

## London Advertiser

LONDON, WEDNESDAY, DEC. 16.

## GREAT LITTLE FELLOWS.

FREIGHT minded and non-partisan historians of the war are certain to give great credit to Belgium and Serbia for the part they have played in checking the Prussian world-maniac. As has been frequently pointed out, the brave Belgians, by their heroic and unexpected facing of the Kaiser's hordes, slowed up the German war machine enough to prevent the Allies being swept off their feet. It is not safe to conjecture what would have happened had the Germans got to Paris, or the French Channel cities. But while the war would have undoubtedly gone on even in the face of such serious reverses, the difficulties would have been immeasurably increased. With the French end of the channel controlled by the enemy, there would have been no short cut to the battle ground for Kitchener. His transports would have had to swing far to the south, with great loss of precious time. Many weeks would have been lost in getting under way, while Germany meanwhile would have been able to dash into Russia and break up the Russian advance before it acquired impetus. This we now know was unable to do largely because of Belgium's resistance. The Belgians by their heroism made a cemetery of Flanders, but the biggest burial there was Prussia's hope of world dominion.

Equally important has been Serbia's part. The Serb until this war was not rated high as a fighting man. In their first war with Bulgaria the Serbians made a sorry showing, while in last year's Balkan campaign they were too well supported by other powers to be properly tested. But from the moment Austria started to climb a them from the map, the Serbians have shown themselves brave, tenacious and resourceful. Single handed, they held the invaders at bay until the Czar could swing his legions into Galicia, and after a masterly retreat that drew a vast army well into the country, have turned on and routed the enemy much as did Joffe and French in France. There is little doubt but Germany and Austria figured on an easy and rapid conquest of the Serbs. Had they succeeded they could have dominated the situation in the Balkans to a large extent, as Bulgaria, Turkey and possibly Rumania would have cast in their lot with the Teutonic combination. Serbia, like Belgium, fighting for her very life, has in no small degree helped shatter the Kaiser's ambition to saddle the world with Prussian "kultur."

## THE BRITISH SUBMARINE.

TOWARD the end of November, when to some minds Britain's supremacy of the sea seemed a trifle doubtful, the First Lord of the Admiralty issued a reassuring statement. In the first place, he pointed out the perils which confronted the navy at the beginning of the war, mentioning its unpreparedness, the danger of German commerce destroyers abroad, and of mines and submarines, both practically unknown factors. He then showed that Britain was building warships much more rapidly than the enemy, could lose one super-dreadnought per month for a year and be in a better position than at the beginning of the war, adding that "in the matter of submarines Great Britain's power is much greater than that of the enemy." Previously, Winston Churchill expressed the opinion that the navy would win the war.

Recent events have tended to show that the First Lord of the Admiralty "spoke by the book." The commerce destroyers which disposed of a much smaller percentage of merchant vessels than was anticipated have been practically driven off the seas. Four of the five German warships which composed the squadron at Tsing Tau have been accounted for, and the other is being pursued.

Now the British submarine which has had so little opportunity to prove itself has vindicated Churchill's attitude by performing the most daring naval feat of the war to date. The German submarine dared to attack British boats in the North Sea and even close to French and English ports, but it was a British submarine which dared to dive under five separate chains of mines in a treacherous current, surrounded by the enemy's destroyers and fort guns, and send a Turkish battleship to the bottom of the Dardanelles.

Perhaps Churchill's statement that it might be necessary to dig the German fleet out of the Kiel canal like rats was more significant than appeared. At any rate, the Empire is now more ready than ever to believe that the British navy can accomplish the seemingly impossible.

## GERMAN BLUFF.

IT HAS been said that the world will be a long time placing trust again in Germany after the scrap-of-paper episode. But those in the know, the diplomats of leading nations, have been on their guard for some time. Otherwise Great Britain might have been bluffed in remaining neutral in this war.

