

FOE WEAKER, SAYS SIR JOHN FRENCH

British Commander Finds Evidence of German Deterioration on Western Line.

EARLY VIGOR IS LACKING

French Soldiers, With Renewed Confidence, Declared Better, Man for Man, Than Enemy—Ultimate Victory Is Predicted.

BY FREDERICK PALMER.

(Correspondent of the Associated Press at the front with the British Army in France.)

BRITISH HEADQUARTERS IN FRANCE

via London, March 25.—It was in the drawing-room of the house of Marshal Sir John French, commander-in-chief of the British expeditionary force on the Continent, and discussed the military situation. Before the conversation was over the British commander, answering a question concerning the result of the war, said:

"Indeed, there is no doubt of the outcome. I was never so confident of victory as I am today. I am as confident as General Grant was when he took command of the Army of the Potomac. He kept at it and so shall we."

Dogged Tenacity Saves Day.

"What were the most important contributing factors making your retreat from Mons secure against overwhelming odds?" Sir John was asked.

"The dogged tenacity of our little regular army which prevented every foot of the ground as we fell back," was the answer.

"Not once did our soldiers lose heart. They understood that we were not defeated, but making a strategic retreat before heavy odds and that all the punishment which they could inflict on the enemy by a cool and stubborn resistance from point to point was no less valuable to the ultimate object than if they were advancing."

"Their confidence that their turn to take the offensive would come remained unshaken. Next in importance was the work of our cavalry in its aggressive and alertness in preventing the cavalry of the enemy from getting around us. Our cavalry established a decided superiority over that of the enemy, which was of vital assistance."

Soldiers' Qualities Unchanged.

"A good deal has been said about the novel conditions which French warfare in this war has developed," was the next thing said by the correspondent. "Has it changed the qualities required to be a soldier?"

"No," he replied. "Human nature remains the same, and it is the man who gives and takes the blows, what the nature of his weapons. Courage, discipline and tenacity are still the dominant elements of success."

"And the guns, which have been repeatedly said to be the king of the war of artillery?"

"I think there has been an inclination to exaggerate the importance of artillery," Sir John answered. "No doubt, of the three arms, artillery has increased in relative importance. It may take a dozen shells to get one man and one bullet will get one man. The weapons which decide the day are the rifle and the machine gun, and the infantry is still the queen of battles."

As a soldier speaking of his enemy, Sir John French was far from depreciating the fighting qualities of the Germans. To the troops of Emperor William he paid a soldier's chivalrous tribute.

German Conduct Varies With General.

"But they are no greater than other soldiers," he said, "at least in the valor and their well-disciplined cohesion to the fact that from the cradle they are taught discipline and to worship the Emperor and the fatherland and that it is their duty to die for the fatherland when their Emperor commands."

"As to the conduct of the Germans, is it as bad as is reported?" was asked of Sir John. "Have they consistently broken the rules of civilized warfare?"

For the first time the British commander hesitated before speaking. Evidently as a soldier he wished to be entirely just to his enemy.

"Yes," he replied, "in many instances their conduct has been very bad. I know that it has been."

This declaration was made with firm conviction. "But it has varied. It has seemed to depend on the commanders. If a commander approves of outrages, they occur. Yes, in the main, German conduct depends upon the character of the German General."

French Superior to Germans.

"And the French army you have been fighting as its ally for eight months; how does it compare with the German?" the correspondent asked.

"This seemed a happy question. To it, Sir John replied:

"The French at the start were laboring under the shadow of their disastrous defeat in 1870, which might well have led both the French and the world in general to think that the German military machine was invulnerable and irresistible. The French already have learned the lesson that the world soon must, if it has not, I need not speak of their splendid generalship or their courage in driving the Germans back from the Marne. They have the clan of Napoleon's time, thanks to the spur of renewed confidence. Man for man, they are better than the Germans today and their army has continuously improved since the war began, while the German army has deteriorated."

Enemy Believed Deteriorating.

"We have abundant evidence of the Germans deteriorating on our own front. Their attacks lack the former vigor and spirit. Neuve Chapelle was an important victory. It proved that with a strong push we could put the enemy out of a well-fortified position and then hold what we gained."

"One of the gratifying things to us," the British Commander-in-Chief said in conclusion, "is how well our territorial have done, once their period of preparation was over and they had an opportunity. I believe they occupy much the same relation to our forces as your National Guard does to yours. They have surpassed our expectations. As for the Canadians, I cannot pay too high a tribute to them."

