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The Significance of Belgrade

Apart from sentimental reasons, the capture of Belgrade by the Austrians is likely to avail them nothing. As a matter of fact, it is a signal tribute to the valor of the Serbian armies that they have been able to defend their capital for four months against their powerful neighbors. It is, of course, certain that the city would have fallen long ago had Austria been able to devote her whole army to Serbia, but she has been forced to defend her eastern frontier against Russia. That she has made a sorry job of this task is shown by the constant series of defeats. Already two of her greatest fortresses, Przemysl and Cracow, are besieged, and are likely to fall at any time. The whole province of Galicia has been overrun by the Russians, while the passes through the Carpathian mountains have been taken by the Cossacks, who have also penetrated to the plains of Hungary. Considering everything, Austria has made a very poor showing and her capture of Belgrade is a belated and likely to be a short-lived triumph.

There is, however, one advantage in the capture of Belgrade. In building and consolidating the Berlin to Bagdad Railway, Germany had in mind the Germanizing of the Balkan States, and the building up of a powerful German Empire in Persia and Asia Minor. This road ran from Berlin through Prague, Vienna, Budapest, Semlin, Belgrade, Sofia and Constantinople. In other words, the capture of Belgrade may give Germany a direct line through from Berlin to Constantinople. However, to make such a road effective, she must overrun the northern half of Serbia and count on the friendliness of Bulgaria. So far they have only taken Belgrade, and the line in so far as Serbia is concerned is useless unless the northern half of the country can be conquered. The Allies are not likely to allow Germany and Austria to overrun Serbia. Already there are stories of British and French reinforcements being sent to the assistance of the plucky little kingdom.

The Kitchener Interview

The silent, unapproachable Lord Kitchener has, it seems, fallen a victim to the snares of a pushful American newspaper correspondent. The Saturday Evening Post of Philadelphia, published a few days ago what purported to be an interview had by one of its correspondents, Mr. Irlin S. Cobb, with Lord Kitchener, at the War Office in London. There was little or nothing in the report that could do harm. Indeed, for the most part, as the writer frankly acknowledges at the beginning, there was more of Kitchener interviewing the correspondent than of the correspondent interviewing Kitchener. The wonder, however, was that an interview for publication should be granted to anybody by Lord Kitchener, and still more that, at a time when journalists in Great Britain were obliged to submit to much restriction of their freedom, this interview should be granted to the correspondent of a foreign journal. Now comes the statement that Lord Kitchener repudiates the interview; that "the language is not that of Lord Kitchener," that his Lordship's representative "expresses surprise that it should have been regarded as possible that Lord Kitchener used such expressions," and that, "although Lord Kitchener saw Mr. Cobb for a few minutes on October 21, nothing in the nature of a special interview was granted, and the remarks attributed to the Secretary of State for War are imaginary."

If Lord Kitchener had been able to say that he had not seen the correspondent, the case would have been closed, perhaps without much room for surprise in any quarter. The production of an interview with an eminent man whom the writer never saw at all has not been found to be beyond the resources of enterprising American journalists. But Lord Kitchener admits that he did see Mr. Cobb "for a few minutes." Mr. Cobb says the minutes were forty. If Lord Kitchener had been as keen an observer of the science of journalism as he had been of the science of war, he would have known that a very few minutes' conversation with the correspondent would have been sufficient to form a basis for a fairly lengthy interview in the press. The admission of Lord Kitchener that he saw the correspondent for a few minutes gives Mr. Cobb a standing ground in the dispute that has arisen.

