ENGLAND'S POSITION IN EUROPE'S CONTEST

Fight for Honor and Country's Defense Reflected in Heart of Britain at War

WOUNDS BUT NO MOURNING

Broken Heads and Crutches Common Sight—The Nation Willingly Gives and All Goes Into Caldron of War.)

(Tenth article on "The Audacious War," by C. W. Barron, President of the Wall Street Journal.)

(Exclusive Leased Wire to The Journal of Commerce)

Nesw York, January 18.—It is worth a winter trip across the Atlantic to stand with a London audience and hear it respond to the call, "Are We Downhearted?" with a thunderous "NO."

It is then, you first realize that the British Empire is at war, and what that war means; and that that Empire has piped to its defence a free people inhabiting one-fifth the territory of the globe.

The British Empire has war upon its hands a major part of the time. It may be in the Soudon, it may be in South Africa. From some quarter of the globe war is almost always before the Empire. But a war summoning the whole British Empire to arms on land and sea,—that has not been dreamed of for a hundred years.

A Quiet London.

You expect to find in London an armed camp, the flags flying, the drums beating, the troops marching, an excited people discussing the causes and effects of the military and naval programme, military encampments with white tents over the plains. But you find nothing of the sort. If you attempt to motor in the country and figure on reaching a certain place in two hours, you may find it takes you four, as you are very likely to run into troops, companies, regiments, and armies in training, but mostly without arms and only partially uniformed. They are trudging the highways and the lanes of England from 5.30 a.m. until dusk—rain or shine. Here is Kitchener's army being put into condition, with no fuss, feathers or trumpet beats. The army is "rolling up" and "hardening up." But not on the tented campus. It is quartered in the towns and villages all over England, and board and lodging is regularly paid by the government.

The Call to Arms.

There are no noticeable drum beats over England; no displays of bunting. Monuments, public buildings and conspicuous corners, and most conspicuous of all, the glass fronts of the taxi-cabs, bear signs calling the men of England to arms:

"Your King and Country needs you. England expects that every man this day will do his duty."

"Enlist for the duration of the War."

"Enlist for three years."

"You are needed to fight for Honor and the Country's defence."

"Fall in—Join the Army at once."

"No price can be too high when Honor and Freedom are at stake."

"Who dies if England lives?"

"He gives twice who gives quickly—join at once.'

"More men and still more until the enemy is crushed—Lord Kitchener."

And many more of the same tenor. Beyond these you will see little evidence in the London streets of an empire at war. Hotels are largely empty; managers very polite; restaurants must close at 10.00 p.m.; no after-theatre supper at the hotels unless you are a quest. Men in khaki uniforms are more conspicuous; and bandaged heads, slung arms, and legs assisted by crutches, are more noticeable than formerly.

London at Night.

The searchlights flash above the city; the street lights are shaded overhead in foolish fancy as a protection from aeroplanes or dirigibles. Curtains are closely drawn by police orders, both in the houses and railway trains.

Yet one of the airmen who had been over London at night, told me that the city was just as conspicuous as though it were wide open in illumination. Indeed, there is a general call among the Londoners for the police to let up and permit electric signs, lighted windows and more light in the streets; but the only answer that came early in December was orders to further turn down the lights!

In Paris they turn on the lights, illuminate the streets, close up the museums and galleries, bury their art and send the Venus de Milo on a walk to some storage vault along with the banks' reserve gold. London's museums and picture galleries are wide open and the endeavor to protect the streets from Germans peering down from above looks foolish. The great strategy of the Germans consists of talking across the Channel about their plans for raiding England. I suspect that the English military authorities do not object. It encourages enlistment. When enlistments get dull, the Germans stimulate it with some shells thrown on the English coast.

Work! Work! Work!

You have to make the circuit to find the heart of England at war, but you find it—horse, foot, and dragoons; men, women, and children. "Are we downhearted?" answered by a thunderous "No!" Then again silence, and turning down of the lights, and the steady work! work! work!

"Have you a bed here?" said Kitchener when he entered the War Office. "Never heard of such a thing here," was the response.

"Get one," said Kitchener, "I have no time for clubs and hotels."

