

IN MOST HEROIC ROLE

TWELVE ENGINEERS SACRIFICE THEIR LIVES.

In Order to Blow Up a Bridge Across the Aisne River, in the Long Retreat From Mons.

Havre, Sept. 18.—The blowing up of the bridge over the Aisne at Soissons in the long retreat from Mons was accomplished after eleven British engineers, one by one, had given their lives in a vain effort to light the fuse. A twelfth man tried and died, but not until after he had accomplished his mission. The story of heroism equalling that displayed at the destruction of the gate of Delantre is told here by Gaston Bostier, a private in the 6th Cuirassiers, better known as "Dario," a singer at the Comedie Francaise.

"We were together, the Cuirassiers of France and the British Royal Engineers," he reports, "and we retreated across the Aisne at Soissons before the tables were turned by the battle of the Marne. The Germans advanced rapidly, trying to rush masses of soldiers across. Bridge after bridge had to be blown up. The German sharpshooters were firing at us from a clump of trees, and the mitrailleuses were working havoc among the allies.

"Suddenly a party of British engineers rushed toward a bridge. They lost heavily, but succeeded in laying powder sufficient to destroy it. Before they could light it all of them were killed. We waited while another party of brave engineers crept near the bridge. They took to cover, but the Germans got the range and continued a deadly fire.

"Then we Frenchmen watched what we must regard as our dying day. One engineer advanced alone toward the fuse. He was killed before he reached half way there. A second followed and fell almost upon the body of his comrade. A third, a fourth and fifth ran in succession the gauntlet of merciless German fire and met the same fate. In the same way each followed his comrade until eleven had been killed.

"The German fire seemed to slacken for an instant, and in that instant the bridge was blown up, the twelfth man, dashing across the space lined with bodies of his comrades until eleven had been killed. It was the engineer fell before he German rifle shots.

Bostier was a prisoner of the Germans for some time, but was released by the British. He told shocking details of German cruelties which he personally witnessed. He himself, although wounded in the leg, was dragged on his knees with his hands tied behind him, while a lance thrust his lance against his back. Drivers of transport wagons often cut at him with their whips as he passed.

Irish Compliment.

"An' sure, me lady, if yer feet were as big as your heart, it would be me darlin' I should like ye to be steppin' on."

Mrs. W. H. Levitt, died in Toronto on September 14th. She was born in Killary township, the youngest daughter of the late Col. McCree. She is survived by three sisters, two in Brockville and one in Toronto.

A magazine writer says: "To love a widow is a liberal education for any man." Yes, but a little learning is a dangerous thing.

TO JOIN CANADIANS.

Dr. Beland Wishes to be Attached to Force When it Arrives.

Ottawa, Sept. 18.—Hon. Dr. Beland, M.P., ex-postmaster-general in the Laurier administration, who volunteered his medical services to the Belgian war office at the opening of the war and who is now assisting to look after the wounded at Antwerp, has written to the minister of militia asking to be attached to the Canadian force on its arrival at the front. He will be asked to join the Canadian force as soon as it crosses the Atlantic. Dr. Beland was in Belgium with his wife, who is a Belgian lady, when war was declared.



MAY ROBSON in "Martha by Day," at the Grand on Thursday, Sept. 24th.

MAJOR RADFORD DEAD.

For Many Years He Was Real Estate Dealer Here.

Major Isaac H. Radford, 79 years old, who died suddenly on Tuesday at the boarding house of Mrs. David Paulis at Fort Erie was for many years an extensive dealer in real estate in Buffalo. Major Radford is survived by Mrs. Radford, Mrs. Major Radford Warren, writer of magazine stories and the author of Composition and Rhetoric which has had considerable success as a school textbook and two daughters who reside in Chicago.

Major Radford says the Buffalo News, won his military title in the Crimean war in which he served with distinction. He returned at the close of that war to Kingston, Ont. His birthplace, engaged in banking business, followed his military bent by assisting in the engineering corps of the Union army in the civil war in this country and served during the greater part of that war. He had previously been a member of the mounted police of South Africa and the Canadian northwest on the Alaskan boundary. He was a lover of adventure.

