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H. V. MacKINNON,
Managing Editor.

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ALFRED E. MCGINLEY,
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A PREMEDITATED WAR

Recent issues of German newspapers quote Emperor William as stating that the present war was altogether not of his seeking; that he had been a zealous laborer in the cause of peace, desiring nothing so much as to see his beloved Empire prosper and develop along lines of commercial and intellectual expansion, and, above all, living in amity with his neighbors. The opinion seems to have gained some ground also that Germany entered upon this struggle in spite of rather than because of the influence of the Kaiser. A few days ago, a city newspaper quoted a clergyman, recently returned from Europe, as authority for the statement that the "war party" in Germany headed by the Crown Prince really instigated the war, and that the energies of the Emperor were devoted to striving for peace. This may or may not be true. There is no doubt that the gentleman making the statement did so in the best of faith and with an honest belief that he was representing the opinion of the Emperor. It is abundant evidence to show that, even though Germany might not have anticipated an outbreak of hostilities as soon as it occurred, the whole trend of German energy for years has been in the way of preparation for a struggle. If not with France and Russia, at least with Great Britain.

It is not our purpose to discuss or introduce controversial political questions, but in considering Germany's premeditated designs against Great Britain, reference should be made to the fact that British statesmen years ago were fully alive to the danger to be anticipated from Berlin, and were not dilatory in warning the people of the Empire concerning it. In 1907, Lord Tweedmouth, then, First Lord of the British Admiralty, in a public speech, emphasized the necessity of providing a fleet sufficiently strong to cope with any combination of nations opposed to it. At that time Russia was still suffering from the effects of the unfortunate war with Japan, France was not devoting large sums to naval purposes, the only power in Europe which was putting forward colossal efforts to challenge Britain's supremacy was Germany.

In 1900 the great German Navy Law was promulgated and in the preamble to that law it was stated "Germany must have a fleet of such strength that a war against the mightiest sea-power would involve risks threatening the supremacy of that power."

Of course Britain was the power referred to as the one to cope with whom Germany must be prepared. If proof of this is needed, it is found in the speeches of members of the Reichstag, or German Parliament, where the members were possibly more outspoken in their opinions than their diplomatic agents would be in coming to terms with the sentiments or policies of the government. Here, Bassermann, the leader of the National Liberal party of Germany, rather exposed the design when he said "In our attitude towards England we have a strong fleet, it would be a mistake to let ourselves be drawn into a no-front attitude towards her." It is worthy of note that the leader of the German Liberal party, merely desired that Germany should take care not to offend England until she was sufficiently well provided for in the way of a navy to engage her enemy with some show of success.

Another significant statement, as showing the trend of German opinion is found in the Neueste Nachrichten of Hamburg, which, on the day after the publication of the German Naval Bill, said "Henceforth the policy of the Imperial Navy is to act strictly on the offensive. The time is reasonable so to augment our fleet as to render it capable of engaging the mightiest navy with good chance of success."

If only the references to "the mightiest navy" were to be considered, it might be said that the phrase was used as illustrating the standard to which Germany had to attain, and without special references to England. But, concurrent with veiled references to the "mightiest navy," we find direct statements regarding the advisability of Germany maintaining a semblance of cordial relations with Britain until the time arrived when such relations could be ruptured with safety.

It must also be remembered that from 1900, when Germany had no fleet worth mentioning, her naval construction proceeded with a rapidity that caused all other European nations to regard with alarm their own condition, and literally set the pace in an armament race such as had never before been dreamed of. Always was Germany the aggressor, always was the ambition and the goal the same—to approach the condition of preparedness

when it would be safe to challenge Great Britain for the mastery of the seas, and if that could be wrested from her to strike a swift and sure blow at the vitals of the British Empire.

But it is not necessary to rely alone upon estimates for naval construction to show that Germany desired war with Britain. The German system of espionage and secret agents, is probably one of the most complete in the world and, of recent years, the whole machinery of that service has been directed against Britain. The British Isles, from the capital of the Empire, through every naval yard and military depot, were thronged with German agents working as the mole works darkly, secretly, vigilantly, ever keeping in mind their mission—to contribute some scrap of document, some portion of plan or specification which might add to the stock of information being collected in Berlin for ultimate use against us.

