

7. Putting into the field more than ten times as many men as she ever promised.

8. Guarding her own soil and people against an invasion, which, if it came—and it is believed to be far from impossible—doubtless would be the most savage, the most unsparing, ever known. With how many men? Well, with enough. To hear some people talk, one would suppose that upon Britain were laid the duty of defending every land but her own.

Britain's wealth and sea power and military power are the one sure safeguard against the triumph of Germany's unparalleled war machine. Without Britain's help, France and Russia certainly must have been crushed. Without Britain's whole-hearted participation in the war, who will say that Italy would have ventured to challenge the mighty and merciless Germanic coalition? With Britain out of the struggle, would there have been any hope of the Balkan States daring to move?

And Britain—never forget it—was not compelled to go to the aid of France. Come what might, the most that ever Britain promised France were six divisions—120,000 men. She was not in honour bound to send a single soldier more. She could have stayed out of the war. Germany had begged her to stay out of the war. Disgraced she might have been—as Britons think, must have been—if she had left Belgium and France and European liberty to their doom.

But she could have done this. Few nations are without disgrace, without historical pages they fain would obliterate. Britain was not attacked. France and Russia were attacked. Britain might have awaited the onset—as America is awaiting the onset. Britain might have stood clear, might have husbanded her resources of men and money, might swiftly have prepared, even might have loomed over the stricken adversaries in the end and claimed the hegemony of Europe for herself.

Britain did not do so.

She threw her trident into the scale. She threw her sword into the scale. She threw her gold into the scale—and she is incalculably rich.

She threw into the balance her impressive racial record, her prestige, her unrivalled diplomatic skill. She threw—is throwing—will throw into the balance the whole puissance of her Empire.

And all for what? For the principle—the fruits of the prin-