

Greatest Battle the World Will Ever See

ONLY TWO WAYS IN WHICH THE WAR CAN END.

By JAMES DOUGLAS.

Germany's prayer for peace is inspired by fear, and by fear alone. Of what? Defeat. For her almost any kind of peace is preferable to military defeat, for she could ascribe it to our blockade. Military defeat spells disaster for her dynasty, for her war lords and for her world prestige. The Germany which would emerge from it would be a different Germany.

The Germans were soundly thrashed on the Somme. Their finest troops were broken by blows which enabled the French to shatter them finally at Verdun. The German Army will never recover from the pounding it got between July and November on the Somme. It is a dying army. It is not fit to fight the great British Army which is preparing to join its death-blow.

The Verdun and Somme battles were greater than any battles in this war of great battles, but they will be far surpassed in magnitude by the battles of 1917 all along the Western front. The war will be decided in these battles. Germany is trying hard to open up peace negotiations before they begin. Desperately she is searching for any and every means of escape from them. Her frantic conquest of Roumania is an attempt to knock out Russia and force peace upon the Allies before the German military power is destroyed in France.

Germans Know What to Expect.

The breathing space granted to her by the winter may be brief, but she imagines. I heard the British artillery on the Somme in September. It was more awe-inspiring than any words could suggest. Compared to it the most violent thunderstorm is like the mew of a kitten. It seemed impossible to imagine any increase in its volume.

But the massed guns that the British Army will use in 1917 will make the massed guns of 1916 sound like popguns. The increase in our gun power will be utterly unimaginable. The Germans know what to expect, and they are afraid. The German Army in France and Flanders will be subjected to a steady rain of steel, not for weeks, but for months. The steel rain will rain every day from dawn till dark. The German Army will be forced to bear what it bore on the Somme multiplied a hundredfold, and it will be slowly pounded to pieces by gunners who are no longer amateurs, but veterans. Its quality as well as its quantity will decline. Its last reserves will be sucked into the melting rampart. The cohesion and discipline of the great German military machine will be destroyed, and the greatest military catastrophe in the annals of war will be witnessed by the world.

There are pessimists who predict a draw on the Western front. They base their arguments upon the impregnable strength of the modern defensive against the modern offensive. But

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ZAM-BUK

they overlook the new factor of 1917—the superior power of the British Army in men and in munitions. The Battle of the Somme was not a true offensive. It was a defensive-offensive, undertaken with the object of relieving the pressure on Verdun, on the Russians and on the Italians. The 1917 offensive will be carried out by a British Army numbering not less than two millions in conjunction with the French Army. It will be a multiple offensive aimed, not at a short thirty-mile sector of the German line, but at the whole German line, with the fixed determination to destroy the German masses where they stand.

The Verdun Method.

The new tactical method employed by General Nivelle at Verdun will be adopted. The losses sustained by the attacking troops will be reduced to the lowest possible figure, for it will be a battle of big guns in which the British and the French will possess a crushing superiority. The Germans will strain every nerve to mass gun against gun, but they cannot overcome the lead already established by the Allies. It is too great, and it is increasing too rapidly and out-manned. And they will be pitting a half-beaten, old and war-weary German Army against a fresh, young and vigorous British Army.

Another factor which will tell heavily against the Germans in 1917 is their new railway organisation. The transport problem will be solved. While the Germans will be pinned to their positions, our army will be free to strike where it pleases, when it pleases and how it pleases. Its guns and its munitions as well as its men will be mobile. Its reserves will be ample. The darned and patched German divisions will be used up, and there will be no mass of manoeuvre behind them. It is difficult to believe that the progressively weakened German Army will be able to stand the strain.

The superiority of the British in air work will be intensified. There are gloomy rumours with regard to the new German type of aeroplane—the Halberstadter. I am told that some of our slow types are obsolescent. But we have had full warning, and I decline to believe that our pilots will be handicapped with inferior machines. They won the command of the air in the Somme battles. They will keep it unless there is criminal sloth and negligence at home, a thing which at this time of day is unthinkable. I shall never forget the talks I had with some of our haughty young pilots on the Somme. These marvellous boys gravely apologised because they could not show me in the sky either a German aeroplane or a German observation balloon! And I saw great bodies of our troops moving about within range of the German guns in perfect security, because the German gunners were air-blind.

Thousands of Tanks in Action.
Air work is eyesight, so far as the gunner is concerned. Artillery which has lost the command of the air is blind artillery. And blind artillery is like a boxer who fights with bandaged eyes. No artillery can stand against a superior artillery that has secured the mastery of the air.

The battles of 1917 will be battles of tanks as well as battles of guns and aeroplanes. There will be thousands of tanks in action. The German tanks will make their debut, for the Germans are prompt copyists. I have no doubt that they will try to provide tank-destroyers. But we have secured the advantage of the initiative. And the tank is the weapon of the attacker, rather than that of the defender. His function is to complete the havoc wrought by high explosives. A stationary tank is only an armoured house. Moreover, a tank on the de-

fensive cannot be quickly transferred to another point. Tanks cannot be used like machine guns. The enemy cannot stand his whole front with tanks.

