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'Siam Observer'

VOL 43. NO. 101

BANGKOK WEDNESDAY MAY 2. 1917.

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PHASES OF THE MOON.

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The Real German Aim.

The number of the new Round Table which as usual plies a rapid and cleancutting style of argument contains one article of very special note. This is "The New German Empire," and its purpose is to show that a clear, steady aim exists behind what the world is apt to regard as only a welter of ambitions and policies resulting from Germany's megalomania. This aim, the writer contends, will not be defeated by being merely diverted in the recent war. A partial defeat of Germany now will intercept some of the enemy shafts, not all of them; and in any event will leave German militarism bursting with latent consciousness of victory, and in a position to resume immediately, and along lines all ready-prepared its attempt at a conquest of which it has been only temporarily baulked. The article displays this so logically and penetratingly that it is worth while

summarising its argument here. The aim in question (says the writer) is not generally realised outside Germany, and in particular is not realised among ourselves, because it is overlooked how her rulers deliderately put aside as irrelevant to statecraft the forces and claims of moral feeling, of international right, and of human decency and chivalry. In the "Realpolitik" or " Machtpolitik," which constitutes the cold intellectual aspiration of the German people (revealed, for example, in the speeches of their present Chancellor and in the pages of Prince Bulow), all moral values are left out. And we must leave them out before we can see the history of the war through German eyes; just as they must be brought back to German minds before these can enter again into intelligible intercourse with the civilised world. The instinct was right, in a word, which perceived from the first that the real issue in this war was the survival of Prussian Militarism, and the instinct now is right which recognises that only by victory in the field can that tyrant of civilisation be

"wholly and finally destroyed." Empire Dreams in the West. Before the war there were some moderates" in Germany, but if these differed from the extremists as to methods the objectives of both were the same. The objectives lie one in the West, the other in the East. They are distinct, but complementary. One may be gained without the other; and, so gained, it would be a substantial advance upon the ultimate position, "world-dominion." For the German aim fulfilled will mean " world-dominextensive and Colonial Empire composes the greater part of its scheme of conquest in the West. That has been declared explicitly—the Round Table cites day and date, chapter and verse—by the German Emperor, the King of Bavaria, the Chancellor, Prince Bulow, the six Economic Associations, Professor Delbrueck, the Frankfurter Zeitung, the Socialist Robert Schmidt, by, in fact, leading representatives of both extremists and moderates—Imperialists all. They have, in their various ways, worked out this Western scheme in detail, the result always being at the least an Empire so big that it will be self-supporting and capable of conducting its own defence in case of war, with harbours and coaling stations as well as munition and arms factories. At its most ambitious the Empire thus conceived was limitless. This dream the British Navy has dissolved for Germany's rulers, though the German crowd probably still entertains it : but already the understanding sections of the country are discussing the next war, which is to follow the present, and is to accomplish that in which the present war has failed.

Solid Achievements in the East. But, the writer continues, Germany has suffered no such failure in the East.

There also, indeed, her expectation has outrun performance; nevertheless, she has reached solid achievements. Her conquests have been made over her allies and adjoining neutrals, as well as over enemies. Austria Hungary and Bulgaria have been tied to her wheels; and Turkey is, in fact if not in name, a German annexe. The small European neutrals have been intimidated by frightfulness." And thus Germany, robbed of the overseas Empire of her dreams, has established a new Empire in its stead in the very heart of the Old

World.

The article then proceeds to examine the character of this new Empire as revealed from German mouths-in particular by the moderate Professor Delbrueck, the pioneer of the drive to the East, Paul Bohrbach, and Naumann, the author of "Mittel Europa" One thing constant to all this cloud of witnesses is the assurance that the British Empire can never again enjoy its old security, nor Egypt and India remain unass ilable, unless Germany is made powerless to prevent the breakup of Turkey, which (they say) is impossible. What kind of Empire then is here portended? In respect of foreign relations-that "definite concert of the Powers" which President Wilson regards as having to be assumed to follow any Peace-the answer can be taken from Dr. Kerschensteiner, of Munich, a man known through two hemispheres as a moral educator of the young. Dr. Kerschensteiner-the source making the doctrine more monstrons -lays down about this new Empire in its foreign relations a policy that is nothing else than the writ of blood and iron of the ancients-in the words of Thucydides, "The strong do what they can while the weak suffer what they may." As to internal organisation, with one accord all who discuss it, officials, bourgeoisie, and Socialists alike, build it upon a military and economic domination. They conceive the world divided up among a few great World Powers, each exploiting the little nationalities whom they have coerced into their several camps. Thus the new German Empire is in conception a military and economic unit, a barracks and a plantation, its inhabitants a labour force in peace and simply "man-power" in war. All moral values are eliminated from it. Such is the ideal of Prussian Militarism, which, if we do not finally crush

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The 1917 Campaign.

Military writers in England and on the Continent have been closely studying the possibilities of the 1917 campaign and by no means the least interesting summing up is supplied by Colonel Feyler the distinguished Swiss critic, in Land and Water. In two articles the writer sets out:—"(1) To compare the military situation at the end of 1915 with that at the end of 1916 in the light of the strategical objects and intentions of the belligerents," and "(2) to ascertain how far the pre-sumable forces of the two sides will allow them to realise their strategical objects." After comparing the various offensives undertaken by the enemy in 1914-15 and the operations conducted by both sides in 1916, the conclusion arrived at is that "while at the end of 1915 the spectacle offered by the movement of all armies was, generally speaking, that of an allied defensive against a Germanic offensive the spectacle at the end of 1916, except on the Rumanian front, is that of a general allied counter-offensive and a German defensive, with a compulsory slow retirement in the regions of great pressure." "The question of the immediate future," continues the writer, "is whether the Central Empires will be in a position to resume their original intentions and destroy their essential enemies, which would secure their conquests; or whether, on the contrary, the Allies will be able to push their attacks until the Germanic forces are destroyed, in which case they would dictate their terms of peace; or lastly. Whether the Central Empires, who are virtually a beleagured to acknowledge that your success is city, will be able to protract their resistance long enough to wrest from the exhaustion of their opponents recognition of all or part of the territorial results which they have achieved. The answer depends entirely upon the re-