MEMEL FREED BY PRINCE

Joachim Gives Battle to Russians, Who Lose 500 Prisoners.

BERLIN (via Amsterdam to London), March 25.—The German main headquarters has made public the following review of the events which have taken place around Memel, East Prussia:

"On March 15, the Russians advanced toward Memel in several columns from the north and east—from 10,000 men, infantry, cavalry and marines, with six or eight old guns.

"The small force of German land-sturm retreated from the frontier to Memel and later across the bay. The advancing Russians burned numerous buildings and barns at Nimmcrst and Maugallen. They damaged altogether 15 villages.

"The evening of the 14th the Russians entered Memel. The following evening the Russian commander appeared at the town hall and demanded the Mayor and three citizens as hostages.

"On the 20th only Russian patrols were in the streets, a majority of the Russians having left town. But the next morning strong Russian forces again entered the town from the north. They met strong German forces from the south, who vigorously attacked and chased the Russians out of the town. In the severe street fighting the Russians lost 150 men killed. Our losses were small.

"The Russians fled, taking their hostages, but the car on which the hostages were being transported broke down. The escort fled and the hostages returned to Memel. The German soldiers pursued the Russians. When marching through Polangen, the Russians suffered severely through the gunfire from cruisers. Five hundred Russians and three machine guns were captured.

"The Russians' move against Memel appears to have been in the nature of a raid. A similar raid apparently had been planned against Tilsit.

FRENCH COLONEL GUILTY

PURLOINER OF STORES TO SUFFER PRISON AND DEGRADATION.

Wife of German Who Housed Stolen Goods and Soldier Accused of Aiding Also Sentenced.

PARIS, March 25.—Colonel Francois Desclaux, former paymaster-general in the French army, charged with stealing military stores, was convicted today and sentenced to seven years' solitary confinement and military degradation. His name was ordered removed from the list of the Legion of Honor.

Madame Bachoff, the wife of a German, in whose house the stolen goods were found, also was declared guilty by the court and sentenced to two years' imprisonment. A soldier named Verges, who was accused of aiding in the thefts, received a one year's sentence. All the other defendants were declared not guilty.

Desclaux, who was formerly chief secretary of Joseph Calliaux when Calliaux was Minister of Finance, was arrested in January, charged with stealing military supplies and sending them to the home of Mme. Bachoff, one of the best-known dressmakers in Paris. On account of the conspicuous political connections of Desclaux and the prominence of Mme. Bachoff the charges created a sensation.

When the court martial assembled last Monday to try the accused one corner of the courtroom resembled an army storeroom. There were packages of coffee, tents, trophies of war, big shells and helmets, making perhaps a ton of material. All these were found in the home of Mme. Bachoff and were brought before the court martial as evidence.

U-28 SINKS DUTCH SHIP

NAME AND HOME PORT OF VESSEL PAINTED ON SIDES.

Germans Take Steamer's Papers—Holland Crew Rescued by British—Pilot Boat Chases One Submarine.

DOVER, March 25.—The Dutch steamer Medea was sunk off the British Head this morning by the German submarine U-28. She carried a cargo of oranges and was bound from Saloniki for London.

The Medea was stopped by the submarine and the crew were given 15 minutes in which to leave the vessel. They did so and the submarine then fired several shots at the steamer, which remained afloat for an hour. The crew rowed about in their boats until picked up by a destroyer which brought them to Dover.

The trawler Alprecht was attacked by a submarine today. A torpedo passed within ten feet of the fishing boat while it was crossing the Channel. A British pilot boat chased the submarine, which, however, disappeared.

LONDON, March 25.—The Admiralty, in reporting the sinking of the Medea by the U-28, says:

"The ship was flying the Dutch flag and had a Dutch crew of 100. Her name, 'Medea, Amsterdam,' was painted in large letters on her sides. The ship's papers were taken by the Germans, who refused to return them."

Prosecution of Chicago Recipients of Large Sums Is Threatened.

CHICAGO, March 25.—There are 500 Chicagoans with incomes ranging from \$50,000 to \$100,000 who have failed to make returns on their incomes as required by law, according to a statement by Charles F. Clyne, United States District Attorney.

"The records show," Mr. Clyne said today, "that last year one-third of all the income tax collected in this country was derived from the Island of Manhattan. I am determined that Chicago shall make a good showing. I shall prosecute the violators of this law."

