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Members of the Cabinet Have Many Weird Callers

Cranks and Inventors of Many Sorts Are Irate When Servants Rigidly Keep Them Out—Strictest Precautions When Cabinet is in Session

You have hard work indeed to get into the War Office nowadays when you wish to see anybody important there, says an English journalist. For a host of guards of one sort or another have to be satisfied, passed, and propitiated ere you come to the man you want to see. No such provision unnecessary, for every day sees an eccentric man or woman trying to get an interview with some notability in the various Government offices about Whitehall.

"I want to see Lord Kitchener, that's what I want!" exclaimed a visitor to the War Office indignantly, when he was stopped by a burly policeman. "No, I haven't any pass. But I've invented something which would drive all the Germans into Black Forest in a fortnight! What is it? Never you mind what it is, young man!" went on the irate visitor.

"Just take me to Kitchener's room, that's all I can see him. And then, is called a free country. Well, then, I'll just go along to Buckingham Palace and see King George, and tell him about it; that's what I'll do!" Whether the angry man went to the Palace or not the smiling policeman found a perfect stranger in a room close by where the Cabinet was holding a meeting at No. 10 Downing Street.

"May I come in with you? I very much desire to tell him something about the drink question I think he ought to know, as it is extremely urgent." It is rare indeed that any unauthorized person does actually get into the presence of a Cabinet Minister in this way. But it has been done. I recollect one of the former secretaries of a Prime Minister telling me how he found a perfect stranger in a room close by where the Cabinet was holding a meeting at No. 10 Downing Street.

Lord Reading's Career Varied But Brilliant

Sailor, Student, Broker, Bankrupt, Lawyer, Politician, Then Lord Chief Justice—Owes Much to King and Wife.

Baron Reading, Lord Chief Justice of England, is still a comparatively young man. Rufus Isaacs was born in London in 1859, not a thing of commonplace life he ran away to be a sailor, and shipped for Rio Janeiro. He sickened of this life, however, and returned home, where his parents were both able and anxious to give him a university education. The young man declined, and set up in business as a broker. This adventure was not much happier than his sailing exploit, and at the age of 26 he found himself with considerable liabilities which he had no means of meeting.

His most conspicuous success in this particular branch of his profession was his prosecution of Whittaker Wright, the notorious English exponent of "frenzied finance." Wright had involved with him so many persons belonging to influential and highly placed families that there was a general belief that his misdeed would never be expiated. However, so searching and his examination by Isaacs that Wright broke down, confessed, and most dramatically ended his life in the court room. Another "cause celebre," which showed that Isaacs was as brilliant in defence as in attack, was the action brought by J. B. Joel, a South African millionaire, and a prominent racing man, against "Bob" Stever, the editor of a scurrilous racing sheet known as the Winning Post. Joel accused Stever of blackmail, and in the course of the trial most unflattering details were brought out by

both sides. However, Stever was acquitted, thanks chiefly to his lawyer's skill.

King Edward's Friend

In 1904 Isaacs entered Parliament as the Liberal member for Reading. About the same time he became acquainted with King Edward, with whom he used to play whist. The King, who was no great player, is said to have enjoyed Isaacs's participation in a game because of his equal mediocrity. In 1909 Isaacs became Solicitor-General, and the following year was knighted and appointed Attorney-General. Subsequently he became a Privy Councillor, a Knight, Commander of the Victorian Order, and was admitted to the Cabinet. He was the first Attorney-General who ever received this distinction. But a greater honor was awaiting him, and that was his elevation in 1913 to become Lord Chief Justice of England. He is the first Jew to hold that position.

Baron Reading is a financial as well as a legal authority, and since the outbreak of the war he has been working in the British Treasury in cooperation with Lloyd George and Reinhold McKenna. Personally, the Lord Chief Justice is a man of striking appearance, tall, slim, graceful and extremely youthful looking. He is fastidious in his dress, and suave and eloquent in conversation.

Conspicuous Uniforms

Experiments have been made in Europe to determine what color in a soldier's uniform is the least conspicuous to an enemy. Of ten men, two were dressed in light grey uniforms, two in dark grey, two in green, two in dark blue, and two in scarlet. All were then ordered to march off, while a group of officers remained watching them. The first to disappear in the landscape was the light grey, and next, surprising as it may seem, the scarlet. Then followed the dark grey, while the dark blue and green remained visible long after all the others had disappeared.