Major Radford came to this city in 1889 and since had been engaged in business here and in several principal cities. He was involved in a Chinese smuggling case in 1902, being induced to give bond for a band of Chinese who subsequently disappeared, he being convicted and fined \$250 for complicity in their smuggling.

Worldly Wise.

He—Would you have loved me had I been poor?
She—Yes, dear; but I would have kept you in ignorance of the fact.

CHURCH MUST FACE CRISIS.

Activities Must Be Kept At Highest Efficiency.

Toronto, Sept. 18.—The following resolutions were unanimously passed at a largely-attended meeting of the Canadian Council of the Laymen's Missionary Movement, on motion of N. W. Rowell, K.C., seconded by Rev. Canon Gould:

"The Canadian Council of the Laymen's Missionary Movement recognized that Christianity is now on trial both at home and among the non-Christian peoples of the earth; that the present war is a most serious challenge to the Christian faith, and to the supremacy of the Prince of Peace. Unless the church meets this challenge with courage and self-sacrifice and triumphs over all difficulties she will lose her claim to moral and spiritual leadership among the nations of the earth.

"In view of this grave crisis, its effect upon Christian missions and the embarrassment of the work of continental missionary societies through the ravages of the present war a peculiar responsibility rests upon the churches of North America to assist in meeting the situation by not only maintaining their present work with courage and at their highest efficiency, but by strengthening this work in every possible direction. Years of abounding material prosperity in Canada have turned the thoughts of many men away from the supreme claims of religion. The present serious attitude of mind on the part of distress, brought about by the war, presents the church with one of her commanding opportunities to rally all Christian forces in support of a movement for quickening the spiritual life at home and for the worldwide extension of the kingdom of the Prince of Peace.

"The Canadian Council urges upon every man the supreme importance of the present hour, and resolves to go forward with its work in the full assurance that God is able to overcome the present distress, and make the coming year a turning point in the religious progress of the world."

WOMAN SAVES SOISSONS.

In Absence of Mayor She Pleads With Germans to Spare City.

Paris, Sept. 18.—A story reached here of the courageous action of Mme. Macherot of Soissons. When the Germans arrived there they demanded to see the mayor, who was absent. None of the officials responded to the call, whereupon Mme. Macherot went to the Germans and said:

"There is no mayor here, but I am here, and I answer for every one and everything, as you will have to do our deprecations are committed."

After disputing the requisitions and the conditions of the Germans the woman saved Soissons on easy terms.

FIRED ON EACH OTHER.

Two German Regiments Almost Annihilated.

Troyes, France, via Paris, Sept. 18.—A Saxon officer, a prisoner of the French, declares that near Matines the German artillery annihilated a Prussian regiment which it had mistaken for French. He says about in a frontier village two battalions of German infantry fired upon each other until there was scarcely a man of either left.

Many a sermon that touches the spot is wordless.

All's Well--No Blue Ruin

(Contributed by Gen. H. Ham, Montreal.)

It is the very irony of fate that, just as we were preparing to celebrate a century of peace, the nations of the world should be clutched at each other's throats—destroying, wounding, slaying, slaughtering.

The deadly conflict was inevitable, for conditions had arisen that it could not be otherwise. The appalling sacrifice of life, the widespread devastation, and the wanton loss of priceless treasure, however, shall not have been altogether in vain. Mighty consequences may result.

Stricken Poland will regain nationhood after a century and a half of tyrannical oppression;

The persecuted Jews of Europe will have their full rights restored; Home Rule, which until war broke out, was ominously rending Britain in twain, will re-unite the Motherland;

Woman will be given the suffrage, and a fearful menace to Britain's home life removed;

And, above all, the nations must unite in policing the world. There should be no more vast squandering of countless billions to maintain gigantic rival fleets and colossal opposing land fighting forces. The untold wealth expended in non-productive war material—for armaments—destroys and does not produce—could be profitably spent in the betterment of the world. Europe shall no longer be an armed camp. Entirely new and happier conditions will naturally arise, and Canada must naturally share in the better times that are to come.

