

**STIRRING WORDS FROM RT. HON. A. J. BALFOUR**  
(Continued from page 2)

over events than they now seem to think was possible, and not a man would have been moved, not a single soldier would have been mobilized, not a life would have been lost between the Ural Mountains and the Bay of Biscay. Unfortunately for them, and unfortunately also for the world, they did not foresee, they wholly miscalculated, and they have plunged us and civilization into a war which for its character, for the utter destruction of life and property, and which before it closes, it will yet produce, has no parallel in the annals of mankind. This is my first ground of confidence. An enemy which has miscalculated for a year may perhaps miscalculate until the end of the war.

**The Allies Mutual Trust**

What is my second ground of confidence? It is the Allies. (Cheers.) Notoriously a war carried on by separate states and by different Governments widely divided by seas and continents, is a war which is carried on under some inherent and inevitable difficulties. The only thing that can overcome these difficulties is mutual confidence, mutual trust, mutual belief, and all these things we and all our Allies possess in unmeasured degree. (Cheers.) Each one of us knows that he cannot be true to himself unless he is true also to the others. Each one of us knows that not only the fortunes of the world, but the fortunes of his own separate and particular state are bound up, irretrievably and irremediably bound up, with the success of the other. Each one of us knows that that feeling is shared by the others, and each of us admires the gallantry, the self devotion, and bravery with which the other is carrying on his part in this great common adventure. (Cheers.)

I do not think it necessary to speak at large upon those who are warring with us this great contest. Serbia, whose gallantry will remain on the historic page as almost a unique instance of what a small nation can do against overwhelming odds (Cheers) Italy (Cheers) the latest of our Allies; Belgium (prolonged cheering) whose pathetic fate and whose indomitable heroism have illuminated the tragedy of this war; France (loud cheers) whose feats of arms at this moment have moved to praise and astonishment even those who knew France best, and who hoped most from her.

And of all the German miscalculations was there a worse one than this? Did they not suppose that in the unhappy war of 1870 they had dealt the blow to their enemy which would chill that military enthusiasm which has carried the French to so many glorious victories in the past? (Cheers) Did they not suppose that that clan of the French soldier would be somewhat dimmed, somewhat checked, by the memory of defeats of which present generations have not lost personal memory? They did think so, but they were completely wrong in that as in so many other things (Cheers.) Never in its greatest and most glorious days has the French Army shown more of its great qualities of heroism and dash, and of power to attack and of the power when necessary of resistance of attack than it has shown in the last twelve months (Cheers.) And though the part played by Japan in this war has in its most striking aspect come to an end with the completion of the task which the Japanese had set themselves in the far East, they have shown on other occasions, how great is their power of self-devoted patriotism, and what they had it in their power to do when the occasion presented itself. (Cheers)

**The Heroism of Russia**

And Russia? (Cheers) What shall I say of Russia? I know no spectacle more moving of a generous spirit than that presented by this contest between men and munitions now going on in the East of Europe. Was there ever heroism greater than that which has been shown by the Russian soldier power of resistance more splendid power of attack more brilliant? Shall we look forward with anything but absolute and supreme confidence to the time when the artificial military inequalities between Russia and her Western neighbor are smoothed away, when the Russian soldier will meet the German soldier on equal terms as regards armaments? (Cheers.) Do we not know that when that day of retribution comes all that Russia has suffered and is suffering now will be repaid by her final and overwhelming triumph? (Cheers.)

What then about ourselves? Have we played our part? Are we playing our part in this world tragedy? I have hesitation myself in the answer which I propose to give. I look back for a few hours more than the twelve months which have just come to a close. At that moment it seemed to hang, it perhaps did hang in the balance, whether this country should join those with whom she was bound, not by treaty, but by friendship, in sup-

porting the common rights of humanity. It hung in the balance or it seemed to hang in the balance, and the world watched and doubted and feared. But the decision was come to—the right decision. (Loud Cheers) And in my opinion you might search the records of history in vain to find a more critical decision taken by any governors of men, so far as the future of humanity was concerned. It was a critical moment in civilization, and the decision taken by the Government of this country at that time in my judgement saved civilization. (Loud cheers.)

**Britain's Sea Power**

How, you may ask me, could the decision taken by a government at that time who could send at the most no more than 100,000 or 150,000 men to the Continent; how could that decision make a difference when the embattled armies of the world are only in terms of army corps. I think you could show—I am sure you could show—that if Great Britain had not then joined in the great struggle, all her anticipation of Germany—in Germany's most sanguine mood—would have been accomplished and more than accomplished.