Empire Fair After War

The idea of holding a great British Empire Fair after the end of the war appears to have met with a very enthusiastic reception. The site of the fair has been chosen, a northwest suburb of London. A great palace of industry is to be erected in the centre of the grounds and it is hoped to make the fair an annual event, which is to take the place of the once famous Leipzig Fair. The necessary capital has been secured.

SCOTTISH "PASHA"

Among the fighting Turks a writer in the Weekly Scotsman suggests that there may be descendants of a little Scottish drummer boy who was taken captive by the Turks at Rosetta, in Egypt, in 1807. No adult prisoners were taken, the army being practically wiped out and it is not known why the boy's life was spared. But he not only lived, but prospered, and visitors in after years who visited Jeddah, in Asia Minor, found him possessed of large properties, living as a Turkish "Pasha," outwardly conformed to the Mohammedan faith but inwardly mindful of his different origin. He had forgotten his Scottish name, but through all his adventures he had clung to a small Bible which he had with him in Egypt. On its flyleaf he had written in a boyish hand:

"J.M. is my name,
Scotland is my nation;
Perth is my native place,
And Christ is my salvation."

JOFFRE'S RIGHT HAND

General Foch a Very Able Man—Admiration For British

General Ferdinand Foch is the Frenchman who has won more battles than any other general in this war. He is commander of five French armies, operating in the north of France; he has been Joffre's right hand man and second in command. Yet, curiously little is known about General Foch; even Frenchmen outside the regular army had scarcely heard of their brilliant leader before the battles of the Marne and the Yser. Then, France awoke to the fact that in this soldierly, grey-eyed man they had a leader the equal of "Papa" Joffre. Officialdom praised him; he was promoted from the command of the 20th Army Corps at Nancy to his present high position. Then, to add to general surprise, Sir John French spoke very highly of the support that he had given the British armies. Thus, General Foch gained wider fame and was added to the galaxy of popular military idols at an age when he was near retiring.

General Foch was born on October 2nd, 1851—just over three months before Joffre—in the Pyrenees, like Joffre, Pau and Castelnaud. As a lieutenant of nineteen Foch fought in the last Franco-German War. So successful was he as a soldier that at the early age of twenty-six he received a captaincy in an artillery regiment. Always a hard worker, and a keen student of the art and sciences of war, Foch soon gained further promotion. He was made General-Commandant of the troops at Bourges. Then, having passed all the examinations and gained high honors in military history, strategy and tactics, he became Professor of these subjects at the famous School of War. Had it not been for the excellent lectures of General Foch's lectures France would have found it a far greater task to oppose Germany's mighty war machine.

No French general holds a higher opinion of British soldiers than does General Foch. During our 1912 manoeuvres he said: "Your cavalry and artillery are excellent. Your infantry, well, I would sooner fight with it than against it!" An illustration of the brilliant leader's methods is given in the dictum he laid down to his officers during the battle of the Marne: "Discover the enemy's weak spot and then strike there," said; adding, "if he has not a weak spot, then make one!"

