WAR-TIME BOOTS CHASE RECEDING SKIRTS IN LONDON

Ellen Adair Finds Startlers in Women's New Footwear

IT'S ECONOMY, PROBABLY

By ELLEN ADAIR

Written Specially for EVENING LEDGER.

LONDON, April 1.—The new boots fill me with a vast admiration. They are triumphs. There's little else but boot in milady's costume. In Oxford street this morning I met half a score maidens arrayed, blushless and unabashed, in—well, just coats—and boots! The boots came somewhere up toward the waist-line, and the skirt was no more

They were young and charming, these maidens. Certainly the men thought so. Several of the ruder sex remained joyously rooted to the spot while the pretty maidens tripped by. Oh yes, they were war workers. Bus conductors, female commissionaires and all that sort of thing. And their costume was fascinating.

To watch the little conductorette skip up and down the narrow stairs of her bus is sheer joy. Ofttimes the boots are partially obscured by puttees. She's so determined about her work, too. None of the soft side there. "Stand back!" she shouts peremptorily to the seething mob which struggles to board the vehicle. "Take your time! There's plenty of room!"

CHIC BOOTS ON BATTLEFIELD.

Speaking of alluring feminine footwear, Lord Northcliffe, the famous journalist, doesn't seem to be missing anything, even in his danger trip around the firing line. While parading in the ruins of Rheims I note that in that forsaken spot he was quite startled to encounter a chic little Parisienne, arrayed in quite startling boots, the last scream in high hats, an unblushingly short skirt, imperturbably picking her way through the ruins with a Pekinese under one arm and a gas mask under the other. "Truly a remarkable sex," observes the great Northcliffe solemnly.

Has he only found that out now? Yes, the thought of the chic little lady of Rheims daintily picking her way among the shell-holes and stepping it out jauntily on her 2½-inch heels is quite inspiring. One can picture her watch the approach of a roaring "Charlie Chaplin" or a 70-pound "Big Lizzie" with no fear save for the probable destruction of those boots of hers.

The War Savings Committee has stuck economy posters up all over London, and alas! alas! their venom is even aimed at boots. "Don't Wear Luxurious Boots," the big blueprint shouts. Yet boots de luxe are on the tapis, or, to be more accurate, tap-tapping it everywhere.

"Speaking of boots," said a critical male person today, "it puzzles me to discover where all the kids are coming from. Never was there such a slaughter of kids since the first kid saw the light of day. I am afraid there will be a great goat famine after the war, for no kid has a chance of attaining goathood in these times."

"But," he continues, "I do not grudge the boys their goats and girls their kids. It is not well to carry thrift too far. The British soldier is the smartest in Europe, and the Girl He Left Behind Him needs to be encouraged. Dowdiness is the defeat of womanhood."

DARING! YES, DARING!

The other day in a Bond street tea shop, much affected by the Gilded Youth of London, I perceived a truly daring pair of boots. The little lady who wore them was arrayed in a tartan skirt, beside which Joseph's coat of many colors would have paled into insignificance. It was a replica of the kilt worn by the wounded warrior who accompanied her. He belonged to a famous Scottish regiment, noted alike for the dazzling qualities of its men and of its tartan!

The martial cut of the little lady's skirt was bad enough, but she didn't stop there. Certainly not! Her white kid lace-up boots were actually surmounted by a swathing of tartan at least four inches wide. If she had even copied her wounded warrior more closely and swung along with knees uncovered she could not have caused more of a sensation. Certainly those tartan swathings were "it." Heads turned and tongues wagged. But the comment brought to the little lady a peace and a satisfaction which nothing else could have afforded. She had achieved Fame!

As the war goes on dresses grow shorter and the tops of milady's boots higher. Statistics inform us that one inch per month is the climbing rate! It's all very disturbing. And where's it going to stop, we ask? Like the little conductorettes and commissionaires and farm workers, probably in the discarding of skirts altoge[illegible]

Speaking of the new farm worker[illegible] I cannot truly say that I like their boots. They are much too "sensible." They're a throwback to the type of footwear worn by "sensible" Englishwomen before the war. There's too much of the square toe and the flat heel about them, not to mention the appalling roominess. The 2½-inch heels are much more alluring. So are the long, pointed vamps.

