

enjoyable time was spent.
Beatrice Hunt spent Tuesday
city.
Adelbert Boubhner spent Sab-
the city.
Marion Phillips spent Sunday
Miss Maud Smith.

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COLONIAL POSSESSIONS

TREMENDOUS TERRITORY CONTROLLED BY NATIONS

NOW IN A DEATH STRUGGLE ON WAR-WORN BATTLEFIELDS



King George V of England.
(From the Sphere)

Emperor William II
of Germany.
(From the Sphere)



By Richard G. Conover.

TITLE deeds to the colony continent of Africa bulge from the big gun muzzles of two hundred English, German, French, Russian and Austrian war ships. These mammoth armaments stand ever ready to crumble or seize any point of the 15,000 miles of coast line fringing the dark and coveted land. No matter how or when the present war may end the victor will claim his pound of colony flesh.

That the spoils of war will be of colony calibre in the main one of the contestants, Germany, has indicated plainly. England forced an answer from the Kaiser, just before she cast her lot with France, as to what his territorial demands would be in the event of triumph. Africa was unmistakably revealed as the field of German expansion.

"If we keep out of this what do you promise with respect to France?" asked the British government. "Do you seek to work havoc with your navy along the French coast? Do you purpose to annex another strip to the west of Alsace and Lorraine and make everything German east of the Meuse and the Rhine rivers?"

"France on the Continent we would not lessen by a single foot of land," was the grim reply of the Kaiser's spokesman. "Her colonies and possessions? That's quite another matter."

Thus answered, England gave the German Ambassador his passports and joined her associates of the Triple Entente, for, like the young man of Scripture who came seeking salvation, she has great possessions herself and is concerned accordingly.

Colonial expansion thus smokes out as a prime factor in the present war, a case following bulletin from the Far East made it clear that none of the detached possessions of the nations in conflict were in danger of transfer except those in Africa. The bulletin tabulated was that whenever an English garrison at an Eastern British possession was shifted to fight on the Continent such possession would be fully protected by the navy of the Mikado. Supplementary to this came the announcement that Japan, in becoming the policeman of the Pacific, would extend its powers and duties so as to embrace all those of Great Britain.



