

WORLD'S GREATEST WAR DAY BY DAY

THE WAR PRIMER

INTERESTING FACTS ABOUT CITIES AND PLACES MENTIONED IN THE WAR NEWS.

(National Geographic Society's Bulletin.)

SOISSONS—A French city, 65 miles northeast of Paris by rail, and 22 miles directly east of Compiègne, on the left bank of the Aisne. It has iron and copper foundries and factories for the production of boilers, agricultural implements and other iron goods, straw hats, glass and sugar. The town was sacked by Charles V. in 1544, and by the Huguenots in 1565. In 1814 the town was captured and recaptured by the allies and the French. In 1815, after Waterloo, it was the rallying point for the vanquished and it was not occupied by the allies until the 14th of August. In the Franco-Prussian war it surrendered to the Germans.

SENSIS—A town of northern France, on the Nonette, 34 miles north of northeast of Paris, by rail and 26 miles by air line. Its population is about 7500. Its Gallo-Roman walls, 23 feet high and 13 feet thick, are, with those of St. Lisier and Bourges, the most perfect in France. At each of the sixteen angles of the wall stands a tower. The city has five gates. The manufacture of brick and tiles, cardboard, measures and other wares are among the industries. The leagues were beaten there in 1589 by Henry I. and Francois de la Noue.

ABBEVILLE—A town of northern France, on the Somme River, 12 miles from its mouth in the English channel, and 28 miles northwest of Amiens by rail. It is built partly on an island and partly on both sides of the river. Its industries include hemp-spinning, the manufacture of cloth, sugar making, shipbuilding and lock-smithing. The French and English were its masters by turn in the fourteenth and early fifteenth centuries. In 1477 it was annexed permanently by France. Its population is about 20,000.

CHALONS-SUR-MARNE—A town of northeastern France, 107 miles east of Paris, on the main line of the Eastern railway to Nancy. The population is approximately 25,000. Huge military barracks lie to the north and east. The principal industry is brewing and galleries of immense length, hewn in a limestone hill, and served by lines of railways are used for storehouses for beer. The plains near Chalons were the scene of the defeat of Attila, the Hun, in the fifth century. The "army of Chalons," formed by Marshal McMahon, in the camp at this place, after the first reverses of the French in 1870, surrendered at Sedan. The military camp is still used as a training center for troops.

VITRY-LE-FRANCOIS—A town in northeastern France on the Marne 20 miles southeast of Chalons and 100 miles by rail east of Paris. The present town was built in 1545 by Francis I, to replace the older town burned in the previous year by Charles V. It manufactures cement and decorated wares, and has a population of about 9000.

VESOU—A town of eastern France, situated between the La Motte hill and the River Durgeon, 35 miles from the Alsace border and 236 miles east of southeast of Paris by rail. Its medieval walls of the thirteenth and fifteenth centuries still exist on the northern side. Distilling and the manufacture of files and tapcoas are among the industries. The town suffered greatly during the wars of religion and the thirty years' war.

NANSEN SEES NORWAY DANGER

Declares His Country in Same Position as Belgium.

CHRISTINIA, via London, Oct. 8.—Dr. Fridtjof Nansen, former Norwegian Minister to Great Britain, caused a sensation Saturday in this quiet and punctiliously neutral capital when he stated before an assembly composed of prominent members of the cabinet and students of Christiania university that Norway's situation is a precarious as that of Belgium.

Dr. Nansen's proposal for one year compulsory service in the army was coldly received by the members of the government, but with cheers from the remainder of the audience. He used the fate of Belgium as an argument for more ample preparation by Norway.

STOCK CAPTURED BY RUSSIANS

LONDON, Oct. 8.—A dispatch to the Star from Petrograd says that among the remarkable war trophies arriving at Smolensk is the entire stock of Emperor William's famous pedigree cattle and stud horses, captured by the Russians from the Emperor's estate at Rominten, in East Prussia. They were taken to Moscow and presented to the Russian Agricultural Institute for distribution to agricultural breeding associations.

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German Churches Declare Against War Responsibility

NEW YORK, Oct. 8.—The Federal Council of Churches made public a communication received from 29 leading Protestant churches of Germany repudiating in behalf of German Christianity and the German government's responsibility for the European war and fixing it upon "those who have long secretly and cunningly, been spinning a web of conspiracy against Germany, which now they have flung over us in order to strangle us therein.

The communication is addressed "to the Evangelical church abroad."

"Its warlike tone," says a statement issued by the Federal Council "and vigorous denunciation of Germany's opponents is a matter of considerable surprise to members of the Council."

"Network of Lies."

"A systematic network of lies," the communication reads, "controlling the international telegraph service is endeavoring in other lands to cast upon our people and its government the guilt for the outbreak of this war and has dared to dispute the inner rights of us and our emperor to invoke the assistance of God."

The communication proceeds to point to Germany's 43 years of peace and to her material development "in friendly competition with other people," and declares that "only under compulsion to repel a wanton act has she now drawn the sword."

Her frontiers threatened, Germany was compelled to protect herself "from being ravaged by Asiatic barbarism," it is declared.

"Over against a world in arms," the communication continues, "we recognize clearly that we have to defend our existence, our individuality, our culture and our honor. No scruple holds back our enemies, where, in their opinion, there is a prospect, through our destruction, of seizing for themselves an economic advantage, or an increase in power, a fragment of our motherhood, our colonial possessions or our trade.

"We stand over against the raging of the people, fearless because of our trust in the holy and righteous God. Precisely because this war has been thrust upon us wantonly it finds us a single people, in which distinctions of race and rank, of parties and confessions, have vanished. In a holy enthusiasm, not shrinking from battle and from death and looking to God, we are all of our mind and prepared joyfully to stake our all for our land

and for our liberty."

It is declared that "unnameable horrors have been committed against Germans living peaceably abroad," and that "into the war which the czar has openly proclaimed as the decisive campaign against Teutonism and Protestantism, heathen Japan is now called under the pretext of an alliance.

"Not for the sake of our people whose sword is bright and keen, but for the sake of the unique world task of the Christian people in the decisive hour of the world mission, we now address ourselves to the Evangelical Christians abroad in neutral and inimical lands."

Guilt Not German

"If the peoples among whom missions and brotherly love had begun to be a power lapse into savagery in murderous war through hate and bitterness; if an incurable rent has been made in Teutonic Protestantism; if Christian Europe forfeits a notable portion of her position in the world; if the sacred springs from which her peoples should derive their own life and are able to offer it to others are corrupted and choked, the guilt of this rests, not upon our people.

"We know full well that through this sanguinary judgment God is calling our nation to repent and we rejoice that she is hearing his holy voice and turning to him. But in this we know that we are alone with the Christians among our people; that we can and must repudiate on their behalf and on behalf of their government the responsibility for the terrible crime of this war and its consequences for the development of the kingdom of God on earth."

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