

# A REVIEW OF THE PRESENT WAR SITUATION

(Continued from page four)

strength throughout the masses of their banded nations. This is accepted in general terms, but let us think what it means in detail. Let us see, at least, what it means for us in Britain.

## WHY BRITAIN NEEDS 4,000,000 MEN.

First, as to fighting men. Let us clear our minds on some points of military organization at home. We need at least 4,000,000 men. That figure is now almost universally accepted, though THE OBSERVER, was the first, so far as we are aware, to make that estimate. Certain considerations prevent us from showing fully on what calculations that reckoning is based. Some broad reasons are obvious enough. It is not known that recently we have largely extended the length of front we were holding in France. During the coming months we must extend the British-manned trenches again, until from the sea to a point deep in the northern departments of France we hold a hundred miles of line. That this, in view of the ultimate necessities of an Allied offensive, ought to mean at least a million and a-quarter of British troops on the Western line, with as many in reserve behind them at home, is what any soldier can calculate.

As for the Dardanelles, it is a matter of life and death for the whole future of the British Empire in the East to do our work in the Ottoman Empire thoroughly, whether by the present Gallipoli expedition alone or by collateral operations. We have always been in favour, as our readers are aware, of the collateral operations. If the nation were wise it would fasten with might and main upon the problem of capturing Constantinople and opening the Black Sea. We began on Gallipoli with military numbers far below the requirements of that grim task. For ensuring the proper result of the war by attacking the Central Empires through the Balkans, on what we have ventured to call the Middle Front, in conjunction with some of our present and future allies, we ought to have as much as half a million British troops in the East, with again as many in reserve behind them at home. It sounds a very big effort, but nothing less than efforts of quite unusual bigness will bring Germany and her partners to the ground, no matter how long the war lasts. Apart from that, it is thought necessary by most authorities to keep in this country over half a million men exclusively for home defence.

These are the broad reasons for our assertion that we need at least 4,000,000 men in Khaki. It is understood that Lord Kitchener, by an immense achievement, has obtained some three-quarters of that number or more by voluntary service. A definite statement on that point would have a profound effect at home and abroad. It would strengthen Lord Kitchener's personal position, as well as that of the Government and the country, to an extent far outweighing, in our view, any object that can be gained by a continuance of a secrecy which does not deceive the enemy in the least, but only spreads doubt, dissension and depression amongst ourselves whilst perplexing our Allies. On what system, voluntarily or obligatorily, are we to raise the rest of the men we require? That is the question which still needs to be very carefully handled, and we deal with it specially elsewhere. Here we need only emphasize two considerations.

Lord Kitchener has not the least intention of being remembered as the man who, by slowness and inadequacy, lost the greatest of wars. We may be certain that he means to get by hook or by crook the rest of the men he requires, and that he will shrink from nothing to obtain them as they are needed. We have to remember what is the actual situation and to distinguish between prime and secondary necessities. Wars are won by the numbers of equipped men in the field, not by the numbers, however large, of un-equipped or half-equipped men in training. It is of cardinal importance to awaken the whole country to the extent of the effort required—to schedule, enrol and form as soon as possible every man of the 4,000,000 ultimately required for the purposes we have sketched. But it is an immediate importance far greater still to equip fully and to put into the actual fighting lines, West and East, another half-million of the men we already have. Both purposes, fuller enrolment and fuller mobilisation for the war abroad, are vital, but the second must obviously take precedence.

## SPEEDING THE OUTPUT OF MUNITIONS.

In other words, increased output of munitions is still a more pressing problem than increased recruiting of men. It may be hoped that Mr. Lloyd George at no distant date will find means to make a full statement on that subject. If it is inadvisable to make it from the platform or from the Treasury bench, with reporters in the gallery, it ought to be made in a secret session of the House of Commons. It is not too much to say that if among all the larger numbers of men we have already recruited we could put even 2,000,000 men in the field in Europe—with their machine-guns, bombs, and the enormous supplies of battering ammunition required to sustain not merely for days, but for weeks together, a ceaseless and overwhelming storm of explosive—we should be in sight of definite victory within six months. Extraordinary progress with the output of munitions of all kinds is still far and away the first essential for the winning of the war. That all real hindrances in Mr. Lloyd George's path must be swept away the country is entirely resolved. It is as determined to support Mr. Lloyd George in one sphere as Lord Kitchener in the other, and it knows that the task before the Minister of Munitions is now the more difficult of the two.

