

has complicated matters and made the situation more difficult. No one can venture to predict what will be Von Hindenburg's next stroke. It may be against Saloniki. He may try to seal up the forces that are at Saloniki, and we may have to withdraw, leaving our Serb and Greek allies alone. I trust not, but it may be that the Germans will make this attempt in league with the King of Greece. If they succeed in sealing up the forces in Saloniki, they may then, employing Bulgarians and Turkish troops under German officers, go on through Asia Minor, use the Bagdad railway and the railway down through Syria, south of Jerusalem, and try another stroke at Egypt. They will not succeed; they may be forestalled by a British thrust; but it is not an impossible stroke to attempt. The other alternative is that they may attempt a drive at Kiev or Odessa in Russia. No one knows what will be the immediate outcome of this unfortunate Rumanian disaster. There have been some other minor campaigns but of these I need not speak.

WORK OF THE BRITISH FLEET.

There is one thing that happened in 1916 which is of supreme importance. Some people were asking, What is the Fleet doing? Why doesn't England do more? These questions were being asked in some of the newspapers in neutral lands. The criticism was made that "England was ready to fight the Germans to the death of the last Frenchman." It was an unfair and ignorant criticism. Britain was doing her utmost. But here is something that Britain did do in the year 1916 in addition to her work on the Somme. What could the British Fleet do? Nobody absolutely knew. Nobody knew whether or not the Germans had not some surprises to spring upon us. We read in reports and rumors that the Germans were installing on their ships great guns of heavier calibre than any guns we had, even than our big 15-inch guns.

Nobody knew. Nobody knew what new tricks they might have devised. On the second day of June, a day when the rain fell in torrents and the sky was overcast here in Toronto, we read in the evening papers that the great battle cruiser Queen Mary had been sunk in an engagement between the German and the British Fleets off the Coast of Denmark; on May 31st, that the Invincible and the Inflexible had also gone down. It seemed as though the very foundations of the earth were out of their course. Could it be that the British fleet had been beaten? And if the British fleet were beaten, what defence remained? In this announcement, the Admiralty had told part of the truth, all the truth that was known apparently at that time. They certainly told us the worst first. But soon we began to perceive that the essential element in the despatch was this, that the German High Seas fleet had returned to harbor. We began then to understand that this fight could not be a victory for the German high seas fleet. At last we heard the whole story, how gallant David Beatty with his battle cruisers fleet engaged the whole German high seas fleet and held them in fight until the British main body of Dreadnoughts came up. Then the Germans turned tail and went to Wilhelmshaven harbour. *Punch*, as he always does, summed up the situation very aptly. In Germany the bells were rung and hymns of thanksgiving for victory were sung in their churches. But the public were not allowed to visit the arsenal, and nobody was permitted to get past the cordon of sentinels and see this ever victorious fleet. *Punch's* cartoon represents a sentinel outside the arsenal wall, speaking to a German father of a family with his wife and children who have come down on an excursion. The German Herr says: "I want to see our victorious fleet," and the guard's answer was, "You cannot see it, nobody can see it." *Punch* headed