

PORTUGAL AND THE WAR

Portugal in coming into the war may seem to other small and hesitating neutral States to have taken a bold step, but she has really taken the only line of safety. When she seized the German vessels in the Tagus she cannot seriously have hoped that Germany would not declare war. No doubt she expected war, and in her whole policy she has acted wisely and with her eyes wide open. We welcome the participation in the war of our oldest ally. Germany has nothing whatever to complain of on any reading of law or treaties. Our Alliance with Portugal has been in existence since 1373, and when German merchant vessels sought shelter in the Tagus it was known to the whole world that at any moment Britain—if the event did not come about in any other way—might call upon Portugal to fulfil the terms of one of the most ancient and best known treaties in existence and support her actively in the war. It was on June 16, 1373, that Edward III, and King Ferdinand I, of Portugal entered at St. Paul's into a solemn understanding to help each other, if called upon to do so, by means of "archers, slingers, ships and galleys armed for war." The treaty spoke pleasantly of "amities, alliances, unions, good confederacies, and leagues of pure love." In 1386, with the approval

of all England—for the daughter of John of Gaunt was then Queen of Portugal—the treaty was renewed. It has remained in force ever since. It is very interesting to remember now that the treaty provided that if England and Portugal fought side by side there should be no separate peace. The Allies even promised each other that neither would agree to an armistice without the consent of the other. The treaty is a wonderful historical document. Cromwell and Milton took a hand in revising its language, so that it should be made plain that it was a bond, not merely between Kings but between peoples. Under Charles II. a secret clause was introduced by which England promised to guard the Portuguese colonies, but that clause is no longer secret. From time to time the treaty was expressly recognized as operative, and a declaration to this effect was made by Queen Victoria. The treaty means for us to-day as it stands: (1.) That we must protect the Portuguese colonies if they are attacked; (2.) that there must be no separate peace; (3.) that if any disputes arise between Britain and Portugal as to places conquered by their joint forces, the disputes must be settled by a Court of Judicature.

We remember that Portugal is a poor country, and we cannot expect from her powerful help. At the same time, we have no doubt that the Portuguese Government will be thoroughly alive in their

own interests, and the fact that they are at war, and that war with Germany is a life-and-death business. They will know what to expect if Germany should win. Germany, in declaring war, has spoken of the forbearance with which she has hitherto treated Portugal. That means that if Germany ever acquired the power to do so, she would treat Portugal without forbearance. Germany professing forbearance is bad enough—much worse than the Greeks bearing gifts—but Germany professing anger would be an enemy from whom every small country may well pray to be delivered, and whom it ought to do everything possible to render harmless. What Portugal can do in this war is quite considerable. She has already, as we gratefully acknowledge, kept a watch on her coasts and we have not heard of German submarines or raiders being able to harbor there. The same watchfulness can now be bestowed on the Portuguese islands in the Atlantic where German ships have found temporary shelter. But a greater service still can be rendered in Africa. The entry of Portugal into the war has come at a very opportune moment—just as General Smuts is developing a largely conceived and dashing movement to crush the resistance in the last colony which belongs to Germany. German East Africa was already surrounded on nearly all sides by enemies when Portugal received her summons. The one district where the colony was not cut off from the outer world was the border of Portuguese Nyasaland. If Portugal can hold the gate here, German East Africa will indeed be a besieged land, and her end will be absolutely certain. We do not, of course, think that there can be any question as to the fate of German East Africa in any case, but if the Portuguese hold their gate it will be impossible for the hunted German garrison to escape as the Cameroon garrison escaped. The campaign will also probably be shortened. The Portuguese in West Africa, long before the declaration of war on Portugal, let it be known that the Germans in South-West Africa could not escape through Portuguese territory. We have every hope, therefore, that now that the Portuguese are actually at war they will be able to complete the encirclement of German East Africa in the strictest fashion. A glance at the map will show the situation. German East Africa is blockaded by sea by the British Fleet: from the north and northwest—British East Africa and Uganda—British forces are either attacking or holding the Germans on the long western flank lies the Belgian Congo; south-west are Rhodesia and British Nyasaland; and finally, on the southern border of the colony and east of Lake Nyasa there is the line which we believe will be held firmly by the Portuguese. There is no chink anywhere.

