

## Mountain Section of Italy May Be Next Scene of Operations

(By Associated Press.)  
Headquarters, Italian Army, May 11.—Attention is now being centered on the mountain front for all the indications are that this is to be the main scene of coming operations instead of the flat river country to the east. With these operations perhaps not far off it is well to take a survey of this mountain section for its main points are likely to be heard of very often in the coming months. Already along these mountain roads there is the stir to great forces of men, guns and horses moving into position, and one almost feels that a great battle is already on.

The Tridentine Alps which stretch across northern Italy form a natural fortification between the two opposing lines, and it is in the lower section of these ranges that the military operations are now unfolding. While it is a front of several hundred miles from the Adriatic up to the Swiss frontier, yet part of this stretch is impenetrable mountain peaks covered with eternal snow, and there are practically only five lines of approach where breaks in the mountain heights permit military operations to be carried on.

These five lines of approach or communication through the Tridentine Alps are the valley regions known as the Valtellina, meaning see-saw from its winding character, which leads down to Lake Como and toward Milan; second, the Val Camonica, leading southward toward Brescia; third, the Val Giudicaria, which comes down just east of the Adamello region with its line of peaks and skirts along the west shore of Lake Garda; fourth, the Val Lagarina, which follows the course of the Adige river on the east of Lake Garda, and comes down from Trent toward Verona; and fifth, the Val Sugana which follows the course of the Brenta river and winds around the Asiago region down past Bassano.

These five main highways through the mountains become more important from a military standpoint, as they come eastward toward the Asiago and Brenta region. All the chief pressure has been in the easterly region in the past, and the indications at present are that it will be in this region.

The great fighting ground, then, would be along the two valleys on the

east, Val Lagarina and Val Sugana, and chief attention should be centered on them and their neighboring heights of Asiago, the Grappa and Mount Tomba. Both of them come down from Trent, the Austrian storm center which sends forward troops and supplies through both these valleys to the mountain fronts beyond. From Trent the enemy has railroads down both these valleys.

The Lagarina valley comes straight south to Verona and the open plain. It was down here that the enemy made his first rush two years ago, pushing from Reverte west toward Mount Passubio. He was driven back then, and all the indications are that he will be held again if he comes that way.

The most important approach is by way of the Val Sugana, or Brenta river. From its headwaters near Trent the Brenta makes a wide circuit before it comes down to the open plain at Bassano, and it is within this circuit that the Asiago plateau and the hardest fighting ground lies. The Austrian railway from Trent comes down the valley to Primolano, about twenty miles above Bassano, thus keeping up a steady flow of men and supplies. That is why the Italian airplanes have centered attention on Primolano, which is often mentioned in the communiques as having its railway stations bombed.

The bomb-swept and deserted town of Asiago is the center of this battle region enclosed by the Val Sugana and the Brenta river. The enemy lines run just below the town. Near by are Mount Val Bella, Sasso Rosso and Melago, all the scene of desperate fighting when the enemy tried to come down the west bank of the Brenta. The river itself comes through a rocky defile, so part of the approach is over these intervening mountains which reach down to the river valley.

This Asiago region is cut by two other local valleys, which are a most important part of the mountain operations through they are not main highways through the Alps. These are the Valarsa and the Astico valleys, which wind irregularly down toward Vicenza. Much is likely to be heard of this section in the coming operations.

East of the Brenta river is another part of this same Val Sugana which is also desperate fighting ground.

Here the enemy has made his main push to get down to the open plain, and here he advanced furthest, toward Bassano, yet the splendid bravery of the Italians held him in the mountains through the winter.

### RETREAT

(By Private Jacob S. Fassett, Jr., Division Headquarters, Camp Gordon—From Leslie's, March, 1918.)

"Prade REST!"  
Two thousand bodies moved as one,  
Then clear and loud the bugles sang "Retreat."  
Against the crimson of the west,  
The Colors fluttered gently in the breeze,  
The bugles ceased abruptly. Then—"Ten-SHUN!"

Again with quick precision moved the lines,  
While for a moment all the camp was hushed.  
A mighty chord from the deep-throated brass—  
Then thrilled the listening soldiers to the sound  
Of our great Anthem. Gone their gloomy thoughts;  
Forgotten all the trials of the day.

No one but gazed enrapt upon the flag  
That with slow majesty came floating down  
Into the outstretched arms of waiting men;  
The while those moving, patriotic chords  
Came pouring forth a great crescendo . . . Ah!  
How pregnant with perception was that hour!

One saw—divined—the Truth with sudden light.  
No matter what the Government, nor what  
White-livered pacifist obstructs the wheels  
Of this Machine; no matter what we think  
Of those poor creatures who refuse to help  
In this great struggle for Democracy—

The message of that Flag remains the same;  
Immutable the things for which it stands.  
For Truth and Honor and Democracy  
Have been, and, thank God, always shall be, ours.

