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CAUSE IS DESPERATE.

The position of the Central Powers is critical in the extreme and nobody knows the situation better than the military rulers of Germany. That they are trained in the science of war and are thorough soldiers no one who has followed the course of the war doubts for a moment. The men around the kaiser, upon whom he has leaned and whose advice he has taken are military men, and they have no doubt informed him of the hopelessness of the struggle.

Hence the condescending "offer of peace to my enemies."

The allies are numerically stronger than the Germans and their allies, and since Marshal Foch was placed in supreme command they have made no mistakes and have taken full advantage of their strength. Already Bulgaria has surrendered and Turkey is floundering in hopeless despair. Grave as is the situation on the west front, it is still more serious in the east. The abandonment by the Austro-Hungarians of Albania, which borders Serbia on the west, has undoubtedly been undertaken for the purpose of reinforcing the Teutonic line in northern Serbia. Dramatic action by the allies is probable in this sector and might lead to an invasion of Hungary. The fact that the allies have secured full use of Bulgarian territory for military purposes brings them within 35 miles of Hungarian territory at the northwestern corner of Bulgaria.

This intervening area is through Serbian territory, leading to the famous iron gate which marks the passage-way over the Danube into Hungary. A movement by the allies through the iron gate would compel the Germans and Austro-Hungarians to evacuate Rumania and concentrate for defense of the Hungarian grain and cattle lands. These are the principal sources of food supply for the Hapsburg empire and have also been drawn upon to feed the Germans.

A threat by the allies to eastern Hungary would result, and for this reason is a situation of the utmost danger to the Central Powers. Actual starvation would overtake Austria-Hungary if the allies could reach the Magyar plains.

The unconditional surrender of the Hapsburgs might even be brought about by the development of a serious threat against the wheat lands without the actual accomplishment of conquest.

The reported capture of Nish by the Serbians puts the allies astride the main railway leading through northern Serbia to Belgrade, the capital. Operations along this railway would have as their objective the rescue of all that remains of Serbia in the enemy's possession.

The recapture of Belgrade, which borders Hungary, would put the allies within 200 miles of Budapest. A movement toward the Hungarian capital, however, would not include in its sweep the occupation of the Hungarian food lands. Of the two objectives, the seizure of Hungary's granary is more important than the seizure of the capital.

Next to licking Germans, the chief aim among Pershing's men in France seems to be keeping clean, as the correspondents claim. "Doughboys" never pass up an opportunity to take a bath. One of the chief articles in every marching kit is a bar of soap, and whenever the men can find a creek or river or pond, they make vigorous use of it. The Americans' fondness for water is a constant source of astonishment to French peasants, and some of the peasants are astounded to learn that the Americans actually drink the stuff. To help make the doughboys safe from "cooties", the Y. M. C. A. has just contracted for 1,800,000 bars of soap for the canteens near the front.

From the reports turned into the Salem postoffice, there has been sold in the county during September War Savings Stamps to the amount of \$49,184.86. This will bring the total for the county up to \$561,977.07. The quota for the county for this year is \$971,800.

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WHERE WILL THE RETREAT END?

It is evident that the Germans have put up the most desperate fight they were capable of along the Hindenburg line in order to back up their offer of peace. They desired to convince their foes that the struggle would be long and bitter. In the end, however, this very defense of the line may prove their undoing, since their great losses will leave them too weak to make a successful stand at any line in the rear of the present positions with a victorious nemy pressing close on their heels.

The German high command, desirous of holding the allied forces on the Hindenburg line in order to influence peace negotiations, suited Foch's strategy exactly. He wanted the Germans to stand and fight until their reserves were exhausted, and no doubt this very thing has occurred. They have evidently pressed every available man into service—and they must give up the defense line in spite of this fact.

When the great retreat really begins where can it be stopped for any length of time? That is the question that is bothering the German high command.

A beaten, retreating army must have strong, fresh reserves to fall back upon in order to make a successful stand in new positions. Apparently the Germans have exhausted the greater part if not all of their reserves in the desperate attempt to hold the Hindenburg line.