Even to-day, embroiled in war as she is—for when Britain's at war, Canada is at war—comparatively few of our own industries are suffering, and many are working overtime. Never were these so busy. Never were the products of the soil and of the factory in such heavy demand.

God forbid that we should build our prosperity on the misfortunes of others, but it is the consensus of opinion that the new world, far from the scene of strife, shall gain by the terrible disruption of the old. New avenues of trade must necessarily be opened, new markets spring up with a great demand for our products.

So there is no cause for despair—no gaunt spectre of Blue Ruin before us.

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A DUEL IN THE SKIES.

In Which British Aviator Defeats German Foe.

London, Sept. 18.—The Times has the following from Havre: "I learned to-day of a combat waged up among the clouds, during the battle of the Marne, one of the most remarkable which this war of wonders has hitherto disclosed. A German aeroplane flying high visited the British lines with the object of reconnoitering. As the machine hovered overhead well out of reach of fire a British aviator shot up to attack. The German saw the adversary and attempted to stack him from above. Shots were fired, but missed the British plane, which swept in a wide semi-circle around his adversary. Mounting steadily the German tried to swoop in order to open fire at close range from above. The sudden, giddy manoeuvring of both machines showed another swift change in the position. The German and British planes were almost at the same altitude, but out of range of one another. Each was fighting for a higher place. Rushing together the two machines far up now looked exactly like great birds in combat. Then there was the distant sound of shooting. Darting hither and thither each aviator determined to win the advantage over his foe. A machine would advance and retire. Suddenly the British machine swings above, the German reels and seems to stagger, and then traveling more slowly the German descends. The German is wounded.

There have occurred to my knowledge many such encounters, in which the amazing pluck of the aviators has been revealed times almost without number. I record this story however, as being the most thrilling which I have ever listened to, and give it in the words of an eye-witness.

OFFICERS CAPTURED.

Fleet Leaves Sydney to Co-operate With China Squadron.

London, Sept. 18.—A dispatch to the Times from Sydney dated Tuesday, says that Rear Admiral Sir George Patey, commander of the Australian fleet, reports that the German losses at Herberstshohe in the Bismarck archipelago, were 20 to 30 killed and 17 German officers and non-commissioned officers, made prisoners.

"Considering the dense bush, the trenches and the marked ranges," says the report, "our casualties were slight."

The Australian fleet left Sydney immediately following the outbreak of the war, according to the dispatch, and co-operated with the China squadron. It searched for the enemy cruiser, but out of action the enemy's wireless stations in the Pacific, covered the New Zealand expeditionary force to Samoa and the Australian expedition to Herberstshohe and patrolled the trade route. The cruiser Melbourne, it is stated, covered over 11,000 miles, mostly in the tropics.

SWISS WITH ALLIED FORCES.

Tributes Paid to Work of British Expeditionary Army.

New York, Sept. 18.—A London Standard dispatch from Basel, Switzerland, published in the Tribune, says:

"The Swiss press comments very freely on the defeat of the German army in France and displays very conspicuously its profound sympathy for Great Britain and France. The Gazette de Lucerne states that the German army lost all the fruits of its former offensive movement. The German aviators, it says, instead of indulging in spectacular bomb-throwing over Paris, should have examined the lines of the Franco-British armies, full of fresh forces and burning with zeal to attack the invaders. Warm tributes are paid to the part taken by the British expeditionary forces in defeating the Germans.

"Germany in the future is on the defensive everywhere, says another Swiss newspaper."

GERMANY WAS PLANNING

To Enter Switzerland, and the Swiss Are Angry.

Geneva, Sept. 18.—Important documents just obtained show that Germany planned not only to violate the neutrality of Belgium and Luxembourg, but that of Switzerland also, so as to turn Belfort. The speedy Swiss mobilization in forty-eight hours defeated the German project. Swiss officers to-day are discussing the plan with indignation. It is stated that Swiss troops to the number of 250,000 are ready to prevent any future attempts.

TO CLEAR THE BATTLEFIELDS.

Hundreds of Firemen Leave Paris on a San