

Mentioned in Despatches

NORMAN HAPGOOD, who is acting as head of the American War Publicity League in France, is one of the best known journalists and magazine editors in the United States. Hapgood has been in turn editor-in-chief of Collier's Weekly and of Harper's Weekly, giving up the latter position a year ago. He is a graduate of Harvard, and after studying law turned to journalism, becoming in turn a dramatic critic and then specializing in problems dealing with social reform. His books on Lincoln, Daniel Webster and George Washington, as well as his "Literary Statesman" and "The Stage in America," have made his name familiar to the more thoughtful of the reading public.

THE HON. AUGUSTINE BIRRELL, who has announced his retirement from Parliamentary life, quits a saddened and pathetic figure. Up till the outbreak of hostilities Birrell was regarded as almost the ablest man in public life in Great Britain, as well as being one of the wittiest, best informed and most public spirited. Birrell was given the very unsatisfactory task of handling the Irish problem, but as a result of the Sinn Féin disturbances in Ireland, he was forced to resign the secretaryship for the country. In the subsequent investigations he was exonerated from all blame, but apparently he felt the disgrace very keenly. Birrell has written a score or more of books dealing with all kinds of activities. For the last few years he represented Bristol in Parliament.

MAJOR EVELYN DE ROTHSCHILD.—There seems to be something very tragic in the death of Major Evelyn de Rothschild, who was killed fighting to free the Holy Land from the rule of the Turks. Young Rothschild was a Jew, a member of the well known banking family, and joined the special Jewish regiment which was sent to Palestine some months ago to do their "bit" in the Allied cause. He fell at about the same time as his cousin and particular friend, the Hon. Neil Primrose, son of Lord Rosebery. Young Primrose's mother was a Rothschild. Major Rothschild was the second son of the late Leopold de Rothschild, who died a few months ago. His father was not only famous as a wealthy banker, but as a sportsman as well. On two occasions he won the Derby with his horses.

ANDREW CARNEGIE, who has just celebrated his eighty-second birthday, is probably the world's best known philanthropist as well as being one of its richest men. The Laird of Skibo was born in Dunfermline, Scotland, in 1835, but came to Canada with his family as a lad in his early teens. In turn he was a weaver's assistant in a cotton factory, a telegraph messenger boy, a telegraph operator, a railroad employee, and then turned to steel manufacture where he amassed a tremendous fortune. Finally in 1901 his interests were merged in the United States Steel Corporation, and Carnegie retired from active business. Since that time he has devoted his time very largely to the founding of Carnegie free libraries, peace movements, the establishment of college professors' pension funds, and various other philanthropic undertakings. In addition to his many other activities Carnegie has written a number of books dealing largely with business, social and economic problems. For the past few years he has spent most of his time at his castle in the north of Scotland.

DR. JAMESON, who has just died in London, changed the history of a large part of the South African continent. Some twenty odd years ago he led his famous raid into the Transvaal, but his little force was surrounded and forced to surrender. Dr. Jameson was taken prisoner and sentenced to be shot, but was finally turned over to the British who tried him for taking part in an illegal raid and sentenced him to fifteen months' imprisonment. This was the forerunner of the Boer War and probably helped to bring matters to a crisis. A few years later Jameson had the satisfaction of seeing the states he raided become a part of the British South African possessions. Still later Jameson became premier of Cape Colony and was knighted in 1911. With the late Cecil Rhodes he will always occupy a large place in the history of the political and economic development of South Africa. As a very young man he went out to South Africa, where he practised medicine, but later came under the magnetic sway of Cecil Rhodes and joined with him in the latter's plan for the opening up of diamond mines, the building of railroads and other colossal schemes. Jameson was sixty-four years of age.

SIR JOHN SIMON, formerly Home Secretary in the Asquith government, who resigned as a protest against the adoption of conscription, has now donned khaki, although he is past the military age. Sir John has written his constituents informing them of his change of heart and stating that he sees no prospect of an early peace. He concludes that it is the duty of every able-bodied man to enlist and "do his bit." Sir John gave up a law practice of \$100,000 a year to enter the trenches. He is one of the ablest men in public life in Great Britain.

NORTHCLIFFE seems destined to become a second Warwick in Great Britain. He has driven man after man out of the Cabinet, and is generally regarded as the dictator of the nation's war policies. A short time ago Northcliffe was asked to join the Cabinet as Air Minister, but declined. Apparently he recommended that his brother be given the post. At any rate, Baron Rothemere, proprietor of the Daily Record and Mail of Glasgow and of the Leeds Mercury, has been appointed Air Minister in succession to Earl Cowdray. Like his more famous brother, the new Air Minister is a well known journalist, confining his activities, however, very largely to the out-of-London press.

RODIN, the famous French sculptor, who died recently, had a desperate struggle to secure recognition from his fellow countrymen. He was the son of a very poor man, and as a lad and young man knew what poverty of the most distressing nature could do. For years he "ghosted" for sculptors in France and Belgium, gradually learning the technique of sculptors by close observation and long hours of effort. His first and second efforts to have statues placed in the Salon in Paris failed. His work was so much out of the ordinary and so startling that his critics said he had cast his Age of Bronze from life. Later Rodin became the most popular sculptor in the world, and has left as a legacy some wonderful creations. His works, *The Age of Bronze*, *The Thinker*, and *The Portal of Hell*, are his best known efforts. He was born in Paris in 1840.

