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Special Easter Footwear is now ready.

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Not a Shoe in our whole stock is priced too high or beyond reach. Our prices are always pleasing.

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We cordially invite you to come and see The White Shoe Store 304 and 306 Water Street. S. B. KESNER, Prop.

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Removal Sale Price a pound \$1.00.

Splendid pieces amongst this lot suitable for making garments for sturdy school boys.

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## Russia's Part In The Great War

"In this solemn hour, I beg to assure Your Majesty that I have done my utmost for the preservation of peace."

THE above brief but expressive telegram from the Tsar of All the Russias to King George, on the eve of the outbreak of hostilities in Russia's arms and motives in so powerfully participating in the world-war. The great Russian Empire could not have acted otherwise than she has done. She is making peculiarly vast sacrifices in the heroic effort to crush German militarism and barbarism at its worst. In the words of the Tsar's illustrious Foreign Minister, M. Sazonov, as long ago as 23rd July, "the duty of the Emperor was to be found in Berlin." So it has proved—and with a future Tsar's generation is being basely brought up to believe that this country has acted treacherously (1) in not standing aside while her Allies and her Treaty obligations alike were being wiped from the map of Europe, the truth may be gleaned, from the nominal figure of one penny, from the illuminating Blue Book which our Government had the good sense and good taste to issue during September.

Readers of the "Nautical Magazine" have particular reasons for appreciating the Muscovite attitude toward the Tontine aggression which fastened upon the innocuous mariners in Sarajevo of 23rd June last, as the excuse for a war of spoliation and, if practicable, of conquest. Those reasons are embodied in the unquestioned and unquestionable fact that Russia, not wanting war, worked to the eleventh hour, hand-in-hand with this country, to preserve the peace of the world. Without wishing at all to labour this point, the calm dignity of the Tsar's advisers, in face of the most terrible provocation, demands that I quote the most forcible of M. Sazonov's pregnant utterances when things were tending unmistakably to the bitter arbitration of the sword—

"St. Petersburg (Petrograd), 29th July. From now on, nothing remains for us to do but to reply calmly to the British Government to take the initiative in any steps which they may consider advisable. "23rd July. M. Sazonov said that undoubtedly there would be a better prospect of a peaceful solution if the suggested conversation were to take place in London, where the atmosphere was far more favorable, and he therefore hoped that you (Sir Edward Grey) would see your way to agreeing to this. His Excellency ended by expressing his deep gratitude to His Majesty's Government, who had done so much to save the situation. It would be largely due to them if war were prevented. The Emperor, the Russian Government, and the Russian people would never forget the firm attitude adopted by Great Britain."

"St. Petersburg, 29th July. The Emperor of Russia read his telegram to the German Emperor to the German Ambassador at the audience yesterday. NO PROGRESS WHATSOEVER WAS MADE. It was for Russia a question of life and death. The policy of Austria had throughout been tortuous and immoral, and she thought that she could treat Russia with defiance, secure in the support of her German ally. Summary: the policy of Germany had been an equivocal and doubtful policy." (Blue Book, pp. 64, 71.)

It is not too much to say that the immediately sequel brought out the most qualities of the Slavonic race and temperament. If there was no peace, the Russian Empire would stand against the 110,000,000 of combined Germany and Austria. But in the meantime mobilisation is of necessity, in the White Tsar's far-flung dominion a slow process, and Germany took advantage of the general confusion to mobilise her fleet and army. In the popular phrase "for all she was worth," while France was comparatively unready and Russia had to call up her mighty strength by slow degrees. Yet, by the time these lines are in print she will probably have 10 to 12 millions of fighting men in line of battle!

