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WORLD'S GREATEST WAR DAY BY DAY

HOW LONG WILL THE STRUGGLE LAST

How long will the European war last? Military critics throughout the world are discussing that question.

Lord Kitchener, the great military leader of Great Britain, says it will last eighteen months and, of course, that it will result in the defeat of Germany.

The English critics turn to past wars in order to gain some means of comparison by which the probable length of the present struggle may be measured.

The battle front on which the German army faces that of the allies is the loneliest ever formed since the dawn of civilization. The German army upon that front is more than twice the size of the Japanese armies which confronted the Russians at Liao-yang; and Mukden, and it is fairly argued that because of the masses now engaged, and the longer front they occupy, the expected battle will not consume more than six or seven days throughout which fighting was continued in either of those two great battles in Manchuria.

The Japanese defeated the Russians at Liao-yang, but it took the victorious Japanese army six and one-half months to push the retreating Russians to Mukden, only sixty miles beyond Liao-yang.

The losses will be astonishing. The critics point out that, however bold and skillful may be the commanders of the allied forces, or of the German host, if military history repeats itself, a long time must be occupied before the coming battle can be stamped as decisive for one side or the other, because the task of driving the allied forces from their defensive position, if not beyond the power of the Germans, must occupy much time and result in losses far beyond any ever before recorded in war.

The battle front at Mukden, where some 700,000 men were engaged, was sixty miles long, and the battle which bears the name of Mukden was really made up of a series of combats which extended from February 25 to March 10, while at Liao-yang on a front of forty miles, the fighting continued from August 24 to September 5. Thus, as one critic observes, it seems probable that the great battle now seemingly beginning may really prove to be a series of battles, any one of which may assume the proportions of the combat at Mukden.

The fighting line along the Franco-German border today is 250 miles long and the forces locked in awful combat on that battle of unprecedented dimensions are variously estimated from two to three million men.

Germany Needs a Battle
Military men are convinced that long before Germany can defeat the allies on the French frontier the Russians will be swarming by the millions across the eastern frontier of Germany. One writer puts it in this way:

"However, of one thing we may be assured. The Russian attack will be huge, when it once begins. It will require a correspondingly huge defense. Unless all military opinions are at fault, it will demand the attention of the bulk of the German army, which would necessarily imply the weakening of the western advance. That is why Germany must make that advance count decisively without loss of time; that is why she cannot afford a defensive campaign which is always within the resources of French strategy; that is why she must compel a great battle within a few days, or even a few hours."

In view of the delay in getting through Belgium this observer adds:

"Germany needs a decisive battle on her western front now or in the immediate future. Indecisive fighting prolonged over a period of two or three weeks—a result that military experts do not regard as improbable owing to the extent of the lines, the effectiveness of the artillery on either side and the volume of reserves available for re-inforcements—would be only less disastrous to the German campaign than a defeat."

The Russian as a Fighter.
The English military critic, writing in the Manchester, England, Guardian, says:

"The Russians, we are told in these days, are slow to get into action. It is natural that this should be said of them now, partly because it has ever been true, and partly because so much depends upon the time which may be occupied by the czar in bringing the weight of his striking power to bear from the eastward upon embattled Germany."

"But this is a good time to recall some of the striking facts that have been recorded concerning the fighting quality of the Russian soldier and sailor. We remember that the Russians in Manchuria were badly led at times, and that the war administration from St. Petersburg was bad; but we remember this, also, that the Russian soldier discharged his duty well under all circumstances. The common soldier remained at his post until he was told to go, although in many instances the carnage was frightful beyond understanding. The Russian fleet was overmatched; but while it could fight, it fought."

A Dying Ship Game to the End
"Let us take a little evidence on this point from the Japanese official account of the great naval battle at Tsushima, where the Japanese destroyed the Russian fleet. The account has to do with the fate of the Russian flagship Svyatoflora. Upon that ship the weight of the Japanese fire was directed from the first, and when finally she was on fire in a score of places, when exploding shells had caused the very paint on her sides and superstructure to burst into flames, the ship, lying almost stationary in the water, and slowly working her engines so as to get on the proper course and follow the fleet, the flagship still offered her battered sides to the enemy, firing wildly from those of her guns which were still serviceable, and alas! they were few in number."

Let us take from the Japanese official account these words describing the end of the Russian battleship:

"In the dusk when our cruisers were driving the enemy northwards, they came upon the Suvoroff alone, at some distance from the fight, heeling over badly and enveloped in flames and smoke. The division (Captain Lieutenant Fudzimoto) of the torpedo boats, which was with our cruisers, was at once sent to attack her. Although much burned and still on fire—although she had been subjected to so many attacks, having been fired at all the fleet (in the full sense of the word)—although she had only one serviceable gun—she still opened fire, showing her determination to defend herself to the last moment of her existence—so long in fact, as she remained above water. At length, about 7 p. m., after our torpedo boats had twice attacked her, she went to the bottom."

"Does any man ask for more

convincing tribute to the dogged courage of the Russians, whose advance toward Germany is now awaited with such different feelings by the allies and by the Kaiser?"

