

The Weekly Ontario

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SURPRISES FOR GERMANY.

The present war in Europe has been prolific in surprises, as a writer in the Boston Transcript points out, and the Germans have suffered most from the happening of the unexpected. In the first place, it is reasonable to believe the German government held the idea that Great Britain would not enter the conflict, despite the agreements of the Triple Entente, or, if she did enter it, she would be ineffective because of the question of internal importance by which she was divided. Those who held that view, however, were disillusioned when the announcement that Great Britain was in a state of war speedily cemented the contending political parties into one mighty force actuated only by the sole idea of doing what was best for the nation without regard to political exigency.

Another surprise for the Germans was the defence put up by the Belgians. Germany expected to find through Belgium an easy road to Paris, but the men of King Albert's little fighting force, by their resistance at Liege, and their gallant conduct on every occasion on which they came in contact with the foe caused this opinion to be quickly revised.

Then the speed with which the Russian army mobilized, and its complete effectiveness after it got into action, proved another instance where using baseball parlance, "the dope was all wrong." Germany fully believed that it would be possible to make a lightning march to Paris and render the French army ineffective before the Russians could exercise much pressure on the eastern frontier. In this they were astray, for the gallant resistance of the Belgians, and the quick bringing into action of the British and French forces, so hindered their progress toward Paris that, even before the Allies started to drive them back, the Russians had penetrated a considerable distance into Austrian and German territory, had captured a number of important posts, and had inflicted an incalculable amount of damage.

The fighting quality of the British troops was another eye-opener, and on this point the Boston Transcript remarks: "It may seem astonishing that anyone should have doubted the stubborn steadfastness of the British soldiery but the German military writers ever since the Boer war have assumed that the British learned no lessons in that contest. Military writers, writing in and for Berlin, have emphasized the "easy surrenders" the British made in certain instances to the Boers. From this the same writers have proceeded to assume that "a nation of shopkeepers" as they are fond of calling Great Britain, cannot be converted into a nation of soldiers. From this error, which had its origin in the self-satisfaction of militarism, the Germans have had the rudest kind of an awakening. They have found the soldiers of King George the sturdiest of antagonists and, withal, not lacking in dash. Tommy Atkins is now taking out in fighting satisfaction for all the accusations of "softness" levelled at him from Berlin, which in piping times of peace he was compelled to endure in silence.

Not only have the British and French soldiers proven the superior of the Germans in courage, but they have displayed much more knowledge of the science of military operations. The Germans have not only been out-fought, but out-maneuvred, and, to-day, they know it to their cost.

But the greatest surprise of all came in the attitude of the sister nations comprising the British Empire. Germany had been led to believe that India was seething with discontent and dissatisfaction, that Canada was awaiting but a favorable opportunity to drop away from the Empire like ripe fruit from the tree, that, in the face of the Home Rule question and other matters of lesser import, Great Britain itself could not unite in a struggle against a common foe. In all of their opinions German authorities were wrong. When too late to draw back they found that England was as one man, that the Belgians possessed fighting qualities of high order, that

the Russian army, instead of the semi-barbarous, unwieldy organization they pictured, was an up-to-date, well-officered, well-equipped fighting machine of wonderful force and power, that the British soldiers, no matter what opinion the Germans formed of them in the South African war, could fight as well as at any time in Britain's glorious history, and that the immense resources of the British sister nations in men, money and materials, were at the disposal of the Motherland first, last and all the time.

A CLARION CALL.

Sir A. Conan Doyle is the author of a stirring pamphlet entitled "To Arms!" which Messrs. Hodder and Stoughton (London) have brought out at the price of a penny. It has been written to explain Britain's part in the war, and "to spur the manhood of our people to return such an answer to the call to arms that there may be no question as to the issue of the conflict." Mr. F. E. Smith, K.C., M.P., contributes a preface, in which he calls upon the manhood of the nation to respond to Lord Kitchener's appeals. To him it is remarkable that any such appeal should be necessary.

There are in Great Britain probably five million men between the ages of nineteen and thirty-five, and Lord Kitchener has asked for five hundred thousand to begin with, say, one in every ten. How any able-bodied man, unhampered by private obligations which make enlisting impossible, can read the stories that have been printed in every newspaper in the Kingdom during the last few days without doing everything in his power to join the small British force in France is hard to understand. Just to know what they have suffered and how heroically they have borne themselves against immensely superior numbers, and then to leave them there, without an effort to share their risks, their hardships, and their glory, is so amazing that there can be only one possible explanation, and that is ignorance of what is wanted. It that is a good plea to-day, and it is certainly a plea difficult to accept, to-morrow it will be so discredited lay himself open to an accusation which that the man who does not join the colors will have never yet been brought against men of British blood.

