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British and Other Allied Leaders Answer Questions: "How Long Will War Last, Its Cost in Lives and Money and the Result"

LONDON, Aug. 3.—Interesting and varied replies have come re the following three questions on the occasion of the second anniversary of the war:

1—How long will the war last?
2—What will another year of the war cost in lives and money?
3—What will then be the condition of the principal belligerent nations?

George Bernard Shaw replied to all three questions: "I don't know."

Sir George Reid, former High Commissioner for Australia, said: "It is too steep for me."

Lord Bryce said: "I have no material for answering the questions."

"I regret that I do not feel competent to answer your questions," said Sir Ernest Cassel.

The Bishop of London said: "It is not in my power to answer the questions."

Other British authorities are more confident, as is shown by the following statements:

Sir Arthur Conan Doyle.

1—From six to nine months.
2—This is immaterial when weighed against the fulfilment of honorable obligations.

3—Germany and Austria will be bankrupt. The allies will be faced by a long period of taxation and economy.

Lord Derby.

1—Till the allied forces are victorious.
2—Impossible to estimate.

3—England, France and Russia victorious with Germany and Austria accepting terms which will insure the end of militarism in Europe and peace for many generations to come.

Sir Gilbert Parker.

1—For another nine months.
2—More than this year has cost.

3—Germany and Austria will be terribly hurt, financially, morally and territorially. England, France and Russia will be hurt, but not in the same proportion of injury.

France will have got back Alsace and Lorraine; Russia will have back Poland and will have the freedom of the Strait of the Dardanelles; England will give South Africa permission to annex German Southwest Africa.

Then new spirit and with a clear hope she will begin to reconstruct her imperial life and constitution with overseas dominions that understand her.

J. L. Garvin

I think the war will result during the next twelve months in a thorough victory for the allies and lasting peace. The end may, of course, come more quickly, but it is rather too soon yet to attempt a closer estimate.

Archibald Hurd

1—I believe Kitchener's statement that the war will last three years will prove to be the outside estimate. Ten years, intervened between Trafalgar and Waterloo. I am convinced that owing to industrial development and the increased needs of the Central Powers, our sea power is far more effective and swifter in its action than it was, in spite of the defensive value of the mine and submarine. I doubt whether, after the blow inflicted in the battle of Jutland, Germany can face another winter, that is, three dead months of January, February and March.

2—I cannot answer.

3—Germany and Austria will have reached a point in physical economy and exhaustion such as no powers in the past have experienced. They have been besieged by sea and land for twenty-four months, and with the progress of time construction has become more, not less, severe.

On the other hand, England in particular, and France and Russia, though they will have big debts, will recover rapidly from the effects of war.

Dr. Arthur Lynch, M.P.

1—The Allies cannot achieve victory decisively within two years from this date unless there be great changes in the government of this country.

2—Another year of war will cost far more in men and money than the year just ending; probably as much as the two years together.

Sir William Robertson

The British Empire has now, at the end of the second year of the great war, put her new armies to the proof, and they have not been found wanting. She has still men, guns and munitions to bring into the field and enters the third year of this great struggle for right and liberty with confidence.

Sir Hiram Maxim

The present war is unique in character. In wars of the past some great principle has been involved; some nation wanted something it could not get without war. In the present case there is no great principle involved. The war has been brought about simply because one man wanted war.

Kaiser Wilhelm, after many years of strenuous effort, created the greatest and most efficient army the world ever knew. Having got it into perfect condition and supplied it with enormous quantities of war material, he was extremely anxious to see what it would do. He wished to try it on somebody.

He did not reckon on England joining the war, but as England did join in and has created an army of 4,000,000 men, and is exerting her every resource, the war cannot last much longer. Germany already is near the end of her tether and will have to yield before the crops of the next season are ready to be harvested.

The war is costing England about 6,000,000 pounds sterling a day. It is probably costing Germany half as much, France about 2,000,000, Austria probably 2,000,000, Russia 4,000,000, Italy 1,000,000.

About 2,000,000 more lives will probably be lost. All the nations engaged in the war will be enormously in debt and the inhabitants will be taxed to the point of exhaustion. Otherwise the public debts will have to be repudiated.

Sir Alfred Turner

Common sense tells us that if Germany at the commencement with her magnificent first line army and reserves and her enormously preponderating power in artillery could not succeed in accomplishing her first stroke, namely, taking Paris, now that Great Britain has some soldiers in France, they with their allies will finish the Central Powers.

My own opinion is the war will be over before the end of the year.

Guglielmo Ferrero

It is impossible to see how the war can reach a speedy conclusion, unless a sudden catastrophe takes place with the Central Empires.

The forces of both groups of belligerents have this in common, that they are both rapidly exhausting themselves.

