

WAR PLAYS HAUNG WITH ARISTOCRACY

Tradition of Noblesse Oblige Thins British Upper Class Like Wars of Roses.

LOWER RANKS COME NEXT

Middle Stratum of Society Responds Poorly to Call to Arms—Revision of Standards May Come After Peace.

BY WILL IRWIN.

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LONDON, March 19.—"What are we going to do for gentlemen when this war is over?" wailed an English aristocrat the other day. He was using the word "gentlemen" in the English sense, not in our sense, of course.

In those words, however, he called attention to a curious social phenomenon of the great war as it affects England. Whether this be a one-year war or a three-year war, the British upper class is bound to find itself at the finish depleted as the British upper class was never depleted before. We read in history of the titles finished forever in the Wars of the Roses, which did such fearful things to the Norman strain in England. But, according to shrewd observers in the upper class, the Norman population of England has been harder hit in the first six months of this war than in all the Wars of the Roses.

Hereditary Titles Fall at Front. An American merchant, whose business puts him in contact with every class of Englishman, was speaking of this matter only yesterday. "I know 15 English families of the upper class," he said, "which have lost an eldest son. Seven of them were only sons, and five of these only sons were heirs to titles."

For this, in so far as the English are concerned, has been an upper class war. It is this class which has taken it most seriously, which has sent the greatest proportion of young men to the front. To be able-bodied and of military age and not to serve the army in some capacity has become, with the upper class, a disgrace.

Oxford is a kind of foreign university in these days. I heard an Edinburgh professor mourning the other day because he was teaching "only ladies." Those old boys of the great public schools who are of military age and stature have enlisted so generously that the exceptions are scarcely worth noting.

"Lower Class" Second in Proportion. The "lower class," and especially the lower class of Scotland, has furnished the second greatest proportion of recruits. In Edinburgh, for example, the shortage of labor has become an issue. Long ago Edinburgh would have put women on the back platforms of street railways had not the labor unions, fearing that this was a wedge for cheap labor, protested. All over England farmers are agitating because the child labor laws are lax, because there is a shortage of agricultural laborers.

The middle class feels the enthusiasm for war less than the classes above and below it. The small shopkeeper, as a class, is keeping away from the war. "The villa class—what you call 'commuters'—feel it least of all," said an English journalist to me. In short, the middle class has responded so far, poorly; the lower class well; the upper class excellently. I wrote last Autumn that the aristocracy was probably in the army "up to conscript standards." I am forced to revise that estimate—upward. So many upper class men who would be exempt under Continental standards of recruiting have entered the army as to raise the percentage—probably—above conscript percentages. For example, a certain English literary man of gentle birth is serving as a subaltern in France. He is 48 years old. It happens that he looks younger than his age—and for the rest, he lies.

Responsibility Is Accepted. This is not, if you please, an exaltation of the class system. Taken by itself, it is true, the fact argues for the uses of an aristocracy, that is, not when taken in relation to the whole picture. The theory of a social democracy, like the American or the French, is the elevation of the entire people. The theory of a social aristocracy, like the English, is to give all the honors and most of the emoluments of life to the upper class, and expect that upper class, in payment, to take most of life's responsibilities.

In this pinch the upper class is living up nobly to its responsibility. But, in Armageddon, that isn't enough. Every class must feel responsibility. It looks now, so far as we can prophesy, as though the British Empire were going to survive this war. But if it had fallen, it would have fallen because one class alone felt enough responsibility to risk a life for England.

However, the percentage of upper class men in the army does not, in itself, account for the great draft on aristocratic blood which has been such a phenomenon of this war. By English custom, the army must be officered mainly or wholly by gentlemen. And the loss of officers, especially of inferior officers, has been appalling. The life of a subaltern in the English army is the life of a horse.

Valor Not Question of Class. That tradition of taking your officers solely from one group is, of course, a restriction on ability in the army. Had we always insisted on picking our officers from the leisure class we should have fought our Civil War without Grant, Sherman or Stonewall Jackson.