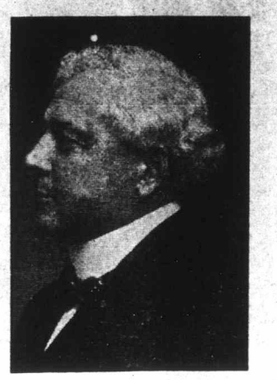
Not only Kitchener, but the whole staff camped down in the office, working days, nights and Sundays until Lady . . . . turned over her house nearby to Kitchener and his staff.

"Where is . . . ?" I asked of his next door neighbor. The response was, "Oh, he is at the War Office, and gets a Sunday home with his family about once in six weeks." That family was not fifteen miles from London.

No Mourning.

When a citizen has been suddenly notified that where he could formerly get a train for home every fifteen minutes, the railroad has been taken for military service, and he must get his supper in town, there is not the slightest word of complaint. He only wishes he could contribute more to the Empire.

I spoke with Lord "K," of B. & Co.—concerning the loss of his eldest son, as I had known Lord "K" for many years. The manner, the gesture, the speech, in response were all one, and brief; just an indication of sacrifice that had to be made for the Empire; and that sacrifice had only just begun; deaths in the family just honorable incidents in the life of the Empire.



SIR RICHARD McBRIDE,

Premier of British Columbia, who announces that the erection of the new University buildings will be postponed until more funds are available.

You see crutches and broken heads in London, but you will see no mourning.

"Yes," said Lord C— to me, "The average income tax in England is now doubled until it is one-eighth, or about 12½ per cent, but my friends in the banking world have to pay an increasing supertax. I know many who must now give one-quarter of their incomes to the government. They not only do it gladly, buf they expect it will be a half next year, and they will contribute that just as gladly."

From the top to the bottom in the Empire, all that is asked at the present time is a protected food and clothing supply, and everything else can go into "the caldron of war."

"Did you ever see anything like it?" said an American banker in London to me. "Aren't these people wonderful? Did you ever see such resolution, such steady work, such sacrifices, such unity of empire?"

It was indeed worth a winter's trip across the ocean to see it.

The Zeppelin Scare.

Although the newspapers complained of the censorship, there was only one general complaint from the people in the British press. They wanted to know what the regulations were concerning self-defence when the Germans arrive in the country. Should a citizen without uniform take up arms against the invaders? Had he a right individually to shoot a German invader? Was the old rule that an Englishman's home was his castle, and that he had right to defend it now superseded by any rules of international warfare?

Some independent people of note were declaiming in the public prints that any German invader of England was a thief and a robber and that any weapon might be used to attack the invaders! And that there was no rule of warfare that could prevent an Englishman defending his home by any weapons against any foreign invaders.

Nevertheless the spirit of the people was, even under invasion, to respect law and order, and rules of warfare and be guided by the government for all forms of individual or collective defences. They simply wanted such rules promulgated.

The English are reconciled to Zeppelin raids from Germany, and rather expect them. But there is yet no unanimity in preparation or action. The Rothschilds have put four feet of sand on the roof of their building, but the amount of their gold in store must be incomparable to that of the Bank of England where no precautions are visible.

Trenches by the beaches, and barricades by the highway are noticeable along the entire south and east coasts of England, but they are without stores or equipment. You run across them in the moonlight as you journey about the country and for the moment wonder for what purpose somebody dug those long ditches by the shore, and what the trench or irrigation scheme is. Your answer comes when you run straight into a timber barricade across the highway nearby. Then you look down the coast and see flashing searchlights, note the lights of steamers passing up and down the coast, and reflect that there is no universal law in war. The channel steamers are carrying lights in the war area but the north Atlantic steamers still cross the ocean without even showing port or starboard lights. The street cars moving in the English coast cities must, of course, be lighted and the streets must have some illuminant; but the railway carriages, hotels and private houses must draw their curtains. Yet railroad terminals and piers must have their lights, and harbors must have their searchlights. General service lights must be ablaze, but individual glimmers must be curtained. It reminds one of Cooper, the English poet, who in the same kennel, cut a big hole for his big dog, and a little hole for the pup.

German Spies.

