

British Diplomacy

IT IS the Englishman's privilege to grumble, and in most cases he is disposed to make use of it. In Mr. Wells' latest book he pictures his Mr. Britling as a man who is really proud of all things English, yet is constantly abusing them. Quite often during the war English writers and speakers have suggested that British diplomacy is much inferior to that of the Germans. Recently, the grumblers have taken to finding fault with the British Ambassador at Washington, who is said to be a less effective representative than the German Ambassador. All this seems to be merely the manifestation of the Englishman's propensity for grumbling. There is no reason to suppose that at Washington or anywhere else the representatives of Great Britain have failed to render efficient service. Indeed there are not wanting indications that on the diplomatic battlefield Britain and her Allies have constantly beaten the clever German and Austrian agents. One striking proof of this is to be seen in the unity that has been maintained by all the nations at war against the Teutons. It is no secret that the breaking up of that union has been one of the objects for which the Central Powers have been striving. Russia was informally approached to negotiate a separate peace, and for a while the German agents thought they had succeeded in breaking the alliance between Britain and Russia. But with the dismissal of Premier Sturmer and the appointment of Trepoff to succeed him that hope disappears. France was reminded by German agents that if she cared to do so she might obtain good peace terms by separating herself from Russia and Great Britain. But France remains loyal to her agreement. Hatred of England is the dominant feeling of the war party in Germany. All the arts of German diplomacy have been employed to isolate England, to separate her from her allies and to make trouble for her in neutral countries. The failure of every effort of this kind, the triumph of a diplomacy in which it is certain that Great Britain has had the leading part, is evidenced in the recent vigorous note of the Entente Allies in reply to the German peace note.

The unity of the Entente is unbroken. The Governments of ten nations—Great Britain, France, Belgium, Russia, Italy, Portugal, Japan, Roumania, Serbia and Montenegro—unite as one in a powerful statement of their determination to resist the German assault on civilization.

British diplomacy may not advertise itself from the housetops, but it does its work effectively.

The Cause of the War

THE Ottawa Citizen expresses regret that the reply of the Entente Allies to the German peace note "should have devoted so much attention to a review of the causes of the war, and so little to what the Allies consider essential to an understanding before peace could be even discussed." Whatever may be said as to the latter part of this criticism, the first part of it seems to be unsound. There can be no fair statement of the position of Great Britain and the Allied nations that does not take account of the causes of the war. That the statements made concerning Germany's infamous action are true is admitted. But our contemporary says that in putting these facts forward the Allies were telling the world "what it already knew." There are many things which the world has long known, which nevertheless have to be told and retold. Some

of the greatest lessons of life, which have been known for ages, have to be taught over and over again, that they may be fully understood and may have their proper effect. Even in ordinary everyday affairs the need and value of reiteration are recognized. So it must be with the story of the beginning of the war. If the whole world knows Britain's side of the story, it will be none the worse for hearing it often. But does the whole world know the story in all its horror? Do the neutral nations know it well, when we find the President of the United States saying in a great state paper that all the belligerent nations are contending for the same object? Do the German people know all the facts? Is there not reason to believe that they have been grossly deceived by their rulers as to the efforts which were made by Great Britain and Russia to prevent the dreadful conflict? It is in the interest of truth, of a full understanding of the subject by all concerned, that the facts which show so clearly the innocence of Great Britain and her Allies and the infamy of Germany at the beginning of the war shall be published again and again, and shall be kept in view in the consideration of any peace proposals that may come.

