

# Always the Same PURITY FLOUR



Day in and Day out.  
Week in and Week out.  
Year in and Year out.  
Always the same.

## "WHAT IS GREAT BRITAIN DOING?" WELL ANSWERED

Immense Armies Recruited and Put in the Field—The Splendid Work of the British Fleet—But it has to compensate for Britain and Her Allies.

(North American, Philadelphia.)  
What has the British empire done in the war? A man would know what the German empire has done. The work of the Russian empire is equally palpable. The world also is in no manner of doubt as to the brilliant and sustained heroism of the French nation. It regards, and justly, the recovery of France after the first reverses as one of the most signal moral triumphs recorded in history.

In comparison with these resounding achievements, what has the British empire to show for its great wealth, its wide territories and teeming population? The British fleet is the first in the world in point of size and reputation, yet it has commanded no German town, landed no forces on German soil, has brought on no general engagement.

The British army has fought well and gallantly; but the question is not whether it has done well, but whether it is doing enough. Do its achievements, measured by the scale of the present war, constitute a contribution to the allied cause proportionate to the strength of so great an empire?

Such questions as these are frequently heard. The "failure" of the British nation in the war is a subject of widespread comment and criticism. Com-

Has she refused or failed to assume her just share of the burden?

The first thing to consider is that she entered the war unprepared. Aside from the inveterate nation's prejudice against a large military establishment, there had always been agreement that in the event of a European war her sea power would be her sufficient weapon. She had, therefore, neither an army of a size commensurate with the need, nor the means of equipping and feeding it.

The terrific onslaught of the Germans created overnight problems of stupendous extent and complexity. Great Britain was called upon not only to hold the sea for herself and her allies, but to enlist, train and arm a vast land force; to defend possessions in every quarter of the globe, while attacking those of her enemies; to finance the operations of the empire and of half a dozen nations besides, and, above all, to revolutionize her industries so as to provide inexhaustible supplies of munitions and other war materials, for she lacked not only arms, but the means of making them. How has she met these demands?

Her most obvious accomplishment has been to establish control of the ocean. There are, experts find, seven functions which a fleet can perform. It may drive the enemy's commerce from the sea; protect its own commerce; render the enemy's fleet impotent; prevent the transfer of enemy troops by sea, either for attack or defence; transport its own troops and supplies at will, and, in certain circumstances, assist their operations.

Had it not been for British sea power the German navy, superior to that of France, would have bombarded French coast towns, scattered the French fleet, intercepted French commerce and prevented the transport of the republic's troops from Africa. While the British fleet has lost more capital ships than the enemy, it could afford to do so, and meanwhile it has destroyed scores of enemy war vessels, besides utterly extinguishing Germany's foreign trade, except in the Baltic.

It has kept both the British and French coasts free from serious attack. It has safeguarded the transport of immense forces from India, Canada, Australia and New Zealand to Europe, and of expeditions to Egypt and the Dardanelles. During the first year of the conflict no fewer than 2,500,000 troops were transferred to and from the various theatres of war without a casualty, together with 2,500,000 tons of supplies.

It has been the British fleet that has enabled Britain and France to draw war supplies from all parts of the world, without which they would be helpless. "Loss of the command of the sea by England," said a French writer, "would involve more than her own capitulation; France and Italy would soon be at the mercy of their adversaries." Likewise, the fleet has protected the overseas commerce of both countries, so that they have not only had abundant supplies, but have been enabled to continue their foreign trade.

Though lack of foresight, British sea power suffered one reverse in the loss of Craddock's squadron off the coast of Chile, but in three other engagements—in the light of Heligoland, off the Falkland islands and on the Dogger Bank—it maintained decisive superiority.

With such a clear preponderance of strength it is sometimes asked why has not the British fleet sought out the German naval forces and destroyed them? "The spirit of Drake and Nelson is dead," the Germans have tauntingly cried. The answer is that the function of a fleet is to command the seas in exactly the manner we have outlined. So long as it can do that without forcing a general engagement, with the risk of heavy losses, under taking the offensive for its own sake would be mere plustering. As it is, the German fleet has been held in powerless seclusion and the seas kept free for the allies' use.

But even granting that the British fleet has been successful, critics say, what about the failure of the empire on land? Where is the British army? Why is it holding only forty miles of trenches, while the French hold more than four hundred?

We have already spoken of Britain's military unpreparedness. When the war began her army consisted of only 233,000 men, with 203,000 reserves and a militia force—for home defence only—of 263,000. It has been the understanding that in the event of German aggression Russia and France would bear the brunt of the land fighting; France asked for a British loan of 150 million and got it; and the British army, which was in a state of semi-preparedness, was not that the British held so little of the line in the beginning as that they actu-

ally created a real continental army during the war. Within six months they added 1,000,000 men to their forces; within a year the number under training was 3,000,000; and a few days ago the premier announced that no fewer than 5,000,000 had been enlisted for the army and navy, every one a volunteer.

There has been no achievement like this in history. During the American civil war the federal force aggregated fewer than 3,000,000 and this total was not reached without drafts and vast expenditure for countries. The insistent campaign for conscription, now approaching success, has created an ugly impression of national difference; but the fact is that more than 80 per cent. of available men have enlisted voluntarily, and only a few hundred thousand will be forced into the ranks.