At a popular musical comedy the other night I saw some wonderful little feet. Yes, even though they did belong to Englishwomen.

NOVELTIES IN BOOTS.

Of course, they were immaculately shod, and that makes all the difference. There were lots of white kid boots, with queer-shaped little "windows" all the way up the front, cut so as to display various-hued hosiery beneath. Several were finished with an edging to match the hem of the skirt. Extraordinary black buttons were dotted with unscientific inaccuracy all over the lattice work, too. But the effect was superb.

Only the other day I saw Princess Mary arrayed in a remarkably chic pair of boots. So even the royal family is putting its best boot forward. It is clearly proved this, indeed, will never be a bootless war!

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LE BATTERIE ITALIANE INTENTE A DEMOLIRE I FORTI DI LAVARONE

L'Importanza Strategica del Col di Lana Conquistato con le Mine e Con Gallerie Sotterranee

SAN MARTINO IN FIAMME

ROMA, 21, Aprile.

Il Ministero della Guerra pubblicava ieri sera il seguente rapporto del generale Cadorna circa la situazione alla fronte italo-austriaca:

Tra la valle dell'Adige e quella del Brenta l'attivita' delle truppe austriache ed italiane e' stata limitata. Ieri la nostra artiglieria con un intenso ed efficace fuoco ha continuato l'opera di demolizione dei forti di Luserna e di Belvedere, sull'altopiano di Lavarone.

Nella zona del Col di Lana il bottino fatto da noi fino a ieri comprende un cannone di grosso calibro, quattro mitragliatrici, centinaia di fucili ed una grande quantita' di munizioni.

Sulla fronte dell'Isonzo la pioggia e la nebbia hanno ostacolato le nostre operazioni di guerra, ma la nostra artiglieria e' riuscita a provocare un incendio nel centro abitato di San Martino del Carso ed in un deposito di munizioni a sudovest della stessa localita'.

Un aeroplano nemico ha lasciato cadere bombe su Bassano Veneto, ma senza riuscire a fare vittime od a causare danni.

La conquista della sommita' del Col di Lana da parte degli italiani e' ammessa ufficialmente anche a Vienna. Un comunicato ufficiale austriaco infatti annuncia che la sommita' e' ora in possesso degli italiani. Il Col di Lana ha una notevole importanza strategica perche' domina la grande strada delle Dolomiti e l'accesso alla conca di Cortina d'Ampezzo. La sommita' e' un vasto pianoro che declina dolcemente da ovest ad est, mentre i fianchi meridionali, che dominano la strada delle Dolomiti, sono ripidi e di difficilissimo accesso.

Le operazioni contro il Col di Lana furono iniziate dagli italiani fin dal luglio dell'anno scorso. Il 23 ottobre essi conquistavano un'operecampale fortissima a meta' strada tra la base e la sommita'. Il 7 novembre gli italiani, tra i quali erano i garibaldini di Peppino Garibaldi, raggiunsero la sommita', attaccavano violentemente gli austriaci e li costringevano a ritirarsi dalle posizioni. Ma il pianoro, il cocuzzolo che forma la sommita', era in gran parte ancora nelle mani degli austriaci che lo avevano fortificato in una maniera veramente formidabile, con trincee, con reticolati, con bocche di lupo, "cavalli di Frisia," con tutto quanto era possibile opporre all'avanzata degli italiani.

Gli austriaci pensavano che il possesso del Col di Lana significava il dominio della valle di Livinallongo, della strada delle Dolomiti da Falzarego al Passo di Pordoi, e della strada che porta in territorio italiano a Caprile. Vi erano dunque trincee doppie, parallele, rafforzate con calcestruzzo, e le posizioni sembravano imprendibili.