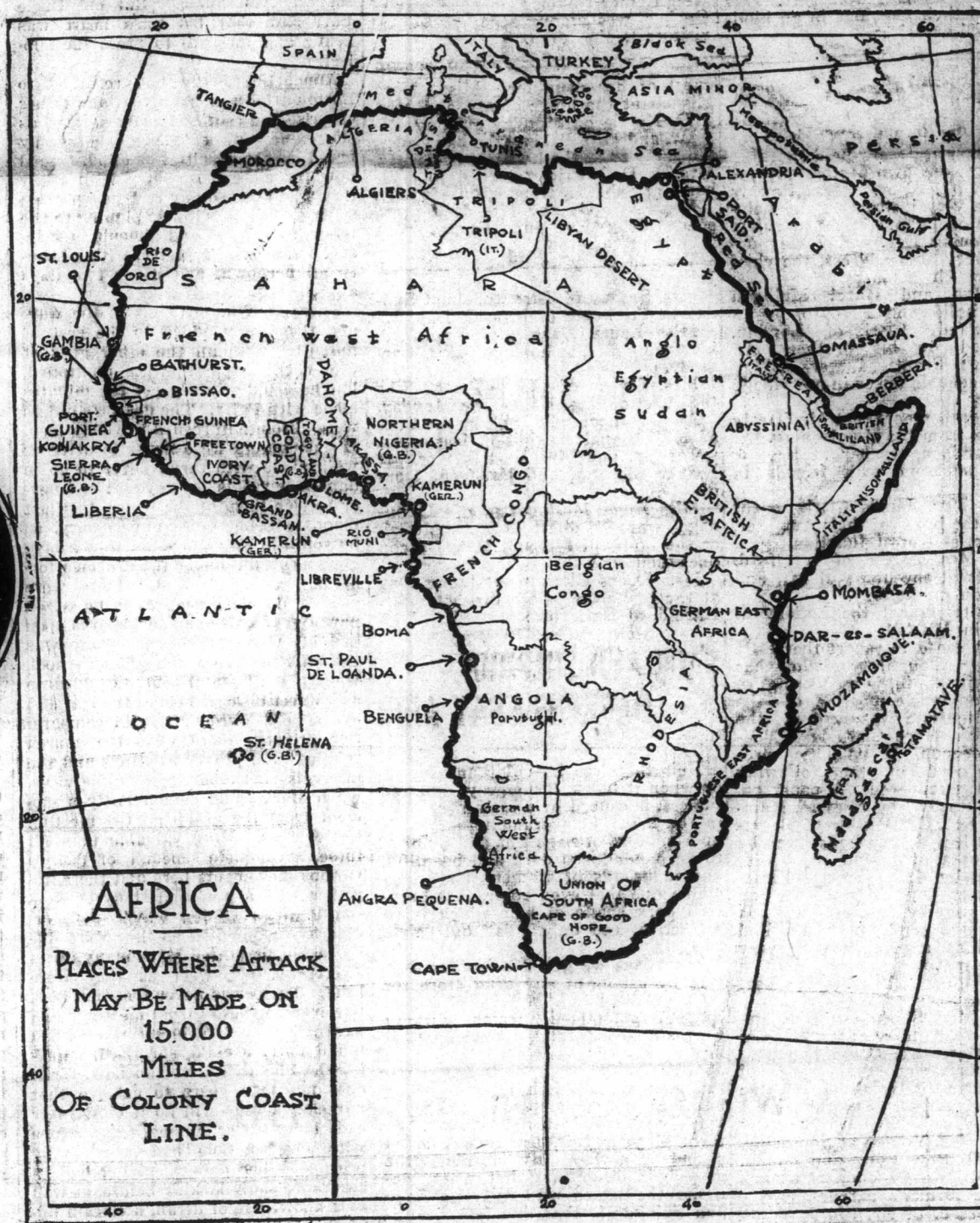
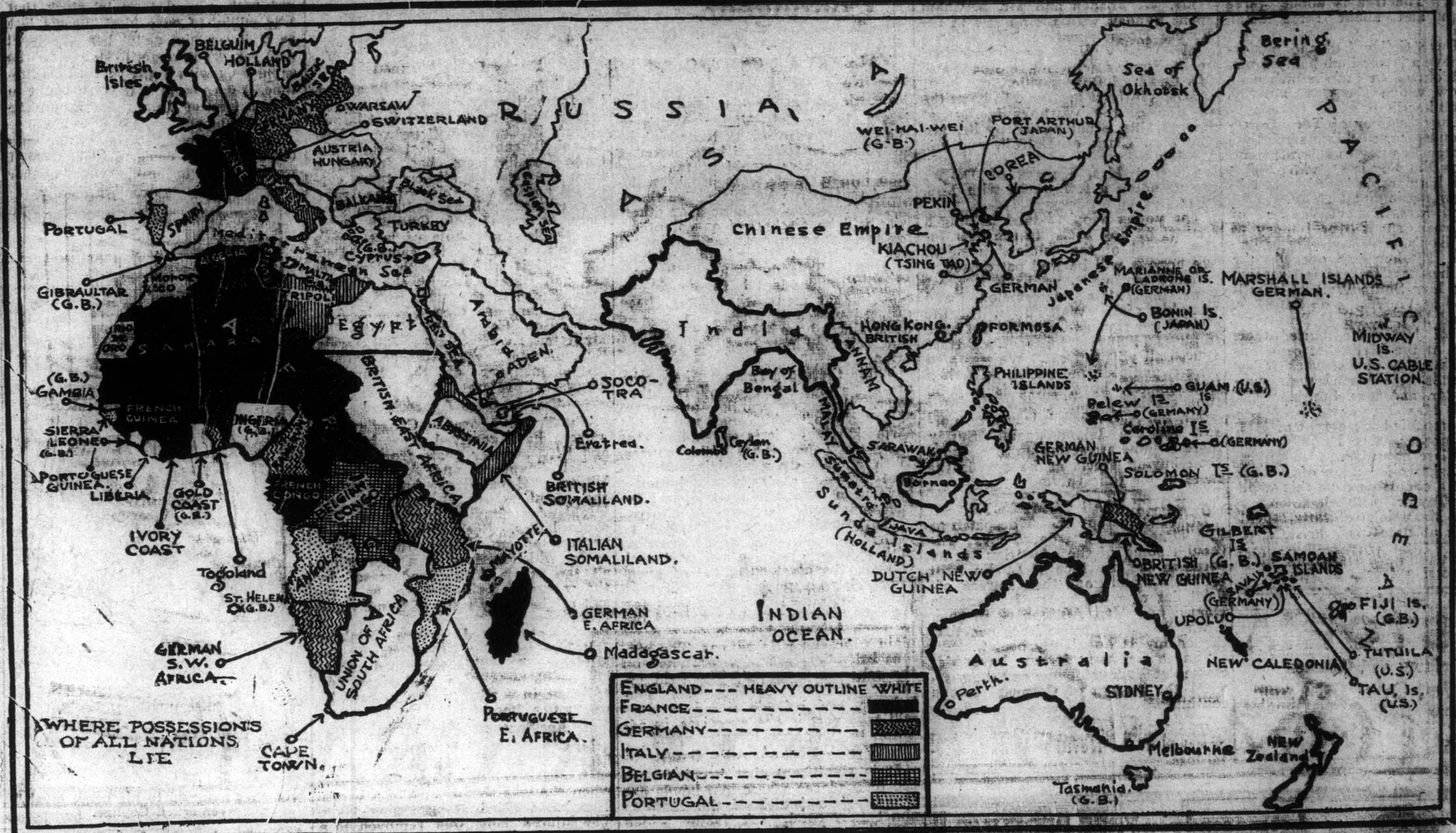
King Albert of Belgium.