The report indicates that the interview was arranged for by "a distinguished gentleman," whose name the correspondent does not directly give, but whose identity is disclosed incidentally in the interview. "Over the telephone," says Mr. Cobb, "the secretary of the distinguished gentleman who made the appointment told me, before I was well out of bed, that I called at the War Office that day at ten thirty, I should find that all the preliminaries had been negotiated. Said the secretary: 'It will not be necessary for you to present a note, or even a card. If you send your name in that will be quite sufficient.' Mr. Cobb, according to his report, proceeded as directed, and found that the mere mention of his name to the officials in attendance served to obtain access to his Lordship, with a promptness and disregard of red tape that could not have been possible in Berlin, or even in democratic Washington. Lord Kitchener's first words, as given in the report, enable us to understand who was the "distinguished gentleman" who arranged matters so smoothly for the correspondent. According to Mr. Cobb, Lord Kitchener opened the interview in this way:

"Lord Northcliffe tells me you have lately been with the Germans—with the German Army in the field. That is very interesting. Tell me, please, is the German commissary good?"

Then Lord Kitchener proceeded to ask the correspondent many questions, first, however, being careful to assure him that he did not desire to lead him into any betrayal of confidence:

"I think I know something—at least in a vague way—of the circumstances under which you came to be with the German forces in France and Belgium. I mean not to ask you

anything that one gentleman might not properly ask of another gentleman, but if in my desire to serve my own side, I should ask you to tell me something you do not feel you can, in honor, tell me. I hope you will be perfectly candid and say as much. I assure you I shall not take offence."

Lord Northcliffe is himself an eminent journalist. He is the proprietor of the London Daily Mail and the chief proprietor of the London Times. That he should be ready to extend courtesies to a visiting journalist would be to his credit. But it certainly seems strange that he should take so much trouble to secure an interview with Lord Kitchener for the American writer at a time when no English journalist could have hoped for such a privilege. It would be interesting to learn whether Lord Northcliffe, in asking Lord Kitchener to receive Mr. Cobb, informed the Secretary of State for War that the visitor was a newspaper correspondent and would treat the interview as matter for publication. It is conceivable that Lord Kitchener had no thought of publicity, but was induced to receive Mr. Cobb as one who, having been with the German forces in the field, would be able to furnish useful information.

Alien Enemy as Defendant

In a considered judgment, Mr. Justice Bailhache at London, England, decided that war does not suspend an action against a defendant in England, who is an alien enemy, and therefore such defendant could appear to defend either personally or by counsel.

He decided that to allow the action to proceed and to deny a defendant the right to be heard "would be opposed to the fundamental principle of justice," and that "no state of war could demand or justify the condemnation by a Civil Court of a man unheard."

He decided that while it is well settled that an alien enemy cannot sue, to hold that a right of suit against an alien enemy is suspended would be to favor the enemy and injure the British subject.

Germany's Colonies

One of the expensive lessons which Germany will learn as a result of this war has to do with the loss of her colonies. In a measure too little attention was paid to Germany's growing colonial empire. It was, of course, insignificant when compared with that of Great Britain, which amounts to practically one-fifth of the world's habitable area. Despite this fact and the very fact that the Germans are not a great colonizing people, they had built up a very respectable overseas empire. In Africa she possessed 1,032,230 square miles, while her possessions in China and in the islands of the Pacific brought up her total colonial empire to over 1,500,000 square miles. This compares with 11,307,000 square miles possessed by Great Britain.

Despite the fact that there were only some 23,000 Germans in these colonies, she has done a great deal to develop these dominions. In Africa she constructed altogether over 32,000 miles of railroad, a thousand of which was in East Africa, 1,800 in South West Africa, and the rest in Togoland and Kamerun. Her Bagdad railway in Persia and Asia Minor comprised an additional 1,200 miles. In Kiau-Chau in East China, she expended hundreds of millions in an effort to build up a great fortified seaport, and railway lines connecting it with the trade centres of the interior. Now all this goes by the board. Germany will be penalized and will lose all the overseas possessions she has been acquiring, and building up for the past thirty years. Not only will this be a direct loss to her as she did some \$27,000,000 a year trade with her colonies, but the loss of prestige will hurt the proud German people. Perhaps she will think twice before she goes to war again.

Despite the boasted civilization of the United States, there are 1,990,225 children between the ages of ten and fifteen years employed in that country—not a creditable showing.