Gli italiani dovevano ricorrere all'avanzata metodica e lenta. La conquista dei vicini costoni indebolirono a poco a poco la posizione austriaca sul Col di Luna. Ma dopo raggiunta la cima gli austriaci contrataccarono violentemente con rinforzi, e gli italiani furono costretti ad arretrare, ma rimasero sulla sommita', a brevissima distanza dal nemico. Gli avversarii si guardavano, ma nessuno dei due aveva artiglieria sufficiente per sloggiare l'altro.

CHOIR PLANS MEMORIAL TABLET FOR BOY SINGER

Church of the Saviour Will Erect Tribute to Young Vocalist

A memorial tablet to a choir boy, Master Clarence Lincoln Blaine, who died on March 23, will be placed in the Episcopal Church of the Saviour, 38th street above Chestnut, according to plans of the Music Committee of the church, consisting of George P. Kimball, L. H. Weatherly and O. C. Bosbyshell. Young Blaine, who was an unusually gifted singer, was a member of the choir for five years.

FRENCH HIT HARD ON VERDUN LINE; MAKE NEW GAINS

Capture Trenches at Le Mort Homme and Caurrettes Wood

PUSH GENERAL ADVANCE

PARIS, April 21.

French troops in their general offensive against the Germans at Verdun have gained ground on both sides of the Meuse River, it was officially announced today.

The communique states that in an attack yesterday at Le Mort Homme and Caurrettes wood the French captured trenches and also captured 154 prisoners.

On the east bank of the Meuse the French troops also gained ground, advancing into Haudromont wood.

The Germans were also active yesterday. Following a terrific bombardment on the Haumont-Vaux front, the Kaiser's troops launched a furious attack, which enabled them to capture a few trenches near the Douaumont pond. The French made their answer to this attack under cover of darkness, and in a night assault completely ejected the Germans from the positions which they had captured.

The text of the official communique follows:

On the west bank of the Meuse the attack launched yesterday by our troops in the region of Le Mort Homme made further progress during the night. We captured a trench on the north edge of Caurettes woods. We took 4 officers and 150 soldiers prisoners.

On the east bank of the Meuse a violent bombardment of our positions was followed in the evening by a powerful attack on the part of the enemy along a front of two kilometres (1.2 miles) between Thiacourt farms and Vaux pond. The Germans, who had succeeded in gaining a foothold in our lines south of Fort Douaumont and north of Pool, were completely rolled back by counter-attacks made by us at night. Two machines and some prisoners fell into our hands.

West of Douaumont, in the sector south of Haudromont wood, we likewise progressed. We effected the delivery of some wounded French prisoners and captured 20 Germans.

The night passed quietly on the rest of the front, except in the region of Le Pretre Forest, where our artillery was rather active.

THIEVES CHLOROFORM LAD

Then Bind and Gag Him While They Ransack Lansdale House

LANSDALE, Pa., April 21.—Chloroformed into unconsciousness, his legs tied with his shirt, his wrists bound with his belt and gagged with his underclothing, Walter Shive, Jr., aged 16 years, of 128 East 6th street, was found unconscious in bed at 2:30 o'clock this morning by his parents. Thieves ransacked the house, entered every room but the one which Mr. and Mrs. Shive occupied, and left without taking a thing. They were evidently after money, for valuable silverware was untouched. The Shive boy says he does not remember any details of the assault. He was unconscious an hour after he was found by his parents. A noise down stairs aroused them.

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CARRANZA TOTTERING AS REBELLIOUS CHIEFS UNDERMINE HIS POWER

First Chief Forced to Flee From Queretaro After Refusal of Aid to Execute General Blanco

ONLY GONZALES LOYAL

EL PASO, April 21.—Venustiano Carranza's power in Mexico is tottering and his downfall is regarded as only a matter of time. This news reached the border today from reliable sources. The military branch of the Mexican Government is regaining the ascendancy and only General Pablo Gonzales, commander at Mexico City, remains loyal to the First Chief.

The anti-Carranza faction of the de facto Government, headed by General Alvaro Obregon and General Candido Aguilar, respectively Ministers of War and Foreign Affairs, is dictating every move now made by Mexico. The American campaign in Mexico brought the long-smouldering enmity against Carranza to a head.