Sir A. Conan Doyle, with the vigorous pen which he knows so well how to use, lays before his readers both the causes and the possible effects of the war, and implores them "now, at this very moment, before it is too late, to make those efforts and sacrifices which the occasion demands." He shows that the British are in no way to blame for the hostility which has grown up between them and the Germans; and discusses what we have to hope for, what we have to fear, and, above all, what we must each of us do that we win through a lasting peace.

Let the menace of that lurking fleet be withdrawn—the nightmare of those thousand hammers working day and night in forging engines for our destruction, and our estimates will once again be those of a civilized Christian country, while our vast capital will be turned from measures of self-protection to those of self-improvement. Should our victory be complete, there is little which Germany can yield to save the removal of that shadow which has darkened us so long. But our children's children will never, if we do our work well now, look across the North Sea with the sombre thoughts which have so long been ours, while their lives will be brightened and elevated by money which we, in our darker days, have had to spend upon our ships and our guns.

Sir Arthur then considers on the other hand what Britain would suffer if it were to lose:

All the troubles of the last ten years would be with us still, but in a greatly exaggerated form. A larger and stronger Germany would dominate Europe and would overshadow our lives. Her coast line would be increased, her ports would face our own, her coaling stations would be in every sea, and her great army, greater than than ever, would be within striking distance of our shores. To avoid sinking forever into the condition of a dependant, we should be compelled to have recourse to rigid compulsory service, and our diminished revenues would be all turned to the needs of self-defence. Such would be the miserable condition in which we should hand on to our children that free and glorious Empire which we inherited in all its splendor from those strong fathers who have built it up.

GERMANY'S FATE.

It is perhaps none too soon to think of what shall be done to punish and cripple Germany when she is thoroughly beaten, as it is beyond doubt she will be, whether the process be fast or slow. And, speaking on this question, the Hamilton Spectator suggests that the penalty must be designed (1) to recompense the powers now at war with Germany for the enormous ex-

pense entailed upon them by their present operations; (2) to indemnify Belgium, so far as that may be possible, for the havoc wrought in that country; and (3) so to crush Prussian militarism as to ensure peace for at least a generation to come.

At the end of the Franco-Prussian war, Germany exacted from France a cash indemnity of one thousand million dollars. This war is vastly more expensive. In all probability, Great Britain and Russia are each spending some such amount. This would make a combined indemnity of three thousand million dollars, apart from the claims of Belgium, which will run into hundreds of millions.

The suggestion has been made that the German empire should be dissolved, and the Prussian hegemony should be destroyed—that is to say, Prussia would become no more than one among equals. That may be a very desirable end in itself, as it would tend to subdue the chauvinist spirit peculiar to Prussia, the other German states being comparatively inoffensive. It is doubtful however whether any change could be imposed upon the German empire by any outside pressure. It could much more effectively be brought about by an internal revolution, such as, it is thought, may be set on foot by the Socialists when the military power of the Kaiser is smashed. Some go so far as to predict the formation of a republic. There may or may not be a change of dynasty; but the best form of government for Germany in the future will be one modelled on that of Canada, with a large measure of self-government assured to the several states, under a confederation presided over by a truly constitutional monarch.

In addition to the money indemnities, there may be a readjustment of boundaries in Europe and throughout the world. France must have Alsace and Lorraine. Russia must have German Poland and Galicia in the formation of a new principality under Russian suzerainty. Great Britain wants nothing in Europe for herself, except possibly the little island of Heligoland. She may well insist on the return to Denmark of Schleswig and Holstein. This would carry with it the Kiel canal, which might be internationalized, under the joint guarantee of all the great powers. The London Times, a little ago, recommended the destruction of the Krupp works at Essen as the best method of rendering Germany harmless in the future. But those works could be rebuilt. If Germany is turned into a confederation like Canada, under a truly constitutional monarch, she will be sufficiently curbed on land, as there will be little chance of the maintenance of a vast, costly and menacing war machine. And if the Kiel canal, with its fortifications, is taken out of Germany's hands, and the British fleet given as much right as the German to pass through it at all times, German naval activity will be practically confined to the Baltic, and British security will be assured.

Throughout the world, Great Britain and France will probably divide Germany's colonial possessions between them in the proportion wherein their colonial forces have been active in their acquisition. Thus, France will get a large part of the Kameruns, while Great Britain will get German East Africa, and the Union of South Africa will extend on the Atlantic from the Cape of Good Hope to the Portuguese territory of Angola. Through what is now the missing link of the Cape-to-Cairo railway.

