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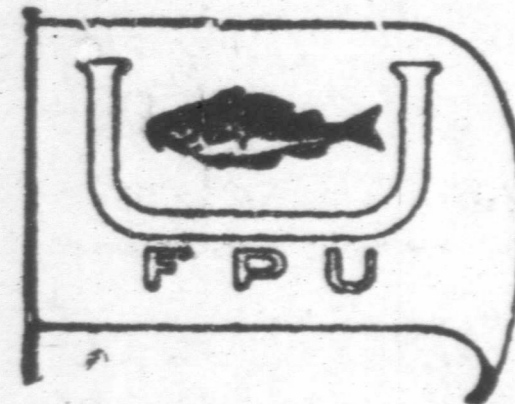
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**J. J. ROSSITER,**

WALDEGRAVE STREET  
may 7, 2m

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(To Every Man His Own.)

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## OUR POINT OF VIEW

### STAKES AT ISSUE

(From yesterday's war extras)

There need not be the smallest doubt that now a general European War has come the existence of the British Empire is one of the stakes on the table!

Any casual opinion from British sources to the effect that Britain could stand aside, is either a dying gasp of that insular ignorance which imagines that Britain has no need to concern herself with the quarrels of the Continent, or a calculated attempt to give Russia pause in her steady movement toward war.

But any such opinion has no effect on the action of Britain in this—nor does it reflect any serious and informed judgment in the United Kingdom.

### Inevitable

The developments are relentlessly inevitable. Russia fights and Germany must fight; and so France and Britain must go to help Russia. As the London Times puts it—"We can no more afford to see France crushed by Germany, or the balance of power upset against France, than Germany can afford to see Austria-Hungary crushed by Russia."

### A Necessity

This challenge drove Britain into the arms of her old rivals, France and Russia. How necessary the "entente" with France became, was illustrated when we practically withdrew our battleships from the sea-lane of the Mediterranean—our vital link with India and Egypt—leaving its defence to the Navy of France. This "entente" was no mere matter of choice with us, but a stern necessity. By it we lived. With France and Britain, it became a choice between hanging together or hanging separately.

The value of the French "entente" is not to be measured by simple subtraction. We cannot subtract French naval power from the present total of our combined fleets, and look upon the result, i.e., the British navy confronting alone the Germanic navies—as the whole story. We must remember that France, too, desires to live; and that, if she cannot live in our camp, finding protection there against her possible foes, she will come to terms with those foes and live in the German camp. Germany, indeed would be very willing to pay a very handsome price for a French alliance; for it would make her master of the world.

### Must Reckon It

We must reckon the French navy in the "sum," on one side or the other. It will be either for us or against us. It dare not be neutral. We must remember that a German victory means that French power will be added to the strength of the Triple Alliance—and the French fleet will be compelled to join with those of Germany, Austria and Italy against us. For, in that case, Italy, too, would have no choice, but must go with the unchallenged masters of her fate!

And that combination would seal the fate of the British Empire. With France taking orders from Berlin, and Russia offered India in lieu of the Dardanelles—both of them realizing that they had no future, save as the friends of Germany—the British Empire would become a tempting and helpless "grab-bag" into which every hungry nation would dip a greedy hand. Britain would sink to the status of another Holland, existing by the sufferance of its neighbors. India would fall to Russia, and Egypt to Germany. Above Gibraltar, Malta, Aden, and Hong Kong, would fly the flags of foreign nations. South Africa would be inherited by the Imperial authority of the famous telegram of sympathy to Kruger.

### What Is At Stake

All this will be at stake if war comes. We are as much concerned as Russia—possibly more so, for no one would think of dismembering Russia—and what we are fighting for is not Slav prestige in the Balkans nor even the integrity of the frontiers of France, but the life of the British Empire.

There need be no searching of the recent relations of the Danubian countries for the cause of this war. None save historians will find that "cause" in the assassination of the Austrian Hier or the refusal of Serbia to permit Austrian officers to conduct police investigations on Serbian territory. These are not the pretexts for war. The causes lie deeper. They are found—for the three Eastern Empires—in the long rivalry between the German and the Slav, now at a crisis as the future of the strategically decisive Balkan Peninsula is being fixed. For France and Britain, they are found in the still more ancient law of self-preservation.