The great retreat must begin soon and the Germans will be fortunate indeed if it does not degenerate into a disastrous rout before the Rhine is reached.

Salem ought to go over the top in the Liberty Loan Drive. It is a matter in which local pride is serving the purpose of the highest patriotism not to be counted as laggards in the work of subscribing the money necessary to keep the boys at the front in food, clothing and munitions. The amount necessary to complete Salem's quota could be easily raised if all those who have ample means would do their duty.

The kaiser is no doubt considerably surprised to find that the allies rather enjoy Ham hunting on the western front, and are in no hurry to discontinue the sport.

Rippling Rhymes

by Walt Mason

PERVERSE NATURE.

The mountains have no valued crops, that drouth might put in wrong; and there the rainfall seldom stops, the whole blamed summer long. I spent the summer in the hills, hard by Long's famous peak, where creditors with ancient bills for me in vain would seek. And every afternoon it rained, no chance to rain was skipped; the thunder grumbled and complained, the lightning flashed and zipped. No cornfield reared its thirsty stalks along the torrent's path; oh, there was nothing there but rocks and rocks don't need a bath. And on the plains not far away, where crops man needed grew, the fierce sun journeyed day by day, through cloudless skies of blue. The farmers looked for signs of rain, they looked, and looked, and sighed, and all their looking was in vain; their crops curled up and died. Their crops curled up and died, alas, while in the mountain land, J. Pluvius was cutting grass to beat the cornet band. The ways of nature bother men, in this strange world of ours; the rocks are soaked and soaked again, while cornfields pant for showers.

THE WIFE

By JANE PHELPS

KENYON ROBERTS AND HIS WIFE
CALL UPON RUTH AND
Brian.

CHAPTER LII.

That very night Ruth had her wish. Mr. and Mrs. Roberts called about 8 o'clock. They were both delightful, as Ruth afterward said to Brian, and that she had not been mistaken in believing they would be pleasant her immensely. Brian and Mr. Roberts had naturally drifted into a sort of business talk, so leaving Ruth and Mrs. Roberts to get acquainted. Ruth told her how she had wished they would call. Told it so naively that Mrs. Roberts wondered how she could be so charmingly girlish and yet be a business woman.

"I just knew they would be nice!" Ruth exclaimed enthusiastically when they had left. She would have been surprised and pleased, could she have heard Mrs. Roberts say to her husband: "She is perfectly lovely, Kenyon, I am sure you shall be the best of friends."

Equally interesting were the remarks of the two men.

"Rather an interesting chap," Brian had said when Ruth questioned him "A likable man if he could forget himself," Kenyon Roberts had said of Brian.

work, once in Ruth's apartment, and once in that of Mrs. Roberts.

"We will make a rarebit or some little thing," Mrs. Roberts had flushed a bit as she spoke, "Kenyon is trying very hard to work himself up, and we have to be most economical," she had explained.

"So do we!" Ruth had rejoined. "But I loathe doing housework, so I am doing something I love to do, and paying for the work."

"How fine! Your husband must be awfully proud of you. I couldn't earn a penny to save my soul. But I love to cook and keep house. We couldn't afford this apartment if I didn't do every blessed thing except the washing. But it is necessary for a professional man to live in a good locality. So I do everything I can, so Kenyon can afford the rent."

Part of this conversation Ruth repeated to Brian. The part having to do with the necessity for a professional man having a good address.

"Yes I guess she's right," Brian looked about complacently.

"You remember, I said the same thing before we moved." A grant was her only answer. "She is will over our apartment. I promised to keep her rearrange hers. She has awfully nice things, most of them wedding presents, she told me, but she hasn't any idea how to make the most of them."

"You ought to know; that's all you do, fussing about in people's houses. This is rather an improvement on that

old place." It was the first word of praise Brian had ever given her for all her hard work in making the apartment so attractive.

"I think it is the only kind of thing I am good for," she smiled wryly. Brian's refusal to give her the least credit or encouragement always had hurt her more than he dreamed.

