

Fire the Kaiser Kindled Will Scorch Him Badly Before it is Quenched By the Allies.

**With Germany it will Soon be a Case of Got Strafe
Everybody---The Kaiser, Frantic for War, and
Crown Prince Longing for the 'Real Thing'
Have Succeeded Only in Uniting World
Against Menace Prus. Militarism.**

The great war drama, with all its slaughter and blood-letting, its desperate struggle for the mastery, and its epic of heroism, is being played out in many fields of conflict. Each passing day so pregnant with fate brings us nearer to the hour of decision. From the first burst of the war cloud over the violated Belgian soil time has been with the Allies and against Germany. It is doubly so today, when weary and troubled months of toil and effort have brought the Entente Powers to an equality of strength and a prospective superiority. The whole fabric of Prussian militarism was reared up to achieve a lightning triumph. It was to be the thunderbolt of force that was to wreck Europe and leave it one scarred battleground for the spoiling of the Teutons, in the years to come. That thunderbolt was badly launched and cotrolled. Germany expected too much from her fighting machine. She is expecting too much today, as Verdun can testify, and though there is the inner realization that the game is up yet that must be kept from the watching neutrals and the world at large.

The moment Germany admits failure the war is at an end. The day is past when the enemy sang "Deutschland Uber Alles," and when victory was upon every lip. To a nation steeped in the assurance of a Kaiser's triumph in which all would share it has been gall and wormwood to put aside the dreams of the past and to be content with an honourable peace.

The "Cracking Up" of Germany. The Germany of August, 1914, had no thought of such a result as an honourable peace. It was to be victory, staggering and complete, and no nation was to be left strong enough to dispute Germany's claim to world supremacy. It was "The Day," and the triumph it was to bring, that made the Kaiser and his hosts frantic for war. We know how the Crown Prince tired of sham fighting and the goose-step, longed for "the real thing." Well, he has got it with a vengeance, and if Germany can extract any glory whatever out of the conflict the Hohenzollerns cannot claim a particle.

Speed was the absolute necessity for Germany and Austria, and when once the carefully-gear'd war chariot was compelled to run slow the balance began to weigh down in the Allies' favour. Thus to-day when we survey the widespread battlefield in all its phases, and give every consideration to what the enemy may still achieve, it is impossible to arrive at any other verdict than that the power of Germany has waned, and that the Allies, thanks to time, have gained the plenitude of strength. I am not carried away by what has happened at Verdun, for although failure has been deep writ upon German plans there it is but a part of the great conflict. I base all my assurance upon German wastage as against the Allied stores of force.

I am frequently asked the question especially just now when Germany is losing heavily, as to the enemy's capability of lasting out. "Where is Germany getting all the men?" is a query one constantly hears in tram, train, and workshop. I am afraid most of the experts who presented us at the outset of the war with sets of figures to prove their superior knowledge of enemy resources led us sadly astray. We were not accustomed to think in millions, and in the first three months of war we exaggerated the German losses to such an extent that some of us ran away with the idea that the enemy thus early felt the pinch of attrition. The armies which Germany threw into the eastern and western fields were really her picked advance guards, and never at any moment has she had more than three million men in the field.

In the five months of 1914 it is calculated that 860,000 of the enemy were put out of action, the highest loss being inflicted in November, when over a quarter of a million were accounted for, but a certain percentage must, of course, be written off as returning to the ranks after recovering from wounds and sickness. That shows that in five months of war Germany lost far more than Britain has lost during the whole campaign, even including the disastrous Gallipoli cam-

aign. And more important still is the fact that these casualties are inflicted upon the real German "thunderbolt," the army which was schooled to back through at any cost. When we add failure to that total it will be readily recognized that it meant more to Germany than actual loss of men and power. It meant the shattering of driving power. But Germany had the advantage of an armed and prepared reserve, and thus through all the months of last year, when the casualty lists averaged over 125,000 per month, she was able to reinforce without great interference with war labour or necessary business.

The latest return of German casualties as admitted by the enemy gives a gross total of 2,667,372, exclusive of naval losses, but we cannot place much reliance upon German figures, and it is safe to estimate that the total exceeds the three million mark. When units are up to full strength Germany has a total of three and a half million men in the field. That is the maximum strength, and save at the present moment, when additional divisions have been concentrated in the west for the Verdun onslaught, that figure has never been attained. Assuming that Germany had nine million available men—and that is a generous estimate, unless we include the dregs of Teutonic manhood and make serious inroad upon the men necessary for war work and industry—we have about two and a half million of a reserve army to make good wastage on a three and a half million field force. To be effective an army must strive to maintain a superior reserve, and it is here where we are now getting the strangle-hold on the enemy.

