

Russia Playing A Waiting Game

GRAND DUKE NICHOLAS HERO OF THE HOUR

Germans Pay Dearly For Every Inch of Ground They Gain--Russian Troops Never in Better Condition

In the following article, the last of a series which has been written for The London Times, Mr. Stanley Washburn sums up his impressions of the Russian army. His confidence in the ultimate success of Great Britain's ally in the eastern theatre is founded largely on the generalship of the Grand Duke Nicholas, to whose soldierly qualities and patient strategy he pays a high tribute. Mr. Washburn says:

In what I have written I have tried to give the reader an idea of the assets, both material and moral, which Russia has at her disposal in the field during this campaign. If what I have said seems superficial and lacking in detail, it is because of the extremely limited facilities that have been given correspondents in this war. Russia is earnestly grappling with the greatest crisis in her entire history; and the consideration of publicity and the comprehension of what she is doing by the rest of the world is of so small importance in the eyes of the powers that be, that it has been all but overlooked.

Russia's Greatest Asset.

One who has seen and studied the army at first hand comes to feel a growing confidence in the future. This optimism, engendered by the observation of the machine, is solidified into conviction of ultimate success when one sees the Grand Duke Nicholas; for in this single personality, in the opinion of the writer, is contained a greater asset to Russia than in the rest of the army organization combined. When the smoke of battle has cleared away and the painstaking historian, in the seclusion of his study, reinforced by the perspective of time, come to write of this whole war, he will, I believe, put his finger upon the Grand Duke as perhaps the most remarkable single individual whom the year of 1914 has brought into the public eye.

An Absolute Autocrat.

The Grand Duke has supplied to this campaign elements that have made final success possible for the Russians. He is a big man with a far-reaching vision, political acumen, and a determination to wade steadily forward to victory irrespective of all obstacles and all temporary setbacks. He has had sufficient intuition of men's characters to surround himself at his headquarters with men of capacity. What he himself lacks he has realized and remedied by placing men about him who do possess it. His Chief of Staff is a masterly strategist, while in his other departments he has picked men each of whom is the best that Russia can produce. He, himself with an iron character and incomparable determination, binds the whole into a cohesive unit. In the army he is an absolute autocrat. He has one fixed idea, and that is the success of Russia, regardless of cost. For once, Russia has a Commander-in-Chief and a General Staff who have but one criterion and one standard--success and efficiency.

Drawing Germans On.

The Generalissimo is a big enough man to listen to others and, if need be, to change his mind even at the eleventh hour. I think he takes no great pride in dictating to others or in making the plans himself. If the programmes are good he cares not who has the credit, provided only that victory result. He is himself a soldier, and, I believe, understands the weakness and the strength of his own army and his own soldiers as does no other Russian general. He has sufficient moral strength to retreat if need be, regardless of what political effect a withdrawal may have. He realizes that his troops on the defensive are the peers of any soldiers in the world. Against the Austrians, who are outclassed by the

Russians, his campaign has ever been of the offensive type and almost universally successful. Whenever possible he had made the Germans come to him, and if one looks back over the last few months one comes to realize that his policy of drawing the Germans on and on, always weakening them and making them pay heavily for every foot of advance has cost the Germans more in men and moral than any operations that have taken place since the attacks aimed on Calais.

The Waiting Policy.

It is natural, I suppose, that the West should constantly call for a Russian general advance. But outside clamour has no effect whatever on this huge, well-poised Russian, living quietly with his staff in a special train in a little secluded grove on the plains of Western Russia. He knows perfectly well that it is but a question of time, be it one month or be it six, when the impetuosity and fury of the Germans will exhaust themselves and then will come the opportunity for the Russians to advance. Under the conditions of the past few months it would be as difficult to sweep the Germans out of Poland as it would be to drive them out of Flanders. In the meantime it is the Russian policy to let them dash themselves to bits against the wall of the Bzura-Rawka line. Each week increases the strength and the "tone" of the Russians and each week decreases the moral and physical assets of the Germans.

Patience Means Victory.

In the meantime the campaign in Russia is sapping the German armies and the German people of their life-blood. Their armies contain the very cream of their middle class--artisans, mechanics, small tradesmen, and even professional men and students serving in the ranks. Each costly advance is being bought by

the blood and the brains that have built up the great Teuton Empire. The Russians are losing, and no doubt heavily, but their losses are mostly of their peasant soldiers, losses which economically will not touch the industrial life of Russia in the slightest degree, even if she loses millions. It seems to the writer that the patient, waiting game that Russia is playing against Germany, is itself the greatest tribute to the Grand Duke's sagacity and to his fitness for leadership. With abiding faith in his army and in the future, and with an incredible amount of patience, he is playing his own game in a way that will ultimately mean victory.

