

The World Wonder


(Boston News Bureau)

All the seven wonders of the world fade on history's pages compared with the spectacle Great Britain presents today. A commercial nation of less than 50,000,000 people suddenly summoned to arms, where no arms existed and in less than thirty months she has a bigger army than history ever before recorded and a war machine in Europe that for wealth of shell, explosives and war power is the amazement of the Germans, who had taken ten times thirty months to prepare for the attack.

But this is only the beginning of wonders.

BOTH AIR AND SEA RAID

Without an English aeroplane engine that could circle her own island she has vanquished the boasted Zeppelins and is mistress of her own skies. With submarines by the hundred, threatening her coast defences, her food supplies, and her commerce, she has swept all oceans, locked the vaunted German fleet in harbor, convoyed shipments of gold across the ocean in safety—loads of gold that in former times would have paralyzed national financial markets—made the English channel her mel-



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build military rifles in quantities and has unfilled orders for them representing hundreds of millions of dollars, England has been turning out rifles by the million for herself and her allies, cannon by the thousand, boots and coats by the million for herself and her allies, and wonder of wonders, she has done all this, is doing it, is yet to do more, and has now her manufacturing, her trade relations and her overseas commerce unimpaired. Yet she has grabbed the trade of the world, so that her enemies are struggling on half rations, their food rubber and metal supplies from the outside world practically cut off except as new territory is taken.

This is a gigantic physical power and a trade and war power combined never before dreamed of. It puts in the shade all that the world previously knew of Great Britain's financial power. No body dreamed two years ago that the war cost to Great Britain was to be beyond five or six millions. It is today three times that sum and Great Britain is prepared to double it again. But stupendous and even beyond all previous estimates, as is this financial power, the physical and metal power manifested by Great Britain is the marvel of marvels.

The British Lion was regarded in Germany as a money bar of trade and a whelp of the seas. Great Britain's ability to put 10 per cent, of her population under arms, to lend and equip her allies and at the same time to maintain her credit and commerce throughout the world was something never dreamed of within or without her empire before this war.

UNCOUNTED WEALTH AND UNMEASURED SPIRIT

No economist ever counted the wealth in credit, gold reserves and securities power that is now showing forth in the British empire. No student of men and nations ever pictured forth the war spirit of the British people that could be so roused in a righteous cause. No student of religion or social order ever gauged the spirit of self sacrifice that is now lighting the path of the nation in war.

This is the people's war. It is

the war of the democracy that has built the British empire around the globe. It is not a war of kings, lords or nobles. It is a war in defence of all the civilization, peace and honor for which England has stood and in which she has made progress for more than a hundred years.

The Prussians could measurably measure the wealth of England, count her population and take toll of her guns, big and little. They numbered her military men, her business men and her idle and leisure classes, and outside of her navy, her wealth and her trade she

was by a Prussian military census as nothing. But nowhere in the world was there anything by which to measure the slumbering soul of that people. It is fighting mad today, and getting madder every minute. The stigmas and insults to credit and honor from Washington only increase the resolve of her people and their faith in the invincibility of their righteous cause. For this they are willing to pledge everything in sacrifice for justice upon the altar of their battle fires.

To what martyred souls run back this heritage of noble spirit only the historian of the future may attempt to answer. The purpose of the present inquiry is to answer the problem of whence England gets her human power and her metal power.

THE ORDNANCE BASE.

Twenty five years ago the machinery of England and her metal workers stamped out the coins of many nations and moulded the guns big and little of many more. She was the ordnance maker of the world. Then Germany became her rival as a metal worker and, getting government bounties, or orders, she was able with her cheaper labor and living to cut under the prices of free trade England. The ordnance fires of England went out except for navy guns and "made in Germany" invaded the Island and was stamped over the world on everything from cutlery to rifles and cannon.

But the foundations, in metal workers and the old factories in this business, had not entirely disappeared when the Prussian hosts fired upon Belgium, and attempted to roll up the treaties of Europe as scraps of paper. It was on this almost forgotten foundation that England has brought forth her wealth of war material and is organizing to roll the Prussian back over the Rhine in 1917.

England's reserve in man power that can maintain her commercial production, her exports and overseas trade while putting an army greater than that of France in the field needs to be carefully studied.

ENGLAND FEEDING AND FIGHTING.