Julius F. Smietanka, Collector of Internal Revenue, estimated that \$15,000,000 in salaries is escaping the tax. The collector said that 12 deputies have been assigned to make a household-by-household canvass to determine the delinquents.

Mother of Mrs. W. W. Welder Dies.

Mrs. W. W. Welder, 380 Vista avenue, received news yesterday of the death of her mother, Mrs. H. G. Hansen, of Tacoma. The funeral will be Saturday, interment at the Mausoleum. Mrs. Hansen was born in Norway and had been a resident of Tacoma 27 years. She was 81 years old.

SPRING MEDICINE

Hood's Sarsaparilla, the Great Blood Purifier, Is the Best.

Spring sickness comes in some degree to every man, woman and child in our climate.

It is that run-down condition of the system that results from impure, impoverished, de-vitalized blood.

It is marked by loss of appetite and that tired feeling, and in many cases by some form of eruption.

The best way to treat Spring sickness is to take Hood's Sarsaparilla. This old reliable family medicine purifies, enriches and revitalizes the blood. It is an all-the-year-round alterative and tonic, and is absolutely the best Spring medicine.

Get your blood in good condition at once—now. Delay may be dangerous. Ask your druggist for Hood's Sarsaparilla, and insist on having it, for nothing else can take its place.—Adv.

ALL GOODS PURCHASED FRIDAY AND BALANCE OF THE MONTH CHARGED ON MAY FIRST ACCOUNT

Economy Basement Store

Convincing Sales-Opportune Savings

A Special Purchase of 5 Cases of Fine New Challies

2000 Yards of Choice Colors and Patterns Never Sold Regular Less Than 40c
Friday Economy, 25c

—These challies are used extensively for one-piece dresses, children's dresses, waists, kimonos and dressing sacques.
—In bordered patterns, in dots, Persian and Dresden effects, stripes and figures. In all the newest colorings and combinations, many handsome black-and-white effects.
—All these challies are guaranteed part wool. —Basement

Two Extraordinary Spring Suit Sales

You Have Never Seen Such Remarkable Bargains as Offered in This Sale
Tailored and Novelty Spring Suits For Misses and Small Women
Selling From \$25.00 to \$35.00
Economy Price, \$10.00

—In checks, serges, novelty cords, poplins, diagonals, fancy suitings, in black and white checks, and all popular colors. Jackets lined with best quality peau de cygne silk. The materials are of the very finest quality, mostly imported.

New Spring Suits for Women

Sold Regularly at \$15.00
\$7.50

—Of serge and granite cloth, in navy, Belgian blue and black, made in the new belted style, with pleated peplum. Collars and cuffs trimmed with corded silk and fancy buttons. Skirt in flaring style. The jackets are lined with a good quality silk. —Basement

Phonograph Records

Made to Fit Any Machine Will Run Two Minutes
15c Each

—Included in this sale are such popular pieces as Back to Carolina, He's a Rag Picker, Tip Top Tipperary Mary, California and You, It's a Long Way to Tipperary, Poor Pauline, Twenty Century Rag, Where Red Red Roses Grow, Michigan (duet), I Wish I Was in Michigan, At the Mississippi Cabaret and many others.

Sheet Music 3c

Regular 25c and 30c Popular and Operatic

—This includes One-Step music, Hesitation Waltzes, Tango, Music from the "Chocolate Soldier" and Music from "The Spring Maid," as well as a great assortment of many other popular and well-known pieces. —Basement

Women's Tailored 1-Piece Serge Dresses

Economy Sale, \$3.95

—These dresses come in a plain tailored style, made of navy and black serge, having yoke-top flare skirts piped at the waistline and at yoke with black satin, long set-in tailored sleeves, collar and cuffs of black satin, and trimmed with black satin-covered buttons.

NECKWEAR 25c

—Pleated back, turn-over, flaring, soft-roll and flat collars, of net, lace and organdie. In embroidered designs, some with scalloped and others with lace edges. In a great variety of newest styles.—Basement

Come to the Greatest Millinery Sale Ever Held in Portland

Space Does Not Allow Use of Great Details. You Must See These Hats. Every One New—the Latest Styles—Up-to-Date, Smart, Attractive.