In his second article Colonel Feyler shows that the Allies, to whom the avenues of the world are open, have a larger margin of remaining resources The Central Empires are reduced to their own exclusive resources, and their two Balkan allies exact from them more than they contribute. "The margin of the Allies warrants extensions, whereas that of the Central Empires is impaired by reductions." In referring to resources in personnel, it is pointed out that any one class of recruits of the Powers of the Quadruple Entente now com- pensary.

maining resources employed by the most skilful command, supported by

the most obstinate determination on

the part of the army and the people to

endure and win.'

prises twice the number of men in the corresponding class of the Central Empire Alliance. In 1916 Germany formed three masses of manoeuvre and the Allies five. "The campaign of 1917 will be bound up with the possibilities

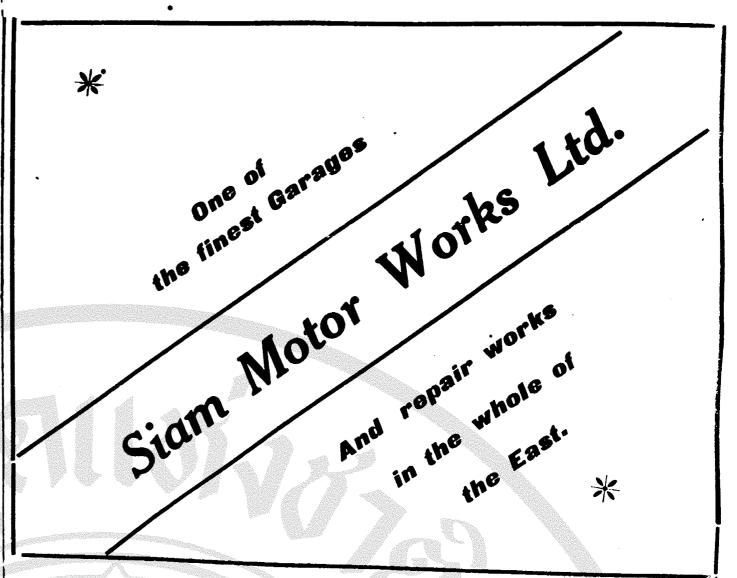
of forming new masses of shock. . . . With regard to the central Empires, it is conceivable that the Turks may still be able to supply a few regiments withdrawn from the requirements of their defence. The Bulgarians and the Austrians are no longer wholly sufficient for the operations on their fronts. The Germans shave at their disposal some balance of troops from Rumania. . . For the rest they are reduced to expedients. The Allies still have two normal sources from which to draw their masses in reserve: better proportioned distribution of their respective units over their fronts, and continued supply of recruits from the mother countries and their colonies.' As far as resources in material are concerned the Allies, with equal qualities of organisation, "can last longer, while yet consuming more freely at such times as a large consumption becomes necessary." Their only inferiority lies in imperfect communications. With regard to moral reserve, the writer states :-

"Confidence in a final victory is the actual moral foundation of the activity of the belligerents. The Germans say: 'You will never compel us to retire: you will get tired of making attacks without any hope of success: the simplest thing is for you to negotiate.' The Allies say: 'You have begun to retire: you will get tired of retreating without any hope of victory: the simplest thing is for you to evacuate our territory and

worth nothing.' The most obstinate in maintaining one of these opposite opinions will certainly be the one who feels himself most able to hold out because of the means at his disposal." After considering the moral factors in favour of the Allies and adding their superiority in means and resources, the writer concludes that "the campaign of 1917 is opening under auspices more favourable to the champions of a Europe that desires the development of the democratic rights of nations than to the champions of a reactionary Europe that claims to be reviving a kind of Holy Allaince, inspired by Jehovah."

NOW IS THE TIME.

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Notice.

On account of the Weesakha Boocha Festivals The Siam Commercial Bank, Ltd. will be closed to public business on Friday and Saturday the 4th and 5th May 1917.

> The Siam Commercial Bank, Ltd. A. WILLEKE,

> > Actg. Manager.

Notice.

The Russian Legation hereby advises that, on the strength of the decree of the Provisional Government of Russia purporting to the alleviation of the penalty of persons who had committed criminal offences, those who have evaded military service are freed from punishment provided they report themselves to their military authorities not later than May the 28th. Those who have no possibility to appear on that date may join the armies of the Allies in accordance with general regulations

Russian Legation, Bangkok. April 29th, 1917.

30-4-17.

30-2 M.

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" Teiresias ". are hereby notified that same have arrived per s.s. "Kuala" on 2nd inst., and will be landed and stored at our Wharf, at the risk, expense and responsibility of consignees.

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Agenta

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can be really happy if any of its member boon priceless beyond words, and without it, success and felicity are practically impossible. Much illness is positively unnecessary and is occasioned chiefly by wealest. Much anxiety given on this account to near and dear ones is, therefore, avoidable. It is of the utmost importance that a reliable remedy should slways be at hand to reliave the earliest symptome of indispositions. Beecham's Pills are an excellent household medicine—safe to take and sure in their curative results. No home boon priceless beyond words, and without it.