Carranza made no protest against the entry of American soldiers into Mexico and his foes took this opportunity to solidify the opposition. The demand for the recall of the United States troops followed.

Carranza was forced to leave Queretaro and go to Mexico City to save his life. Instead of making a triumphal journey from Queretaro to the capital, Carranza was fleeing for his own safety. The international crisis developed in this manner:

Carranza sought to have executed Generals Lucio Blanco, Panfilo Natera, Carrera Torres and two others because of the fear that they would be released from custody after being arrested on charges of treason and lead troops against him. The execution order he issued was rejected by the commander of the Queretaro garrison.

Carranza then ordered the mutinous commander punished, but soldiers and citizens in Queretaro protested violently and threatened to revolt if the order were carried out. Carranza was threatened with death if he persisted.

General Gonzales, notified by Carranza of the threatened mutiny, hurried to Queretaro. With an escort of 100 soldiers, Carranza was hurriedly taken to Mexico City.

General Blanco, particular object of Carranza's hatred, was Minister of the Interior in the Gutierrez Conventionist Cabinet. He revolted against Carranza, but later surrendered on offers of amnesty. Carranza had him tried and he was sentenced to death, but was saved by the personal plea of Major General Hugh L. Scott, of the United States army.

IL LAVARONE BATTUTO DAI CANNONI ITALIANI

I Forti di Luserna e Belvedere si Sgretolano Sotto il Violento Fuoco

Il comunicato ufficiale italiano di ieri sera annuncia che l'artiglieria italiana continua la demolizione dei forti di Luserna e di Belvedere, sull'altopiano di Lavarone. Il forte di Luserna era gia' stato distrutto dalle artiglierie italiane sullo scorcio di maggio dell'anno scorso e gli austriaci stessi avevano sparato contro il forte che aveva alzato bandiera bianca. Il forte di Belvedere invece aveva resistito. Evidentemente gli austriaci erano riusciti a costruire nuove opere, campali forse, sulle rovine di Luserna, e contro queste si accanisce ora l'artiglieria italiana.

Il forte di Belvedere difende l'importante passo di Lavaronce, a 1170 metri d'altezza, che porta all'altopiano di Folgaria ed alla valle dell'Adige. Lavarone e' difeso da quattro forti in parte scavati nela roccia, come quello di Belvedere, ed armati di potenti artiglierias.

Fund to Free Turnpike From Tolls

Main Line civic associations have been asked by Commissioners of Lower Merion township to aid in creating a fund to pay the legal expenses of the suit to free Montgomery avenue turnpike from tolls.

WEAKNESS OF CARRANZA NEW PROBLEM FOR U. S.

WASHINGTON, April 21.—Cumulative evidence of the impending collapse of the Carranza de facto government today complicated the already tangled skein of American-Mexican relations. The feeling openly expressed in official circles that the dispatch of General Scott, chief of staff of the army, to San Antonio to confer with General Funston on the future of the American punitive expedition, was a forerunner of the withdrawal of the United States troops, began to give way to a belief that forces could not be withdrawn at this time.

Secretary Lansing has repeatedly said that the United States was ready to comply with Carranza's demands to treat concerning American withdrawal.

While the Administration, in the view of many observers, was watching to determine whether conditions were shaping themselves to justify the withdrawal of the American soldiers, incident has followed incident to indicate that Carranza daily is losing his grip on affairs. Today the view prevails that the American forces hardly can be withdrawn in the face of Carranza's helplessness.

Cycle Rider Hurt Saving Woman

Robert Sithian, of 2440 Park avenue, riding a motorcycle at Girard avenue and Leopard street, last night, escaped running down a woman, but fell between his machine and a trolley car and suffered injuries to his arms and legs.