CHRONOLOGY OF CHIEF EVENTS OF WAR TO DATE.

March 21—British steamer Cairnarr sunk by German submarine. March 22—Austrian fortress Przemysl and about 120,000 men surrendered to Russians. March 23—Turks routed near Suez by British. Russian Black Sea fleet sinks Turkish transports and oilers and bombards forts. March 24—Part of German cruiser Emden crew raid Dutch port in Sumatra. March 25—French woman shot as spy by her countrymen; commission for relief in Belgium extends work to 2,500,000 French; Dutch steamer Medea sunk by German submarine. March 26—Durazzo, Albania, attacked by 60,000 rebels.

EARLIER EVENTS OF THE WAR.

June 28, 1914—Grand Duke Francis Ferdinand, heir to Austrian throne, and his wife assassinated in Sarajevo, Bosnia, as result of Pan-Slavic propaganda. July 23—Austria sends ultimatum to Serbia; 28. Austria declares war on Serbia. Russia mobilizes against Austria; 29. Austria bombards Belgrade; 31. Germany demands that Russia demobilize, Belgians and Germans order mobilization. August 1—Germany declares war on Russia; 3. German troops enter Belgium; 4. Great Britain sends ultimatum to Germany demanding respect for Belgian neutrality; Germany declares war on France and Belgium; 5. Austria declares war on Russia; 7. French enter Alsace; 10. France declares war on Austria; 12. Montenegro declares war on Austria. Great Britain announces state of war exists with Austria; 13. Japan sends ultimatum to Germany demanding that she withdraw ships and evacuate Kiaochow, China; 17. Belgium annexed to Antwerp; 20. German army enters Brussels; 23. Japan declares war on Germany; 25. Austria declares war on Japan; 28. British fleet victor in sea fight in Heligoland Bight. Germany losing cruisers and torpedo-boat destroyers.

September 5—Great Britain, France and Russia sign agreement to make no peace with Germany; 21. German submarine U-3 sinks British cruiser Cressy, Hogue and Aboukir in North Sea. October 3—Antwerp capitulates to German forces; 17. four German destroyers sunk by British cruiser in North Sea; 20. Japanese occupy Ladronne Islands, in Pacific Ocean; 27. British super-dreadnought Audacious, third in tonnage and armament in British navy, sunk by torpedo or mine off north coast of Ireland; 31. Turks annex and invade Egypt; German submarine sinks British cruiser in North Sea.

November—British squadron defeated German fleet off Chilean coast; 3. Great Britain and France formally announce state of war with Turkey; 7. Tsing-Tau, German stronghold in China, falls; 10. German cruiser Emden destroyed by Australian cruiser Sydney; German cruiser Koenigsberg bottled up; 25. British battleship Bulwark blown up and sunk near mouth of Thames from explosion of own magazine.

December 8—German commerce destroyers Scharnhorst, Gneisenau, Leipsic and Nürnberg destroyed off Falkland Islands by British fleet. Cruiser Dresden escapes; 16. German fleet raids east coast of England. Hartlepool, Scarborough and Whitby bombarded, 84 persons, mostly civilians, killed.

January 1, 1915—British battleship Formidable sunk in English Channel by German submarine; 19. German fleet of ships raid Sandringham and other cities in England; 24. German cruiser Bluecher sunk and three sister ships damaged trying to reach English coast. February 3—British route first Turkish force reaching Suez Canal; 12. British fleet of 34 aeroplanes raids German bases in Belgium; 18. German submarine blockade of British waters begins; 19. Norwegian (neutral) and French merchant vessels sunk by German submarines; Great Britain justifies use of United States flag by British merchant vessels; United States steamer Wilhelmina taken into British prize court; 20. British merchantman sunk in Irish Sea by German submarine without warning to crew; United States steamer Erie sunk; 24. British steamer Rio Paraná, and German cruiser Bluecher, begin destruction of Dardanelles forts; 24. British steamer Deptford and Western Coast sunk by submarines; 26. Boers invade German Southwest Africa; 27. American steamer Dacia captured and taken into French port; Russians capture Pranzysk, North Poland, and Stanislaw in Galicia.

