

German North Sea coast between Denmark and Holland. This may be advisable when the Great Drive gets under way.

THE FACTORS SUMMARIZED.

NO one now considers that Germany will succeed in her dastardly attempt to put all nations under her feet for any one reason. The stopping of the supply of raw cotton will not alone turn the scale against her. The stopping of foodstuffs will not be the one decisive factor. The shortage of money will not be the deciding element. The dwindling man-power will not in itself cause her to sue for peace. It will be the combination of all of these. Or to put it in another way, the Allies must win at every point to secure a favourable decision.

The Allies must show their superiority in

- (a) Control of the Open Seas.
- (b) Ability to bombard all the ports of the enemy and invade his rivers and bays.
- (c) A man-power superior in equipment and leadership, as well as in numbers.
- (d) A gun and munition resource superior to that of the enemy.
- (e) A superiority in the air which will ensure an advantage in scouting.
- (f) Financial resources sufficient to attain all the foregoing.
- (g) A unity of intention and direction which will match those of the enemy.

So far only one of these (a) is yet attained. The others are only approximately within reach. The monitor fleet is not yet large enough to ensure (b). The equipment is being rapidly brought to the point required by (c). The superiority in the air is almost attained. Financial resources seem likely to stand the strain for another twelve-month without extraordinary measures. The unity of intention is fairly satisfactory, although there are political shadows in both London and Paris.

CONSTANTINOPLE AN INCIDENT.

VIEWED thus it is quite evident that the Allies may be on equal terms with the Teutons within three months, as Belloc has predicted. Germany's excursion through Bulgaria to Constantinople

is only an incident. The front is lengthening in the south as it has been lengthened in the east, and the Teutons cannot defend so long a front with a slowly dwindling man-power. They may crush Serbia and they may reach Constantinople, but the longer their lines of communication, the more vulnerable they will become.

In any case, this duel to the death cannot last much longer and can have only one ending. The combination of causes and conditions outlined above will, when they are all realized, as they bid fair to be in the near future, bring a decision within measurable distance.

PERTINENT PARAGRAPHS

Sidelights on What Some People Think the World is Doing

ONE of the sanest supporters of the Allies in this war is the Scientific American. This is worth noticing. Science plays no favourites. By many people Germany is supposed to have a superscientific hold on the war. But the foremost organ of applied science in America and one of the best recognized exponents of practical science in the world, has no hesitation in publishing articles that look to the ultimate defeat of Germany. A recent shrewd editorial in that paper points out "the greatest tactical blunder of the war." This not the Dardanelles, nor the failure to save Antwerp, nor even the failure of the Germans to get Calais. That blunder was the failure of England, as soon as war was declared, to make cotton contraband of war, as has been done since the submarine war was started by Germany. The writer points out that during the non-contraband period Germany laid in vast stores of cotton which she is now using; but that Germany's claim to have found a substitute for cotton in wood pulp and straw pulp for the manufacture of high explosives is rank absurdity. Either of these substitutes is admittedly inferior to cotton. This means, not merely that German explosive efficiency will be lessened, but that the sights on all the big guns now used by Germany

Equality in three months should bring a decision within six months more. Thus a finish to the war in nine months from now is a reasonable guess, though no one would be sufficiently fool-hardy as to make it in the form of a prophecy. Should Greece and Roumania come into the struggle, the end would be materially hastened. Should Greece remain neutral and Bulgaria be content to allow Russian troops to pass through her territory, then the end may not come so soon. In the end, however, money, resources and command of the sea are the determining factors, and the Allies either have these now in superiority or will shortly reach the superior position.

will have to be changed and the bores altered to suit an explosive of inferior projectile force and different action on gun metal. Thanks for this scientific assurance!

PHOTOGRAPHS are sometimes unintentionally illuminating. Recently two Serbian pictures came into a newspaper office, neither of them published. One was the great prison and fortress of Belgrade, which looks about three times as big as the Bastille. The other was the Parliament Buildings at Belgrade, which resembled a large-sized country tavern. A country that has such a huge prison and such an insignificant Capitol should be able to fight desperately as the Serbians do now.

AN almost uncanny phantom from the borderland of the unseen world is a new book just off the press from the pen of a man who for the past five years people in Canada have almost regarded as dead to the world. The writer is Edmund E. Sheppard, the founder of Saturday Night and once the king of all rough-rider journalists in this country. Sheppard was the untirable and psychic muckraker who ripped open all the hypocrisies of his day, and if none were available fabricated a few for the sake of making sardonic and sometimes savage copy. That same Bret Harte mining-camp figure with the long hair, the sombrero and the editorial bowie-knife in his clothes, now indites a placid and dispassionate work on The Thinking Universe. Sheppard has become a Christian Scientist. The world to him now is merely an object for calm contemplation from his invalid room in Los Angeles. The book will shortly be published in this country.