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FISH Dried Cod **Codroe Caviare** Haddock Bloaters Kippers

Boiled Ham on cut French Ham " Raw Ham Breakfast Bacon

Australian Cheddar (English) Canadian

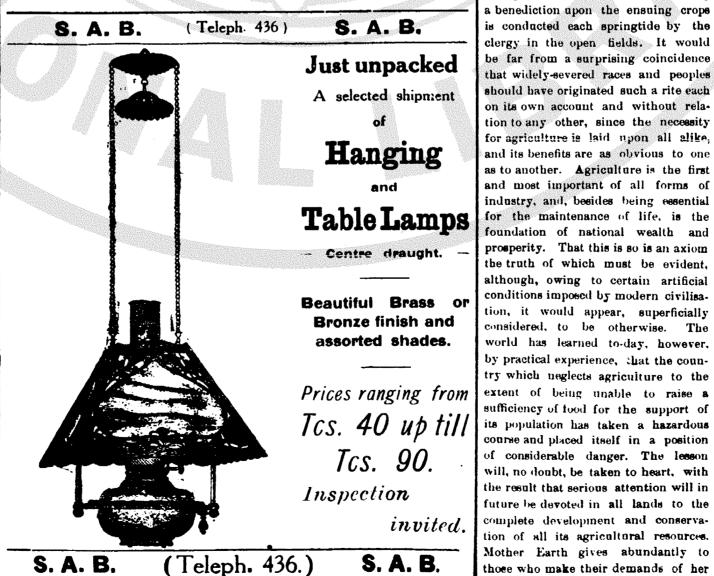
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CA. Vandervell & O.I.

The Siam Observer

WEDNESDAY, MAY 2, 1917.

A DESIRABLE GUERDON.

To-day, at the time fixed according to the auguries, took place the interesting and time-honoured Raak Na ceremony, performed according to ancient custom and ritual. Historically, the ceremony can be traced back to Vedic India: but a similar usage appears to have been common to all the peoples of antiquity, and its origin is lost in the remotest dawn of time. There is a tradition to be found in the sacred literatures of more than one race of old that the science of agriculture was taught to primitive man by beings of a Divine Race who voluntarily incarnated upon earth in order to become the leaders and instructors of infant humanity, and the various rites corresponding amongst different races to the Raak Na are therefore, said to have been instituted by these nameless benefactors of mankind. On the other hand the rites may have originated quite spontaneously out of man's sense of gratefulness for the bounteous manner in which kindly Nature repays the labour of his hands by providing him with the means of sustenance. The ancient Egyptians, the Aztecs and Toltecs and the old Peruvians, the Etrurians, the Greeks and Romans, the Celts, the Chinese, the Persians in Magian times, the Chaldeans, Assyrians and Carthaginians, all celebrated a ceremony differing only in form and not in kind from that laid down by Manu, of which the Raak Na is the direct descendant. This ancient rite, like so many others, was taken under its aegis and altered to suit its own tenets by Christendom, and to-day in the country districts of Catholic Europe a ceremonial form of invoking a benediction upon the ensuing crops is conducted each springtide by the clergy in the open fields. It would be far from a surprising coincidence that widely-severed races and peoples should have originated such a rite each on its own account and without relation to any other, since the necessity for agriculture is laid upon all alike, and its benefits are as obvious to one as to another. Agriculture is the first and most important of all forms of industry, and, besides being essential for the maintenance of life, is the foundation of national wealth and prosperity. That this is so is an axiom the truth of which must be evident. although, owing to certain artificial conditions imposed by modern civilisation, it would appear, superficially considered, to be otherwise. The world has learned to-day, however, by practical experience, that the country which neglects agriculture to the extent of being unable to raise a sufficiency of tood for the support of its population has taken a hazardous course and placed itself in a position of considerable danger. The lesson will, no doubt, be taken to heart, with the result that serious attention will in future be devoted in all lands to the complete development and conservation of all its agricultural resources. Mother Earth gives abundantly to aright, and it is but a gracious acknow. ledgment of this to pay public homage at her shrine. Let us hope that this year she will make reply with even more than her accustomed generosity.

The Raak Na Ceremony.

There was a large attendance to witness the Raak Na Ceremony at Phya That this morning, when H. E. Chow Phya Yomaraj was in charge, as he has been for several years past. The religious part of the Ceremony was conducted yesterday in presence of H.R.H. Prince Bhannrangsi representing His Majesty, and this morning H. E. Chow Phya Yomaraj was driven from the Dusit Palace to the grounds where the Ceremony was performed in a Royal Carriage drawn by four horses and escorted by cavalry. The significant part of the ceremony is the length of the Phanung which is taken haphazard by H. E. Chow Phya Yomaraj. It looked unusually long but it was only a five Khup garment betokening me-duim rain. After the ploughing the two bullocks had set before them trays containing grass paddy and other food products, including water and spirits. One of the animals refused all cajoleries to partake of some of the viands set before it, but the other one showed his partiality for the water and spirits till he had emptied the vessels. This betokens that there will be a scarcity of spirituous liquors in the country. Refreshments were served as usual and the Ministry of Agriculture passed round among those attending satchels contains small parcels of paddy and other vegetable seeds commonly grown in this country.

LOCAL AND GENERAL

WE understand that Mr. W. J. Hunter of the Arracan Co., Ltd., is leaving Bangkok shortly in order to proceed to the Front.

THE s.s. Kuala will leave from the Borneo Company's wharf at 11.30 a.m. sharp, on Friday the 4th inst., and should arrive in Singapore on Monday

WE learn that the marriage of M. le Docteur A. Poix to Mme. Renée Heck took place yesterday at Saigon. Congratulations are due to the happy couple, who will arrive at Bangkok by the s.s. Jade next week. THE Post and Telegraph Department

reports that Malay Peninsular main line is still in good order as far as Prachuabgirikhan. Chiengmai line is good as far as Prae. Paknampoh line in not properly working between Singhaburi. Nongkai line is interrupted between Konkaen and Korat. Other lines are available.

New Ads .- The Borneo Co., Ltd., publishes a notice to consignees. The Siam Commercial Bank, Ltd., announces that it will be closed to public business on Friday and Saturday next. To-night at the Phathanakorn Theatre there will be a new programme, including some exceptionally fine and thrilling pictureplays in several reels.

Siam's Trade.