One evening Brian, restive, because things at the office were so slow, proposed they go and call on the Curtis's. Ruth readily agreed. She really liked both Mr. and Mrs. Curtis, and would be glad to see them, and they still owed their party call for the dinner party to which they had been invited.

"I am so glad to see you," Mrs. Curtis said, insisting that Ruth lay off her wraps. "We'll have a game of bridge or something."

They talked a while before playing then sat down at the table.

"By the way," Mrs. Curtis said, during one of the times when she was dummey, "I think you are the most generous woman I ever have seen."

Ruth caught Mr. Curtis's annoyed look, but his wife, oblivious, continued: "I wouldn't be as generous with Mr. Curtis."

"When was I generous? I don't understand," Ruth said, as she finished playing her hand.

"I call it mighty good in you to let Mr. Hackett run around with Mollie King when you are away. She was in the other day, and she said that she had a wonderful time all the week. I scolded her, but she said you knew all about it, that Brian had told you."

"Certainly I did!" Ruth, answered wondering when Brian had seen Mollie to tell her he had confessed being with her, while she, Ruth, was away. "Why shouldn't he?" she added, rather enjoying Brian's embarrassment. He had flushed daily red, and looked terribly annoyed.

"Oh, I don't know! but not many women would like it. I shouldn't! So don't you dare try it!" to Mr. Curtis who laughed uncomfortably and replied:

"If I did I am afraid I shouldn't 'fess up' as Hackett has done. I wouldn't be brave enough." Then he changed the subject, and once more Brian was at ease.

"When did he see her to tell her?" kept running through Ruth's mind causing her to play a very poor game although, as a rule, she played excellently well.

Tomorrow—Brian Admits Lunching with Mollie, Although Ruth Is Home

ANOTHER U-BOAT DRIVE EXPECTED ON TROOP SHIPS

Authorities Believe Effort Doomed To Failure And No Alarm Felt.

By Raymond Clapper
(United Press staff correspondent)

Washington, Oct. 8.—Realizing that Germany is likely to start a desperate U-boat drive against transports and troop ships if her peace offensive fails, American naval officials and British First Lord of the Admiralty Geddes began conferring here today over combative measures.

Indications point to the loosening of practically every U-boat in the Tenth service against the allied supply lines.

However, authorities believe that this effort, like its predecessors, is doomed to failure, on the whole, because of reduced U-boat efficiency.

Factors making the forthcoming campaign less dangerous than previous ones are:

1—Personnel of U-boats is disrupted so much that submarines are now rated as only one fifteenth as effective as at the start of the war.

2—Submarines have been driven from the coast and must operate far out at sea, where their prey is more scattered.

3—They have been forced to leave the channel bases and operate around the North sea, reducing their effective mileage one third.

4—Defensive armament and the convoy system have made successful attack more difficult.

A larger number of German submarines are now operating than at any time during the war and the construction is believed to be advancing steadily.

Because of the heavy protection given to troop ships and supplies from America, the work of hunting down the submarine has been interfered

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with to some extent and the actual destruction of U-boats has probably decreased, although the effectiveness of the submarine has been reduced at the same time.

British airmen, dropping an average of seven tons of explosives daily over the submarine bases, forced their abandonment.

Submarines are now operating out of Wilhelmshaven, near Heligoland, but they are forced to go out through the North sea, cutting over 20 per cent from their effective cruising radius.



It's just that we may have them back again,
In quite the way they went, with youth unspoiled;
Our boys, whose lives have never known the lack
Of clean ideals—God grant they stay unsoiled;
It's just that they may look into our eyes,
With eyes as clear as boyish eyes should be—
That they may know the faith that never dies,
To guide them through the lands across the sea....

It's just that they may feel the weight of prayer,
May feel God's nearness, like a glowing light,
To be a cloak about them, everywhere,
Through horror's day, and terror's bitter night,
It's just that they, no matter where they roam,
May have some link connecting them to home.

Margaret Sangster