

# PAGE of NEWS from OVERSEAS

## ITALY'S HIGH SPIRIT; WHOLE NATION STEADY

**Military Position is Improved by  
Calm Resolve and Firm Support  
of People—Wonderful Alpine  
Fighters—Situation as Reviewed  
is Hopeful.**

Alexander Oldirri, of the Garibaldi Volunteers in 1866, of the French Artillery, 1870-71, writes: I first inquired about prices; with certain delicacies have increased 10 to 15 per cent. above ordinary prices in the first class restaurants and cafes, a most palatable meal can still be served for a dollar, and this, notwithstanding the fact that forstalling meat scarcity, the Government and the municipalities have taken strict measures toward cattle raising and selling—marking every animal for the slaughter-house, and protecting bearing cows and their calves. The call to the flag scarcely involves 5 per cent. of the total population of the country. Transportation is easy within and without cities, and trains run on schedule time with some delay owing to the Swiss boundary. Most noticeable and inspiring is the attitude of the Italian women of all classes, which appears to the observer most calm.

But while this is so the Italian nation, stirred in the very depth of sentimentality so vivid with Latin peoples, so impulsive and expressive, from the Quirinal down to the most modest household, a decision, a determination, manifests itself to see this national war to a finish, as never in Italy, even in Garibaldi times. The territorial militia starting for the front recalls the impression noted by Kipling, that gives the man from 30 to 40, the paterfamilias, the poise of the aged foe, not of the bold young soldier flinging his youth and life into battle almost merrily, but the one who, when at it, will aim calmly and deadly every time, remembering what to the enemy of his country he owes if he has left behind, far away from the war zone, in the care of his nation, his wife and children. Twenty thousand Catholic priests have joined the army.

National economy is well understood; the masses realize in their conscience their duty to co-operate with the men in the field and the country in the line of providence and have volunteered a diminished consumption, well knowing that excessive importation brings a scarcity, hence a devaluation of their national money standard. The banks and credit institutions run regularly.

As to army operations themselves directed by an efficiently prepared staff under General Cadorna, Italians are everywhere on the offensive and advance through difficult mountain ranges steadily day by day, clockwork like, the very character of this mountain war preventing the display of large masses. The King of Italy, showing himself on every contested point, brings to the combatants the full sense that this is for Italy a war where there shall be no retreat, even if the advance has to be made through regions bristling with modern machine-guns on the heights of tactical vantage, natural barriers seemingly impregnable and all kinds of intrenchments on which the enemy has spent for many years. In preparation of an invasion into Italy their ingenuity and best military skill.

Talking to a wounded Alpine captain of hardly thirty years I was impressed by the vivid and simple way he put the thing: "We act like mountain goat hunters, locating first the spot where the Austrians are massed or entrenched and there we must go, even if their number is not well known, bringing up often by night or dragging up some artillery. Some times we don't; I mean when we are on a new and promising trail, our mountaineer boys refusing to go back again, as it happened to me when I was wounded. Almost all our men, advancing in the Tyrol, were born in the Alps region and have the sense and the love of these mountains. So that among them the leaders are in plenty. When I fell a sergeant took command and most naturally, mayhap quicker, did what I would have done. While the Austrian Tyrolean army, having sacrificed their best Alpine elements in the Carpathians early in the war, seems to be made up of heterogeneous units, steady under fire, but not in every case fitted to match Italian Alps. Another officer, also wounded, told me that when they got in the enemy's trench, the captured Austrian officer asked him: "How did you ever get up there?"

The Italian leader, a young man of twenty-five, a civil engineer in private life, belongs to the famous Italian Touring Club. "Well, Captain, I have been up here before when at every turn I could hear 'Verboten!'"

Details are still kept from the public, but I have it from a naval officer serving on board a dreadnought that the watch kept on Austrian naval bases is equivalent to a regular blockade. "What will happen to the Austrians' powerful fleet," I asked him, "if, as expected, Pola and Cattaro attacked some day by land and sea, fall into our power?"

