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ENGLISH DIPLOMACY IN 1814 RECALLED BY PRESENT WAR

When Napoleon One Hundred Years Ago Was Seeking Terms with Austria English Statesmanship Blocked the Project by Inducing Foes of France to Stand Together to the End and Waterloo Was the Result.

When Sir Edward Grey recently induced Russia and France to sign with Great Britain an agreement whereby peace terms were to be made separately with Germany, and no treaty entered into except as agreed to by the Allies, the British Foreign Secretary nearly put into effect again the same arrangement which at the conference at Chatillon in 1814 bound the Allies in their relations toward Napoleon.

In his maxims for military students Napoleon, after emphasizing the necessity for reading and rereading the campaigns of Hannibal, Alexander, Caesar, Marlborough and Frederick the Great, has declared that in time of battle the happiest inspiration may often prove nothing more than a recollection.

When one considers that British diplomacy, and for that matter, the diplomacy of many of the countries of the Old World, is based on policy long established and long continued, it is not to be wondered at that the recollection of what was done at Chatillon suggested to Sir Edward Grey a similar course of action for the Allies in the present war.

At Chatillon, it was Lord Castlereagh, British Foreign Secretary, who suggested to the convention that no separate compromise be made with Napoleon, and in making this suggestion, Castlereagh acted under direct instructions from Lord Liverpool, the then British Prime Minister; in fact, Castlereagh was sent from London to Chatillon for this express purpose, and he arrived even while the convention was in conference with Castlereagh, the Minister of Foreign Affairs for France.

Agreement Blow to Napoleon.

The binding of the Allies in 1814 under agreement to enter into no treaty separately completely upset the calculations of Napoleon. Austria was on the point of being detached from the coalition, and only for the intervention of England this result would probably have occurred. What England did in diplomacy in 1814 she has again accomplished in 1914, and the masterstroke which Sir Edward Grey has perhaps been only a recollection.

The commencement of the year 1814 found Napoleon in consequence of the reverse at Leipzig, compelled to draw to the westward of the Rhine. The Empire of France at the beginning of that year had the Rhine for its eastern boundary, and included the present countries of Belgium and Holland. A large part of northern Italy was also under French domination. All Europe however, was in arms against the French, and even before the commencement of 1814 the Allies were marching on France. Holland almost immediately following the news of the defeat of Leipzig rose against the French.

It was on January 25, 1814, that Napoleon conferred the regency on Maria Louisa, appointed King Joseph his lieutenant in Paris, and quitting Paris put himself at the head of such army as he could collect to defend French territory against invasion. It was a tremendous task which confronted the French Emperor. Army after army raised by France had been destroyed, and the forces available to Napoleon in 1814 did not exceed 70,000 men. This number was scattered along extensive lines. Mortier with 15,000 men formed the right at Troyes; Ney, Victor and Marmont with a total of 40,000 men formed the centre along a line from Chalons to Vitry, and finally Macdonald with 9,000 men was coming from Namur by way of Valenciennes toward Reims. How familiar all these names sound in the light of the present war! It is a fact that in the campaign of 1814, when the genius of Napoleon was never more evident, the French fought over the very ground where the present great combat is in progress.

Advance of Allies in 1814

When Napoleon took the field on January 25, 1814, the Allies were approaching Paris; they were actually in France, with a total force of 150,000 men. The Austrians under Schwarzenberg had entered France December 21, 1813, by the upper Rhine and were marching on Lyons. On January 19, they had already taken Dijon. Blucher at the head of 40,000 Prussians about the same time had entered France by Caup, near Bingen, and had pushed forward for Joinville, Vitry and St. Dizier. Another army of Russians, Swedes and Germans, under the Crown Prince of Sweden was moving to assist in clearing the French out of Holland and Belgium, while the armies of Bulow and Wittgenstein entered France by its northern frontier.

The actions which followed during the memorable campaign between the time Napoleon took the field on January 25, 1814, until the signing of the abdication on April 6 of the same year are matters of history. The rapidity of the French movements, the engaging of forces everywhere, the strategy displayed in detaching and manoeuvring of the Allies into position all constitute masterpieces in military study. But despite the genius exhibited Napoleon was carried down by sheer weight of numbers and the inability of France to respond further in her weakened condition.

It was before the campaign of 1814 had fairly started but after the coalition had been formed against Napo-

leon that overtures were made to the French envoy, M. de St. Aignan, at Weimar, who on passing through Frankfurt had had a conference with Metternich, Nesselrode and Aberdeen. It was Metternich who offered to treat with the French, leaving to Napoleon the line of the Rhine, the Alps and the Pyrenees. Napoleon is quoted as saying that he was willing on his own part to accept those terms, but that he wished at least to discuss what was to be done with Italy and Holland. He maintained that to an empire like France, it was imposing the lowest of humiliations to refuse to treat with her respecting the fate of her nearest neighbors and allies.

