

BELGIUM AND LUXEMBURG

Two Border States Figuring In Europe's War.

BOTH ARE FIGHTING FIELDS.

In Times Past Generals Chose Them as Battlegrounds—Napoleon Met Wellington's Great Army in Belgium. Facts About These Monarchies of Interest to the General Public—The Little Duchy, a Highway For Troops, Is Ruled by the Grand Duchess Marie Adelaide and Is Supposedly Neutral Territory.

BELGIUM and Luxembourg are two localities of strategic importance in the present European disturbances. Both border on countries immediately concerned and are pledged to be neutral, but Germany invaded Luxembourg at the outset of hostilities, and the Kaiser's officials of state notified Belgium that she could expect like treatment.

It was this militant announcement that caused Great Britain to plunge into the war and to ask parliament for a war fund of \$525,000,000. Belgium has been a storm center in



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many European wars, in few of which she was an active factor. Her plains and valleys have been chosen against her will by European generals as grounds on which to decide their quarrels by force of arms. The whole world knows it was in Belgium, at Waterloo, that Napoleon and Wellington clashed in their momentous death grapple, resulting in the shattering of the Corsican's dream.

Facts About Belgium.

Belgium, a kingdom, has a total area of 11,373 square miles and a population at the census of 1910 of 7,510,730.

There are nine provinces—Antwerp, Brabant, Flanders (E. and W.), Liege, Hainaut, Limburg, Luxembourg and Namur. Brussels (with suburbs, 655,806 inhabitants) is the capital.

Other towns with over 100,000 inhabitants are Antwerp, the chief port (320,640, exclusive of suburbs); Ghent (165,149) and Liege (174,768).

Its great harbor and commercial entrepot is Antwerp, a strongly fortified city on the Scheldt. The other harbors are Ostend, Nieuport, Blankenberg and Zeebrugge.

French and Flemish are the joint official languages, but while French is the language of the upper classes Flemish is spoken by the majority, preponderating in Flanders, Limburg and Brabant, including Antwerp. Nearly all the inhabitants are at least nominally Roman Catholics.

Belgian Government.

The Belgian constitution of 1831 jointly vests the legislative power in the king, the senate and the chamber of representatives. The 110 senators (with the exception of twenty-seven elected by the provincial councils) and 100 representatives are elected by the people, the former for eight, the latter for four years. Universal male suffrage, with plural voting up to three votes by property and educational qualifications, was introduced by the electoral law of 1894, proportional representation being secured by an act of 1900.

The united constituencies numbered 1,697,619 voters, with 2,710,851 votes

of the Belgians, when Germany invaded Belgium.

Commerce.

Belgium is essentially a manufacturing country, and it is largely dependent upon foreign supplies for its food.



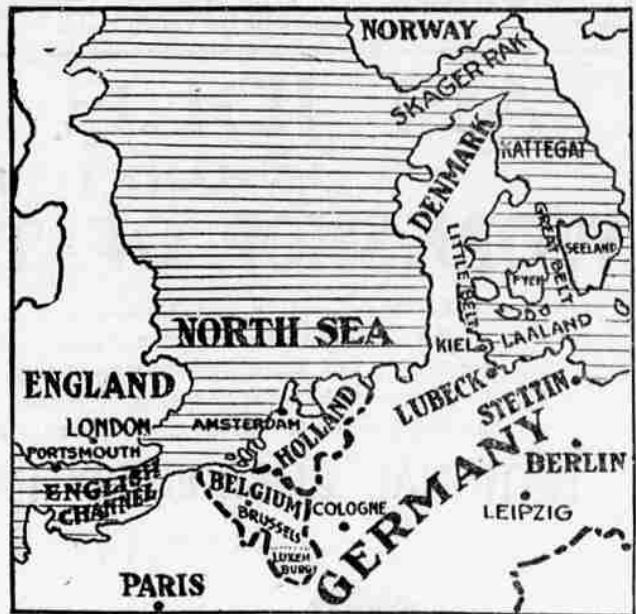
Photo by American Press Association. ALBERT, KING OF THE BELGIANS.

The mineral kingdom yields coal (1900, 23,517,550 tons), iron (1900, 205,380 tons), zinc, lead and copper.

The leading industries are collieries, quarries and metallurgy (Mons, Charleroi, Liege, Namur, Hainaut and Brabant), glass textiles (Verriers), lace (Brussels, Mechlin, Bruges, etc.), flour and starch mills, sugar, distilleries, breweries, etc.

