

THE Charlottetown Guardian

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SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 28TH, 1914. THE KHEDIVE OF EGYPT

Part of the German method of warfare is to try to stir up trouble in the countries of the Allies. Just before the outbreak of the war a ship load of Indians was sent to British Columbia, where it was known admission would be refused them, in the hope that the refusal would foment discontent or possible rebellion in India. It was suspected at the time and has since been officially proved, that this was a German trick.

The Germans were also at the bottom of the illstarred rebellion in South Africa. They also succeeded in raising a little disturbance in Petrograd. Later they called to their assistance the unspeaking Turk in the hope that a Mohammedan rising would be the result. They are now, through Turkish and German agents, busy urging the Egyptians to seize the present opportunity to rebel against British authority. They have so far succeeded in enlisting the sympathy of the Khedive. This personage is now in Constantinople and is preparing to lead the Ottoman army into Egypt.

He accuses the British of not allowing him to return to his own country and he desires revenge. The Frankfurter Zeitung publishes an interview granted by the Khedive to its Constantinople correspondent, in which he is reported as saying among other things: "Today Turkey and England are at war. A mighty expedition against Egypt is being prepared whose object is to put an end to the temporary occupation of that country by the English and to restore the situation to that which existed before 1882. I do not for a moment doubt the complete success of this expedition, still less the enthusiastic reception which the glorious Imperial troops can reckon on in my country from all classes of the population of Egypt. My people and I are permeated by the principles of our religion. We know perfectly well that it is our highest duty toward the head of the faithful. I am now preparing to accompany the Ottoman army on its march to Egypt and, with God's help I anticipate a speedy success for their plans."

His country, it may be remarked, which is in the northeastern part of the Continent of Africa, is in a peculiar position today with respect to the war. The extravagances of the Khedive Ismail a generation ago made Egypt bankrupt. An enormous amount of money was owed in Europe, and to bring order out of financial chaos France and Great Britain stepped in and compelled Ismail to abdicate. In 1879 the administration was reorganized by the intervening nations, Major Evelyn Baring and M. de Bignonieres being the representatives of Great Britain and France respectively. Two years later a revolt broke out, and as the French government declined to intervene to restore order, a British expedition was despatched and re-established the Khedival authority. As a consequence the dual control was abolished and a British financial adviser was appointed in 1883. A year later Sir Evelyn Baring, formerly controller-general, became British consul-general, and the expeditionary force that had suppressed the rebellion remained as an army of occupation. Through the Mahdi revolt the territory known as the Sudan provinces was temporarily lost. Abbas II, the present Khedive, succeeded Tewfik in 1892. In 1907 Sir Eldon Gorst succeeded Baring, who had been created Lord Cromer, as British agent and consul-general. Earl Kitchener succeeded to Cromer when the latter died. Today Egypt is a semi-independent state of the Ottoman Empire under British control, and occupied by a British army. The Khedive is in Constantinople and is not likely to get home for some time yet. The peace effective of the Egyptian army is limited to 18,000 men and it is partly officered by British soldiers. The British army of occupation last year was over 6,000 men, but now it is larger. According to the 1907 census there were in Egypt 11,387,359 inhabitants, of whom 10,466,286 were Mohammedans. It is among these that the attempt is being made to preach a holy war in the interest, of course, of Turkey and Germany. It should be interesting to watch the result. The army of occupation has been greatly strengthened, and no doubt will be more than able to deal with any trouble that arises. The Khedive's prospects look very gloomy, from afar at any rate.

OPTIMISM

The United States is experiencing signs of a business revival. It is not a manufactured optimism that is flooding the newspapers. Signs of brightening skies are visible at many points of the horizon.

The war dealt the country a heavy blow, as it was inevitable that it should, but it did not shatter the foundation of American prosperity. The year is one of great crops. But for the uncertainties and dislocations caused by the war, there is every indication that they would have been by now in the midst of boom times. Even as it is, the solid elements of national wealth and of stability are making themselves felt.

Note, for example, the marked turn for the better in the cotton market, which was regarded up to a few weeks ago as in a desperate plight. Those directly concerned are more and more fixing their eyes on the reassuring features of the situation. Cotton is not perishable; it is not a crop that has to be sold at once or lost. Moreover, cotton exports are being resumed on a satisfactory scale and the whole aspect of the trade is greatly improved.

It is easy to multiply instances of trade and manufacturing developments that make the prospect look rosy. The main point is that the people seem now bent on taking note of the hopeful signs.