SHARP BELGIAN WIT

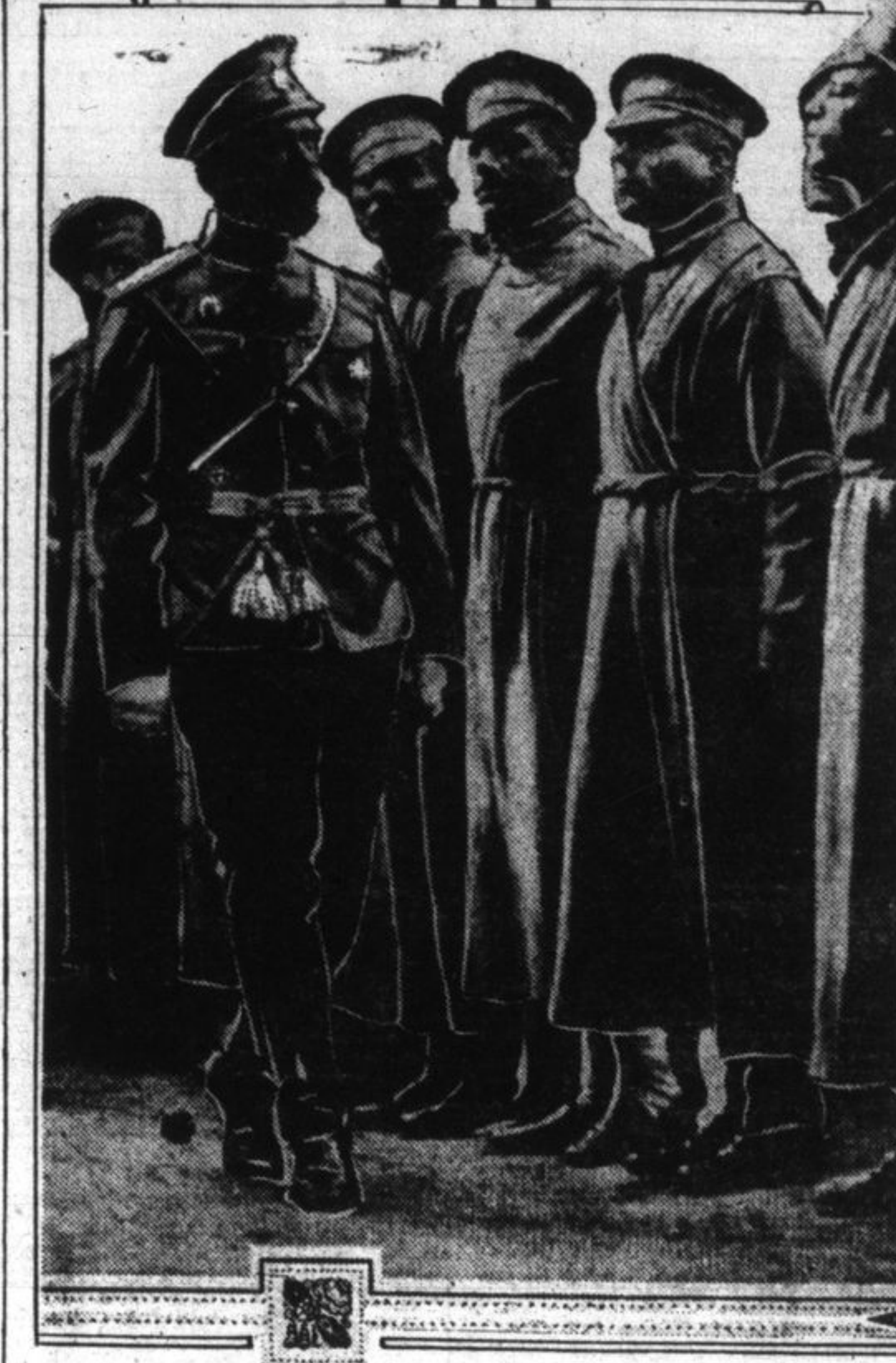
Galling Weapon Freely Used, Admits a German Paper

Germans are complaining that the witty people of Brussels are making the invaders the targets of their ready shafts. "The People of Brussels," writes the "Frankfurter Zeitung," "resemble the Parisians very much and possess the same kind of 'blague.' Their wit is exuberant and naturally they make the Germans their victims. The word 'boche' is now used with the diminutive ending by the people of Brussels. 'Bocheke, bocheke tut 'en ira' (little boche, little boche, you will soon have to run away) sing the children of Brussels and when you hear it sung in a fresh girlish voice, you can't really get angry. Born oppositionists, as they are, how could they suddenly drop their opposition to us? They obey all the order of the Government in the most correct manner, but their wit is occasionally very galling." The paper perhaps refers to the incidents of the people of Brussels solemnly saluting hearses and garbages, pretending that the German Governor might be inside, when that official had ordered them to salute his carriage in the street.

Truce During Concerts

Frans Molnar tells this story from the Zlota Slips. The Russian soldiers generally listen in silence to the music of the Austro-Hungarian military bands behind the trenches. One night a Russian soldier began to shoot in the course of the concert, but a Russian officer immediately boxed his ears and exclaimed: "You fool! Listen to the music!"

THE CZAR GREETS HIS WOUNDED FIGHTING MEN



The Czar reviewing convalescent soldiers in a military hospital not far from the battle-front. Note that he has just returned a salute, his foot being in the correct military position. The men are wearing their hospital robes.