The most talked-of war subject in England is the German spy system. It is estimated there were between thirty and forty thousand German spies, and many times this number of German reservists in England at the outbreak of the war. For years England has laughed over German theoretical discussions of how best to invade England, and German studies of English coast lines and country resources.

I heard years ago of a young Englishman who disputed in Berlin the war office plans of his father's estate. He declared that he thought he ought to know the land where he was born and brought up as a boy, and that there were only two springs of water thereon, instead of three. The German general staff said their maps of England were correct and were not based on English authority. The young man found on his return to England that the German maps were correct and that his father's estate had three springs whence men and horses could be watered although his family had never noted the existence of a third.

Two years ago some friends of mine were playing tennis in an English village and inquired the occupation of two young Germans who seemed to be good tennis players, but without family relations or settled business.

The response of th hostess was: "Oh, they are just two German spies of good education and charming manner looking over the country here, and we find them very useful in making up our tennis tournaments." It was looked upon as just a part of the German map making plans and England was an open book for anybody to map. Baedecker published the guide books of the world; why shouldn't the Germans make all the maps of the world; especially if German map-making was cheaper than English map-making?

A banker friend of mine found two young men in his village with no other occupation than motoring the country over, and making notes and sketches of cross roads, railroad junction points, important buildings, bridges, etc. He thought the authorities ought to know what was going on, but received polite invitation from the local police to mind his own business. When once he lost his way on a motor car trip, and ran across these Germans he was very glad to get the right directions for the shortest way home. They knew more about the roads of that country than the people who were born there.

The German Landing.

Now, about 30,000 German spies have been arrested and many thousand German reservists have been placed in the detention camps on the west coast, and on the islands. Even the German prisoners are kept away from the east coast, where it is expected the Germans may eventually struggle for their landing.

I have not the slightest confidence of any invasion of England by Germany, but I do not understand why German Zeppelins do not move in the darkness over the British and drop a few bombs. It may be that the German Emperor is right in his calculation that such action would do very little damage, and would strengthen tremendously the enlistments and war expansion plans of the English.

When West Hartlepool, Whitby, and Scarboro were bombarded by the German warships on the morning of December 16, the English excitement concerning it was only a small part of what an American would have expected. Not far from this bombarded coast is a summer resort town, where for many years a legend has existed that when in one of the future ages England decayed and Germany came in, this would be the first landing point of the Germans.

An Englishman two or three years ago took it upon himself to find out how far this legend might have base in any near invasion. He looked up the record and found that all the leading summer hotels and strategic points were in the hands of Germans. Then one day he quickly addressed his German waiter in his native tongue, demanding to know where his post was in that town in the event of hostilities. Promptly the German replied, "Down at the schoolhouse!" Further investigation showed that every reservist had his allotted place before and after the landing, and his place in the civic organization to follow. The Germans had also compiled lists of all the people of property in that vicinity and exactly the character and amount of resources that could be commandeered from them.

If the Germans were free to map England, why should they not be free to map all its resources individually as well as collectively?

Kultur War Indemnities.

Nobody could believe until this war broke out and there descended upon peaceful Belgium, not only armies and demands for their shelter, maintenance and food and drink, but also huge demands for financial indemnification—war tax levies upon cities, towns and provinces, with individuals held as hostages for their payment—and that German war plans meant the looting, not only of nations and states, but of individual fortunes and properties.

It now seems that the march to Paris through Belgium and the imposition of a huge redemption tax upon Paris and France was but the preliminary to larger demands upon London and England.

In deed, judged by the demands upon Belgium, the German plans contemplated the transfer of the wealth of France and the British Empire to Germany; and such enslavement of these peoples as would make Germany rich, powerful, and triumphant for many generations, if not forever, over the whole, habitable globe. The German minister at Washington sounded a true German note when he asked who should question the right of Germany to take Canada and the British possessions in North America. Were they not at war, and if Germany were able, should she not possess them?

It had been understood before this war that countries were invaded under ideas of national defence. But possession of countries for the absorption of their wealth and the enslavement of their people to thereafter work for the victors was believed a barbarism from which this world had long ago emerged in the struggle for the freedom of the individual.

Dealing With Spies.

