

England's Part in Great Struggle

Will Always Hold Control of the Sea--Germany, To-day, Resembles a Besieged Fortress

During the last few days there has been renewed talk of peace, of a settlement of the Great War, of a cessation of hostilities. Newspaper despatches from New York and Washington tell that in "the States" there is a growing belief that the end of the war is not far off. Some Philadelphia bankers are alleged to have "inside information" that makes them ready to believe that peace approaches, and also to take over a German loan. Certain things which have appeared in the German press are interpreted as showing that in Germany the people are coming to a realization of the fact that they can not win, at least, and are on the highroad to a conviction that they must lose--there being a very great and vital distinction between not winning and losing.

War Far Off
As it takes two to make a war so will it now take two to make a peace, and from that point of view the end of the war is rather far off, dependent on further actual conflict, enormous losses of life and decisive Allied victory. Even if Germany were ready to make a peace, and despite rumors and theories and interpretations of national currents, there is no real reason to believe that Germany is ready, the terms which the Allies would present would be such that Germany would not accept. The truth appears to be that each side is now maneuvering to place the blame for a continuance of the war on the other. It is the object of the Allies completely to remove that menace once and for all. If Germany were to consent to a peace now it would be for the purpose of preparing to fight another day, under more favorable condi-

tions and, perhaps, with the present Allies divided amongst themselves. But the Germans are far from defeated, although their ultimate defeat seems certain. There are many reasons for this; most of them well known and obvious. Germany started in the war at top efficiency. She can't go up, she can't stand still. She must go down. She tried to win the war in the first two months, and she failed. She can now make a gallant fight, but she cannot win. True, little fighting has been done on German soil, but to-day all Germany is like a besieged fortress. The country is surrounded and the siege is well under way. Presently Germany will starve; the process has been begun and then the beginning of the end will come.

Have Got and Will Retain
But there is one great reason why the Allies will win the Great War. It is their possession of sea-power. The late Admiral Mahan proved to almost everyone's complete satisfaction that the possession of adequate sea-power wins wars. This the Allies, notably England, have got and will retain. The extent of the British naval establishment is almost appalling. The rate at which new units are being added is well nigh incredible. That England will lose control of the seas is impossible. It is difficult to be technical, even if I knew enough about the professional intricacies of the great British fleet, for facts are being well concealed. But there are certain outstanding features which are most striking. Every shipyard in the United Kingdom is engaged in making warcraft. The output of many plants has been doubled. The

other day England lost two battleships in the Dardanelles, without the slightest effect on the superiority of the British Grand Fleet over the German. With complete equanimity the Admiralty sent the Queen Elizabeth, greatest of all battleships, to the Dardanelles, away from the zone where the great battle for naval supremacy might at any time take place and where the Queen Elizabeth would be of the greatest value. Nothing could more aptly illustrate England's superiority on water. Few people realize the extent of this preponderance, nor the growth of it. Here is a fact which is really sensational:

One Every Three Days
In the period beginning just before the outbreak of war last August and ending on the 1st of March, 1916--eighteen months--England will have added to her navy a fleet of warships, perfectly balanced, super-dreadnoughts, cruisers, torpedo craft, submarines and seaplanes, almost equal in fighting strength to the whole fleet of the United States. There will be added fifteen new battleships of the highest class, many cruisers, and destroyers and submarines beyond number. It sounds incredible, and there is an explanation. It is that the figures include ships which had already been laid down and were under construction as well as the super-dreadnoughts which were taken over from Turkey and Brazil. The addition of the fighting power, however, is nonetheless tangible. Since August 1st many other ships have been laid down. Just how many I do not know, particularly as regards dreadnoughts, but I have been informed by an official who studies these things that by next Spring British shipyards will be turning out destroyers at the rate of one a week and submarines at the rate of one every three days.

Division of the Spoils
It is this possession of sea-power more than anything else which makes Britain unready for peace until the objects for which she went to war have been attained. Were Russia and France forced to their knees England would still fight on with her fleet. At this time England is far from ready

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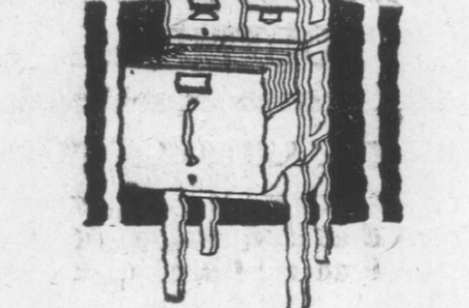
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for a discussion of peace terms, albeit that there is more tolerance of such discussion discernable in the press. Indeed, there is much evidence that the British public has not even grasped the essentials of the magnitude and desperation of this great conflict. It will probably get the full force of them this summer when the great Allied effort will be made to finish off the Germans. With losses running into the hundreds of thousands, where now it is comparatively in the tens, the full force of the war will be brought home to the British public. That may bring on a growth of feeling for a peace before the task is done.