During the first three months the Panama Canal has been in operation there were more than 1,000,000 tons of cargo transported through the waterway. This is nearly seven times as much traffic as was carried over the Panama railroad before the canal was opened.

In the war of the American Revolution, regarded than as a sanguinary and desperate war, it had but 8,900 killed, 11,008 wounded, and 9,116 taken prisoners, or total casualties of less than 29,000. Today's great war makes those figures look trivial.

As a rule Canada is looked upon as a young nation, and when compared with European countries is but a youth. Despite this fact the Bank of Montreal and Quebec Bank each held its 97th annual meeting yesterday. It is somewhat of a record that Canada should possess banks almost one hundred years old. The Bank of Montreal especially, is one of the world's great banks.

On the front page of today's issue appears a letter from the commander of a British warship in the North Sea. The letter was sent to a gentleman in Montreal, who forwarded it to the Journal of Commerce. The simple story of heroic devotion to duty sends a thrill through the reader, and makes one realize that the spirit of Nelson still lives in the men who keep watch on the stormy seas. "Six weeks without removing my clothes"—a sacrifice that we might sleep safe at home in our beds. He does not say it is a sacrifice, but surely we must deem it one.

Canada and the United States are preparing to celebrate the one hundred years of peace, and a lecture on this subject is to be delivered before the Montreal Canadian Club on Friday evening by Dr. Samuel M. Crothers, of Cambridge, Mass. Canada and the United States, with three thousand miles of frontier, minus a gun or soldier, presents a different picture to war-wasted Europe, whose frontiers bristle with guns and forts "in order to preserve peace."

The farmers of Alberta are going into mixed farming with a vengeance. During the past year that Province sold a million dollars worth of live hogs in Seattle, and another million in Spokane, while heavy shipments were made to Portland and San Francisco. The Western States, especially California, are now looking to Alberta instead of Iowa for their supply of hogs, claiming that the Alberta hogs, fed on barley, wheat and alfalfa, bring higher prices, and have a better flavor than the corn fed hogs of Iowa and Kansas. Mixed farming will be the salvation of the Canadian West.

FIGHTING TO END WAR.

One thing can be read between the lines of what Lord Kitchener and other British authorities say, and it is that the people of the United Kingdom are determined never to have another great war, and they are fighting this war now to end war.—New York Commercial.

ENGLAND'S RESOURCES.

England's resources in money seem to be inexhaustible. She has already loaned \$215,000,000 to her Allies and friends, for war purposes; \$50,000,000 to Belgium, \$4,000,000 to Serbia, \$5,000,000 to Greece, besides large cash advances to Canada, South Africa, Australia and New Zealand. These loans are without interest so long as hostilities continue. When the European nations took up arms against Napoleon, England pursued the same policy. She financed country after country until the menace of a one-nation tyranny was banished. There is no doubt that Great Britain is in a healthy financial condition, and better able to stand the drain and strain of a long war than any other Power. And her financiers prophesy that when peace comes she will be in even better condition than when the struggle began.—Philadelphia Public Ledger.

THE "LIFE" OF A BIG GUN.

What is the life of the big guns that are playing so great a part in this war? A big battleship gun is used up after firing a hundred rounds. If each shell started the moment the one before had left the muzzle the gun would last only three seconds! After a hundred rounds the rifling of the core or lining of the gun is destroyed by the hot gases from the explosive, not, as one might suppose, by the friction of the shell. As to the life of the guns used in land warfare information is not so easy to get, but it must (remarks a correspondent) be much longer than that of the naval gun, considering the amazing rate of fire and the duration of the bombardments.

GERMAN GENTLENESS?

While Belgium starves, Germany continues to grind war taxes from her smoking cities, violating all rules of civilized warfare. Germany's consul-general in New York, Herr Horst Falcke, says in his kind way: "Germany is doing its best to help the Belgians." May God save the rest of the world from German "help."—Collier's Weekly.

"A LITTLE NONSENSE NOW AND THEN"

Japan can boast that it finished its part of the war first.—St. Louis Globe.