It is just here where the losses at Verdun are fatal to the enemy and of inestimable importance to the Allies. The cardinal object of the war is killing. It is a brutal object, no doubt, and one deplores the slaughter, even those who are not conscientious objectors, but the fact remains that a standard of attrition must be kept up. It was calculated in January by a French expert that if the enemy loses 250,000 men per month in the period stretching from March to September, a period which is generally regarded as one of activity, then the total reserve power will be licked up by September. They will then be reduced to field strength, which, of course, would be inadequate in a war which will be hotly contested on at least two fronts, and possibly on three or four.

When The Kaiser Turns to the East. I have taken you into the realm of figures to endeavour to gauge the strength of the enemy and to estimate the chances of Wilhelm & Co. in the task which awaits them. We have made a very good start in biting into the German reserve power, for the holocaust before Verdun has accounted for at least the first quarter of a million. Weigh that loss against the gain of a few miles of territory, keeping in mind Germany's striking reserve force, and one realises the madness of the Kaiser's gamble. From the first I had full confidence in our French allies being able to resist the German attack, and I see no reason to abate that confidence; indeed, I am more assured than ever as each German wave thunders upon the heroic and firm-rooted lines, only to be flung back spent and impotent, battered and blood-drenched.

It may be that our allies' line will be further dented, but until a break in the steel-linked chain is effected then Germany has utterly failed. Thus the attrition of 1916 has indeed started well, for when the February and March figures are calculated they will undoubtedly be in excess of any months of the whole war. I make a still further calculation on last year's German casualties, and find that the total between March and September reached the aggregate of 1,037,207, so that with the half of March to go we should at least drain the enemy to a far greater extent than in 1915. We have, of course, to take Austria, Turkey, and Bulgaria into account, but as victory-winning allies who will lend assistance to the master criminals in the main fields they cannot play very important parts. Italy is seeing that Austria's cup is kept brimming

over, and the Bulgar and Turk are by this time more concerned about their own existence than to think of stretching out a helping hand to the Kaiser.

The participation of Turkey and Bulgaria in the war necessitated the dispersal of our forces. That was unfortunate, for it has prevented us from demonstrating an overwhelming force in the west, and has also claimed several gallant divisions from our Eastern ally. That, of course, was the German plan, and we do not grumble, for the war has now reached the stage when we can spare the men. In the House of Commons this week, on the debate on the War Estimates, we have had the true estimate of our military strength. The vote for an army of four million should convince Germany that we are indeed in earnest, and have made good use of the time, and it should also be a heartening to Russia and France, who have hitherto borne the brunt of the battle. The time has come when Britain will exert her strength, and I am glad to notice that our brave Ally France is inspired in the present struggle by the assurance that we are ready, and that whatever happens the foe will have the great army of the British Empire to tackle.

"We have watched the growing might of Britain," writes a French soldier. "In the day of retreat, we knew that Britain's sons were with us, and as the months have fled we have seen the power of our island ally grow and expand. They day may come when our arms may grow weak, though strength and vigour still is ours today, but that will not dismay us, for we know that Britain will step into the van." That is one of the problems Wilhelm & Co. have to face—the militarism of Britain reared and perfected since the first shot of war.

I notice that the German critics are very wrath because Britain is not playing a part in the Verdun engagement. They jeer at "Mr Haig," as they dub the commander of the British forces, for shirking battle and leaving France to suffer. It is not for me to state what assistance we are giving our ally at this moment, and you may take it that our leaders are not twiddling their thumbs and waiting serenely for the trouble to come along to our lines but the mere fact that Joffre does not call upon British aid to any great extent is in itself proof that he is supremely confident of licking Germany off his own hat. No! The time has not yet come to us to throw in our reserves, but when it does Germany will feel the weight of each blow.

Time and Tide on Our Side. The entry of Portugal into the war arena may not count for much at the present juncture, and will not accelerate the coming of the day of victory to any great extent, but it shows which way the wind is blowing. All over the world Germany has been making enemies. "Blood and iron" might have awed the nations prior to the memorable August day when the Kaiser flung down the gauntlet to the world, but it is a very milk-and-water concoction today, and the nations are beginning to see Prussian methods and ambitions. America, the peace-lover, still indulges in "Notes," but the supply will fall some day, and Germany will have the land of the West to "strafe" just as she is "strafing" Portugal to-day. The entry of Portugal is welcome, for it will speed up the campaign in German East Africa, which is now entirely ringed by the Allies. General Smuts has got started there, and in dead earnest, and before many weeks have passed the last German colony will have been torn from out the Prussian grasp. We welcome Portugal for her pluck, and for the lesson she is teaching other neutral peoples who have not yet apparently come to regard Germany as a wrecker and destroyer of all that is best and noblest in the traditions of the nations who love freedom and truth. It will not be long before Roumania and perhaps Greece come into the ranks, and then with the hapless Teutons it will be a case of "Got strafe everybody!" The flame which the Kaiser kindled is going to scorch him badly before it is quenched by the Allies.

