

# FOCH ASSERTS PEACE MUST BE ONE OF VICTORY

### Insists on Frontier That Will Protect France From Military Disaster.

### SAW SUCCESS AUGUST 8

### Asserts Germans Produced No Leader Equal to First Von Moltke.

By G. WARD PRICE.

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Paris, April 19.—"Our peace must be  
a peace of victor, not of vanquished."

In that single victorious sentence,  
spoken during the long conversation I  
was privileged to have with him, Marshal  
Foch expressed the feeling of millions  
of the allied hearts. These simple  
words sum up what all of us are think-  
ing.

"When did you first know you had  
final victory?" I asked after the Mar-  
shal had talked a little while.

"After Gen. Rawlinson and Gen. Debe-  
ney had made their joint attack August  
8," he replied.

"At the end of August I did not know  
when the Germans would give in, but  
I knew our advance would not stop until  
they finally were defeated and our of-  
fensive had become general. It began  
July 18, at the Marne, in such terrible  
fighting that the Germans used up fifty-  
five of the 180 or 190 divisions they  
had. Their reserves were exhausted.  
That had gone well.

"Then came the attack in the Amiens  
sector August 8; that went well, too. The  
moment had arrived. I ordered Gen.  
Humbert to attack in his turn. No re-  
serves, he said. No matter, I told him,  
get on with it. I told Marshal Haig to  
attack too, and he was short of men also.  
We attacked all the same; there we  
were, advancing everywhere, the whole  
line advancing, and I knew nothing  
could balk me of victory once Germany  
had accepted final battle where they  
did."

The Marshal went on to talk about the  
armistice.

"When the Germans came to me to  
ask an armistice I said: 'I am going to  
the Rhine if you oppose me, and so  
much the worse for you; but whether  
you sign the armistice or not I will not  
stop until I reach the Rhine.'

"And now, having reached the Rhine,  
we must stay there," went on the Mar-  
shal, emphatically.

"Impress that upon your fellow coun-  
trymen. It is our only safety and their  
only safety. We must have a barrier.  
We must double lock the door. Democ-  
ratic, like ours, which are never ag-  
gressive, must have strong neutral mili-  
tary frontiers. Remember these 70,000-  
000 of Germans will always be a  
menace to us. Do not trust the appear-  
ance of the moment. Their natural  
characteristics have not changed and  
four years hence they will be what they  
are to-day.

"Above all, mark this, what was it  
that saved the Allies in the beginning of  
the war? Russia; well, on whose side  
will Russia be in the future, with us or  
with the Germans? I will show you a  
map."

From a table at the other end of the  
room Marshal Foch brought a great map  
on eight feet square, on which the nat-  
ural features of this part of west-  
ern Europe were marked. The Rhine  
was a thick line of blue. West of the  
river Marshal Foch had drawn with a  
pencil a concave arc representing the  
new frontier France will receive under  
the peace treaty. It was clearly an  
arbitrary political boundary, conforming  
to no natural feature of land.

"Look at that," said Marshal Foch.  
"There is no natural obstacle along that  
frontier. Is it there we can hold the  
Germans if they attack us again? No;  
here, here." He tapped the blueprint  
with his pencil.

"Here must be ready to face our  
enemies. This is a barrier which will  
take some crossing if the Germans try  
to force a passage over the Rhine. Oh,  
no, but here," touching the black pen-  
cilled line running northwest from Lor-  
raine past the Saar Valley to the Bel-  
gian frontier; here there is a rocky and  
natural barrier.

"Where will the allied armies be; the  
British army will be in Canada and  
Australia and New Zealand. The Amer-  
ican Army will be in the United States.  
It will be the same the next time as it  
was the last if you are not able to main-  
tain obligatory service, and you will  
need time to organize yourselves. At  
the first battle of Ypres you had six  
divisions, excellent divisions, but only six.  
"On November 1, 1914, when I met  
Kitchener at Furnes, it was the first  
time I had seen him, and I asked him  
when he would be able to send us re-  
inforcements. He said by July of next  
year he would have a million men ready  
to take the field in France. I replied

that I would rather have fewer and have  
them sooner. He answered, 'You won't  
get any more until then.' It was touch-  
ing and go, and the Allies were within an  
ace of being crushed.

"The next time, remember, the Ger-  
mans will make no mistake. They will  
break through into Northern France.  
They will seize the Channel ports as  
base of operations against England. They  
did not do it before because they did not  
believe England would come in. When  
they found she was coming in their  
plans were being carried out and they  
could not change them. The Germans  
will have no arms for another attack,  
you say? How do you know? By the  
time you found out they had them it  
would be too late.