I will narrate but two instances concerning the German spy system in England—Instances which would not be permitted in print in that country, although it is permitted to print in London papers a list of the numerous mysterious fires which have broken out in or near factories having large orders for war supplies. The people in the city say that German spies have been caught red-handed, while expanded pubtice or trial, but as military measures where they have been caukht red-handed; while expanded public trials of a few German spies have been going through the courts.

I know a building in the heart of the financial district that carries on its roof a Zeppelin destroyer gun. A few days before I was last in this building a fine looking fellow in khaki uniform entered in haste and questioned the janitor to show him to the roof that he might quickly inspect that gun and see that everything was in order as raids might be expected any moment. Of course, he was taken to the roof, and his inspection quickly completed. Ten minutes later the London police were there to inquire for a man in khaki uniform.

The English officer said, "Very singular, we are ten minutes behind that fellow everywhere. He is the cleverest of all the German spies, and we are not able to catch him!"

If that spy had been caught in his English uniform inspecting English defences, is it reasonable to suppose that he would have been turned over to the civic authorities for any trial? Is it to be supposed the military authorities would permit any publication of his finish to carry the news back to Germany? Would not everything be kept quiet in the endeavor to pick up the lines of his foreign communications?

While there have been three German spies openly tried and condemned in England, I have had estimates of the number disposed of by the military authorities ranging as high as thirty.

I know of a suburb of London holding one of the largest English powder supply factories; indeed, its destruction at the present time might be a distinct loss to the firing lines of the allies.

A few years ago some Germans leased a factory nearby and appeared to be doing a fair business. Some weeks after the outbreak of the war the English troops quartered in that village were replaced by others and one among these was more curious than his fellows. On sentry duty one night he inspected some extensive shrubbery and thought he detected therefrom underground voices. He quietly summoned his fellow guards. But to make the story brief, it need only be said that these five Germans were caught tunnelling under ground within twenty feet of the English powder factory. My informant heard five shots, and there were no other ceremonies and no public announcement. Perhaps those five Germans would not be classed as spies. There are civil and military classifications which make statistics in this realm not altogether complete or useful.

In writing home from England, even to my family, toward the close of 1914, I thought it just as well to be brief and not too definite with any information, as I had seen some of the censorship regulations and envelopes resealed with a paper bearing heavy black letters "opened by censor," with the number of the censor, showing that there are more than one hundred people engaged in this work; and also directions from the censorship that responses to this inquiry "must be submitted," etc., etc.

The Story of 1914

THE business of The Imperial Life Assurance Company of Canada during the past year was remarkably successful. The following comparative figures will be very gratifying to policyholders and others interested in the welfare of the Company:

	1910	1912	1914
Assurances in force	$30,455,859	$38,734,686	$45,794,225
Assurances Issued & Revived	6,526,265	7,851,660	8,164,507
Total Assets	6,147,330	8,134,420	10,310,392
Policy & Annuity Reserves	4,749,425	6,338,568	8,130,560
Premium & Interest Income	1,370,560	1,795,378	2,131,875
Policyholders' Net Surplus	636,902	944,413	1,359,615
Total Surplus Earned	241,377	350,733	422,435
Payments to Policyholders	237,409	398,957	469,724
Rate of Interest Earned	6.52%	6.83%	7.02%

The Reserves maintained by The Imperial Life for the carrying out of its policy contracts are on a stronger basis than that yet reached by any other Canadian life assurance company.

Ask for a free copy of our complete Report

THE IMPERIAL LIFE ASSURANCE Company of Canada

HEAD OFFICE - - - - TORONTO, CANADA

H. LeRoy Shaw, Provincial Manager, 112 St. James St., Montreal

FIRST AND PARAMOUNT — ABSOLUTE SECURITY TO POLICYHOLDERS

BANK OF ALBERTA.

Ottawa, January 18.—A notice appears in the Canada Gazette that an application will be made to Parliament next session by the provisional directors of the Bank of Alberta for an Act extending the time in which the Treasury Board may issue a certificate to commence business, to two years from April 3rd, 1915, and to vary the number and personnel of the provisional directors as provided for in the act of incorporation.

After al ength discussion in the Banking and Commerce Commission last session the Bank of Alberta was incorporated but the Treasury Board certificate was withheld.

PURCHASE OF ARMY HORSES.

