

SOLDIER TELLS WHY THE ALLIES MUST WIN

Former British Subject, Born in New Zealand, Fighting in South Africa, Reviews Conditions Arising From War.

The following review of the stirring world events is written for the Independent by James Shaw, who was born in New Zealand, fought with the British army in South Africa, later spending several years in London, but now a subject of Uncle Sam, anxious to take up arms for his country:

When, on that placid August day, the wires which link the far flung outposts of civilization carried the terse, yet fateful message that the dogs of war had been unleashed, in an ever turbulent Balkan theatre, the awful significance of that brief declaration passed human comprehension. A realization of the appalling carnage, which has since staggered humanity, the arraying of each race, from every clime, Christian, Mohammedan, Buddhist and Brahmin, of the development of engines, solely destructive, diabolical in ingenuity and effect, with the dawn of a deliberate policy, of ruthless extermination, sparing neither the aged, the women, or children, the sick or feeble, which disregards every hitherto revered law of compassion, of God or of humanity with a callousness inconceivable, bids us as we stand aghast at the awful, yet imperative sacrifice, face the ordeal inflictingly, determined to prove ourselves men, individually and a people collectively, to whom democracy is a vital principle. For the mighty irresistible forces of evolution, focused, directed by the unswerving, yet invisible hand of a just God, have decreed, that the domination of an autocratic despotism must cease, proffering as a blessed consolation for the suffering and sorrows of a sin and shell scarred world, the assurance that posterity enjoy undisturbed the fundamental rights of a citizenship, based upon freedom and justice.

We of this country can today, better appreciate the lack of preparedness so evident throughout the British Empire, when called, with unexpected suddenness, to clash in deadly embrace with a power, which for forty years had centered her energies and resources in anticipation of a conflict which would demonstrate the ambition of a monarch, whose dominating personality craved the command of the sea, the earth and all that is contained therein. With an army of but 240,000 seasoned troops with world wide possessions to defend, of these but 80,000 were available to cooperate with a million and a quarter of the valiant sons of France. With equipment, ammunition, sadly lacking, out-classed in range and power of artillery, small wonder, the victorious Germans, flushed with success, triumphantly pronounced to an astounded world, the day, the hour, they would enter Paris and banish all scepticism as to the Divine right and inspiration by which William was to guide and govern the universe. Russia, on the eastern border, lacking also transportation facilities, clothing, equipment and all that is essential to a modern army, mobilized so slowly as to permit the employment of the full power of a force, which has been justly termed the most perfect comprehensive fighting machine history records.

But the campaign which terminated in the defeat of the Kaiser's forces at the battle of the Marne, their retreat to the Aisne, strategic or inevitable, their subsequent readiness to fall back upon carefully prepared entrenchments, demonstrated unmistakably, that the spirit of France was in no sense crushed and that England's "contemptible little army" was worthily upholding the glorious traditions which punctuate the growth of a free people. The call for volunteers, aroused an Empire. From each compass point, the manhood of the Anglo Saxon race responded nobly to the child of Greater Britain, their colonies, represent the acorns shed by the parent tree (England), which as the years lapse have attained a stature, which forms a natural protection against the tempest of stormy winds which may assail her. And that spirit, while it animates her distant youth, is unconquerable.

The late Lord Kitchener, possessing an intimate knowledge of the Empire's resources, emphasized the need of four million men and a period of training which would prohibit British military partnership on an effective scale, becoming available until the fall of 1916. Recent months have demonstrated the growing man power of the Allies, the future will make evident the superiority of that same power, numerically and individually. Ammunition, artillery, aeroplanes, a reserve to replace casualties, modernized equipment, every scientific lesson the struggle has taught is reflected today, in the Allied forces, so unmistakably, as to compel even the reluctant admiration, and admission of their foes, that in inventive genius and armament, in three short years, they have excelled the results that Germany in forty could boast.

The power of Russia, as a potent factor in the Allied scheme, has from the outbreak of hostilities been seriously miscalculated, and but for the heroic resistance of gallant little Belgium, their dilatory methods would have proved fatal to the cause of democracy. But the new republic while unquestionably responsible for the prolongation of the struggle, stands today twixt the Devil and the deep blue sea. Her defection from the Allied ranks, will mark the immediate activity of Japan, ready and anxious to embrace an opportunity of annexing the rich mineral deposits and fertile plains of Manchuria, and destroy effectually for a generation, Russia's long cherished ambition to acquire naval and commercial supremacy in eastern spheres.

