

CURRENT EVENTS.

Soon after the commencement of the war, an agreement was made between Great Britain, France and Russia that neither of them would make a separate peace with the enemy. Japan has now come into this agreement, thus taking her place with the allied nations of Europe as one of the principals in the war. At present her activities are seemingly confined to sending munitions to the Russian armies; but under her treaty of alliance with Britain her armies will take the field whenever British interests in Asia are threatened.

To assume that all our allies in this war are allied with each other, and are at war with all our enemies, would not be quite correct. Italy, for instance, has been at war with Austria since May 24, but did not declare war with Turkey until about three months later, and is even now nominally at peace with Germany. Russia and Japan are both in alliance with us, but they have not yet concluded a formal alliance with each other, though they are about to do so. The situation of Portugal is peculiar. The Portuguese have lately been celebrating a victory over the Germans in Africa; yet they are nominally at peace with Germany and with all the world. The explanation in this case is that the German invasion of Portuguese territory was considered a military necessity, like the invasion of Belgium, and armed neutrality required the Portuguese to resist the invaders, which they did successfully. No declaration of war against Germany followed; though of course, there was ample warrant for such a declaration. By a very old treaty which is still in force, Portugal is bound to send a certain number of men to help Great Britain when called for; for which reason, quite apart from the African incident, it would be right enough to count Portugal as one of our allies.

During the month of October there was little change in the war situation, except in the Balkans. There the German invaders are sweeping onward, irresistibly, as they did last year in Belgium; but more slowly, because of the natural difficulties in the way. The Bulgarians are invading Serbia from the east, to meet the Germans as they advance from the north, and if possible, crush the Serbian army between them, but the Serbians have so far avoided a decisive battle. Meanwhile the French and British forces that were landed at Salonica have joined the Serbian army in the south, and have enabled it to check the Bulgarian invasion at that point. Farther north, the Bulgarians have possession of the most important railway line; and Nish, the war capital of Serbia, is threatened. British, French and Russian vessels have bombarded towns on the Bulgarian coast, and it is believed that Russia is sending a strong force for the invasion of Bulgaria.

The slaughter of the Armenians in Turkey still goes on, but must soon end because there will be none left to kill. There seems to be no doubt that this is in accordance with a

deliberate plan of the Turkish government, the motive being to make sure that there shall be no inhabitants remaining who are not Mohammedans.

The number of public school teachers in the French army is said to be thirty thousand, and since the beginning of the war two thousand of them have been killed in action.

The following dates may be found of use for reference:

July 28, 1914 — Austria began the great war by making an attack upon Serbia; either because she wished to add Serbia to her dominions and thought Russia would not dare to intervene, or because Germany was ready for the conflict and had decreed that war should begin in that way.

August 1 — Germany declared war against Russia because Russia was making ready to protect Serbia from Austrian invasion. On the same day she invaded and occupied the independent Grand Duchy of Luxemburg.

August 3 — Germany declared war against France, because France was in alliance with Russia.

August 4 — Germany declared war against Belgium for refusing to let the German armies cross her territory; and Britain declared war against Germany. This made seven nations engaged in the war, not counting Luxemburg, which was unarmed and could make no resistance.

August 6 — Austria declared war against Russia.

August 7 — Montenegro, the eighth nation to enter the struggle, declared war against Austria, to defend her own territories and assist the Serbians. Two days later she declared war against Germany.

August 10 — France declared war against Austria.

August 12 — Britain declared war against Austria.

August 23 — Japan made war upon Germany, attacking the German possessions in China. This was in pursuance of the treaty of alliance between Britain and Japan.

August 27 — Austria declared war against Japan. On the following day she added Belgium to the list of her enemies.

November 3 — Turkey having made aggressive movements, Russia declared war against her, making her the tenth warring nation.

November 5 — Britain and France declared war against Turkey.

May 23, 1915 — The eleventh nation to come into the war, Italy declared war against Austria. On the same day Germany severed diplomatic relations with Italy, which does not amount to a declaration of war.

August 21 — Italy declared war against Turkey.

October 5 — Wishing to fight on the winning side, and believing that the Central Powers would win, Bulgaria attacked Serbia.

October 15 — Britain and France declared war against Bulgaria.

One great advantage which the German invaders have gained in Serbia is that they have now got control of a rich

Red Rose Tea

"is good tea"