

We went to war because we were in honour bound so to do; to defend Belgium whose neutrality had been violated and her people sacrificed; to prevent France being reduced to a third rate power; to prevent all Western Europe being given over to the German conqueror. Before this war came we estimated our munitions-supply for our garrison in India and for an expeditionary force of 160,000 men, and no army has ever gone forth to war more splendidly equipped than the force which went from England to Flanders in the autumn of last year. But it was not enough. We found at once, contrary to advice and expectation, that we must support our allies with all our strength on land as well as on sea.

"What have we done in the past year?" We have raised an army of 3,000,000 men and are steadily equipping them—as fine a body of men as the world has seen, so every man of us, as an observer has said, so Frederick Palmer, who knows the armies of the world has declared. We have multiplied our production of munitions nearly three hundredfold, and we are taking steps to multiply it many times more. To keep the equipment of our own army abreast of the enormous increase in its personnel would have been impossible in any case; but, from the beginning, it was necessary to place our resources at the disposal of our allies as well. Germany's sinister preparedness enabled her armies to occupy some of the most important industrial centres of France—Flanders and Russia's—Lodz and Woolwich, Sheffield and Birmingham have had to take over the work of Lille and Lodz. And yet, at the present rate of progress, it is certain that we shall ere long produce enough to supply ourselves and to give further help to our allies—that, in fact, we shall overhand and surpass the German supply of munitions during the next phase of the war. With time on our side, we shall prove equal to this gigantic task; but we cannot perform miracles. It would have been a miracle if we had had munitions enough for the unexpected demand. In spite of all scepticism we have done greatly more than might reasonably have been expected.

"But what about that big 'Kitchener' army of yours? The Germans say it is bluff. They assert cynically that it is a rational economy to minimise your output of munitions when you have no men to handle them."

Lacking in men? A flase in recruiting? No reproach could be more ludicrously undeserved and at variance with the facts. The self-governing Dominions alone, with their sparse populations, have trained or are training 350,000 men—one hundred thousand more than the total strength of the British standing army (excluding the reserves) at the outbreak of war. And the proportion of enlistments among our home population has been much higher. The much-abused miners were the first to volunteer freely, when the news came that the German invaders had battered down Belgian miners, to perish in their pits at Charleroi. Men enough for five battalions presented themselves within a

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