



The
**CANADIAN
 COURIER**
The National Weekly



Vol. XVIII.

November 6th, 1915

No. 23

NINE MONTHS MORE OF WAR

A Summary of the Bigger Causes Which Make for Victory or Defeat

REASONS of all kinds are being given to support the view that the war will be over in nine months. Some of these reasons are mere guesses, but others have some real basis in fact, even when the deduction may not be fully justified. It will be interesting and valuable, therefore, to examine these various reasons and see what general conclusion is justified, or at least find out how far a general conclusion can be justly and fairly reached. The decided elements are not all known, but most of the uncertainties have become certainties. Only Roumania to-day, of all the nations that might reasonably come into the war, remains without. The man-power on each side is fully defined, and all that goes to make that man-power effective may be reasonably appraised.

THE HUMAN FACTOR.

WHEN the war began, the newspapers and periodicals were filled with estimates of the number of men each side could put in the field. There is no need to rehearse all the arithmetic of those days. It was clear then that the Teutons could put twelve million men in the field; not all at once, but gradually. This they have done. They have lost about four million in killed, desperately wounded and prisoners, so that they have still about eight million effectives.

Bulgaria makes little or no difference to the man-power, as Bulgaria's army is less than four hundred thousand. What Bulgaria has contributed is not men, but a friendly route from Austria to Constantinople. Bulgaria is not a nation just now, but a high-way by which the Teuton may aid the Turk.

To oppose this eight million fighting men which the Teutons still have, the Allies have fully twelve million:

Great Britain	2,000,000
France	3,500,000
Italy	1,500,000
Russia	5,000,000
Total	12,000,000

Thus the Allies have now a third more men than the Teutons. In man-power, the Allies are supreme. If it were a question of numbers only, the Allies should finish the war in three months, instead of nine.

Unfortunately, it is not entirely a question of numbers. The Teutons' eight million are better armed and better equipped than the Allies' twelve millions. The Allies are still somewhat inferior in rifles, in heavy guns and in quantities of ammunition. The Russians have lost a tremendous number of rifles in their recent defeat, and a considerable number of cannon. It will take them six months to replace that equipment, even with the greatest of success in manufacturing on the part of Japan and the United States. The loss of Poland was a heavy blow to the metallic and industrial resources of Russia, as the loss of Belgium and Northern France was to the Allies. The capture by the Teutons of one-third of the Allies' metal factories has been one of the great causes making for a long war. It benefited the Teutons, and weakened the Allies.

Further, the twelve million allied troops are not so well-trained nor so well organized as the eight

By OUR MILITARY CORRESPONDENT

million Teutons. In the early part of the war, the public in England and Canada were fed up on falsehoods about the imminent collapse of Austria and the Austrian army. But Austria has not collapsed and her armies are still in the field. Indeed, it was the Austrian, not the German, 12-inch howitzers which broke the Belgo-French line at Namur, Maubeuge and Antwerp. During the early part of the

will be displaying an incompetence which does not deserve a victory.

PARALYSIS ON THE SEA.

UNDoubtedly the chief reason why the Allies should be able to bring their equipment up to equality with the Teutons is their command of the seas. The wonder of the world is the awful and majestic superiority of the British Sea-Power. Without a battle, with only a few skirmishes, the German and Austrian fleets have been rendered harmless, though not destroyed. The German submarines, for many weeks subsequent to February 15th, when the German submarine offensive began, caused much misgiving in the minds of civilians. But slowly and surely the British gunboats and British mechanical appliances wore down the mobility and offensive power of that submarine fleet, until by October 1st it practically ceased to exist. To-day, the North Sea and the North Atlantic are almost as safe to navigators as in the days before August 3rd, 1914.

Yet the Fleet's work did not end there. Absolute Dominion on the North Sea, the Adriatic Sea and the Aegean Sea was not sufficient. There was still the Baltic; and in recent weeks the work of clearing those waters of enemy shipping has been seriously prosecuted and successfully advanced. We get only occasional glimpses of what is going on there, but it is evident that the northern terminus of the Kiel Canal will soon be as securely sealed as the southern end. The traffic in cotton, iron ore and other contraband, between the Scandinavian countries and Germany is being slowly reduced to a minimum. By the spring of 1916, the British Fleet should be operating fairly freely through the dangerous straits which connect the Baltic with the Atlantic.

THE NAVY'S PART.

AS in the days of Napoleon, the command of the sea is essential to the success of a great campaign on the land. Germany and Austria have given up all hope of regaining command of the sea in any direction. Their boats are resting in their harbours, awaiting the day when the Allies shall have advanced sufficiently to proceed with their destruction.

Further, the British have manufactured a new fleet of thirty monitors and three hundred submarines, with which they will ultimately penetrate every harbour and river in the enemy's coastline. From conquest of the open sea, Great Britain will proceed to the conquest of inland waters. These monitors are single-turreted ships containing one or two large guns. They are vastly superior to the two or three vessels used in the defence of the Belgian Coast in October, 1914. They are more powerful and have guns of much larger calibre. They are shallow-draft, with a double hull, which makes them almost mine-proof and torpedo-proof.

The submarines are, in part, of the "chaser" type. They have a considerable speed and are intended to "chase" other submarines. No one knows the full secrets of these nor of the monitors. All we know is that with this new fleet, it will be possible for the British to land forces in Belgium or on the



Fishing and Beer Drinking are, according to the New York Herald's cartoonist, the only jobs open to the German Fleet walled up in the Kiel Canal.

war, the machine-gun equipment of both Germans and Austria was so vastly superior to that of the Allies that one battalion of Teutons had a defensive power equal to two battalions of the Allies.

But, as Belloc and other critics are inclined to believe, the supply of machine-guns, howitzers and ammunition is now approaching equality. When that equality is reached the superiority of the Allies' numbers will begin to show itself. That point may be reached by the beginning of the new year; but it surely must be reached before the spring of 1916. If it is not reached by that time, then the Allies'