

If Europe Combines

Against England



THE LATEST PORTRAIT OF HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN

THE war between Great Britain and the two Boer republics in South Africa may yet be the determining cause for the long-expected, oft-predicted conflict which is to involve all the greater and lesser powers of Europe. Already, says the Chicago Tribune, the attitude of Europe is sufficiently menacing to impel Great Britain to take early steps not only to secure the fruits of the victory that nation expects to win in South Africa, but to defend its empire in all parts of the globe in the event that it finally rejects European interference in its plan to make the southern half of the African continent all British.

In every naval port in England squadrons are being hurriedly fitted out for sea. A strong naval force is already assembling at Gibraltar, and other battleships and cruisers are adding their strength to it every day. Every preparation for calling out the naval reserves has been made, and at the signal England would be ready for all eventualities.

The movements in European diplomatic circles leave no room for doubt that at least France and Russia are endeavoring to secure the assistance of other powers in joint representations to Great Britain before the close of the present war. It is regarded as certain that neither France nor Russia is acting from motives of sympathy with the Boers, for if so they would have entered their protests before the negotiations between Kruger and Chamberlain reached the ultimatum stage. Therefore it is reasonable to infer that if France and Russia act at or before the close of the present war they will do so from purely selfish motives, and with the expectation of compelling Great Britain to remain passive while they seize some other parts of the globe for their own. Russia's ambition in the direction of the Indian ocean is well known, and France has designs in China and Africa which it never has taken the pains to conceal.

Interests Are Opposed.

Unfortunately for a pacific outlook, the ambitions of both France and Russia are dangerous to the British Empire. England can neither permit France to secure preponderance in the control of northern Africa nor allow Russia to advance to the borders of India without practically destroying the British Empire. Consequently, Great Britain is almost certain to accept the alternative of war, even in its present "splendid isolation," for to no power can it turn, unless, perhaps, it may be to Germany, for assistance. If Great Britain is finally brought face to face with the alternative of submission to the dictates of Europe or a war which shall gird the globe with a belt of flame, it unquestionably will choose the dread alternative of war.

The attitude of the several European powers and of the United States, the probable direction of such a war, and the changes it would ultimately make in the map of the old world are subjects which are just now engrossing the attention of the diplomats of Europe.

The crux of the situation will come when, after whipping the Boers of the Transvaal and the Orange Free State into submission, Great Britain will make known its plans for the future government of those two republics.

Russia Has Most to Gain.

In any future demands on Great Britain Russia will necessarily take the lead, for the Czar's empire has the most to gain. Although having the most subtle and secretive diplomats in Europe, the ambition and inflexible purpose of Russia are well known. In a general statement Russia's ambition lies in the direction of an open sea, unfettered by the ice shackles of winter. Until recently Russian forts faced the ice-clad Baltic, the Arctic ocean, and the northern Pacific. For six months of every year Russia's merchant steamers and Russia's war-

ships were locked in ice and it was not until the recent acquisition from China of Port Arthur that the Czar's naval base in the Pacific was rendered effective by open water the year around.

For years Russia hoped to extend its empire southward to the Mediterranean, with Constantinople as the objective point, but its ambition, while perhaps not completely shattered, was indefinitely delayed by the Congress of Berlin in 1878, when Europe erected the quasi-independent Balkan States as a buffer between the Czar's dominion and the sea.

Since then Russia has been pushing steadily southward toward Persia and Afghanistan. All the intrigue of which Russian diplomacy is capable has been exerted in securing a preponderating influence in the semi-barbaric courts of the Ameer and the Shah. So successfully has this diplomatic intrigue been carried on that to-day it is generally believed that Russia has engaged by secret treaty to occupy Afghanistan with Russian troops in order to preserve order after the death of the present Ameer and secure the throne to his successor.

And it is an open secret in European capitals that the Shah has agreed to give Russia the port of Bander-Abbas, on the Persian gulf, whenever Russia chooses to occupy it, and has also granted concessions to Russian syndicates for railways running from Russian soil to the Persian gulf. Russia's control of the Persian gulf would be dangerous to the British Indian empire.

Russia's designs in China are equally understood. Already the Czar holds the Manchurian peninsula and is disputing with Great Britain at Peking the right to dictate terms and concessions to the Chinese Government.

France the Czar's Ally.

As far as territorial acquisition is concerned, France has almost as much to gain as Russia. Then, too, France is still smarting under the chagrin of the Fashoda incident, when a year ago Maj. Marchand was unceremoniously bundled out of the Upper Nile country by Lord Kitchener.

France has territorial ambitions in Africa and China, and unfortunately in the present crisis these ambitions run counter to British interests. France would like to add Morocco to the western frontier of Algeria, and in a general European war undoubtedly would endeavor to seize it. If united Europe should defeat Great Britain in war, the latter would be driven out of Egypt, and the British control pass to another power, and France would again step in to demand the land of the Pharaohs as its share of the booty. With Egypt would go naturally the control of the Suez canal, thus depriving Great Britain of its short road to India. In China France, too, would expect to gain in a war with Great Britain. France already has a strong foothold in the Orient.

