

submarines she might succeed in operating effective and complete blockade of the British coasts. Her project was to isolate Britain from the rest of the world and to paralyze her vast commerce and commercial industry which constitute the most reliable base of the whole financial credit of the Allies. So much faith had they in their method, that the German press proclaimed loudly in advance that Britain, threatened by famine, should soon be compelled to seek an ignominious peace. But this scalp dance of their reptile press was premature.

They forgot the proverb that one should not sell the skin of the beast while he is still roaming wild in the woods; and that that was specially applicable to the skin of the British Lion whose whelps were rushing to take their part in the fray. The loud presumptuous German bluff ended only in the most humiliating fiasco, and in augmenting the book of German crimes by a few more ineffaceable pages of infamy.

The economic life of Britain has not been in the least affected by the blockade, made up of paper and pretence, against the English ports. Far from it. This abortive war against our commercial navigation, instead of diminishing our merchant marine, has had the effect of actually increasing its tonnage. After deduction of all losses, the British commercial marine, since the opening of the war, finds itself increased by 139,000 tons, the French by 31,000, the Russian by 92,000, and the Italian by 21,000 tons.

And while the allied merchant marines have received these augmentations, the commercial fleet of Germany has been diminished by 1,054,266 tons, being a loss of 20 per cent. That of Austria has been reduced by 81,952 tons, being a loss of 9 per cent. And it is worth while remarking that these figures were established on the 25th of August last, that is to say, previous to our recent and fruitful ship-hunting campaign in the Baltic.

The naval preponderance of Britain has enabled us to deal such blows to German pride as have touched the enemy in his most cherished and sensitive part.

For the German Empire has no longer a colony of its own, and it has been unable to lay violent hands on a single one of our valuable colonies, which it had coveted for so long, and which a rapid and decisive victory in Europe would have given it, as it hoped, the right to seize and demand.

It shall not have the Belgian or the French Congo, about which it had even the effrontery to speak, while huckstering for the neutrality of Britain; nor Senegal, nor our West Africa, nor our North Africa, nor Madagascar, nor Indo-China.

And not only have the East Indies and South Africa remained loyal to Britain, and failed to rebel as expected by Germany, but