So far as is known the Allies have not yet discussed among themselves what the terms of peace shall be, nor what shall be the division of the spoils. But the fact remains clear that in the peace negotiations one nation will be dominant in dictating terms. England, with her incomparable fleet and with from two to three million soldiers, will be that nation. Few people realize what in the midst of this great conflict England is growing to be. Already before the war she was the greatest of empires. After the war she will be infinitely greater. Should she take over the German colonies which are mostly already hers and retain Egypt, as she certainly will, acquire Mesopotamia and Arabia, which, I understand, is to be her reward in the Near East, the British Empire will be expanded so that it will comprise something more than thirty per cent. of the world's population and slightly more than twenty-nine per cent. of the world's sea. The figures are astounding, and can be lessened only by turning over some of Germany's African possessions to France. This, France will be likely to demand, as it is in Africa that French states men plan to expand.

After the War
There is still another phase of the after-the-war period, the subject of much discussion and conjecture, which does not seem so open to speculation as it really is. It concerns armaments and their reduction. On only one point do the Allies favor reduction of armaments.

There is going to be, after this war, a great deal of concentrated hatred in this world and no nation on this side of the water will fail to keep themselves fit for the fray. At the end of the war all the nations of the world will be militarist in just the same way as was Germany, in varying degrees of strength. There will be jealousies, leading to new enmities, creating new points of contact and conflict, which may not lead to new wars, but which might, and against this precautions must be taken. The Allies are now paying

too dearly for their previous state of unpreparedness to take further chances. Powerful influences will be at work to prevent a disgraceful quarrel over the spoils of war, but there is always a chance that those influences will not be powerful enough and against that all nations must guard.--"Navy" for May, 1915.

SUPERIORITY OF BRITISH FLEET

Some Interesting Facts About England's Navy

"Steadily mounting" is the phrase that naturally goes with the chronicling of the loss of another British battleship, and there is, indeed, something about the disappearance of the heavy mass of steel with its crew that strikes the imagination much more powerfully than the loss of a couple of battalions in routine trench fighting. Yet the fact is that during nine and a half months of war Great Britain's loss in battleships has been inconsiderable. Of six battleships reported lost, one was a Dreadnought of less than two years old. The other five were battleships from thirteen to fifteen years old, and ranging from 13,000 to 15,000 tons. Great Britain has thus lost five out of forty pre-Dreadnoughts with which she began war, and perhaps one out of thirty-three Dreadnoughts and super-Dreadnoughts. It is a commonplace to say that the British fleet is stronger to-day than at the beginning of the war, but how much stronger is not so often realized. Shortly after the outbreak of hostilities there were added to the fleet the first two Dreadnoughts of the 13½-inch gun type--the Benbow and the Emperor of India. Last March the monster Queen Elizabeth, with her eight 15-inch guns made her debut in the Dardanelles. Three others of her type were launched within four months of the Queen Elizabeth, and these are undoubtedly now in commission. Warspite, Valiant, and Barham.

The German fleet in the meanwhile has been increased by six battleships and battle cruisers, armed with 12-inch guns. Three battleships of the Queen Elizabeth type are under construction, but since the earliest of these was laid down two years ago, the second in the autumn of 1913, and the last in the summer of 1914, it is hardly likely that more than one of them can as yet be in commission. Roughly speaking, then, Great Britain has forty Dreadnoughts to Germany's twenty-five. But whereas of the British Dreadnoughts there are eighteen armed with 13.5-inch guns or heavier the German fleet has at most one such ship, as we have just seen. That heavier gun-fire counts was shown in the battle of the North Sea, when the German battle cruisers Seydlitz and

Darminger met the British cruisers Tiger and Lion. In other words, in full-dress battle, Great Britain's seventeen ships of the 12.5 and 15-inch gun type would be more than a match by themselves for the entire German fleet. This would leave twenty British Dreadnoughts of the 12-inch type as a second line, and behind them thirty-five battleships of the pre-Dreadnought type. Plainly, then, Great Britain can view with equanimity the loss of older battleships around the Dardanelles, provided results are obtained. On the other hand, the recent story of the German high seas fleet cruising the North Sea in search of the British fleet must be received with skepticism, for it would mean that the Kaiser's fleet was out to challenge an enemy probably three times as strong.--The Nation.

WHEN PA IS SICK.

When Pa is sick,
He's scared to death,
An' ma an' us
Just hold our breath.
He crawls in bed,
An' puffs an' grunts,
And does all kinds
Of crazy stunts.
He wants "Doc" Brown,
An' mighty quick;
For when Pa's ill,
He's mighty sick.
He gasps and groans,
An' sort o' sighs,
He talks so queer,
An' rolls his eyes,
Ma jumps an' runs,
An' all of us,
An' all the house
Is in a fuss.
An' peace and joy
Is mighty skeerce--
When Pa is sick,
It's something fierce.

WHEN MA IS SICK.

When Ma is sick,
She pegs away,
She's quiet though,
Not much t' say.
She goes right on
A-doin' things,
An' sometimes laughs,
'Er even sings.
She says she don't
Feel extra well,
But then it's just
A kind o' spell,
She'll be all right
'To-morrow, sure,
A good old sleep
Will be the cure.
An' Pa he sniffs,
An' makes no kick,
For wintan folks
Is always sick,
An' Ma she smiles,
Let's on she's glad--
When Ma is sick,
It ain't so bad.

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