Germany is living on 30 per cent per capita of what it was consuming before the war. But England is consuming, feeding and fighting to the extent that her physical force is increased by far more than 30 per cent. The whole nation is fighting, men, women and children. There is nothing else thought of, talked of, or worked for, throughout the whole country. All the leisure classes, men and women, are one way or another in the war. The women are joining in the ranks of labor and all labor is today for the country with everything in production, trade and commerce locked in with the war is-

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multiple track ocean railway to Europe with no loss by Zeppelin or submarine; fought in Africa, at the Canal, at the Dardanelles, grappled with the Turk and the Balgar, changed generals and admirals in command; changed cabinets, fed the armies of France, given arms to Russia, maintained the armies and the governments of Belgium and Serbia and altogether advanced to her war allies three thousand million dollars or three times the national debt of the United States.

STILL SUPPLYING

THE WORLD

While the United States has been trying to find out how to

England did not waken to the war power that comes through cutting out luxuries so soon as Germany, but she is on the road to just as thorough a conservation of all forces. All the nations are in the struggle for economic existence that fighting forces may be increased. Germany and England are rather ashamed of it; Russia and France are proud of it. The shutting up of bar-rooms, the closing of places of amusement, the close of cafes and the shutting off of lights at nine thirty all make for increased man power and greater war efficiency. It is not only a financial and a metal, but a social and economical struggle in Europe such as the world has never dreamed of and of which the people of the United States have almost no comprehension.

THE PEOPLE AND THEIR RESOURCES.

Formerly, armies fought battles and the war was wherever the armies moved. To-day, five hundred million people are arrayed in battle and organizing to win the war. They are organizing in clothing, food, drink, the discarding of luxuries, increase in the energies and hours of labor and in the mutual burdens of all forms of taxation. Any excess profit is promptly taxed. In England more than two billion a year or one quarter the cost is being raised by taxation. Grains are being ground more coarsely with the result that in bulk they produce 25 per cent more, a smaller percentage of nutriment is lost and, the food being richer in nutrition, consumption per capita is diminished without bread cards or other German regulations. In all fighting countries, luxuries are being steadily diminished. Cream, fat, sugar, wines, expensive meats and fruits are being steadily reduced in consumption. Champagne is forbidden in Russia; it was never at so low a price in France.

The whole world is coming into a new civilization, a new manhood and a new womanhood and a new strength for both war and peace; and from Washington to San Francisco there appears to be little comprehension of the issues and the economic results that must inevitably flow therefrom.

Fanciful War News For Chinese

Pekin, Jan. 20.—The Germans have acquired two scurrilous newspapers in North China which have a little circulation among the Chinese. Their overseas service supplies columns daily of fanciful war news. Much of this is unintelligible to the Chinese, but the service frequently contains lies damaging

to the Allies. The German propaganda had some success in ignorant up-country regions, but the mass of China is indifferent to the issues and certainly is not pro-German. In business circles, it is understood that German trade strangling, while the trade of the Allies prospers. In military circles, however, German prestige continues high. The military leaders, who virtually control the government, appear unable to divest themselves of the apprehension that Germany may yet win the war. Steps have been taken to put the Allied situation more clearly before the Chinese. The Germans certainly are preparing to exploit China after the war. Large funds are available to them here from the payments made by the Chinese government which will enable them to offer favorable terms for future enterprise. The same opportunities, however, are open to anybody who will complete in the matter of bargain money.

A few Germans have been employed in the southern parts in subordinate positions, but the total of 199 Germans in the Chinese service in 1914 has decreased to 125 in 1916.

Seizure of Dutch Mail Steamer

London, Jan. 22.—An Amsterdam despatch to the Times says that it is believed there that the chief reason for the seizure by German warships of the Dutch mail steamer Prinz Hendrick was to search its mails. There were 1,500 bags of mail matter on board and these were examined at Ostend. It is reported that mail destined for German prisoners was returned as also American packages. The remainder is supposed to have been taken to Berlin. Amongst the Belgians on board, who were held as prisoners of war, was an Antwerp timber merchant who is above military age. It is supposed that his detention is connected with his business or financial position.

Roumanians Have Made Progress

Jassy, Roumania, Jan. 27, via London, 12.45 p. m.—Roumanian troops in the last two weeks have made substantial progress to Moldavia, the war office announced. The following statement, covering the period January 12 to 26, was issued here to-day: "On the western front of Moldavia up to and including the Oituz Valley there have been only infantry patrol actions."

Poles Asked For Gold for Germany

London, Jan. 27.—A Rotterdam despatch to the Exchange Telegraph Company says that the Polish papers under the German censorship have appealed to the Polish nation for gold. The papers suggest that the Polish treasury can be replenished by gifts given by every Pole according to his means. It is also announced that a loan will probably be launched in which gold will be exchanged for notes.

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