He hesitated before answering my question; but pressed on gently he answered me: "We believe on board that Lissa will and must be avenged, at all costs that day, the day we are waiting for since 1866 in the navy, and this from the Admiral down to the last stoker," then, with a placid smile, "we will incorporate that which will be left as England will eventually do with the German fleet after the unavoidable naval battle has taken place and has been won by the British."

## Germans Wail "We Are Encircled" But No Fair Ambition Was Thwarted

M. E. Pottier, a member of the French Institute and professor at the Louvre in Paris answers the German charge that the world had "encircled" Germany with a counter-charge and proofs that Germany had penetrated and invaded the world. The French publicist writes as follows:

This is the thesis maintained by Germany: "My enemies have wished to encircle me; but with my iron fist I have broken the barrier and I have regained my liberty. I have not wished war. I have been forced to it. I do not attack, I defend myself." We shall not seek to discover whether these words are indeed in full agreement with what was said in the German press at the beginning of the month of August, 1914, and whether this attitude does not date from a time more recent and has for its purpose the throwing upon others of the too heavy responsibility for such a bloody war.

Others already have answered this assertion by abundant proofs drawn from diplomatic documents. Let us, however, accept it as the opinion which prevails to-day throughout Germany, which has the value of a word of command, to be faithfully obeyed. From the Emperor and the Chancellor down to the humblest prisoner, it is upon the lips of every German: "What is meant by this 'encircling' in time of peace? Where a great country, organized like Germany, is

concerned, it can only be a question of some effort made by its enemies to paralyze its commerce and its industries. Were there any commercial treaties which were imposed upon Germany to her disadvantage? It would be in vain to search for such treaties among the nations surrounding powerful Germany. Were there any obstacles to block the full expansion of the work of her citizens competing for foreign markets? The role of the German commercial traveler is but too well known—everywhere at home, everywhere triumphant, a veritable missionary of force and of German riches.

Were there any limitations set to the German merchant marine? What the German Emperor has made of it in twenty-five years is well known; with what affection he has brooded over it, how he has protected it with the strength of his warships, how it has been always increasing and quickly passed to the second rank of the great merchant marines of the world.

Was there any hindrance placed in the way of the emigration of Germany's prolific population? The United States has no need of being told in how short a time there has been established in its midst a "State within a State," with some ten million Germans or people of German extraction. Whoever was one turns, only profits are discovered in Germany's ledger, profits acquired with unbelievable rapidity.

Let us say, rather, that foreign nations were little aware of the immense invasion of this gigantic effort which assured to our neighbors a startling superiority over all competitors, so that war was necessary—their war—to make them see it, to tear the bandages from all eyes. It was stupefying to find that there were in Belgium, in France, in England, in Italy, German business firms either of naturalized Germans or of German residents, and German banks, not to mention the swarms of "undesirables," who were employed in the equivocal task of the spy.

The German peril was known only when it was laid bare by the German war. Everything was Germanized, or nearly so. At this moment, in Paris, you cannot go to your hardware shop, to your chemist's, to your perfumery, to your lamp shop, to your photographer's, to your stationer's, without being told that such and such an article is no longer to be had "because it came from Germany." I cannot say whether our neighbors were "encircled," but I do know that we were invaded—we, and many others. What I am now saying of material evidences I could say also of articles necessary to science, to medicine, to chemistry, to mechanics, to book publishing, to geography, to archeology, to the decorative arts, and to innumerable other activities. It was an immense drop of oil which spread out over the entire world.

### NO SCOTTISH SHIRKERS

In "Caledonia, stern and wild," every fit man has joined the army. That is, possibly a compliment to Scotland at the expense of the other parts of the country, but it is true that the same the Scotchmen have given a splendid answer to the call of country. "Not awa' yet!" addressed to a laggard, has driven the last of the fit men out of many a Northern village, according to the testimony of a Scottish lady, who recited and spoke at a recruiting meeting in the Strand, says the Daily Chronicle.

"I know," she said, "villages in Scotland where big, well grown lads of fifteen have had to be dragged away from the recruiting officers after their elder brothers had enlisted. They were not eligible, but they overstated their age, and might have been accepted if their parents had not intervened. That shows the spirit of the boys, and there are thousands like them in the country districts and provincial towns from Land's End to John o' Groats; and yet we have in the streets of London many young fellows lounging about doing woman's work when they ought to be in khaki!"

