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A Prophecy That Came True

Herold Spender, in the London "Daily News and Leader," London.)

The first time I met General Botha was just after the Boer war, at Horrex's Hotel, off the Strand, where he was living in a small way in company with the other Boer Generals.

That was their first step, and it proved highly successful. They hired a two horse carriage—it was before the days of the motor triumph—and they journeyed to Buckingham Palace in their tall silk hats and broadcloths, which they always wore on official occasions.

THE KING'S LEAD.

Next time I met them, indeed their talk was largely about King Edward VII.—his kindness and geniality, his chivalrous way of meeting conquered foes. He had invited them down to his yacht. He had introduced them to Queen

Alexandra—that, I remember, gave them special pleasure. He had talked to them about their country and its future. He had in fact, displayed at its best that supreme tact of his which made him a great monarch.

The King led, and the people followed. Very gradually, General Botha, with his solid and substantial outlook, his true loyalty of heart, won the British public. On one occasion I met General Botha and General de Wet together. General de Wet was very silent. It was known that he had been opposed to the final terms of the Treaty of Vereeniging and had only come in against his will.

BOTHA AND KITCHENER.

He talked freely about the Boer war, and at this distance of time it is interesting to recall what he said. He absolutely denied all the stories of his secret military training at the hands of German officers before the war. "I was only a farmer—I knew nothing of war," he said. He had gone into the war reluctantly, he was opposed to the Kruger policy but once in it, he played his part as a man and a patriot.

and leaving the old ones with shivering mock guns of zinc looking up to the heavens. But for a chance shot from the English gun—the guns served by young Roberts—he hinted that his victory would have been more complete. But Botha never boasted; and if the British army wanted a testimonial he was always ready to give it one. He had supremely that great quality of the soldier—respect for his enemy. He and Delarey struck me as splendid examples of knights, "without fear and without reproach."

They all spoke well of Lord Kitchener. They gave a vivid account of how the great-hearted conqueror of theirs had brought them all together at Vereeniging—how skilfully he had piloted them to peace—his generosity and bonhomie—his refusal to give up the effort when things seemed to be drifting again towards war—his willingness to give them fair and honorable terms. "He patted us on the back and treated us like brothers. It was impossible to go to war with him again." That was a great triumph of character. Truly, "peace hath her victories no less renowned than war," and the man who shines in one is often the most brilliant in the other.

THE LAST CLOUD

It was several years before I met any of these splendid Dutchmen again; and it happened that on this latter occasion the British Parliament, led by Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman, had just given them self-government, as indeed was their due under the Treaty. On this occasion Botha's opinion was quite clear and definite. The last cloud was removed. But it was Mr. Storer the splendid Cape Dutch



minister, who died last year, who most clearly expressed the effect of that splendid act. "It has made all the difference," he said. "You have made it a great gift, instead of a surrender to force. You will find, when your hour of trial comes, that the Boers will fight for the British Empire better than they fought for themselves."

The charm has worked. The prophecy has come true; and it has come true at the hands of this true and staunch man, General Botha.

Russians On The Offensive

LONDON, Jan. 3.—Whatever side began the offensive and whatever has been the gap in the news, the raising of the curtain on the Volyhin and Galician fighting shows that the initiative over a front of 190 miles is now firmly on the side of the Russians. The Russians seem to be securely established across the Styr river, north of Oostoryek. They have captured the village of Khrievsk, three miles from the river. A flank attack six or seven miles to the southeast of Koltki, according to the advices, has failed to shake the solidity of the new Russian dispositions.

Inasmuch as Russian progress is also reported north of Olyka, the movement is apparently mak-

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ing in the direction of Kovel, along the railways between Sarny and Kovel and Rovno.

LONDON, Jan. 3.—It was the Austrians and not the Russians who began the big offensive in Volyhynia and Galicia, according to the Mail's Petrograd correspondent, but the attempts failed and the Russians gained ground. General Pilaners efforts to take Tarnopol and break through in the direction of Koons was frustrated.

Field Marshall von Mackensen is at Czernowitz for the purpose of threatening Roumania and for an active offensive against the Russian advance in Galicia.

London, Jan. 3.—The British steamship Glengyle has been sunk. There are about 100 survivors.

(The Glengyle sailed from Shanghai for London on Nov. 25. She was last reported at Singapore on Dec 6. Her route would take her through the Suez Canal and the Mediterranean, and it may be assumed she was sunk in the Mediterranean, as were the Persia Ville de la Crotar, Yasaka Maru, and several other steamships.

