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BRITISH NOVELIST TO TALK FOR ALLIES HERE



Photo by American Press Association. SIR GILBERT PARKER.

Sir Gilbert, who gained fame and knighthood by his novels of Canadian life, is generally recognized in England as one of the spokesmen for the Lloyd George policies.

A GENERAL SURVEY OF THE WAR

The British cruiser Laurentic of 14,892 tons gross has been sunk by a submarine or as a result of striking a mine, according to an official statement issued by the British admiralty.

Before being taken over by the British admiralty for auxiliary cruiser duty, the Laurentic was in the Canadian service of the White Star Dominion line.

In an engagement between British light naval forces and German torpedo boat destroyers in the North sea, a German destroyer was sunk and the other torpedo craft scattered, it was officially announced in London.

The sinking of a British torpedo boat destroyer in another engagement with German torpedo boat destroyers in the vicinity of Scioevon Bank, with the loss of three of three officers, and forty-four of the crew, also was announced.

An unidentified German vessel shelled the Suffolk coast of England. There were no casualties.

The heaviest fighting in progress in any of the war areas is in the Riga sector, where the Germans recently took the offensive and drove back the Russians a mile and a half in the region of the Great Tirl marsh, that long has barred the way to Riga for German forces.

Berlin announces that the attack netted the Germans strong Russian positions on a front of about six miles, with more than 1,700 prisoners and thirteen machine guns.

Attempting again to advance over the frozen ground which has made the effort in this swampy region possible the Teutonic army has sustained reverses, according to Petrograd. North-west of the marsh they opened a heavy artillery fire and attacked, but failed to make any headway.

The fighting extended to the southeast of the river Aa near Kalzelm. Here the Russians, after taking the offensive, were caught in a counter attack and compelled to retire northward a third of a mile.

In what appears to have been the most important offensive movement undertaken on the Franco-Belgian front in several weeks, French trenches on a front of approximately a mile in the region of Hill 304, northwest of Verdun, were stormed by German troops, the Berlin war office announces.

The Paris account of the German offensive reports it launched along a rather wide front, the attacks being delivered at four points between Avocourt wood, on the extreme left of the French lines about Verdun, and Dead Man Hill, a distance of more than three and one-half miles, says that the attacks were repulsed, except that the Germans penetrated advanced trenches near Hill 304.

The number of prisoners taken in Rumania has reached near 200,000 says the Overseas News agency. Dispersed soldiers who had hidden in the forests and villages and who had taken off their uniforms are reappearing, the agency adds.

Lieutenant George Gynemer, the French aviator, by bringing an airplane down on the Somme front, destroyed his twenty-eighth machine.

Polishing Coral. Although Venice is a center for tourist trade in coral and shell combs, coral itself is neither gathered nor worked there. The manufacture is confined to Torre del Greco. Polishing coral in quantities is an interesting feature of the work.

Guarding the Bank of England. The Bank of England is quite the best guarded institution in the world. No burglar or bank thief has ever succeeded in making it part with a penny.

Special and costly precautions are taken to guard the bullion department where the gold is stored. It has been stated that the whole department is submerged every night in several feet of water by machinery.

One of the big eastern structural companies, having a contract to build a traveling crane above a coal handling plant at a dock, decided to employ a surgeon to remain "on the job."

As a form of entertainment, not instruction, the motion picture will probably develop along the lines of free, even fancy, the romance, melodrama, and of the narrative. The stage, free from the burden of supplying these forms of entertainment, will probably concentrate more on the mission of the spoken work, which is to convey ideas and illuminate character.

The Bull of Phalaris. Perillus of Athens is said by the ancient authorities to have invented for Phalaris, tyrant of Agrigento, B. C. 570, a brazen bull which opened on the side to admit victims who were to be roasted to death by the fire which was built underneath.

A Better Trade. "I understand young Briefless is about to marry the daughter of old Bonds, the millionaire?" "Yes, so I am told."

Court Plaster. You can make court plaster at home by spreading clean silk with a preparation made by dissolving one part of isinglass in ten parts of water and afterward straining it through muslin.

Easy Marks. "This world would be a pleasanter place if there were not so many fools in it."

Her Predicament. "When I doubt you're a tramp." "The trouble is I'm in doubt most of the time. And I don't get more than four or five tramps." Louisville Courier-Journal.

Honor thy father and thy mother stands written among the three laws of most reverend righteousness. Aeschylus.

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A POSER FOR THE JUDGE.

The Way the Accused Put the Case Up to the Court.

Writing of Polish temperament and talent, Sidney Whitman in "Things I Remember" has an amusing story of a bright Polish Jew who traded in chemicals.

The magistrate proceeded to read out the charge when the Jew suddenly interrupted him with the question: "Excuse me, Mr. President. Do you understand anything about chemicals?"

"Mr. S., the expert, is here in that capacity," replied the judge. "And you, Mr. S., queried the Jew, 'do you understand anything about law?'"

"You have just heard from his worship that I am an expert in chemicals. If you want to know anything about law please address yourself to the judge."

"I ask you, Mr. President, just to consider the case for one moment. You are the judge of the court and admit that you do not understand anything about chemicals, and the expert tells us that he does not know anything about law. And I, a poor Jew, am expected to be familiar both with the law and with chemicals. Now, Mr. President, I ask you how can I possibly convict me?"