### HUNS UPHOLD MASSACRE

**Fleishlich Coolness of Von Reventlow  
Over Armenian Atrocities**

Count Ernst von Reventlow, military writer for the Tageszeitung, declares flatly that it is Turkey's own affair how she deals with Armenian uprisings. Count von Reventlow presses the hope that Turkey will not allow herself to be frightened. He continues: "If Turkey considers it necessary that Armenian uprisings and other intrigues be suppressed with all means possible, then a repetition will be impossible, that does not constitute massacres or atrocities, but simply a measure of a justified and necessary character, the more justified and the more necessary from the fact that the Turkish empire is in its hardest fight for existence and has enough foreign enemies. To demand that it shall also nourish an internal enemy on its bosom, because that would suit the British and Americans, is to demand a great deal."

"The Turkish Empire has long had to endure that all the great powers who pleased and who wished to destroy, plunder or rob the Turks, should mix in their affairs. Now we should think that these times were finally passed. And they will indeed be passed as soon as the German Empire determinedly takes the standpoint that what the Turkish ally does with his revolutionary Armenians is an internal affair which concerns him alone."

The writer expressed indignation at a report that German Consuls had been ordered to modify the hardships, and declared that this standpoint was incomprehensible to him and that he considered it politically false. "We Germans have to give an account neither to enemies nor neutrals of what the Turks do with their Armenians or what the German Consuls say about it," he declares. "The place of the German Empire and of every individual German is at the side of our Turkish ally, and that without criticism."

### NEW ZEALAND BRAVERY

**Hero Displeased Over Dying Without  
Enough Time to Fight**

The London Telegraph says: The fine example manifested by the New Zealand troops is evidenced in a letter written by one who was shot through the neck and is in a Cairo hospital. He writes: "It is foolish for people to worry and weep for their friends and relations who go down in the fight. I am sure from what I saw and felt, they die happy. When I got to the front, I was in the amount of blood and the way I gasped that the jugular vein had gone, and so never troubled to put my first dressing on. I just lay down under a pretty little shrub with my elbow on the ground, and, resting my head on my hand, thought of many things, but there was no fear of death or horror that I should be no more."

"I was nearly contented—just a tinge of disappointment when I thought of never seeing any of you again or seeing any of the pleasant spots and having any more of the pleasures of this earth. Another thing that troubled me was the past of nine months' training, then only seeing three days' fighting. I was only in the front firing line for about two hours before being bowled over. It was hard luck, so you can put that in your pipe and smoke it. If I am not to see you in the next time, I am sure it will not trouble this member of the family. I think one day of real exciting life is better than a month of monotony."

The Germans in Belgium are using silver coins instead of nickel, which is wanted for ammunition.

Perforation caps on cartridges were invented by a clergyman, the Rev. Alexander Forsyth.



"ONWARD, CHRISTIAN SOLDIERS"  
—Norman Lindsay, in Sydney Bulletin

## Indians Are Ambitious For Military Honors

**Recognition of Splendid Loyalty  
is Wanted After War—  
National Congress Voices Growing  
Aspiration of Upper Classes,  
writes Legislator.**

It would be idle to expect that a people like the Indians—with such a great past and the inheritance of such a great civilization—would have no political aspirations or be content to remain in a perpetual state of tutelage, writes Sir Krishna Gupta, M.P. The Indian national congress was formed many years ago, and in its annual sessions it has done much to focus the political views of the best Indian minds and to indicate in what direction reforms and advances are desired. The congress in a great measure voices the hopes and wishes of educated India. It is the outcome of the contact of the East and West and is firmly convinced that the continuance of the British connection is absolutely essential to the regeneration of India, and to the moulding of its divers races into one great nation. It is not the time to quarrel over phrases. Autonomy may mean much or it may mean little; it may also be said that self-government on colonial lines is inapplicable to India. But as a question of practical politics one has to look, not to words, but to actual facts. What has happened since the Crown took over the government of the country from the East India Company, a little over half a century ago? There were then no legislative councils and Indians occupied only very humble and subordinate positions in every branch of the public service. The first Legislative Council was established in 1862 on a tentative and cautious basis, and if we consider what has been the expansion of the

councils in just about fifty years, is it too much to hope that in course of time they will be as representative of the peoples of India as the Parliament here is of the British public? And as for the public services, there is no civil appointment which—at least in theory—is not open to Indians, and is firmly convinced that the courts of justice and are also members of the most sanctuaries of imperial and provincial Governments. This participation of the people in the administration of their own country, instead of diminishing, must go on expanding.

