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## Mobilization of British Columbia Industry for War

**Production of Ammunition and Other Munitions Determining Factor in this War—Necessity of Employing Every Factory for its Output—Where British Columbia Factories Could Help.**

When the war broke out a year ago it was generally supposed that it would be short, sharp and decisive. Financiers were saying that Germany could not stand a prolonged struggle, and that she must collapse from financial exhaustion within a comparatively short time. A year has passed and all over the British Empire consecration meetings were held for the purpose of seeing the Empire through to a victorious close. All during that year the purpose of the Allies has been to hold the enemy, and prepare for an offensive. The Dual Alliance has given the only determined offensive, and although held on the western line have made uncomfortable and serious advances on the eastern line, where at present writing they do not appear to have been stayed.

During this year of conflict ideas of war have been radically changed. The rifle in the hands of the individual soldier is no longer a determining factor except for purposes of assault. The machine gun is rapidly replacing it. In fact the position of infantry as such is giving way to the artillery. The offensive weapon of to-day is the high-powered, high-explosive shell gun after the French pattern and the heavy siege gun. Under the present system of trench warfare even shrapnel has lost its efficacy.

It is asserted that the British Empire has now under arms, ready to fight or in training, nearly four million men. With the male population of France in the army or in the munition factories and the huge population of Russia that are available if they could be equipped, and Italy with a million and a half men trained and equipped, the problem of soldiers is not so serious as is constantly asserted.

We do not know the real reason for the failure of the forward movement in May last to materialize, but a fairly safe conjecture would be that it was not due to a lack of men trained and ready, but to the lack of munitions of war—guns and ammunition.

What is the situation in Germany? Germany, before

the war started, was the second country in the production of iron and steel in the world, the United States being first. That production was so adjusted that within a very short period the whole could be turned into the making of munitions of war. This was the jump, so to speak, that Germany had on the Allies. Within twenty days of the outbreak of war the large blast furnace capacity and steel-making capacity, together with what ammunition factories Belgium possessed, were in the hands of the enemy and in a short time were turning out munitions for the enemy.

Within sixty days from the outbreak of war Germany was in possession of 80 per cent. of the coal producing area of France, of 75 per cent. of the blast furnace capacity of France, and 65 per cent. of the steel-making capacity of France. All these coal mines and iron and steel factories could not have been so crippled that an ingenious people, such as the Germans are, could not repair and bring them into production. The handicap which France is laboring under is manifest, yet she was producing up to last May more munitions than all the other Allies together.

The political explosion last June in England has worked wonders; yet at this writing it is doubtful if the armament and ammunition capacity of the Allies totals the output of the German factories or those under their control. The handicap is being overcome under the mobilization of industry in Britain, but the mobilization of the industry of the British Empire has not been effected, and it is essential that it should be mobilized at the earliest

possible date. We are in the midst of a prolonged war, incalculably costly in blood and wealth. It can and must end in only one way, by giving our soldiers guns and ammunition in such quantities that a perpetual bombardment can be kept on all positions of the enemy until they are destroyed. The duration of the war will be determined by the quantity of munitions that is belched forth upon the enemy until they are conquered.

As part of the British Empire in the mobilization of industry the Dominion is doing no small part, but the Dominion has by no means reached the capacity of her factories for turning out shells and other munitions, and very little has been done in extending those facilities. There are yet

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