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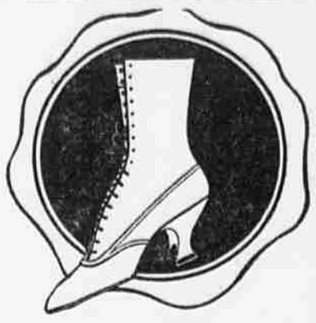

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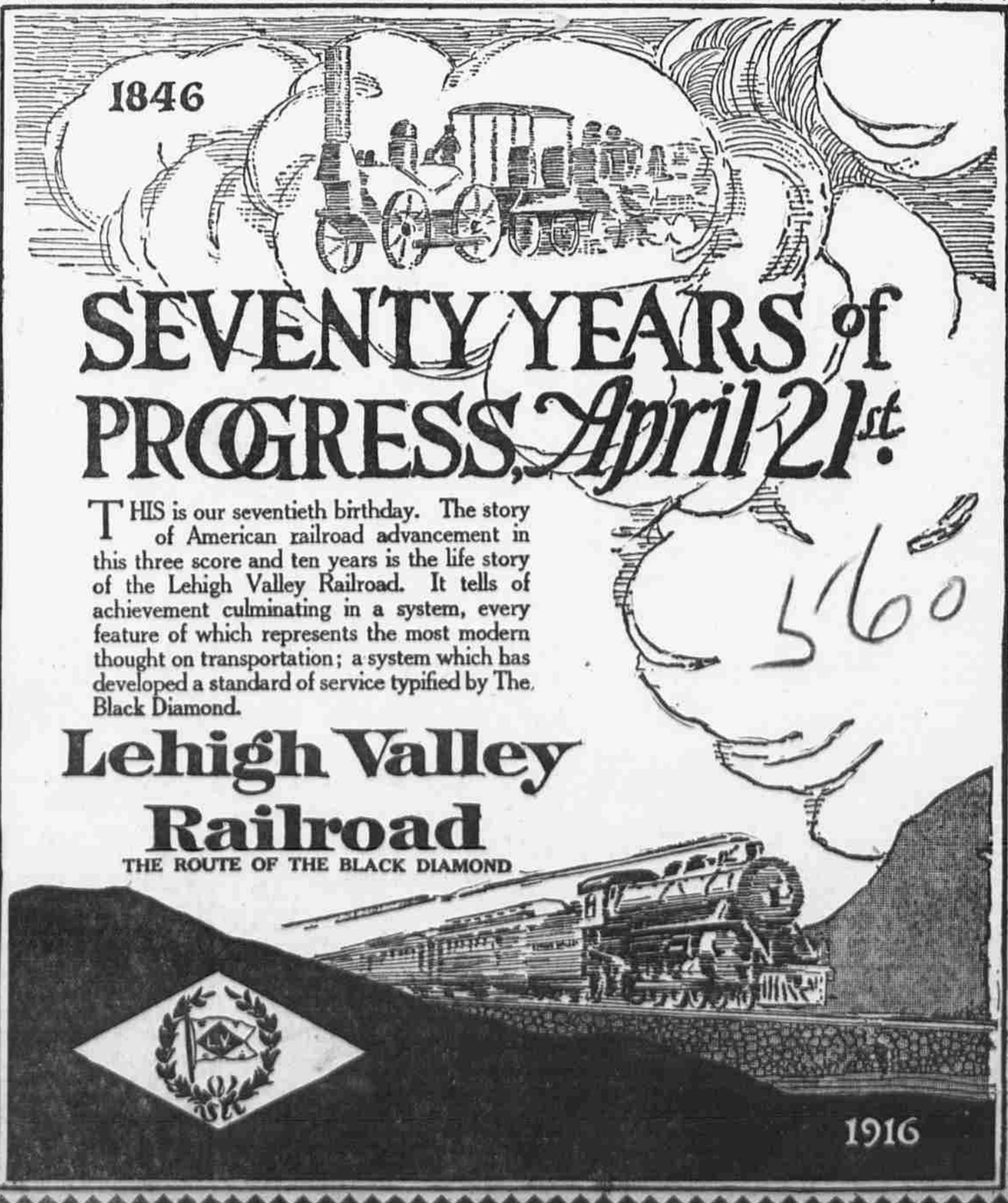
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