have had from the outset the command of the air, and it is only by wresting this from them that the tide of battle will be turned.

There have no doubt been isolated instances of heroic adventure on the part of French, Belgian and British aviators, but these have not affected the general German predominance. And so while the allied armies have been blind, the German have seen. It is not only the German command of the air that has been a monstrous disadvantage to allied strategy. It also has been a tremendous tactical disadvantage in every battle.

Must Regain Control
Time after time we read of the German aeroplanes soaring over our line of battle, and marking for the German guns where they must strike to be effective. Now it will be possible to write much of the management of the army aerial department. It is no secret how great a part the intelligent adventurousness of Winston Churchill has played in quickening this branch of our public service. It is no secret that England and the allies must set themselves deliberately to wrest back from the Germans the lost control of the air.

It is in the next two months, and in the air, that the fortunes of this great world battle in the west will be turned and decided. There is need for the firmest resolution; there is need for tremendous efforts; but there is no reason whatever for despair. In the air hovers the undecided issue of this war. Now let England take this opportunity of achieving the crowning glory that war will ever yield before it turns her mind to the thought and establishment of peace.

Death and Victory
Let us not leave it to the French and Russians to outdo us in this terrible and magnificent adventure. Here, on this safe island, we can build and launch aeroplanes, train our men and send them out. There will be seen in

these coming months such heroism as never has been seen in the world before. Even the men in our submarine destroyers will envy these aviators who will go up to death or victory.

It will be their task to bully the Germans out of the sky, and from what we know of the Englishmen, the Frenchmen and the Germans, when it comes to a matter of bayonet, sabre, lance or destroyer, there is left but little doubt of who will have to go. Give our men only machines enough and they will do their work, and when at last this huge German host turns homewards it must be a blind host, and it must be the allies who will soar in the heavens and sea. It must be the allies whose bombs will smash bridges, encumber railroads with shattered trains and choke roads with the wreckage of transports. This task we are asking of our aviators is one of the most dazzling and most terrible that men ever have faced. The single combats that distinguished the age of chivalry, when champion rode against champion, in front of closing hosts, were but tame exhibitions before the duels in the sky these men will have to do.

Duels in Giddy Void

Up they will go to dash themselves into Zeppelins, to slash the Zeppelin envelope with trailing knives, to outfly the hostile aeroplane and pick off the pilots in duels in the giddy void, within the sight of armies. So, at least, it seems to me, such fighting must be done. Since we have available no aeroplanes in which one man may free his hands to fire guns, at least two men must go up together in aircraft, with locked but reasonable second control, such as our teaching aeroplanes possess. Each will be an aviator, but one man must be the pilot and the other man the gun. Their mark must be the enemy's pilot and his wheel.

It may be that presently we shall find that two or three aeroplanes, acting in concert, may be able to manoeuvre more easily to a position of advantage, but, essentially, the struggle will be for the upper hand and for the first shot. Essentially it will be a duelling fight between champions.

What Must Be Done

Now the thing for us to do who sit at home is to send out men to fly and to see there is nothing left undone that will help to win and hold the control of the air. There will be no lack of men to undertake this peculiar and wonderful service. I know our stuff. But the best machines; and an unstinted supply of machines; the service of most skillful mechanics and have their aircraft equipped with the most perfect weapons.

And these aviators must be taught and trained with the utmost skill. We want no generous, blundering suicides. Every man who goes up will go up to an even chance of death. It is imperative that no lives be wasted, that every death should be a death in battle, and that no accidents, no failures of wing or engine should add to the price we must pay now for the negligence of the past.

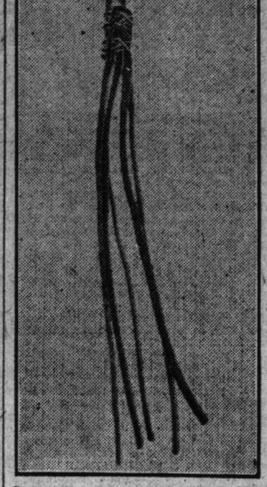
More Than Common Men

And here is something more we owe these men of honor. Our common men are brave, but these men who will fly in the air will do something more than common men. They will be the aristocrats of the army. No man will fly the worse for the knowledge that the world will regard him as such.