Horses of lighter breed, suitable for remount, cavalry and artillery purposes have been recently purchased in the West of the United States for the allied armies. The western farmers and breeders have been reaping quite a harvest financially for the price of horseflesh has gone up. It is reported that over 1,000,000 horses have been purchased since the beginning of the war.

BREWERY CO. COULD NOT COLLECT ACCOUNT IN PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND

Charlottetown, P. E. I., January 18.—An important judgment, of considerable interest to commercial circles outside of this province, has been delivered in the Supreme Court by Mr. Justice Fitzgerald, the other two judges concurring.

The case was that of Margaret L. Wickwire and others of Halifax, more commonly known as the Keith's Brewery Company, versus J. George Carver, of Charlottetown.

Carver had purchased from the Keiths a quantity of ale. He had accepted a bill of exchange for $274. When payment was demanded, he refused, and consequently an action was brought against him for the amount.

The defence was that the plaintiff knew that the liquor was intended to be sold in violation of the prohibitory law in Charlottetown, also that it was sold through an agent, a resident of this province, without such agent having paid the license fee of $100 required by the Statute.

The judge gave a decision in favor of the defendant, stating that the plaintiff could not recover the amount of the bill.

His Lordship quoted from a Statute recently passed by the Legislature, which declared that in any action proceeding by a creditor not permanently residing in the province against any person within the province for the recovery of the purchase money for the sale to such person of any liquor or for any promissory note, bill of exchange, etc., such creditor shall not obtain a judgment unless it is proved that before the commencement of said action the creditor or the person who sold for him such liquor had paid the license fee.

His Lordship also reviewed other sections of the act, coming to the conclusion that the Statute requires commercial travellers and persons not permanently residing in this provice to pay a license fee before soliciting or canvassing for liquor orders, and prohibits all not permitted to pay this fee from soliciting such orders, and makes it a penal offence, including specifically commercial travellers, persons not permanently residing in the province, and any persons residing in the province to solicit orders for liquor without having paid the license fee, the penalty for violation of this to be $500.

His Lordship remarked that this was curious legislation, made more so by one section which makes it a penal offence for any person to solicit or canvass for orders, license or no license. The plaintiff contended that the imposition of a penalty does not prevent recovery, but the judges stated that this was not the law.

As to the second ground of defence, that Keiths sold the liquor knowing that it was to be sold in this province in violation of the Prohibition Act, Judge Fitzgerald cited the case of O'Mallin versus Joe, which was tried in Charlottetown in 1889, when the island was under Scott Act.

The judges then decided that the contract in that case being a sale of spirituous liquors in this city where the Scott Act was then in force, was illegal.

At that time a sale was made to a resident of this city, the vendor knowing that the purchaser was not authorized to sell, liquor, and that such liquor was to be sold contrary to the Scott Act.

The two cases, the judge claimed, were identical in principle. In both the consideration is a sale in this province of intoxicating liquor, knowingly in violation of a Statute prohibiting it.

BROUGHTON COAL MINE HAS CLOSED DOWN INDEFINITELY.

Sydney, N.S., January 18.—The Broughton coal mine, owned by the Cape Breton Coal, Iron and Railway Company, which has been in operation for over a year, has closed down for an indefinite period.

C. J. Call, the manager of the company, speaking to your correspondent, stated that this action has been made necessary owing to financial situation due to the war.

A small staff will be kept on to work the pumps and keep the mine in repair so that everything will be in readiness to resume operations when circumstances offer.

SOME CHANGES IN GROCERIES NOTE

Molasses Was the Most Notable Feature, Advancing Three Cents for the Week

SPECULATION IN TEA

Sugar Remained Unchanged—Demand Continues Improvement in Coffee—Rice Unchanged—Dried Fruits Steady.

Locally, in the wholesale grocery markets, there is a generally better feeling prevailing and although the amount of business passing is heavy, this has tended to give dealers a generally confident feeling that business will continue on this basis until spring. There was an advance decided upon for molasses by wholesalers, and it now rules at 41c, as compared with 38 a week ago. Most wholesalers feel that they must secure better stocks of tea and have them on hand when the war tax is placed, as they seem to think that it is inevitable. For this reason, more pronounced speculation is noticed in this market than heretofore. In died fruits and nuts, there are mostly small orders coming forward, and prices are held very close on all lines.

