

PREFACE.

THE matter contained herein is written to substantiate the oft repeated phrases made by Socialists that War is a result of the conflict of economic interests of the countries involved. While it is the easiest thing in the world to take the position of defending any of the belligerents in the great war as to the justness of their cause from the national viewpoint, with all the superficial phraseology and sentimental humbug and idealism, we have arrived at that point of human development resulting from the development of the machinery of wealth production, that the workers should realize, no matter what side wins the wars of the future they stand to lose.

The antagonism between Germany and Britain did not arise until Germany became a great trade rival.

I have endeavored to show that financial trail which dominated the actions of the diplomats, previous to the war, manœuvring from time to time as the economic interests of their respective countries dictated. France was the enemy until 1904, and I have pointed out why the hostility of Britain and France ceased.

Since writing the material in the following articles, I have just read a book, "For Efficiency," by Arnold White, written in 1902, and as he has advocated a policy which has been followed and confirmed by the facts contained in the following chapters it is necessary that I should quote him in this introduction.

He says, p. 52-53: "Fortune has favored Britain in war, . . . she has been unkind to France.

"England beat France out of India, drove her from Canada, destroyed her power on the seas, manœuvred her out of Egypt, captured the Suez Canal which De Lesseps had created, remained unharmed by the Panama disaster, and issued victorious from the Fashoda incident. Is there any wonder that Frenchmen are not enamoured with England?. . . . Nevertheless, there is no insurmountable barrier between the two peoples."

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