

WORLD'S GREATEST WAR DAY BY DAY

BATTLE BUTCHERY TO SURPASS ALL WARS IN WORLDS' HISTORY

PARIS, Sept. 7.—Mortality in the present war will exceed that of any conflict in history, according to Professor Francois Millet, of the Academy of Science, who recently completed a work on mortality in wars and who already is gathering data on the present conflict.

"Much as the public is prepared to hear of remarkable losses in the battle now going on, it will, nevertheless, be astounded when the actual figures are available. I have talked with wounded from the battlefield, who tell of whole regiments being wiped out in an hour, except a score or so, and while these stories are doubtless exaggerated, the mortality will undoubtedly exceed the greatest

of former wars, in proportion to the number engaged. The Russian loss of 125,000 out of 350,000 engaged at Mukden in the Russo-Japanese War will seem small when the truth is known about the present engagements.

"Battle casualties in recent wars have varied from 10 to 20 per cent of the men engaged, the ratio of wounded to killed being about four to one. The present engagements, I have no doubt, will show a loss of close to thirty per cent in dead and wounded to the men engaged. While past wars have shown the artillery fire to have caused the least loss in dead and wounded, I believe in this conflict it will be shown to have caused the most."

PARIS IS THE STRONGEST FORTRESS IN THE WORLD

When the fortifications of Paris are called into use by the unwelcome appearance of the Germans they should give the enemy a far heavier nut to crack than was ripe in 1870. Paris has the most extensive system of fortifications in the world. The outer and inner forts are so close and so well placed for cross fire that to capture Paris the Germans will have to reduce a great many of them—first the outer ring, then the inner ring—they cannot pass between them and leave them masked. The outer ring has a circumference of 75 miles, the protected area being about 400 square miles. The Germans have said that Paris is the greatest fortress ever known anywhere, and they are good judges. They took back to the fatherland a wholesome respect for Paris defenses in 1871. Since then the French have enlarged, remodelled and entirely modernized the fortifications and the plans for defending the "City of Light." To begin with, the old enceinte, twenty-one and a half miles—is still partly intact. The government two years ago decided to do away with the old bastion, moat and glacis favored by the engineers of the time of Louis Philippe. The detached forts of this period, such as the thunderous Mont Valerien, 450 feet above the Seine, were retained. What is left of the original Paris enceinte forms the inner and final line of the defense of Paris in 1914. The expansion of the great city compelled the preparation of a new enceinte and this, a series of seventeen detached forts—including the twelve old ones of 1870—has been placed at about two miles from the city and is formed by the forts, infantry works and detached batteries between. It should prove of great strength. Beyond and at a distance from the city of twelve to fourteen miles is the outer ring of forts which are all placed on the heights commanding the valley of the Seine or on hills which defend the lower levels to the eastward of Paris. Within this outer ring are the seven towns of Vergennes, Sceaux, Villeneuve-St. Georges, St. Denis Argenteuil, Enghein and St. German-en-Laye. There are three rivers, the Seine, the Marne and Oise. The actual defense of the works apart from troops temporarily collected in the fortified area, requires 170,000 men.

The entrenched camp falls into three sections, the north, the east and the southwest. The forts mount from twenty-four to sixty heavy guns each—most of the heavier guns being of the new French type, automatic firing and having an accurate range up to 10,000 yards—about six miles. Their siege howitzers may do more though the French do not seem to possess any of the enormously heavy howitzers, 31 or 41 centimeters, the Germans used successfully at Namur. These French forts contain from 600 to 1200 men each; the annex batteries with which they are all provided, 200 men and six guns each. The extreme outer and some of the inner positions are on varying heights—500 to 670 feet, enabling easy dominance of the lower land between the forts and Paris proper; and of the country-side beyond, which must be the terrain of conflict at the outset of the siege, if siege there is to be. There are lines of batteries—some with two of this chain of forts—some being supported right, and left

by four to eight batteries, each with six guns. Paris has a population of about three millions.

The two sieges of Paris in 1870-71 are among the most dramatic episodes of its history. The first siege began Sept. 19, 1870, with the occupation by the Germans of the heights—now occupied by forts—on the left side of the river and the capture of the unfinished redoubt of Chatillon. Two days later the investment was completed by 240,000 Germans. General Trochu, who defended the city, had 400,000 men, composed for the most part of hurried levies of raw soldiers with inexperienced officers and of national guards, which were a source of weakness rather than of strength. The bombardment began on Dec. 17, three unsuccessful sorties were made, the last in January following. Armistice was signed Jan. 27, the capitulation Jan. 28, and on March 1 the Germans made their triumphal entry. On this day began the preparations for the commune, which a few days later reared itself in an insurrection of the national guards. This became the second siege of Paris and lasted until May 27, 1871.