In one important respect much remains to be done. The right of the Indians to carry arms is greatly and vigorously restricted, and the commissioned ranks of the military service, except in the medical department, are yet a closed book to them. The so-called Indian officers are inferior in position and pay to the youngest British second lieutenant, and although a few Indian princes and others hold high honorary posts in the army, the military service is practically closed to the better and educated classes. It is the earnest wish and hope of the Indians that after the war this great disability will be removed. Any great expansion of the Indian army without Indian officers is an impossibility, and it is also certain that without the participation of the higher classes in the military service it will be difficult to maintain the martial spirit of the Indian army or to obtain sufficient recruits even on the present scale. The Indians have a right to expect that after the signal proof of loyalty to the Crown and of attachment to the empire which they have just given they will in future be rewarded with trust and confidence and be allowed to freely participate not only in the defence of their own country, but in upholding the integrity of the empire.

### LOURDES DURING WAR

"For the first time in the half century that Lourdes has been the miracle working capital of the world no pilgrimages come to her from any quarter of the globe," says a Paris correspondent in the Catholic News. "The innumerable processions have given place to the individual pilgrim, who has come to pray for the one miracle that engages the French mind that the dear ones shall pass through the dangers of war unscathed."

"Lourdes, however," continues the writer, "has not ceased to be a city of healing. Its marvellous organization is devoted to caring for those it has named the 'pilgrims from the front.' Lourdes is used to receiving trainloads of sick. So wounded soldiers, on arriving, find perfectly trained bearers and expert service. With what will appear a want of confidence in the healing powers of their grotto's water, Lourdes is used to receiving scientific, medical and surgical resources is provided by the authorities of the city. Those who have been to Lourdes will not be surprised to hear that twenty-two hospitals were fitted up in a very short time in the city and its immediate vicinity, and that they can accommodate twenty-seven hundred wounded."

### JOCULAR KITCHENER

**Movies Show Unknown Side of Famous Warrior**

A remarkable film, recording the movements of Lord Kitchener and Gen. Joffre in the trenches, has been exhibited privately in London. The London Chronicle says: "At one point Lord Kitchener entered a first line trench to observe the German position through his glasses, and he became so interested that indifferent to dirt, he leaned against the earthen parapet to steady his view. It is a memorable picture—that of the Secretary for War intently peering at the enemy, with Gen. Joffre and staff near him, Lord in the background in a ruined farm building. Another section of the film deals with the party making observations from the cover of a wood and there is also a striking review of French troops. But perhaps the feature of the film is its revelation of the broadness which is apparently a part of Lord Kitchener's character, although the popular conception credits him with a sphinxlike sternness. Here, however, one sees him clapping Joffre on the shoulder and laughing the while, and he is constantly smiling in his conversation with the staff."

### TRIBUTE FROM FRANCE

**Socialist Organ Recognizes Wonderful  
Help of the Empire**

The Paris Socialist paper, La Guerre Sociale, pays the following tribute to Britain: "What would have become of us, even after the battle of the Marne, if the German fleet had driven us from the seas and had blockaded us? If Germany had been able to revictual herself in America and elsewhere? Britain goes to war. Immediately the German fleet is forced to confine itself to its own territorial waters. Germany is blockaded and cut off from the whole world. She is cut off from the countries which supply her with cotton, metals and munitions of all sorts; from countries where, too, are one million of her reservists, who are unable to rejoin their own country, slowly but surely, of all the best fighting material, not only in Britain, but in Canada, South Africa and Australasia, and our financial power is being consolidated by its alliance with the greatest financial power in the world."