Added to all this is the feverish condition of France at home. The army is disaffected, conspiracies are rife and royalist plotting is incessant. The republic is torn by internal strife. Nothing would clear the French atmosphere more thoroughly than a war in which factional quarrels at home would be forgotten and employment given to a great army that long has chafed under idleness.

Will Kaiser Aid Queen?

The crux of the whole situation seems to rest with the German Emperor. If Germany casts its lot with Europe? Great Britain may as well call out its last available man, for the sea girl empire will indeed be in danger. But there is apparent reason to believe that Germany will cast its lot with Great Britain.

Several months ago, before the Transvaal negotiations assumed a dangerous phase, Lord Salisbury and the German ambassador to the court of St. James reached an agreement which to-day is the most mysterious diplomatic secret

all Europe. The mysterious agreement between Great Britain and Germany, which is exciting so much concern in Europe, is variously interpreted, the most probable explanation of its tenor being hazarded by an English statesman, who believes it gives Germany free hand in the Kaiser's pet project of establishing a great German colonial empire in Asia Minor.

If Germany unites its fleet with Great Britain and holds its army ready to march against France and Russia the proposed European coalition will end in bluster. If, on the other hand, Germany shall finally decide to make terms with France and Russia, trusting to an agreement with those powers to give it what it wants in Asia Minor or any other quarter of the globe, the coalition is as good as formed.

The Smaller Powers.

The attitude of the smaller powers is worthy of consideration, for they could hardly escape being drawn into any controversy which involves Great Britain, Russia, France and Germany.

Take Italy first. Italy is almost the only exclusively Mediterranean power, and must, for its own protection, exercise a considerable voice in the control of that great inland ocean. It is a member of the dreibund, that offensive and defensive alliance which calls Italy's army into the field whenever Germany or Austria, or both, are attacked. If Germany involves itself in war either for or against Great Britain, Italy, by the terms of the dreibund, is bound to assist.

But aside from the dreibund, Italy has interests, mostly in the Mediterranean, and a mythical one in China, which almost compel it to attach itself to the fortunes of Great Britain in the present crisis. Italy long has asserted its claim to Tripoli, and by allying itself with Great Britain Italy would be able to claim Tripoli when peace was once more restored.

It may be set down as practically certain that Austria, if it takes any hand at all in the international quarrel, will do so most unwillingly, and on the side with which Germany allies itself.

To many it might seem almost ridiculous even for a moment to consider Spain in connection with the word "war." But at the same time it must be remembered that Spain easily can put from 100,000 to 150,000 men in the field, providing the funds were forthcoming. A loan from France in the emergency, together with the hope of securing the retrocession of Gibraltar from England, might induce Spain to forget the trouncing it received from the United States a year ago, and once more try its fortune at the game of war.

The position of Turkey might bother the diplomats on both sides of the controversy. It is difficult to see how the Sultan could be drawn into the war, and equally difficult to understand how he could keep out of it. Abdul Hamid is in the unfortunate position of being compelled to choose sides in a possible conflict with the certain knowledge that he will lose with either.

He is bound by the treaty of Berlin to guard the Dardanelles against the passage of the Russian Black Sea squadron. He has been enabled by judicious loans from England to fortify the Dardanelles so strongly with modern Krupp guns that he can, if he chooses, batter the Russian warships to pieces when they try to force their way through into the Mediterranean.

If he uses his Krupp guns against Russia he will have the Czar's armies knocking at his door to the north, and Bulgaria, Servia and Romania ready to unite to liberate Macedonia, with Austria waiting for a convenient opportunity to seize Salonica Bay.

If, on the other hand, the Sultan, even tacitly allies himself with Russia by permitting the Black Sea squadron to pass unscathed, he will have Germany and Great Britain on his back, with the certainty of losing Asia Minor, in addition to the Bulgarian uprising and the loss of Salonica Bay.

As to the little kingdoms of Europe, they undoubtedly will be permitted to remain passive spectators of the great international tragedy—to preserve a stolid neutrality in the midst of the vortex of war about them.

War Around the Globe.

It is almost impossible to appreciate the magnitude and the horror which must characterize a war involving Great Britain, Russia, Germany, Austria, Italy, France and Spain in one general, widespread conflict. It would mean a war around the globe. All Europe, all Africa, most of Asia, the islands of the South Pacific, the West Indies, and the northern part of North America would be the scenes of conflict.

The greatest horrors of such a war would only be realized if Germany and its allies in the dreibund should decide to enter the field. Then France and Russia would be assailed from each side by the armies of Germany, Austria and Italy. With the greater powers engaged in war, it is almost certain the conflict would involve the Balkan States with Turkey, and the Sultan would be compelled to make his last stand to retain his place on the map of Europe.

