

Big Men Who Are Directing

British Destinies In War

All Are Known As "Kitchener's Men," Not of the Popularity of Advertisement Seekers Silent Men Who Work Hard for Efficiency—Chief of Staff Hardly Known

A striking point about the men who are in command of Britain's armies during the present war is that the majority of them are of the silent and "unpopular" type. Not personally unpopular, of course, but not of popularity seekers. They are all "Kitchener's men," and Kitchener does not approve of advertisement or publicity.

"K. of K." himself, is a calculating machine, and pays not the slightest attention to popular approval or disapproval. Where another man would explain a temporarily unpopular scheme, Kitchener disdains to do so, and pursues the even tenor of his way without regard for anybody's feelings or any consideration. He is not loved; but he is respected by everybody, and his appointment to the War Secretaryship was hailed with a general sigh of relief.

Even his machine-like "mailed fist" arrangements for the military part of King George's coronation only made people say "Curse the brute, he might be dealing with Russians," but it didn't stop them admiring him. They appreciated the fact that he was merely making a thorough job of it, and that for business purposes, spectators had no rights at all.

Field Marshal Sir John D. P. French, commander-in-chief of the British expeditionary force is another quiet man. Sometimes the public profess a real affection for "Jack" French, but they always wish he would show a little of the geniality of "Bobs," (Earl Roberts), the late Generals Buller and "Back-acher" Gatacre. When crowds, waiting outside the War Office, cheer him, French looked surprised and annoyed. Cheers had no part in his thoughts, and he glared at his admirers in a manner that suggested he was considering the advisability of calling up a squadron of cavalry to clear the street.

It was a cavalry leader that French made his name, though he was originally destined for the navy, in which service he remained four years. His exploits in the Egyptian and South African wars marked him out as perhaps the most dashing cavalry leader in Europe. Practically the last man out of Ladysmith before the Boers bottled up the late Sir George White, French got most of his cavalry division

away, realizing that mounted men were of no use in a besieged town, and it was he alone who stemmed the tide of the British disaster after the "black week" of December, 1899.

General Gatacre's defeat at Stormberg would have been an absolute rout but for French's cavalry, and while every British General was losing hard-earned reputations French was serenely dashing along the Orange Free State frontiers, checking pursuers and raiders and generally giving the enemy cause to "think furiously." He gained for the British troops breathing space while Lord Roberts was getting his army into shape, and his brilliant dash culminating in the relief of Kimberley marked the turning point of the war.

French's cavalry it was who rounded up Cronje at Paardeberg, enabling Kitchener to bring up his guns and infantry to smash the Boer general, and it was French who rushed his advance guards into Bloemfontein, Pretoria and Barberton before the Boers were aware of his proximity. In the big "sweeping up" scheme with which Kitchener ended the war, French was tireless and his cavalry appeared to be everywhere at once. A small taciturn man with a bullet head, he is frequently passed unrecognized by would-be admirers. He resigned the post of Chief of the Imperial General Staff as the result of the famous "Gough Memorandum" during the Ulster crisis, but at the request of King George he took over his former job of Inspector-General at the outbreak of the war.

General Sir Charles W. H. Douglas, Chief of the Imperial General Staff, is little known to the public. A dour, Scotch soldier, he participated in Roberts' famous march to Candahar, and served with distinction in India, Egypt and South Africa. In the last Boer war he was on the staff and so did little of the showy work, but his list of "mentioned in despatches" was rarely been excelled. Douglas would be mightily astonished if anybody cheered him, and he would probably consider it an impertinence. Anyway his is not one of the faces that decorate picture postcards, and not one in a thousand would recognize his photo if they ever saw it.—Montreal Weekly Witness.

Belgium Desolated and Famine Stricken.

London, Oct. 1.—A graphic picture of the desolation of Belgium was brought to London today by Mr. J. H. Whitehouse, M. P., for Lanarkshire, who has just returned from a tour around Antwerp for the purpose of assisting in the relief measures. In describing the damage which he says the Belgians had to inflict themselves to supplement the defenses of Antwerp he said, "Hundreds of thousands of trees had been cut down so that at some points of our journey we had the impression of passing a wilderness of rocks. The tree trunks had all been removed, so as to afford no cover to the enemy. All houses had been blown up, or otherwise destroyed. Later we passed through the country which had been flooded as a further means of defence. The damage resulting from these precautionary measures amounted to \$50,000,000. In the villages all ordinary life was arrested. Women and children were standing or sitting dumb and patient by the roadside. Half way to Tremonde we could plainly hear the booming of guns, and saw many evidences of the battle which was then raging.

I had read newspaper accounts of the destruction of Tremonde, and had seen photographs, but they had not conveyed to my mind any realization of the horrors of what actually happened. I went through street after street, square after square, and I found every house entirely destroyed, with all the contents. It was not the result of bombardment. It was systematic destruction.