There is no doubt that Mr. Lloyd George was hampered for some time, and may still be for all we know, by the incurable pedantry of officials stiffened in the tradition of the War Office before Lord Kitchener's time and unable to realize that where the output of prodigious quantities is required the best way is the enemy of the good. What we mean is soon explained, and it is important to grasp it. As soon as massed production on standardized principles is involved, commercial quality can only be obtained by some sacrifice of what we may call ideal quality. The Germans long ago realized this point; their hurricans of more roughly-made shells was tolerably effective, and we ought not to be ashamed to imitate them. A good deal of killing effect can be secured without superfluous finish. Of all George Eliot's mediocre poetry one somehow remembers the lines—

"In fighting for dear life, men choose their swords  
For use only, not for ornament."

When the struggle began the War Office authorities had little first hand acquaintance with the business conditions of manufacture by large private firms. In times of peace munitions were turned out as slowly and carelessly as microwaves, either by Woolwich itself or by a few firms in intimate association with it. When the war started and speed of output became a vital necessity, the conditions should have been made somewhat less stringent, rigid and meticulous, as a larger area of national industry was brought into play. This could have been done, as is now admitted, to a degree which, without any perceptible difference to the efficiency of the munitions, would have brought ability to make them within the competence of the largest number of firms. Instead of that, the Woolwich specifications laid down requirements of mathematical ac-

curacy which no ordinary commercial establishment could work to. What, we may ask, must have been the feelings of large engineering firms, starting for the first time on the manufacture of munitions, when they found themselves summoned to be correct in a certain matter to within three thousandths of an inch? Until recently, Woolwich, with an inexplicable obstinacy of adherence to its sacred routine, insisted upon a rigidity of specification which made output on a sufficiently large scale almost impossible.

Upon the present position of this and other questions, especially the organization of labor, business direction and supervision, the country longs for a statement from Mr. Lloyd George himself. Until the country at large, or the two Houses in secret session, know how the whole industrial organization of Britain is responding to the stupendous, the inconceivable demand for munitions on all kinds, Parliament and the nation will be arguing in the dark upon other matters. Is Mr. Lloyd George getting all the support he was entitled to expect in the work where more may depend than upon all other things put together? That is the point upon which we ought to be satisfied on behalf of the Government as a whole when Parliament meets again for more earnest, ordered and powerful debates than have yet been heard since the war began.

## THE STIMULUS OF INVENTION.

There are some other questions concerning technical production on which the country desires to be satisfied. What of the progress of the Flying Services in this war? The ideal which must be one of our main objectives in this war is the mastery of the air? We do not want details which would be a source of information to the enemy, but short of that much might be said. Mr. Balfour, for instance, has not told either us or the enemy how many German submarines have been sunk or taken, or in what manner or where. But the Admiralty has, nevertheless, found means to satisfy the nation that for all main intents the submarine menace has been splendidly mastered by one of the most notable achievements in the annals of the British Fleet. In the same general way and without precise particulars we ought to know for certain that the flying services are being developed in the spirit of the sea-war with the vigour and success upon which the nation has set its heart.

Finally, there is the matter of military inventions. Following Mr. Balfour's example when he set up the Naval Committee under Lord Fisher, Mr. Lloyd George has formed his Board of Experts, and Lord Kitchener in the same respect is no doubt equally competent. The nation is ever yet by no means convinced that all the scientific and technical ability which could be enlisted has yet been brought to bear upon this subject. We need every apt brain that can be secured. We need the fullest possible supply of fresh suggestions and the sifting of that supply by alert and receptive minds. This tendency of the War Office throughout the times of peace and in the first stages at least of the present struggle—this is one of the ways in which Lord Kitchener was hampered by the stagnation and traditions of the Department as he found it—was to look assistance at every new thing and to "turn down" every original proposal.

The bias ought to be all the other way. Suggestions of new devices and methods ought to be looked at not with a sceptical predisposition to reject them, but with a living desire to discover something valuable and perhaps priceless where under present conditions there is quite certain to be pure gold to discover amidst all the dross that is offered. As we have said again and again, important is not the technical side of weapons of all wars and numbers that have been waged since palaeolithic man first threw an un-worked flint. There is hardly an offensive or defensive device since the earliest ages from which effective ideas may not be drawn by modern science. There the Germans have been ahead, because in all their years of preparation their military pigeon-holes had become full of notes and patents.