If the People Turn

A VERY remarkable passage occurs in an address delivered a few days ago at Budapest by Count Tisza, the Hungarian Premier, at a meeting of the Government party. Count Tisza may be called one of the most powerful Hungarian statesmen. That does not mean that he has always been so powerful. In the mixed and often turbulent population of Hungary a statesman does not usually reign for a long term. Violent party conflict and frequent change of officials are, in ordinary times, the common order of Hungarian things. Count Tisza has had his victories and his defeats. War, however, has had a steadying effect even upon the Hungarians. Count Tisza has just figured most prominently in the splendid pageant of the coronation of King Charles at Budapest. To him fell the high honor of bearing the ancient crown of Hungary, and placing it on the head of the young King. Besides holding great power in Hungary Count Tisza has been in close communion with the Austrian part of the dual monarchy, and has been one of the chief advisers in the war policy of Austria-Hungary. Hungary has had to bear a large share of the burdens of the war. Sometimes it has been suggested that Hungary has been bearing more than her share. She has not, however, hitherto faltered in her support of the war. If anything had been needed to spur her to greater zeal it was furnished when Roumania, joining the Entente Allies, made war upon the neighboring territory of Transylvania. Hungary seems to have been more cordially united with Austria as respects the war than in some other matters. All parties in Hungary have united very heartily in the demonstrations in honor of the new King. It was, no doubt, in connection with the coronation proceedings that Count Tisza found occasion to speak to his Parliamentary supporters. The peace proposals that had been made by the Central Powers and the scornful rejection of them by the Entente Allies were naturally the subject of consideration. It was in this connection that Count Tisza said:

"If our enemies insist on continuing the absolutely purposeless slaughter we shall continue hostilities, either until we succeed in convincing them of the uselessness and hopelessness of the war, or until the impulse of self-preservation induces the nations which are being sent to slaughter

to turn against their governments and make an end of the war."

It may be assumed that Count Tisza, in using these remarkable words, intended them to apply to the countries with which the Austro-Hungarian Empire was at war. But are they not susceptible of application the other way? There was, no doubt, a time when the people of the Central Powers confidently expected an early if not an easy victory over the enemy nations. That Germany had been anticipating war and preparing for it was as well understood as that some of the opposing nations, notably Great Britain, had no such expectation of war and little or no preparation for military operations. It was natural for the Teutons, in such circumstances, to look for a speedy conquest. Hungary, probably, was not very anxious for war, but fell into line when war came, expecting early victory and compensation in some form. But all these hopes and expectations have since been destroyed. In the third year of the war, notwithstanding their occasional victories, the leaders in all the Central Powers must now realize that in the end they will be beaten. They have been waiting for some favorable moment when they might venture to suggest peace. That moment seemed to come when Roumania was crushed. But it is certain that, even in what they might have thought the favorable moment, Germany and her allies would not have talked of peace if they had not realized the hopelessness of their conflict. They have made their advance towards peace and expressed their willingness to meet in a peace conference. The reply has come from the Entente Allies that there can be no such peace conference until Germany and her allies are prepared to recognize their obligation to make reparation for the crimes committed against the Allies, and give some satisfactory guarantees to protect the world from a repetition of the German infamy.

If the people of Germany and Austria-Hungary are permitted to receive the reply of the Entente Allies—the decision that has been taken and the reasons given for it by the ten nations subscribing to it—there must soon be an awakening of public opinion. The expectation of ultimate victory can hardly be longer successfully held out by the military leaders. The conviction which the leaders must already have of ultimate disaster will gradually sink into the minds of the people. Will there not then come the situation so well described in Count Tisza's words, when "the impulse of self-preservation induces the nations which are being sent to slaughter to turn against their governments and make an end of the war?" And when the war is brought to an end in this way, what will be the state of the kings and princes and military rulers of the Central Powers who have brought all this slaughter upon the world?

Delicate questions as to precedence were avoided by the Entente Allies in their reply to Germany's peace note, by the adoption of the alphabetical rule. The Governments of "Belgium, France, Great Britain, Italy, Japan, Montenegro, Portugal, Roumania, Russia and Serbia" express their views in the document.

There is at least one frank man in Wall Street. It is Mr. George W. Perkins who condemns President Wilson's recent note because, he says, the United States is not ready for peace. Unquestionably American business has been greatly increased by the war. It is not often, however, that a prominent man frankly says that for that reason he would like to see the slaughter in Europe continue.