Over \$125,000,000 has been paid in separation allowances to dependents of British sailors and soldiers since the war began.

## HAMLET AT THE FRONT WITH SOLDIER-ACTORS

**Battle Speech Arouses a Critical Audience—"Not by Bully Beef Alone" do Tommies Live—Improvised and Laughable  
But Inspiring Performance Behind the Lines**

The trench scene in "Under Fire" shows a group of soldiers engrossed in a game of poker, and here is a story of a Shakespearean production made with: sound of the German guns, How the soldiers gave "Hamlet," with themselves as costumers, scene painters, and actors, is told in this account, sent by a special correspondent to The London Times: It is difficult to realize that before leaving France I saw "Hamlet" performed by soldiers of the British Expeditionary Force within a few hours' distance of the firing line. An officer of high standing who saw the play hit off the situation: "Our men do not live by the belly alone; they need some food for the mind, and there is nothing better for them than the great thoughts of our great writers." The play was performed in costume, with scenery painted in camp, and with not a word misplaced or forgotten in the rendering.

Four scenes were chosen—the Ghost scene, the room in the castle where Hamlet decides on revenge, the great soliloquy, and the graveyard. The cast was chosen on the spot, neighboring towns and libraries were scoured for copies of the play, as there was no time to send to England. Luck turned our way, copies were secured, and in a town close by was a branch of a Paris theatrical costumer.

### Scenery? Of Course

The Colonel commanding the base was informed of what was in progress on the Saturday evening; he suggested scenery. Imagine the burst of joy when we discovered a Sergeant-Major who had been stage carpenter. At the Y.M.C.A. where the play was to be performed we found two A.S.C. men working at the stage, and actually preparing footlights. The thrilling moment in the preparations came when two privates of the London Scottish offered to paint the scenery if we could find paint and brushes. Just before the play began the last scene was carefully hung up, still wet.

Long before the time of starting, a great queue assembled. The colonels and officers of the battalions represented honoree, the protection by their presence; also the matrons and nursing staff of the hospital, and over a thousand men gained admission. The doors and windows of the hut were so crowded that the crowd outside could hear. Yet during the growing excitement we were shutting out the thought that any one of our

### HEROES AND GENTLEMEN

**British Officer and Tommy Praised by  
a "Neutral" Soldier**

The following letter, which is quoted in the London "Spectator," is by a young citizen of the United States fighting with the allies: "I've been mixed up with the British soldiers for some time now," he says, "and I tell you there is not a cleaner fighter nor better gentleman in the world than the voracious Britisher. They know how to win and they know how to lose. They never forget they are gentlemen no matter what they do, and they have the courage that knows no ending. Napoleon said, 'The British nation is a race of lions led by asses,' and he was quite right about the nation. They are thought to be snobs, but I admire them. I have seen the 'snobs' out in France, and braver men nor truer gentlemen never lived. They share the hardships with the men, and never ask them to do what they wouldn't do themselves. The men worship them, and will follow them anywhere. I have yet to witness a German officer leading his men in a charge. They follow after. But the British officer always leads his men, and so does the French."

### Old Warfare Renewed

Very interesting is the reversion to ancient conditions of warfare. In Spain's recent war with the Moors, stones were slung very much in the same way as the Romans slung them at the Cathaginians 2,000 years before. And now, in the trench warfare, the French have found that knives are much more handy weapons at close quarters than bayonets, and going still further along the same path, have re-introduced the casque or steel helmet, the morion, and many a dashing tale of wars fought long ago. Shields, too, have for some months past played their part in English trenches, while on the Italian frontier recourse has been had to that oldest of all weapons—the teeth.

There are over 15,000 Jews serving in the British army and navy. One has already won the V.C.—the first Jew ever to do so.

### BRITISH NAVAL LIFE-BELT FOR FORTY-FIVE



This picture was taken on a light cruiser and shows a large-sized Calley life-buoy, which will sustain forty-five persons. The space within the buoy is filled with wood-grating and the buoy is supplied with paddles. This valuable life-saving device has just been supplied to the ships of the Royal navy.