fied the situation by informally declaring that it was prepared to use a fleet and ten thousand men to attack or defend at any point necessary to preserve Pacific possession as it stands. This Japanese patrol would naturally extend into the Indian Ocean on a hurry call and thus include British India in its protective zone. So, by the process of elimination, Africa stands out as the logical and worth while sphere of attack.

The coast lines proper of the warring nations may be truly battered, of course, aside from the operations directed against colonial territory. If Germany be defeated, almost certain France will demand that her frontier may be redrawn so as to restore to her the beloved provinces of Alsace and Lorraine. There may be some minor transfers of soil not strictly colonial, but the toll for the outpour of blood and treasure in this biggest of all wars will probably be paid in African land.

The immense extent of seacoast to be watched makes it practically impossible to prevent the landing of troops anywhere on the dark continent. Under the cover of the great guns pointing shoreward thousands of men conveyed by battle ships may be disembarked and soon placed in effective battle array. True, if only the ports of trade could be used for landing, then they might be guarded by the vessels of the nations concerned, and an entry gained only after a naval battle.

It is likely, too, that operations will be confined to the regular ports, because the jungle nature of the country right up to the boundaries of the coast towns would make a march along an unbeaten route practically impossible. Still, troops might be landed a few miles outside the limits of a port, and with extraordinary effort a successful assault against the city or town to be taken. Just how valuable an acquisition would each of these colonies be to a nation other than the one which now possesses it? In many instances possession carries



Imports Annually.	
Great Britain's colonies.....	\$7,000,000,000
Germany's colonies.....	30,000,000
France's colonies (Tunis, Algeria out).....	151,000,000
Belgium's colonies.....	23,000,000
Italy's colonies.....	9,800,000
Portugal's colonies.....	19,900,000
Japan's colonies.....	\$1,750,000