Not long ago the police of London seized a minute book relating to the proceedings of a German Secret Society which met there and, from entries in it, learned that the duty of the members was to discover some weak spot in British system of defence which might give an opening for a German invasion. And this society existed, and was at work months before there was any thought that Serbia's refusal to agree to drastic demands on the part of Austria would prove the torch to kindle the great conflagration of war the world has ever seen.

Under the system of government in Germany it is incomprehensible that activity of this sort could be prosecuted for years without the approval and knowledge of the Kaiser. It is all very well to talk of the war party, and the influence of the Crown Prince, but if the Emperor of Germany was as strongly opposed to war as he is said to have been, all the efforts of his truculent son or the war party would have availed little. And it should also be remembered that when preparations for war with Britain were first entered into, the Crown Prince of Germany was more concerned with the fate of his tin soldiers in the Imperial nursery than with the hazards or opportunities of war against another nation, with whom all tradition and ties of kinship indicated there should be close and enduring friendship. The responsibility rests directly with the Kaiser. He it was who for the gratification of his own ambitions dined with the happiness and prosperity of the civilized world, and if the result should deprive him of his throne and his liberty he has but himself to thank for it. It is premeditated war.

It is reported that Panama and Colombia have unshared differences which may result in a war between the two republics. If they are well advised they will refrain. The world, during the past six weeks or so, has had some idea of real war, and might not take kindly to an imitation. Besides it is difficult to get front page newspaper space for wars unless they are "made in Germany."

The report of the daily operations of the Russians is becoming almost as monotonous in its recital of successes as the story of the German march to Paris. But there is less likelihood of a sequel being written than was the case in France. The Russians are walking into Germany and what is more important they come prepared to stay as long as may be necessary.

Of the 35,000 men at Valenciennes only 2,500 were rejected for physical weakness, and it is said the examination was of the strictest sort. This goes to show that the men who go to the front from Canada will be of the type to uphold the best traditions of the men of the greatest of Britain's dominions.

While the report of the surrender of General Von Kluck has not yet been officially confirmed, yet it has been one of the puzzles of the war how a man with a name like that could be a world beating soldier. As a poultry fancier possibly, but a great general—oh no.

Kluck, Kluck!

FAMINE AND SMALLPOX IN PARTS OF ALBANIA

Rome, via Paris, Sept. 15 (6.55 p.m.)—Telegraphing from Aviona, Albania, the correspondent of the Messagero says:

"Famine and smallpox are raging among the population, especially the refugees from the outlying villages, who are in fear of massacre by insurgents in Epirus. Many of those killed in the fighting with the insurgents are carried long distances on donkey-back, and then merely buried under a light covering of earth. This, it is said, led to the pestilential outbreak."

WAR POETS STIR ENGLAND

Songs and Poems Arouse Fighting Spirit and Censure Kaiser for Conflict.

London, Sept. 15.—When England declared war against Germany all the papers were printing the lines of "Tommy Atkins" most popular battle song, "It's a Long, Long Way to Tipperary." Now they are bursting into songs of a different character, songs by well-known poets, songs by poets who did not know before that they had the gift until their patriotism inspired them and brought it to the surface.

They sing songs breathing indignation against the Kaiser; songs to inspire the young sons of the Nation to be up and fight, and there is the touching plaint of the man who wants to fight and is left behind.

Henry Chappell, a railway porter in the city of Bath, has sprung suddenly into fame by his verses entitled "The Day," printed in the Daily Express. They follow:

You boasted the Day and you toasted the Day.

And now the Day has come.

Blasphemer, braggart and coward all.

Little you reck of the numbing ball.

The blasting shell or the "white arm's fall."

As they speed poor humans home.

You spied for the Day and you lied for the Day.

And woke the Day's red spleen.

Monster, who asked God's aid Divine.