Germany has for years followed a plan of saying pleasant things and giving soporific assurances in an official or semi-official or personal way, while officially hedging or keeping silence. German ambassadors assured Belgium of her security and immunity under the treaty, while the German Government arranged its strategy against the British frontier. Similarly, last July, a German Chancellor tried to bluff Sir Edward Grey by personal chatter of his ambassador in London. Grey, himself an expert angler, was also too wary a fish to rise to such common bait. He saw his man.

Further, evading the British question as to Germany's intentions respecting Belgium, Chancelor Holweg proposed vaguely "a general neutrality agreement between England and Germany, though, of course it was at the present moment too early to discuss details; an assurance of British neutrality in the conflict which the present crisis might produce would enable him to look forward to the realization of his desire." But Grey had read, as a schoolboy, how Bismarck worked this same sort of cheat on Napoleon III. at Biarritz in 1870, on the eve of the Austro-Prussian struggle for the mastery of Germany. Stuffed with vague promises, the French Emperor stayed in to his cost.

In 1914 the trick was so stale and so transparent as to be absolutely childlike, however it may have served in the simpler days of half a century ago, when tried out first. No, Grey would neither take a German ambassador's personal assurances, nor be gulled by a mere copying pupil of Bismarck. He was wise in placing no confidence in a sharp corner diplomacy, and certainly was not to be caught with chaff.

The complete silence in the North Sea is ominous for somebody, N. Y. World. Correct, and knowing who it is we fear it will get on his nerves and retard convalescence.

Germany is already worrying as to who will act as arbitrator at the world's conclusion. But why worry? It will be a valuator of what is left of the German Empire that will be called in, not an arbitrator.

A writer in the Contemporary Review points out that the unexpected speed of the Russian mobilization proves not that Russia had got ready for the war, but the contrary. For the mobilization plans and timetables were so old that no account had been made of the much faster train service and double tracking of roads in recent years.

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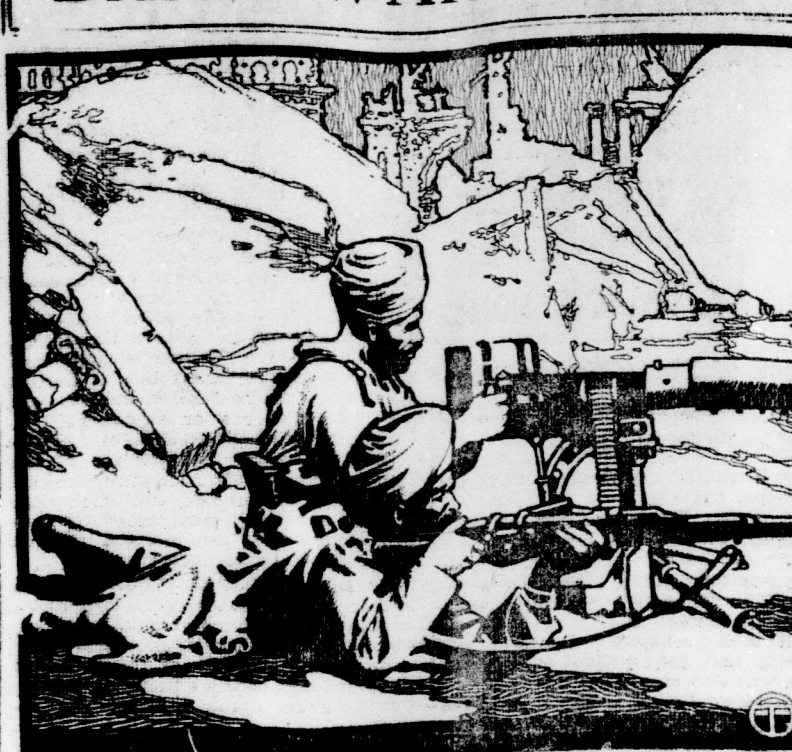
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## DAILY WAR PUZZLE



Oriental operating modern guns. Find an English and a French soldier.

ANSWER TO YESTERDAY'S PUZZLE—Upside down behind man. Right side down above wheel.

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