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What the Serbian Army is Fighting For

The heroic struggles of the Serbians and the fact that the troops of the little kingdom are now reported to be thrusting back the Bulgarians from Monastir recall that the Balkan people who acknowledge the rule of King Peter are the most democratic of all the continental nations of Europe. The country is virtually steeped in democracy, even to the church, while the spirit of the people is the same. It is this democracy that has had much to do with the casuation of the war. The idea of the Greater Serbia was the outcome of this spirit and it attracted all Serbs, Croats and Slovenes in Austria-Hungary. It was not forgotten that five hundred years of Turkish oppression had failed to kill the spirit of Serbia. That spirit was counted upon by all the scattered divisions of the race to bind them together once more in a great free nation. The Balkan Slavs dreaming this dream, which bids fair to become true, saw Turkey governed by an oligarchy, Greece by a wilful king whose patriotism was overshadowed by his despotism and Rumania ruled by its landlords.

It is a remarkable thing that a nation becomes more known by its faults than by its virtues. The world shuddered with horror when the assassination of Alexander was published and then began to enquire where this savage country was. Perhaps this ignorance was not to be wondered at, for Serbia had had no schools, no universities, no libraries, no lectures and no written literature for five hundred years under the rule of the Crescent. Assassination of kings and civil wars—and there were several of each—were, perhaps not to be wondered at. The only culture of the Serbians had been their traditional literature which had sufficed to keep alive the spirit of the nation.

Serbia today is representative more than any other nation in the great war of an idea. That is the liberation of the people from the perpetual fear of extinction and absorption at the whim of more powerful neighbors and the re-establishment of a national entity. The first step was the liberation of the country from Turkish misrule by the intervention of Russia. But it was a scattered and a disorganized race that saw the dawn of freedom. And for years since the nominal liberation of

the country it has been fighting the effects of centuries of misrule. The natural character of the Serbian had to be unearthed from the accumulations of ages of oppression and injustice.

The rejuvenation of the Serbian army, hailed as a wonderful thing under the circumstances, is not, after all, so startling from the viewpoint of the student of past and present aspects of the national character. The years of the Turk were heavy upon the land but they developed that infinite capacity for patience and long suffering which has marked the conduct of the people throughout the conduct of the present war and made the devotion and fortitude of the Serbian troops an inspiration to their less heavily afflicted brothers-in-arms.

An American writer who witnessed the fight of the Serbians before Mackensen's triumphant army in the days of the great retreat describes the scene as both heartbreaking and inspiring. One is made to feel the indomitable spirit of the Serbs in the following tribute to them by this author:

They do not count the cost. They are not made that way. They only fight and hope. As I recall it now, that seems to be the best epitaph I can give the Serbian people. For five centuries they have unflinchingly fought and hoped. To all who have intimately known them, their present misfortune is as the keenest personal sorrow. For if a calm and dignified spirit under the dreariest of skies, if unflinching and unquenchable patriotism under tests that may well styled supreme, if deathless devotion to what one conceives as right and honorable be any longer of use in the world, the land of Serbia and the national soul of the Serbs is worth preserving. They have a bright destiny to which the vast resources of their beautiful country and the blood of the innumerable merable heroes entitle them and they will be allowed to work it out.

Who can doubt of the ultimate success of a cause to which such a people are devoted, with which they are allied? And who cannot feel that the worst has passed for their heroic nation, when after two years of disaster the troops of the little Balkan nation are driving the invader from their soil?—Ottawa Citizen.

Defends the Naval Men

(To the Editor)

Dear Sir,—Please give me space in your much read paper to say a few words concerning a piece which came before my eyes from The Mail and Advocate, it was entitled "Recent Insult Offered Navy."

Now, Sir, the man that said that he was no better than he should have been. Let him stay at St. John's and when this awful war is over let him come on Water Street and tell that to the crowd of Navy men that lands there, if they are spared to come back, he would not live long enough to know whether he died or what became of him as regards joining the Navy. If he thinks the Navy is not doing their bit why don't he join the Army. Sir, if he was to join the Navy and go through as much hardship as I went through last month he would not say people only joined it for safety, and I have not been over here only a dog watch (7 or 8 months). I guess some of the fellows that have been over here over two years would like for that cowardly rascal to tell them that the Navy is not doing anything.

And now a few words to the young fellows of Smith's Sound, north side. Boys, come forward and try to do your bit. It is a shame for you to be staying back and so many poor fellows laying down their lives for their King and Country and you likewise. Boys, just think of what others are going through for to help you and all that are home; buck up and come over and help bring this struggle to an end. It is all right for you to sit by a nice fire in the winter time and me and a lot of others over here suffering so much for you on the ocean. Just think what you are doing before you get married, leave the girls stay single until the war's over.

Mr. Editor, I hear of the great work that Mr. Coaker is doing for the country (our little country). My prayer and wish is that it will be a bigger success than ever. Now, Sir, I will bring this short letter to a close by wishing Mr. Coaker and the Union every success.