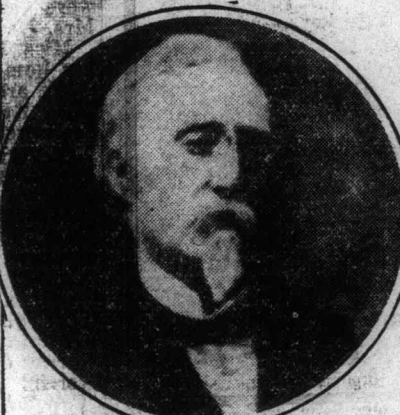
Exports Annually.	
Great Britain's colonies.....	\$6,000,000,000
Germany's colonies.....	23,750,000
France's colonies (Tunis, Algeria out).....	157,500,000
Belgium's colonies.....	28,500,000
Italy's colonies.....	3,000,000
Portugal's colonies.....	18,500,000
Japan's colonies.....	67,150,000

with it a sentiment dating back to the time and the circumstances of the acquisition. But in the main it is the trade and commercial value of these colonies and dependencies that enhance the value of the acquisition to a nation. This is deemed by many



President Poincaré of France.
(From the Sphere)

King Victor Emmanuel III of Italy.



President Manuel d'Arriaga of Portugal.

great extent. There are those who declare that the open condition of the dependencies so naturally invites invasion that the opportunity is hardly to be missed. On the other hand, it is pointed out that, while minor conflicts or threatened bombardments may be possible, none of the nations now in a death grapple will plan a campaign of large magnitude against any African point except along the adjacent northern coast, where a short steam across the Mediterranean will not take war vessels away from a zone where they can do the most good, and likewise the most harm.

It is a voyage of 11,245 miles from London to Cape Town. South Africa, and twenty-five days are consumed in the transit unless ordinarily favorable conditions for fast commercial vessels. If war ships are not in the vicinity of the most distant African coast to bombard African ports and are sent there during the present war the fighting strength at the nearer and more intense battling points will be appreciably weakened, and a weakened force is a grave uncertainty. The best part of a month may be needed to get to an effective point, and the same amount of time needed for a return voyage. Two months are thus consumed in transit, with the amount of time necessary successfully to operate against a weakness of a matter of great uncertainty. In the meantime how badly will the war ships sent to Africa be needed closer home?

There is a large African zone that would likely prove a death trap for the invaders, without a shot being fired. The equatorial section is the last place in the world to be reached by sea. It is a problem agree that there will be a re-partitioning of Africa as a consequence, no matter which banner leads to victory, they are not at all agreed that the colonies and dependencies themselves will be a theatre of operations to any

pect them to survive the war, and the fever laden air. The "regular" Europeans at these spots keep going only through liberal doses of quinine and other drugs that would demoralize a large body of soldiers, sailors or marines. It is natural, to conclude that such points, while they will be surely argued for in the partitioning after the peace, will not be deemed worth while for arduous or occupying during the war. And supposing such places taken by a nation at war with the present protectorate power, what percentage of the will it be to occupy and hold until the end of the struggle? No matter who is in possession at the time the treaty is made, the siding will settle future territory with the nation drawing the territory will move in. This is the view of those who believe all of the nations engaged at war will elect to confine their battling to the Continent of Europe and leave the division of the African task until it is seen who is to eat it.

On the other hand, those who believe the fight will be carried into Africa point out to support their contention that it would be folly for Great Britain, not to employ the 80,000 soldiers she has in South Africa and the 250,000 troops in India in making war upon her adversaries. German Southwest Africa's frontier joins that of the English Union of South Africa.

And then the money cost to the losers? There will be a sum haggled over, with a doubt, that will stagger mankind because of its immensity. But in the way of land compensation the defeated nations will be tapped in Africa. The colonies will pay for the fatherlands' quarrel.

What the war will bring forth in Africa before it closes may predict but man cannot now reveal. An eleven-hour battle or expedition may change the fate of the nations involved as often as it has in the past. Napoleon abdicated, went to Elba, returned, deposed the Bourbon King, rallied his army about him, fought Waterloo and abdicated again, all in one hundred days.

Africa will be the spoils, but what battles will be lost and won before the spoils are gathered no political philosopher can tell. England rang the African reveille by occupying German territory near the Gold Coast colony. When will the next act and the partition begin?