The following approximate return received from the Customs Department shows the values of Imports and Exports during the month of April, 1917 :-

Imports. 3 % Goods Tcs. 7,525,560 Wine, Beer, & Spirits ,, 219,573 Gold leaf , 315,000 Bullion & Coin 339,124 Opium 593,990 Total 8,678,217 Exports. 7,979,219 Tcs. Teak 340,280 Other goods 1,173,125 Total ., 9,492,624

Aircraft Output,

London, April 26.- In the House of Commons, Captain Baird, describing the work of the Air Board, said that, taking the imaginary figure eight as the monthly output of aeroplanes last year, the average for the first two months of 1917 was sixteen. He anticipated an average during the next three months of nineteen, and hoped by the end of the year that the month. ly average would be thirty-eight. He paid a tribute to the very valuable assistance from France and announced that a committee with Lord Northcliffe as chairman, composed of representatives of the Services, of Government Departments, of the Dominions and of aeroplane manufacturers, was inquiring what steps could be taken for the development of aviation after the war, for civil and commercial purposes, from the domestic, Imperial and international standpoints; and the extent to which the British and Dominion air services could be utilised for that purpose.

THE

Great

English Racing Stopped.

(REUTER'S TELEGRAM.)

London, May 1. All horse-racing fixtures after May 5th have been cancelled, in accordance with the request of the Government.

British Communique.

(REUTER'S TELEGRAM.) London, May 1.

Field-Marshal Sir Douglas Haig reports: We captured this morning the trench system to the southward of Oppy on a mile front after heavy fighting against a stubborn resistance. The enemy made several unsuccessful counterattacks. We took 976 prisoners since yesterday morning, and brought down three German aeroplanes. Three of our aeroplanes are missing.

Reuter's correspondent at Headquarters, telegraphing on April 30th, said that the Germans were continuing to bring up more troops, and were counterattacking, particularly in the neighbourhood of Oppy and towards the town of Grvrelle, while continuous fighting was in progress around the Roeux chemical works.

Proposed Concessions to Russia.

("S. O." SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT.)

Singapore, May 1. A Hague telegram states that the Turkish Grand Vizier is in Berlin with regard to a proposal to make concessions to Russia with respect to the Dardanelles.

German Labour Troubles.

("S. O." SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT.) the forecastle, though wounded in the Singapore, May 1. Germany is anticipating big labour troubles on May 1st.

French Communique.

(HAVAS TELEGRAM.)

Paris, April 30. Yesterday there was destructive firing north-east of Reims and in Champagne. The number of prisoners made in the Couroy district amounts

To-day there was artillery activity south of St. Quentin, in the district of Troyon, and at Heurtabise, Craonne and the Massif de Moronvilliers. We held off German attacks in the Heurtebise sector, at Mont Cornillet and at Chambrettes.

The British captured the German trench-system south of Oppy on a front of 1,500 metres, repulsed all counter-attacks, took a thousand prisoners, and effected a successful coupde-main to the north of Ypres, making

General Petain has been appointed Chief of the General Staff at the Ministry of War.

Standardised Ships.

London, April 26.—In the House of Lords, Lord Lytton stated that the building of standardised ships was proceeding as satisfactorily as the material available allowed. The loading and discharging of ships was also proceeding as well as was to be expected. The rate compared favourably with the peace rate. The increase in freights and insurance facilities had already induced a number of ships to recommence running. He admitted that coastal steamships were included in the weekly returns of arrivals and departures, but declared that that was not misleading, and no essential facts were withheld. Government's objects were to curtail non-essential imports and ensure a fair distribution of essential commodities. More stringent measures might be necessary to attain these objects, but he was sure that they would be cheerfully borne. The position of our enemies was infinitely worse than ours, but our situation was serious and great sacrifices must be made, voluntarily or compulsorily, in order to defeat submarinism and win the war.

Amsterdam, April 27.—The Lokal-anseiger says that Mr. Bonar Law's command on the Rumanian front, son is a prisoner of the Turks in Pales , where the King of Rumania is Genera-

Dover Action.

London, April 25.-The Press Bureau gives some details of the Dover action reported on April 21 and says that the number of German destroyers was six and not five. The British destroyer leaders, the Swift and Broke, were night-patrolling in the Channel on a westerly course when they sighted an enemy flotilla on the port bow at 12.14 a.m. proceeding at high speed in the opposite direction. The night was calm and intensely dark and the enemy were within a six hundred vards range when they were first sighted. Simultaneously the German fire gongs rippled down the line and the Germans opened fire in a blaze of flashes, to which the Swift instantly replied. Commander Peck without hesitating decided to ram the leading destroyer. The wheel was wrenched round and the Swift, every occupant of the bridge blinded by flashes, drove straight for the enemy.

It must be realised that the ramming of one of a line of destroyers and dashing through the pitch darkness at twenty to thirty knots is an exceedingly delicate operation. One initial miscalculation of a few degrees of helm, or a few revolutions more or less of the propellers spells failure, which probably means being rammed by the next enemy boat. The Swift missed, but traversed the line unscathed and returned like a hawk upon its quarry and while returning it neatly torpedoed another boat. Again she dashed at the leading boat, which again eluded her, and without firing another shot she fled at full speed into the darkness, the Swift pursuing.

When sighting the enemy the Broke, Commander Evans, was steaming a-stern of the Swift. On the latter altering her course to rain the leader, the Broke torpedoed the second boat in the line and opened fire with every gun. A dull glow from every funnel of the six enemy boats, stoking furiously for full speed, lit up the upper-works, enabling Commander Evans to decide his tactics. Gathering speed for the blow, he swung to port, and rammed the third boat at full speed, fair and square abreast the aft funnel. Thus locked, the boats fought desperately in a hand to hand conflict. The Broke swept the enemy's decks at point blank range with every gun, from the main armament to the pom-pom and maxim. rifles and pistols.

Two of the remaining destroyers of the German line poured a devastating fire on the Broke. The foremost gun crews were reduced from eighteen to six. Midshipman Gyles, in charge of eye, kept all the foremost guns in action, assisting the depleted crews to load. Meanwhile a number of frenzied Germans swarmed up the Broke's forecastle from the rammed destroyer and amid the blinding flashes of the forecastle guns rushed aft. Gyles, half blinded with blood, met the rush singlehanded with his revolver, which a German attempted to seize. Seaman Ingelson promptly bayonetted him and the remainder, excepting two feigning death, who were taken prisoner, were driven overboard.

