

Journal of Commerce

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MONTREAL, MONDAY, AUGUST 24, 1914.

FIRST COSTS OF THE EUROPEAN WAR

What the war will cost Europe first and last cannot be measured; but some idea of the vast expenditure necessitated by the mere maintenance of the field of the enormous bodies of men now under arms will give a faint conception of the vast bill that will have to be paid.

The total strength of the British army is about 700,000 men; of that total about 160,000 are regulars, 150 Army Reserves, and 250,000 Territorials—that is, roughly, 560,000 effectives. To this, Kitchener is now adding 500,000 recruits. The first line of the German Army counts 2,300,000 men now under arms. France has 4,000,000 trained fighters, of whom 2,000,000 form the first line. Belgium has a peace establishment of 53,000—a total force of 350,000; she has at present about 200,000 men in the field. Holland has 250,000 men under arms. Russia's vast host numbers 4,500,000 men. Of her peace strength of 1,200,000, 850,000 are quartered in Europe. The first line, which may be available at the end of this month, totals two millions. The Austro-Hungarian first line is composed of 1,200,000 men. The peace strength of the Serbian Army is over 360,000; and there are some 95,000 reservists. The approximate peace strength of the Turkish Army is 230,000 men. In addition to these there are the naval forces of the various powers. An estimate of the men under arms, therefore, is:

Table with columns: Country, Army, Navy, Total. Includes entries for Great Britain, France, Russia, Belgium, Serbia, Germany, Austria-Hungary, Turkey.

There are thus 9,250,000 men to be maintained. Taking the figures at \$2.50 per man per day—worked out in the Balkan War—the cost will be about \$22,500,000 per day. But the cost during mobilization doubles or triples that sum. It is a fearful penalty to pay; but it will not be suffered in vain if democracy is thereby set free.

THE AMBITION OF GERMANY

Germany's overmastering ambition resulted in its own undoing. It forced three hereditary enemies to unite their forces—France, Russia and Great Britain. German diplomacy has strained every effort to break the Triple Entente, in turn warring and threatening France and Russia, but in vain. Finally, Prussia committed the supreme folly of challenging the naval supremacy of England. That nation prepared itself to become as powerful at sea as it was on land, and then to dominate Europe and the whole world.

The existence of any ultimate aggressive design on England was again and again officially denied; but finally it found veiled expression in the Reichstag. It was asserted that the German navy must be sufficiently strong to inspire respect in the English people, so that England would think twice before she would dare to attack Germany. Finally, German writers went so far as to frankly confess that they could see no natural or divine law which gave to the English people for all time to come, the mastery of the sea.

With characteristic naivete, and insular selfishness, a strong minority in England protested against war with Germany, insisting that there was no danger of the invasion of England. But surely the greatest danger to England is not the violation of her own shores; it is the invasion of France and Belgium. Even in the case of an invasion of England the Germans themselves have admitted that the probabilities of success would be all against them; but in the case of France, the Germans have had the utmost confidence that the probabilities would be all in their favor. It is, therefore, in France and Belgium that the vulnerable point lies, the Achilles heel of the British Empire.

Now, Germany is not satisfied with her present boundaries. She does not merely ask for the open door which England has generously given her. She does not aspire to merely commercial expansion. She is bent on territorial expansion. She is bent on being not merely a German Empire, but a European Empire, a World Empire. The old Napoleonic dream is with us once more. She has used Austria as a tool to open the gates of the Near East for her. Already her economic penetration of Belgium and Holland has transformed those kingdoms into German economic dependencies. The political supremacy of continental Europe has been almost within her grasp; and now she means to secure it beyond doubt or cavil.