WHETHER the Allies ever get a concerted plan of war action or not—and they probably will—it looks as though they simultaneously agree upon one thing, that Cabinet shakeups are necessary. England had just got over the coalition shakeup when Russia sent the Grand Duke to the Caucasus and got rid of Suhmkomlinoff. Russia has just about got ready to proceed to new business with a fresh set of heads when France accepts the resignation first of Delcasse, then of Premier Viviani and War Minister Millerand. The one thing that seems to be common to these three great countries is a restless democracy; which is the one thing we have always counted on to win the war.

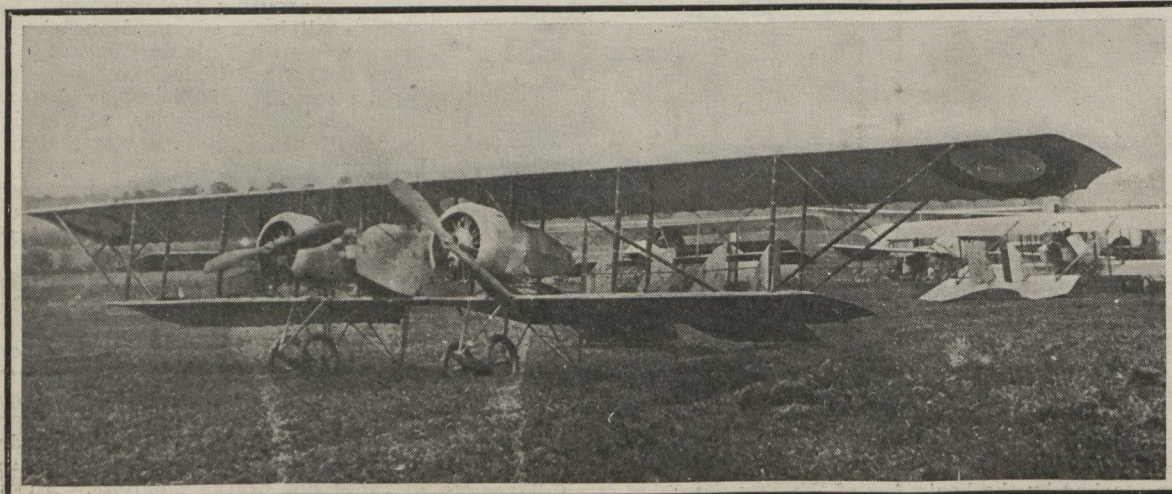
SPEEDING up play productions is one of the newest things in the world. The old-fashioned blacksmith shop method of hammering out fine plays by hand beside the flaming forge of passionate truth is giving way to the machine-shop method of turning them out in batches, orders delivered almost while you wait, plays ready to go to the screen and the movie producer any moment—while the old-style playwright bites his pen-stock and frowns and haggles with himself over another fine line or two. Yes, it is the film dramas and the film actors and the film writers that have so speeded up the play machinery. From all the playwrights in the United States only about six things were produced every year that became real successes. Now the films are turned out by the score and are used by the hundreds, popular favourites almost by the time the ink is dry on the check handed to the author. Wherefore Daniel Frohman thinks that one of these days the stock of really adaptable material in plays will all be eaten up and the film monster will yell for more plays.

A WRITER in the London Daily Mail goes with great vengeance after modern German music, which he says should now be eliminated from English life. To him the horrors of Strauss and Wagner are as bad as those of the Hun butchers in Belgium. He accuses both these German composers of exploiting the licentious in art and cites as a mild example the prelude to the third act of Lohengrin, of which he says "the meaning could not be put into words by any self-respecting writer." This will be news to a large number of people in this country who have heard their church organists play the Lohengrin Prelude many a time as a postlude to divine service. Mr. Vidal Diehl, the writer, says that the Germans intend to inflict on Brussels six months of German music—"part of a gigantic effort the Huns are making to debase the minds of those Belgians who are in their servitude."

FRANCE—ALWAYS READY FOR NEW THINGS



Gen. Joffre never misses a detail. The great commander-in-chief is here seen questioning some of the young French soldiers who are wearing the new French army helmet.



The first photograph published of the new double-propellor aeroplane used by French air-men. An officially accredited photograph. Taken at the military aviation camp.