The Broke, two minutes after the ramming, wrenched herself free from her sinking adversary and attempted to ram the last boat of the line. She failed but hit the latter's consort on the stem with a torpedo. The Broke was hotly engaged with these two fleeing destroyers, followed by the Swift, but a shell struck the Broke's boiler room, disabling the main engines. The enemy vanished in the darkness. The Broke next headed towards the destroyer heavily afire, whose crew sent up loud appeals for mercy. Regardless of the danger of the enemy's magazines exploding, the Broke moved slowly towards her. Cries of "Save; save!' redoubled, when the Germans unexpectedly opened fire.

The Broke was uncontrollable and unable to manoeuvre or extricate herself. She silenced the treachery with four rounds, and then firing a torpedo

hit the destroyer amidehips.

Meanwhile the Swift, unable to maintain full speed owing to a slight injury received earlier, abandoned the chase and presently sighted the outlying stationary destroyer. She heard confused voices and warily approached with guns trained on the stranger. The latter was the sinking destroyer rammed by the Broke. The crew bellowed in unison, "We surrender!" Suspecting treachery, the Swift awaited developments. The German destroyer's crew stopped shouting, she heeled slowly over, and sank stern foremost,

the crew taking to the water. The Swift, using her searchlights, rescued the survivors. The Swift's and Broke's crews cheered each other out of the darkness till hoarse.

The British casualties were com-paratively light. The spirit of the wounded is epitomised by the conduct of the Broke's helmsman Rowles, who was hit four times with shell fragments but remained at the wheel throughout the action, and only betrayed that he was wounded by reporting to the Captain, "I am going off now, Sir," and then fainting. Commander Evans is the Antarctic

explorer.

Petrograd, April 25.-The distinguished Russian General Techerbats-

General Wire News.

London, April 25. -In the House of Commons, Mr. Baird stated that there was reason to believe that the missing airman, Lt. Robinson, V. C., was alive. London, April 26.—Major the Earl

of Suffolk, R. F. A., has been killed in action. [Henry Molyneux Paget Howard, born in 1877 and succeeding to the Earldon of Sussex and Berkshire in 1898. Communder of the Wilts Battery 3rd Wessex Brigade (T) Owner of 10,000 acres 1

London, April 25.-In the House of Commons, Mr. Bonar Law stated that the Imperial War Cabinet yesterday considered the resolutions of Lord Baifour of Burleigh's Committee in favour of Imperial Preference. He promised

a statement on Friday.

Amsterdam, April 26.—A Berlin message states: With reference to an urgent demand on the Government to declare its war aims, it is semi-officially announced that the Government has nothing to add to its previous communications. It will continue its policy undeterred by pressure. London, April 25.-In the House of

Commons, Mr. Bonar Law stated that Government was of opinion that the suggestion that the Germans should be informed that, unless Laon Cathedral was spared. Cologne Cathedral would be destroyed, could not be adopted. London, April 25.—The German Ministers in neutral States have been called to Berlin for a conference on the submarine question, probably owing to the growing neutral indignation at submarinism. Meanwhile all neutrals in Europe continue to suffer acutely from food shortage. There have been

marinism. London, April 25. - The Admiralty reports arrivals at British ports during the week as 2,585, sailings 2,021. Forty vessels of over 1600 tons, and difteen under, were sunk. Twenty-seven were unsuccessfully attacked. Nine fishing essels were sunk.

further great workmen's demonstra-

tions owing to this in Sweden, which

has suffered exceptionally from sub-

London, April 26. A New York telegram to London states that the captain of the American steamer Mongolia, arrived in a British port, claims the sinking of a German submarine by ginfire as the latter was attacking a liner in British waters.

Amsterdam, April 26.—The semi-official Berlin statement concerning war aims is the Government's reply to the recent Socialist peace resolution. The Vorwaerts describes the statement as a sign of weakness and declares that the Government would be glad to get peace on any terms, but

does not dare to say so. The Vossische Zeitung attacks the Go<mark>vernme</mark>nt for not giving a clear lead in a question agitating the nation.

London, April 25.—The House of Lords debated the subject of food limitation. Lord Devenport impressed upon the House the necessity of a reduction in the consumption of bread to four pounds per bead weekly. Meat consumption had been considerably reduced. The sugar allowance must

be reduced to half a pound weekly.

It would depend on the people's consumption of bread and other foodstuffs within the next two months whether compulsory rationing would be necessary. He warned them that in the meantime the machinery for this purpose was being organized and declared that if the dimunition was not accomplished, we should not get through to next harvest except with severe privation.

A vast tonnage was locked up in military transport. Our shipping resources were in nowise assured. Shipping was daily wasting, although our existence depended upon it. There was no immediate prospect of the release of locked up shipping. but he was not despondent as to the situation. It could and would be faced, but only by a diminution of consumption.

Honoured Officers.

London, April 23.-The following decorations have been awarded: The Croix de Guerre to Major Hugh Knox Niven: the Order of the Crown of Italy Commendatore to Lieutenant-Colonel George Chevenix-Trench; the Belgian Order of Crown Officer to Captain Stewart Douglas, Colonel Almroth Wright, and Major Adrian Carton de Wiart: the Serbian Order of the White Eagle of the Fourth Class to Lieut. Colonel Godfrey Drage.

Fraser and Neave, Ltd.

The 20th Ordinary General Meeting of Fraser & Neave, Ltd., was held in Singapore on the 24th ultimo, Mr. W. H. MacGregor, Chairman of the Board of Directors, presiding.

The report and accounts were submitted, and the chairman proposed their adoption. We make the following extracts from his speech ;---The business for the year shows an

improvement on 1915, but is still short of our average turnover prior to the war. But, when we take into consideration the difficulties which I have referred to above and the gineral curtailment of demand, this is not to be wondered at. The cost of materials used in the process of manufacture still continues to increase, and in some instances it has been necessary for us to obtain supplies in new markets. As codds bottles are now unobtainable except at an exorbitant price, we have been compelled to introduce a new type of crown cork bottle for sweet drinks, and I am glad to say that the innovation is apparently quite satisfactory to consumers. Supplies of carbonic acid gas, which formerly

came from Holland, are now made in our own factory. I instance these two cases so that share-holders may more readily realise the radical change which has taken place during the past two years in the conduct of the business and in the method of manufacture. .

