

Joffre Knew Psychological Moment When it Came, And Took Advantage of It

How Commander of French Forces Turned Tide of Battle in Early Days of Struggle and Turned the Hun From the Gates of Paris.

One of the most interesting contributions to war literature that has thus far been published is the new book by C. W. Barron—"The Audacious War." Mr. Barron has been called the dean of finance in America, and his explanation of the commercial, financial and political aspects of this war will be at once recognized as authoritative.

Set the Tens.

When the Federal Reserve Act was in the throes of legislation at Washington Mr. Barron camped down in that city listening to the debates and conferring with the expert financiers that were gathered from over the country. When the bill was signed Mr. Barron began a series of 28 articles, which were published in three cities and set the tone of the banking community of the whole country toward this great act. Later these articles were published in book form and reviewed in these columns.

No articles on finance in 1914 were so widely read or so influential, and the book is still a seller. When this great war broke-out with its shock of controlled credit throughout the world Mr. Barron quickly pointed out the duty of America to pay gold and become the central gold credit point of the world. The \$100,000,000 gold pool was quickly formed and normal foreign exchanges re-established for this country.

First Correspondent.

Mr. Barron preceded Sir George Paish on the London Staff and was its first American correspondent, more than 30 years ago. When Sir George reached Washington last year on his official visit his first visitor was Mr. Barron. But it was not finance that was to be discussed this time. Sir George and Mr. Barron had discussed finance and international politics over many years in the financial capitals of Europe and America. Both are equally at home in Paris, Washington, London or Berlin.

What Mr. Barron wanted to know of Sir George was the war situation, and when Sir George told Mr. Barron that military authorities had declared that the line of the Allies from Switzerland to the English Channel would hold against all comers, Mr. Barron had the financial keynote he desired. Then Mr. Barron slipped quietly to the other side of the water and was down behind the line of the Allies and into Paris, Boulogne, London and other places before his newspaper associates knew he was abroad.

Got Behind the Scenes.

How far Mr. Barron got behind the scenes—political, financial and military—his book is the best evidence. Returning, Mr. Barron published his observations in his financial newspapers in three cities. They were received with great favor and their publication in book form was immediately called for. Mr. Barron assented provided the book could be published in quick order, and Houghton, Mifflin and Co. said if they could have the copy promptly they thought they could break the time record for book publication.

In 48 Working Hours.

Mr. Barron responded, "I like to be driven. It sounds good, for I have been driving other people all my life. Now I will see what I can do." In two days Mr. Barron went over all the mass of data and statistics he had gathered, revised his articles to bring them up to cover the first six months of the war, wrote an interesting preface of a dozen pages and had the manuscript in the hands of the publishers. It was in type in a day and a half, and in 48 working hours the Riverside Press began the delivery of the bound volumes. This is believed to be the record in book publication. It is certainly the record for the Houghton, Mifflin company.

The Post asked Mr. Barron how he was able so quickly to gather so much information in view of the censorship, the wide scope of the war and the enforced reticence of all the authorities.

Luck in Meeting People.

Mr. Barron said: "All my life I have been fortunate in news gathering and in meeting the right people at the right time, but never do I remember such good fortune in news gathering as on my last European trip. Nearly every important diplomat and financier that I have met in Europe over a period of more than 30 years I ran across on this trip, and in most unexpected corners. The war has made a great shake-up and people I thought were in Russia or Roumania I found in Paris, London and other places, and there was no censorship in their talks with me. "Of course, I did not attempt to send my information through the mails. I had to come home with it. Then I revised all my data with the assistance of my staff who had followed every public source of information during my absence. I had also the assistance of financial reports cabled after my return home. My book therefore stands without fear of a correction right up to this minute and I do not think there will be any other element entering this war for several months beyond those I have indicated in the book. America can now understand this war in its financial and commercial aspects, and can take the helm if it so elects in the commerce and finance of the world."

Mr. Barron refuses to talk about his foreign sources of information, but it is well understood that over a long series of years in his trips abroad and his investigations of various foreign financial situations he has reached sources of information that are not available to the ordinary searcher. Finance is the handmaid of war and Mr. Barron has his hand upon financial news sources throughout the world.

Kitchener a Reserve Banker.

In his book Mr. Barron says regarding Kitchener and his reserves:

"It would not be right, although information was not given me in confidence, to attempt to name the exact number and position of troops Kitchener had on the Continent toward the close of December. But I may tell what anybody was free to pick up on French soil. I asked an English officer of good rank how many men the English had at the front and responded promptly 220,000 at the front, and 50,000 on the lines of communication. He was right for that date in early December, but later more troops were sent over. Indeed, they were quietly going and coming all the time across the channel, and notwithstanding losses, the number at the front was being steadily augmented. There were also troops in training on French soil and 550,000 in condition for shipment from England.

"Kitchener is one of the greatest reserve supply men in the world. He is a natural-born banker; he keeps his eye on his reserves fully as much as on his activities and perhaps more so."

Under the caption, "The Plans That Went Wrong."

"A treaty had been arranged between Greece and Turkey and was to have been signed in July, which would have settled many things in respect to Turkey and the Balkan States. Roumania and Serbia were in agreement concerning this great measure for peace in southeastern Europe. "When all was ready for the final conference and the signatures, Austria intervened and announced her opposition. Then suddenly followed the bombshell of the ultimatum to Serbia, timed at the precise moment to stop the signing of this Turkish treaty.