A STRONG FACTOR.

The ability of Britain to pour in fresh troops on to the continent whenever and wherever most needed, is a strong factor in the cause of the Allies, coupled with the very important fact that Britain has the men to send. We know that the troops from India have arrived on the scene; and enough is known of these troops to guarantee that they will make their presence known and felt very shortly after getting into action. The Sikhs and the Goorkhas are antagonists of whom the Germans have as yet no knowledge, either of the men themselves or of their manner of fighting; and as to the latter, it is not of that kind that the Kaiser's troops have been brought up to expect. Already the Germans have given many evidences that they do not like hand to hand fighting; and an adversary who is a past-master in this kind of warfare, and who crawls up when least expected with a long and murderous looking knife in his hand, is calculated to inspire a good deal of terror in the minds of men who, it is reported, have little stomach for fighting at close quarters.

Each day that passes sees the position of the Allies improve.

U. S. RAILWAY CASUALTIES.

Figures compiled by the British Board of Trade show that in 1912 there was but one fatality for every 68,100,000 passengers carried during the year.

The railway mileage in England is only about one-tenth that of the United States, but the passenger travel is larger. All British rail-

roads are compelled by Parliament to adopt the block system. There also is official supervision, the like of which is not known in the United States. Railway travel is much safer in England than in the latter country.

The Interstate Commerce Commission recently has issued its quarterly accident bulletin, covering railway casualties in the United States for the months of October, November and December, 1913. The total number of casualties of all classes reported amounted to 2,792 for persons killed and 50,176 for persons injured. This covers all the casualties included to railroad operation. The actual number of persons killed train accidents was 191 and the number of persons injured was 3,726. The entire death list includes the names of only eight-five passengers. This might not seem large when the mileage of American railroads is considered—and it is a fact that the roads are killing fewer passengers than formerly, though they are a long way from the British safety record.

Figures recently published show that in the twenty-four years ending October, 1912, the number of lives lost on railroads in the United States reached the tremendous total of 188,037. In the same period 1,395,618 persons were injured. The responsibility for all this slaughter does not attach to the railroads, for the mortality lists are largely made up of persons killed at crossings or in other ways where there was an element of contributory negligence on the part of the victim. With all due allowance for accidents wherein the railroads are blameless in whole or in part the fact remains that the casualty record in the United States is shockingly high.

Dr. David Starr Jordan, who has made a study of the economic waste of modern warfare it "costs on an average about \$15,000 to kill a man. In the Boer war the expense ran up to nearly \$40,000." Why not, asks Youth's Companion save the man, and give him the \$40,000?

Nations have marched to victory under the banner of the white horse, which wasthe first heraldic emblem of the great Anglo-Saxon race. Alexander the Great rode a white horse through all his campaigns. So, too, did the great Napoleon. Lord Roberts's famous charger, Colonel, which bore its msater throughout the historic march from Cabul to Kandahar and which was decorated with no less than three war medals by Queen Victoria herself, was snow white; while Emperor William on all important occasions in all great military pageants invariably is seen on a snow white charger.

VITAL LAMPADA.

There's a breathless hush in the close to-night—
Ten to make and the match to win—
A bumping pitch and a blinding light,
An hour to play and the last man in.
And it's not for the sake of a ribboned coat,
Or the selfish hope of a season's fame,
But his captain's band on his shoulder smote,
"Play up! play up! and play the game!"

The sand of the desert is sodden red—
Red with the wreck of a square that broke;
The Gatling's jammed and the colonel dead,
And the regiment blind with the dust and smoke.
The river of death has brimmed his banks,
And England's far, and Honor a name,
But the voice of a schoolboy rallies the ranks:
"Play up! play up! and play the game!"

This is the word that year by year,
While in her place the school is set,
Every one of her sons must hear,
And none that hears it dares forget.
This they all with a joyful mind
Bear through life like a torch in flame,
And falling sing to the host behind—
"Plap up! play up! and play the game!"
—Henry Newbolt.

THE CALL TO ARMS.

"Your King and Country need you."
At last the day has come
When Britons all
Must hear the call,
And march behind the drum.
No matter what your standing
In social life to-day,
In such an hour
From farm and tower
Your path leads but one way.
"Your King and Country need you,"
You surely will not lag?
On land and sea
Your place must be,
Beneath the dear old flag.
So come in tens, and thousands,
To answer to the call,
And show the world
When the flag's unfurled,
We're soldiers one and all.
"Your King and Country need you,"
What more can mere words say?
We've got to fight
Our cause is right,
And each his part must play.

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