

THE WAR.

(A paper read before the Charlotte County Teacher's Institute.)

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Part II.

Where your study of the war is based upon participants, rather than localities, as it naturally would be with the younger pupils, it touches upon history rather than geography. You will, perhaps, make use of the flags of the Allies to arouse and hold the interest; and I would say in passing that you must be careful to have them fresh and bright, and quietly remove them when they become torn or faded. Old flags, be they ever so cheap and trashy, should never be put to any mean or dishonorable use. The best and most respectful way of disposing of them is to burn them. It needs some care to keep up with the latest information about flags and the changes that are made in them; but so long as we get our own flag correctly made we need not be too particular about the others.

In taking up the Allies, one by one, it might be well to take them in the order of their coming into the war.

(1) The first is Serbia, attacked by Austria on the 28th of July, 1914; ostensibly because she refused to allow an Austrian court to be established in Serbian territory; undoubtedly because she was in the way, blocking the path of Austria and Germany to Constantinople and the East.

(2) Russia is next. Germany declared war upon her on the 1st day of August, because she was preparing to defend Serbia from Austrian aggression. Russia had also been preparing to meet a possible German invasion in the following year, when a certain trade treaty which was very disadvantageous to Russia would expire, and Germany was expected to demand a renewal. It was to Germany's advantage to bring on the war before Russia was ready.

(3) Next is Belgium. Like Serbia, she was in the way; and Germany declared war against her on the 4th of August.

(4) On the same day Germany made war upon the French Republic, France being necessarily involved because of her alliance with Russia.

(5) At midnight on the same day, Great Britain declared war against Germany. Hostilities in this case were not begun by Germany, and were not in accordance with Germany's plans. If Britain had not interfered, the war would have been over long ago, and both France and Russia would have been completely crushed.

(6) Three days later, Montenegro came to the

help of Serbia against Austria, well knowing that in the end she must share Serbia's fate.

(7) On the 23rd of August, Japan, faithful to her alliance with Britain, declared war against Germany, and proceeded to help us in driving German warships from the seas. Thus within a month there were seven nations in arms against the Teutonic Powers.

(8) Italy, formerly in alliance with Germany and Austria for a defensive war, but explicitly not so for aggressive warfare, made a declaration of war against Austria on the 24th of May, 1915; her objects being to recover from Austria the provinces known as Italia Irredenta, that is, Italy Unredeemed, and to join with us in resisting the power of the German autocracy. The lost provinces she could have got without fighting, for they were offered to her as an inducement to remain neutral.

Perhaps to escape the responsibilities of a neutral state, the little republic of San Marino declared war a few days later; but as her total population is only about ten thousand we need not reckon her among the belligerents.

Persia, though she placed no army in the field, gave her adhesion to the Allies and dismissed the German envoy on the 14th of November, 1915. Her territory has been the scene of much fighting in which her government troops have taken no part.

(9) Not counting Persia and Montenegro, the ninth nation to enter the war on the side of the Allies was Portugal, against which country Germany declared war on the 9th of March, 1916. You may place Portugal higher up in the list if you choose; for, without any declaration of war on either side, German and Portuguese troops had been in conflict in Africa almost from the beginning of the war.

The new Kingdom of Arabia, fighting for its independence, is next among the belligerents; but it is not in formal alliance with us as yet.

(10) We may count Roumania as the tenth in our list, she having declared war against Austria on the 27th of August, 1916. Her immediate object was to cooperate with Russia in holding the mouth of the Danube.

(11) This year has brought us a notable addition. The United States of America, after long delay, declared war on Germany on the 6th of April last; being the eleventh of the principal Allies, and the one to which we look with the greatest confidence for help in bringing the war to a successful issue.

Cuba, Panama and Liberia have followed the