Americans seem to feel, these days, that they can stand a lot of cheering up, and they are bidding each other to hope rather than to fear. They are not doing this on any fixed plan, least of all in pursuance of any theory. If they are psychologists in it they do not know it. In their grow-

ing optimism the people are taking a practical view of a practical situation. Canadians would do well to imitate them, as American prosperity is reflected in Canada.

GERMAN EFFECTIVENESS

The special correspondent of the London Morning Post at Belgian headquarters, has communicated to his paper some highly interesting and instructive information regarding the studious war preparations of the German Army and the actual efficiency of that body in active service. The correspondent writes:

"A general impression of German war tactics after some ten weeks' observation in the field leaves these two points outstanding: (1) the wonderful thoroughness of preparation on the part of the German nation for this war; and (2) the failure of the German nation to assert a superiority over, or even an equality with, its British, French, and Belgian antagonists in unforeseen contingencies calling for individual initiative.

In all that could be provided for by thought before hand, in all the book-work and routine of war, on the matters of discipline and of equipment, the German force was generally above criticism. In those other things which tell of the character of a race, of its native wit, and its natural courage the German has taken second place to the Belgian, the Frenchman, the British man. Constantly, therefore, in considering the German at war—apart from the strategy of his campaign, which is outside the scope of this article—one is moved to astonishing alterations of applause and censure.

But perhaps there is an explanation which will do away with the astonishment. It was impossible that an intelligent and methodical people should devote their whole energies to the perfection of a plan of aggressive war without securing great results; but impossible also that this devotion to a single and inhuman end should not have de-humanized the people, somewhat lowered their general intelligence, injured their spirit of initiative. To train for the defence of one's own country is, I suppose, an almost necessary part of intelligent life. But to submit to a military despotism for the sake of organizing a war of conquest over one's neighbours must spoil the citizen, somewhat in drilling the soldier. Germany has profited in the field by the scientific exactness of her slavishly-drilled people. She has lost in the field by the failure of these people under circumstances when equipment failed and a "common-sense shift" was called for, when obedience was not sufficient and an individual plan and judgment was called for.

In regard to equipment, the first days of the campaign disclosed how perfected was the German war machine in this regard. The first German dead gave up many secrets. The German soldier was clothed in cloth of a colour which on the average of European days gives a greater degree of invisibility than khaki. This cloth was excellently woven to withstand weather and strain. Each soldier carried in his pocket-knife a little equipment for mending his clothes (as also a little first-aid Red Cross bandage of adhesive plaster).

His boots were of wonderfully strong and supple leather, such boots as only civilians in good circumstances can buy. His valise of cowhide tanned, with the hair on, was most ingeniously furnished with straps and removable bolts of white metal for ease of carrying and ease of packing and unpacking. Its contents, disposed in various little cupboards, gave the maximum of food reserves and clothing comforts for the space of weight. Quite regardless of the value of the soldier's life at the critical moment of an action, the German plan at least equipped him perfectly at the outset, even with materials to facilitate the work of pillage and incendiarism which has been mapped out for him. The order-book of officers and non-commissioned officers showed the same meticulous devotion to detail. During the years of preparation the German mind evidently devoted itself with passionate industry to providing for every possible emergency of the soldier's life in the field.

As the equipment was the zenith, the cavalry tactic was the Nadir of the German army. Whether against the Belgian, French or British cavalry the German cavalry was always inferior. The much-advertised Uhlans might, appear from some episodes to have done good, during work. But in real fact they were simply shot out from headquarters like stones from a catapult, recklessly, non-intelligently, to raid somewhere, anywhere. With so many of them out they had to blunder on some success. In the aggregate their record was one of failure. Repeatedly they were trapped and almost exterminated by far inferior forces (I recall one instance of many near Ormael when six Belgian cyclists ambushed twenty-five Uhlans and killed thirteen of them without suffering any loss).

FRIENDLY ENEMIES

There is something pathetic in the scraps of news that occasionally reach us from the war telling of the soldiers of the contending armies fraternizing with each other during intervals in the fighting. A French soldier binds up the wounds of a German whom he finds suffering; a German gives a drink from his waterbottle to a thirsty Englishman; Highlander "swaps" his bonnet for a German helmet, and so on.

They are all human, neither can blame the other for the war that makes it a duty to kill him and that imposes a like duty on the other. But this is war and sentiment only finds exercise during the infrequent intervals in the fighting. Individually and collectively the combatants hold no animosity against the men whom it is their duty to kill. Continued warring, the loss of comrades, the hardships that come from the opposing lines no doubt eventually enkindle a passion which will burn into a flame of national hatred which will continue and which during the war will result in cruelties. This is the de-humanizing side of war and one of its evils.

