

WORLD GAZES CURIOUSLY ON BLOODY STAGE OF EUROPEAN WAR DRAMA

What Will Modern Instruments of Death Do? Will They Be Neutralized by New Tactics?

By B. H. Canfield
(Written Especially for The Star)
Europe is trying out its new armament—its new scientific machines for killing people—for the first time.
The energy, brains and money of

the continent have been used since the Franco-Prussian war in improving these machines, adjusting the engines, taking all the little kinks and knocks out of the motors and getting everything in first-class shape for action.

The highest stage of ability and smooth-running, high-powered efficiency had been reached.

All that was left was for the engineers to go around with an oil can and a handful of waste, adjust the mechanism and wonder just what the machines would do when cranked up.

Each engineer had agreed not to start his particular machine unless some one else started his and tried to run into him.

But all were anxious for a trial. Some one finally made a motion as though he were going to start and in a second they were all going at once.

What will they do with these new machines? Will the immediate destruction be as great as every one thought?

Or will war be what it always has been—a long struggle that is not stopped by the horror of it, but ends only with exhaustion?

Many predictions of the damage that will be caused by the big guns of battleships have been made since the dreadnought style of warship came into general use.

There are two schools among navy experts on the matter of gun-caliber.

The one that came into control recently was the big gun faction.

Small-caliber guns have been almost eliminated from the big new battleships.

The other school, believing in a large armament of smaller guns, subject to quicker action, closer range and a larger percentage of hits, now expects to find vindication in the sea battles of European navies.

The same scientific answers will be worked out on human targets by the latest appliances in infantry and artillery. It has been freely predicted that the improvement in small arms and especially in the small rapid-fire guns of the Gatling type will cause such immense slaughter and their use in war will be so terrible that war will cease.

Modern infantry first faces its enemy at a distance of about two miles, instead of banging away at point-blank range.

The attack means first the field guns, generally using shrapnel.

These attempt to silence the enemy's artillery fire and sweep his trenches.

Also the long range firing by the infantry. Then the advance.

Squads of men break from the ranks and run forward.

There is no formation of lines. Singly and in groups they run, dropping for cover whenever an inequality in the ground affords the chance.

Meanwhile the field guns send shells over their heads to protect them.

When they have gone as far as possible for the movement involved, they are halted, the lines brought into some sort of order and then the operation is repeated.

So, by quick and occasional dashes, they reach a point where the final bayonet charge can be made—provided, of course, the supporting artillery has done its duty.

The greatest speculation exists about the aircraft.

Military authorities are divided.

One side holds to the belief that while they will play an important part, this part will be limited generally to scouting.

Possibilities of bomb-dropping are not as large as was predicted.

Battles in the air will be due to one body of scouting aircraft being sent to repel another.

The big thing in connection with the aircraft will be in determining the value of dirigibles as against aeroplanes.

Germany is the leader of the dirigible school.

The great advantage of these ships over the aeroplanes lies in the fact that they can hover over

Pickett's Civil War Charges Are Impossible Now

The great battles in the present war will be fought over an immense space of ground. Compare Gettysburg in our own civil war with the area a modern battlefield will require.

On the third day of that battle the Confederates were lined up on Seminary ridge and the Union army on Cemetery ridge. The distance between these two was about 1,700 yards.

Early in the afternoon of the third day Gen. Lee ordered his artillery to shell the Union position. After the artillery fire ceased Gen. Pickett was ordered to make the charge which broke the back of the Confederacy. Pickett lined his men up in solid formation and marched them across and across that space, 1,700 yards of open space. Thousands of them were shot down, but many reached the Union intrenchments and a few made the last rush over the wall.

Today Pickett and his men could not march 100 yards across that space with a single man standing at the end of the 100 yards.

Machine guns were not known at the time Pickett made his charge. Today a machine gun can fire 600 rounds a minute in sweeping fashion and can be aimed with all the accuracy of a rifle. A machine gun is easily effective at the distance of 1,700 yards—the distance between Seminary and Cemetery ridges at Gettysburg.