Why do I say that? Picture to yourself if you will what the condition of Western Europe and the Mediterranean would have been if the German fleet had ridden triumphant in the North Sea, in the Atlantic, and in the Mediterranean when war broke out afterwards. I do not believe the struggle would have been possible to our Allies. I wish to set no limits to the power which great and valiant nations will display—the resources which, in times of difficulty and stress, they may suddenly develop; but I ask you only to consider how we should have been situated if France had been cut off from England on the North, from her own colonies on the south, if no over-sea trade could have reached her shores, if she could not have brought in the raw materials of her manufacture of munitions. I ask you how Italy would have been situated if, with that immense seaboard which she possesses her territory had lain in the midst of hostile fleets of overwhelming strength, if she had also been cut off from all outside trade, how could the war have gone on? Look at it as you will, all possibility of carrying on that war depended for its foundation upon the superiority at sea of the Allied fleets. The Allied fleets would not have been superior at sea had we in an unhappy moment of blindness and folly kept out of the contest, which we might have pretended to ourselves with some plausibility was not an immediate and pressing concern of ours. It would have been fatal in the long run to us, but it would have been fatal immediately and within a few months to those whom we are now proud to call our Allies. (Cheers.)

**Cause of World Freedom**

I am not belittling believe me, in the least any of the great things which have been done, are being done, and anything yet to be done by those with whom we are working and by whose side we are fighting when I say the whole basis of the structure of defence absolutely depends on the fact that through these months the Allies had the superiority at sea, and that superiority was secured to them by the British fleet. (Cheers) It could not be secured in any other way. Have any of you thought, looking back over history, how intolerable would be the fate of the world if the supremacy of the sea was held by a nation who not only had military supremacy on land, but intended to use its power and avowedly used the power for acquiring dominance over the whole globe? It would be a tyranny such as we have not known. The world has been saved from it by the fact that predominance at sea has never been in the same hands as the military predominance which has more than once threatened the world. That is why, when universal history comes to be written, it will be recognized that in the development of free institutions, and the civilization which depends upon free institutions, England has not merely set an example at home by her own political action within her own limits, not only shown an example of what constitutional freedom is in those great dominions which are the glory and the security and the greatness of the Empire, but has ministered to and protected that freedom and the freedom of all the world by the fact that she possessed, and prevented great military powers from possessing, that dominance at sea which in their hands would have been and could have been only an instrument of international tyranny. (Cheers.)

I have dwelt, perhaps you will think that it may even be that I was bound to dwell upon the greatness of the service done by the British fleet to the nation to which it belongs, and to many other nations which look to it as their protection. Well, that may be so. But if this were the occasion to deal with the whole of the maritime problems of this country I could dwell yet longer upon this theme, and I should not forget, and I hope you will not forget, the services done to us not

by the fighting forces of the Crown, but by the great body of the mercantile marine upon whom we depend for our daily bread. (Cheers.) One of the miscalculations of our opponents was that by a system of piracy they would not merely destroy but that they would frighten. (Ironic laughter.) They have not destroyed as much as they hoped, and they have not frightened at all. (Cheers.) But the fact that they have not frightened is not due to any forbearance on their part; it is due to the inherent spirit of gallantry and endurance which makes our mercantile marines go out upon its daily avocations as indifferent to the chances of life and death as if they belonged to one of the great military services of the country. (Cheers.)

But, connected though I be primarily with the Admiralty, I must say something about that heroic body of men—our soldiers who are upholding British honor in the fields of Flanders and in the Mediterranean. (Cheers.) I am told there are some—I do not think there can be many—who take the view that the exertions made by this country, by Canada, Australia, New Zealand, and India—(Cheers)—fall short of what might have been expected—I do not think there are many who hold this view, for I recollect when we were told twelve months ago that we should be doing all that was required of us if we sent a corporal's guard with the British flag to the scene of war and gave our moral blessing to the enterprise of the Allies. (Laughter.)

What has happened? We never professed, and those who valued our assistance knew that we never professed, to be masters of a great standing army. We said we would send out the 100,000 or 150,000 men to whom I have already referred, and that offer was most gratefully accepted. What has happened? The casualties, the loss by death and wounds of the gallant men who have gone to the front, is, if I am not mistaken, twice the amount of the original force which we promised to send. And that force, I need hardly tell you, has only not been diminished by these great losses, it is far stronger than ever, and is growing daily in strength. (Cheers.) It is a curious figure which I looked into today, but it is a fact that the casualties—the losses by death and wounds in the British Army—since the war began are more than twice all the losses by death and wounds suffered by the Germans in the war against France in 1870—more than twice.