The enemy may not have got even yet to the bottom of this bag of tricks, but there has been distinct evidence of late tendencies of many agencies to the bag. The Germans depended so far as they could, on preparation, not on improvisation. Now, in the opinion of some at the Front, the enemy's invention tends to run haphazard. In any case, there has been on the Allies' side, and especially on our side, far too tame a tendency to imitate German devices, instead of seeking to strike out original ideas of our own from the national genius of ours which in the past has shown the most original inventive capacity in Europe. If we had our way we would make the Board of Military Inventions an even more disingenuous one, and we would put anything of the kind that we exist, and we would put at its head some strong personality of known vigor of temper and responsiveness of mind, equal in ability, and free to any Ministerial postulate. If this is possibly too much to hope for, as things are apt to be arranged amongst us, we trust none the less, that the urgent necessity of dealing with the whole question of military inventions in a drastic and unconventional spirit will be earnestly faced by the whole Cabinet.

## IT IS THE MACHINE THAT WINS

So much for the question of "the Machine." It must be very clearly understood that the whole course of the struggle has shown the soundness of the prophecy made years ago by some of the shrewdest and most authoritative students of Continental conditions—that in modern war it is the Machine that wins. We are not indifferent, far from it, to questions of leadership, personality and strategy. To these we hope to give as much attention in due course as we have given in this article to the more material factors. But we want to leave deeply on our readers' minds the impression of one truth that this mighty conflict, unimaginable in its proportions and issues however intensely we may try to realize it, is a test of the relative competence and efficiency of national organizations.

The power of individual military and directing genius did exist now at the height known in any former age would be obstructed by the conditions of modern warfare employing millions of men and covering hundreds of miles of ground. For instance, no brilliancy of generalship in itself can break by anything except the power of the mechanical equipment and a certain expenditure of human force, a series of modern entrenchments bristling with every deadly device. Apart from such overwhelming methods of massed attack as the Germans employed at the beginning of May to smash up the Russian front in Galicia when whole armies, with their unparalleled weight of guns and fire, were turned into living battering-rams, nothing, it seems, can give strategy the scope for individual leadership by which all the greatest deeds of individual leadership in war were achieved in the past. The Russians have been driven back across Poland and beyond, not because they were inferior either in generalship or in valour, but because during the months of winter and early spring the enemy had created a far more ponderous and destructive Machine to launch against our Eastern allies.

We do not gather that Germany possesses any single soldier or statesman who would claim for a moment to be the greatest in Europe. What Germany depends upon are the high training of average ability among her people and the smoothness and energy with which all the forces of the nation are combined and directed for the waging of the war. Amongst ourselves this or that Minister is now captured in phrases hardly inspired by a modern sense of the development of history. "Be a Chatham, be a Napoleon!" Ministers are not Chathams or Napoleons, and can no more become so by dint of being vigorously apostrophized than any man by taking thought can add a cubit to his stature. If even they were Chathams or Napoleons they would have to act through more collective means and would have to be content with less individual lustre.

It is, above all, the Machine that wins. Without superiority of one kind or another in the instrument there can be no superiority in the use. But we must realize well what we mean by the Machine. It is no longer the Army by itself. It is the whole nation, with all its fighting, inventive and industrial resources combined. That is the master fact by which we have to look. There can be no true or sincere issue for this country between "Voluntaryism" or "Compulsion." There may be, and there must be, an issue between full regularized organization, and greater issues. Only by discarding the latter and securing the

(Continued on page eight)

# The Central Guardian

IT PAYS to buy in this province.

**SONG.**—A sacred Song Service will be held in St. Andrew's Church, Charlottetown, on Sunday evening, October 23rd, at 7 p. m. 3244-21

**PATRIOTIC ADDRESSES** will be delivered Sunday Oct. 3rd by Rev. A. A. Gates, as follows: North River, 11 a. m.; Long Creek, 3 p. m.; Kingston, 7 p. m.

