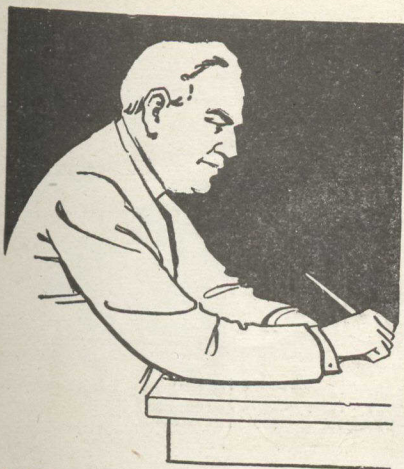




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A National Weekly

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VOL. XVI

TORONTO

NO. 17

Editor's Talk

WHETHER the war will be long or short is about as difficult to determine as the number of beans in a glass jar seen from the outside of a window. The beans would be much easier to count if you were allowed to see clear round the jar. But from one side only, the odds are that the grocer's wife gets the prize anyway, because she put the beans in the jar in the first place.

According to some advices from London, the tacticians predict a long war; not a war to compare with the Napoleonic, or the Seven Years' War, or the Thirty Years' War; but a conflict considerably longer than this country is disposed to expect. Their arguments are probably sound. War is a matter of tactics and manoeuvres. The Germans may be as slow getting out of France as they were swift getting into Belgium. After they have got back on German soil, behind their line of forts, into the valley of the Rhine, the spirits of the Fatherland will begin to exhort the Germans to resist to the last trench the armed tramp of three foreign invaders. This, in spite of growing weakness, may prolong the war—as war of defence for the Germans.

Financial interests in London, however, seem to anticipate a short war; for the very obvious reason that no matter what tactics army leaders choose to adopt with millions of men, they can keep them up only as long as the men can be supplied with food, clothes and ammunition. Germany has been unable to float her latest war loan of \$250,000,000 in New York. It will be necessary to float it in Germany. German ships are idle in the dockways of the world. Food is not going into Germany. How can she prolong the struggle?

This is clearly a case of the beans in the jar. While you look at one side of the jar you lose sight of the other.

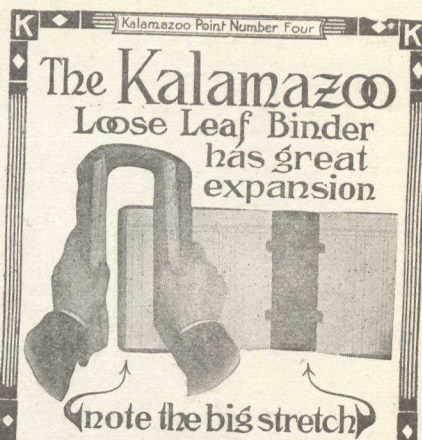


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