A rush of over 300 yards will not be seen in the present European war. If one is attempted, not a man will live to tell of it afterwards, so deadly are the modern rifles and machine guns.

The hope of the infantry must rest with the artillery, two or three miles in its rear, which can fire over the heads of its own men with safety and at the same time with deadly accuracy if the enemy's position is known.

towns or troops at night in silence; that each ship will carry 25 men and enough nitro-glycerine to blow up a city.

Because of the number of men engaged the losses will be greater than ever before.

But there is considerable room for doubt whether the percentage of casualties will be greater than in previous battles.

In the Napoleonic campaigns and in the American civil war each side engaged often lost a fourth of its total number.

At Waterloo the French had about 32,000 men, in killed, wounded and missing.

At the battle of the Wilderness in the civil war the confederates had 62,000 men and lost about 12,000.

At Gettysburg the federal army numbered 82,000 men. They lost about 24,000 men. The confederates had 73,000 men and lost about 21,000.

At the battle of Shiloh the federals had 62,000 men. They lost 13,000. The confederates had 40,000 and lost 11,000.

At the battle of the Sha river, in the Russian-Japanese war, Kurapatkin lost 60,000 men or exactly one-fourth of his entire army.

If troops are ever caught in a trap or, through a tactical error, happen to be massed when subject to the enemy's fire, or if forts and outposts are stormed by large bodies of men under the mistaken idea that their artillery fire has been silenced, as at Liege, the death rate in those particular engagements will be so appalling as to be almost unbelievable by old soldiers who saw the carnage at Gettysburg.

But the tactics of the present day are so vastly different from those of even a few years ago that these things will happen only through error and cannot be the general rule.

While devices for killing have improved in efficiency, defensive appliances have kept pace and in addition to this, great strides have been made in hospital, sanitary and commissary departments, all of which tend to keep down the death rate.

So, it may appear after all that war is just plain war, as it always has been, without much difference in any part of it except the mode of killing and that the terrible part of it lies not so much in the new scientific appliances for destruction as in the immense numbers of men engaged.

WHAT THE PRESS AGENT SAYS

The musical acts on this week's program at Pantages are "The Fair Co-Eds," a tuneful musical comedy, with pretty girls and some little fun; the Hekkena Schiller String Quintet; Kitzner, Haynes and Montgomery, in a splendid musical novelty, and Chase and La Tour, who sing topical songs. In short, four out of five acts are largely musical.

"Night Hawks," a clever playlet, will be next week's headliner.

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DISCUSS PLANS FOR AUDITORIUM
Ways and means for building a municipal auditorium and the effecting of a permanent organization will be discussed at a meeting Tuesday at Fourth av. and University st. The temporary committee is headed by Rabbi Samuel Koch, chairman.

MONTY IS IN BAD
Montgomery Milne, said to have posed as a naval officer, is charged with forgery. He is accused of cashing a \$300 check on a Bremerton bank.

PROPERTY VALUE SHOWS INCREASE
A. J. Rhodes, of Rhode Bros., in behalf of the R. B. Realty Co., objected to the assessed valuation of \$87,500 on a lot at Fourth av. and Pike st. yesterday before the board of equalization. He declared same lot was assessed only \$45,000 in 1912 and that the big increase this year is excessive. The board allowed him a reduction to \$82,500 after a spirited argument.

Information Wanted
An appeal to the public for information concerning the Oil Fields of Clallam and Jefferson County. There are thousands of people who would be glad to know if there is a natural oil seepage coming to the surface in these counties, and if so, your information will assist in the development and upbuilding of the great natural resource.
Please write at once and give all information possible to S-728, Care Star.

Henry A. Bigelow protested the assessment of another lot in the same district, valued at \$140,000. He said it was assessed at \$185,000 last year. A reduction to \$130,000 was made.

Old German Lager

EVERYBODY WANTS IT

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