The enormous sacrifice of life and pa-



analysis of all commerce would be beyond computation. Hardly a nation engaged in the contest but would emerge from it as hopelessly bankrupt and poverty stricken as is Spain to-day, and it is this aspect of the situation that furnishes the surest guarantee for peace.

Great Britain's Defense.

It is upon its navy that Great Britain would depend largely for the defense of its seagirt empire. In India and Egypt, it is true, Great Britain's soldiers would engage in land campaigns which would tax their courage and endurance to the utmost. But in all other respects the great battles of an international war would be fought upon the sea. But powerful as Great Britain's navy is, it must be conceded at the outset that France and Russia united can put a navy to sea that would be terribly effective.

The British navy has been built up to its present mammoth proportions on the theory that some day it will have to defend the empire against a possible coalition of the European powers. The fleets in active service are distributed in quarters of the globe best situated to fight such a war. Naval bases have been located in view of such a contingency.

In all the discussions leading up to a possible coalition against Great Britain the probable position to be assumed by Japan must not be lost sight of. If necessary Japan's new and powerful navy would unquestionably be thrown into the scales on the British side, and if so the issue would be quickly decided in favor of the alliance between Great Britain and the Oriental power.

Where Will America Stand?

There can be no doubt that in such a combination of circumstances the sympathy of the great masses of the people of the United States would go to Great Britain. But when one goes beyond sympathy he will reach a domain of discussion in which it would be not only difficult but dangerous to enter.

Unforeseen contingencies might arise which would make it difficult for the United States to hold aloof. It may be set down as certain that any attempt to break through the Monroe doctrine, say, by an invasion of Canada, or the seizure of the West India Islands, would arouse a dangerous sentiment in this country, and this sentiment, it may be remarked, is one of the strongest defenses Great Britain could have for the defense of her possessions on the North American continent.

It must always be remembered that before any nation or combination of nations would dare seek to attack the United States, either at home or in the far East, the British fleets must first be destroyed, and after the destruction of a British fleet the enemy's squadron would be in poor condition for another battle.

Changes in the Maps.

And, finally, when the struggle was ended and the international congress met to arrange its terms of peace, the geographers would have to prepare new maps of Europe, Asia and Africa.

Money Found in Mail Bags.

It seems almost incredible that in the neighborhood of \$40,000 in actual cash should have been confided to letters during the last year, and harder still to credit that the most exhaustive efforts failed to find the owners of one-fourth of that amount. The envelopes which are addressed are kept on file for four years, blank ones not so long, but in either case a liberal margin of time is allowed for claimants to appear before the money is finally turned into the treasury to the credit of the Post-office Department. In addition to the money contained in letters during the same period, something like \$10,000 was found loose in the mails. It is officially styled "loose money."—Ladies' Home Journal.

Careful Inspectors.

In Sweden yarn is not allowed to be sold if it contains .0009 per cent. of arsenic. A carpet has been condemned by the inspectors because it contained one thousandth part of a grain of arsenic in sixteen square inches—that is, one grain in a piece of carpet ten feet square.

Shoes for a Lifetime.

A shoemaker says we wear away quite two inches of shoe leather in a year. A pair of boots that would "last a lifetime" would consequently have to be provided with soles from eight to nine feet thick.

A Musical King.

King Oscar of Sweden in his young days was regarded as the most accomplished tenor in Europe, and could have made a fortune out of his voice on the stage.

Teacher—"Johnny, what is a thief?" Johnny Hardup—"Dunno." Teacher—"Oh! yes, you do. Now, what would I be if I took money out of your pocket?" Johnny Hardup—"Why, youse 'ud be a peach."—Ohio State Journal.

Enthusiasm Received a Check.
An enterprising washing machine agent, who has been meeting with good success in Whitneyville, had his ardor sadly dampened the other day. He called at a house in town, and, the mistress being absent, he persuaded her son to let him show up the merits of his machine in a practical way. There were no dirty clothes in the house, consequently the agent persuaded the young man to change his shirt and give him the garment on which to exercise the cleansing power of his new invention. He inserted the shirt in the washer and placed it on the stove made glowing hot with dry clothes. As he alternated his labors in filling the stove and revolving his machine, the lady of the house made her appearance. She marched straight to the oven door and flung it wide open. The smoke from a ruined pot of beans filled the room to suffocation. The agent was forced to make an ignominious retreat. When he seeks permission to test the machine now he looks sort of scared as he remarks in a casual way: "I presume there are no beans in the oven, madam."—Lewiston Journal.

The great linden in Wurtemberg was 800 years old. The city of Neustadt was for many years known as the City near the Linden." In 1408 a poem was written about it. It was propped by 67 stone pillars; in 1664 these were increased to 82; in 1832 to 106. Its trunk then measured 37 feet. It was wrecked in that year.

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