All Italian Royalty Are Very Active In War Work

The war has meant hard work to the entire Italian Royal family. King Victor Emmanuel has been at the front from the first in supreme command of the army, and his two cousins the Duke of Aosta and the Count of Turin, are each in command of an army corps. The Duke of the Abruzzi is commander-in-chief of the Italian fleet and the Prince of Udine, another cousin of the King, is in command of a submarine flotilla. There are two sons of the Duke of Aosta in the army, both serving in the ranks as volunteers, and a son of the Duke of Genoa, the King's uncle, is a lieutenant of artillery. The Duke of Genoa is lieutenant-general or victor during the King's absence from Rome. Queen Elena, Dowager Queen Margherita, the Duchess of Aosta and Letitia are all working hard in connection with Red Cross hospitals and the organization of relief for soldiers' families.

As soon as war was declared Queen Elena insisted on overseeing all arrangements for wounded and sick soldiers, and, despite the admirable organization of the Army Medical Corps and the Red Cross, her experience served to improve even what was supposed to be perfect. The Queen has been interested in hospital work ever since her girlhood, when under her mother's tuition she learned to make bandages and took her first lessons in attending to wounds. Every woman in Montenegro is expected to know all about minor surgery, as the Montenegrin army has no medical corps and the women must take care of the wounded soldiers. When the Princess of Montenegro became Queen of Italy her first work of mercy was tending the wounded in a serious railroad accident at Castel Giubileo near Rome. It was due to the Queen's efforts that relief and rescue work was started promptly after the Messina earthquake and again during the Avezzano earthquake when the work was hard, as medical supplies, blankets and provisions had all been sent to the front for the war then expected at any moment and the relief of the earthquake survivors was almost a hopeless task.

A Tremendous Task

The Queen delegated the Duchess of Aosta, who graduated as a Red Cross nurse during the Tripoli war, to take her place as directress-general of the Red Cross. This post is undoubtedly the most exacting ever held by a member of a Royal family, since it means a continuous and complete inspection of every base and reserve hospital in Italy. It is roughly estimated that, excluding the field hospitals and ambulances at the front, which are in charge of the Army Medical Corps, there are at least 3,000 hospitals scattered throughout Italy in hotels, convents, private palaces, schools, etc. The Duchess of Aosta has to travel from one end of Italy to another inspecting these hospitals. She is accompanied by Sister Caroline, an English nursing sister, who took care of the Duke of Aosta when he was seriously ill with typhus.

Dowager Queen Margherita organized in Rome a hospital in the Palazzo, or small palace, in the garden of her villa. Her hospital is a model of perfection, and it is equipped with

GERMANS HAD PLANNED WELL FOR AFRICAN WAR

BRITISH WAR MEDALS

The first war medals appear to have been bestowed by Queen Elizabeth, to commemorate the rout of the Spanish Armada in 1588, when she issued medals in gold and silver as rewards for that great victory. A specimen of these medals, with rings and chains, is to be seen in the British Museum. Perhaps the most costly medal ever made was that given to Sir Francis Drake by Queen Elizabeth after his voyage around the world. The frame of the medal is set with diamonds and rubies and enamelled in various colors. On one side of the medal two heads are carved, while on the reverse is a beautiful miniature of Queen Elizabeth.

Just over fifty years after Queen Elizabeth awarded the first naval medals Charles I. extended the rewards to the army, when he ordered that medals should be struck for military prowess and "delivered to wear on the breast of every man who shall be certified under the hands of the Commander-in-Chief to have done us faithful service in the forlorn hope." The first record we have of the bestowal of a medal for conspicuous conduct in the field is in the award made to an Irish commander who gallantly distinguished himself at the Battle of Edge Hill, in the Civil War, fought on October 23rd, 1642, by the recovery of a Royal standard and certain military accessories. The gallant soldier, who became Sir Robert Welch, was subsequently presented with an oval gold medal, specially cut to the King's orders.

PARIS HERSELF AGAIN

A Great Family, Not Pleasure Resort, Since War

There is something wonderful, writes an Englishwoman in witnessing the renaissance of a great nation and if any nation has ever, after years of frivolousness and decadence, once more found its soul it is surely the French to-day. Paris is to-day, as it always was, the heart of France and here in Paris you may witness better than anywhere else the transformation that has taken place in France during the last year. Before the war all who love Paris had witnessed with sincere grief how the city had gradually lost its character, how it had degenerated into an immense international pleasure resort, where people had become satisfied to cater to pleasure-loving tourists of all nations, how Paris had become Americanized in the bad sense of this word, how its old-time poetry and charm had disappeared, how it was becoming shunned by artists, who no longer found here the inspirations they come in search of.