It must also be remembered that the Anglo-French offensive will be co-ordinated with the Russian and Italian offensives. There will be a converging pressure upon the Central Powers. In order to break it up Hindenburg will probably try to destroy the Russian Armies. He may also attack Sarraïl, Haussouka. He may try to overwhelm the Italians. He may even threaten Egypt. But there is not much time left for any of these secondary diversions. It is also possible that he may endeavour to shake our nerves and derange our plans by using the German Fleet to cover a raid on these islands. Or he may violate Swiss neutrality. But these would be desperate enterprises, and Hindenburg is an Easterner, not a Westerner. The whole history of the war turns upon German vacillation between the Western and Eastern fronts. The Western school crippled Hindenburg right up to the crowning disaster of Verdun. Since then Hindenburg has crippled the Western school. He has for the moment secured the German mastery over Middle Europe and the Balkans, and if he could get peace now Germany would be supreme from the Baltic to Baghdad. But Russia is unconquered and unconquerable, and the life-blood of Germany is oozing out in France.

Her fate, therefore, will be decided this spring and summer on the Western front. And the main factor in the decision will be the British Army. There is an Eastern school in this country which would dissipate our military power by an offensive at Salonika. Happily, the Western school has been too strong for it. The German masses are in France. Victory there means victory everywhere. Victory elsewhere means nothing, just as reverses elsewhere mean less than nothing. The future of the Balkans will be moulded in France in 1917 by the greatest battle of nations the world will ever see. Into that battle we must put every gun and every man.

I confess that the vista of bloodshed appals me. It may well appeal the Kaiser. He may accept the terms of the Allies rather than face the carnage of 1917. For the sake of the innocent millions whose lives are the stake, I pray that the Imperial gambler may make his peace with man, if not with God. But if he hardens his heart, like Pharaoh, we must march through the Red Sea and the wilderness of war into the Promised Land.

Another Lively Game of Hockey

The Terra Novas maintained their reputation last evening and won a decided victory over the St. Bon's. Unexpectedly, the latter team made a surprisingly good showing, particularly in the first half. There was a change in both line-ups, which were:

Terra Novas.	St. Bon's.
Goal	Power
Point	Edens
Cover	Knigh
Tobin	Rover
Watts	McGettigan
Clouston	Centre
Trappell	Left
	McGrath

Sellers Kelly
Mr. Charles Parsons refereed and Messrs. Ellis and Crawford acted as Timekeepers.

The game began briskly. The Terra Novas scored through Sellers and Clouston in turn and Kelly registered No. 1 for the St. Bon's. During the second period the Bonas got slightly out of kilter and fooled each other by bunching on the ice. Tobin and Watts made several effective runs, as a result of which Clouston scored four consecutive goals. The total was Terra Novas, 6 goals; St. Bon's, 1.

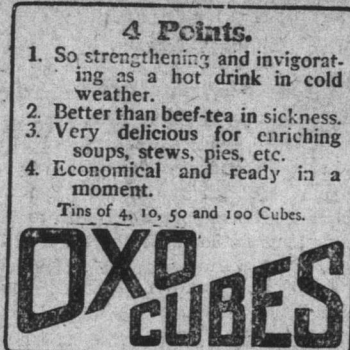
NOTES ON THE GAME.

Watts, Tobin and Trappell played a fine game. Barrett did well for his first appearance. Clouston is a star centre. He is always on deck when wanted.

McGettigan, Power and Kelly were the defenders of St. Bon's. Rivalry is all right if it is friendly, but some of the players must cut out that bitter antagonism and abandon the idea of trying to put an opposing player out.

The Victorias and Felidians will cross sticks to-morrow night. We are glad to be able to say that the report that Brendan Sinnott was seriously ill is baseless. We got our information from a supposedly reliable source. Sinnott will play with the Vics to-morrow.

In view of the fact that the proceeds of the proposed series of games are to be devoted to the W. P. A. Funds, the ladies will have to assume the responsibility re transportation, etc., of the N. S. visiting team. The League will run off the games for the ladies.



War History Committee Meets.



A meeting of the special committee of the Patriotic Association appointed to collect records and other material relative to the work and history of the Newfoundland Regiment and Naval Reserve was held last night in the Board of Trade Rooms. The vice-chairman, Mr. G. J. Adams, presided and there were present besides the Hon. Secretary, Mr. L. E. Emerson, and Messrs. C. H. Hutchings, Deputy Colonial Secretary Mew, Dr. V. P. Burke, Surgeon Major Macpherson, W. J. Higgins, J. E. Peters, D. M. Baird, H. A. Winter, C. J. Fox, Dr. Mosdell, W. Howley, C. E. Hunt and P. K. Devine. To avoid confusion the above name was adopted for the Committee by resolution. Considerable preliminary business was done and a number of sub-committees were appointed to handle specific matters. Regular monthly meetings will be held until the growth of business requires more constant co-operation. There are indications that the very important work of this committee will be undertaken vigorously and efficiently, and plans have been outlined whereby the assistance of the general public will be enlisted. The meeting adjourned until Thursday, February 22nd.