March 1—Great Britain declares absolute blockade; 4. allies' fleet bombards coast of Smyrna; Germans offer to concede from "war zone" policy if permitted to import food; 5. Dutch steamer sunk; 6. submarine sinks three British merchant ships in North Sea; 10. Arrival at Newport News of German raider Prinz Eitel Friedrich discloses she sank United States ship William P. Frye in South Atlantic January 23. 11. Submarines sink British collier Bayana and torpedo two merchant ships; 12. Four British steamers torpedoed; 13. Swedish liner American flag; all shipping to and from Germany; 15. British line ship American flag; 17. Russians raid German Baltic seaport Memel; German Consul arrested at Seattle on charge of trying to buy submarine information; German submarines sink three British steamers; German cruiser un-der attack off Ince; 18. British line ship American flag; 19. British battleship sunk off English coast; 21. Zeppelins raid Paris; American forts at San Juan, Porto Rico, fire on German steamer to prevent escape.

budget for one of his own class. Usually, indeed, he resents bitterly the man who has climbed to a position to which the sacred laws of his code, the gentleman is to be respected. The older generations of changed conditions after the war may change this. But it cannot be changed in the brief winter which lay between the Duke's son with a mustache in his hands beside cook's son on the retreat from Mons. But the new "kitchen army," or "king's army," brought a great change to the old. Almost any able-bodied and fairly intelligent gentleman of good athletic experience could get a chance to be educated for a commission. Around such men England is building the new army.

Now, here is another subtlety of the class system in Great Britain: Your Tommies of the lower orders are excluded from the aristocracy as a living-up to the tradition of noblesse oblige. The under officer must take chances with the chances of the men. The under officer follows him but grudgingly. And this example may drive the principle home: I heard yesterday news concerning the death of a certain second lieutenant. He was working in a city office when the war broke out, and he enlisted with a commission. His regiment went to the front in October. He had been 12 days on the line when he was sent forward with a platoon. They came to a wood. He halted, uncertain whether to turn to the right or left. "I will go forward and take a look," he said. He did go forward; suddenly out of the wood came a volley; he fell dead. Now, he could not have done otherwise and kept the rest of his men.

But the case illustrates the great mortality among the sub-officers, and it shows, moreover, why this war is so reducing the Norman strain.

Public in England Prepared for Worst When Report of Casualties at Neuve Chapelle Fight Is Received. LONDON, March 19.—(Correspondence of the Associated Press.)—The British public is not deceived by the lack of definite reports as to the British losses in the Neuve Chapelle fight in France. The official announcement that the British had taken 1800 prisoners and the official estimate that the Germans must have lost 18,000 men in the terrific bombardment prepared the public for heavy loss on the British side. Rumor ran that the total loss to gain a mile of territory was in the neighborhood of 12,000 men.

Already there are about 300 officers named on the casualty lists as the result of the battle. Since it takes so many men to win a mile of French soil from the Germans, more than the losses at Waterloo, the British public is perfectly aware what the cost will be to the invaders are driven out of France and Belgium.

Meanwhile the recruiting advertisements are pointing out that the Germans are nearer London than Manchester is; some of the daily papers are editorially preaching conscription and there is a urgent call for more nurses and hospital facilities.

Roseburg Artillery Inspected. ROSEBURG, Or., March 28.—(Special.)—The first quarterly inspection of the current year of the local company, Coast Artillery, was held at the new

TIDE OF GOLD TURNS TO UNITED STATES

Trade Balance Mounts to \$578,000,000, Fast Liquidating Indebtedness.