The "Devil" the Latest Mode in Trimmed Millinery

COPIED FROM AN EXPENSIVE MODEL Reproduced for the Economy Sale
Friday Economy \$2.45

—In black, blue, green, sand, purple and brown. In same style as shown in illustration No. 1. Moire and satin ribbon trimmed, combined with flowers or fruits.

Newest \$3.00 Trimmed Hats

Of Hems, With Fruits, Flowers and Ribbon Trimmings in Sailor Effects
A Great Variety of Styles
Friday Economy \$1.95

—In black, blues, browns, rose, greens, combination shades and many other colors. One model shown in illustration No. 3.

The "Frisco" Hat

SMART READY-TO-WEAR MODELS Which Have Sold Regularly at \$1.95
Friday Economy 95c

—In the new rough straws having facings or crowns of silk poplin, featuring the newest feather and quill trimmings combined with grosgrain ribbons. One style as shown in illustration No. 2. In black and all the late colors.

New Untrimmed Hemp Hats

In Three Different Shapes
—In sailor shapes with flare and sloping crowns and models with drooping brims, in medium sizes.
The Regular \$1.95 Styles
Friday Economy 95c

—In black, navy blue, Belgian blue, rose, sand, brown, green and Army blue. As illustrated in No. 4.

The Flat Wreath Trimming

Regular Price 75c
Economy Sale 39c

—Of small dark green flat leaves combined with small, brightly colored fruit effects in satin or velvet, in all the colors of natural fruits and flowers. —Basement

The Newest Feather Trimming Whip Quills

First Time Offered in a Special Sale Their Regular Price Is 75c
Friday Economy 39c

—In style as shown in illustration No. 5. In red, black, sand, rose, blue, white, and black with white combined.

700 Knitted Summer Vests for Women

The Best 18c and 15c Qualities and Styles
Friday 10c Each

—All Summer styles and Summer weights, made low neck and sleeveless, neatly trimmed with fine mercerized ribbons.

New Middy Blouses

Economy Sale 59c

—In all white or white with navy, cadet or red sailor collars, white braid trimmed. Made with a wide band at the bottom, piped in color to match collar. Pocket, cuffs and lacings also trimmed to match.

Women's Best 50c Summer Union Suits

Sale 39c Each or 3 Suits for \$1.00

—Light weight, fine ribbed cotton union suits, made low neck and sleeveless and with tight knee, or loose knee, lace trimmed. —Basement

Face Veiling Lengths

One Yard Wide
Economy Sale 25c
Regular 35c to 75c Yard

—In brown, navy, black, white and the black-and-white combination effects. In becoming soft meshes. Quite the correct face veil for the small Spring hats. —Basement

Manufacturers' Curtain Samples

Economy Sale 29c, 39c, 59c Each
500 Curtains in This Sale
From 1 1/4 to 1 1/2 Yards Long, 40 to 50 Inches Wide

—In white, cream and Arabian color, scrim and lace curtain samples, in a great assortment of designs. —Basement

45c Gingham Coverall Aprons, Economy 25c

(For One Day Only)

—Good, serviceable quality of navy and white check gingham, made in overall style with short cap sleeves, belted back, finished with white pipings.

Souvenir Spoons 9 Cents

Famous Wm. A. Rogers Make

—Add these states to your collection:

Pennsylvania Iowa Kansas
Rhode Island New York Massachusetts
Montana New Jersey Ohio —Basement

Black Cotton Messaline Petticoats

With Elastic Fitted Tops
Economy Sale, 89c

—Made with deep ruffle and finished with accordion pleating, all with elastic at waist, which makes them perfect in fit. Made of a splendid quality of cotton messaline in black only.

Special Sale of Colonial Rugs

\$1.00 Colonial Rugs, 36x18 inches . . . 37c
\$1.50 Colonial Rugs, 54x27 inches . . . 79c
\$1.50 Colonial Rugs, 60x30 inches . . . 98c
\$2.00 Colonial Rugs, 72x36 inches, \$1.39

—Colonial rag rugs in hit-and-miss patterns, with fancy striped borders. In pink, tan and green. —Basement

Sale Royal Sheets, Pillow Cases

—Made seamless and free from dressing. The best sheets made at a medium price.

90x81-inch Sheets 65c
99x81-inch Sheets 72c
Pillow Cases, each 12c and 13c —Basement

NO PHONE ORDERS FOR ECONOMY SALES

Sipman Wolfe & Co.

Merchandise of Merit Only
Pacific Phone Marshall 5000 Home Phone A 6691