**Our Military Resources**

I know that what we have done has not fallen short, but has far exceeded what was expected of us, but what we have done is only part of what we are going to do. (Cheers.) We have not yet shot our bolt. We have not yet been able to put forth our full strength on land. We had to create a new army; we have created a new army; we are still creating a new army. (Cheers.) Putting aside for the moment all that the navy has done, ignoring the all-important part it has played, let those who consider only the military aspect of the question wait until the end. Let them weigh what we have done and they will be in a position to judge what we shall do when we promise yet more. We see before us Germany gradually coming within sight—I do not say it is near—but coming within sight of her last resources to keep up her full numbers. We are not yet in sight of our full numbers—(Cheers)—and for my own part, as I am confident that the historians will say that this country has played its part and its full part in maritime matters so they will say it has not in any sense fallen short of what it could do in military matters, while it has far exceeded anything which any of the critics or any of its friends expected it would do. (Cheers.)

I referred to the greatness of our losses compared with the losses suffered even in the very great wars of bygone times, and we know by our personal experience how heavy they are. I doubt whether there will be one man or one woman whom I am addressing this evening who has not lost either a near friend or near friend, sometimes many near friends and many near relations, in this colossal struggle. I do not mourn their fate. They died a great death for a great cause, for what I deem the greatest of all causes, the freedom of mankind from alien domination. We should all, every one of us, gladly die in that great cause.

**Confidence in the Future**

I am not going to indulge in any invective against our opponents. I suppose most of them did what they were told because they were told. A good reason. I suppose that their rulers have deluded themselves into the belief that Germany and the Germans were so great, so good, so exceptional that to be dominated by a German was the highest privilege which an inferior race could hope to enjoy in this bad world. (Laughter.) But we, who are the immortal champions of freedom, can take no such view. We know ourselves to be engaged in a great cause. We have made great sacrifices

in the past, we look with a firm and unflinching eyes to the future; we are determined to see this fight to a good end; and our determination is shared in every part of the British Empire, as it is by every one of our Allies. (Cheers.)

May I, then, ask you to agree to the resolution which I am about to read? It embodies, I am certain, the finer thought, the inner hopes of every one. It has been read, is perhaps at this moment being read, in every part of the United Kingdom; it is being moved in Canada, in Australia, in New Zealand, in South Africa, in India—wherever the British flag flies. Wherever British love of justice is realized and loved, there this resolution is being read; it is the common aspiration of our race; it represents the cause for which we are ready to do everything and I now beg to put it before you, and Sir Robert Borden (Cheers) will second it, he feeling, as I feel, that in no more forcible or more concise language could we express our hope, our determination, our beliefs, and our ideals than in these words. I therefore beg to move.

That on this anniversary of the declaration of a righteous war this meeting of the people of London records its inflexible determination to continue to a victorious end the struggle in the maintenance of those ideals of liberty and justice which are the common and the sacred cause of all the Allies.

**THE WONDER OF IT**

To the Editor:—The following from the White Ribbon Tidings should be spread as widely and repeated as often as possible till we profit by example.

"Although Russia is at war it seems in many respects to be enjoying a new heaven and a new earth. The treasuries of the savings banks are bulging. During the eight months ending April 1st, 1914, the increase in the savings amounted to only \$3,250,000. Then the war came on with its unprecedented expenses, but prohibition is the order of the day in all Russia and during the eight months from October 1st, 1914, to April 1st, 1915, the increase in the savings banks has amounted to \$130,000,000 or forty times as much as before prohibition.

The effect on the health of the nation has been just as marvellous. The falling off in diseases, especially those caused by alcohol or, those to which alcohol contributes has fallen off seventy per cent.

From July to December, 1913, there were in Petrograd alone 97 suicides, but between the same dates in 1914 suicides were reduced to 14. In Warsaw during the same periods, suicides were reduced from 419 to 205. Facts like these must rouse people to shake off the use of this deadly drug.

But the liquor interest have employed the most clever writers to deny the truth of these facts. We must remember that temperance people have nothing to gain by the welfare of the nation while the liquor men are fighting to retain this money making monopoly.

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London, July 28.—All the jails and prisons in Great Britain have been turned in manufactories of war material since the outbreak of hostilities. The ordinary prison work has been suspended wherever possible, and both males and female prisoners have been given employment on war work. The interest in the work has been so great according to a statement from the home office, that the output has been more than double that of peace times.

The government declines information as to the exact character of the work being performed, but it is stated that "several millions of useful articles have been made for the front."

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