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write the story of the British government's struggle with its modesty—and suspicion. Col. Buchan is fitted for the undertaking because, not only of his service at the front, but of his work as author of "The Battle of the Somme," "Nelson's History of the War," etc.

By L. T. COL. JOHN BUCHAN (Written for the United Press) London, June 30—(By Mail)—Every specialist is, at first, wary of publicity. Sooner or later his opinion on the subject changes. He learns that he cannot do what he wants to do unless the public understands.

This is true of specialists whose work may be termed only semi-public, such as men in medical or other science; it is doubly true of the specialists in the science of warfare, the heads of our armies and navies. In the British army and navy the distrust of publicity has always existed, but in recent years this distrust has been broken down. Now, perhaps, the relation between the men who fight and their day-to-day historians probably is more cordial in the British army and navy than in any other.

At the opening of the war Great Britain was without a press censorship organization or, certainly, anything approaching that of Germany. With our traditions of free speech and free press it was to be expected that we should handle the matter awkwardly. The expectation was realized. At the beginning the matter was handled mechanically; rules had to be made and applied and sometimes the strict application of rules led to incidents irritating to the press and harmful to the government.

Despite occasional mishaps and the fact that most of the thought given to publicity had to do with ways of suppressing it, the British army furnished the world with more details of its operations and occurrences, vastly more than the German army did. For one thing exceedingly full dispatches were given to the press. General French even mentioned the fighting units by name—a thing that has since been discontinued for good military reasons. Complete casualty lists were published immediately, though this has not yet been done by the French army or the Russian.

But the underlying distrust of correspondents had not abated; it remained at the high point reached in the Russo-Japanese war. To meet the obvious need of reporting to the people of the war's occurrences the plan of the Russo-Japanese war was tried, that of the "Official Eye-Witness." This plan broke down in short time.

In the spring of 1915 a complete change took place. First, correspondents were allowed at the front; a press chateau was established and press officers detailed to assist the newspapermen. The correspondents, however, were allowed to relate only what they could see for themselves and that wasn't as much as it might have been. A year later found the correspondents thoroughly established in the confidence of the army and their position entirely changed. It had been discovered that far from doing harm they were doing great good. Before the Battle of the Somme they had "dug themselves in" beyond the possibility of dislodging them—if any military man had so desired. They were told everything, they saw captured documents, they were taken to the best positions for observations and allowed the greatest latitude in their writing.

The correspondents may write practically anything that is not of value to the enemy. The result of the changed attitude toward news is that the fighting fronts have the following channels of publicity:

First—Gen. Haig's dispatches, surpassing those of any other commander for detail of information contained. Second—Two daily communiques. Third—The British newspaper correspondents, all distinguished men in their profession and the representatives of the United Press and the Associated Press, stationed at the Press Chateau. Representatives of the allied and neutral press also have a chateau.

Fourth—Special articles by well known writers, such as H. G. Wells and Arnold Bennett, and by representatives of individual newspapers permitted periodically to visit the front.

On other fronts of the British armies the same general plan is carried out on a less extensive scale. With regard to the fleet, largely because of physical reasons, the communiques and official dispatches have to furnish most of the news, though many visits have been arranged for newspaper representatives.

This growth of an appreciation of publicity was not confined to the army and navy. The need began to be understood in other governmental branches and men were detailed to handle the work. As part of the present Prime Minister's overhauling of the government, a Director was created for the business of propaganda and publicity. The decision as to what can be published about the fight lies ultimately in the hands of the War Office and the Admiralty, but just as it is the business of the Treasury to watch all other departments to promote economy, it is the business of their office to watch all other departments, to make sure that interesting information of value to the Allied cause is issued without delay.

In the fog of a great war the popular mind is often apt to lose its sense of proportion and forget the main issues. It is the business of the Department of Information to try, as far as possible, to keep before the

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mind the essential questions of the war and the true position of affairs.

It is very difficult for the lay mind to grasp the principles on which army and navy authorities exercise censorship. It must be remembered that the success of their operations and the lives of their soldiers often depend on these things. Only men engaged in

such work day by day can say exactly what kind of information may be of use to the enemy. Take the matter of mentioning the smaller fighting units, which General Headquarters has decided against. We have found that the Germans, even when they have

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PUBLICITY IS GREAT HELP TO WIN WAR

BRITISH ARMY AND NAVY ARE NOW WORKING CORDIALLY WITH THE PRESS

BRITISH ESTABLISH INFORMATION BUREAU

At First Correspondents Were Distrusted But Later They Were Allowed at the Front—Now They are Permitted to Write Anything Except Things Valuable to Enemy—Great Britain Plays the Game With the Daylight Turned on and Cards on the Table.

Note: Its recent action in creating the Department of Information headed by Col. Buchan signalized the British government's final and complete recognition of the part played by publicity in war. Since the American government has yet to pass through some of the processes that brought the British government to this realization, the United Press asked Col. Buchan to

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Cucumbers—10c. Radishes—3 for 10c. Green Onions—5c; 3 for 10c. Lettuce—10; 2 for 15c. New potatoes—4c and 4 1-2 lb. Cabbage—5c. Honey—20c. Dry Onions—4c and 5c. White beans—22 1-2c. Beans—Colored 17 1-2c. Green Beans—8c lb.

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