



The above scene on the wharf at Ostend, Belgium, depicts something of the desolate sorrow that the war-time Christmas will bring millions of the women and children of the belligerent nations

### The Magnitude of the War.

With the addition of Turkey and Portugal to the ranks of the belligerents, the area of hostilities has been extended to approximately 58 per cent. of the land surface of the globe, and about 56 per cent. of the total population of the earth must be classed as technically belligerent, says the "London Daily Chronicle".

In round numbers, out of a total land surface of 51,500,000 square miles (excluding the uninhabitable regions in the Arctic and Antarctic) 30,000,000 square miles is occupied by the eleven belligerent powers, and about 1,000,000,000 of the 1,860,000,000 human beings on earth are directly involved in the Great War.

Apportioning the area and population between the two opposing groups, there will be found a vast preponderance of both on the side of Great Britain and her Allies, which own 27,500,000 square miles and have about 840,000,000 people under their rule, compared with the 2,000,000 square miles and 160,000,000 people to the credit of Germany, Austria-Hungary and Turkey.

If the affected areas be analyzed by continents it will be found that in Europe 3,040,000 square miles out of a total area of 3,850,000 and 380,000,000 people out of 475,000,000—or nearly 80 per cent. in both cases—are at war.

In Asia the belligerent area amounts to 9,300,000 square miles (leaving out of account the interior of Arabia—a political no man's land about a million square miles in area) the total area of the continent being about 16,500,000 square miles. Hence over 56 per cent. is at war. Of the population of Asia 475,000,000 out of 980,000,000—say 48½ per cent.—must be classed as belligerent. Africa is, proportionately, even more affected than Europe. About 10,500,000 square miles out of 11,000,000 (nearly 90 per cent.) and 125,000,000 of the 137,000,000 inhabitants—over 90 per cent. are at war.

South America occupies the happiest position of all. Out of an area of 7,500,000 square miles and a population of about 52,500,000, only 128,500 square miles of territory and 350,000 human beings are directly subjected to war conditions. The percentage of area is less than two, and of population less than one.