OTHERS MUST PAY CASH

Billions of Dollars' Worth of Manufactures and Products of Soil Are for Sale, and Foreign Demand Is Increasing.

CHICAGO, March 28.—(Special.)—The United States is now a creditor nation in the strict sense. The world is beginning to pay in cash for the immense volume of products bought in this country.

The nation has paid our foreign debts, or rather our enormous exports have liquidated them, and now the credit balance in its favor is beginning to show tangible results.

Gold is flowing steadily into the United States. Nearly \$41,000,000 has been received since January 1. One-fourth of this amount came in last week, and a continuous stream of the precious metal means ultimately the greatest era of prosperity this country has ever known.

Floodgates of Gold Opened. For weeks the great banks of the old world have been throwing safeguards around their gold supplies and until recently they succeeded in protecting it, despite the fact that foreign exchange rates fell to almost the lowest levels in modern history.

Of the total receipts of gold, \$2,200,000 came from Ottawa, \$7,700,000 from China, \$15,500,000 from Japan, \$1,050,000 from London direct, \$1,000,000 from South America and \$300,000 from Denmark. The inevitable appears to be at hand. American securities held abroad are no longer being liquidated. In fact, they are being bought by foreign investors. Obvious evidences of this were noted in the securities markets of the United States last week, and without the selling of stocks and bonds as an offset, Europe must now pay the United States in gold for merchandise, foodstuffs and everything that has been taken in enormous volume.

Trade Balance Now \$578,000,000. The trade balance in favor of the United States up to the close of business March 27 approximates \$578,000,000. This is the amount other countries owe the United States in excess of imports, however the difference may be settled. When the war began in August it was variously estimated that the United States was indebted to Europe even more than the present credit balance.

Astute bankers and economists see in the change that is approaching an opportunity for the United States to become the world's banker. The country now has billions of dollars worth of agricultural and manufactured products to sell. Other great nations, crippled by war, want these products and must pay for them. Besides, during the war and after the war, much financing will be necessary. Foreigners must look to the United States for help in nearly every form.

WARRENTON BONDS VOTED Issue of \$25,000 Is to Erect School on New Site. WARRENTON, Or., March 25.—(Special.)—By a majority of 16 votes, the school bond issue of \$25,000 was carried Saturday.

The voters recently cast their ballot in favor of purchasing the Harvey tract, consisting of 9.6 acres, for \$8500 for a school site, and since then the school directors have adopted plans for a school building at an estimated cost of \$15,000. The bond issue today was to provide funds to purchase school site, build and furnish school building.

FRENCH DESCRIBE FIGHT (Continued from First Page.) perior proceeded in person to Thiel and Courtrai to exalt by his presence the ardor of his troops.

"Finally, at the close of October, the entire German press incessantly proclaimed the importance of the battle of Calais. It is superfluous to add that events in Poland explain in large measure the passionate resolve of the Ger-

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man general staff to obtain a decision on the western theater of operations at all costs. This decision would be obtained if our left were pierced or driven in. To reach Calais, that is, to break our left; to carry Ypres, that is, to cut it in half; through both points to menace the communications and supplies of the British expeditionary force, perhaps to threaten Britain in her island; such was the German plan in the battle of Flanders. It was a plan that could not be executed.

"The enemy who had at his disposal a considerable quantity of heavy artillery, directed his effort at first upon the coast and the country to the north of Dixmude. His objective was manifestly the capture of Dunkirk, then of Calais and Boulogne and this objective he pursued until November 1.