The Work of Russia.

The policy of Russia is undoubtedly to weaken the Germans, absorbing as many of the Teuton Army Corps as possible on the Eastern front, while she proceeds patiently with her task of digesting the residue of the Austro-Hungarian armies. If Russia does this, and does it successfully, she is doing all that her allies should expect or demand of her. When Germany has been sapped to the dregs and her initiative broken, some one, be it in the east or in the west, may break through her lines and force the war home. Russia is setting systematically about this all-important task. Every corps absorbed on this eastern campaign of the Germans is just so many thousand men kept away from the western front, and every costly victory or still more costly repulse of the Teutons in Poland or in East Prussia is making the task just so much the lighter for the western allies.

Able to Absorb Defeat.

Neither the Press nor the public of Western Europe should experience undue anxiety over Russian withdrawals or alleged German victories. Russia has the men, the organization, and a limitless capacity for absorbing defeat which makes each temporary setback little but a stepping-stone to an ultimate advance. Above all she has a quiet, determined man at the helm of her General Staff who intends to win this war if it takes the last round and the last peasant soldier that Russia possesses.

WORLD'S PAPERS ON THE WAR

As the Turks are already on the water wagon, there is nothing for them to give up except cigarettes and pologamy.--Chicago News.

Holland is not a war with Germany, but so far as its merchant shipping is concerned, it might just as well be, and couldn't be any worse off if it were.--Philadelphia Inquirer.

Germany protests that she has an ample food supply. She also declares that if Great Britain shuts off food importation the German civil population will starve. You pay your money and takes your choice.--Pittsburg Gazette-Times.

The Russian newspapers that are telling the nation bystanders that Austria's chances are dwindling and that if they desire any additional territory they had better give a hand to Russia immediately, are in effect saying, "Come on in now; the water is fine."--Montreal Gazette.

The British people, as they observe even the limited success with which the German tactics are meeting, naturally desire that effective steps shall be taken by way of reprisal with the least possible delay. Since that the enemy merits no such early days of war, we have learned consideration as we have always extended to our foes in the past.--London Daily Telegraph.

When Germany laid the hand of government on food supplies it seemingly overlooked the effect such action had already produced upon its own ability to obtain supplies from neutrals. Of course, Germany, engaged in war with the greater part of Europe and with the allies in command of the sea, was in a "tighter place" than England was or is in this respect, and it had no time for commissions to report and investigate.--New York Times.

In the struggle with Napoleon, when the British navy commanded the sea, the price of wheat for the year 1801 averaged 119s. and actually reached 12s. 6d. in 1812. The British people are paying less than half as much to-day, though two of the main sources of supply--Australia and Russia--have failed.--London Daily Mail.

Is the Kaiser a mere potentate or a puppet? If he is what the world has always taken him to be, the dominant figure in his empire, then, working against war like a man "filled

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Teutonic Ideals A World Menace

Danish Professor Shows Up German Methods

The following translation is an extract from an article by Professor J. P. Bang, of Copenhagen University, originally published in the "Danish Kirketidende" ("Danish Church News"). Professor Bang is a keen admirer of English life and customs, with which he is familiar; and as he is equally familiar with German history and character, his views are of value and interest.

People talk as if it was something new for so-called Christian States to make war on each other, and yet it is only a hundred years since nearly the whole Christian world was at war. Notwithstanding, Christianity survived that catastrophe, just as it mightily survive the one we now witness; indeed, it blossomed again with new power, which showed itself particularly in the steadily increasing zeal and self-sacrifice with which Christianity grappled with the giant task of world-wide missions.

No, what is shaken at times like these is what is called "official" Christianity; what damages Christianity is the fact that people, now that the great calamity has fallen upon the world, not only fight individually as each best may for what they consider to be their rights, at any rate, for their nation's right of existence as an independent people, but also use the name of Christ to call down the curse of God upon their adversaries. It is this which is horrible, and it is this which is noticeable especially on the side of one of the combatants, the German-Austrian-Turkish Alliance, with whom it does not seem to make the least difference that the God whose vengeance is invoked is in the one case the Father of Jesus Christ, and in the other Allah, whose prophet Mohammed is, and for whom the Holy War, in his worshippers' belief, signifies the destruction of Christendom.

Each individual will form his own conclusions about the character of the world war, and his own hopes about its result. One of the first thoughts to occur to one is at least so it seems to me--the clear connection between 1914 and 1864. It is a matter of course for a Dane to look at matters from this point of view. The world war broke out just 50 years after 1864. And as in 1864 it was a war against the same two great powers: Germany (1864 Prussia) and Austria. In 1864 we were left to ourselves, and, therefore, were obliged to buckle under. Whatever else may be thought about it, this much is certain--that this was the first step on Bismarck's journey towards the creation of the great military power which since then has been the disturbing factor in the world.