The Glengyle was one of the largest steamships which have been sunk since the activity of submarines in the Mediterranean became pronounced. Her gross tonnage was 9,395. She was owned by the Glen Line of Glasgow, and was the largest steamship of that line.

The Glengyle had been in service only a comparatively short time, having been built at Newcastle in 1904. She was 500 feet long, 62 feet beam and 34 feet deep. Her master was Captain Webster.

LONDON, Jan. 3.—The Glengyle had on board about 120 persons, passengers and crew. All, with the exception of three Europeans and seven Chinese were landed. So far as is known no Americans were on board.

The Glengyle, which was home-bound from Shanghai, was sunk in the Mediterranean, on Sunday. This was her second voyage.

Rod and Gun

The January issue of Rod and Gun in Canada is on the news-stands and a glance at the table of contents shows that the magazine is living up to its reputation as the leading exponent of outdoor life in Canada. Among the contributors noted are Edward T. Martin, H. J. Eraser, Jean Stevenson, F. V. Williams and Margaret Grant MacWhirter, while some of the articles are: Game Farming for Profit and Pleasure, Capacities, The Unwritten Law, Almost a Walkout, The Restigouche, etc. In addition the regular departments devoted to Guns and Ammunition and Fishing Notes are well maintained. Trapshooters will be interested in the account of the recent Grand International shoot held at St. Thomas and dog lovers in the new Kennel department. Rod and Gun is published at Woodstock Ontario by W. J. Taylor, Limited.

Submarine Versus Superdreadnought

The question has again and again been asked whether the submarine does not mark the passing of the

superdreadnought to the scrap heap. The big gun has certainly discounted armor proof. How about the submarine and the dreadnought? Sir Percy Scott, in England, and Admiral von Tirpitz, in Germany, certainly banked on the submarine as more powerful than the dreadnought, but there is not an expert living who would answer that question with finality to-day. To begin with, the submarine has only begun. What improvements may develop no one knows. At the time of writing, the final word in submarines is the big fish in the Baltic; but that submarine may be discounted by a craft built to-morrow. The submarine has some terrible disadvantages. It has no eyes except in the daytime, and does not seem able to develop any such as searchlights, without betraying its own presence. A joke is told in this connection on some of the cruiser crews. The captain of the submarine crew wagered the captain of the cruiser that he could follow cruisers and destroyers out to sea below the surface and come up on them unexpectedly. The wager was taken. The cruisers and destroyers proceeded out to the practice ground. All eyes were on the watch for the bubble track on the surface of the sea that betrays a submarine below. Suddenly, word went round to look out for the periscope on one side. A bubbly trail seemed visible. "Hey—there! Hello!" shouted a voice on the other side; and the submarine lay rolling gently on the opposite side from the lookout given. A false dummy alarm, of which the navy keeps the secret to itself, had been given on the wrong side—a torpedo "fired round a corner," according to young Hays Hammond's invention or some other device to mislead an enemy.

Other great disadvantages of the submarine are slow speed. It can always be sighted from an aeroplane overhead. The quarters are cramped for the crew, and the atmosphere, especially when the submarine must dive and rock at bottom—"go to sleep" is the technical phrase—becomes fearfully close, damp cold and impregnated with gasoline that has a nasty headachy effect on the men. Though the crews decorate the ensign with skull and cross bones for every ship sunk, though they play bridge and set a gramophone going at the bottom of the sea when hidden from attack, the strain on the nerves is terrific. The stillness is palpable. The sense of unknown danger and utter isolation will, unstraining the strongest. Secrecy as to submarines is quite so much to preserve the morale of future crews as to hide the horrors of death by suffocation and strangulation when caught in the enemy's net and sent to bottom for five days.—From "What Sea Power Means to England," by Agnes C. Laut in the American Review of Reviews for December.

Thankfulness

Be thankful for life and its great and glorious opportunities. Be thankful for work; blessed indeed is the man who has found his life's work. Be thankful for play; it makes you fit to do your duties day by day. Be thankful for rest, for the nights when kind slumber mothers you like a loved child. Be thankful for love, that mystic power so pure and God-like. Be thankful for the sunshine and rain, for the moonlit nights and the misty dawn, for the birds, trees and flowers, and all the wonders of nature. Be thankful for all those who strive to make this land safe, fruitful, clean and prosperous. Swine being in larger returns than any other live stock except poultry. Swine may be made to yield returns twice a year, the total number of offspring frequently numbering as high as eighteen, whereas ewes produce seldom over two lambs, and often only one.