Entertainments at Grand Falls.

Mrs. John Baxter with the "Sparklet" Variety Troupe arrived from Grand Falls by Saturday's train. They speak most highly of the hospitable treatment they received at the hands of everybody in the Paper Town. Over 150 employees of the A. N. D. Co. are at the front and not only are their jobs ready for them on their return but they are kept on full pay by the Company while they are with the Regiment. In order to cheer and brighten up the relations they have left behind, Lord Rothermere instructed the local manager to procure entertainment for them. Mr. Scott put it in the hands of Mrs. Baxter and she, as usual, filled the bill. The members of the Troupe who visited Grand Falls were Mr. and Mrs. Baxter, Mrs. R. C. Grieve, Misses Emilie Mare, D. C. Johnston, Agnes Hayward and Joan Rendell, Messrs. W. R. Warren, F. J. King, L. E. Emerson and F. R. Emerson. Mrs. (Dr.) Chamberlain also lent her beautiful voice to the programme which consisted of two farces, songs, instrumental solos and duets, and dances. The various members were very well received and the Sparklets did their best to make each production as good as possible. A performance was given on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday evenings, and a matinee on Wednesday afternoon. A full house was present on each occasion and the attendance testified to their pleasure by continued applause. On Friday the party were taken to a logging camp and after a pleasant evening left for St. John's early Saturday morning. The troupe are most outspoken of the pleasant way in which they were received and looked after. Nothing was too much to do for them and Mr. and Mrs. Scott, Mr. Philip and their assistants were indefatigable in their efforts to please their guests—efforts, needless to say, which were most successful.

Flattering to the Original

But Imitations Only Disappoint

There are many imitations of this great treatment for coughs, colds, croup, bronchitis and whooping cough. They are usually have some sale on the merits of the original, but it should be remembered that they are like it in name only.

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LADIES' WOOLLEN HOSE, Black. Reg. Price 70c. Now 50c.

EXTRA SPECIAL!

Misses' Black Cloth Skirts,
Just a few left, selling to-day
50 Cents.

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In Milady's Boudoir.



It is not only our emotions that find us out in the etchings on the face, but the high tension under which many of us live. So soon as the nerve force becomes impaired, lines form in the face and nerves and muscles become tense and features grow angular. Speed is the slogan of the hour; house-keepers, business women, and society devotees fall under its spell. The needless burning out of the vitality naturally wears off tissues and soon firm flesh becomes flabby and a young face assumes the aspect of age. To merely lament of these falling charms and accept the inevitable is the course hundreds of women pursue until brought to a realization of their folly.

Then in their dismay and serious alarm, they expect miracles to happen with a few massage treatments, after years of neglect and indifference. It is much easier to erase lines just forming or slight furrows than deep-set ones, especially after the first

blush of youth is but a memory. The thin woman will find her skin is more inclined to wrinkle than a plump or admittedly fleshy one, because the flesh is firm.

Where the purse is sufficiently elastic, two treatments a week for a month or six weeks make an excellent foundation, and with the assistance of a guide chart a woman may continue the treatments in her own boudoir.

As a preliminary to the massage movements, before they are commenced, the skin should be especially prepared for the work. The face is thoroughly cleansed with warm water and a good soap, one that agrees with the skin. Rinse thoroughly in tepid water and dry then for a moment or two go over the face with the tips of the fingers in massage movements to get the circulation up. A cleansing cream may be substituted in place of the face bath if so desired. It is then carefully removed from the pores with a bit of absorbent cotton, the skin is then ready for massage.

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"I would say that I do not know of a medicine that has stood the test of time like MINARD'S LINIMENT. It has been an unfailing remedy in our household ever since I can remember.

GREAT COMEDY AT ROSSLEYS.

The laughable farce comedy "Married by Telephone," at the British Theatre was a big feature. Not only were the many laughable incidents in this unusual farce greeted with spontaneous applause but Mrs. Rossley and Miss Bonnie Rossley together with Mr. Edmund Fox and Miss Carolyn Carr gave a spirited performance of their respective roles and it was the consensus of opinion that this quartette is indeed a hard combination to equal. Miss Bonnie Rossley also introduced some popular vocal numbers that made a great hit with the audience, and it is safe to say that hundreds of delighted patrons will "pack their troubles in their old kit bag" at the British Theatre to-night, and Wednesday matinee and night performances. The pictures are splendid. The four narratives by the Lubin Co., an educational film of butterflies that every person should see. On Friday night will be patriotic night when all returned soldiers and sailors will be admitted free.