

Dirigibles and Aeroplanes

According to a good authority, there were at the outbreak of the great war 40 dirigibles in the German forces. These were for the most part Zeppelins (18) and Parsivals (16). Though cumbersome and obliged to fly at a great height for safety, the Zeppelins have done considerable damage to Paris, Antwerp and other cities.

Germany's aeroplane fleet is said to consist of 58 squadrons of 12 machines each, a total of 696. Against this formidable array, Great Britain, France and Russia can send into the air 33 dirigibles and 908 aeroplanes. The great value of the aircraft has been in scouting rather than in the damage inflicted by bombs. The French have specially equipped some aeroplanes with armor and light guns to destroy the enemy's aircraft.

To Bring Down Aircraft

The allies are making use of a light, high elevation gun mounted on an armored motor truck. The gun and gunners are completely shielded and can swing their weapon through almost any arc and nearly to the vertical. A dirigible flying at an elevation of half a mile or less would be theoretically at the mercy of this weapon if it were skilfully handled.

Belgium's Splendid Defiance

The whole world is filled with admiration for gallant little Belgium's wonderful stand against the German Goliath. It was the triumph of brains against brute force, and the brain behind it all was that of General Brialmont, the Vauban of our time. It was Brialmont (born 1821, died 1903) who designed the fortifications of Liege, and also those of Namur and Antwerp, and in his capacity of Inspector-General he carried out the whole scheme for the defence of Belgium.

Having failed to carry the fortifications of Liege by hurling solid masses of men at them, the Germans brought up their siege guns to bombard the forts. But whatever happens Liege has played her part in the great war, and richly deserves the Cross of the Legion of Honor which President Poincaré conferred upon her for holding the German hosts at bay.

India's Place in the Empire

That veteran Anglo-Indian, so well known in Bombay, Sir George Birdwood, K.C.I.E. discussing England's mission in India in September "Empire Magazine," says:

"Our mission, judged by the history of the rise, progress and consolidation of the 'Pax Britannica' in India, has obviously been to secure to the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland the undisturbed monopoly, and failing that, the absolute freedom of trade with the East Indies—that is, of all those maritime countries from South Africa to China and Australasia, that form across the Indian Ocean the sweeping arch of which India is, if in strong

hands, politically and commercially the keystone.

"Our purpose is first to insure India from ever again relapsing into the wild and bewildering anarchy of the 1,000 years from A.D. 711 to 1757, during which mad millennium—let Englishmen never forget—the social and industrial and commercial life of India was kept intact simply by virtue of the Brahmanical Caste System, as stereotyped in the Code of Manu and similar Hindu Law Books; and being in India, this duty—this most sacred duty—is imposed upon us, quite apart from our own profit in it, for the greater profit of the people of India.

"What has India done for us? Why, literally everything—everything that has made these islands, on the face of the globe as inconsiderable as the islands that make up Japan, the greatest Empire—in blessing and glory and wisdom and prosperity and honor and might—the greatest the world has ever known. In detail, it started our Royal Navy on its modern basis; it made our commercial marine the carriers for all the world; it created the West-End of London—almost from Temple Bar and Charing Cross; and the West End of Edinburgh; and, again, Cheltenham and Bath and Clifton; and it was the wealth of India, the Nibelung's gold, brought us by our trade with India, that alone enabled us to face and repulse and crush Bonaparte down into the dust, and ship him off and bind him—a second Prometheus—to a before nameless rock in the South Atlantic, to die there like a Bengal tiger in its overlooked and forgotten jungle trap."

Dogs of War

As is well known, dogs are largely used in Belgium for draught purposes, both in peace and war. It is not so well known that Holland is like her neighbor in making free use of the services of dogs in war time. Britain is now to an extent following these examples, a special contingent of bloodhounds having been despatched to the Low Countries for Red Cross work. The dogs, when in the field, carry a complete equipment of first-aid appliances, and are trained to search for the wounded.

The Kiel Canal

The Kaiser Wilhelm Canal is a great German canal connecting the North Sea with the Baltic and popularly known as the Kiel Canal. The natural route from the Baltic to the North Sea around the north of Denmark is circuitous and dangerous. The canal was intended to give Germany opportunity to use her fleet in both seas. It connects Brunsbüttel harbor near the mouth of the Elbe with Holtenau on Kiel Bay, passing through lowlands and lakes and along river valleys. Its reconstruction was undertaken five years ago, to be completed this year. Its width is 144 feet, its depth 36 feet and its length 61 miles. At ten places it has been widened so as to permit ships to pass. It is built at sea level, but has twin locks for the regulation of tides; they are eighty-two feet longer and thirty-two feet wider than the Panama Canal locks, although the depth of the Panama waterway is greater than that of the Kiel waterway. The route around Denmark is 429 miles longer than the route through the Kiel Canal.

The Real Frontier

Apart from the question of honour and of morality, it appears to me quite obvious that we must stand or fall with France or Belgium, or fall without them. . . . We have lost our insular security: the frontier of the British Empire lies between Germany and France.—Robert Blatchford.

Tabloid History ENGLAND.

