

SOMME IN GRIP OF GREY WINTER

"Strafing" is Now Conducted Only By "Dead Reckoning."

OBSERVATION IMPOSSIBLE

MAP AND COMPASSES USED FOR FIRING.

Low-hanging, Damp, Leadens Skies Make Airplanes Useless—Battle in Fog a Weiridly, Mysterious and Uncanny Affair.

With the British Army in France, Dec. 3 (via London, Dec. 6).—(From a staff correspondent of the Associated Press)—Winter, cold, grey and bleak, has held the western battle fronts in its icy grasp for more than a week now, and has temporarily checked any attempt on either side at operations on a large scale. There has been the usual daily "strafing," or exchange of artillery fire, but the shelling has been largely done by what mariners would call "dead reckoning."

Low-hanging, damp, leadens skies have shrouded the land in gloomy darkness and observation has been almost wholly impossible. For the past seven days there has been a thick mist, while on two occasions the war zone has been completely cut off by a mantle of heavy fog. But through this grey murk the guns kept hammering away—firing at the unseen enemy—harassing post roads and rail heads or any other "registered" place where he was likely to be busy with the multitudinous affairs of war behind the lines.

A battle in the fog—and nearly every detached engagement in this struggle on the Somme could be classed as a battle by ordinary standards—is a weirdly mysterious and uncanny affair. A roar, a flash of red flame, and out into the leaden mist shrieks a shell on its well-intended mission of death and destruction.

"Where it Should Fall." "This is where it should fall," remarks the gunner as he points to a map with a pair of compasses. "We



Save These "Perfect Seal" Jars

They are the very finest preserving jars, and hold 3 pounds of

CROWN BRAND CORN SYRUP

—the pure, wholesome table syrup, with the delightful flavor. Spread it on bread, hot biscuits and griddle cakes—have it on baked apples and Blanc Mange—use it for making all sorts of homemade candies.

In these 3 pound glass jars, and 2, 5, 10 and 20 pound tins—all grocers. Write Montreal Office for our new recipe book "Desserts and Candies."

THE CANADA STARCH CO. LIMITED, 230 MONTREAL, BRANTFORD, PORT WILHELM.

will put another just over here," and hang goes the gun again. In the deepness of the fog the battery seems to shoot into a little drab world all its own.

The Germans, however, have been bombarding one of their recently lost positions. It is a favorite occupation of the German gunners—this shelling a position they know so well after they have been driven from it. And such "trafing" calls for a reply, even if the enveloping fog permits one to see scarcely beyond the grim muzzle of the giant gun itself.

Such fighting as this makes war seem intensely Imperial, and in the colorless language of the official communique may appear something like this: "There was considerable hostile shelling to-day against our front on both sides of the Ancre. Our retaliation was prompt and effective."

One knew that if the British shells were truly searching their way through the opaque mist to their chartered destination the reply must be all that the communique claimed.

Peace in Beaumont-Hamel. Under the protecting canopy of fog the Associated Press correspondent sought to explore the pulverized ruins of what was once the thriving little French village of Beaumont-Hamel. Officers and Tommies coming from that direction gave every assurance that all was quiet within; and so the motor car proceeded blithely along until a ghostly whine

in the impenetrable gloom overhead told its own story. The daily shelling had begun.

To one only casually acquainted with the noises of a battlefield there is always a bewilderment at first as to which are the "friendly" shells going over towards the enemy, and which are the very unfriendly visitors coming over to burst in a wild, destroying fury. In the mystic greenness of the dripping fog the bewilderment was accentuated, the ordinary whistle and "crump" of the varicallibred shells translated into a veritable witches' chorus. So intense was the bombardment at one time, with the shells rushing in opposite directions overhead, that the mingled sounds became like the sighing of storm winds.

