

easier for the mass of the British people to place confidence in Russia as an ally of to-day and of the future. Russians scattered over the world, many of whom had been driven from the homeland by the harshness of the Czar's laws, are under the new order of things able to give to the war against the Teutons an aid and comfort that have hitherto been given grudgingly, if at all. Neutral nations find it easier to give their sympathy to the Entente Allies now that the Russian Government is brought into harmony with the constitutional systems of Great Britain and France, and with the democratic spirit of the world.

Reminders from Mr. Smuts

TWO men who have greatly distinguished themselves in the war are Generals Botha and Smuts, the soldier-statesmen of South Africa. Thanks to the devoted patriotic service of these men, the Germans have been driven from a large part of their African territory, and the British flag raised where formerly the Kaiser's colors waved. Instead of getting the larger "place in the sun" for which the German Emperor sighed, he has lost much of his former possessions. The military operations in that region being largely over, Generals Botha and Smuts are free to give their time to their political work. It is in connection with this that General Smuts, as a substitute for Premier Botha, has come to the Imperial Conference in England. Honored the other day, along with other overseas representatives, with the freedom of the city of Edinburgh, General Smuts made a speech that must have grated on the nerves of some good English folk. After expressing the wish that the union that had taken place in South Africa might be like the Anglo-Scottish rather than like the Anglo-Irish union, General Smuts continued:

"The lord provost has reminded you that I was fighting against the British Empire fifteen years ago. There has been no change in me. The cause for which I then fought is the cause for which I am fighting to-day. (Cheers). I fought for freedom and liberty. I am fighting for that now. You are a large-hearted people, and will forgive me the expression of my view that fifteen or eighteen years ago you were very much in the wrong. (Laughter). I am sometimes proud to think that since then we have, according to the old apostolic injunction, heaped coals of fire on your heads. You came back to wiser counsels in handing us back the liberty which we had thought would be jeopardized under the British flag. You made us free, and in so doing laid the foundations of a large state.—(Cheers). As a result of the policy you adopted after the Boer war, a small nation that fought against you not many years ago, and with a vigor and persistency seldom seen in the history of the world, is to-day fighting in a common cause with you.—(Renewed cheers). That result has been brought about by your reversion to the old ideal of liberty which has been the guiding principle of British history; and I am sure that when you see the great changes that are to follow this cataclysm you will find that spirit is the only sure foundation on which to build in the future."

General Smuts' insistence that the Boers were right in the South African war will be regarded as courageous, if not altogether acceptable to British public opinion. The average Englishman is hardly prepared to admit that the nation was wrong in the South African war. Perhaps the present Prime Minister of Great Britain, however, was able to smile when he read the General's speech, for Mr. Lloyd George was one of those who strongly disapproved of Britain's action in the conflict with the Boers, and his attitude towards that war brought him much unpopularity. The contrast between his reception by British audiences of that time and his reception to-day is one of the most striking illustrations of the mutability of public opinion.

General Smuts' reminder touched not only on the South African war itself, but on the after-war policy of the mother country. Lord Milner, now holding a high place in the Cabinet and credited with being the chief promoter of the Imperial Conference, can hardly have found General Smuts' speech agreeable reading. Closely associated as he was in South Africa with Mr. Joseph Chamberlain's policy, Lord Milner returned to England with a belief that only a firm repressive policy could save South Africa to the Empire. He was the strongest opponent of the policy of Premier Campbell-Bannerman when the latter proposed to trust the South Africans, and give them the right of self government. The wisdom of that policy has been splendidly vindicated. What General Smuts had to say on that question will find more favor than what he said of the South African war itself.

On Vimy Ridge

ALL Canada is thrilled with pride as it reads the story of the part taken by our Canadian soldiers in the recent British advance, and particularly in the capture of the Germans' strong position on the Vimy Ridge. None who know the men of Canada have ever doubted that they would acquit themselves honorably. If there ever was doubt as to their service it was as to whether men so absolutely without previous military knowledge, could in a short time be so trained as to fit them for the hard work of the front line in the greatest battles of the world. Happily the highest hopes in this respect have been fully realized. Again and again, in time of severe tests, have the Canadian soldiers borne their part in a manner worthy of the splendid traditions of the British army. Vimy Ridge merely adds another page to the glorious record. The price paid was not small. The losses, we are told, were light, considering the nature of the battle. Light they may be when only statistics are considered, but we must be prepared to find, as the casualty reports come over from day to day, that many more of the flower of Canadian manhood have laid down their lives for the Empire, and for the world's freedom. The story of the glorious victory will be saddened by the record of glorious sacrifice.

Balfour and Viviani

WHILE there is much interest, and perhaps some doubt, as to the manner in which the United States can most effectively do her part in the war against Germany, it is good news that a mission, headed by two prominent statesmen of Britain and France, is to come over the ocean at once for consultation with the Government of the American Republic. Mr. Arthur Balfour has long stood in the very front rank of British statesmen.

As Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs he is a worthy successor to Sir Edward (now Viscount) Grey, who for an unusually long period steered Britain safely through the difficult channels of European diplomacy. Mr. Balfour's acknowledged ability, his high character, his large experience, his unquestionable patriotism, mark him as exceptionally qualified for the service of arranging for co-operation between the Entente Allies and the United States. In the person of M. Viviani France has a representative of similar character. In various positions, including that of Premier during a part of the war period, M. Viviani has proven himself one of France's most trustworthy statesmen. A conference at Washington of these men and their associates with the statesmen of the United States will be a gathering of great interest and importance to the world.

Guam

A PLACE rarely mentioned in the news of the day has come into the limelight through the destruction, by her crew, of a German warship which had been interned. Guam is one of the foreign lands that have come under the American flag since the United States Government abandoned their historic policy of confining their attention to the protection of their own soil. It is one of the Ladrones group of islands in the Pacific ocean. It was formerly a Spanish island but was taken possession of by the United States at the time of the Spanish-American War. The chief harbor is Apra. The German ship was interned there some time ago. On the declaration of a state of war between the United States and Germany, the American authorities demanded the surrender of the ship. The German officers, refusing the demand, blew up the ship rather than deliver her to the enemy.

With no unkind thought of the retiring Premier of New Brunswick, the press may find some comfort in the change of Government in that Province. It was embarrassing to have two Premier Murrays down East to keep track of. As George M. appears to have a life appointment at Halifax, the only way to avoid confusion was for J. A. to drop out at Fredericton. But in order that the claims of the clan may not be ignored another Murray has been given a place in the new Government of New Brunswick.

What's wrong with the number seventeen? If thirteen is to be marked unluckily, seventeen may have to be noted as troublesome. It is "Regulation 17" that is causing the bilingual school trouble of Ontario. Now the manufacturers and others are up in arms against "Classification 17" in the railway freight tariffs.

Despise not the day of small things. The humble blueberry is a crop of considerable value in some portions of the Dominion. On the south shore of Nova Scotia the children's work in picking blueberries results in shipments to the United States which run into a large value. With the increase of the demand has come the devising of machines for picking the fruit. These are said to be destructive to the good name of the honest blueberry in the market, and now a member of the Legislature has introduced a bill to prohibit the taking of berries "otherwise than by hand."