

### Gen. Nivelle The Man of The Hour

Paris, Dec. 16.—As his last act before assuming the chief command of the French armies on the western front General Nivelle on Friday smashed the German line east of the Meuse along a front of six miles, and they are now within a short distance of where the Germans stood at the outset of the great Verdun drive. The military authorities described the victory as complete and crushing and carried out with out a hitch.

The news of the victory was received in Paris with enthusiasm as a welcome relief to the gloomy tidings from Rumania. Gen. Nivelle is the man of the hour. His latest achievement justifies, it is felt, his choice as commander-in-chief, and augers well for the future.

The number of guns captured from the Germans in Gen. Nivelle's victory at Verdun, as counted to the present, is 80, according to the latest reports reaching Paris.

London, Dec. 16.—The French attack at Verdun on Friday was

was concluded. The British were engaged in some rather heavy fighting during some attempted trench raids north and south of the Ancre. The Teutons were defeated in an effort at Las Boeufe, and also south of St. Eloi, the enemy losses being severe. The British successfully entered German trenches south of Armentieres and east of Vierstraat.

Paris, Dec. 15.—The French plan of a tick was drawn up by General Nivelle, now the Commander-in-Chief, with the concurrence of General Estain, who at the time was his superior officer. The assault proper was left to General Mangin. It was made by five divisions, or close to 100,000 men, under command of such leaders as General de Maud Huy and General du Passage."

Promptly at 10 a. m. the five attacking divisions, each of which covered a front of one and one-quarter miles, advanced behind the screen fire of guns of all calibres. The German troops in these positions, surprised by the suddenness of the attack, offered comparatively little resistance.

In the village of Vacherauville, where the Germans had installed a quantity of machine guns, the struggle was sharp, but none the less shorter. More to the east the French formations charged the slopes of Pepper Hill, carrying all before them. As they rushed to the attack, the soldiers cheered, and from time to time the Marseillaise, roared by the strong-throated Poilus, could be heard above the chorus of the cannon.

With Vacherauville and Pepper Hill lost, it became evident to the Germans that resistance would be futile, and they retired in fairly good order.

On the Vacherauville-Beaumont Road, however, French troops suddenly appeared in the rear of the Germans. The French had crept along a small ravine running from Pepper Hill to this road. On seeing the French, the Germans bolted, throwing away rifles, knapsacks and pouches. From the top of the hill the French could see them running, and, shouting with joy, they dashed after them. Half an hour later the French reached the extremity of the Louvemont crest, close to the village of the same name.

There they joined hands with the formation which had started from Hardromont Wood and had progressed almost as rapidly along the eastern side of Pepper Hill and the Bras-Louvemont Road. Louvemont was stormed out of hand and a large contingent of prisoners was rounded up. By this time the Germans were surrendering freely all along the line, and the communication trenches were choked with prisoners going to the rear. East of Louvemont another division reached the Louvemont Azannes Road. South of the angle for-

med by this road at southeastern corner of Fosses Wood a sharp tussle took place for possession of Hill 372, but here again the Germans went down before the vigorous efforts of their assailants, abandoning the ground and leaving in dead and several hundred prisoners. The advance swept over Hill 372 as far as Combrettes Farm at the other edge of Fosses Wood and carried it.

Northeast of Douaumont the advance of the French troops was equally rapid. The woods of La Buchs and Hassoule and the Hardaumont position were carried successively. Hardaumont Work, completely demolished by shell fire, could give no support to the German formations which fell back upon it in disorder.

All the woods north of the work were occupied by the French, who pushed on as far as the village of Bezonvaux.

Everywhere the French had shown splendid form and nothing could stop them. Nothing went wrong to interfere with their plans.

At 11 o'clock twenty guns had fallen into the hands of the French, by noon forty guns, by 5 o'clock seventy-five had been counted, exclusive of those destroyed.

Having accomplished the task set for him, General Mangin, profiting by the disorganization of the German ranks, caused by the abrupt attack, sent out exploring parties everywhere with instructions to destroy as many guns as possible, and come back to the newly conquered lines when their work was done.

These scouting parties acted promptly and accomplished much. They put out of action most of the guns north of Vacherauville and Louvemont and in Fosses and Combrettes woods.



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### Earl Kimball Killed In Mill

(Hartland Observer, Thursday) Mr. Earl Kimball was instantly killed on Friday while at work about his steam saw-mill at Carlisle. At noon, just before the twelve o'clock whistle blew, Mr. Kimball went underneath the mill for the purpose of putting rosin on a slipping belt. He did not show up for dinner and a messenger was despatched to the mill to see what was detaining him. His body was found with life extinct. One arm and his neck were broken and he was horribly bruised. It is believed he was caught by the belt and whirled violently around. He leaves a wife, who was Miss Myrtle Fowler, and four young children, besides an aged mother, a brother, Orrin, of Pittsfield, Me., and two sisters, Mrs. Grace Avery and Mrs. Alexander Orser, in the West

### ANIMALS' EYES

Reason Why Some of Them Can See in the Dark

It is commonly supposed that cats and some other animals are gifted in a way that enables them to see in perfectly dark places where it is impossible for the human eye to discern anything. This is only partly true, however. In a really dark room a cat can see no more than a human being. In semi-darkness, though, a cat can see more, because of a distinctive difference in their eye formation.