GERMANY'S VITAL SPOT.

(The New York Journal of Commerce.)

It is not necessary to reduce the German people to starvation to end the war. That can be more quickly, and quite as surely, accomplished by cutting off at the source the German supply of iron and steel. Germany's military and economic power are alike dependent on her metallurgical resources. In 1880, Germany's output of iron and steel was only one-third that of Great Britain; 32 years later, the German output exceeded the British by two-thirds. During the same period, the output of the United States was increased by 800 per cent; Germany increased hers by 600 per cent. If she were to remain in possession of the basin of Briey which she has occupied since the opening months of the war, Germany would be in a position to contest the supremacy of the foremost metallurgical power in the world. Before July 31, 1914, she controlled a little less than one-half of the total European output; if she were to retain Belgium and the northeastern districts of France, she would dispose of two-thirds of the whole. Apart from Lorraine, Germany is a country with but a very limited supply of iron. Of her total production, Lorraine has provided her with nearly three-fourths. To be most specific: In 1913, French Lorraine produced 19,813,000 tons of iron ore, and German Lorraine 21,000,000 tons, but on the French side, the mines of the Briey region produced not less than 15,147,000 tons of the total. Briefly, the Lorraine basin lying between the Moselle and the Rhine, including both the French districts and those annexed in 1871, is the reservoir from which, at the present time, the whole continent of Europe may be said to draw its iron. In 1795, at the Peace of Basel, France possessed both the whole of the iron and all of the coal comprised within the upper angle of the Rhine and the Moselle. In 1815, she lost half the coal; in 1871, the whole of the coal and half the iron. Were the results of the invasion of 1914 to be perpetuated, France would be totally deprived of both coal and iron.

The Germans are under no illusions about the vital necessity of the ore deposits of Lorraine equally to their economic and military strength. We have had frequent occasion to quote in these columns

the programme of the six leading industrial and agricultural societies of Germany which were submitted in a confidential memorandum to the Chancellor dated May 20, 1915. This document set forth the requirements and expectations of its significance in regard to the terms of peace which was then believed in Germany to be imminent, and was to be concluded on the basis of a complete German triumph. Territorial annexations in the mineral and coal regions of France, Belgium and Luxemburg were very strongly insisted on, and this not merely as a further buttress to the industrial power of Germany. How distinctly they stood for military necessities was proved by the following consideration: The monthly production of pig iron in Germany, between August, 1914, and the date of the memorandum, had about doubled. The manufacture of shells requires the expenditure of such quantities of iron and steel as had up to that time been incredible. For cast iron shells alone, which are an inferior substitute for those of steel, an average production of 4,000 tons of iron per day had been necessary. If the German production of iron and steel had not been doubled, the war could not have been continued. As the material for the manufacture of such enormous quantities of pig iron and steel, the "minette" (phosphorus ore), of Lorraine had become doubly important, since it was the only ore that could be produced in rapidly increasing quantities. In 1915, that ore represented from 60 to 80 per cent of the entire German manufacture of pig iron and steel, and it was the frank admission of the memorialists that "if the production of minette were imperiled, the war would be as good as lost."

This is sufficiently explicit, but, to leave no room for misunderstanding, the German manufacturers went on to show that another slice of France was absolutely essential to the security of the German Empire and, inferentially, the protection of their own interests. They accordingly pointed out that the possession of the large quantity of coal, and especially of coal rich in bitumen, which abounds in the northern basin of France, is at least as important as that of iron ore for the decision of the war. Belgium and Northern France produce together over 40,000,000 tons of coal a year. The command by Germany of these resources has not only enabled her to produce in the requisite amplitude her munitions of war, but has placed a weapon in her hands by which she could induce her neighbors to preserve their neutrality. That is to say, as the industrial and agricultural societies ingeniously put it: Industrial neutral States are obliged to obey the belligerent which can best assure their needed quantity of coal. There can be no disputing the soundness of the view that with the whole of the Lorraine ore fields in the hands of Germany, and the coal fields of Belgium and Northern France added to those of the Sarre, which already belong to her, the countries of Western Europe would have to become her tributaries. The output of the Sarre coal fields in 1913 reached a total of 13½ million tons, and to that total has to be added the Lorraine output of 3½ million tons. Before the war, the close proximity of these coal resources to the ore fields, enabled German manufacturers to convert the Thionville region into one of high furnaces. But great as were the resources of Germany in steel production at the beginning of the war, its prolongation has only been rendered possible by the acquisition of the minette of French Lorraine and of the coal mines of Belgium and Northern France. With the slow, but inexorable advance of the British and French arms across the plain of Flanders, the day of compulsory surrender of this whole region is being always brought nearer, and with that surrender, will strike the hour of Germany's defeat.

STEEL CONTROL IN UNITED STATES.

The fixing of the price of steel by the Federal Trade Commission and the president is a distinct victory for Secretary Daniels. The latter refused to be held up for \$85 and more a ton for steel plates for our warships which the patriots of the Steel Trust demanded. General Goethals thought \$85 a ton a fair price, but the secretary was obdurate, and the price of \$58 was temporarily fixed, subject to revision, and the trust signed up, under compulsion, for 700,000 tons. The revised price is \$58 per ton.—Secretary Daniel's original figure.—San Francisco Star.

Mr. George H. Smithers, of Burnet & Co., has been elected a member of the governing committee of the Montreal Stock Exchange. He succeeds Mr. F. C. Fairbanks, resigned.