That South African "revolution" seems to have been as bad an investment for the Kaiser as the "Holy War."—Wall Street Journal.

Hi (in Stanford Chaparral)—What course is Sarah studying at that boarding-school?
Si—I can't remember, but I think it's cosmetics.

Mrs. Brown—How do you like my new gown?
Mr. Brown—Reminds me of a crowded theatre.
Mrs. Brown—Crowded theatre? How so?
Mr. Brown—There seems to be standing room only.

What's the use of getting iron crosses or bloody graves if you can't get your name in the papers. This censoring business will kill war.—Nangle, N.Y. Utterance.

That Chicago paper which referred to Uncle Joe Cannon as "the ancient mariner," probably had in mind his sailor-like vocabulary.—Southern Lumberman.

Some time ago T. P. O'Connor, one of the best known Irishmen in the House of Commons, perpetrated an amusing "bull." "Are there as many absentee landlords in Ireland as there used to be?" he was asked. "My dear sir," Mr. O'Connor replied seriously, "Ireland is swarming with them!"

"Here I am breakin' stones by the roadside," said Peter Bryan to his friend, "when I'm heir to half of a splendid estate under my father's will, so I am. When the old man died he ordered my brother Phil to divide the house with me, and by St. Patrick so he did—for he took the inside himself, and gave me the outside."—Exchange.

Donald was an old Scotch headie who officiated in a Highland kirk where the minister, never a bright star at any time, believed in long, rambling sermons. A stranger once asked him his opinion of the sermons. "Ah, weel," replied Donald, "you'll no get me to say anything against them, for they're a very good; but I'll just remark this much: The beginning's aye over far frae the end, and it wad greatly improve the force of it if he left out a' that cam' in between."—The Argonaut.

The European diplomats may have wanted peace but they didn't go about setting it in the right way. Antiquated minds, feudal minds, selfish minds—in their efforts to win peace they were like the drayman and his helper.

A drayman, one hot afternoon, tugged and lugged and pulled at an enormous box in a doorway, but it was too heavy for him.

"A muscular, well-dressed chap came to the drayman's aid.

"Here, let me help you, friend," he said. And like diplomats working for peace, the two fell upon the box, and lugged and pulled and tugged at it with all their might.

But the box did not budge.

"We can't budge her," said the drayman, after five minutes' exhaustive work.

"She's too heavy for us," said the well-dressed chap. "We'll never get her in that door."

"Get her in!" roared the drayman. "Why, you fool, I'm trying to get her out!"—London Opinion.

THE CALL!

Loud the tocsin sounds through Britain,
Stirring men to fall in line,
Echoing over hills and valleys,
Penetrating inmost shrine,
Where the son of lonely mother
Heitates, is torn in twain,
But the woman's heart is strengthened—
"Go, my son, your duty's plain."

Strong the men, but braver women
(Born to suffer greater pain),
Cheerfully, self-sacrificing,
By their faith the men sustain,
Sons, their bright eyes gleaming bravely,
Follow drums with iron zeal,
Brimming hearts too full to measure
What they know, or think, or feel.

All they know—"Is Britain calling
For the best, the stoutest, the bravest,
To uphold the Flag of Freedom,
Flying at the open door?"
Listen to the Drums of England,
Heed the Pipers of the North,
Harken to the Harps of Erin,
Rally, men of British birth!

—Fane Sewell.

WHEAT FOR EUROPE.

Europe produces over half the world's wheat, it also imports for its own consumption 30 per cent. additional of its crop. The entire production for 1914 is not yet known, but the Department of Agriculture has given out figures so far as available which shows a large shortage in comparison with the crop of the preceding year. In fairness, it must be said that the yield of 1913 was above the average.