Is there any other contribution which Portugal can make to the war? We ask the question in no grasping spirit, but because, as we have said, the concern of Portugal that the war should be won by the Allies is as deep as that of any member of the Alliance. The Portuguese Army has a nominal strength of about a quarter of a million. It is not to be supposed that Portugal has the means to put such a force into the field. But it is quite conceivable that she could equip a small force in the modern manner—say fifty or a hundred thousand men. We call to mind the ever-memorable reconstruction of the Portuguese Army in the Peninsular War. Beresford, who was placed in command of Portuguese, found that they were unable to stand against the veterans of Soult and he decided on effecting a complete reorganization, and giving the army a thorough training before taking the field again. He had the fullest moral authority, as he had been created a Marshall in the Portuguese army and a local Lieutenant-General—ranks, by the way, which caused the most discomfiting jealousy among his British brother-officers, who never knew exactly how the touchy Irishman

ought to be treated when he was among British troops. He always had, however, the support of Wellington, who thoroughly believed in him, though he frequently deplored his insistence on his rank. He picked a small and select inner army from the Portuguese army, and turned them into astonishingly good light infantry, and had the glorious satisfaction of seeing them block the path of the French troops, before whom they had at first crumbled away. What was possible then would be possible again. This is, of course, only a suggestion. It is offered diffidently, but it is also a measure of our conviction that the Portuguese Government mean business. We cannot help feeling that the Portuguese people may well draw closer together in this war. Royalists and Republicans may discover that in the common defence of their country they have lost the bitterness of their differences; the best qualities of the nation may emerge and triumph.—The Spectator, London, England

SPRING MILITARY OPERATIONS

The renewal of a Russian offensive virtually along the entire front of nearly 700 miles from Riga to Czernowitz indicates for 1916 a development of operations along the same general lines as in the spring of 1915; except that the role of the respective combatants is reversed. In the early months of 1915 it was the Teuton armies that stood on the defensive. The Russians attacked throughout the winter months in the Carpathians. In February the French attacked in Champagne. In March the British attacked in Artois and Flanders. By the end of March the Allied assault had spent itself, and just a month later the Austro-Germans delivered their smashing blow in Galicia, which had been in preparation even while they were defending themselves on two fronts. To-day it is the Germans that have been hitting out for nearly a month and a half against the Allied line in the west. The climax of their attack was attained a fortnight ago. It is a question of days before, west of the Meuse, the situation resolves itself into the deadlock which obtains east of Verdun. The initiative will have passed to the Allies, and before long the Allied attack, which the drive upon Verdun was to anticipate, will be in motion. On the eastern front it is already under

way. The problem that confronts Germany to-day is the same problem that she faced the first day of the war. If the war is to be won on land it must be done by crushing either France or Russia, and detaching the beaten enemy from the alliance. Three such attempts have been made. The first one, against France, failed in the battle of the Marne. The second one, against Russia, failed last autumn, in spite of the impressive Teuton victories. The third, once more against France, is now in the process of collapse. Will the German effort be directed once more against Russia? Assume that the Central Powers might throw themselves against the Czar's armies with something of the fury of last May. Assume that the Russian lines break as they did last year. How far must the Teuton forces push on before Russia is subdued? At least to Petrograd and Kiev. This means that in the south the Austrian armies must advance as far from their present positions as they did last spring from their lines in Galicia. And in the north it means that Von Hindenburg must cover one and a half times the distance he traversed from the frontier to his present lines.

That such a development is impossible is shown by the extraordinary achievements of the Russian people during the last six months. We say people, instead of armies, advisedly. For the victories in Armenia and the latest successes on the Dniester are primarily significant of the way in which Russia has rallied under the tremendous blows of last year. Compared with her antagonists or her own allies, Russia is primitive in her economic organization, in industrial resources, and, not the least, in her governmental arrangements. It is easy to see how a highly organized and efficient state like Germany would stand up under defeat, how it would adapt itself to changing needs, and show increased resourcefulness with increasing danger. But that was hardly to be expected of lumbering, primitive Russia, with her inefficient bureaucracy. Yet the miracle has happened. She has rallied under defeat, she has borne up under the vast flood of misery, let loose by the migration of millions of inhabitants from the occupied provinces in the west. Last autumn it seemed that Russia would do all that could be expected if she merely continued to take heavy blows without utterly collapsing. Instead she is now hitting out on her own ac-

count against the enemy in the west, and at the same time developing a dramatic attack in Asia which has brought her armies to the Euphrates and within striking distance of the Persian Gulf.

