

The Toronto World

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FRIDAY MORNING, AUG. 14.

Aiding the Empire

Who gives quickly gives twice is an old proverb, but in the present crisis in which the empire is involved who gives quickly gives with life-saving abundance. There are plenty of people in Toronto who imagine that it does not matter very much whether Germany is victorious in the present war or not. Sir Rider Haggard, speaking with tense feeling, declared the plain truth that "England must conquer or fall forever. Do you understand?" he asked, "that if we fall you stand? Do you understand that if Germany and her allies become the masters of the world, and that in two or three years there will be no British Empire?"

And if the British Empire did not stand for the highest human ideals of liberty and freedom, of enlightenment and progress, there would be nothing to be said. But the substitution of the autocratic ideals of German government for those of the developed democracy of the British Empire would be the most serious setback humanity has had since the Goths and the Huns rolled down over Europe. It might imply the final struggle of the Anglo-Saxon race in all its overseas divisions for existence and a fierce fight for America to assert the autonomy of the English-speaking peoples on this side of the Atlantic. A victorious Germany would not be satisfied with European domain alone.

We who go and come as we please and who resent even the most trifling interference with our freedom by the police, do not in the least understand what it is to live under continuous surveillance and to be bound in every action by rules and regulations in the last degree irksome, not to mention the thralldom of military service, which is imposed on every member of the German race. We should have to bow our necks to that yoke, and we should have to fight for alien aims and ambitions we regard with disgust. We have not had to consider these things as a people for almost a century. Today the fate of human freedom as we understand it hangs in the balance in the valley of the Rhine.

Our ideals of freedom have worked out well. The British Empire has proved itself as efficient according to the standards it has set up for itself as any nation under autocratic rule. The navy, without which we would be as helpless as sheep, is the terror of its enemies, and the only force on earth of which all the nations are afraid. But the navy cannot be too strong. There has come from England a proposal by Canadians domiciled there that Canada should buy two warships now about completed in British yards for Turkey. It is a good idea.

We would like to put it up to Sir James Whitney, whose government, it is said, finds some difficulty in knowing just how it can aid the mother country to good advantage, whether Ontario, which has everything to lose in a British defeat, should not contribute one of those battleships? We can do it if we want to do it. The people will have to make greater sacrifices than the cost of a battleship if Britannia should fail to rule the waves.

A Remarkable Forecast

Now that Europe is flaming with war so long and widely feared it brings with it the usual instances of fulfilled prediction. That some of the innumerable writers who have dealt from time to time with the political complications of that continent named dates in and about the present year is not very surprising. It is really of more significance that the most competent observers agreed that war sooner or later was inevitable than that the year in some instances was correctly guessed. Perhaps the most striking of the exact prophecies was that of Commander Carleton Bellairs, formerly of the Royal Navy, afterwards a member of parliament and a frequent writer on naval topics, who visited Montreal nearly two years ago. A correspondent of The Boston Transcript narrates that Commander Bellairs, speaking to Montreal friends, stated that he had no fear of a "German outbreak" at that time, since so far as he could see the German program of army and navy expansion

would not be complete until 1914. But he expressed his belief that "about midsummer 1914 the Germans would seize on any pretext to precipitate a European conflict," and added that the probable excuse would be "some fairly trivial incident, likely some outbreak in the Balkans." This was a remarkably accurate forecast, as it has turned out, altho it is doubtful if Commander Bellairs had in view just the kind of a Balkan outbreak which has just plunged Europe into the present conflict.

British Participation Justified

If there be any Canadian who has doubt regarding the righteousness of the war to which the empire is committed, let him consider the why and wherefore of the British Government's action. From the beginning of the trouble created by Austria's ultimatum to Serbia, Sir Edward Grey worked earnestly for the maintenance of peace. He had borne the burden of piloting Europe thru the crisis caused by the Balkan wars, fraught as it was with the same risks that he found it impossible to avoid when Austria reopened the only partially healed trouble. Why was it impossible? Simply because Austria had her mind fully made up to bring Serbia under subjection, even at the cost of a European Armageddon.

Serbia accepted eight of the eleven demands made by Austria unconditionally, accepted one subject to proof and two conditionally. An answer of this kind formed no excuse for an immediate declaration of war. It at least opened the door to further negotiation when both governments might have found it possible, either by themselves or thru the good offices of an intermediary, to agree on a middle course which would satisfy every just Austrian demand and also avoid injury to proper self-respect of the weaker nation. The Austrian Government refused further discussion and also refused mediation by immediately declaring war.

