

Hopes, Fears and Visions of the War

Judging solely from the actions of the diplomatists of Europe, when the question is asked, which country brought about the present war, which one is responsible for the beginning of a conflagration that threatens to extend over the whole world, there can be but one answer—the official papers issued by the several governments interested in the gigantic struggle, which have been extensively distributed and their contents discussed ad nauseam in every land, compels any unbiassed reader to arrive at but one conclusion. I shall not therefore waste time in repeating what has so frequently been brought before your notice but will submit for your consideration a few statements bearing on the subject from a layman's point of view, which appear to me to be indisputable facts.

Causes of the War.

There was one country and one alone, as subsequent events have shown, that was absolutely prepared for this conflict; there was one and one alone which had for years been engaged in the task of establishing a cunningly devised system of espionage all over the globe and whose officials were in many cases better acquainted with the defences, vantage points and weak spots in foreign lands than were the native authorities themselves. There was one country and one alone whose officers, both naval and military, whenever they met around the festive boards invariably filled high their glasses and drank with intense enthusiasm to the toast of "the day"; there was one and one alone which openly expressed its contempt for other nations and other peoples and boastingly looked forward to the time when their assumed higher civilization and their home-bred Kultur would become paramount throughout the universe. That country was Germany. No other nation desired war, no other was prepared for war and consequently practically a whole world has fastened the crime of bringing about the most awful catastrophe of the ages upon the Teuton alone.

But the questions obviously arise, why did Germany want war and how could she hope to win in the contest; and these questions are much broader in their scope than the mere query as to what