FINDING THE ALTITUDE.

How Airmen Measure the Heights to Which They Ascend.

Altimeters or barographs are used by aviators to measure the heights to which they ascend. Both of these instruments are constructed on exactly the same principle as the aneroid barometer. They depend upon air pressure. At sea level, where the air is most compressed by its own weight, the pressure is about fifteen pounds to the square inch, but at greater heights it becomes less.

There are many forms of barometers. The simplest is a bent tube of glass, shaped like a very long letter J and partly filled with mercury. The upper part is closed, and the space above the column of mercury is a vacuum.

Airplanes use one of these instruments mentioned, which are practically self-registering barometers, and when the airplane comes down the instrument shows how high it has been carried.—Philadelphia Press.

Looking It Up. He was that type of genteel beggar that "puts up a front," as the fellows say. His face had more tears in it than a cemetery, and he was just getting ready to tell his down and outer's tale when the man at the desk reached into a drawer and brought forth a dictionary, placing it in front of the appealing one.

"What do you want—sympathy?" the man at the desk asked. "Yes, sympathy," was the half sobbing reply. "Look in S for it. I saw it there the other day."

The sympathy chaser grunted and headed for the door. He wasn't looking for work, just sympathy—in the form of a piece of loose change.—Indianapolis News.

Goose Fat. Goose fat makes excellent pastry that is absolutely free from any flavor of the bird or of the onion stuffing. The pastry turns out light and "short."

when this sort of fat is used. A Belgian recipe is as follows: Throw all the fat left after drawing the goose into cold water with a little salt as soon as the goose is skinned. When the bird is half done ladle off some of the dripping before it browns or becomes strong and as the roasting proceeds leave only enough dripping in the pan to baste with. Next day put the dripping, with the fresh fat, in a stewpan, with slices of apple, and onion if approved. Add salt and pepper. When done clear it and strain it into a jar. Cover it and keep it in a cool place.

Russians Light Drinks.

The Russian realized perfectly well the evil effect of the use of vodka upon his fellow countrymen. We must not share the belief, disseminated by the books of dilettante travelers, that every one in Russia was a hard drinker. Far from it. Certain very considerable sections of the population did not drink at all. Such were the Mohammedans, to whom the prophet of Allah had forbidden the juice of the grape; such were the sectarians among the orthodox, who refrained on principle. Many others as well did not indulge, either from distaste or from conscientious scruples.

Automobile Taps.

The practice of running an automobile with the top up when it is not needed is easily, according to tests which I made, says a contributor to Popular Mechanics. When the back of the top cannot be rolled up the resistance is especially great. Six miles more were obtained from a gallon of gasoline with the top rolled and covered as compared with having the top up with the back closed. When going against the wind this extra pull is especially heavy, and difficulty in making a hard climb may often be relieved by lowering the top. Careful regulation of the top, using it only when essential, will be found to be a worth while factor in reducing the gasoline bill.

Spilled His Speech.

"When I rose to speak it was so still in the hall you could have heard a pin drop." "Yes?" "Well, I stood there for a moment looking out over the audience and framing my first sentence, and I am sure that I should have been able to get along all right, but just before I had got ready to utter my first word some fool in the back end of the hall yelled, 'Lender!'"

Reckless Disregard.

"The law of supply and demand," said the economist, "is as inexorable as the law of gravitation." "You can't always enforce either of them. The law of gravitation doesn't prevent people from getting up in the air these days."—Washington Star.

At It Night and Day.

"My daughter is a wonder at the piano," said the proud father. "That's so, for wonders never cease," said the man who occupied the adjoining flat.—Boston Transcript.

Powerful Mind.

"So Stubkins has a mind of his own?" "I should say he has. And you ought to see her use it."—Chicago Herald.

Not Sure.

"Shall I lend him \$200?" "I don't believe I would. He's one of those chaps that never lets anything worry him."—Detroit Free Press.

A Health Crank.

"Have you any nice coconuts?" "Yes, mum. Here's one full of milk." "But is it sterilized?"—Boston Transcript.

Advertisement for Baer & Co. bathroom equipment, featuring a toilet and text: 'MANY bathroom equipments of... BAER & CO.'

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Population by Sex.

About half the probable population of the world has been enumerated with relation to sex. About 50.3 per cent male, 49.7 per cent female, is the result of this count. Only in Europe, among continents, do the females outnumber the males, the proportion being: Female, 50.6 per cent; male, 49.4 per cent. In most parts of the world of which we have information the reverse is true.

Adjustable Mathematics.

"Figures prove"—began the statistical expert. "Wait a minute," interrupted Senator Sorghum. "You tell me what question you are discussing and which side of it you are on and I'll tell you without the trouble of going through the calculation just about what your figures are going to prove."—Washington Star.

Charm of Praha.

No traveler who has visited Rumania returns without praising the wonders of Praha. Here, after one has passed the heights of Prague, is a charming valley in the midst of forests of great rocks and spouting waters. The landscape evokes recollections of Switzerland, with architecture that recalls the orient.

Ambiguous.

When Bilks was away from home on a long business trip he got a letter from his wife that still puzzles him. It ended thus: "Baby is well and lots brighter than she used to be. Hoping that you are the same, I remain, your loving wife."—Manchester Union.