One of the points that have yet to be cleared up is the extent of Germany's knowledge of her ally's desire. Judging from the fact that every government in Europe and every diplomatist knew the dangers that lurked behind the Austrian ultimatum, it appears incredible that so grave a step would be taken without the German Government being given some inkling. With this in mind, and remembering also that government's refusal to agree to the conference proposed by Sir Edward Grey, the conclusion is almost inevitable that Germany was ready to face the arbitrament of war, should Russia refuse to repeat her surrender over the incorporation of Bosnia and Herzegovina. Once committed, Germany cast all considerations of right to the winds and deliberately forced Britain's participation by violating the neutrality of Belgium.

Waiting for the United States

The world at large is waiting for some kind of declaration of the United States in regard to the European war. Up to the present date, the not a contestant, the United States, and the greatest sufferers. And they stand to suffer still more at home; and they are also more or less concerned as to Mexico or what Japan might do in certain eventualities.

A clearcut statement from the United States that she considers the war a menace to her business and to her status as a power would help to clear the air. It might even have a sobering effect in Germany.

Winston Churchill and the Navy

When the editor of The Toronto Evening Telegram certified that "Winston Churchill has proved himself a great first lord of the admiralty," it may be taken for granted that the debonair scion of the Marlboroughs is coming to his own. There has been no better abused man in the empire, with the exception of Lloyd George, and it has been a favorite device of the opposition newspapers in Britain to represent the chancellor of the exchequer and the first lord of the admiralty as constantly estranged in their relations. The event has proved how erroneous all the prognostications have been.

The Right Honorable Winston Churchill is today recognized as the savior of the empire by the extraordinary efficiency he has secured in the fleet and the absolute condition of preparation in which it has been found when the emergency finally emerged. But for this the "wild mob's million feet," as Tennyson declared, would have trampled the government out of existence—when it was too late.

Winston Churchill, like other well-informed Britons, has never been

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under any illusions about Germany. He was thru the South African campaign, and he must then have realized, as so many have only done in the last two weeks, that Germany would have struck at England then had the German navy been able to carry out the German ambitions. The Boer campaign would never have lasted so long, might never have been launched, had not Oom Paul been led to expect German sympathy and assistance. It was a general anticipation then that England would have been so weakened by the struggle that she would have fallen an easy prey to the Teutonic legions. But the surprising—surprising, that is to the Germans—loyalty and practical demonstration of imperial unity on the part of the British dependencies, or as they might better be known, the British independencies, upset every German calculation.

British freedom of speech contributed largely to the delusions of the Germans. It is impossible for a kaiser to understand the strength of a government whose subjects are all the time and every day declaring what a rotten lot of ministers are running the country. The Czeils alone could have convinced the kaiser that England was ripe for destruction. The aristocracy was rife for destruction. The aristocracy was rife with one another in plotting the incapacity and uselessness of the Asquith cabinet. The opposition newspapers and journals vituperated daily and weekly, and they had but one theme. Ulster added what it could to the general snipe, and thru all this hazy Kaiser William saw his opportunity.

All this opposition was carried on in England in perfectly good faith, and that is one of the things so difficult for outsiders to understand. But a nation which is accustomed every few years to settle down at the close of a general election, while those who guessed wrong agree that the other fellows have guessed right, has a capacity for self-control which no autocratically governed nation can exhibit. And that is why we expect a revolution in Germany when the honest Germans find what the kaiser and the aristocrats have led them into. Nothing could be more illuminating than the statement of the wounded German peasant soldier, as last night's despatches brought it—"This is not a people's war; this is an officers' war."

In England it is a people's war, and the prolonged efforts of Sir Edward Grey to preserve peace while Germany was making her "infamous proposals" to Britain, show that it was not entered upon till every other expedient had failed to keep the balance of power in Europe intact. Now when the crisis has come, Britain has shown that even when war is thrust upon her, she was perfectly prepared. Her first line of defence was in charge of Winston Churchill, and he has proved nobly worthy of the trust. He was ready. Lord Charles Bessborough, when the tremendous announcements were made in the house of commons, crossed the floor of the chamber, and taking the first lord by the hand, thanked him. There was a lot of bitterness buried at that moment.

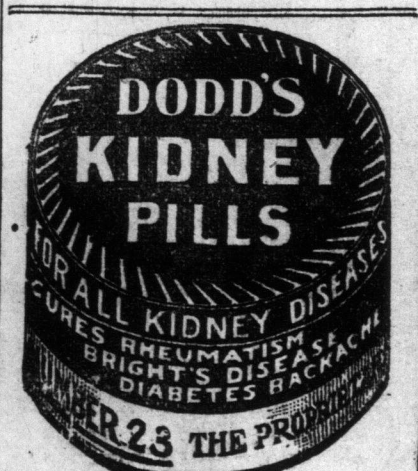
The Saturday Review, which exceeds all other organs in vituperative power, and often almost exhausted itself on Churchill, in its issue of Aug. 1 admits his ability:

In Mr. Churchill at the admiralty the nation has an admitted genius for organization, who has brought the navy to a high pitch of perfection, and whose stand for adequate armaments is now seen by friend and foe alike to have been a piece of practical wisdom, justified by the event. Had we scamped our

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preparations as some of the critics of the admiralty desired, there would now have been no option before Britain but to have repudiated her friends and stood aside in inglorious isolation—until she had herself been attacked by the victor in the future.

