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TOMORROW! Tomorrow, 6 May 1918, Crown Prince Wilhelm will commence his 37th year. And thus pass the years of the greatest of all wars. When, at this time last year, we presented our respectful best wishes to the Prince, the battle was raging in Artois, along the Aisne River and in Champagne. It was the double offensive into which the British and French had put all their hopes and that the press in Paris and London were already hailing as decisive and victorious. It was a grave time for Germany who was having to sustain the fight on two great fronts in this superhuman struggle. Officers and men were filling the ranks, feeling themselves united in a single and unique destiny, for the Fatherland and it was the sentiment of a people stirred in the face of aggressors, with shining eye and proud spirit, that was adding to the solemnity and springtime joy of the 6 My 1917.

One year has elapsed since then, full of events just as great as they were unforeseen. And the face of things seems profoundly changed. The invincible will to live and the heroic solidarity of the German people and its heads have succeeded in foiling the menace. The German armies have beaten Russian imperialism and achieved, at the point of the bayonets, peace on the whole great Eastern Front. This peace which, last year, in their impertinence, the politicians of the Triple Entente powers were still mocking. No doubt more

than one of them regrets today not having concluded peace at a more propitious time!

But if this peace in the East has been brought about, it is in great part thanks to the German armies along the Western Front, whose unshakeable heroism, that redoubled the art of the chiefs in resisting the most formidable assaults by the Franco-British forces.

In the annals of this long and bitter struggle against courageous adversaries, superior in number and in materiel, the armies grouped under the command of Crown Prince Wilhelm have, for 3½ years, occupied a place of honour. Soldiers of the Argonnes and of Champagne, who will ever recount the epic of your feats of arms? All those who have had the occasion of seeing you head to head with your chief, looking him straight in the eyes, and have felt a breath of this cordial simplicity, this beautiful comradeship that the Imperial Prince gives out around him and which ruffles the pleats of the coats under the sky of this day in May.

And surely if, from the elysian heights, the penetrating gaze of Frederick the Great is contemplating, in the midst of these soldiers of Prussia, of whom he created the proud strong tradition, this Prince who must one day inherit the crown that he wears and that he shows a benevolent smile that lights up his fine features; and he, who knows so little of others, will feel the winds of victory in the spring air of 1918!

However, those who are grimly hanging on along the Argonnes, in Champagne and along the Aisne, have become, in a few weeks, the glorious conquerors of St Quentin, La Fère, of Noyon and of Montdidier. And it's with these new laurels that they have adorned the flags that will fly tomorrow to proudly salute their chief, the future German Emperor, ----- (?)------.

OFFICIAL GERMAN BULLETINS. Berlin, 3 may 1918, evening.

In the south-west of Finland, we have inflicted a crushing defeat on the enemy in the Battle of Lahti and Travastehus, which lasted 5 days, 20,000 prisoners. In the other theatres of war, nothing new to report.

OFFICIAL FRENCH BULLETINS. Paris, 28 April 1918, evening.

Violent bombardments of Villers Bretonneux and Luce in the region west of Noyon. Day of calm on the rest of the front.

Paris 29 April 1918, 2 o'clock.

During the night, the Germans several times retook, or tried to attack our positions in the Hangard Woods. Our firepower stopped all their attempts. Great activity by both artilleries around Villers Bretonneux to la Luce and in the region between Lassigny and Noyon. An enemy thrust to the north of Grivesnes achieved nothing. From our side, our detachments have penetrated the German lines in the region of Corbeny, towards Coucy on the right bank of the Meuse, in Upper Alsace and rounded up prisoners. Brisk artillery action on the Bois des Fosses to Bois des Caurières. Quiet right along the rest of the front.

OFFICIAL BRITISH BULLETINS. (Western Front).

London, 28 April 1918, afternoon

and evening. Yesterday afternoon, an enemy attack developed in the neighbourhood of Woormezele. The enemy succeeded in taking a village but, by the end of the night had been chased out by our counter-attacks. The enemy has later attacked again in the same spot. Local fighting occurred all night long on both sides of the Ypres-Comines canal. In successful raids, south of Gavrelle and in the Lens sector and Hill 70, we took about fifty prisoners, four machine-guns, one trench-mortar. An attempted push by the enemy to the North of Baillieul was repulsed. Artillery action followed on all parts of the battle front.