A blind woman and her daughter groped among the ruins. They were the sole living creatures in the whole town. Two or perhaps three, houses bore the German command in chalk that they were not to be burned. These remained standing, but deserted, amidst the ruins on either side. "I

inquired what had become of the population. It was a question to which no direct reply could be given. They had fled in all directions. Some had reached Antwerp, but a great number were wandering about the country, painstricken and starving. Many were dead. What had happened at Tremonde was similar to what happened at other parts of Belgium under the military occupation of Germans. The result is that conditions have been set up for the civilian population throughout the occupied territory of unexampled misery. The whole life of the nation has been arrested. The peasants and poor are without the necessities of life, and conditions of starvation grow more acute every day. Even where there is a supply of wheat available the peasants are not allowed to use their windmills owing to the German fear that they will send signals to the Belgian army.

"We are, therefore, face to face with a fact which has rarely, if ever, occurred in the history of the world—an entire nation is in a state of famine, and that within half a day's journey of our own shores. The completeness of the destruction in each individual case was explained to me later by the Belgian minister, who described numerous instances in which the German soldiers carried for destroying property. Not only were hand bombs of various sizes and descriptions carried, but each soldier was supplied with a quantity of small black discs, a little bigger than a six-penny piece. I saw some of these discs which had been taken from German soldiers on the field of battle. These were described to be as composed of compressed benzene. When lighted they burned brilliantly for a few minutes, and are sufficient to start whatever fire is necessary after the explosion of a bomb. To the conditions of famine and homelessness which exist on such a stupendous scale there must be added the mental panic in which many survivors remain. Eye witnesses of unimpeachable character described the sufferings of the women and children at Liege. As they

led from their house clinging to their husbands and fathers they were violently pulled away and saw the men shot a few yards from them.

Saw-Toothed Bayonets.

Germany will find it difficult to answer to the charge made by Richard Harding Davis, the well-known American author, that German soldiers are using the saw-toothed bayonet, prohibited by the recognized laws of war. It is no idle rumor or report that Mr. Davis gives utterance to; his deliberate statement is that he has seen the bayonets. To use the author's own words: "The saw-edge was not given them by soldiers hammering one blade against another, but was machine-made, and each bayonet bore a government stamp, a number, an imperial crown, and the word 'Ertuift.' Although British officers had declared the Germans were using these weapons in their Belgian campaign, inflicting horrible wounds, there was unwillingness to believe that such a barbarous instrument of warfare was in the hands of any soldiers. The statement of Richard Harding Davis that he has seen these bayonets, that they are German bayonets and bear the government mark and number, is too circumstantial to be ignored. The rules of civilized warfare are not recognized in this contest which Germany forced on the world. It is by uncivilized methods that victory is sought, and using the saw-bayonet is only one of many things Germany is doing that should not be done, even in war-fare.

The Gunmakers of Essen.

(Montreal Gazette)

Factories in Germany that depend on imported raw material to keep their wheels turning are reported to be at a standstill because of the shutting off of the necessary supplies. This condition has brought suffering to thousands of people and an attempt is being made by the authorities to meet the difficulty by turning the tide of the unemployed into channels that have been artificially benefited for the time being. Probably the institution that stands to gain most by hostilities, is the Krupp works. Its mills are reported to be working night and day to meet the demands made from the armies at the front. Guns are being worn out by firing every day and others are being captured. Tons of ammunition are being used and there is no end to the call for more. The Krupp firm is getting orders that must be swelling its treasury to the bursting point. This organization that turns out munitions of war at an enormous rate sells its wares all over the world. Half a hundred governments are supplied by it with guns, there being, it is estimated, 30,000 of these Krupp engines of destruction in use in countries outside of Germany. The Kaiser's Empire, up to the breaking out of the present war, had purchased no less than 29,000 guns from the firm. Besides the guns there is armorplate.

All this manufacturing for warfare is executed or controlled at the factories in Essen, Western Prussia. These works cover an area of 1,200 acres, much of which is under roof. The workers employed by the firm number over 75,000 and their community shelters 300,00 souls. Nearby are three 15-mile long gun ranges used for experimental purposes, where thousands of men are employed. In Rhineland Westphalia and Silesia the Krupp collieries are located, where the coal for the armor plate works at Annen and Gruson and the blast furnaces at Rheinhausen, Engers and other places is mined. At Kiel is situated the Krupp Germania dockyard. The firm also owns mines in Spain which furnish one that is shipped in Krupp steamers. This latter part of the firm's industrial establishment is not a business as usual today, owing to the fact that the British and German navies have suspended German shipping trade. Sales to foreign nations have also been stopped and all the forces of the various plants are concentrated on supplying the home demand. The head of this war material institution is Dr. von Bohlen and Halbach, the erst while diplomat who became a gunmaker by marrying the heiress, Bertha Krupp. To preserve the firm's identity the Emperor gave the groom the right to call himself Krupp von Bohlen. It is said that he is displeased at the popular idea that his firm makes only war material, when, as a matter of fact, it turns out enormous quantities of useful and peaceful utensils. His displeasure is destined to continue, for henceforth more than ever will the name of Krupp be associated with warfare.

Americans Go Abroad to

Offer Big Gun to England

Powerful Agent of Destruction, Invented By Baltimore Man, May Be Used on A Lie's Firing Line—German "Berthas" Are Similar in Construction

(From the Baltimore Sun.)

