

# The Presbyterian Witness

THE BIBLE IS OUR GREAT CHURCH DIRECTORY AND STATUTE BOOK . . . . . Dr. Chalmers.

NO. 15

VOL. LXX.

HALIFAX, N. S., SATURDAY, APRIL 14, 1917.

## The Progress of the War.

The past week will rank as one of the most memorable in the war. What was in some respects the greatest offensive stroke since the beginning of the war, if not in the history of all warfare, was launched by the British, on Monday, on a broad front with Arras as the pivotal point.

Never has such a concentration of heavy artillery as well as machine guns been called into operation. The effect is said to have been indescribable. The strongest German fortifications were blasted to pieces and trenches were simply obliterated. Nothing could live in the inferno of shells hurled against the enemy's lines, and Germans by the thousands surrendered to save their lives. At the fixed time General Haig's troops advanced over the ground from which the artillery had cleared all obstacles, and trench after trench was captured with little opposition. The chief honors fell to the Canadians, who captured the famous Vimy ridge, for which the French have been fighting almost ever since the war began and where they sacrificed many thousands of lives in vain. This ridge was one of the most important and strongly fortified positions on the whole western front, and its capture is a great achievement. The Canadians, in the fighting, which is still going on, took four thousand prisoners, and the total number of captured up to this writing (Wednesday evening) amounts to 11,000 including 235 officers. More than 100 guns, including heavy guns up to eight inches, 63 trench mortars and 163 machine guns were also taken. Each day since the beginning of the drive fresh gains have been made and additional villages have fallen into the hands of the British. The battle of Arras is undoubtedly one of the most disastrous defeats which the Germans have suffered since the beginning of the war, and it must have a tremendous effect upon the morale of the Kaiser's army. The success of the British offensive was due largely to two things—the complete control of the air and the great superiority of our artillery. The spirit and dash of the troops sustained the finest traditions of British warfare, and the name of Canada will forever after be associated in the annals of British history with the deeds that won the Empire.—