Yet, notwithstanding the fact that German activity brought economic prosperity to Holland and Belgium, the Germans have been detested in every country in Europe. More than that, while German commerce was increasing by leaps and bounds, the moral and intellectual influence of German culture has been steadily diminishing. It is infinitely less than it was fifty years ago, when Germany was a second-rate power. It is less than that of Russia, or even Belgium or Norway. There is not one contemporary German writer who has exerted anything like the influence of Tolstoy, or Ibsen or Maeterlinck or contemporary thought. The French language has become more and more the international language of the educated classes on the Continent, while the German language is almost universally neglected, notwithstanding its obvious practical uses.

The Germans have felt this hostility, and have sought to explain its origin on various grounds. In France, it has arisen because of the bitter memories left by the war of 1870; it is the Gallic vindictiveness born of defeat. In England it is due to commercial rivalry, and to a natural envy at the growing power and prosperity of the German Empire. In all countries, the Germans have imagined the antipathy has arisen against their nation because of the instinctive dread of the weak for the strong.

It is idle to deny that the bitter memories of 1870 have never ceased to stab the heart of France. But why has not time healed the wounds? War, as a rule, leaves no permanent bitterness behind it. War has indeed often drawn nations together, as it has taught respect to each for the qualities of the other. But the Franco-Prussian War stands alone in modern history as one that has left behind it ineradicable feelings of hatred and revenge. The chivalry of European tradition was conspicuously absent in the conduct of that war. The victors chose to violate the great principle of nationality which has become the foundation of the political morality of Europe. In an age of democracy they chose to dispose of the destinies of millions of French people without their consent. They chose to treat the population of Alsace-Lorraine as though it were only a pawn in the great game of war, and composed of slaves to be transferred from one nation to another. This was a crime against humanity which is now being avenged.

As far as England is concerned, she has ever been Germany's best friend. She saved Frederick the Great from annihilation, and rescued the German States from the tyranny of Napoleon. Germany's commercial success has helped to create her own. She has not been envious of Germany's economic expansion; the English are too clear-headed for that. But England could not continue to exist as a Great Power if Germany overwhelmed France and Belgium; and in that and that alone, is to be found the reason why the British people will never sheath the sword until they have laid the heel on the Prussian tyrant's throat.

Our soldiers' wives. "Unwilling wives to be pilloried—Publish Names of Those Refusing to Let Husbands Go to War." Such is the heading of a published Ottawa despatch, apparently from Ministerial circles, which proceeds to say that a Parliamentary return will be asked for to make public the names of Canadian women who have objected to their husbands joining the Canadian war contingent. "These women," we are told, "will now find their names made public and will have to meet the criticism which their action may deserve."

We trust that no such return has been granted or asked for. The woman who gladly sent forth her husband to the war is to be commended for her courage and her patriotism. But the woman does not want her husband to go should neither be "pilloried" nor in any other way penalized. She is probably much better informed than any official authority as to her husband's affairs and the consequences to be feared from his death or injury, or even his absence from home. She may have the best of reasons for knowing that he should not go. And even if she had no other reason than that which springs from her affection and her fear, let nobody rush in to condemn her. She is a woman. That in itself should be a sufficient reason to protect her from the insult which somebody seems desirous of offering her.

There is another reason against anybody making complaint against the soldier's wife under such circumstances. The Minister of Militia, Hon. Colonel Hughes, has on several occasions taken much trouble in proclaiming that no married man should join the contingent without the consent of his wife. A sympathetic journalist, if not the Minister himself, gave this point a personal touch by a reference to a member of the Minister's family who had volunteered, but was not accepted until his wife's consent was obtained. Will it not be ridiculous if the wives of some of the volunteers who have followed the Minister's suggestion by asking for the withdrawal of their husbands' names, are now to be pilloried for their action?