PRESIDENT CONSIDERS LIFTING OF CENSORSHIP

Announcement Today Whether Germany Can Send Messages in Code.

Special to The Toronto World. WASHINGTON, Aug. 13.—No decision has been reached by the president and his advisors with regard to the appeal of Germany that the United States lift the censorship from the German wireless stations at Tuckerton, N.J., and Sayville, N.Y. The president and Secretary Bryan had a conference on the question this morning. Just prior to Mr. Bryan's going to the White House he received a protest from the British Government against the United States removing the censorship.

The question probably will be settled tomorrow.

I. T. U. CONVENTION

PROVIDENCE, Aug. 13.—The International Typographical Union convention voted today to hold its 1915 meeting at Los Angeles, Cal. The vote was 166 for Los Angeles and 118 for Washington.

WILL GO TO HELP AMERICAN TOURISTS

Boats for Europe to Bring Travelers Back to America.

NEW YORK, August 13.—At the urgent solicitation of the friends of Americans who are anxious to return from Europe, the Southern Pacific Company has consented to curtail its coastwise passenger service and send two of its large passenger steamers to Europe.

The steamer Creole has been chartered by Raymond and Whitcomb Company, tourist agents, and will leave New York about August 30 for an English port. The Antilles has been chartered by a relief committee, of which L. F. Loree is a member, and will leave here about August 25 for an Italian port.

ENDORSES WORLD'S MILITARY EXPERT.

Editor World: I read your article in Wednesday's World, Aug. 12, about the training of the Canadian volunteer militia regiments or units that will leave Canada to fight the battles of the British Empire during the Anglo-Franco-German war and your statement that the bayonet will be used in correct. This was used last week, also charges of cavalry. The bayonet was used by the Japs at Port Arthur and other battles against the Russians. The bayonet was used by all the Balkan states against the Turks; afterwards they fought among themselves with the bayonet about the settlement of the war. During this war the bayonet will be used at all close fighting, storming of batteries and trenches, and I think that all the Canadian volunteers should know how to use it. Altho the time is short, I think the minister of militia can get veterans that would give their services free to show the volunteers the bayonet drill points of attack and defence with feints of attack and guards. I think men can be found in Montreal to go to this camp of instruction in Quebec for nothing. I consider that the bayonet drill should always be used during the period of drill by the Canadian militia. The bayonet will always be used in close fighting. A British Veteran.

MUTINOUS SPIRIT IN RANKS OF AUSTRIANS

Regiments on Service in Bosnia Appear to Be Disintegrating.

Canadian Press Despatch. ROME, August 13 (via Paris, 5.04 p.m.).—Persons arriving at the Italian capital from Bosnia describe the Austrian forces there, especially the Slav, Czech, Italian and Roumanian elements, as unruly and rebellious.

The travelers assert that altho a number of mutineers have been shot the regiments appear to be disintegrating, and that this accounts for the

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GOEBEN AND BRESLAU FLYING TURKISH FLAG

Canadian Associated Press. LONDON, Aug. 13.—(3 p.m.)—A special despatch to the Exchange Telegraph Company from Paris says the German cruisers Goeben and Breslau arrived in the Dardanelles, following their purchase by Turkey, flying the Turkish flag. The despatch adds that the German fittings of the cruisers had been dismantled.

Wheat For Liverpool. GALVESTON, Texas.—The British steamer Ramsey, carrying 215,000 bushels of wheat, sailed for Liverpool.

RAINBOW AT VANCOUVER.

VANCOUVER, B. C., Aug. 13.—The Canadian cruiser Rainbow has reached here, conveying the British warship Shearwater. The ship-or-war Algonine is expected in later today.

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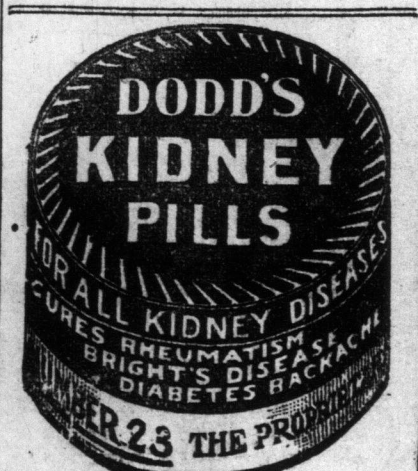
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