**IN FURNITURE ROOM.**—So that the ladies can have ample space to see the fall millinery at Patons the hats will be displayed today and tomorrow in the large furniture department on the first floor. It is a large, pleasantly lighted room, just right for a millinery opening. 3246

**LEARD-GATES WEDDING.**—In Oakland, California, on September 18th, Miss Carrie L. Leard and Mr. Harry H. Gates were united in marriage by Rev. Albert Palmer of Plymouth Congregational Church. The bride is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Archibald J. Leard of Alberton, P. E. I., and Mr. Gates was formerly of Meribory, New Hampshire. After a few days in San Francisco, they will make their home in Los Angeles.

**WEDDING BELLS.**—A quiet but pretty wedding took place in St. Mary's Church, Halifax on Sept. 9th when Gr. A. A. Murphy of Panamure Island now in the P. E. I. Heavy Battery stationed at Fort Lues was united in marriage to Miss Emma McDonald of Georgetown, P. E. I. Both the young people are well known in Charlottetown having attended Prince of Wales College for the past two years. Rev. Father McQuillan, chaplain of the P. E. I. Heavy Battery, who performed the ceremony also formerly belonged to P. E. Island.

**ANNUAL CONGRESS.**—The annual congress of the Salvation Army for New Brunswick and Nova Scotia is to be held this year at Halifax, commencing today and closing on Monday, October 4th. In addition to the officers' councils there will be a series of public gatherings presided over by Commissioner W. J. Richards from Toronto. He will be accompanied by Colonel Gaskin, chief secretary; Lieutenant Colonel Bond, editor of the War Cry; Brigadier Alby and Brigadier Morris, Brigadier and Mrs. Taylor, Majors wedding and "Columbia" and nearly one hundred visiting officers will also be present. The delegates from Charlottetown are Ensign and Mrs. Galway.

**HEAVY TIDE AND RAIN.**—The heavy gale of this week, with intervals of heavy rainfall also the accompanying high tide, has wrought havoc on the shores near Alberton. Lobster traps can be seen scattered in the fields by the shore, many are tossed at the mercy of the waves, also several boats which are more or less shattered, are to be seen everywhere. Shore fences have also been swept away and wide strips of standing grain destroyed. The tide runs completely over the bridge at both ends and made passage impossible. It is stated by the oldest residents of this section that never within their recollection was there such a tide.—M.

**FROM P. E. I.**—A North Sydney exchange says:—The first produce received to reach port this season is the schooner Minnie Spencer, Capt. Lake, of Fortuna, N.S., which arrived Monday noon from Moncton, P. E. I. The Spencer came through the Strait of Canso and around Scaupine, and reports rough weather. The closing of the St. Peter's canal this year being a great handicap to produce vessels plying between P. E. I. and the Sydneys. Capt. Lake is selling potatoes at six cents a bushel, turnips at the same, and cabbage at two cents a pound. The man with the old time family of half a dozen or more always waters a spruce when in hears of the first P. E. I. produce vessel arriving.

**RED CROSS CONCERT.**—Notwithstanding the inclemency of the weather quite a large number were present in the Crapaud Hall on Wednesday evening where the Crapaud branch of the Red Cross Society gave a concert in aid of the work. Mr. Irving Beers, Chairman, presided and thanked the audience with several remarks in his usual inimitable style interspersed with music, consisting of songs by Miss Mary Inman and Dr. N. E. Boyer, quartettes and piano solos. Others from Charlottetown who were expected to take part in the programme were unable to attend but as Mr. Beers is a whole host in himself the program lacked not by all those present who hope to see Mr. Beers in their midst again in the not too far distant future.

**OF LOCAL INTEREST.**—The Halifax Evening Mail Monday enthusiastically announced that the offer of the Dalhousie college hospital unit had been accepted by the war office. A meeting will be held at military headquarters at noon today to go on with the organization and to name twelve physicians and surgeons who will be recommended as officers of the unit. It is understood that Dr. John Stewart will be colonel in charge of the unit which will require the services of twelve doctors, 21 nurses and about 100 men. The personnel of the twelve doctors who will be officers will be practically decided at the meeting today. This offer of the Dalhousie college to supply a hospital unit is not a new thing. It was proposed soon after the war broke out, but at that time the offer was for a 200 bed unit. This was not accepted, but now that the need has become greater Dalhousie again made an offer, this time for a 500 bed unit, the most practical and it has been officially accepted. It is known that while only twelve doctors are required for the unit, the spirit of the Dalhousie medical men, mainly on the teaching staff of the university, is such that more than twenty have volunteered for the service. There is an abundance of good men and the difficulty is not one of securing material for officers, but in making the selection. This will be the chief work today, the naming of doctors who will be recommended for the service says Wednesday's Halifax Herald.

