

THE MARCH OF EVENTS

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were welcomed and most hospitably treated by the kindly Dutch people.

Of the conduct of the men in their hour of trial too much cannot be said—but perhaps it cannot be better expressed than to say that they did their duty coolly and heroically, and faced death in a manner worthy of the best traditions of the world's greatest navy.

In referring to the disaster, the statement of the Admiralty, while commending the humanitarian motives which sent the "Hogue" and "Cressy" to the rescue of their consort, and, incidentally, to their own doom, criticised the action, and stated:

"No act of humanity, whether to friend or foe, should lead to neglect of the proper precautions and dispositions of war, and no measures can be taken to save life which prejudice the military situation. Small craft of all kinds should, however, be directed by wireless to close on the damaged ship with all speed."

Of the loss of life, it said:

"The duty on which these vessels were engaged was an essential part of the arrangements by which the control of seas and the safety of the country are maintained, and the lives lost are as usefully, as necessarily and as gloriously devoted to the requirements of His Majesty's service as if the loss had been incurred in a general action."

On land, reports from Petrograd told of progress all along the line, and indications pointed to heavy engagements in the near future. The Eastern campaign continued to grow in interest, and early developments of importance were looked for from that quarter.

On the western battlefields, however, September 22 was a day of comparative quiet and little change. The great Battle of the Aisne which for nearly now had been in constant

progress still remained undecided, but a marked lull in the fighting was noticeable—a veritable "calm before the storm" which was before long to break out with fresh fury, and attended by more fearful carnage than even in the past.

But if the progress of the Allies proved slow, the situation for them was favourable indeed in contrast with that of the German forces. The army of the Allies, originally defensive force was now taking the offensive, while the army of the Germans, hitherto an army of invasion was now maintaining, not altogether successfully, a strictly defensive attitude, and, as Lord Kitchener has since been credited with remarking, "When an army of invasion ceases to invade, that army has lost its principal function and has failed in its principal object. When that army hides itself in trenches, and fights at long range, it is doing nothing except waste itself; and especially is this true when that army, having reached its maximum of strength and efficiency and aggressiveness months before, is now losing in all those essentials."

The accuracy of these words and their application to the situation on the 22nd of September is beyond question, and the general feeling on the part of the Allied nations was one of confidence that whatever of "hard travelling" might be before their fighting men—the outcome could be anticipated without uneasiness. So much was this spirit of confidence in the very atmosphere that even the timid souls who, nearly a month before had fled in haste from Paris, were now returning to that city assured that as far as they were concerned, the invader had been rendered harmless. And so, even as the people made a hurried exodus from the city not long before, they now flocked home again—and Paris became once again a city of joy—the rejoicing intensified by the spoils of war which continued regularly to flow in from the firing lines.

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THE WAR IN THE FAR EAST.

Part of the victorious Japanese Fleet off Kiau-Chau, China, at the time of the bombardment. (Photo, Central News)