The war has wrought a great change. The old-time Paris has once more returned, with its indefinable charm. The people are like one great family, sorrow and trials have united everybody, the distrust of strangers has gone, because everybody feels that those who remain are only the true friends of France, and homes and hearts are readily opened to a conqueror, younger men, who follow the King everywhere and have to take occasionally a few days' leave for a rest, hospitals and never-sleeps more than six hours, and he spends the remaining eighteen of each day in morning along the front, visiting all the encampments. He is immensely popular with the army and people.



"You are my prisoner, Captain. Give me your sword." "I have no sword. I will give you my gasoline tank and my gasometer." —Féle Mété, Paris.

But Anglo-French Forces Have Remarkable Triumphs in Different Campaigns—Distrust of Huns.

"Fighting continually in Africa since the war began along a front of more than 2,000 miles, the French Colonial troops, aided by the British allies, have obtained remarkable results," said Gaston Doumergue, French Minister of the Colonies. "German East Africa," the Minister continued, "will soon be the only colony possessed by Germany with the exception of a small part of the Kameruns. The other German possessions are occupied either by the French or English, or jointly."

"When one considers the difficulties of transportation in the interior of Kameruns not only of food, but of munitions and cannon of our expeditionary columns, our success appears to be still more evident and meritorious. A number of French columns marching from East to West and from South to North have covered more than 600 kilometers (about 373 miles) and fighting continually have established junctions and thus surrounded the enemy on three sides, while Anglo-French columns are operating from the coast toward the interior, and a blockade of the coast has been effected by British vessels.

Fight Climate and Science

"The fighting in the colonies bears a great resemblance to that on the western front. Trenches, barbed wire entanglements, blockhouses, and observation posts have been cleverly disposed and utilized by the Germans, who have shown here, as elsewhere, the greatest preparations for war. Our enemies had even sent to Africa some aeroplanes, which the allies fortunately brought down as soon as they appeared. Barua, with a population of over 20,000 and an important garrison, was besieged for several months, and only fell when I ordered a gun of large calibre transported there from a coccolite (transported) there from a coccolite 1,000 kilometers (621 miles) of winding waterways on the outskirts of the city. The effect of the projectile was so terrifying that after a short bombardment the population and garrison of Barua requested permission to surrender.

"The climate and the nature of the ground opposed great difficulties to the march of our troops. I must in this respect refer to the excellent organization of our sanitary service, thanks to which our losses due to disease were greatly reduced.

Colonials Eager to Come

"I hope that we will be able to add still more Colonial troops to the force on the firing line, whether in France, Morocco or the Kameruns and in Western Africa. It is indeed wonderful to see the way in which the natives have responded to the Mother Country's call and their absolute devotion to the great cause. All the colonies have sent men to their quota of troops, and many more are eager to come. This is due to their faith in their commanders, who have rendered our successes in the Kameruns possible. I learn in this connection that many native troops fighting with Germany have crossed over to our side."

FRANCE ADMITS DEBT

Why-Britain's Lines Extend Slowly, French General Explains

An officer of the French general staff visiting London assures me, says a writer in the English press, that French officers have no fault to find with their English allies though he does not deny that some French people are growing. "We understand perfectly well," he said, "that when Marshal Foch preferred to establish his front in depth rather than extend it to the sides, it was because he wanted only successively to bring the newly-trained men into the first line that they might gradually become used to the actual fighting; which at this time has become a war veteran's game indeed. Let me emphasize this, however, that Marshal Foch in no way doubts the valor of the young troops sent from England, but, during his former campaigns, he has always been used to handling an army of professional soldiers and to commanding men to whom discipline in face of the gravest danger has become an instinct, he considers it necessary to complete the training of the bodies by a long apprenticeship in the third and second lines.

"Now he has accomplished his purpose and he may send the men, who now constitute his rear lines into battle anywhere and at any time. They will stand as firm and attack with as much swiftness and strength as their professional comrades who form the nucleus of the British armies. The same may be said, in fact, of the soldiers now coming over from England after a longer training—they are able to march direct from the transports into battle. As a matter of fact the maps I have seen in England showing a bird's-eye view of the British front were perhaps quite exact months ago, but they are no longer so. As for the reserves, still in England, I am not permitted to say anything, as the British War Office desires to keep the exact number secret, rightly asserting that the unknown is very often an important factor of success in war."