**TODAY'S SHOW.**—Owing to the very inclement weather this week Patons millinery opening will be continued today and tomorrow. 3246.

**SERIOUSLY INJURED.**—A casualty list just issued reports Fred Halliday, Eldon, P. E. I., of the Reserve Artillery Brigade, seriously injured.

**TONIGHT'S MEETING.**—Rev. A. A. Gates will deliver an address in the People's Church this (Friday) evening at 8 o'clock. All interested in the principles of Protestantism should attend. Admission free.

**SEASONABLE MILLINERY.**—This is ideal weather to pick out the new fall hat as it will be needed from this out. Patons is continuing their millinery opening today and tomorrow owing to the poor weather of the past few days. 3246.

**NEW CHARGE.**—Rev. W. P. MacVie, of Hazel Brook, P. E. I., has been engaged as pastor of the Baptist church at Point de Bute and Port Elgin, in succession to Rev. W. H. Robinson, who for some years has been pastor of the Westmorland church. Mr. MacVie is a native of Scotland, is married and has a family. He has spent four years as a missionary in Central Africa. Mr. MacVie is expected to arrive in Point de Bute about October 1st.—Moncton Ex.

**AN HEIR WANTED.**—Search is being made for an heir to \$4,500 in the person of William H. Nicholson, native of Charlottetown, a lobster city sealer, who left for the United States five years ago, where he listed in the United States army, and was stationed at Fort Logan H. Root, Arkansas. At the end of three years he left the army and has not since been heard from. Nicholson had a sweetheart in Charlottetown with whom he contracted a marriage. A legacy of \$4,500 has been left Mr. Nicholson and a firm of Washington, D. C. attorneys would now like to hear from him. Mr. Frances A. McCormick, who is at the Victoria Hotel, has the matter in hand.

**WON FIRST PRIZE.**—A Prince Edward Islander, from Grand River, Lot 14, won the first prize as the best dressed saddle horse rider at the gorgeous Elks' pageant in Los Angeles last July, says the Oakland Maple Leaf. His name is Joseph M. MacNeil, son of the late Alexander MacNeil, and residing with his widowed mother at 214 East Washington Street, Los Angeles. The demonstration was the largest ever held in the southern city, fully 100,000 members of the Benevolent Order of Elks from every part of the country participating. It is estimated that 200,000 people witnessed the torch parade. Among the fifty men on horseback presented a true picture of California of the early days than Joseph MacNeil, who wore a black velvet caballero's costume trimmed with silver braid, a purple crowned sombrero, faced with white, and purple and white trimmings on his black bowtie. The prize consisted of fifty dollars cash and a handsome banner. At the torch show in Los Angeles last May Mr. MacNeil also won the first prize in the same class.

**VISITORS TO THE EXPOSITION.**—The Panama-Pacific Exposition has been the occasion of many happy family reunions in California. Every day relatives and friends are greeting each other after long years of separation, and to hundreds of thousands on the American continent the year 1915 will always be remembered with pleasure by those who had the good fortune to visit the Golden State and meet their friends. During the past two months Mrs. J. A. Macdonald of 5413 Shafters Avenue, Oakland, had the pleasure of entertaining three of her daughters, and granddaughters, namely: Miss May Macdonald, New York, a graduate of Mount Sinai Hospital; Mrs. W. M. Ellery (Marion) and her daughter Mildred, New York (Mr. Ellery is with R. G. Dun & Co.), and Miss Mildred Macdonald, trained nurse, Los Angeles. Another daughter, Florence, also a trained nurse in New York, was unable to visit her mother this year. These four young ladies were born in Charlottetown, P. E. Island, and are the daughters of the late J. A. Macdonald, for many years connected with the Land Office in that city. They enjoyed two months' vacation in this State, visiting the exposition in San Francisco and San Diego, and the greatest pleasure of all in meeting their mother in Oakland, and their brother Joseph, who is in business in San Francisco.

## The People's Theatre

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