

placed at the strategic centre of England. It may be as well to say, that by strategic centre, we mean that point from which we can best entrain and move large forces to any threatened point of attack.

At the outbreak of war, therefore, we were lacking in men. Not only were we lacking in men, but we were also lacking in all the equipment that is necessary for a soldier proceeding on service. At once we had to establish factories for the manufacture of cloth, leather equipment, web sets, tools, wagons, guns, ammunition, aircraft, barrack accommodation, ships, trains, railway lines, motor transport, etc., etc., etc. Look around you and see the amount of equipment which your unit carries, and which other units carry, and try to appreciate the thousands of articles which are in daily use. Let your thoughts go farther, and try to appreciate how many men and women, machines, manufactories, etc., were necessary to produce one set. Try to estimate what it means when you multiply that quantity by ten millions, and you will realize all that it meant to commence to equip an Army of millions. The preparatory work, before a single article of equipment could be produced, involved months of labour, and the use of thousands of men and women. To read the papers, one would almost imagine that certain individuals walked into an office, gazed into space, expressed a wish that certain things should appear, and lo! as if by magic, the articles appeared from nowhere. No talk of preparation, no mention of the manufacture and installation of machinery, concentration of the natural products involving shipment across the seas in many cases, refining, and subsequent manufacture and assembly, but a mysterious word of mouth operation involving neither time, labour, or material.

Years would not suffice for some of these enterprises. We had to get the men, the material with which to equip them, manufacture first the factories and their equipment, and later produce the results.

Let it be remembered that the first call of the late Lord Kitchener was for three thousand. If he had asked for more, he would have got them, but he could not have equipped them. As his resources were developed, he made his further calls, and ultimately, when he was able, he made his final law, which brought all classes to the Colours. What would have been the result of earlier conscription? His factories would have been depleted of their staff, no trained women would have been available to take their places, and stagnation would have crippled our forces. Very wisely, our calls were made as we were ready to cope with them, and their effects had been annulled by organized labour.

Whilst this building up process was in progress, the enemy was not idle. Victory was his, but he could not exploit it. He had found that he could dampen the British vigour, but he could not kill it. It still held him. Our thin line was holding bravely, and could not spare a man. Its calls for equipment were heart rending, and all that could be said to them was "Wait, it is coming as soon as we have it ready." Meanwhile, the Statesmen had to protect an Empire which was world-wide in its extent. The importance of our Eastern possessions asserted itself, and we were forced to look at fields of operations that seemed remote from the main issues of the war. Look at your atlas, and view our main artery which ran through the Suez Canal. Note the importance of that water route to the British supplies from the East, and at once you will see that the most dangerous part of our Imperial anatomy lays in that narrow neck. The wise armchair critic bemoans the entrance of Turkey into the war, and says that we should have secured her good will to the Allied cause. Let your memory go back to the time of the Balkan

wars, and ask yourself for whom you cheered. Was it for the Turk, or for the other Balkan States? You will remember that it was for the other States, and from that date the German energy was devoted to the Pan-German plan, whereby they hoped to establish a through route via Turkey, Asia Minor, Mesopotamia, to the Persian Gulf, with its direct outlet to India. Meanwhile, the Germans had established a chain of agents in Persia, Afghan, India, and were doing their utmost to create strife in our far away possessions. Try to imagine what would have been the result of a submarine base in the Persian Gulf. Germany had figured on that, and therefore she had promoted an Anti-British feeling in Turkey, and had gained control in that country. Our soldiers and sailors who were previously employed in the Turkish Army and Navy were replaced by Germans, and our fate in the great war was sealed. The people and the Press, which had expressed their views, had killed our chance in Turkey. When war broke out, Germany at once turned to her double attraction, a submarine base in the Persian Gulf, and an attack on the Suez Canal, whereby she hoped to stifle the British interests in the East, and, with her agents, she hoped to give us another Indian Mutiny, and thus split our forces. We were quick to act, however. Despite our weakness, the ill-fated but glorious Mesopotamian Field Forces were launched at one point of danger, whilst another effort was made in the Dardanelles, and they accomplished their plan. They first divided the Turkish forces into two fields of operations, and they blocked the German plans. The situation had been saved when the one force made its final surrender, and the other had been withdrawn. The Turks had made their efforts and failed at Suez, and we had been able to accumulate sufficient men and material to be able to say that we no longer need fear the Turko-German forces in the East. The situation had changed, and we may now safely look at the past in fairness, and acknowledge the wise judgment of those who forestalled the German plan at a cost which is small, were it not for the splendid material which we lost, as a penalty for our unreadiness. Their memories will live, and they played no less a part in our success than those who bore the fighting on the Western Front. The Salonica Forces were of equal importance. To withdraw them meant naval bases on the Mediterranean, and what had been lost at the Turkish front would have been gained further west. When we discuss the "blunders" of the Government, do we always make sure of our facts? It will little serve our futures if we are to go back to Canada with ideas which were prepared in the "Waily Gale" or the "Local Grouch," and allow our enemies to continue their preconceived ideas of our intelligence.

The Press successfully fooled the enemy by its mutterings of general lassitude and inactivity on the part of the Government, but unfortunately it likewise fooled our own people. Look around you and think, and ask yourself the question, "Where could I find another body, be it State, Directorate, Company, or whatever its organization, that could have built up, maintained, financed, and regulated a moving nation in a field of fury, such as the Army represents to-day?" It would be difficult to find, and it must be no less a surprise to find that those nations whom we thought the acme of perfection in organization, should find their master in the "Decadent British race." One to find herself beaten to her knees, and the other to rely upon the industry, enterprise, and power of organization to develop and utilize her own marvellous resources.

As Canadians, let us look to a future wherein Canada is going to take her place as a nation, with her