C. Wilbur Miller, president of the Davidson Chemical Company, Jesse N. Bowen, of the law firm of Semmes, Bowen & Semmes, and John Patton, an employee of the Davidson Chemical Company, sailed for England on Wednesday on the Cunard steamship Mauritania. Their sailing has been kept a close secret from all but their most intimate friends, and the purpose of it has been held as even greater secret, because it is believed by some of their friends that if the German Government should learn of their sailing and of the purpose of their trip to England efforts would be made to capture the Mauritania, or if that could not be done, to torpedo her from a submarine.

For the trio of Baltimoreans have gone abroad to offer to the British War Office the plans of a gun that is said to be in advance of any gun yet used in warfare, with the possible exception of the "Busy Berthas."

The great German siege guns with which the fortifications at Liege and Namur were so speedily reduced and more over they may be the very plans on which the "Busy Berthas" have been built.

The secret of the great German siege guns, which have done such tremendous execution in the war has been so closely guarded that only a few of the higher officials of the German Empire knew, before the war began, that the army possessed such mighty engines of destruction. They were first used against the forts at Liege, and those forts crumpled under their first almost in a day. It is said that an entire new principle was used in their construction, and this has been jealously guarded. High officers in the German army have been quoted as saying that the guns are so long lived that no fort in the world could stand before them long enough to see one of them worn out, and that there was no end to their wearing qualities.

That is the principal characteristic of the gun the Baltimoreans are going abroad to offer to the British War Office.

It is believed by some of those interested in the new gun, that the plans for it have been stolen and that the siege guns now being used by the Germans have been made from these stolen plans.

The reported characteristics of the German gun conform so closely to those of the Baltimore invention that it is believed in some way or other they fell into the possession of the German War Office. Application for patents covering the Baltimore invention were made more than a year ago, and the application has been allowed, although the pat

ent has not yet been granted. It is believed that Germany's secret service agents may have had access to the applications filed in the United States Office and they may have secured the details of the new gun there.

The new gun was invented by Mr. Patton, with the assistance of Ernest B. Miller, the engineer of the Davidson Chemical Company, they having discovered it while working on something entirely different. It occurred to them that the principle of this machine could be applied to a gun and they worked it out.

Some correspondence is reported to have passed between British Ambassador Spring Rice and C. Wilbur Miller concerning the gun, and that he arranged that the plans of it be taken to England and submitted to Field Marshal Lord Kitchener and other British officials. A model of the gun is also said to have been taken along.

Ernest B. Miller, who assisted in developing the gun, yesterday confirmed the report that his brother, Mr. Patton and Mr. Bowen had sailed on the Mauritania and that they had gone to England to submit the gun to the British War Office. He was decidedly reticent about the whole affair and was extremely modest about his own part in the invention. He said that Mr. Patton was the inventor of the gun and that he had only helped.

He admitted, however, that he believed that the gun the Germans were using was the gun Mr. Patton had invented, and that either the idea for it came to the inventor of the German gun about the same time it occurred to Mr. Patton or that the principle of the Patton gun was taken from the papers filed in the Patent Office and sent to Germany without saving as much as "by your leave."

As the patent of the gun has not been granted and as it is proposed to patent it in various countries abroad, Mr. Miller would not discuss its peculiar features. It is known, however, that one of its characteristics is the absence of rifling, the grooves in a gun's barrel that gives the projectile its rotary motion and causes it to go straight and with a comparatively flat trajectory. The rifling is the part of a gun which wears out the most quickly, and when these grooves in the gun wear away the gun's usefulness is at an end. The Patton-Miller gun has no rifling and the flat trajectory is secured by other means. More over, the muzzle velocity of the projectile is tremendously increased. The gun can be made in any size, large or small, and a muzzle velocity of 5,000 feet per second can, it is said, be secured, and the gun can be used indefinitely.

Plans of the Patton-Miller gun have been submitted to some of the most distinguished ordnance officers of the United States navy, and it is said that these officers could find no objection to the gun, and they were of the opinion that it ought to work. But as the gun has not been tested, Mr. Miller said he would not claim anything for it or make any statement of what it would do. However, it seems good enough to have interested the British War Office and to have taken Messrs. Wilbur Miller, Patton and Bowen to England in a hurry.

A STARTLING RISK.

(Philadelphia Telegraph.)

Two Scotchmen with a thirst counted up their joint possessions and found that they could just cover the price of a drink of whiskey. They went into the nearest saloon and ordered one drink, Sandy putting down the money. Then arose a discussion as to how it could be disposed of to the best advantage.

A. the critical moment a stranger entered. With a wink of his eye at his companion Sandy turned to the newcomer and said: "Will you have a drink with us?"

Supposing the others had had a drink before his entrance, the stranger said heartily, "I will," and emptied the glass.

There was an uncertain pause for a moment, and then the third man said, "Come on, boys, and have one on me."

They had it. As they went out Sandy wiped his mouth and said, "See, now it worked."

"Yes," was the reply, "but oh, what a risk!"



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