NICOLL DECLARES ITALY WILL FIGHT GERMANY

New York Attorney in London from Rome Tells How Government Tested Sentiment of Nation. LONDON, Sept. 7.—De Lancey Nicoll, the New York attorney, whose official friendship for Italy gave him wide opportunities for information during his stay in Rome, tells a striking story illustrating the attitude of Italy on the war.

"The Italian government wanted to avoid an unpopular war," he said, "the memory of Abyssinia and Tripoli being fresh in mind. So it tested the sentiment of the people and found it to be unanimously for France, against Germany and Austria.

"I know positively that the general staff gave orders that each captain read to his company a paper stating the situation in regard to the war and Italy's position. The captains asked for an expression on what course to pursue.

"First those who wished to take arms on behalf of Austria were asked to step to the front; then those who wished to fight against Austria. Out of about 75,000 polled hardly one in a thousand voted for Austria.

"This strong demonstration undoubtedly has had an effect on Italy's attitude, and I believe before long it will be drawn into the war against its triple alliance comrades. I heard recently that relations between Italy and Austria were strained. Germany and Austria are hated cordially in Italy, which wants the Italian speaking Dalmatian provinces of Austria under its flag."

BRIEF BITS ABOUT THE WAR

Reports are current in San Francisco that the German first class cruisers Gneisenau and Schornhorst were on their way to the Pacific coast, ostensibly to assist other German vessels in closing San Francisco's sea lanes to the shipping of hostile nations. It is rumored here that the reason that the Japanese cruise, Idzumo left San Francisco before the war between Japan and Germany actually had been declared was that the Japanese commander knew the German cruisers had left Tsing Tau for these waters.

PRIZE MONEY IS DIVIDED

Captain and Crew of Men-of-War No Longer to Get Big Bounty for Captures

(By Associated Press to Coos Bay Times.) LONDON, Sept. 7.—Although the value of prize ships captured in the war probably will be greater than in any war in history, naval officers will not suddenly become millionaires, as was the case in war time one hundred years ago.

In the beginning of the nineteenth century the capture of a rich haul by a war ship meant an independent fortune for the chief officer of the lucky warship. But the Admiralty has changed the system of payment, upon the advice of a select committee named to investigate plans for rewarding the captors of merchantmen. A general bounty will be paid to the fleet, but by far the greatest portion of the proceeds of the sale of prize ships will go to the state.

In all more than ten million dollars' worth of prizes have been reported to the naval prize court in London at this writing. These captured ships vary in size from small sailing vessels to mighty ocean liners. The money realized will probably be used for the maintenance of the navy and the extension of its activities.

Theoretically prize money has always been the property of the crown. Its gift to the crews has been a matter of courtesy or generosity. In the days when the whole of the British navy consisted of boats which would be described today as "converted merchantmen," both ships and men were pressed into service. In these circumstances prize money was to some extent regarded as compensation to the owners of the seized ships and the crown waived its claim in a more generous and also more equitable manner than in some later times. Of the value of a capture, a fourth went to the King, a fourth to the owners of the hired ships and the rest among all those who were present at the time of capture.

SMOKES FOR SOLDIERS.

Boy Scouts Gather Cigars for Dutch Army Now.

(By Associated Press to Coos Bay Times.) AMSTERDAM, Sept. 7.—The Dutch army believes it may rightfully boast of being the best equipped army in Europe so far as smoking comforts go. The Boy Scouts, during the first days of mobilization, went all over the city of Amsterdam with barrows, gathering cigars for the soldiers. The total was too big to count, but within two hours one day more than 20,000 cigars were gathered. Passersby emptied their cigar cases, dealers presented full boxes, and non-smokers contributed money for the purchase of cigars. All along the frontier the sentinels may now be seen comfortably puffing away at these gift cigars.

Holland has been so much in ignorance of what is happening that one of the Amsterdam papers expressed the situation by heading its page of war news with the negative in half a dozen different languages.

WANT TO GO TO WAR.

Many Europeans Gather in Panama in Effort to Return Home.

(By Associated Press to Coos Bay Times.) PANAMA, Sept. 7.—The war in Europe has brought to the Isthmus hundreds of reservists of practically all the nations involved, called to the colors from South and Central America, but since the first moment when a few French and Germans obtained passage home, there has been no chance for them to get across the Atlantic. Germans, Russians, Austrians, Hungarians and Frenchmen all are making themselves at home in Panama City and Colon.

In one hotel in Panama there are nearly 100 Frenchmen waiting for a ship that will take them home to fight. Close to the table they sit at for meals is a table surrounded by twenty-five Germans, equally anxious to get home, but locally there is no trouble. No one knows when a ship will be available. The French line will have no vessel in port for a long time. German ships are no longer sailing out of Colon, and the British ships have refused to transport the men, even for double passage money.

The French foreign office declared that France and Great Britain had agreed to advance to Belgium to help her meet the demands of Germany the sum of \$100,000,000. Each power will contribute \$50,000,000.

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