Great Britain, which in comparison to its consumption is a small producer, has a crop nearly 10 per cent. better than last year. But France is not so fortunate. French production does not quite meet consumption, and this year the crop is under 200,000,000 bushels, which is about 90 per cent. of the average. Russia is the only one of the warring powers that exports wheat. While her crop is near the average, it is 200,000,000 bushels less than last year. But unless the Allies can borrow that fleet of Zeppelins after it transports an invading army into England, the prospects are not bright for Russian exports.

All of Germany is not in the estimate. However, Prussia, which produces three-fourths of the wheat of the Empire, is credited with 91,000,000 bushels, or 15 per cent. less than last year. Austria-Hungary is neither a large exporter nor importer of wheat. Hungary's crop alone is 125,000,000 bushels, compared with 150,000,000 and 175,000,000 bushels in 1913 and 1912 respectively.

Of the neutral countries of Europe, Roumania is the chief exporter, usually selling 50,000,000 bushels, or half its crop. This year the yield is even less than its normal consumption. Italy, the next largest producer, is also more than 30 per cent. behind its record of last year.

Europe's entire production is estimated at 1,763,500,000 bushels. Last year it was 2,038,665,000. Here is a shortage of 275,000,000 bushels in that part of the world that imports approximately 600,000,000 bushels, and is now aflame with war.

This shortage will not be entirely made up by imports. But, with a world crop smaller than those of the two preceding years, happy the farmer whose bin is full of wheat, or the general who can depend upon a well-fed people behind his base of supplies.—Wall Street Journal.

WHEN THE SWORD IS SHEATHED.

The sword ought never again to be sheathed. It ought to be broken. This war that threatens the world, destroying the treasures of civilization and turning back humanity to savagery, famine, and death, ought to be the world's last war. In order that it may be the last, its weapons ought to be put out of the reach of any nation. The spoils of this war ought to be not new territory for the victors, and not the destruction of the vanquished, but disarmament for vanquished and victors alike.

All national armaments must be destroyed. All great armies must be dissolved. All great navies must be dispersed. The nations, before their wounds have time to close, must come together, recognizing their community interests and for the defence and development of their community rights. In that new community of nations no one nation can be allowed to carry a gun and a knife. Each nation must keep peace, but in the community of nations there must be international comity. There must be international public opinion, international jurisprudence, international courts, international judgments executed by an international authority obedient to the sanctions of international justice. Nations shall not lift up sword against nation. That sword of national hate or national vengeance must be broken, broken for all, broken forever.—Toronto Globe.

SIR ERNEST SHACKLETON.

The cool imperturbability with which Sir Ernest Shackleton, who is now reported at Buenos Ayres, pursues his voyage toward the southern ice field for the purpose of pursuing his Antarctic explorations is one of the most remarkable phenomena of the war time, and characteristically British. It is doubtful whether any other of the present belligerents would allow an officer of high ability and courage with his aids and crew to remove themselves in such a manner from the desperate arbitration for purely scientific reasons. As for Shackleton and his men, it needs far more moral courage to turn their backs on the fighting than physical courage to face the polar perils.—New York Sun.

A BAD POLICY.

Now that the armies of the allies have got the drop on Essen, the Krupps may be sorry that they have all their eggs in one basket, as it were.—Hamilton Herald.

The Day's Best Editorial

THE STRUGGLE OF DEMOCRACY.
"In this hemisphere British commercial and American politico-commercial influences have done much for the stabilization of democracy. All over the world, in the British dominions, in the Philippines, in Porto Rico, in Latin America, to some extent in Japan, to a less extent in China, Anglo-Saxon ideals of free, representative government are taking the place of the older ideals of government by selfish force. Should Europe go down before Germany, selfish force and military opportunism would have had the vindication of success. The United States would stand almost alone as the representative of liberty, of the aims and aspirations of twentieth century enlightenment. At best, as more than one American thinker has pointed out, it would have to pay an insurance premium in the shape of a conscriptive army and a government run primarily in the interest of military efficiency. And what would become of the Anglo-Saxon ideals of democracy? Could their promise be worked out amid the restless materialism of armed camps?"
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A SPLENDID SPIRIT.

