

# THE CANADIAN COURIER

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## Diameter and Circumference

**A** GUN-MAN besieged in a house may give ten policemen a bad experience just rushing across the house from window to window with his gun. He may kill half those policemen before enough reserves are brought up to storm the house—in which case the gun-man is usually found dead when the house is broken in.

Germany and Austria are, to a great extent, in that kind of house. With all the adjacent territories across which they have flung their battle-fronts, they are a vast besieged city of two countries. They are doing their best to break the siege. And as any German war-lord knew when he was knee-high to a grasshopper, it takes at least three men to one and three times the weight in the force conducting the siege to bring the city to terms by means of it. A besieged city can rush forces from side to side, and from point to point in the circumference just by transporting across the diameter, which is one-third the circumference of any circle. A besieged country with a railway system in perfect organization as Germany's can do the same thing. Germany is doing it. The violent offensive at Verdun, at the Ypres salient, on the Austro-Italian frontier, on the North Sea by means of the German Navy, are all phases of how she is using the diameter

of a circle against the circumference. Time is the essence of the contract in mobility of war-mechanism. The army that can land the most men and munitions at a given point in the least space of time is—other things being equal—the army that can force a decision. With her war-machine radiating from a common centre—at Berlin—Germany has been in a position to set the pace in this war. After the first setback at the Marne she was able to force the Allies into trench warfare. The trenches of the Allied armies marked the place where the wall of the besieged city begins. Not military science but common sense teaches any observer that to break through those walls, to crumple up any part of that line, imposes a similar ratio of weight in both men and munitions on the besieging force as in the case of a beleaguered city.

Germany knows she is in a state of siege by land and sea. At what other points from time to time she decides to try breaking through that wall, no one can tell but the German war-lords themselves. So long as the Germans have relative weight enough in men and munitions to act on the offensive while they are themselves in a state of siege, so long will they be able to force the pace—but no longer.