Such thoughts as these stirred every soldier's breast  
As sank the Starry Banner toward the earth.  
The music ceased; a curt "Dismissed!" and then  
The ceremony of "Retreat" was done.  
The great bulk of men, perhaps, are slow  
In answering their country's call just now—  
But time will come when ALL will heed the cry.  
As did these boys, who answered with one voice,  
"We come!"—nor ever counted up the cost!

### FIVE RULES FOR A LONG LIFE

(Miami Metropolis.)  
Five rules for a long life as given by Edward Everett Hale are offered as good working principles for even these strenuous times—not that anybody really lives by rules, but because most of us enjoy reading old truths set forth in new form. These particular five go like this:  
1. Rule both mind and body with an iron hold. You are master.  
2. For the body, enough good sleep, enough good food, enough good exercise.  
3. For the mind, regular work; work in the line of your genius and stop when you are tired.  
4. After you are forty you may, if you are not a fool, choose your own rules, your own medicine and your own food. But you will find that the more you are in the open air and the more you are with other people, the better you will succeed. You will also find that there is nothing gained by brooding over failure.  
1, 2, 3, 4, 5, (and always). The great central statement of life and history in this matter is: "He made himself of no reputation and took upon himself the form of a servant, wherefore God has highly exalted him."

### NEW SOUTHERN HOTEL

I have moved from the Orange Hotel to the Lakeland Hotel, 301 North Kentucky avenue, now "The New Southern." I have thoroughly renovated the building and invite the public's patronage, making this hotel the travellers' home.

T. R. TINDAL, Prop.

## Wonderful Aid Given Belgians By The U. S.

Paris, May 10.—In all 6,016,644,000 pounds of foodstuffs have reached the Belgian civil population through the Commission for Relief in Belgium from November 1, 1914 to October 31, 1917, it is announced. "It is due to the marvelous generosity of the United States of America that the Belgians have escaped destruction through famine," says the Information Belges, a publication edited at Havre under the auspices of the Belgian Government. "They will never forget it," it adds.

When Herbert C. Hoover organized the Commission for Relief in Belgium in the fall of 1914 and purchased in London the few thousand sacks of flour and wheat that were sent to Belgium in the care of Hugh S. Gibson, the Secretary of the American Legation at Brussels who had gone to London for that purpose, none foresaw that the institution would grow to such proportions and would become the greatest work of the kind ever attempted.

The average distribution of foodstuffs to the Belgian population during the three years referred to above was 5,480,034 pounds daily. Importations into Belgium would have reached much greater figures had it not been for numerous sinkings by German U-boats of ships loaded with foodstuffs for the Belgians.

### YOUR PAPER REPRESENTS YOU

In Florida there are many live towns that are moving forward rapidly to city size and many small cities that will soon be large ones if they keep up their present rate of gain. No one needs to be told that the growth of a city benefits nearly every man who settled in it when it was a village or town or even a small city. Land that at the beginning could be bought at little more than farm land prices is sold by the town lot and then by the city lot and it goes on up, enriching the men who bought it when it was cheap.

Besides this motive of self interest a patriotic pride makes a man love to see the community he lives in grow and so throughout the state there are thousands of men with whom the community interest is next to self interest and not very far behind it as an incentive to effort.

What can I do to build up the town I live in? This question is engaging the attention of tens of thousands of Floridians. Various things can be done but we can tell the best one—build up your local newspaper.

We know the Florida press pretty well and we do not know an editor who is not a booster. We do not know one who is not giving his people as good a paper as they permit him to give them. We do not know a state whose papers are better, considering the size of the towns in which they are published, than the Florida papers. In fact we do not know any state whose papers are as good considering the size of the towns that support them.

This speaks well for Florida editors. They put their energies and their talents into the papers they publish and more than that they put their money into them. Display with them means display through the papers they publish. We do not know of an exception when we say they make their papers just as good as their means will allow.

The newspapers of this state speak well for their publishers but that is not all. They speak well for the communities in which they are published. The paper shows the talent of the editor but it shows just as plainly the enterprise and the liberty of the people of the community it serves. Could a paper published in a town of five thousand inhabitants in Florida be as good as one published in a town twice as large in another state just through the efforts of the editor? It could not unless the five thousand Floridians gave it as good support as it would have received from ten thousand people in another state.

Your local paper is your representative. It is as good as you enable the editor to make it. If it is not good the community in which it is published suffers. If it is remarkably good for the size of the town those who see it will know that the town is full of progressive men and will soon grow up to the size and the excellence of the paper. The two work reciprocally, each pushing upward.—Jacksonville Times-Union.

Sumter County—Crops generally are looking good. Labor is scarce and some farmers are behind with their work. It is quite likely that more help will be needed to handle the cotton crop.

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