Caulaincourt was made Minister of Foreign Affairs for France, and Napoleon in referring to the circumstances afterward remarked that a delay of fifteen days ensued before instructions could be issued respecting the matter in which the Minister should discuss the disposal of Italy and Holland, and in the meantime Castlereagh arrived from England and British diplomacy tied up the allies in one uncompromising attitude. It has been maintained that Napoleon was insincere in his announcement that he would treat at all, but there seems to be no doubt that Caulaincourt was instructed to use every effort to detach Austria from the coalition.

Wanted to Detach Austria

"Only gain the Austrians," he is reported to have said to Caulaincourt on sending him to Chatillon, "and the mischief is at an end."

The Austrian Emperor sent Prince Lichenstein to Napoleon and arranged for a conference at Laingy on February 24. But Napoleon did not cease for a moment his operations in the field. He was winning victory after victory at about this time and on the night of February 23, the evening before the day arranged for this conference at Laingy, the French bombarded Troyes and entered this place the next day. The Congress at Chatillon continued to sit, with Caulaincourt amusing the sovereigns and the British Minister Aberdeen with one discussion after another, but having secret instructions from Napoleon, it is believed, to sign nothing.

On March 1, acting under British Home Office suggestions, the Allies at the town of Chaumont signed a treaty pledging themselves to combined action. The offer giving to France her ancient limits of the Rhine had been conditional on acceptance by March 15. The time expiring, the compromise broke up. It is said that as Caulaincourt left Chatillon an offer arrived from Napoleon bringing fresh powers for treating, but it was now too late. The Allies could not act separately and England would not consent.

England's attitude in 1814 was expressed in the determination to put down the intolerable military dominance of Napoleon. The language has a striking likeness to the determination expressed recently with reference to the Kaiser. Lord Castlereagh in recounting the aid given by England to the sovereigns of Europe in the effort to destroy Napoleon, recited an expenditure of British money such as history had never previously presented. He said that the nations of the north of Europe were so exhausted by their former efforts, that not one of them could move without English aid, and in the year alone of the formation of the coalition England had sent to Russia, \$10,000,000; to Prussia, \$10,000,000; to Austria, \$5,000,000 and 100,000 stand of arms; Spain, \$10,000,000; to Portugal, \$5,000,000, and to Sicily, \$2,000,000. By this aid Russia had been able to bring up men from the extremes of her dominions and Prussia was enabled to put 200,000 men into the field. During the same year England had sent to Spain and Portugal 500,000 muskets and to other parts of the Continent 400,000 small arms. And after reciting the above Lord Castlereagh called upon Parliament to maintain the same scale of expenditure for the ensuing year, and to continue to do so until the great drama was completed.

In the end it was England who defeated Napoleon, and it is the same England which now announces that there can be no peace until Prussian militarism and the Kaiser are destroyed.—New York Herald.

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Cossack Riders Like Paul Revere Spread News of War in Siberia

Siberians Tackled War Problem Remarkably Business-like Way—Rapidity of Mobilization an Object Lesson.

London, Oct. 9.—How the people of Siberia took the news that war had been declared and their action in preparing for it is told in a despatch from Omsk, Siberia, to the Daily Telegraph under date of September 15. The despatch follows:—

"Here in the heart of Siberia the most striking feature to a foreigner of the early stages of the war was the remarkably businesslike fashion in which the country tackled the grim realities of war."

"We were in Semipalatinsk, six hundred miles from the railway, when arrived from England and British diplomacy tied up the allies in one uncompromising attitude. It has been maintained that Napoleon was insincere in his announcement that he would treat at all, but there seems to be no doubt that Caulaincourt was instructed to use every effort to detach Austria from the coalition."

"Omsk, three days' journey by steamer from Semipalatinsk, we found humming with well regulated activity. There were nearly two hundred thousand reservists already gathering there and being sent westward for drilling in the encampments in Southern Russia."

"The outstanding feature was the rapidity, precision and smoothness with which the vast masses of troops were handled. This was an object lesson in the awakening of the Russian Empire and a reminder that Siberia is adopting the aggressive American methods of grappling with its vast problems."

"The attitude of the Jews who everywhere displayed an enthusiastic sympathy with the Russian attitude in the war, was also interesting. It is a remarkable sign of the times, this Jewish movement. If the occasion is grasped as there is reason to suppose

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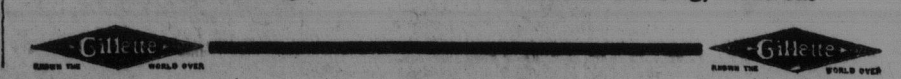
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"As he finished the band played the national hymn and the priests, robed in green and gold, advanced toward the steamer, giving it and the passengers their blessing."

"The Russians have a great advantage in the good feeling between the officers and the men. Their treatment is paternal, almost to the extent of that exhibited in the school room."

Applying the Old Saw.
Father—You talk altogether too much. You should cultivate the art of listening.

Willie—But you told me the other day that listeners heard no good of themselves.

Princess, Etc.
Although not one of mighty deeds an envied man is he; He can pronounce the names he reads Of towns in Hungary.

There are the golden crosses
loves that fill the kitchen with the
aroma of fresh-baked
hickory nuts— See the
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