There is another reason against the foolish proposal. The action of the women, we are told in the report, "has become a very serious factor in the work of recruiting and this unpatriotic behavior on the part of some Canadian women has already depleted the ranks of many of our units." We venture to suggest to the Censors at Ottawa that it is not politic from the military point of view, and not just to the Canadian people, to have the world informed that there is much difficulty in recruiting for the war service. We have been told repeatedly in Ottawa despatches, and in speeches of the Minister, that there is everywhere the utmost enthusiasm for the war and that Canada could easily provide four or five contingents of the number at present contemplated. If this is correct, and we believe it is, why should there be any trouble in recruiting? Why should reports be sent out which when repeated abroad will be interpreted to mean that there is great difficulty in raising the Canadian contingent and that the ranks can only be filled by dragging men into the army in the face of their wives' protestations?

The splendid sacrifices being made by Canadians are continually cropping up. Two have just come to light. Mr. C. J. McCuaig, stockbroker of this city, is giving his three sons to go to fight the battles of the Empire. This is duplicated on the part of Mr. D. R. Ross, of Embro, Ont., whose three sons have all received commissions and are going out with the Canadian contingent. These six officers, like hundreds of others, will give a good account of themselves and of Canada.

The British Humanity League in London has received a striking message from the Humanity League in Berlin, dated August 11th, reading as follows: "Dear Comrades. At last the clouds have burst. We cannot at this hour refrain from sending a message of fraternal greeting to you who have foreseen and prepared for the carnage which must precede the inevitable overthrow of a military despotism too long tolerated by millions of toilers. Crushed by its internal weight, nakedly revealing itself, we see uncurbed a tyrant surrounded by parasites now directing the most devilish and hellish campaign ever waged against humanity. With tollers in all lands we have no quarrel to-day. We extend our hands in heartiest friendship to every Belgian, French and British democrat. We know the internal revolution now proceeding in our midst will depose the despot whose insatiable egotism is drenching Europe with the blood of its workers and wage-earners."

India is gradually advancing as a manufacturing country. The report says:—"The 268 cotton mills at work in all India in 1913-14 included 104 exclusively spinning, and 21 exclusively weaving mills. The majority of the mills, viz., 176, were in the Bombay Presidency, and they contained 70 per cent. of the spindles and 77 per cent. of the looms. Bombay City contained 85 mills and Ahmedabad 50. The industry is to a large extent in the hands of Indians." The Factory Act of 1912 would appear to have been necessary, for children were certainly worked excessively long hours, and conditions generally were in many cases unsatisfactory. The new regulations are said to be working well. "The chief difficulty is with children, who, by means of a second certificate obtained under a false name, do two shifts a day, thus exceeding the six-hour limit." The jute industry, though large and expanding, is smaller than the cotton; but the number of hands employed in mills is not much less. The following figures show how largely these industries have increased:—

W. My assumption that the arrogant war lord realizes now that he made a colossal blunder when in his over-confidence he forced England into the war by violating Belgian neutrality. He gained nothing thereby, as the event has proved, but invited the implacable enmity of a power which will never allow this war to come to a close so long as the German flag flies over a single ironclad anywhere upon the oceans or over a single colony anywhere upon the earth.—Rochester Post Express.

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Another thing about you English which we laugh at is your business. You don't know how to work. The result is that we are getting more and more of your trade. Yes, England is a fine country to spend a holiday in, but as a nation you are getting old, and, as you would say, stale. You are still great, but Germany is the coming champion of Europe, and sooner or later you will have to fight. We shall be sure to win.

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The discrepancy between the number of cotton mills in this table and the amount given above is due to the fact that the latter figure includes factories in Native States. The sea-borne trade of India has increased in a very striking manner. Both imports and exports have more than tripled in a quarter of a century. The bulk of the exports is raw material, but Indian exports of manufactured cotton and jute equal, roughly, the total exports of the whole Turkish Empire. Great Britain has 63 per cent. of the import trade and 10 times as much as Germany, which country, with Java, occupies the second place. No other country sends a very considerable amount of goods to India.—The Economist.