NOTES

Twelve players met death on the football field in the United States during the season just closed, and the number of injured was in proportion. While the record is not as bad as that of the last few years there is still much room for improvement. Sport should not mean death to some of the sportsmen.

The wise suggestion has been made that the thousands of women in this country who are knitting hoods and mufflers for the Belgians in dark grey (the German khaki color) should insert one or more distinct white stripes—to prevent their sharing the fate of the Belgian's food and money. A hood stolen by an infantryman, would thus make him a sufficiently prominent object to carry with it its own punishment. Otherwise all the "Belgian relief hoods" will be "on the firing line" within ten days of distribution, and doing service for those who have made Belgian relief necessary.

HAPPENINGS OF THE WEEK

Miss Gertrude Davies, who has been spending the past year in Oxford, England, has returned home and will remain for some time with her parents, Sir Louis and Lady Davies, in Ottawa.

Mr and Mrs Clement Flood, of St John, are among the new-comers to Charlottetown, and are receiving a hearty welcome to social circles.

Mrs E. F. Winslow, of Victoria, B.C., who has been visiting relatives in Prince Edward Island leaves on the 30th for her home in the West, accompanied by Miss Edith Gregory, Montreal, who will spend the winter in British Columbia with her brother, Judge Francis B. Gregory.

Her many friends deeply regret that Miss Trpmaine met with a very distressing accident a few days ago, which will confine her to her room for some weeks.

A very prettily arranged bridal reception this week was that of Mrs Parker Ritchie's, held at the home of her parents, Mr and Mrs Lowe. Mrs Ritchie, who was handsomely gowned in yellow satin, was assisted in receiving by her mother.

Miss Joyce Davies, who has been the guest of her uncle and aunt, Sir Louis and Lady Davies, for the past few months, is leaving for her home in Hampshire, England, next week.

Mrs Bulman has gone to Boston for the winter months, and will be greatly missed by her friends.

Mrs George E. Auld and Miss Auld have returned from spending two weeks in Halifax with Mr Ernest Auld, who is doing garrison duty in that city.

Captain Stanley received a most cordial welcome from home friends on his arrival from Canso this week. Captain Stanley, who leaves shortly for the war zone, will be sincerely missed in musical and social circles here, where he is a genuine favourite, and will be followed by many earnest good wishes, as he is a young officer highly esteemed by "his men" and citizens in general. His brother, Mr Harry Stanley, is also home from Canso on a short furlough.

Premier Mathieson was attending Supreme Court in Summerside this week.

Major Leigh has left to do garrison duty at Canso, accompanied by Mrs Leigh, who will spend the winter months with her husband.

Sir Wilfred Sullivan was the recipient of two congratulatory telegrams while in attendance at the Supreme Court in Summerside this week, congratulating him on his knighthood. The old Chief seems younger than ever, and evidently has no desire for dolce far niente yet awhile.

The Christmas feeling is now filling the air, and everyone's thoughts are turning to that festive season. This year preparations have been started somewhat earlier, as parcels, boxes, etc., intended for the front at the front and at Salisbury Plains have to be sent off within the next few days to ensure their arrival in time for Christmas Day. If all accounts are true, the Island boys will have well-filled stockings for Christmas, while several schemes are being forwarded so that Christmas joys may also reach the Belgians in their far off country.

Miss Bayfield is the guest of Miss Kitty Peters for a few days.

Mr and Mrs Edward Bayfield and Miss Bayfield, who have spent the past summer in Charlottetown, leave Monday morning to spend the winter in Vancouver.

Under the auspices of the Charlottetown branch of the Red Cross Society, sewing bees have been held every afternoon and evening during the past week at the residence of Mrs A. A. Bartlett, for the purpose of filling a rush order received from St John, N.B., for belts for the soldiers of the second contingent, who will shortly leave for the front. Mrs Bartlett was assisted by a willing and energetic number of ladies, who succeeded in making one hundred belts in this short time.

CHANNEL ISLAND LEASED BY GERMAN.

LONDON, Nov. 27.—The Island of Herm, one of the Channel group off the coast of Guernsey, which is less than one square mile in area, has been occupied by British troops as a precaution against its possible use by Germany.

Some time ago a mild agitation was started on the ground that the Island was leased to Prince von Blucher, a descendant of the famous German Commander at the battle of Waterloo. A wireless plant was found there shortly after the outbreak of the war, and was destroyed.