There remains, however, the fact that for many months the British held only two score miles of trenches, and this has unquestionably occasioned criticism in France. Yet the worldwide extent of the British operations should be considered. The empire has not only assumed responsibility for control of the sea, but has had forces aggregating hundreds of thousands of men in Belgium and Flanders, at the Dardanelles and in the Balkans, in Egypt and Arabia, in China and the islands of the Pacific, in Southwestern, Eastern and Western Africa, in Persia and Mesopotamia. Consider what any one of these campaigns would mean to the United States, for example, whose resources are strained by a bit of police work in neighboring territory!

But, regardless of this, the reproach is no longer true. There are now 1,500,000 British troops in France—ten times the number originally demanded—and they are holding 150 miles of the line. With the exception of about twenty miles manned by the Belgians, the trenches from the North Sea to Soissons, including the most vital part of the western defense, are guarded exclusively by the British.

No less striking than the creation of a vast army has been the tremendous accomplishment of organizing the country's industries for war. Lacking workshops, machinery and adequate supplies of raw materials in the beginning, Great Britain has become the chief reliance of her allies for munitions. And there is, in addition, the colossal task of financing the war. Belgium, France, Russia, Serbia and other nations in the alliance have received no less than \$2,000,000,000 from Great Britain. The empire at this time is spending \$25,000,000 a day—more than seven times the cost of the American civil war. Money is as vital a weapon as artillery, and in this item alone the British contribution is surely notable.

After all, a fairly effective answer to the question, "What has Britain done?" would be a counter query. "What would have been the course of the war if she had not joined? Obviously, the result would have been the annihilation not only of Belgium, but of France; for without the support of British sea power, British wealth and even British soldiers, Paris and the Channel coast of France would have been in German possession within a few weeks and Russia would have been reduced to impotence.

There are just criticisms that can be made of Great Britain's policies and methods; her diplomacy in the war has been lamentable; she has made ghastly failures at Gallipoli, in the Balkans and in Mesopotamia; her people have been slow to devote all their energies to the great task, and her military strategists have revealed appalling conceit and incompetence.

But Americans who recall the blunders and scandals of the little war with Spain, and who have before their eyes the present conditions in Mexico should hesitate to assume an air of superiority. Great Britain's contribution to the cause of the allies, far from being negligible has been decisive, is steadily increasing, and, in the end, we believe, will be the controlling factor.

A message written on an egg which was placed in top layer of an eight dozen crate caused a Wheeling, West Virginia, merchant to pay \$5.75 for postage. The eggs went sent from Sardis, O., by parcel post, and when opened at the Wheeling post office for inspection the message was discovered. The crate was then weighed and charged for at first class postage rates.

### He Had No Opinion.

It was the dinner hour, and the workmen were having the usual heated discussion about the war. An interesting deadlock had been reached when one of the men turned to a mate who had been enlisted during the whole of the debate. "Well, all," he said, "I'm pretty good at an argument. 'What's your opinion?' 'I am going to say,' returned Bill. 'I chased the matter'

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out before with Bob Jones." "Ah!" said the other, "and what did you arrive at?" "Well," replied Bill, "Bob," he arrived at the hospital, and I arrived at the Police Station."

## Germany Anxious To Make Peace

London, May 10.—"There is no doubt what over," says the Daily Telegraph, "that during the last few days a definite attempt had been made by the German government to impress neutrals with its strong desire for peace, with a view to inducing them to come forward as mediators and break up the alliance. It is assumed by getting one of them to conclude a separate peace."

"For the present, it would not serve any useful purpose to disclose the facts in their entirety, but it can be said that the Kaiser has personally sent a letter to President Wilson, in which, appealing to him as the greatest neutral authority, he expatiates on the necessity of urging the Western powers not to prolong indefinitely what seems to him their 'quite useless efforts of revenge.'"

"However, in the capitals of several of the neutral countries the German representatives have been particularly insistent in their assurance that if given a fair chance Germany would do her best to conciliate her present opponents."

"It is believed in many quarters that so far as Germany is concerned, the Irish troubles were engineered with the idea of bringing home to President Wilson an approximate estimate of the international dangers his own country would incur if it should be called upon to make war upon Germany with so many millions of Germans and Irishmen living under the Stars and Stripes."

London, May 20.—A despatch to the Morning Post from Saloniki says:

Messages from Constantinople state that a grand council was held in the Sultan's palace at Dolma Bagiche to consider terms of peace. Preachers in the principal mosques are urging the people to "prepare for liberation."

A secret committee is forming and grave events are anticipated.

Bonnycastle Dale contributes the opening article to the May issue of Rod and Gun Magazine, published at Woodstock, Ont. by W. J. Taylor, Limited. "Tales of the Trappers and Hunters of 1914-1915" is the title of the article by this well-known writer who can always be depended upon to know what he is talking about when he writes of the creatures of the wild. Frank Yeigh, another well-known Canadian writer contributes "One Eye, Bunny and the Tenderfoot: The Tail of a Trail," a story that depicts some of the idiosyncracies of the sturdy little pack ponies of the Mt. Robson region. There are a dozen or so other articles of interest before the regular departments, which are up-to-date and full of interest to the lover of cut-of-door sports, whose equipment includes rod, gun, dog or trap.

A big full moose is reported to have followed a party that had gone into the Dutor woods, near Otis, Me., to clear up after the season's sap work and to have shown great interest in their doings.

Thirty-seven unarmed British merchantmen and 22 neutral vessels were torpedoed with out warning between May 7, 1915, and May 7 1 15.

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