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A GERMAN BOAST. Herr Fritz Gageimann, of Berlin. To live in England is the most charming country in the world, but I would not be an Englishman. You can do what you like, you can walk on the grass in the parks, and you can go on board one of your Dreadnoughts. The authorities forbid nothing. They let you say what you like in Hyde Park, and print what you like in your papers. If you meet your king in the street and don't raise your hat not a policeman will interfere. In Germany these are all offences for which we are sent to prison. But you English are fools! You care more for your football and your boxing than for your empire. Your young men will take a lot of trouble to kick a ball a little bit more skillfully than somebody else, but they won't take the trouble to protect their empire. You cannot get enough of even your territorial imitation soldiers. In Germany every man has to be a real soldier. We can at a moment's notice put nearly 3,000,000 fully-trained men into the field against our enemies. You have only 200,000 trained soldiers to protect your empire all over the world. To us Germans your army is the greatest joke.

ANOTHER THING ABOUT YOU ENGLISH WHICH WE LAUGH AT IS YOUR BUSINESS. You don't know how to work. The result is that we are getting more and more of your trade. Yes, England is a fine country to spend a holiday in, but as a nation you are getting old, and, as you would say, stale. You are still great, but Germany is the coming champion of Europe, and sooner or later you will have to fight. We shall be sure to win.

BEARS WORSE THAN MICE. Mr. David Gillies, of Carleton Place, the well known lumberman, received an amusing letter from one of his old fire rangers on the Upper Petawawa a short time ago. For people who are afraid of bears, it affords an interesting insight into the contempt entertained for these "varmints" by the real woodsmen. The ranger writes to Mr. Gillies as follows:—"Bears are a little troublesome this month. They have broken into the hut at Catfish several times during my absence, and have eaten my provisions and upset everything. I had the window nailed up with inch boards and five-inch spikes, and they tore that off and got in again. They come at night, too, and waken me up. I struck one in the face one night as he was trying to climb in the window, and I scared another away when he started to pull down the barricade. The park men told me I should get a heavy revolver. I am not afraid of bears, but they are more troublesome than the mice and squirrels."—Rud and Gun.

REGULATING FOOD PRICES. There is very little reason to suppose that the drop in food prices reported from various sources simultaneously with the opening of the inquiry into prevailing conditions by the Government is due to the latter in any proper sense. To believe so would be to assume that a close monopoly almost throughout the country had been successful in putting up prices practically everywhere by general agreement, or as a result of orders sent out from some central office. Such a notion would certainly find little or no warrant. The advance in prices has often been somewhat hysterical and occurred in lines where no general and united action of that kind would have been possible and where therefore the advance has been due to fear of scarcity or a disturbance to business likely to bring about a serious alteration in conditions that would involve large increases. This may have gone too far in some lines—indeed has probably done so. Such action as is now contemplated is not likely to relieve the situation much if at all. The Government cannot control genuine fluctuations of supply and demand, nor actual scarcity, and its efforts to do so are rather likely to aggravate than to alleviate the situation.—New York Journal of Commerce.

SAFELY IN BRITAIN. There are a few franks of course, who can see no good in England, but the overwhelming majority of the American tourists, who are arriving from Europe, "Thank God" there, were the British Isles to go for shelter, and British ships to sail on and British war vessels to protect them.—Moncton Transcript.

THE CRY OF HUMANITY. The British Humanity League in London has received a striking message from the Humanity League in Berlin, dated August 11th, reading as follows: "Dear Comrades. At last the clouds have burst. We cannot at this hour refrain from sending a message of fraternal greeting to you who have foreseen and prepared for the carnage which must precede the inevitable overthrow of a military despotism too long tolerated by millions of toilers. Crushed by its internal weight, nakedly revealing itself, we see uncurbed a tyrant surrounded by parasites now directing the most devilish and hellish campaign ever waged against humanity. With tollers in all lands we have no quarrel to-day. We extend our hands in heartiest friendship to every Belgian, French and British democrat. We know the internal revolution now proceeding in our midst will depose the despot whose insatiable egotism is drenching Europe with the blood of its workers and wage-earners."

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