When the German Empire was proclaimed in the palace of the French Emperor at Versailles, in January, 1871, the aged Kaiser Wilhelm I. protested, as he did to his death day (8th March, 1888), that the Fatherland for ever must "cultivate the friendship of the Tsar." And when at the Berlin Congress, Bismarck co-operated with Lord Salisbury in opposing Russia's pretensions in the Balkans, the Mau of Blood and Iron also protested that he was merely playing the part of "an honest broker." Shortly after, Germany secretly concluded a treaty with Austria (made public nine years later), which became the Triple Alliance by the fact of Italy joining them

in 1886. The Tsar retaliated by the "entente" with France, and meanwhile Europe was treated to the delectable spectacle of the present Kaiser, shortly after he mounted the throne of his ancestors,—"dropping the plot," in other words, dismissing that Bismarck who had for years been Emperor in all save name.

Russia is still practically without any colonies, but I venture to predict that she won't remain in that state for long. Men of the mercantile may care to recall that until the close of the seventeenth century her seaboard was confined to the Arctic Ocean, and she had to wage long and bloody wars before securing a foothold on the Baltic and Black Seas. The Arctic, which abounds in first-rate fishing grounds, makes a deep indentation on the Empire's northern coast. This indentation is the White Sea, whose three gulfs are, however, ice-bound for nine months in every twelve, while its one important port (Archangel) scarcely retains its old-time significance. The Kara Sea, between Nova Zembla and the desolate Siberian Coast is only navigable for a few weeks of every year. The Bering Sea and the Sea of Okhotsk are also dreadfully desolate and ice-bound, about the fishing is good and plentiful. Leaving out of comparison the port and the surroundings of Vladivostok (because here the position was greatly modified by Russia's defeat on land and sea, a decade ago, by one of her present Allies, Japan), we make out the Baltic to be mighty Moscow's one "great" sea. Yet, oddly enough, it nowhere touches Russian territory, the inhabitants of its shores being Finlanders, Lithuanians, Germans and Estonians. But four out of five of Russia's great ports are on the Baltic, viz., Petrograd, Riga, Reval and Libau, only the last of which has its roads free from ice for practically all the year round.

There remains only to speak of the Black Sea, now of such surpassing importance owing to Turkey having joined the Austro-German alliance. Its chief drawback is the paucity of good ports. Odessa, remains, of course, its principal one, Nikolaioff its naval arsenal, Sebastopol its great oil port. The principal arm of the Black Sea, which we identify as the Sea of Azov, has a couple of thriving ports in Taganrog and Rostoff, but it is generally speaking too shallow. The Caspian Sea has, unfortunately, no outlet to the open ocean, though it receives the greatest river of European Russia, the Volga. Moreover, the idea of a canal to link up the Caspian to the Black Sea cannot be seriously entertained, as its level is some 70 feet below that of the ocean.

Russia has enormously strengthened and reorganised her fleet and army since her contact with Japan in 1904-5. At that time, the finest officer in the Tsar's sea-service was Admiral Makharoff. There were, however, other splendid officers, such as Admiral Alexeeff, Admiral Witteff (killed at Port Arthur), Rear-Admiral Prince Ukhomsky, and Admiral Rodjestvensky. The latter had been distinguished in the Russo-Turkish war of 1877 for his brilliant attacks on Ottoman warships in a small torpedo-gunboat, the Vesta. Later he had been naval attaché in London and chief of the general staff. In the war with Japan, after the Russian naval defeats at Port Arthur and Vladivostok, Admiral Rodjestvensky hoisted his flag on the "Kniaz Suvoroff" at Cronstadt. He had seven battleships, two armoured cruisers, and sundry protected cruisers and destroyers. Four out of five new battleships then lately completed in the Navy Yards were at his disposal. They were the "Orel", "Borodino," "Imperator Alexander III.", and his own flagship. They were each of more than 13,000 tons, with engines of nominal 16,000 horse-power, and their official speed, "which they never realised," was 18 knots. Their heaviest armour was 9-inch, and they carried two pairs of 12-inch guns fore and aft in armoured turrets, besides twelve 6-inch quick-firers. The squadron started on its long voyage to the Far East on 15th October, 1904, and in a fit of panic fired on our fishing fleet off the Dogger Bank, sinking one trawler and causing a partial mobilisation of the British Fleet. It was a real achievement for Rodjestvensky to be able to coal his ships (which he did mainly from colliers) on this long voyage, but "Father" Togo was waiting for him in the Sea of Japan!