Accept No Apology.

"Austrian officials admitted privately as follows, and I have it directly from parties to the negotiations: "We are satisfied that Serbia would punish the murderers of Prince Ferdinand if we requested. We are satisfied she would apologize to Austria if we requested it. But our aims go beyond. We demand that instead of the proposed Turkish treaty, the Balkan States shall come into union with Turkey under the influence of Austria. To accomplish this we must accept no apology, but must punish Serbia. We are satisfied that Russia is in no financial or military position to interfere."

Regarding the fighting qualities of the English and French Mr. Barron says: "The English are the greatest fighters in the world in retreat, while the French can fight best in a forward movement. The little expeditionary army of England, originally 100,000 but at this time 180,000 men, held the right flank of Von Kluck in the retreat from river to river, from hill to hill, although pounded by 350,000 trained German troops massed on this flank. This retreat put the stamp of English bravery and dogged determination, as before on the map of Europe. Paris was open and exposed to any entry which the Germans wished to make. The government had retired, the gold reserves of the banks had been moved, the people in large numbers had fled.

"Indeed, I may say what has never before been printed, that President Poincare summoned the 'architect' of the city to the American embassy and, with tears streaming down his face, told him whence he must take his orders in the future.

End of Retreat.

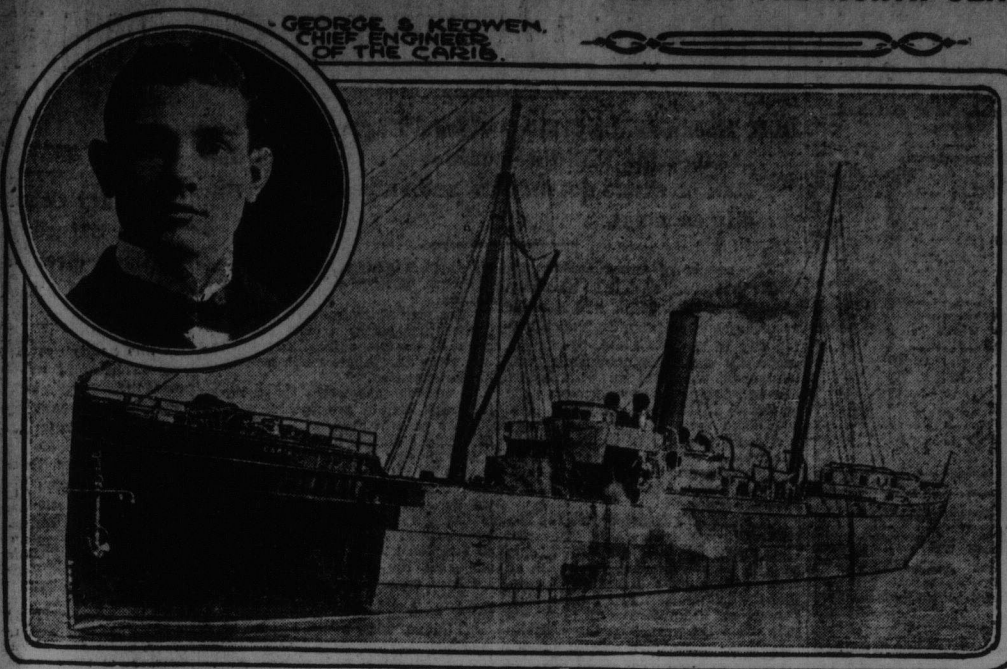
"Then in a flash went the orders of Joffre along the whole concentrated line of troops: 'The retreat has ended, not another foot; you die here or the enemy goes back!' He had chosen the psychological moment. The French and English had burned and broken the bridges as they retreated, and with the recoil the German communications were in danger.

"A fresh force of 50,000 held in reserve near Paris flew by motors and motor-buses against the right wing of Von Kluck, which the English in retreating had been punishing so heavily. Von Kluck had been drawn too far into France with no support on his left from the army of the crown prince, which the French had held at bay, but with a tremendous sacrifice of men. The German ammunition and supply trains were broken, and the armies of Von Kluck were hurled back from Paris about as rapidly as they had come forward.

Kaiser Takes a Hand.

"Then the Kaiser took a hand and cried, 'Now for the English; take the channel ports; forward against Calais!' and again, as at Liege, the blood of the Germans soaked the soil of Belgium. The allies dug themselves into the ground behind the rivers and canals, and drowned the Germans out in front; and when an advance by the seacoast was attempted, the English naval guns spilled havoc into the German battalions. Four nationalities grappled in a death struggle, but the wall of the Allies held from Switzerland to the sea. The Allies worked most harmoniously. Belgian knowledge of topography proved superior to the German general-staff maps. The English buttressed the French financially and in transportation and food supplies. Indeed, Kitchener at one time fed two French army corps, or 80,000 troops, for 15 days without a hitch. Although England had not the trained men, she had the fundamental military organization, transportation, food and finance."—Boston Post.

THE SECOND AMERICAN STEAMSHIP SUNK IN THE NORTH SEA.



THE CARIB

By striking a mine in the North Sea off the German coast the Carib, an American steamship, was sent to the bottom. The Carib is the second American ship that has been sunk, the first being the Evelyn. In announcing the sinking of the Carib a Berlin despatch said she struck a mine in the North Sea while off the route laid down by German marine instructions.

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