But a Cross of Wood, and so—

So remind the world that you Have made Calvary anew.

You dreamed for the Day, you schemed for the Day.

Watch how the Day will go.

Slayer of age and youth and prime (Defenceless slain for never a crime).

Thou art steeped in blood as a hog in slime.

False friend and cowardly foe.

You have sown for the Day, you have grown for the Day.

Yours is the harvest red.

Can you hear the groans and the awful cries?

Can you see the heap of slain that lies.

And, sightless turned to the flame spit skies.

The glassy eyes of the dead?

You have wronged for the Day, you have longed for the Day.

That lit the awful flame.

'Tis nothing to you that hill and plain Yield sheaves of dead men amid the grain.

That widows mourn for their loved ones slain.

And mothers curse thy name.

But after the Day there's a price to pay.

For the sleepers under the sod.

And He who have mocked for many a day—

List and hear what He has to say:

"Vengeance is Mine, I will repay."

What can you say to God?

William Watson's Offering

William Watson, one of England's foremost poets, appeals in four lines in the Westminster Gazette to those who cannot fight to give of their means.

The verse, entitled "Duty," runs:

Give gladly, you rich—'tis no more you own.

For the weal of your country, your wealth's overflow!

Even I that am poor am performing my part!

I am giving my brain, I am giving my heart.

Unknown's Stirring Lines

An unknown, "A.W.B.," in the Daily Chronicle, endeavors to stir the youth of the Nation in "Recruiting." Here are a few of the lines:

Britons, rise, and hurl defiance

At the foe who bid you kneel:

Armed with justice, plain reliance

Not alone on flashing steel.

Righteousness shall march beside you.

Pirate hands your hearths would plunder.

Rise and say it shall not be!

You are called to high endeavor.

And your deeds shall live forever.

Britain's sons can never never

Sell for ease their liberty!

Good's "Redemption"

Harold E. Good, through the Times, is another who endeavors to assist Lord Kitchener in his great recruiting scheme.

He calls his little poem "Redemption."

As though Youth had not all the best.

Offers him the excellent best-of-all—

This glorious summons of a trumpet call

To prove his manhood in man's noblest fray:

To be with those who fight at least to slay

That ancient despot, War. What e'er befall.

His is a prize so rich as to forestall

The invidious years and venom of decay.

No fruitless age shall he regret who

Thus timely his arrears to Motherland

And humankind, ensuring Earth's desire:

Who stakes his else immemorable days

And wins his life back holy from Death's hand.

Redeemed in one brief ecstasy of fire!

Lament of a "Left Behind"

And here is a part of the lament of "The Left Behind," by another unknown poet in the Yorkshire Post.

It's hard to be left behind when the regiment's gone!

Fate does seem a bit unkind

To fix just on you to be the one

That's got to be left behind—

To be left at home with the children and wives.

When my brothers are fighting, perhaps, for their lives!

I'm as keen as the next man to sleep in the dust.

To eat once a day—if you're lucky!

I'd be ready to die, I hope, if I must—

I suppose I've my share of pluck—

But I've got to teach these recruits their drill.

I've done it for years and I'm doing it still.

My wife says, "You're doing good work where you are" (There's plenty of it, that's so!) "We can't all be under the Glory Star!" But the King and the country know There's a lot depends on your daily grind— Perhaps—Yet it's hard to be left behind.

Humorist Pain's Poem

Taking for his text Kaiser Wilhelm's telegram to the Crown Prince of Germany, "I rejoice with you in Wilhelm's first victory; how magnificently God supported him!" Barry Pain, one of England's leading humorists, has been the author of a poem which he publishes in the London Times.

Here are a couple of the verses, which might be headed

"Mich Und Gott."

Lied by Wilhelm, as you tell,

God has done extremely well;

You, with patronizing nod,

Show that you approve of God.

Kaiser, face a question new—

—This does God approve of you?

Kaiser, when you'd decorate

Sons or friends who serve your State,

Not that Iron Cross bestow,

But a Cross of Wood, and so—

So remind the world that you Have made Calvary anew.

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