America today stands shoulder to shoulder with those whose ideals, aspirations, speech and belief find a common basis. Her wealthy, not alone in dollars and cents, but in all that constitutes economic pre-eminence cannot yet be estimated and the spirit of this youthful nation suggests a grim determination that recognition be eventually accorded those great cardinal principles upon which her constitution is based, and by which her people have attained a wondrous prosperity and contentment.

Napoleon's maxim that an army

fights upon its belly has been repeatedly demonstrated in the present struggle.

Grub, guns and gold, form an all powerful trinity, before which even German autocracy must eventually bow.

The question of available supply, awakens a personal interest, the problem of transportation and distribution is so vast, so complex, as to engage the best trained minds of allied genius. Primarily the command of the sea is absolutely essential and a brief review of the work of the British navy is perhaps pardonable. The control of raw materials becomes secondary alone to that of food, and such control, is today unquestionably exercised by the Allied Powers. We have the ships, we have the men, we have the money, too, but for a true understanding of the naval factor, we must begin at the beginning.

Scanning history's pages we find pictured proud Phillip of Spain, piqued by the scorn of Elizabeth, for his proffered affection, blessing the departure of an invincible Armada, which later crumbled before the superior seamanship of England's sailors. The downfall of Spain followed. The supremacy of the Dutch, was in the opinion of Van Tromp, beyond question. With a broom at the masthead of his flagship, the world was warned that all opposition would be merely swept aside. But an awkwardness, resulted in disastrous defeat, and the fruits of victory gave to England the nucleus of a colonial empire.

The achievements of Nelson, at Trafalgar and Abonkir, checked the career of the hitherto irresistible Napoleon, being finally responsible for the overthrow of his despotic power and subsequent captivity. The assembling in 1901 at Spithead of the greatest fleet the world has witnessed, caused Germany to hesitate, and left unchallenged, the supremacy of the seas, in the hands of an Empire, whose outposts of civilization and progress, dot the seven seas, the two hemispheres, and tap alike the granaries of the world, her mineral wealth, and control absolutely the raw materials so essential to the progress of modern scientific invention. The lessons we glean from history is that the power that rules the waves, eventually enforces her will. From the outbreak of hostilities the British navy has exercised the full and unquestioned command of the sea. The United Kingdom, its colonies, and dependencies, and those of her allies, are safe, and free from even possibility of attack. Allied armies, munitions, foodstuffs, can be and are dispatched to any sphere, and replenished as occasion demands. But every German colonial possession has been captured and on the whole wide expanse of the open seas, they cannot swim a visible keel or loosen to the wind the dejected Imperial eagle. The control of the sea is absolute, even acknowledging the temporary effectiveness of the submarine, exaggerated though it unquestionably has been.

The defeat of the allied fleets would witness the immediate dawn of peace. British armies could not for a single week be maintained in Europe, the life and industry of England would be hopelessly paralyzed, the whole fabric of war would instantly collapse. Essential supplies of guns, grub and gold would be no longer available. Prussianism would prevail.

Germany realizes her strength upon

the oceans that form the highways of commerce, through which it is imperative her supplies must one day be replenished, is inadequate to cope successfully with her opponents, and as day follows day, till months grow into years, the grim, persistent menace of that effective patrol, and control, makes necessary the building of a much belauded undersea craft to carry instructions to ambassadors, while the growing, gnawing realization of impending disaster becomes more and more impressed upon her people and must eventually find expression in her councils. History bids fair to repeat her lesson. The power which shattered Holland, that crumpled Spain, and extinguished Napoleon, rests today in the hands of the Allies, for the cause of Progress. The available food supply of the world is under their control, their wealth is beyond computation, in all that is inseparable from victory, guns, munitions and man power, they enjoy a tremendous superiority, in spirit and determination they are unconquerable, and in the nobility of the principle for which they are sacrificing cheerfully wealth and life itself, they give evidence of a higher, nobler conception of the fulfillment of God's purpose here on Earth.

Democracy must and shall triumph. JAMES SHAW.

Editors John Charmley of Mott and H. P. Knappen of Bismarck have been appointed special game wardens in the southern district of the state.

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ED LIVINGSTON, Secretary.

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