### Fight For Life

In two words, France and Britain are fighting for their lives!

A glance at recent history makes this unmistakable. After the Franco-Prussian war, France lay helpless in the seventies, when the British fleet was still beyond challenge, Britain was able to prevent the further dismemberment of that unhappy country by Bismarck; but even that was a precarious adventure which might not be susceptible of repetition.

The first time that France was able to get to her feet again, and look—however dubiously—her enemy in the face, was when Russia reached across Europe and gave her the support of the dual alliance. That was the day of the rebirth of French self-respect. And it is necessary to realize, how much the Russian Alliance means to France to appreciate how impossible it is today for France to permit Russia power to be destroyed—and be destroyed by Germany.

Obliterate the Russian Army; And what would be the position of France in Europe? One of absolute vassalage to Berlin! She never would have got Morocco—she never would have dared to question the presence of the German "Panther" at Agadir—she never could have opposed German policy at Algiers—if it had not been for the Russian alliance. She would have made no moan when Frenchmen were exiled from Alsace-Lorraine. She could only preserve her separate existence, with a nominal independence, by dancing most nimbly whenever Germany called the tune. Under such conditions, it is clearly a matter of life and death for her to prevent the obliteration of the Russian army.

Germany, secure as the overlord of Europe after the weakening of the Russian army by the Japanese War, expanded her ambition beyond the confines of that Continent, and dreamed the perfectly legitimate dream of a great world-empire. The first step toward such an Empire was obviously to secure sea-power—sea-power which must be a challenge to the then Mistress of the Sea. The Germans undertook this task with true German thoroughness and skill. For a time, their battleship-building programme threatened to surpass ours. Moreover, Austria, almost a land-locked Power, was induced to enter the naval race; and Italy with her very considerable navy, was a formal ally of Germany.

## POEMS OLD and NEW

### SEA MOODS.

The cliffs are black and the mists like a wall  
Move steady as fate o'er the battling sea,  
The night flows down like a funeral pall  
And blots out the light of the world to me.

The peaks have pierced the pillar of cloud  
And the tattered veil in each silver shred  
Hangs like the remnant of memory's shroud  
To the wall of the past, when our grief has fled

All night the surf on the shore  
Sobs the passion of life's unrest,  
All night my lost love knocks at my door,  
And her spirit sobs on my breast.  
The dawn sends a rosy gleam down to the waiting sea,  
And the mists fold up their curtains of grey, with banners that steam afar  
A rainbow glow is the foam, which is brushed by the night winds free  
And the night and the mists have drifted away after the morning star.

The Higher Education of Women—  
Mistress: "That's a nicely made dress you have on, Jane. It's like the new parlormaid's, isn't it?" Jane (a close student of the fashion catalogue) "Oh, no, ma'am, this is quite a different creation."—Punch.

A landlady, whose reputation for overfeeding her boarders was not great, asked her solitary boarder before he commenced his supper, "Shall I light the gas?" The lone one looked at the scanty meal, and replied, "Well, no, it isn't necessary—the supper is light enough."

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The Admiralty Has Provided Vast Stores of Ammunition and of General Supplies for This Great Flotilla Which is Manned by a Full Personnel of Efficient British Bulldog Sailors

London, Aug. 4.—The Admiralty has issued a request, with which nearly all the responsible newspapers are complying, for the utmost reticence regarding the movements of warships, the condition of naval and military stores, and other information, the leakage of which would be of use to England's possible Continental enemies.

Moreover, a most impressive Admiralty warning has just been circulated throughout the fleet and naval station, reminding all in the service of the King that great mischief may result from apparently unimportant items of information becoming public.

Officers and men are especially cautioned against communicating anything to the press. Any infringements will be visited with prosecution under the Official Secrets Act or dismissal from the service.

Seeing, however, that the Admiralty itself issued last night a list of the ships composing the First Fleet, which left Portsmouth under sealed orders, presumably there is no harm in publishing the same.