Whatever else is kept from us one thing must be kept in the front, and that is the story of every encounter of our men in the air, and particularly the names of the men who will do the things. There already has been printed the story of a German aviator shot dead by an Englishman in mid-air; it was a strangely impressive story for it told that the German machine volplaned to the ground and landed undamaged, steered by the grip of the dead man.

Is that a true story, and if so, who was the Englishman? Nothing can be too good for such a man. We want to make a proposal for these, who, more than any others, are destined to save Europe from Germany. Make for them an order of knighthood. Nelson could be stirred by the thought of a peerage or of Westminster Abbey.

Knighthood if He Wins.
I do not mean to reconnoitre, but to fight—will fight all the more gladly with two kindred alternatives in his mind—a prompt knighthood or the prompt payment of a generous life insurance policy to his people. Every man who goes up and destroys either aeroplanes or Zeppelins in the air



Canals in the air—this is the German warship given to Henry Smith of Sutton, Ontario, by Petty Officer Behrens of one of the warships.

should, I hold, have knighthood if he gets down alive. I will venture to say we shall create thereby the most honorable and enviable order of the world has ever seen. I know this will seem a startling suggestion to those who have forgotten what knights once were and who will think at once of party helpers and provincial mayors.

I know this is proposing to make knights out of poor men, men without means and only the training of ordinary mechanics; but is not the day of plutocracy nearly at an end, and is not a time when honors may again become honorable and the reputation of the country, long tarnished by the prostitution of its titles and distinctions to the base expedients of peace, be a little cleaned by the ennoblement of brave men?

Heroic Age Again

One talks and reads of the past heroic age, and of how the world has degenerated, but, indeed, this is the degenerate feat of the past, no battles quest or feat that man has hitherto attempted, can compare with this adventure, this urgently necessary adventure in terror, danger and splendor. And the number of young men of the army and of the navy, young men of no particular magnificence of gesture or appearance, is far in excess, alas, of the machines, we have at present available for their use.

BOGUS AMERICANS WILL BE EXCLUDED

Britain Adopts Strict Regulations to Shut Out Alien Enemies.

Canadian Associated Press Cable. LONDON, Sept. 8, 7:45 p.m.—The British Government is adopting stringent regulations in order to keep out of England alien enemies, who heretofore have been permitted to land under the guise of Americans, whose citizenship was attested by consular certificates granted on the continent.

After Sept. 14, consular certificates will not be accepted as proof of the American citizenship of those arriving from the continent, which has not been permitted to land unless they are provided with passports. This measure has been urged by the American relief committee, which has been frequently victimized by fraudulent claimants of American citizenship. These consular certificates, it is alleged, have been issued wholesale in some of the continental cities, without anything approaching an adequate investigation to determine whether the applicants for them really were Americans or entitled to American citizenship.

GERMANS FORCE GHENT TO GIVE FOOD SUPPLY

LONDON, Sept. 8.—A despatch to the Reuters Telegram Company from Ghent says that on receipt of a communication from the German commander outside of Ghent threatening bombardment if the least resistance was offered to the Germans, Burgomaster Braun proceeded alone to the German lines and negotiated terms. It was agreed that the Germans would neither enter the city nor impose a money fine provided the requirements of the Germans in the matter of food were satisfied.

AUSTRALIAN CABINET.
MELBOURNE, Sept. 8.—The Fisher cabinet includes the Hon. G. F. Pearce, minister of defense. The Right Hon. Mr. Fisher states that the war policy of the outgoing ministry will be continued unaltered.

MINISTER WHITE MUST DISCIPLINE THE CLEARING HOUSE

A proclamation, dated Sept. 3, and published in The Canada Gazette of Sept. 4, puts in force the act passed in the recent session of parliament "to conserve the commercial and financial interests" of Canada; and among other things "authorizes the making of advances to chartered banks by the issuing of Dominion notes upon approved securities, deposited with the minister of finance, of such kind and amount as may be approved by the treasury board; such advances to be repayable at such times as the board may determine, with interest at a rate to be likewise determined by the board of not less than 5 per cent. per annum."