Although we have not yet seen the

end of German activity in the West, it is evident that the enemy plans have miscarried, and that Germany, like they did not bargain for stern resistance. It is quite possible that the attack may develop in other sectors, and both Joffre and Haig would welcome such tactics, for every German out of action means a lessening of our task in the spring, and will have an undoubted effect upon any offensive which may be undertaken against Russia. On the basis of the argument I have used, Germany, by forcing the pace, and striving for a decision, is playing into our hands.

The Problem of the Married Men. There was some interesting and rather sensational talk in London the other day about—what do you think? Well, the subject was—"Have we said goodbye to Gallipoli or only au revoir?" Think it over. Germany would like very much to know what we are doing with the great reserve which Britain keeps moving about in the Mediterranean, but that is Britain's secret. Salonika is not the only place the Allies can strike if they have the mind and the means, and that is just what is perturbing Germany and Turkey. Ever Bey—if that worthy is still in the land of the living—has not yet ventured to withdraw many men from Gallipoli, although they are badly needed in other fields. There is something doing in the East as well as the West. Meanwhile, at home we have got to realise that time being on our side must not be wasted. We have to make sure of a continued superiority in men, guns, and shells, and there must be no slackening.

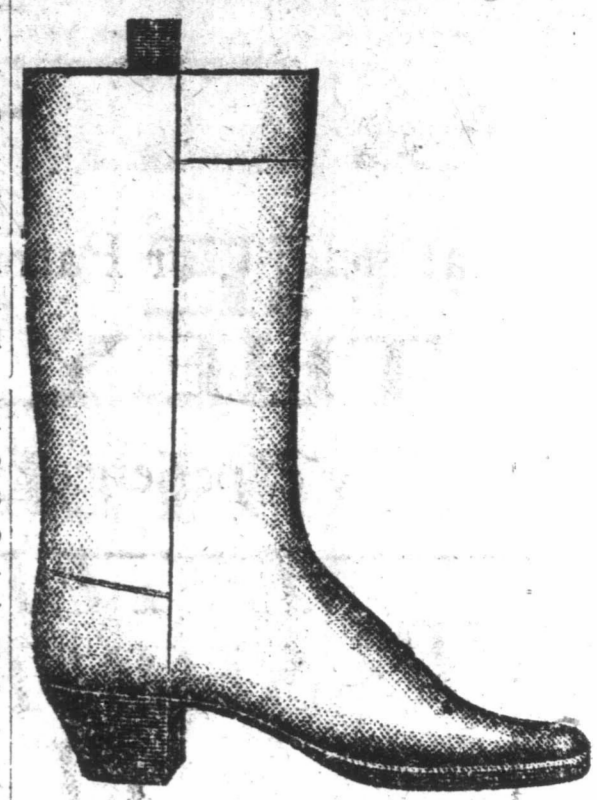
Colonel Churchill has been getting it hot for urging more driving power for the navy—more "devil" as another politician put it—and though it may have been rashly expressed, yet I agree with him when the demand is applied not to the navy alone but to every department which is responsible for the winning of victory. We want more "devil" in our method of war,

in our plans to strike at the enemy at every point, in our work, and in our determination to give Germany no breathing time. There must be a thorough understanding of our industrial and military needs, for they both count in the great conflict. It is certainly a step in the right direction to call upon single young men in munition works to give military service, and by the call upon married men and women to give their labor in the factories I feel sure that work will not be hindered.

The problem of the married man who attested is still with us, and up to the present the Government does not show any great desire to come to the aid of those who will have to sacrifice everything to serve the country in its hour of need. No man should be called upon to make the double sacrifice of means and service, and there will be intense dissatisfaction and resistance until some aid is given. A moratorium will not do, for man should be compelled to serve knowing that a burden of debt has been accumulating, and that he must discharge it upon his return to civil life. If we face all the problems and difficulties boldly they will be overcome, and let us remember that whatever our troubles may be they are necessary for the gaining of the victory. Let us use every hour of the time that is upon our side, and that victory will be inevitable and complete.—Hector Mackay in "The Weekly News."

A Crown to Fit. A Sunday School teacher had been telling her class of little boys about golden crowns of glory and heavenly rewards for good people. "Now, tell me," she ordered at the end of the lesson, "who will get the biggest crown?" There was silence for a minute. Then a bright little chap piped up: "Him wot's got the biggest head."

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