Reginald McKenna, Home Secretary explained in the House of Commons that a German Company had leased the island as far back as 1886. This company, in turn, leased it to Prince von Blucher, who, though placing certain restrictions, allowed tourists to land in some cases. The island has been inspected, Mr. McKenna said, and no evidence was found of military preparations.

The authorities of Guernsey have been asked to take steps to terminate the lease of the German firm.

CANADIAN TROOPS ARE WELL PROVIDED IN THEIR KIT.

OTTAWA, Nov. 26.—The militia department, to correct wrong impressions as to the clothing of troops, in a statement given out tonight, makes known in detail what is supplied, showing the men to be fully provided for. Weight of kit is limited, and all possible has been put in, the articles being all of the best quality. Fresh reserve supplies are also being continuously sent forward. Handkerchiefs, mufflers and wristlets are not issued, but would be useful. Cholera belts are not an issue but are being provided.

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FRENCH SOLDIER HAD PASSION FOR FIELD GLASSES

He Equipped Nearly All His Company With Captured German Ones. WOUNDED GERMAN HERO.

Refused to Allow His Comrades to Shoot Seven Captured Frenchmen.

PARIS, Nov. 9.—(By Mail).—The 219th Reserve Infantry Regiment has made a reputation for pulling off queer stunts. One of its heroes, a sergeant who has been killed, won for himself the name of "the hunter of field glasses" on account of the marked attention he paid to German officers carrying field glasses. Risking his life dozens of times in fool-hardy adventures, the sergeant managed to equip nearly every man in his company with German glasses.

Just before his last exploit he was asked to describe his plan of campaign and he replied very simply: "We just wriggle on hands and knees as near the 'bosch' as possible, then we pick up a stone and throw it in the opposite direction so as to make him turn his head. Then we jump on him. That's all!" He met his death in just such an exploit, and died with a smile on his lips.

The 219th boasts the possession of the fattest man in the army, a private named Le Goazien, who in civil life is the director of a big co-operative store. Le Goazien, who is the life and soul of the trenches, weighs about 270 pounds. He says: "I could have been sent home when the mobilization order was published, for I found that all men weighing over 210 were classed with idiots, hunchbacks and cripples, but I preferred to come to fight." The fat private is a great favorite of his commanding officer, an Alsatian, Lieut.-Col. Stoul, who always sees that his men get plenty to eat.

OYSTER MEAL UNDER FIRE.

Recently Le Goazien returned to the front from a visit to Paris on behalf of his colonel, with an enormous crayfish and a great hamper of oysters. A well-known chef, now a private in the 219th, prepared the crayfish for the colonel, who divided it into small pieces so that as many of his men as possible could share the dainty with the officers. The eating of the oysters was disturbed twice by the enemy's batteries, and when all was finished, the colonel turned to his guests and said: "Now, my friend, I want two volunteers to throw the oyster shells and the remain of the crayfish into the German trenches."

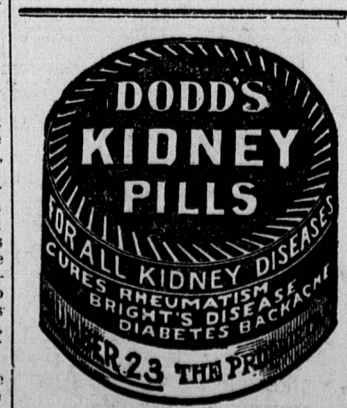
A GERMAN HERO.

Among the wounded who came in from the fighting on the Yser was a young German whose bloodless, intellectual face was but the headpiece to a mass of bandages. A little group of nurses gathered round him, for pained to the blood-stained blanket was a blood-stained sheet of paper on which was scrawled, "He saved the lives of seven French soldiers." Naturally such a recommendation ensured for the sufferer the best possible attention and the English doctor who is in charge of him hopes to pull him through.

From the broken sentences which fell from the wounded man's lips it transpired that his company having captured seven Frenchmen, were about to shoot them when he interposed and refused to allow his comrades to perpetrate the crime. His interference might have cost him dear, but the company was under fire, and before they could make up their minds, bursting shrapnels and a charge of French cavalry swept the little group in different directions.

SYMPATHY FROM KING AND QUEEN.

KINGSTON, Ont., Nov. 27.—Prof. R. Carr Harris yesterday received the following telegram expressing sympathy in the loss of his son, Captain E. D. Carr-Harris, who was killed in ac-



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tion while serving in the Imperial army in West Africa.—The King and Queen deeply regret the loss you and the army have sustained by the death of your son in the service of his country. Their Majesties truly sympathize with you in your sorrow. (Signed) Private Secretary.



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