

such a national call was delayed the more the danger that the socialists would become strong enough to resist it at the outset.

Only a year or two more of the growth of the movement might have made it impossible for the declaration of war to find a unified nation. Already there is evidence that in spite of the military repression of all such outbursts and in spite of the fact that German territory has not yet to any great extent been invaded, there are beginning to be insistent demands for peace from the socialists.

It would not have taken a much longer incubation of socialistic doctrines to have caused these demands to be made before war was actually in full swing, and then where would Junkerism have been? But if the war had been successful throughout and the German armies had dictated terms of peace while in possession of Paris and Warsaw, Junkerism would have been too firmly in the saddle to run any risk of being unhorsed, and the threat of socialism would have been postponed for many a long year.

Did Not Expect Nicholas.

In addition to these internal conditions which urged the bringing on of the war as soon as possible two external influences also forbade delay. One of these was the fact that France, terrorized by the addition of half a million men to the regular German standing army, had decided that it was necessary to increase the term of compulsory military service from two years to three years, and if Germany and France were to fight it was obviously better for the former to have the war take place before this change in the French conscription became effective.

Also it was evident that Russia was rapidly recovering from the loss of military power consequent upon the defeats of 1904 by Japan, and each year of delay in bringing on war meant greater strength for the Russian armies. Germany had no idea that they were anything like as effective as

they have proved, or that a military genius like Grand Duke Nicholas would be in command of them, or that the Russian nation would show a solidarity in favor of war against Germany as striking as its opposition to the Japanese war, but Germany none the less realized that each year of delay made the Russian nut a harder one for the Teutonic hammer to crack.

Against these conditions all calling for the bringing on of the war as soon as possible was one compelling and unavoidable factor which prevented the declaration of war before 1914. This was the fact that the Kiel Canal was not ready until then, and without the Kiel Canal Germany could scarcely hope to be successful against Russia and France at the same time, even if England should remain neutral.

These considerations make it clearer why this war did not occur before 1914 and why it was not postponed until after 1914. The very date is an added proof that this war was desired and brought about by the German military authorities.

Glorious Liege.

In their plan of campaign the Germans made two vital errors, both of them due to the fact that they fail to comprehend the hearts of men. They never thought that Belgium would be heroic, or that in their sweep across that ill-fated land they would encounter more than a merely perfunctory opposition.

The Philosophy of Force, the Sacredness of Might, had for so long been their idol that they could not conceive of a little nation willing to oppose their war machine and to suffer martyrdom for an ideal. Idealism has never gone with the militaristic brand of Kultur, and Germany failed to make any allowance for it.

The delay of two weeks which the glorious defence of Liege imposed upon Germany upset all the plans of Berlin and was the salvation of France, allowing time for the French army to be mobilized and for the little band of British to reach the neighborhood of Mons for their heroic retreat. It also