This fleet, under the supreme command of Admiral Sir George Callaghan, Commander-in-Chief of the Home Fleets, is the most powerful in the world. It was by a most fortunate coincidence brought to the height of its efficiency for the recent inspection by His Majesty.

### Details of the Squadrons

It consists of the Commander-in-chief's flagship Iron Duke, with attached ships Oak and Sappho, and the following four battle squadrons, namely: First Battle Squadron: Marlborough, Flagship, Vice-Admiral Sir Lewis Bayly, commanding the squadron; St. Vincent, second Flagship, Rear-Admiral Hugh Evan Thomas; other ships being the Collingwood, Colossus, Hercules, Neptune, Vanguard, and Superb and also attached the light cruiser Bellona, and the repair ship Cyclops.

Second Battle Squadron: King George V., Flagship, Vice-Admiral Sir George Warrender, commanding the squadron; Second Flagship Orion, Rear-Admiral Sir R. Arbuthnot; the other ships being the Adax, Udaclous, Centurion, Conqueror, Monarch, and Thunderer, with the light cruiser Boadicea.

Third Battle Squadron: King Edward VII., Flagship, Vice-Admiral E. C. Bradford, commanding the squadron; Hibernia, Second Flagship, Rear-Admiral M. Browning, other ships being the Africa Britannia, Commonwealth, Dominion, Hindustan and Zealandia, with the light cruiser Blanche.

Fourth Battle Squadron: Dreadnought, Flagship, Vice-Admiral Sir D. Gamble, commanding the squadron, other ships being the Agamemnon and the Temeraire, with the light cruiser Blonde.

Four Cruiser Squadrons, namely: First Battle Cruiser Squadron—Lion, Flagship, Rear-Admiral Beatty, the other ships being the Queen Mary, Princess Royal and New Zealand.

the excited audience rose in their seats as officers and bluejackets left the theatre and cheered heartily, the orchestra playing "Rule Britannia."

Similar scenes were witnessed at other places of amusement. Thousands of people congregated about the pier, where Jack tars arrived arm-in-arm with their sweethearts. Some tearful farewells might almost have suggested that the whole Fleet was going into action straight away.

Ladies in evening dress were driven to the pier in taxis to wish husbands and sweethearts good-bye. Some scenes were most affecting.

But apart from these feminine displays of emotion, there was the wildest enthusiasm and excitement amongst the crowd, which cheered itself hoarse for the British Navy.

Fleets Are Ready For Action  
All the ships of the Second Fleet are fully manned, the crews having been kept aboard since the King's inspection last week. The ships are all coalled and otherwise prepared for sea.

Most of the ships of the Third Fleet are having their bunkers filled with coal. They have only reduced nucleus crews aboard, as the men of two divisions of the fleet reserve were demobilized and paid off, at the end of last week. Those of the intermediate class Fleet Reserve are not yet, however, demobilized. They are still aboard the Third Fleet.

All the destroyers of the sixth Portsmouth flotilla are fully complete and ready for sea.

The Naval correspondent of the Daily Telegraph gives the Naval strength of the two European groups, namely, Germany, Italy and Austria, 59 battleships, 71 cruisers, 130,500 personnel; and Britain, France and Russia, 97 battleships, 154 cruisers, 264,000 personnel. The correspondent says:

"This suggests that the time is hardly favorable for Austria and her

friends. They are engaged in great schemes of naval expansion which will not reach the point of culmination for five or six years, owing to increased number of conscripts and volunteers now under training, a larger proportion than ever before the efficiency of their fleets for action certainly has not been increased during the past five or six years, judged by any available means of computation.

"The British Navy, which is at least as strong in torpedo craft as it is in battleships and cruisers, may be regarded as one of the great influences for peace."

It is important at this moment of crisis to recall what Mr. Churchill remarked on a famous occasion: "We stand purely on the defensive," he said. "It is inconceivable that we should make a surprise attack on Germany or any Power. For one thing, we have no means of following up such an attack, even if successful."

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