According to latest reports, an enemy attack was launched this afternoon near Locre; aside from that action, there are only a few engagements to mention at different parts of the front. To the south of the Somme, around Villers Bretonneux, our patrols have taken a number of prisoners. Both artilleries have been very active. This afternoon, the enemy artillery violently bombarded our positions in the Ypres Sector. Yesterday, a thick fog posed a new difficulty for us.

Apart from a few low level reconnaissance flights along the battle-front, only two were of any importance. In the course of one of these an enemy aeroplane was shot down. None of our planes was reported missing.

THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE BATTLE.

After the capture of Kemmel..... from German sources.

The consequences of the conquest of Mount Kemmel are making themselves felt: the British have been forced to abandon a new part of the territory of Flanders that they had taken only last autumn at such a heavy loss of blood. From the south of Langemarck to the Ypres-Commines canal, our patrols established from dawn on the 27 April that the enemy was beginning to evacuate his positions. Immediately, our infantry deployed as a compact block in front and so obliged the enemy to engage in heavy fighting, causing him heavy losses. Saint-Julien, Freezenberg, and Zillebeke, whose seizure only six months ago had been celebrated as an important victory in England and the allied countries, all fell into our hands. The south-west angle from the pond at Zillebeke has been reached, and, at this place, the Germans are no more than 1,300 metres from the walls of Ypres.

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The English press avows moreover the gravity of the situation created by the new German successes.

'The Times' comments on the fall of Kemmel thus:

"The loss of Kemmel will have serious repercussions for the Ypres Salient which now finds itself somewhat reduced. Certainly, our line on either side of the Ypres-Commines canal near Saint-Eloi is not at risk at the moment, but it must be said that the city of Ypres itself, and the surrounding positions, are very seriously menaced by the success that the enemy has just carried off. We are obliged to point out that whatever force may appear, the attack directed in the Ypres sector, one must not lose sight of the fact that the greater part of the enemy armies is concentrated between Arras and l'Avre, where we have not

heard the last word by a long chalk. **Without doubt, the situation is very critical** and forces us to see, with the utmost clarity, that the most dangerous place is, as always, the line of the Somme. If, as is possible, we were obliged to abandon the ground in the northern part of the front, our withdrawal would not have irreparable consequences; on the other hand, a vigorous assault by the enemy in the direction of Amiens, if successful and followed by a march towards the mouth of the Somme, would have the direct consequence of neatly cutting our liaison with the French armies. It is this plan that we must foil at all costs, and it is the reason why, in turning back the enemy at Villers Bretonneux, we achieved such a remarkable success. The Allies have a duty to defend, to the death, the last inch of ground in the North, but not forgetting that the main game will be played out on the banks of the Somme, before Amiens, where we are holding on at all costs, to the last man.”

One sees by this article, and any others, that we could cite how, in order to minimise the importance of the fall of Kemmel, the Allies are still striving to divert attention from their grave defeats in Flanders as underlined in their communiqués that the Germans have not gained any new ground near Amiens; one establishes on the British side comparisons between the importance of Amiens and the lesser massif of Kemmel. **By misfortune, the very fact that Generalissimo Foch had to send valuable forces up to Flanders for the defence of the heights of Kemmel suffices to show just how important Kemel was for the British.** Besides, if any other proof were necessary from the news of the last German victory in Flanders, one would find it in the counter-attack pronounced by the British and French with the aim of retaking Kemmel.

A Commentary.

‘The Belgique’ writes:

“For over three years, in the best informed and competent circles of both belligerent parties, it was held as axiomatic, that it was an absolute impossibility for there to be a breakthrough on the Western Front, for either the Allies or the Germans. Well, it only needed the generals Hindenburg and Ludendorff to put their armies into movement in order that nothing of this so-called axiom was left standing. Forty-eight hours after the first assault, the British lines were clearly breached and from then on were largely over-run,

both to the east of Amiens and to the west of Lille. In eighteen days of fighting, the Germans took from their adversaries 3,340 square kilometres of French territory and in 9 days, on the River Lys, 473 square kilometres of Belgian and French territory. Well, remember that last year it took the British more than five months for the British to take 165 square kilometres, that they conquered in the Ypres sector, of which they subsequently lost $\frac{2}{3}$ in a single hour. The most recent temporary advance that they made was to the west of Cambrai, and the bells of St Paul's rang out across London, announcing a big victory, which gained less than 100 square kilometres.

