

## THE DAILY NEWS

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## HEAD OFFICE

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## DAILY EDITION



Thursday, May 20, 1915.

## THE DELAYED ADVANCE.

When Lord Kitchener stated, during the winter, that the war would really begin in May, people began to hope that by late summer the worst would be over and Christmas would see peace.

Here we are at the twentieth day of May and there is no sign of an immediate advance on any large scale. Even people who are naturally optimistic are beginning to have doubts as to the possibility of a speedy ending of hostilities. Instead of a rapid advance, we have experienced a check on the extreme left of the western front, and, in the east, the Russians appear to have had a serious set-back. On the surface, there are not many signs which make for encouragement, though in the last few days the Allies have made comparatively big advances in France.

In view of these circumstances, some people are inclined to question the ability of Lord Kitchener to handle such a huge campaign successfully. Some have been digging up his past history and find that he has never conducted a really big campaign. His successful campaigns in the past have been chiefly against an inferior foe, and in South Africa he simply completed what Lord Roberts began.

In the first place, it is well to remember that no military commander, in any age, has ever been called upon to undertake such a huge task as has been laid upon the shoulders of Kitchener. In this, he is in no worse position than any of the other leaders. The present war is being carried out on a scale and under conditions never experienced before. The total number of men engaged on both sides at Waterloo was only about 600,000; today that is a mere fraction. The field of Waterloo occupied only a very few miles of territory; the present fields cover several hundreds of miles. In fact, Waterloo was a mere incident.

Many of the methods of warfare now being used were little more than successful experiments last August. Submarines and aeroplanes had been tested, but many of the greatest authorities doubted their usefulness in actual warfare. Guns of a calibre only dreamed of in the past are being used, rendering hitherto impregnable forts little better than lumber shacks. In every department new ideas are being experimented with, and adopted or discarded according to their merits.

So far as the leaders are concerned it is a battle of brains. With the men it is a struggle of sinew, grit, and endurance. Two vast combinations of the accumulated military science of over nineteen centuries are pitted against each other. In such a struggle, Kitchener is peculiarly fitted to lead. From his subaltern days, he has taken part in every fray he could get an excuse to enter. In some capacity, he has been able to study the methods employed in every war of the last forty years. As an organizer and leader he has never known failure. In every test of his skill he has shown military genius. In South Africa, India, and Egypt, he showed a complete mastery of detail, and on many occasions accomplished what others deemed impossible. His plans, often laid for months ahead, have never miscarried, and as a strategist and opportunist his skill has been almost uncanny.

In view of all this, it seems clear that Kitchener is at least the equal of any of the Prussian leaders. In such a colossal struggle, a seeming delay of a few weeks may mean little, though it may seem much to impatient lookers-on. A slight accident, which no man could have foreseen, is possibly the cause. It is known that the Allies had not the supplies of ammunition they expected. This was caused by circum-



PATISIE HENRY.

With the Juvenile Bostonians, who will present "Fantana," Monday, May 24.

stances entirely outside of Kitchener's control, but which are now altered.

It seems natural that a general advance on the western front should begin with a turning movement on the extreme left. This was probably delayed by the fierce attacks by the Germans around Ypres and Langemarck, but, from the reports of the last two days, it may now have begun. The Russians, in the east, seem to have had a bad check, if not worse. According to Berlin reports they have been driven out of the Dukla Pass, which they gained so brilliantly. Past experience of such reports leads one to believe that this is almost certain to be a gross exaggeration. German reports of Russian defeats have often, in the past, been harbingers of great Russian advances, and it is just possible that this may be no exception. In any case, there is no reason for pessimism. Ammunition is coming forward much more rapidly; the Allies are able to land troops wherever, and whenever, they please, in spite of submarines; and the attack on the Dardanelles is progressing surely, if necessarily slowly.

Whether Italy enters the arena or not, matters little, and whatever action America may deem it wise to take will not affect the ultimate issue. Austria is already doomed, and the crushing of Germany is merely a matter of time.

## "DAVID HARUM" AT WESTHOLME THEATRE

The Westholme was filled last night, but tonight it will be packed full. Few good novels of the older type make good "movie" productions, but "David Harum" is a glorious exception. The characteristics of the quaint old gentleman, who had a heart of gold hidden under a gruff exterior, are brought out on the screen wonderfully. From the delightful story of the horse deal to the handing over of Widow Cullom's mortgage, the screen depicts him just as you expected he would look. David's quaint sayings are not lost sight of, as many of them are on the film.

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