Worship of Teutonism
For many years I have studied the German nature; I have seen it in its empty self-glorification in words and in print, have followed it in its expression in action in North Schleswig. I feel not the shadow of a doubt about the terrible consequences which would result for us all from the victory of which the Germans are so certain--yes, and I really believe for their Turks, their allies. Wherever I turn, whatever German paper I take up, everywhere I come across the same theme--the worship of Teutonism and ever-growing, ever wilder hatred of the enemy, specially Belgium and England, which, if Germany is lucky enough to get the chance, will assuredly show itself in the wildest acts of revenge, as the bombardment of open English coast towns has

with some great religious emotion, he could have found means to make his work effective. He could have bent his ministers and his generals to his imperial will. There would have been no war. If he is a mere puppet, mastered and overborne by the war party in Berlin, why, then, there is a case for another reevaluation.--New York Times.

An intelligent and high-souled people like the Germans need no emperor; they could govern themselves better than any man can govern them, and real self-government they have not. Is it possible that such

Belgium's guilt has been proved again--at Berlin. The only trouble is that it does not stay proved.--Providence Journal.

Lord Kitchener's statement that war will begin in May leads one to wonder what has been going on in Europe thus far.--New Haven Journal-Courier.

The length of the war depends on what Germany is able to do in putting new troops in the field to stave off the inevitable invasion.--Toronto Mail and Empire.

This may be hard on Great Britain, but there is no such thing as an unmixed evil. Nothing is heard nowadays of the militant suffragettes.--Baltimore American.

Russia has ordered a million horse-shoes from a Pennsylvania concern. Germany should retort by ordering a million rabbit feet from the south.--Chicago Herald.

Far be it from us to doubt the German chancellor's statement that his people love the Belgians, but we shudder to think of their fate should the Teutons ever get mad at them.--Nashville Southern Lumberman.

Isn't it great to be neutral? Mines have sunk eight Swedish, five Norwegian, six Danish and three Dutch ships. Scandinavia should get a Nobel peace prize.--Cleveland Plain Dealer.

"I really believe the pen is mightier than the sword."
"How so?"
"What the sword accomplishes the pen of the censor strikes out."--Louisville Courier-Journal.

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Glory of ships that sought far goals,
Glory of swords and glory of souls;
Glory of songs mounting as birds,
Glory of immortal of magic words;
Glory of Milton, glory of Nelson,
Tragic glory of Gordon and Scott,
Glory of Shelley, glory of Sidney,
Glory transcendent that perishes not;
Hers is the glory, hers be the glory--
ENGLAND!

Shatter her beauteous breast ye may,
The Spirit of England none can slay,
Dash the bomb on the dome of St. Paul's,
Deem ye the fame of the Admiral falls?

Pry the stone from the chancel floor,
Dread ye that Shakespeare shall live no more?
Where is the giant shot that kills Wordworth walking the old green hills?

Trample the red rose on the ground,
Kneads its Beauty while Earth spins 'round;
Bind her, grind her, burn her with fire,
Cast her ashes into the sea;
She shall escape, she shall aspire,
She shall arise to make men free;

She shall arise in a sacred scorn,
Lighting the lives that are yet unborn,
Spirit of England, splendour eternal--
ENGLAND!
--Helen Grey Connel, the Atlantic.

Foreign Missions Endangered in Persia

New York, April 1.--The Persian war relief committee, with headquarters in this city, to-day received the following cablegram from Tiflis, Russia:

"All villages burned except three. Two Christian quarters of Urmiah plundered and a great many people killed. Women taken captives. Fifteen thousand refugees in the American mission. Great danger."

"The French mission has been destroyed. There are 10,000 refugees in Russia."

The message was signed by Astanoff, a Russian contractor of Tiflis. Urmiah is in north-western Persia, not far distant from the Russian border. A previous despatch from Djulfa, Persia, received here March 21, was to the effect that the Turkish consul at Urmiah, at the head of 70 Askaris, recently attacked the American mission there. Priests and deacons upon being ordered to leave the mission were insulted and beaten. It was stated in the despatch. Russian troops, it was also said, had been sent for to save the lives of Christians whom the mission was unable to protect.

An idea is beginning to take root in their minds?--New York Times.

An American correspondent abroad declares that the course pursued by this country with respect to the war has not pleased the belligerents on either side. Which might be cited as the best available evidence that this country has pursued the correct course.--New Orleans Times-Picayune.

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