Though Canada has completed a hundred years of peace, the military spirit has been kept alive by generations of public-spirited citizens. The response to the call for recruits during the past two months has been splendid. The spirit of the people of Canada compares favorably with that of any other portion of the Empire. The only limit to recruiting is the number of rifles available for those who desire to practise rifle shooting, and the number of uniforms that can be secured for those enrolling as militiamen.—Canadian Courier.

ESSAY ON EDITORS.

A youngster whose father was editor of a small town daily, was asked to write a composition on Professional Men.

"When an editor makes a mistake there is a lawsuit and swearing, and a big fuss; but if a doctor makes one there is a funeral, cut flowers and perfect silence. A doctor can use a word a yard long without him or anybody knowing what it means; but if the editor uses one he has to spell it. If the doctor goes to see another man's wife he charges for the visit; but if the editor gets drunk it's a case of too much booze, and if he dies it's the jimjams. Any old college can make a doctor; an editor has to be born."—Exchange.

COMPARATIVE LACK OF NEW CAPITAL

May be Offset by Canada's Position as the Great Producer of World's Primary Wants

IMPROVEMENT IS NOTED

High Degree of National Efficiency in Handling Problem Should Turn the Scales in the Dominion's Favor.

Mr. R. D. Bell, of Messrs. Greenhields and Co., writes:

The distinct improvement which we were so much pleased to note in the continued stimulus of high prices for agricultural produce, new business opportunities, curtailment of foreign supplies, many articles produced here—a cause which is the "made in Canada" movement; the results of two years of liquidation, which was a favorable reaction independent of war, the growing productiveness of the country, which we had imported up to August last. Against this still operate: lack of new capital, particularly by companies which look to new trades, and the continued effects of the depression of the past two years, together with the natural complete confidence due to war.

Of the adverse factors the first is the only one having any possibilities of permanency. The future is, therefore, a question of whether this position as a great producer of the world's primary wants will offset the comparative lack of capital. A high degree of national efficiency in handling the problem should turn the scales in our favor. The first matter in this connection is the adjustment of our economic position as a debtor nation, so new capital. This adjustment proceeds even more slowly than in September. In October imports stood to fall, reaching the thirty-five million mark, the lowest since the spring of 1909. Although exports were last year's high record for October, they were a normal increase on the basis of 1910, 1911 and 1912, registering \$51,538,000. The excess of exports was sixteen and a half millions, a record for the five years, if we except January, 1914.

In past years of development, when our borrowings were large, an "unfavorable" balance of trade was not "unfavorable" at all, it represented merely the necessities of the case, as our readers well understand under present conditions an excess of exports indeed favorable; it is essential, if we are able to maintain our credit balance in London, and pay various interest charges without losing gold. Foreign trade figures are, therefore, the most interesting significant statistics obtainable at the present moment.

In view of this it is well to examine the export uses in more detail. Last year the bumper crops were shipped hurriedly in the four months beginning October. The October exports were largely made up of agricultural produce. This year the farmers are holding back the wheat, and for October the value of parts of that commodity shrunk fourteen million dollars.

But we know that the wheat is there to a value at least equal to that of last year, and it must come for sale sooner or later. The interesting point of export figures is, then, that other produce, mainly livestock and manufactures, increased by five and a half millions over October of last year. We should have larger volume of exports eventually this year than last. With constantly decreasing import figures the outlook for a large and increasing credit balance abroad is good.

The trade figures for the month also give an item of \$18,700,000 of gold imported. This cannot be considered as it must represent for the most part the American bankers' operations with the branch of the Bank of England at Ottawa. It may serve as a reminder to Canada of our good fortune in not having any large obligations maturing abroad for immediate payment.

The bank statement for October also shows merely continuation of the tendencies of September. Foreign loan loans were reduced by a further eight million in the movement to mobilize funds in Canada. Bank loans were also pared ten millions more. The banks are doubtless asking current borrowers to strengthen their position wherever possible, even at the expense of dividends where the current liabilities are