Never has Europe faced such a life-or-death problem. We are indeed in one of those historical moments in which the fate of peoples is in the hands of unknown forces which man himself is all unconsciously creating. We can do naught but wait, strengthening our souls in readiness to sustain most terrible surprises in store for all the belligerents.

We can only hope that the war will not leave behind it such heaps of ruins and such a chaos that peace itself will not be so full of difficulties and sufferings as to make it worse than war.

Joseph Reinach

We have turned the corner. After a careful consideration of all the factors, I believe that Germany cannot hold out for another twelve months, while Austria-Hungary must collapse by the end of November at the outside. Economically, the Central Empires have, of course, been bottom dog since the beginning of the war, and time only worsens their situation in this respect. But, as Lloyd George said, to defeat Germany we must smash the prestige of her armies by defeating her in the field, otherwise the Allies will never be able to guarantee Europe a permanent peace. This we shall do.

The German feet are now at the top of a slippery incline, and from now on she will slide steadily backward till she falls.

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The monstrous Verdun offensive and the Deutschland's underwater trip to Baltimore are alike novel advertising devices, but to all such pretensions the allied armies are now daily giving the lie, and the mathematically certain result of their efforts will be sought by a beaten Germany before August, 1917.

Yves Guyot

The war will end by December next, provided continued favorable weather enabled the Allies to keep up the strong and steady military pressure against Germany and Austria, which they have now begun to combine with their economical offensive.

The main German defence consists of three fortified lines. Once the Franco-British troops have smashed the third line, as they have already in the Somme valley smashed the first two enemy defences, there will be a German retreat, comparable for speed only to that of their advance across Belgium in August, 1914.

From special access which I have had to official estimates of the belligerents' reserves, I can say that at the moment when Germany is embarrassed to find troops to sweep back the tide which is swamping her lines in so many parts of the front, England and France have 10,000,000 effectives.

The French have 2,500,000 men at the front and as many in reserve, to say nothing of 250,000 at Salonica. The trained and equipped British force, counting Colonials, is at the lowest figure 5,000,000. I have no definite figures of the present strength of the Russian, Italian, Serbian and Belgian armies, but together they certainly make a total exceeding 10,000,000. To the aggregate of 20,000,000 troops fighting under the allied flags I question very much whether Germany, Austria, Bulgaria and Turkey can oppose more than 10,000,000.

The great Russian offensive in Galicia has had the desired effect on Rumania who will shortly take up arms on the side of the allies in order that she may win Transylvania with its population of 4,000,000 Romanians.

The secret of the allies' favorable situation at this moment is that after two years of warfare they have been able to pool their forces and strike simultaneously.

Stephen Pichon

The defeat of Germany is only a question of time. Opinion here is fairly divided as to whether the war will end next winter or is destined to last a long time still. My opinion is that it cannot end soon.

Germany, as the instigator of the war, had only one chance of being victorious—to conquer in a few weeks, or at most a few months. From the moment it was seen that she could not take Paris or Calais, nor reduce France or Russia, she was irretrievably lost.

Baron D'Estournels De Constant.

This war may last a long time still, because we do not want it to begin over again.

For one week last month, the French Senate secretly discussed the conduct of the war. It was completely united and showed no trace of lassitude; it merely demanded that still more energy should be shown. We will sacrifice everything to win. It is a holy war for us. It is a dynastic war for Germany. The French armies serve France, the German armies serve their masters.

The longer the war lasts, the clearer France understands the need for its long duration, and the more Germany perceives she has blundered. In spite of her grief—even because of her grief—France will sacrifice herself to save the future of her children. Germany, on the contrary, will grow tired of sacrificing herself in a vain effort to achieve for the Kaiser a world imperialism.

As It Is Viewed In Germany

BERLIN, via Copenhagen, August 4.—In conversation or by letter or telegraph forty among the most eminent Germans have expressed themselves to me on the following three questions on the war's second anniversary.

1—How long will the war last?
2—What will another year of the war cost in lives and money?
3—What will be the condition of the four principal belligerents at the end of another year?

On a matter so vital it is hardly necessary to say that directing members of the Government and the military and naval leaders are extremely reticent. They are totally unwilling to be quoted. There is absolute unanimity in the instant reply of every class, rank or profession when the object of the duration of the war is broached.

"Germany will carry on the war triumphantly, let it continue as long as it may, cost what it may, until her enemies cease to attack her."

"There is nowhere any illusion that the cost of another year will be anything but prodigious."

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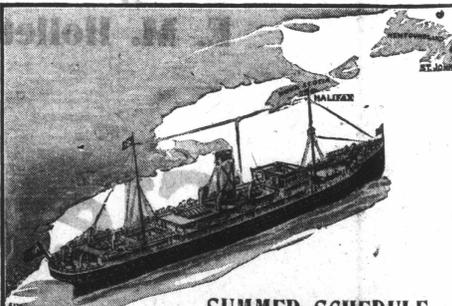
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