water is the winning-post of the race for the great Russian people. Bottled in the Bosphorus, headed off in the Persian Gulf, and ejected from Port Arthur, 130,000,000 of Russians are frozen in during four months in every year, although free access to the ocean is essential in these days of progress and of trade to the development of a Power of the first or even the second rank.

The question that Russian patriots will ask themselves is: What is the line of least resistance? Although the great Siberian Railway now ends in a *cul-de-sac*, Russian territory is intact on the Continent and Russian resources are not materially injured by the war. The lives she has lost in the Manchurian campaign do not count in the march of time; the natural increase of one year in the population will make good the waste. In a few months or years from the present time, under reasonably good management of public affairs, the ill-effects of the war will have disappeared, and the glacier-like approach of Russia to the sea will be resumed then if not now. In which quarter of the world will the volcanic forces of Russia find the thinnest crust and the easiest vent? Russia, unlike England, cannot be destroyed by a blow at the heart, because the strength of Russia lies, not in the great cities, but in myriads of brown villages that stretch from the German frontier to the frozen surf of the Pacific.

Regenerated or bureaucratic Russia will seek an outlet to the sea, and the line of least resistance in her quest is presented by the British Empire. To reach Port Arthur would require not merely a new army but a new people, educated, abstemious, and patriotic. Two generations hence Russia may renew the struggle with Japan, but the conditions of peace at Portsmouth are durable, for they accord with natural justice and common sense.

The case of England is different. Spirit and pluck no longer suffice for success in modern warfare. Pluck and the spirit of sport abound, but of serious and universal preparation for war there is none. If the Grand Ducal party in