Luxemburg in Detail.

The grand duchy of Luxemburg.



WAR MAP OF CENTRAL EUROPE SHOWING LOCATION OF BELGIUM AND LUXEMBURG.

In 1910-11. There are in addition representative provincial and communal councils, elected on a somewhat more liberal franchise.

Belgium has a frontier of 831 miles and is bounded on the north and east by the Netherlands (258 miles), on the south and west by France (581 miles), on the east by Germany (sixty miles) and the grand duchy of Luxemburg (eighty miles), with a seaboard of forty-two miles.

The Meuse and its tributary, the Sambre, divide it into two distinct regions, that in the west being generally level and fertile, while the table land of the Ardennes, in the east, has for the most part a poor soil.

The "polders" near the coast, which are protected by dikes against floods, cover an area of 103 square miles. The highest hill, Baraque Michel, rises to a height of 2,230 feet, but the mean elevation of the whole country does not exceed 536 feet.

The principal rivers are the Scheldt (Escaut) and the Meuse (Sambre). Brussels has a mean temperature of 50 degrees F. (summer, 63 degrees; winter, 37 degrees).

Antwerp is the principal fortress, and Liege and Namur are also fortified, forming "têtes-de-pont" on the line of the Meuse, which was claimed as a defense against the violation of neutrality by either France or Germany. Belgium has no navy.

The army numbers 250,000 men and was ordered mobilized by Albert, king

small though it is, has witnessed many exciting times. Its recent seizure by the Germans as a gateway to French territory was not the first time when armed outsiders dominated its fair domains. Luxemburg is one of the beauty spots of eastern Europe.

In the great continental wars of the past the martial trend of armies has frequently resounded in the hills and dunes of the little duchy, and in the Napoleonic wars the French command or frequently used it as a thoroughfare northwestward into Prussia.

The ruler of Luxemburg is the Grand Duchess Marie Adelaide, who succeeded to the title Feb. 26, 1912.

The minister of state is M. Eyschen.

Was in Old Confederation. Luxemburg is bounded by Germany, Belgium and France. It formed part of the Germanic confederation, 1215-95, and is still included in the German Zollverein.

In 1867 the treaty of London declared it a neutral territory under the sovereignty of the king of the Netherlands, on whose decease, Nov. 23, 1890, it passed to the Duke of Nassau.

The area is 960 square miles. The population in 1910 was 250,888, nearly all Roman Catholics.

The principality is rich in iron ore. The revenue in 1912 was 18,096,137 francs; expenditure, 20,620,710 francs; debt, Jan. 1, 1912, 12,000,000 francs. There are 328 miles of railway.

The army numbers about 300 men. The capital, Luxemburg (population 20,848), is a dismantled fortress.

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O. O. F., Rising Star Lodge No. 174 meets in the Odd Fellows Temple every Friday evening. Visiting brethren always welcome. D. C. HUMPHREY, N. G. W. S. POWELL, R. S. M. PICKLE, F. S.

I. O. O. F., Philletarian Lodge No. 8—Meets in Odd Fellows Temple, corner Jackson and Cass Sts., on Saturday evening of each week. Members of the order in good standing are invited to attend. M. M. MILLER, N. G. J. B. BAILEY, F. S. M. L. WHITNEY, R. S.

B. P. O. ELKS, Roseburg Lodge, No. 326—Holds regular communications at the Elks' Temple on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of each month. All members requested to attend regularly, and all visiting brothers are cordially invited to attend. A. C. SEELY, E. R. IRA B. RIDDLE, Sec'y.

O. O. F., Union Encampment No. 9—Meets in Odd Fellows Temple every Thursday evening. Visiting brethren always welcome. J. E. PICKENS, C. P. J. B. BAILEY, R. S. JAMES EWART, F. S.

I. O. R. M.—Umpqua Tribe No. 44 holds stated councils the 1st and 3rd Mondays of each month, at Eagles' hall, N. Jackson street. Visiting chiefs always welcome. W. S. HOWARD, Sachem. C. H. TERCINSKI, C. of R. W. C. GADDIS, K. of W.

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LOYAL ORDER OF MOOSE, Roseburg Lodge No. 1037.—Meets every Friday evening of each week, at 8 o'clock in Eagles' hall. All visiting brothers are invited to attend. GEO. NEUNER, Dictator. H. O. PARGETER, Secy.

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