The eye of a normal person automatically adjusts itself, in the enlarging and contracting of the pupil, to make it possible to see distinctly in different degrees of light.

When we go from a darkened room out into a bright sunlight the eyes blink and squint until the pupils have contracted sufficiently to accommodate the eyes to the quantity of light. And in going from the bright light into a darkened room we cannot see clearly until the pupils have expanded to take in all the light possible.

The advantage that cats and some animals have is that the pupils of their eyes are much larger and can expand so as to take in more light than the human eye. In places that may seem quite dark to human beings there may be more light than can be taken in by the eyes of the animals, and this accounts for the superior gift with which they are credited. In an absolutely dark room the cat or any other animal has no advantage.

Treatment of Smut

Commissioner Clark writing in the Agricultural War Book on "Treatment for Smut Prevention" says that in Eastern Canada there is considerable smut in the grain crops each year, but that it has not been sufficiently prevalent to make treatment for its prevention general. The losses, however, are much greater than is commonly realized, and the value of the crop could be considerably increased if treatment for smut prevention were more generally practiced. Reports on the samples treated indicate that formalin, one pound in forty gallons of water, is much more popular than bluestone as a preventive.



Mr. Thomas Lipton and "Tim" the young baboon from far off Uganda which Sir Thomas chose as mascot for the Shamrock IV. Though the war interrupted the races set for the Autumn of 1914, Sir Thomas did not give up hope of eventually lifting the America's Cup. He boxed up his racer on the Brooklyn water-front, set a strong guard over her, and sat back to await as patiently as possible the return of peace.

### FOR THE HERD'S SAKE

Breeders Advise Farmers Not to Part With Good Bulls

Many inexperienced breeders make the mistake of going it blindly from year to year in their use of herd bulls. They keep eternally changing, using one a couple of years and then superseding him with a calf. On the other hand, the constructive breeders rely mainly on tested sires, mostly with quite a bit of age. Indeed, such breeders have been known to buy entire herds, which they did not want, merely to acquire the old bulls at their heads. A Shorthorn bull that has proved satisfactory should be kept in service until death or impotence ends his usefulness. When fully matured, bulls often get hard to do with, and too often for this reason alone are bundled into the cars and shipped to the shambles. A big loss is sustained each year by such unnecessary and uncalled for sacrifices. The wise breeder goes mighty slow with the use of any untried calf, until he knows what the youngster can do. New bulls must be introduced into every herd, but there is never any occasion to make the change suddenly, dropping one outright and using another to all the breeding females. A very little ingenuity will enable the breeder to discover what the chosen one is going to do. It doesn't make much difference in what herd a bull succeeds. Every good bull should be allowed to live out his allotted span of life begetting calves after his kind. The wise breeder has always in use a bull on which he can rely for the transmission of true Shorthorn character, conformation, weight, substance and flesh. He never goes it blind in his choice of bulls.

Youngest Film Star



Little Billy Jacobs, 28 months old, is probably the youngest star in the world. This youngster is a natural comedian. Ford Sterling often allowed him to play opposite him in comedies.

### CUSTOMS OF BURMA

Burmese Idea of the Soul After Death is Strange

Burma is the one place on earth where the death of a man owing large sums of money is no cause for worry to his creditors. In fact, the Burmese think that a creditor has a better chance of recovering a debt from the dead than from the living, provided the deceased has relations who are at all concerned for his welfare in the life beyond the grave. If the debt is not paid they believe that the dead man will come into the creditor's power as his servant, ox or dog. The Burmese appear to have no opinion regarding the direction of the land of the dead, or of the country from which the race came. The curious custom prevails of holding a complete funeral and burial ceremony in the hope of deceiving the Destroyer, and inducing him to leave a sick person alone. The Burman regards it as a matter of course that the soul should continue to exist after death, and he believes that it remains in the house, and is cognizant of all that goes on there, for seven days. The bed of the deceased person is laid, and a fresh supply of food and water is placed by it every morning and evening. During the same period hospitality is offered to all who come, and monks are invited to preach as well as to eat. At the end of the seven days, the spirit departs. According to the Burmese, he is ejected by the house-god, Miss Magayl, the mighty blacksmith who was burned alive by a king of Engauing, and whose spirit watches over every Burman household. During the seven days he is not absolutely confined to the house. He may wander about visiting the places he was wont to visit in life.

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