During the past week, there has been no change noted in the local market for sugar, although further firmness was noted in New York. Raws showed no change. Extra granulated is still being quoted at a $6.30 basis.

Molasses suffered an advance of three cents owing to word having been received from Barbadoes that fresh molasses will cost in the neighborhood of 35c and that new crop will not be ready for shipment until March, the market took on a firmer tone early this week. On Tuesday morning it was announced that the price of molasses in Montreal had been raised from 38c to 41c a puncheon, and from 35c to 38c for outside points. Barbadoes molasses in puncheons is quoted at 39 to 41 cents; barrels 42 to 44, and half barrels 45 to 46 cents.

In tea, many retailers are buying heavily in anticipation of the placing of the war tax and importers are doing more business than they have done for some time. There is also talk of the Government taxing stocks held by importers, and even bills of lading. London remains strong, and no weakening is shown here. The wholesalers' guild had a meeting on Tuesday, and the opinion was expressed generally that a war tax on tea was very likely.

Business in coffee has shown some improvement since the first of the year. There is little change in the market. Coffee is included in the gossip about war tax, but this cannot have any foundation. Coffee prices are:—Bogotas 30c; Jamaica, 24c; Java, 33c; Maricaibo, 25c; Mexican, 28c; Mocha, 31c; Rio, 20c; Santos 21c to 22c; chicory, per lb. 10c to 12c.

The market for rice shows no change. The prevailing quietness is seasonable and not to be wondered at. When the new crop arrives in March a big trade is expected. Japans and Siams are expected to be easier. With large quantities cut off from European countries, despite the large amount used by the armies, there must be a congestion on the market producing weakness. Rangoon rice grade "B" is quoted at $3.50 per cwt., while "C" grade is $3.40 per cwt.

Higher prices are looked for in dried fruits. All sultanas available are being offered at what is probably the highest price for years. Substitute offered are said to be good for grocers, but not for the bakers' trade. Citrons and peels are still firm, and prices high. Currants are high and scarce. Bag figs and layers are holding firm, but those in fancy packages are being cut a cent. Dates are practically controlled by one house in New York. Hallowees are not obtainable in London in first hands. Fard dates are strong, and final shipments are now coming in. Packing has stopped at Muscat. Valencia raisins hold strong. It was stated this week that there are not half enough prunes to last until next crop, even for the trade on this side of the Atlantic.

The spice market is more active, with large grinding orders for peppers, cloves and cassias on hand. Prices seem generally higher following sharp decreases in supplies in New York since the end of December. Many grades are acutely deficient for normal needs. A continuous domestic demand is expected this month and next.

COPPER AT NEW YORK.

New York, January 18.—Copper is quoted at 14 cent a pound by one of the leading agencies.

THE HIDE MARKET

New York, January 18.—There was an absence of new developments in the market for hides on Saturday. Tanners did not manifest much interest in the situation and no sales were reported. The tone of the market remained firm and Mountain Bogotas were quoted at 32½ cents. No changes occurred in wet or dry salted hides. City packer hides were firm.

	Bid.	Asked.
Orinoco	32½	....
La Guayra	....	32
Puerto Cabello	....	32
Caracas	....	32
Maracaibo	....	31½
Guatemala	31	32
Central America	....	31½
Ecuador	31½	32½
Bogota	31½	32½
Vera Cruz	...	28
Tampico	...	28
Tabasco	....	28
Tuxpam	...	23
Dry Salted: Selected—		
Payta	...	21
Maracaibo	...	21
Pernambuco	...	21
Matamoras	...	21
Wet Salted:		
Vera Cruz	17½	18½
Mexico	18½	....
Santiago	16½	17
Clenfuegos	16½	17
Havana	18	18½
City slaughter, spreads	...	28
City native steers, sel. 60 or over	...	21½
City branded	...	19½
City bull	16	16½
City cow, all weights	21	21½
Country slaughter, steers, 60 or over	20	....
Country slaughter, cow	19	19½
Country slaughter, bull, 60 or over	15	15½

Paris, January 18.—Spot wheat opened up ¼ from Saturday at 1.53½.