Each calibre shell has its own particular plaint, sometimes sadly melancholy in the distance, and again spitefully fierce in its nearness. It is a great source of satisfaction when, under the tutelage of an experienced officer, one comes to distinguish for oneself the difference between the outgoing of the friendly shells and the incoming.

Visitors to the British front are always impressed by the absolute indifference of the British, Canadian and Australian soldiers to the indiscriminate shelling so frequently indulged in by the Germans. Unperturbed in the slightest degree they "carry on" as if there were no such things in all the world.

MEDICAL INSPECTION OF THE HOSPITALS

Toronto Telegram (Con.). Every battalion medical officer should recognize the solemnity of his responsibility. Fathers and mothers and wives have given the most precious treasures of their hearts and homes into the keeping of medical officers. The rank of medical officer is no place for a physician or surgeon who thinks more of swaggering around in khaki uniform and of drawing pay and allowances than of safe-guarding health and life in the ranks of the boys committed to his charge. Recruiting is not aided by the stories about battalion medical officers and about military hospitals that go back to the villages of Ontario from the camps on this side of the sea. The conditions that Col. Bruce condemned in his comments on hospital and medical work in England are not as bad as the conditions that could have been discovered among too many medical officers and military hospitals in this country a year ago. Hon. A. E. Kemp order a searching investigation and public report on the work of battalion medical officers and military hospitals in this country, and see how far conditions have improved.

LAND SETTLEMENT IN N.B.

Subject of an Interview in the Daily Chronicle. London, Dec. 8.—New Brunswick's scheme for land settlement forms the subject of an interview given by Hon. James A. Murray, minister of agriculture for the province, to the Daily Chronicle. The interviewer is Saxon Mills, a former South African editor, who warns Great Britain of the danger of immigration from the United States to Canada.

The C.P.R. Annotated Guide.

No publication issued by the Canadian Pacific Railway is better known all over the world than the "Annotated Guide," describing every station along the line. Issued originally at the suggestion of Sir William Van Horne, it has passed through many editions and is now a fair-sized book owing to the great increase in the extent of the railway system. It is interesting to look over the early issues to see how Canada has progressed. In 1888, for instance, Winnipeg had a population of only 25,000, Fort William 1,400, Regina 800, Calgary 2,400, Lake Louise had not been discovered, and Vancouver was proud of its 5,200. Indian Head was famous for the Bell Farm, of which the "Annotated Guide" remarks: "The furrows on the farm are usually ploughed four miles long, and to flog one furrow outward and another returning is a half day's work for a man and team. The work is done with an almost military organization, ploughing by brigades and reaping by divisions." Toronto is described as "distinctly western in its activity and energy."

Poland Also Forced.

Paris, Dec. 8.—Evidence that the inhabitants of Russian Poland have been subjected to a policy of forced labor and deportation similar to that invoked against the Belgians is contained in a speech recently delivered in the Reichstag by the Polish deputy, Tropeyński, which, with the debate to which it gave rise, was suppressed by the German censorship. It was published, however, in the Polish newspaper, Dziennik Pomsanski.

Oregon Mayor Defeated by Wife. Unstilla, Ore., Dec. 8.—Mrs. E. E. Starcher is mayor of Unstilla today having defeated her husband in the election yesterday. Women also were elected to all other offices in the municipal government, including four seats in the council, recorder and treasurer.

Because of the increased cost of living the directors of the Atchafalaya, Tojoka and Santa Fe Railway Company yesterday ordered a distribution equal to approximately ten per cent. of a year's pay to all of its employees who have been in the service of the company for at least two years and whose annual compensation does not exceed \$2,500.

It is rumored that the E. B. Eddy Company, Limited, the Hull, Que., paper making establishment, has been disposed of to a group of Montreal capitalists for \$5,000,000.

A telegram from Neustrelitz, Germany, announces the death of the Dowager Grand Duchess Augusta, Carolina of Mecklenburg-Sterlitz. William H. Moyer, for twelve years warden of the Federal penitentiary at Atlanta, Ga., becomes warden of Sing Sing prison.