So named it is said by Egbert, first king of the English, in a general council held at Winchester A.D. 829. England was united to Wales in 1283, to Scotland in 1603. Ireland was incorporated with them by act of legislative union in 1801, and the whole was called the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland. The British Empire contains about 7,000,000 square miles of territory, with approximately 341,000,000 inhabitants. The present King of England succeeded his father King Edward VII, May 6, 1910. The British Empire is the largest in the world, extending into every zone and climate, comprising more than a sixth part of the land of the globe, embracing under its rule nearly a sixth part of the inhabitants of the globe.

FRANCE.

In the fifth century it was conquered by the Franks, a German people of Franconia in Germany, where they became known about 240. Before the revolution France was divided into forty governments. Since the overthrow of Napoleon III, Sept. 3, 1870, it has been a republic. The President is elected for seven years by the Senate and the Chamber of Deputies united in a congress. He concluded treaties with foreign powers, but cannot declare war without previous assent of both Chambers. It contains 204,000 square miles, and the population is 39,000,000. In 1870 war broke out between France and Germany, in which the Germans were uninterruptedly successful. The battle of Sedan decided the war in favor of the Germans on Sept. 1, 1870. The Germans marched into Paris on the 28th day of January, 1872. The provinces of Alsace and Lorraine, which are the battle ground of the present war, were given back to Germany. The inhabitants of these provinces are loyal to the French and are helping them fight Germany at this time.

RUSSIA.

Russia was formerly called Muscovy. It is the largest country in the world and comprises the whole of northern Europe and northern Asia. The rapid rise of power under Peter the Great and Catherine II is unequalled. The government of Russia is an absolute monarch, which is hereditary in the family of the Czar. The whole legislative, executive and judicial power is united in the person of the Czar, whose will alone is law. The princes and princesses of the royal house must obtain consent of the Czar to marriage or their children cannot inherit the throne. The area of the empire is 8,660,282 square miles, and its inhabitants number about 126,000,000. Important events in late Russian history are: Dismemberment of Poland 1772-93 and 95, wars of Napoleon and burning of Moscow 1812, Crimean War 1853-55, vast increase in area of the Asiatic provinces 1858-73, sale of Alaska to the United States in 1867, the Turkish war in 1878 and the Japanese war in 1905, in which the little brown nation defeated the Russian army and navy

time after time and won the war in a remarkably short space of time.

BELGIUM.

Belgium was known in ancient time as Belgae. It was conquered by Julius Caesar in 51 B.C. Its size is about one-eighth of Great Britain, and it is one of the most densely populated countries in the world. Its government is a liberal constitutional monarchy founded in 1831. It has about 7,000,000 inhabitants. The country has been the scene of many important events, and the battlefield on which the English, French, German and Spanish armies have often fought. It is no new thing for the Belgians to have armies over-running their land. Belgium is probably the grave of more soldiers than lie buried in any other country. Belgium used to belong to Holland, but in 1831 they elected a king and the Dutch made war on them. Several foreign powers interfered and induced the Dutch to desist from hostilities.

AUSTRIA-HUNGARY.

Anciently called Noricum. It was annexed to the Roman Empire about A.D. 33 and over-run by the Huns, during the 5th and 6th centuries and taken from them by Charlemagne. He divided the government establishing kingdoms of Eastern Bavaria and Austria. Louis the German, son of Louis le Debonnaire, about 817, subjugated Radbod, and as ruler of Austria, about 65 years later, the descendants of the latter rose in Bavaria against the Emperor Charles the Fat, and eventually the rulers of Austria were declared immediate princes of the Empire. In 1156 the Kingdom was made a Duchy by Emperor Frederick I, and in 1453 it was raised to an Arch Duchy by the Emperor Frederick III Rudolph, Count of Hapsburg, elected Emperor of Germany in 1273, acquired Austria in 1278, and from 1493 to 1804 his descendants were Emperors of Germany. In 1804 the Emperor Francis II renounced the title of Emperor of Germany and became the Emperor of Austria as Francis I. In August, 1804, Francis became the Emperor of Austria only. The Empire was named the Austrian-Hungary Monarchy by decree November, 1868. The Empire is now divided into two parts, separated by the river Leitha. Its present ruler is Francis Joseph, who succeeded Ferdinand I, who abdicated in favor of the present Emperor, December 2, 1848. Francis Ferdinand was heir presumptive to the throne until his recent assassination, which is the direct cause of the present war.

GERMANY.

The old name for Germany was Germania, and it was anciently divided into independent states. The Germans long resisted the Romans, and although Rome conquered parts of the country they were expelled before A.D. 300. In the fifth century the Huns and other Eastern tribes from Russia over-ran Germany and conquered it. In the latter part of the 8th century Charlemagne of France conquered the Saxons and other tribes and was crowned Emperor of Germany at Rome, Dec. 25, 800. At the extinction of his family the Empire became elective and was held mostly by the Hapsburgs 1437 to 1804. After the war with France which ended in 1872 Germany concluded a confederation between the grand duchies of Baden and Hesse, Bavaria and Wurtemberg, and on Jan. 18, 1871, William I was proclaimed Emperor. He died in 1888, and was succeeded by Frederick William. On June 15, 1888, the present Emperor, William II, was proclaimed Emperor.