

BELGIUM AND GREECE

even proclaim martial law and take the full control into their own hands until Greece had shown by numerous acts that she was working in secret agreement with Germany, Austria, and Bulgaria. Greek territory was being used (of this there is abundant proof) to provide supplies for the German and Austrian submarines; Salonika was full of spies and there was constant communication with the Central Powers; it was seriously proposed to interfere with the communications of the Allies, if not by open warfare, at least by the encouragement of popular risings. Fort Rupel, one of the strongest fortifications erected in modern times, holding an important strategical position and dominating the Valley of the Struma, was surrendered practically without resistance to the Germans; a Greek army corps was handed over to them with all its provisions and munitions of warfare. Was it to be expected that the Allies would acquiesce in the continuation of such a state of things? What ground is there for complaint that at last—and, as many will be inclined to think, after undue procrastination—pressure was brought on the Greek Government and the Greek people by the method of a blockade?

When the full account of these events is written, it will, I think, appear that never in the history of the world has a State been treated with such consideration, for it must always be remembered that, owing to her geographical position, Greece and her capital were entirely at the mercy of the Allies. It has been said that they tried to force Greece to join in the war. This is untrue. As we have seen, they would have been completely and absolutely justified