An \$8.00 Gift!

☐ No Christmas present can be of more real value than one that will lighten the burdens of your wife and family.

☐ An extension telephone, placed anywhere upstairs, and connected with your main instrument below, will abolish stair-climbing—there will always be a telephone between you and the stairs, whether you are up or down.

☐ No charge is made for installation; rental is payable quarterly.

☐ Order to-day, and we will have it installed for Christmas.



The Bell Telephone Co. of Canada

NEW GOODS!

for Christmas were a little late arriving this fall, but are all here now. We would advise early buying, as stocks in some lines are limited.

- New Sultana Raisins
- New Seeded Raisins
- New Seedless Raisins
- New Table Raisins
- New Currants
- New Lemon Peel
- New Orange Peel
- New Citron Peel
- New Dates
- New Prunes
- New Calarab Figs
- New Spanish Figs
- New Cooking Figs
- New Shelled Almonds
- New Shelled Walnuts
- New Crystallized Cherries
- New Glace Cherries
- Maraschino Cherries
- Creme de Menthe Cherries

Overseas Boxes

We are still packing boxes for the boys at the front, and are always glad to offer assistance and suggestions. We have the latest boxes for filling in two sizes—10c and 15c.

The following are always appreciated:

- Milk Chocolate
- Sweet Chocolate
- Nut Chocolate
- Oxo Cubes
- Sterno Stoves
- Chocolatta
- Coffee, Milk and Sugar
- Cocoa, Milk and Sugar
- Washington Coffee
- Cigarettes
- Tobacco
- Sharp's Kreemy Toffee
- Everton Toffee
- Turkish Delight
- Marshmallow
- Figs in packages
- Dates in packages
- Biscuits in packages
- Toilet Soap
- Colgate's Tooth Paste
- Colgate's Talcum Powder
- MacLaren's Cream Cheese
- Sardines
- Potted Meats
- Gum
- Candles
- New Table Raisins

We would like to call special attention to

Chocolatta

The ready to use Chocolate contains Chocolate, Milk and Sugar prepared instantly by adding boiling water only.

Nutritious, Delicious, Digestible—25c and 50c tins.

Tom Smith's Xmas Stockings


— and —

Crackers

have arrived. Full particulars later.

Jas. Redden & Co.

Phones 29 and 990



Socrates Was Right

This wise old man of science when treating on the daily diet, and speaking of an Ideal Race, athletically built and wholesome mentally, said:

"They will feed on barley and wheat, baking the wheat and kneading the flour, making noble puddings and loaves; * * * * * thus shall they be great of limb."

TODAY

Grape-Nuts

is more and more becoming the favorite food of sturdy Canadians.


Made of whole wheat and malted barley, this famous food supplies all the nourishment of the grains including their vital mineral salts—lacking in many foods—but all-important for keen mental activity and sturdy physical strength.

Every table should have its daily ration of Grape-Nuts—

"There's a Reason"

Made in Canada —at Grocers everywhere.



Canadian Postum Cereal Co., Ltd., Windsor, Ont.



The Prize Packet in the Mess Kit is

WRIGLEY'S

The Gum of Gumption

Sealed Tight Made in Canada Kept Right

Millions of bars supplied every month to the Army and Navy. Every bar means more power to our forces—at home and abroad.

Send some in every letter and parcel to the Front. Small in cost, but big in benefit.

Delicious—Antiseptic

Cleanses mouth and teeth. Helps appetite and digestion. Refreshes, soothes and satisfies.

WM. WRIGLEY, Jr. Co., Ltd. Wrigley Bldg., Toronto

The Flavor Lasts!

The following are always appreciated:

- Milk Chocolate
- Sweet Chocolate
- Nut Chocolate
- Oxo Cubes
- Sterno Stoves
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- Coffee, Milk and Sugar
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