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ENGLAND'S LETHARGY.

The lethargy of England in the present war has been the astonishment of the world. It is something that cannot be understood. With a long record of military achievement, considered a world power, if not the greatest, one of the three greatest, something great was expected of her; but she has practically done nothing of concern, displaying a lack of both leadership and field work. The following from a correspondent writing from Paris, gives the situation:

Everybody in France knows it, so why try to keep it a secret. France is not at all satisfied with what England has done and is doing in this war, and Englishmen in France, soldiers as well as sojourners, admit France is right.

And now come stories by private conveyance from Great Britain that London is being fortified with a couple of rows of defenses running entirely around the city; that the English are saying "one never can tell what will happen;" that they admit they lack ammunition and will continue to lack it even under best possible conditions for some months to come; that if the Germans make a dash for Calais and the other channel ports with forces such as she is using around Warsaw, there will be no stopping them at present.

What do all these stories mean? The French are asking. What is the matter of England after more than a year of war? Why can't she, with all her steel mills and kindred works, turn out much more than sufficient ammunition, enough, in fact, to supply her allies?

"Strikes have hampered us," Englishmen in France give as an excuse for many of these questions. "Why tolerate strikes?" the French ask impatiently, "when the life of England hangs in the balance with our own and that of several other countries perhaps as well?"

Now, with fall almost at hand, England is still holding, with great effort at that, her little 30 miles of front. The French hold 500 miles. In the 11 months of trench-fighting this proportion has not changed and many have been the time when French artillery has been called upon to support the British even along their short front.

Garbriel Hanotaux, former minister of foreign affairs, a historian and unusually calm thinker, has said:

"From England, there have come illusionary catchwords on which we have lived for months and which, after benefitting us for a moment, have ended by doing us harm. * * * Was it not Lord Kitchener who evolved that formula so pregnant with hope but so tardy in delivery: 'Our forces will continue to expand unceasingly while those of the enemy will unceasingly diminish.'"

Hanotaux did not express this criticism of England in private, or behind England's back. He said it in print, to England's face. Nor is that all he said. "The English ministers were prodigal of magnificent phrases," he writes, "but their workshops were idle."

I asked an Englishman why England still held only her 30-mile front, why Kitchener's promise of more and more and still more soldiers has not been made good. He had raised the soldiers.

"There are three million soldiers or thereabouts in England," he said. "But they are equipped with Wooden guns."

So admitted my English friend. "There are men a plenty," he went on, "but they lack the necessary equipment. They have uniforms, or most of them have, but many lack belts, knapsacks and the like. And of the thousands and thousands of recruits one sees drilling around London daily, very few have rifles. They are using the sticks used before the war in Ulster with other imitations made since."

MISFITS

Keep off boats that are in the habit of carrying munitions, or the Germans will get 'em.

Why wasn't the Arabic protected? Where was the convoy?

The jingoists continue to jingle janglingly.

An exchange compliments the Democrat as a paper that is old-fashioned enough to place character above wealth and position.

Better keep away from Europe, the most hazardous place in the world.

Everybody in Albany wants the paper factory. No one is knocking it. People simply have different ways of going at a thing.

The subs get 'em, while the destroyers miss 'em.

An old lady 86 years old, who has been observing things a long time says he world has gone mad after pleasure, to the neglect of religion.

Buster Brown has gotten so bad no Oregon paper will publish his adventures.

By the way, it's strange how we get interested in the doings of such exaggerated characters as Buster, the Katzenjammer Kids, Happy Hooligan, Newly Weds, and other such trash, the composers get enormous salaries to produce, and look for them as we would for friends, following their lies, that pass along without growth, with an everlasting fooling of the same persons, the same old blunders over and over again, and with little change of seasoning. If one were to stop we would get mad. In fact when the Katzenjammer Kids stopped for while there was an insistent demand for their return, until the artist went at it again. It is no wonder the minds of the authors give out occasionally.

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