Mr. Foreman, manager of our aerated water department, left for home yesterday on sick leave, and his place has been taken by Mr. Sturgess. Mr. Foreman has had a very anxious time since our last meeting and I should like now to place on record our appreciation of what he has done for the company during what has probably been the most trying period of its existence. Our thanks also are due to the staff both of the aerated water department and the printing department for their loyal help during the past year.

An interim dividend of 123 per cent. having been paid in October last, the directors now recommend the distribution of a final dividend of 123 per cent. and a bonus of 5 per cent. in addition. The profit for the year, including balance brought forward from last account amounted to \$130,928,07. The balance now being carried forward is

Cash Clearance

Commencing Tuesday May 1st.

BARGAINS IN ALL DEPARTMENTS

GREAT REDUCTION 20%

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For the month of

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MALCOLM BERANGER RAJAWONGSE ROAD,

SOLE IMPORTER.

PINKETTES—a gentle and thorough

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of price from The BRITISH DISPENSARY, Burgkok, Siam.

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F You are troubled with Ecsema, Blotches, Spars, Pimples, Boils, Sores, or Eruptions of any kind continually bursting through the skin. You are suffering the aches and pains of Barl Legs, Biood Poison, Abscesses, Ulcers, Scrofulous and Ulcomted Sores, Glandular Swellings, &c.

You have that constant itching and inflammation of Piles. You are in the grip of Rheu-matism, Sciatica, Lumbago.

lotions and measy ointments which cannot get below the surface of the ak n. What you want, and what you must have to be permanently curst, is a re-decine that will thoroughly free the best of the possenous inatter which alone is the true can be of all your suffering. Clarke's Blood Misture us just such a re-decine. It is composed of ingredients which quickly attack, overcome, and expel from the blood all impurities (from whatever cause arising), and by rendering it clean and pure, can be relied on to effect a complete and lasting curs.

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Mixture is cert led by a remarkable collection of insolicated testimonials from
strateful patients of all classes; patients
who have been cured after being given up
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cured after timus many other treatments
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Blanke's Blood Mixture is pleasant to take and guaranteed harmless to the most delicate constitution of sitner sex. Of all chemists and steres.



British Motor Cars.

The following have just arrived, probably the last obtainable for an indefinite time:-

20 H.P. Siddeley Deasy 5 seater

with 4 cyl. Silent Knight Engine and Dynamo Lighting set. A handsome and luxurious Car. Buff upholstery, body painted white.

10-12 H.P. Enfield 2 Seaters

with dicky seat and dynamo lighting set. Green upholstery and biscuit color body.

ON VIEW AT

Siam Import Sikak Phya Sri-City.

About Machine-Guns.

BY MAJOR G. W. REDWAY.

The machine-gun has now come into its own after being the sport of inventors, critics and experimentalists, naval and military, for over fifty years.

A collection of models would embrace the Bequa of the American Civil War: the Montigny mitrailleuse that "let down" the French so badly in 1870; the Feld, which the Bavarians employed at the fighting on the Loire: the Russian Gorloff-Gatling, used in the Khiva campaign and at Plevna; the Gatling adopted by our Navy for its landing parties; the Hotchkiss— at first called the "revolving cannon" and still in favour with the French: the Nordenfeldt, which we tested in the Matabele campaign: the Gardner, used by the Nile Expedition in 1814: the Maxim, in universal esteem with or without Vickers' improvements; the springless type of Maxim, which is called the Schwarzlose, and is made at the Skoda Works for the Austrian and Bulgarian armies; the Perino weapon, of Italian manufacture; the Danish Madsen, with which the Scandinavian armies are equipped; the Colt, used by the Canadian Forces; and, lastly, the Lewis gun, now being turned out in great quantities by the Birmingham Small Arms Company on behalf of the Belgian owners. The first-named of these weapons

was called the Requa Battery, from its, arrangement of musket barrels side by side on a frame like a Pan-pipe: the latest machine-gun approximates to the long-expected automatic rifle. Both of them, like the Gatling, the Maxim, and the Colt, are of American origin. The rôle of the machine-gun in land operations is instantly to produce a volume of fire equal to that of fifty rifles, which can be directed upon a narrow front, or, by traversing, sweep a broad front: to combine mobility with concealment: and, incidentally, to eliminate the factor of human nerves which comes untowardly into play after men have fired a certain number of rounds from a rifle. But rapid manipulation is apt to put the mechanism out of gear and to produce excessive heat is the barrel, while the conflicting ideas of various experts as to methods of ensuring mobility and concealment have resulted in a large assortment of carriages and mountings. The original Montigny mitraillense was as cumbrous as a field-gun, while the up-to date Lewis weapon can at a pinch be carried and used as a one-man weapon. The weight of the machine-gun has varied from 631 1b

Until the late Sir Hiram Maxim applied his fertile brain to the problem

of automatic fire in 1883 machine gune were worked by means of a crank handle or lever; but the Maxim swept them all out of existence, for this was a true automatic weapon—that is a gun which once started would go on releading and firing by itself so long as cartidges remained in the feeding apparatus. Hiram Maxim's secret was, however, soon out, and then inventors got busy on the means of actuating the mechanism, and they stilled either the recoil of the barrel or a portion of the gas produced by the explosion before the bullet clears the muzzle. The recoil class and the gas engine class of weapon has each its adherents to-day. Another vexed question is that of cooling the gun in action. Most guns of Maxim type are water-sooled, but after a few kundred rounds have been fired the heat of the barrel sets the water boiling. For this reason many-like the French—prefer the air-cooled Hotchkiss gun, though in this type spare barrels are needed after three minutes firing. The Lewis gun is superior to all other machine-guns in this respect, for it needs neither water nor spare

In the course of its evolution the machine-gun in its lighter forms has practically anticipated the automatic rifle, while in its heavy type—the socalled pompour, for instance—it was actually the forerunner of the Q.F. actually the forerunner of the Q. F. artillery. It has finally established itself as the ally of the rifle, not of the field gun, and it can pump lead, in the shape of a small calibre bullet, in prodigious quantities: but, as Mr. Gardner remarked 35 years ago, the rate of fire is not everything. To the question:
"How fast can you shoot?" he replied:

I make a distinction between a cartridge-destroying machine and a machine-gun. It is the number of hits on the enemy, not the number of shots fired, that we care to score."