I remain, yours truly,
STAUNCH UNION MAN,
Liverpool, Nov. 15, 1916.

For the Cot Fund

(To the Editor)

Dear Sir,—Please acknowledge the sum of \$40 (forty dollars) which goes toward the Cot Fund, the result of a basket social held by the young ladies of Cat Harbor.

Per LILIAN BUTT,
Cat Hr., Nov. 28, 1916.

[We have handed the above amount (\$40.00) over to His Lordship Chief Justice Horwood.]

THE ESQUIMAUX OF ST ANTHONY

I have before me a circular from nothing less than the Department of Public Instruction of Washington. Uncle Sam's Government is famed for the numerous booklets which it issues on almost every conceivable subject from feeding babies to plucking turkeys. One thereof looks for accuracy of description when Uncle Sam issues a booklet to his children.

Let me quote you a little paragraph from it, and then doubt if you will whether the motley tribe who yearly visit the Grenfell institutions carry back a good report of us.

Describing a trip to Newfoundland it says: "We then cross to Newfoundland and inspect the codfisheries, the lumber industries and the making of wood pulp; and finally find ourselves at St. Anthony, where (please note this) Dr. Grenfell is ministering to the unfortunate Esquimaux, while his little wife is teaching the native women weaving and making of artificial flowers."

Thank Heaven Grenfell and his little wife came. We "unfortunate esquimaux" would probably have been still eating blubber and wearing seal-skins. But now we are being taught weaving and the making of "artificial flowers" (rats), because I suppose we never see any real ones.—Twillingate Sun.

countrymen, but they are not yet fully awake."

Alongside of Sir William's letter is published a plea from the leading English bishops for the banishment of all extravagance and ostentation, particularly in the matter of foods, in the celebration of this year's Christmas holidays, and the making of the Yuletide "a self-denial Christmas—a simple festival of joy, thanksgiving and prayer."

250,000 U.S. Steel Workers Get Raise

Corporation Meets High Cost with \$18,000,000 Wage Increase

NEW YORK, Nov. 29.—The United States Steel Corporation has announced an increase of 10 per cent in the wages of the employees of its iron and steel companies, effective December 15. The increase affects about 250,000 employees, adds about \$18,000,000 annually to the payroll and brings the average wage of the employees to the highest point in the history of the corporation. Wages and salary increases in other departments of the corporation also will be adjusted equitably.

"Ordinarily the question of wages would not come up for consideration or decision at this time of year," said Judge Gary, chairman of the corporation, in making the announcement, "but in consequence of the abnormal conditions now existing it has been decided to increase the wage rates of our iron and steel companies about 10 per cent, to take effect December 15. As to other departments, increases will be equitably proportioned."

Judge Gary declined to make any further comment on the advance in the wages, but another official said the action of the board of directors was taken "with due regard for the higher prices now prevailing for necessities of life in all parts of the country."

Third Increase This Year.
This increase is the third to be put into effect this year, the total increase in wages amounting to more than 60 cents a day for the average workmen of the corporation. The first advance of per cent, was put into effect on February 1 and added about \$15,000,000 on the annual payroll. The second advance became effective May 1, and added about \$17,000,000 annually to the corporation's payroll.

Common labor under the new wage rate will receive about \$2.67 a day, compared with \$2.43 at present and \$2.22 before the war. Total salaries and wages paid to the company's 191,126 employees in 1915 aggregated \$176,800,864. Since that time the num-

ber of employees has increased greatly. It is estimated the payroll of \$200,000,000 and \$220,000,000, which implies an increase of approximately \$18,000,000 under the higher rate of pay.

Independents May Follow.
Steel men took it for granted that the independent concerns, which are now earning the highest rate in their history, would follow the lead of the Steel Corporation. It is also stated that the increase, which probably will be granted by the independent concerns will be in the form of bonuses more than permanent wages, and that the latter will continue only as long as the companies continue to do the present great business.

The relation between the Steel Corporation and its employees have always been very amicable. The company has done a great deal to improve the home, social and physical conditions of its workers, and has erected model tenements for the use of men and their families in the cities where its plants are located. The profit sharing plan for the benefit of its employees are given an opportunity to buy both common and preferred stock of the corporation at prices below the market quotations. Most of the employees who have taken advantage of this scheme have large profits to their credit.

PEOPLE OF BRITAIN NOT FULLY AWAKE

Sir William Robertson Says Nation Does Not Recognize Issues at Stake—Need Greater Efforts—Appeal by Chief Imperial Staff in the Carrying on of War

LONDON, Nov. 30.—The morning newspapers to-day give prominence to an appeal by Sir William Robertson, chief of the Imperial staff, for greater war efforts on the part of the people of the nation. The appeal was contained in a letter to the Council of one of the London boroughs, and says:

"There is no doubt whatever of our ability to win the war if only we really put our backs into it. We have not yet done this. We still do not recognize the issues at stake nor the efforts we ought to make and can make if we will but try. I have every confidence in my

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