"Wide to Enter, Narrow to Go Out."
Mention of Japanese commanders and tactics recalls a statement made by the late Japanese Field Marshal Oyama who, at the close of the Japanese-Russian war, was discussing the German system of drill and fighting as compared with the Russian system and that followed by the Japanese in the Manchurian campaign. He said:

"We are believed to have modeled ourselves upon Germany. In the German army there are many things that are good, but our opinion is that however poorly you may think of the Russians, we always believed that if they had been Germans we would have beaten them in half the time that it took us to defeat Russia."

Japan beat Russia in Manchuria and yet it made little impression upon Russia proper. Marvellous fighters as the Japanese were, it took almost the last ounce of their strength to defeat Russia, and the real Russia was untouched and unshaken.

NAVAL BATTLE FAR OFF
It May Be a Year, British Naval Expert Says.

LONDON, Sept. 3.—The London Times' naval expert writes:

"The people should understand that it may be a year or more before they hear of a decisive occurrence at sea. What happened one hundred years ago may happen again."

"We may yet see encamped on the opposite side of the channel a force awaiting to invade us. Almost every invention of the last hundred years that can be applied to the purposes of warfare is to the advantage of the fleets."

"The wireless has given us a means of rapid communication of immeasurable benefit. Our ships can move speedily independent of wind or weather."

The German fleet is reported to have taken refuge inside of the Kiel Canal and in the estuary of the Elbe River, protected by the great guns of Heiligoland. The German coast is being protected by destroyer torpedo boats and light craft cruisers and so far the British fleet has been unable to draw any of them out within battle distance.

News agency dispatches from Stockholm say that German and Russian warships are reported to have clashed in the Baltic near the Gulf of Finland. The official bureau has no confirmation of the report.

BRITISH CAPTURE APIA.
German Seaport in Samoan Islands Surrenders.

LONDON, Sept. 2.—The official information bureau announces that Apia, a seaport of Upolu, Samoan Islands, and capital of the German part of the group, surrendered on the morning of August 29 to a British force from New Zealand.

When Japan entered the European conflict by her declaration of war on Germany and before her explicit declaration that her operations would be confined to the China Sea, the apprehension that she might seize German Samoa and thus gain a foothold between Hawaii and her own coast, gave rise to much speculation respecting Washington's attitude in such an eventuality.

ASK WILSON TO NAME DAY TO PRAY FOR WORLD PEACE

CHICAGO, Sept. 3.—A message has been sent to President Wilson after a peace conference of ministers and laymen of all denominations held in the Hotel LaSalle, requesting him to name two days—Saturday and Sunday—for days of prayer for peace throughout the world.

"Woodrow Wilson, President of the United States.

"Representatives of religious bodies in Chicago of every faith and creed unanimously endorse and approve the request made by the Federal Council of the Churches of Christ in America that you appoint two days, Saturday and Sunday, respectively, upon which the American people may unite in prayers for world peace."

"Bishop Samuel Fallows, chairman.

"The Rev. W. B. Millard, Secretary."

NO AFFAIR OF AMERICA'S.

COPENHAGEN, Sept. 3.—Henry White, formerly American ambassador at Paris, has made a formal denial that he had said that Germany was not to blame for the war. This alleged statement has been widely circulated on the continent. Mr. White said:

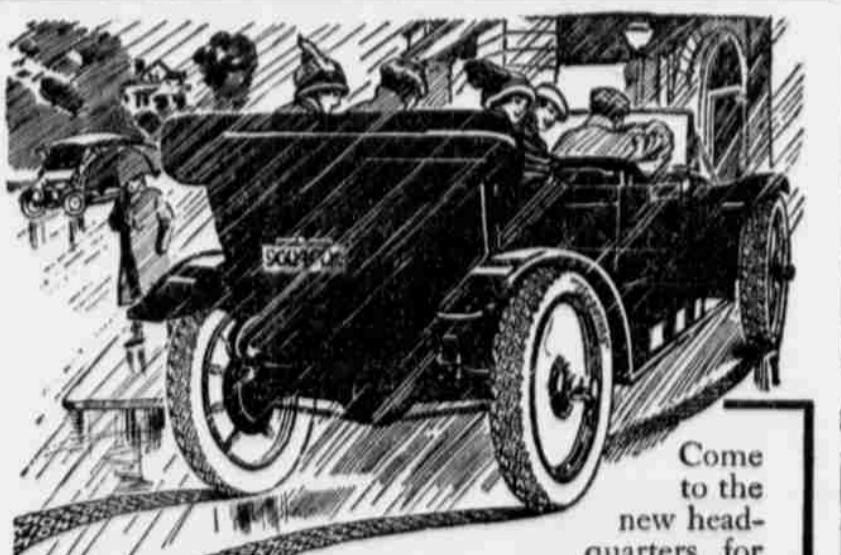
"It is the duty of every American to be neutral in word as well as in deed. No such statement was made by me. I merely commented upon the excellent treatment given Americans by Germans. This has been uniformly good, though several Americans did run into trouble. What the cause of this was I do not know."

"I wish to lay emphasis upon the necessity for a neutral bearing on the part of Americans. This war is not their business and they should keep out of it."

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