Any bank has now the opportunity of obtaining such assistance on a direct application to the minister, and on approval of the treasury board, which includes the minister and some of his colleagues. There is to be no reference to the application to one or more bank officials selected by the minister as an advisory committee, as was the case up to last week. It will be remembered that banks objected to applications going before such advisory committee made up of men connected with other banks. The minister has dispensed therewith, and applications now go straight to the treasury board, and the securities pledged remain with the minister. We believe that applications will now be more freely made for such assistance by banks, and the money be used to help over the stringency. We have heard of some of the big banks intending to apply almost immediately for advances.

It is also announced that the treasury board will make advances under the act of provincial governments against provincial securities which cannot be sold at the present moment, thereby allowing necessary public works to be carried on.

And it is further believed that loan and building companies will be able to get assistance in a similar way. So that it would appear that Mr. White and the government are doing a lot to tide over the situation.

The act as proclaimed authorizes chartered banks to make payments in bank notes issued by such banks instead of gold or Dominion notes, but the total amount of any bank in circulation at any time shall not exceed the amount of the notes issuable under the provisions of the Bank Act and under the excess issue provision, which latter practically amounts to 30 per cent. of the paid-up capital of the banks. As a matter of fact, bank notes have been legal tender ever since the proclamation made on Aug. 3 last, and are now, as stated above, legal tender under the recent act; and they are legal tender in every place in the country with the single exception of the clearing house, where the banks make daily settlements with one another and where each bank has to pay its debit balance in gold and not in its own bank notes, those these have been declared legal tender. As was pointed out in our columns the other day, the banks consider that this arrangement is a matter strictly among themselves; as we stated, we do not accept this explanation, because we know that as long as bank notes are not legal tender in the clearing house a number of banks will not take advantage of the excess circulation provision, although it has been duly authorized by parliament to help out the situation. Our contention is that if the minister of finance would intimate to the banks that bank notes must be legal tender in the clearing house, the result would be that the banks would put out anything up to \$40,000,000 of additional circulation to the advantage of business men and other customers of the banks who need money to get over the stringency. The dispute thus created is one of the highest importance, and the minister and the government must insist on the change that we have suggested if they desire the public to get the full benefit of the legislation, both as to legal tender and excess issue. A fuller explanation might take up too much space, but The World knows what it is talking about when it says that a number of banks would help their customers with excess circulation immediately if they could get away from their difficulty of taking care of their notes in the clearing house by putting up gold or its equivalent daily.

Of course we have pointed out that one way of getting around the action of the obstructing banks who are standing out against accepting bank notes in the clearing house would be for the minister and the treasury board to convert bank notes intended for excess circulation into Dominion notes, and for them to pay 5 per cent. thereon, as they have to pay on their excess circulation. This would remove the difficulty at once as far as excess circulation is concerned, and the bank or banks who are encouraged to do this would set a good example and afford a substantial relief to the business community.

And if the minister has any intention of ever having a national currency take the place of a bank-note currency, this would be the entering of the wedge. Change like this in the past have been gradual, and not of a sweeping character, as, for instance, the retirement of a lot of the bank notes in England a good many years ago and ultimately to the exclusion of all bank notes, except those of the Bank of England.

But we say to Mr. White that if he wants his excess circulation used he must also insist on his other relief proposition, that of making bank notes legal tender, that the banks accept them among themselves as legal tender.

Canada is not the only place where banks have interfered with public needs. Listen to this from The London Daily News and Leader:

And it is remarkable that whatever the subject, the emergency exit is always collectivism. Take the question of finance. Walter Besant said long ago that the art of banking consisted in taking other people's money, and using it for your own profit. In a general way we know that the entire was not very extravagant, but the system worked, and there seemed no real conflict between finance, which is the symbol, and commerce, which is the reality.

But the time of stress has brought a swift disillusion. It is found that the private control of the sources of money supply may have disastrous effects upon industry in a crisis—that just when money is most needed for trade it may be withheld for private and even selfish reasons. Many of the banks have behaved well, and others have behaved badly; but the discovery that any of them could hoard not their own money, but other people's money, and keep it out of use at a moment when its use was the most urgent need of society has shown that the present financial system cannot remain unaltered. Already the state has had to come to the relief of the situation. Mr. Lloyd George has given the banks the credit of the national treasury, that is, the security of the whole nation for their operations. But obviously the matter cannot rest there. If the banks are only institutions for making profits for their shareholders in times of prosperity, and close their purses when the pinch comes, only opening them on our collective security, it is clear that the function of the state, in the sphere of finance is paramount and that it must exercise that function when times are good as well as when times are bad.