On 27th May, 1905, began what stands for the biggest sea fight in history until our own the German Fleet shall try conclusions. The Japanese cleverly concealed till the end of the war the fact that they had lost the cruiser "Yashima" blown up by drift-mines; nevertheless, in this great battle of Tsushima they assumed a marked superiority from the

first, for Togo's fleet was mobile and highly efficient at all points, whereas the Russians had a mere collection of "chance" ships. But they fought on heroically to the bitter end.

The brave Rodjestvensky was twice wounded and his captain blown to pieces by a shell. Admiral Nebogatoff took over the command of the already badly beaten squadron. "Men were killed in the currents by shell splinters flying through the narrow gun openings. The fire hose was repeatedly cut to ribbons, and the men fighting the fire killed. Men were literally blown to atoms, or limbs were worn off. Eleven wooden boats were on the spar-deck were a mass of roaring flames. Gun after gun was disabled, and all the while a glance at the Japanese Fleet showed them steaming and firing as if at peace manoeuvres, without even one of their numerous flagstaffs and signal yards shot away. Iron ladders were crumpled up into rings, and guns were severely warped from shock mountings. I actually watched a steel plate catch fire from a burst—of course the steel did not burn, but the smoke was thick."

Admiral Nebogatoff eventually surrendered with about 2000 men, Togo graciously permitting the officers to retain their swords. It was a complete victory as Trafalgar, and was won almost exactly a hundred years after.

I have merely emphasised and underlined these facts of Russia's last sea campaign, to point the moral that she has immensely profited by the lessons and losses of 1904-5. As I have already hinted, Germany and her Allies are only just beginning to discover the might of the Russia of today. Some of the arm-chair critics, and not a few of those who know such a lot about nothing, are fond of telling us that the close of the present struggle will leave the Tsar's Government in a position of paramount power. Well, that's as may be, and, in the language of Shakespeare's Bardot, "that's the nature of it." For my part, I would far rather see power vested in a regenerated Russia than in a degenerate and brutalising Germany. No! Russia came into this terrible business with clean hands and a shining sword, and with a not less terrible inflexibility of purpose.

I have been vastly entertained, too, by certain criticisms of our own share in the war, having regard to the relative vastness of our imperial resources in both men and money. This point again, I am sure, time and the verdict of posterity will solve. We are asked to make a bid for a better understanding of Russia and the Russian temperament and character. This also, I am confident, is rapidly taking place. We admire and respect our worthy Allies under the cold and unflattering leadership of that "man of chilled steel," the Grand Duke Nicholas; but it is true to say that not a little misconception of the Muscovite aims and ideals has prevailed over here. In a word, Russia has a great deal to teach us and make us unlearn; but not the Russia known in Britain. —"Nautical Magazine."

### Bernstorff As America Sees Him Chicago Elections Quite Right

Bernstorff is genial, witty, an agreeable, shrewd, unassuming, and well-balanced speaker, so well fitted for the social side of his task that it seems somewhat ungracious to temper our recognition with what may seem like antipathetic criticism; but frankness compels the admission that at the back of his cheery head we discern the shadow of the helmet, and in the midst of his gayer moods we can almost hear the click of his spurred heels. Whether or not charge this peculiarly wholly to his German training, it is a real handicap among a people like ours. We can hardly imagine a Bernstorff filling the part of a Bryce or a Jusserand, for the malleable quality is simply lacking to his nature. What one of his old friends once said, in the course of a tribute to his perfect nose, comes to mind now after his stay of a half-dozen years with us: "If I have one fault to ascribe to him, it is that he never lets his heart get the better of his head." This has the ring of the old diplomacy rather than the new.—"Vittard, in The Nation."

Altogether 30,000 Scottish miners have enlisted in the Army since the outbreak of war.

The farmer in the West Riding shares the lot of his brethren everywhere in being lamentably short of work just now.

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