In the British service the first machine-gun accepted was the Guttingthe Navy adopting the 65-inch and the Army the 45-inch bore. But although Colonel Wray's Committee in 1870 had recommended the formation of some 12-gun Gatling batteries, only a few pieces were taken with our expedition to Ashanti, where it was found that on wheeled carriages they could not travel in the bush. In 1876 the Nordenfeldt gun, and in 1882 the Gardner gun, were added to our armament, but luckily the Maxim appeared before we had committed ourselves to to any larger purchases of the older types. In 1890 a general issue of Maxims took place and three years later the War Office published its first Manual on the use of this weapon. Yet as late as 1894 instruction in the use of the Nordenfeldt and Gardner was being given at Hythe. In the South African War every infantry and cavalry unit

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possessed at least one Maxim mounted on a wheeled carriage, but the machinegun gained little repute on the veldt, and so the experiments of over thirty years seemed fruitless.

In the meantime Russia, who had taken up the Gatling gun with enthusiasm as early as 1871, had equipped her army with Maxims, which were handled so effectively in the Manchurian campaign that Japan was forced to follow suit—she chose the Hotchkiss—and both sides organised these weapons in batteries of six or eight pieces. From in batteries of six or eight pieces. From

machine-guns, for on a visit to England in 1887, as Crown Prince, he first saw the Nordenfeldt on a galloping carriage which belonged to the 10th Hussars. He had it copied and our War Office permitted a British instructors to go to Potsdam in order to train some German troopers in its management. But the German General Staff continued to look askance at machine-guns for another decade, and then it went to work with a will in equipping the cavalry with batteries of Maxims. After the Russo-Japanese War the German infantry also were provided with batteries of machineguns. The German Staff ostensibly distributed these guns on the scale of 24 per division, but there is reason to believe that it secretly accumulated enormous reserves of these weapons, in order that the Maxim might be used unsparingly and without regard to losses in action. France owes her preparedness in the matter of machine-guns to the agitation of M. Hum-bert in 1907, who put an end to the indecision of the Government as to the choice of a weapon, and caused an im-proved type of Hotchkiss to be made at St. Etienne: it is still called the

mitrailleuse. The literature of machine-guns is rapidly growing. Perhaps the earliest pamphlet extant is that of General Vandenburgh, of the U. S. Army on "A New System of Artillery for projecting a Group or Cluster of Shots," dated 1862, and the latest is the admirable "Book of the Machine-Gun," by Major Longstaff and Captain Atteridge, illustrated with 84 plates and published illustrated with 84 plates and published by Hugh Rees and Co., who also issue Major Applin's remarkable work on "Mechine-Gun Tactics." Among a collection of books, pamphlets, and

lectures on machine-guns is one by Captain Armit, a volunteer officer who trained the earliest detachment of London machine gunners. He bodly advocated the formation of a Machine-Gun Corps with a depot for training but he limited his demand to 200 guns and 4,000 machine-gunners with 250 officers: as at that time (1886) the regular army had only a few dozen machine guns. But if Captain Armit be alive to-day he may rejoice to hear that after a layer of thirty years his dream is fulfilled, for the British army has virtually adopted his general which meanwhile has been this period the machine-gun negan to figure prominently in battle, and Turkey, Montenegro, Greece, Serbia, and Bulgaria all used Maxims in the our machine-gun batteries, squadrons our machine-gun batteries, squadrons The German army owes to the and companies, which are recruited Kaiser its introduction to modern from all brances of the service by the transfer of suitable men. Captain Armit asked for 4,000 men; we have certainly twenty times that number already and the Machine-Gun Corps is still expanding in order to man the vast quantities of machine-guns of

> Munitions. In the heart of the country a sleepy market town has been transformed into the headquarters of the training units of the Machine-Gun Corps, whose pay and record offices are in London. From this centre proceed companies, squadrons, and batteries, and their reinforcing drafts, to France, Egypt, the Balkans, and Mesopotamia; and when the history of this tremendous organisation comes to be written, its most fascinating chapter will be that which is devoted to the "Tanks."—Er.

> various types which are conveyed and worked by all manner of transport and mountings provided by the Minister of

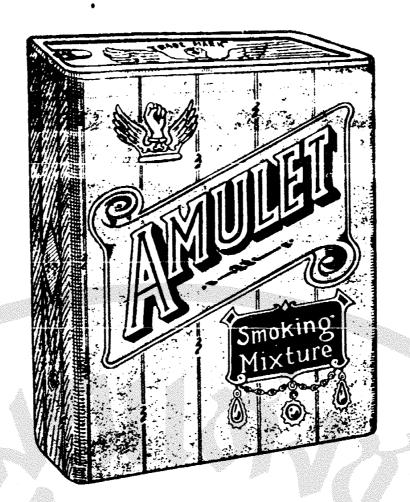
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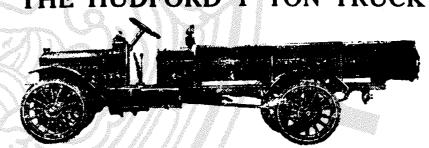
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The Clubby War in the Balkans.