Enemy Checked Along Coast. "Ypres was solidly covered and the connections of all the allied forces were established. Against the line thus formed, the German attack was hurled from October 25 to November 13, to the north, the east and south of Ypres. From October 26 on the attacks were renewed daily with extraordinary violence, obliging us to employ our reinforcements at the most threatened points as soon as they came up. Between October 20 and November 4, Ypres was several times in danger. The British lost Zandvoorde, Ghelluvelt, Messines and Wytschaete. The front of the allies, thus contracted, was all the more difficult to defend, but defended it was, without a recoil. The arrival of three French divisions in our line enabled us to resume, from the 4th to the 10th and 11th this offensive, brought up against fresh and sharper German attacks, was checked. Before it could be renewed the arrival of fresh reinforcements had to be awaited. These were dispatched to the north on November 12. By the 14th our troops had again begun to progress, harrying the attacks and inflicting on the enemy, who advanced in massed formation, losses which were especially terrible in consequence of the fact that French and British artillery had crowded nearly 300 guns onto these few kilometers of front.

40,000 German Corpses Found. "Thus the main mass of the German army sustained the same defeat as the detachments operating farther to the north along the coast. The support which, according to the idea of the German general staff, an attack on Ypres was to render to the coastal attack, was as futile as that attack itself had been.

"During the second half of November the enemy exhausted and having lost in the battle of Ypres alone more than 150,000 men, did not attempt to renew his effort, but confined himself to an intermittent cannonade. We, on the contrary, achieved appreciable progress to the north and south of Ypres and insured definitely by a powerful defensive organization of the position, the inviolability of our front."

The compiler of the report here adds a footnote saying that more than 40,000 German corpses were found on the battlefield during these three weeks of battle.

The report next proceeds to summarize the character and results of the German offensive since the battle of Flanders; that is, during the period November 30-February 1. It says that since the former date the French supreme command had not thought it advisable to embark on important offensive operations. It has confined itself to local attacks, the main object of which was to hold in front of us a large number of German corps as possible, and thus to cover the withdrawal of the troops which, to our knowledge, the German general staff strongly desired to dispatch to Russia.

"As a matter of fact the numbers transported to the eastern front have been moderate.

Aid on Eastern Front Minimized. "Of the 52 army corps which faced us on the western front, Germany has been able to take only four and one-half corps for the eastern front. On the other hand, climatic conditions—the rain and mist—were such as to diminish the effectiveness of offensive operations and to add to the costliness of any undertaking, which was another reason for postponing them.

"Still another reason," he says, "lies in the fact that from now on the allied forces can count on a steady, expanding growth, equally in point of numbers and units as of material, while the German forces have attained the maximum of their power and can only diminish now, both in numbers and in value. These conditions explain the character of the siege warfare which the operations have assumed during the period under review.

"Meanwhile, it is by no means the case that the siege warfare has had the same results for the Germans as for us. From November 15 to February 1 our opponents, in spite of numerous attacks, did not succeed in taking anything from us, except a few hundred



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Measures of ground to the north of Sotsons. We, on the contrary, have obtained numerous and appreciable results. The French writer here proceeds to strike a balance of gains and losses between the allies and the German forces in France during the winter campaign. The result he sums up as follows: 1. A general progress of our troops, marked at certain points. 2. A general falling back of the enemy, except to the northeast of Sotsons. He continues: To complete the balance it must be added that: 1. The German offensive in Poland was checked a month ago. 2. The Russian offensive continues in Galicia and the Carpathians. 3. A large part of the Turkish Caucasian army has been annihilated. 4. Germany has exhausted her resources of officers (there are now on an average of 13 officers to a regiment and henceforth will only be able to develop her resources in men to the detriment of the existing units. 5. The allied armies, on the contrary, possess the power of reinforcing themselves in a considerable degree. "It may therefore be declared that in order to obtain success it is sufficient for France and her allies to know how to wait and to prepare for victory with indefatigable patience," he says.

KIDNAPING CHARGE DENIED. Man Accused by Wife Bound Over to Grand Jury at Marshfield. MARSHFIELD, Or., March 25.—(Special.)—Charles Tower, charged with kidnaping his wife, Mildred Tower, was bound over to the grand jury after pleading not guilty and waiving a preliminary hearing. He was released under \$500 bond.

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