Moreover, taking into account some 120,000 prisoners, captured by the Emperor's armies, some 1,500 cannons and formidable spoils of every description fallen into their hands, (according to the latest German information, the number of prisoners is in excess of 127,000, that of artillery 1,600, altogether), **it is beyond question that the Germans have carried off a success that surpasses, by a very long way, anything that the Allies have scored in their active service throughout this long period, whilst their opponents have been engaged in a merciless struggle in the East, remained on the defensive.**

In this period, the Entente, had the benefit, not only of the initiative, but also of a theoretically crushing numerical superiority, so what lesson must they draw from these stakes in regard to the indisputable victory of the Germans and their own persistent failures? First of all, it demonstrates that the high command of the Allies, of the British above all, is not up to the task. This inferiority has become so patently obvious that in spite of all susceptibilities and despite stubborn resistance, the supreme command of the Anglo-French troops finally comes to be vested in General Foch.

But then, if we are to believe that, as from tomorrow, the Allied high command and their cadres would want to bear the comparison with the Germans, time will tell. In a similar matter, they are not making excuses and everything would lead us to believe that the world conflict will be resolved before the Entente's military organisation has the time to perfect their war machine that Prussia firstly, then Germany, has forged over a century with an unmatched tenacity and method.

In the war of excesses that the Entente leaders dream of pursuing, this technical inferiority is a flaw that will fatally continue to tip the scales against them. The question of strength of numbers is hardly more reassuring. Only recently, the proof, already furnished in Italy, has just been graphically demonstrated again in France that, **since the crushing of Russia, the Central Powers are deploying their troops in sufficient numbers to assure their choice of initiative in operations.**

In the course of the actual offensive, the Germans have poured a torrent of men into the British lines so powerful that it caused General Foch to hastily insert all his reserve troops to prevent a total rout.

On the other hand, it is impossible for the Entente to count on beating its adversaries by the superiority of its materiel ---- the enormous advances achieved by the Germans in artillery speaks volumes in this regard ----- and one must admit that, in the most favourable hypothesis, the intransigence of the Entente chiefs, who, in seeking for an impossible victory, are obstinately committing their peoples to an indefinite future of untold suffering.

The Evacuation of Hazebrouck.

One reads in the **'Temps'**:

In view of the incessant bombardment of poison gas-shells and the consequent grave danger to the civilian population of Hazebrouck, the evacuation of the town was ordered at on 12 April at about 5 p.m.

Clever Retort.

The pro-Entente press in the neutral countries is going even further than the outpourings of the Paris press.

Thus, **'La Suisse'** these days writes: "The German Army has not been able to beat its opponents. It has failed to take Amiens. Around Ypres, it has only gained a few metres of ground. That's clearly not what the high command was hoping for."

'La Feuille' retorts very strongly : "But they weren't able to prevent them from going into Finland, or the Ukraine, or Crimea, to Batoum, nor from entering Montdidier and Armentières, nor from retaking Noyons.

It's clearly not what the Allied high command was wanting in 1914. Nor in 1918."

Canada and England.

'The Times' learned from Toronto that the anglo-press in Canada, just as the Paris papers, 'l'Événement' and 'Le Pays', are very indignant over the publication of a book by Bourassa (the leader of the French nationalists in Canada) entitled, "The Pope is arbitrating the Peace". According to l'Événement, the author of this book would be condemned to death in any other country in time of war. Notwithstanding that, writes "The Times' , Cardinal Bégin, the archbishops of Motreal and St Boniface, as well as several bishops, have praised this maligned publication.

'The Globe', of Toronto, cites the following passage from the publication: "The pestilential doctrine of imperialism, of the domination of inferior races by superior ones, this anti-Christian and inhumane doctrine has been preached, in the first instance, by England. This country has applied the doctrine with great success, to its own profit. It therefore behoves England, for its part, to repair the fearful cataclysm that it has unleashed, by re-establishing trust and reducing the rivalry that it spread throughout the world."

That's what the French Canadians think of England.

"Because they don't know themselves"