"If you build a house in the country,"  
went on the Marshal, "you put a double  
lock on the door and a wall around  
your garden. But there are no thieves  
around here, says some one. You prefer  
not to trust to that. But, there are  
geniuses. They may arrive too late.  
Now, if you are wise you insist on hav-  
ing your locks and your wall, and we  
must have our armies on the Rhine.  
Some people object. 'I will take many  
troops to hold the Rhine, but not so  
many as it would take to hold a politi-  
cal frontier, for the Rhine can be crossed  
only at certain places, whereas a new  
political frontier for France can be broken  
anywhere and would have to be held by  
force along the entire length.

"The stroke of genius that turns the  
face of battle," continued Marshal Foch,  
"is not to believe in it. Battle is a com-  
plicated operation. You prepare labori-  
ously. If the enemy does this you say to  
yourself, I shall do that. If such and  
such happens, this are the steps I  
shall take to meet it. You think out  
every possible development and decide  
on the way to deal with the situation  
created. The only error of these devel-  
opments occurs you put into operation your  
prearranged plan. Every one says,  
'What genius to have thought of that  
at the critical moment,' waiting on the  
credit is really due to the labor and  
preparation done before hand.

"No attack in the history of the world  
was better than that of the British  
made against the Hindenburg line near  
St. Quentin and Cambrai by the British  
Fourth, Third and First armies on Sep-  
tember 2. Their enemy positions were  
most formidable, but nothing could stop  
the British. They swept right over them.  
It was a glorious day for British arms."

"What is your opinion of your ad-  
versary and the German leaders?" I  
asked Marshal Foch.

"Oh, to judge them it would be nec-  
essary to know everything that was in  
the house across the road," he an-  
swered.

"Still," I ventured to suggest, "I sup-  
pose they are constantly trying to divine  
their intentions, it is possible to form  
an idea of their mentality."

"The Germans never produced in this  
war the general capacity of the first  
Moltke of the war of 1870."

"There were three chiefs of staff who  
each had well defined methods," con-  
tinued the Marshal. "Von Moltke, the  
younger, who was chief of staff in 1914  
was devoted to the idea of outflanking.  
It was his stock manoeuvre. It led him  
to infringe on the neutrality of Belgium  
and so outflank the French army from  
the north. He tried it again at the  
Marne and then he started a race to the  
sea, with battles in which his aim was  
contact to turn our flank, but in all  
of which he failed. So von Moltke dis-  
appeared and Falkenhayn succeeded him.

"Falkenhayn's method was to crush  
all the small allies first. Leaving on one  
side Russia, where his success was not  
decisive, he started a campaign against  
Serbia, but, though he overran that  
country, it led to nothing big. The al-  
lied armies were still intact. Rumania  
declared war. Falkenhayn decided to  
crush Rumania. He did so, but he was  
no farther advanced.

"His Government at last replaced him  
with Ludendorff and Hindenburg. Lu-  
dendorff's scheme was to get rid of Rus-  
sia and then throw himself with all his  
strength upon the western Allies. He  
chose as his means to destroy Russia by  
revolution, but, though you know where  
revolution starts you can never tell  
where it is going to end, and the revolu-  
tion Ludendorff started to undermine  
Russia ended in Germany and helped  
to her undoing. He used the extreme  
measures recklessly and they turned  
against him.

"It was through believing that ruth-  
lessness alone, without paying attention  
to any other consideration whatsoever,  
was going to win them the war that the  
Germans lost. They were overreckless  
and overconfident, they were great or-  
ganizers in this war, they had no men  
in sight nor any genius."

Marshal Foch is not of those who be-  
lieves wars have ceased upon the earth,  
nor does he think new mechanical in-  
ventions will greatly change the funda-  
mental nature of war.

"The rules and principles of war are  
always the same," he said. "It matters  
nothing whether your soldier is on his  
feet in the open or shut up inside a tank.  
The principles by which he must fight  
are unalterable. The development of the  
art of war is like that of art and archi-  
tecture. The materials you use for your  
buildings may change. They may be  
wood, stone or steel, but the static  
principles upon which your house must  
be built are permanent."

American Ambassador Sharp, who is  
leaving Paris, was announced at this  
point. He had come to pay his farewell  
call. I asked the Marshal one question  
more. "Bolshevism, Monsieur le Mar-  
chal?"

Marshal Foch answered confidently  
without hesitation:

"Bolshevism is a disease," he said,  
"which attacks conquered countries.  
Conquering nations like our own will  
remain free from it."

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