A Call to Prayer

There will be held today at 12 o'clock noon a prayer meeting on behalf of the nations in new St. Andrew's Church (corner of King and Simcoe), under the auspices of the Toronto Presbytery. Rev. A. L. Geggie will preside. The gathering will be addressed by the Rev. Fred Law, Rev. Dr. A. Robertson, J. Neil, J. A. Turnbull, R. P. Mackay will also take part. Dr. Anderson will preside at the organ, and will be assisted in the praise service by the church choir. The above prayer meeting will be one of many held today on behalf of the distressed nations. A hearty welcome is extended to all to these services.

Quarter Million Russians Now Fighting in France?

LONDON, Sept. 8.—A Post correspondent writing from a point not given in the despatch has seen a letter from a high German officer invaded home, in which he states: "The war is not going quite as we expected, and the resistance of the allied forces is extraordinary. We are beginning to feel nervous as to results. The German losses are terrible, so

RESIGNATIONS REPORTED OF GERMAN MINISTERS
Canadian Press Despatch. ROME, Sept. 8.—According to a despatch from Berlin to The Messenger a serious controversy has arisen between the German emperor and Chancellor von Bethmann-Hollweg and Minister of Foreign Affairs von Jagow, the two ministers being regarded as responsible for the breakdown of German diplomacy which led to the coalition of European states against Germany. It is reported, according to the published despatch, that their resignations have been tendered.

GENERAL RUZSKY ATTACKS AUFFENBERG'S ARMY
Russians Seek to Annihilate Austrian War Minister's Force.
LONDON, Sept. 8.—A despatch from Rome to the Exchange Telegraph Co. says:

The agreement referred to in the foregoing despatch would appear to be confirmatory of previous reports, notably today from Rome, that Russian forces have landed in Belgium. "A telegram from Vienna states that Gen. Ruzsky, who, following the capture of Lemberg, executed a flank attack northward against the Austrians under Gen. Auffenberg, the Austrian war minister, is today engaged in a desperate attempt to annihilate Auffenberg's army. "The battle has already continued three days, and is likely to continue several more."

IRON HEEL PLANTED ON CAPTURED TOWNS

Proclamations Issued By Arrogant Germans Warning Belgians That Hostages and Citizens Generally Are Liable to Execution if Demands Are Not Fully Met.

Canadian Press Despatch. BERLIN, Sept. 8.—The commanders of the German troops are issuing a proclamation to the inhabitants of every hostile town they occupy, as follows: "Citizens.—A body of the German army under my command has occupied your city. Inasmuch as the war is carried on only between the armies, I guarantee in due form the life and private property of all the inhabitants under the following conditions: 1.—The inhabitants must strictly avoid every hostile act against the German troops. 2.—Food and forage for our men and horses are to be furnished by the inhabitants. Every such delivery will be paid for at once in coin, or a receipt will be issued, to be redeemed after the termination of the war. 3.—The inhabitants are to house our soldiers and horses in the best manner and keep their houses lighted at night. 4.—The inhabitants are to put the roads in a passable condition, to remove all obstacles erected by the enemy, and to give the best support to our troops in order that they may be able to fulfill their task, doubly difficult in a hostile land. 5.—It is forbidden to collect in crowds on the streets, to ring the bells

or to communicate with the enemy in any way whatever. 6.—All weapons in possession of the inhabitants are to be handed over at the town hall within two hours. 7.—The mayor, the churchmen and four well reputed citizens are to appear before me at once to act as hostages during the stay of the troops. 8.—Under these conditions I repeat it—the lives and private property of the inhabitants are perfectly secure. The strict discipline to which our soldiers are accustomed even renders it possible that no inhabitant will be compelled to neglect his business affairs, or to desert his home and hearth. On the other hand I shall adopt the most stringent measures as soon as the above conditions are not observed. In this respect I shall hold the hostages in the first instance responsible. Besides this, every citizen will be held liable to neglect his business affairs, or to desert his home and hearth. 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