With no decision to be obtained either in Russia or in the west, the only war areas that count, the Central Powers would thus be reduced to the defensive in the heavy operations about to begin. They must wait for the principal blow somewhere in France. The Russians may press forward across the Dniester and bring up once more the peril of Roumanian intervention on the side of the Allies. Even then Germany must hold her main strength in the west, where the British armies will deliver their stroke before long. Along the narrow British front of less than 50 miles there has been a heavier concentration of troops than the war has witnessed in any field. From Ypres to Arras the Germans must prepare for the onset of perhaps a million and a half men, a phalanx more formidable than that with which Mackenson broke the Russian lines last spring.—The Nation, New York.

WELCOME INTRUDER.

The man in the next flat was pounding on the wall. "Look here!" he cried, "I can't sleep with that kid yelling like that. If you don't make him stop, I will." "Come right in," said the baby's father, "you'll be as welcome as the flowers in spring."—Muskegon, Mich., Times.

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ASQUITH AND PR... German Chancellor's Soph... posed—Peace Terms of... On the occasion of a reception to visiting French and Portuguese Monday night Asquith took the opportunity to the speech recently delivered by the Reichstag by the Imperial Chancellor, Dr. von Bethmann-Hollweg, in proposing the Peace Conference, referred to von Guesde's claim to reading part of Germany to negotiate and said: "The German people want us to assume the attitude of a victor. But we are not defeated; we are going to be defeated; that the allies were only peace on the terms of the 11th of November, 1914. Must be conceded: "Great Britain entered the war not to wipe her name or wipe her name from Europe; not to destroy her national life. As a result, we intend to establish principles that international must be handled by free and equal terms between and that this settlement shall be hampered or swayed overmastering dictation of ment controlled by a military That is what I mean by the Prussia—nothing more, but less."

Ontario Temperance Act Sway For Nearly Three... Prohibition on September this year, and a referendum two years and nine months the first Monday in June, among the further details of the Ontario Temperance Act and Hon. W. J. Hanna while through the committee of the Ontario Legislature last week the bulk of the bill was reported to the referendum. Hanna stated that owing to the fact that the bill was not passed in the House of Commons, in case the war were to continue, this could easily be done in the future session. He pointed out that rural voters in the province have to be registered by the end of the year, and could be put on the list of revision not later than August of that year. This delay in taking the referendum is another reason. "It will give the Act a two years and nine months, and will be the better able to intelligently as to the terms of the law."

ONE MILLION PER Dominion's War Cost Greatly Exceeded Budget Estimate. The financial statement of the Dominion for the month of March for the fiscal year ending in June show a war expenditure of more than \$24,000,000 for last month, a total revenue of \$171,248,500 for the fiscal year, and a net profit at the end of the year of \$1,000,000. The war expenditure is not close to a million dollars more than for the preceding year. Finance Minister estimates a little over \$1,000,000 more. Budget speech of February and the net debt shows an increase of nearly \$147,000,000 for the twelve months. The war cost for the fiscal year is given as \$50,000, although the final cost will not be available for two months yet.

Big Turk Reinforced German Motor Cars Rushed to Front. A special to The London Telegraph from Rome says that information at the Embassy the Turks have been getting important reports to Trebizond and Sivas, and that they have sent 80,000 rifles, 80,000 machine guns, 80,000 tons of ammunition, 80,000 tons of food and material. The arrival of these reinforcements explains the resistance of the Turkish army on the Asiatic front. The Turkish army continues to hold the line. Constant attempts are made to send food and material to the front by Russian submarines and aircraft. Since the beginning of the war the Russians have destroyed or more Turkish vessels.

Manitoba Judge Wants Chief Justice Mather to Visit Ottawa. Chief Justice Mather of Ontario will arrive in Ottawa in the near future. He is expected to urge upon the Government the adoption of conscription. It is unlikely that he will be granted.

Turks Long For Peace. It is reported that the Y. have asked Effendi Nour, former Turkish Prime Minister, to visit London and Paris to discuss the possibilities of a separate peace for Turkey.

The Canadian House of Commons received a surprise Monday when, just before adjournment, Robert Rogers, who was in the House, announced that he had desired to prorogue the House next week.

The Saloniki correspondent of the London Daily Mail says: "The front has gone to the front, and the war zone have been left to the Allies."

Another Belgian woman has been executed by the Germans.

Dr. A. W. Waite, the dentist, has been charged with the first degree.