It's quite a neighbourly sort of affair, the war in the Balkans, at least as far as the Serbians and Bulgarians are concerned. No idealistic image of Fritz and Gaston ewapping sipes of tobacco across barbed-wire entanglements can compare with the actual realization of the entente existing between the troops of the two Balkan nations. When the trenches are close together, as they often are, especially when the scene of the fighting is in a narrow place, Herbert Corey, writing in a copyrighted letter to the New York Globs, tells us that there is an almost continuous correspondence going on between the men on each side. There is, moreover, a kind of understanding about gun-fire, and neither side, it is said, will fire, as a rule, before breakfast. It is a very clubby affair, much like the fraternity existing between the players of two rival football teams. We read:

"Each side knows the other side through some centuries of fighting and trading. The individual knows the idiosyncrasies of the individual on the other side and respects them-and sometimes takes advantage of them. One-rarely hears gun-fire before breakfast, for example. That sort of thing is bad for the digestion. Each side takes its siesta at noon and knows perfectly well that during that siesta the other side side is making use of the informal truce. Neither side destroys the Macedonian villages. I have ridden through scores of towns in which not a tile is out of place. Yet most of these villages were held by the Bulgarians before they were driven back, and the inhabitants are beyond question friendly to the Bulgarians to-day. Only one town showed signs of punishment. Part of it had been burned when its Comitjadis

fired on troops. "' It became very annoying,' said the lieutnant in command of a trench section on Vetternik. 'The Bulgarians fired on our dinner-pails."

"There is no outrage which quite compares with that for the soldier. The peculiarity of the Serbian is that he never asks the other side to let up. He just fights harder. So that for a time the Bulgarians were treated to a hot mess of bombs and rifle firing, with occasional butt and bayonet interruptions, at the meal-hour. This wearied the Bulgarian soul. The cook corvée would come along with its clinking cans and its savoury odours of up. Immediately the Serbians would get so busy that all thought of eating was out of the question.

could stand that for a time, but when it

Serbians.

"But what do they say about it?" easily.—Ex.

specialising on meal-hour war the Bulgarian called quits.

"'Let up on this,' he saiden complaining fashion one day. 'My gosh almighty, man'-or whatever may be the Balkan equivalent for that-have a heart. We haven't had a stew in four days that wasn't as cold as Pharaoh.

"'All right,' said the Serbian, 'only

you let up, too.' "So that nowadays the two sides fight industriously all night long, take a rest at breakfast-time, fight some more, and when the clatter of the cook's pans is heard, the fighting auto-matically ceases. There is no need to remind the other fellow of the agreement. The fragrance of hot coffee and the adorable outgiving of koupos dispose each man to tender peace. It is only after good digestion has sufficiently waited upon appetite that the fighting begins again."

And then a new chummy spirit came into being among the ranks on both sides when somebody in the Serbian Army discovered the deep truth that a live Bulgarian was just as good as a dead one, provided he was in the right place, Obviously then, the right and proper thing to do was to invite him to come over and surrender, in the most hospitable manner possible. Wherefore, as we are told:

"The word was passed along the line, and all the Serbians began writing affectionate notes inviting the Bulgarians to cross the line. As the trenchlines are in many places only a few metres apart, and as the neighbourly fighting-men have long been in the habit of exchanging books and newspapers, it was not difficult to get the invitations into the hands of the

potential guests.
"'Yah,' said the Bulgarians, increduulously. The Serbian has no respect for the ethical quality of the Bulgarian. He insists the man has no comprehension of honour. 'Yah,' said the Bulgarians, 'you want to get us over there and kill us.'

"'Fools,' said the Serbians, indignantly. Do we look like men who would do that sort of thing? Herewe'll show you.'

"Whereupon they rounded up a recent catch of Bulgarian prisoners from this section of the front and photographed them, and passed the photographs into is all right, they will come in, too,' the other lines. I have seen these "There have been persistent sto of Bulgarians lolling about on the grass with the air of guests at a lawn-party, s assuredly one to be envied by a man

insisted the cynical Bulgarians. 'We want to know how they like it?

Wherenpon, the situation was outlined to the Bulgarian prisoners, and those obliging young then immediately sat themselves down and began to write notes to their particu'ar friends on the other side. The translations I have read were couched in the most glowing terms, The inside of the Serbian lines was described as flowing with milk and honey, and the prisoners asserted they were thoroughly enjoying themselves. Now and then a stubborn Bulgarian would refuse to ask a friend to desert, but would express a wish to send news of himself to his home. Whereupon the Serbian, who is distinctly a good fellow, told him to go to it. The across-the-lines post is now in full operation. Every day a small mess of Bulgarians trickles into Serbian lines.'

Of course, all this, as we are told, gets on the nerves of the Bulgarian officers. It is very annoying to have a lot of men to command, and then find some one, who ought to be making life miserable for them, seeking to lure them away. The officers attempted to put a stop to the traffic of notes, but as they are usually stationed at some distance behind the trepches activity as censor is well-high impossible. Mr. Corey remarks:

"Even when the officer sees a note fall in the trench, the man who picks it up is apt to read it before he turns it in. The orders are strict that deserters shall be shot as they leave the trench, but, even so, ingenious soldiers find a way to escape in safety. The other day one Bulgarian found himself in a short length of trench with four com-

"'Let us stack our rifles here, said he, pointing to a convenient place. Then you can sit down and smoke these cigarettes while I stand guard.' "When the four cigarette-smokers heard the clatter they looked up, but the accommodating comrade was then on his way out of the trench, his arms filled with five ritles. In one instance a deserter walked calmly over to the Serbians. They were amazed that he was not shot at by the men in the trench he had abandoned.

"'You see,' said he, 'it is this way, I represent the other men. If I say it

"There have been persistent stories photographs. They show large bodies that the Bulgarians take no Serbian prisoners. That is an exaggeration, of course, and I have been unable to find rather inclined to be amused by the out how much truth there is in the new entertainment. They are fat, and tales that the Serbians are very frecomfortably drossed. A prisoner's life quently killed when they give themselves up. I am more inclined to who must sit in the unsanitated trench think that the Serbians are killed beeating was out of the question. One the Bulgarian affects, to be potted at by fore they give themselves up, for the men of this Army do not surrender

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