

ENGLAND AND HER ENEMIES.

Some of the Sore Spots on the Fringe of the British Empire and How They Affect the Peace of Europe.

GREAT BRITAIN is the best hated nation in the world. Whether that is her fault or her misfortune depends very largely on whether you are a Britisher or an outsider. There is one patent fact, however, and that is that Great Britain's "splendid isolation" has never caused very much uneasiness to that power herself.

In her attitude of chronic unreadiness England is very much like ancient Athens. The orator Demosthenes once compared the policy of the Athenians to the policy of a barbarian boxer. His attention is so taken up with the blow he is about to deliver or has just received that he never seems to have any idea beforehand as to what to expect next or what next to do himself. British statesmen, it must be confessed, act in very much the same manner. Great Britain has been so wrapped up in her South African war that she has scarcely turned her eyes toward the war clouds that have been gathering ominously in other parts of the world. But gathering they have been, and it is interesting to note just where these clouds hang and what is their character

allow John Bull to score another territorial victory.

From Alaska to Nicaragua is a far cry, but in a political sense the two places are very closely related. It does not require much subtlety to establish how commercially, politically and strategically the Nicaragua canal is of great importance to the American people. Outside of ourselves, Great Britain is more interested in this canal than is any other country.

English statesmen have long recognized the commanding position and importance of the Nicaragua route, for that country, like America, has found herself in possession of an ever growing market in the east. England has now the opportunity to pursue a dog in the manner policy, for by insisting on the provisions of the Clayton-Bulwer treaty of 1850 she can claim that the United States has no right to the exclusive control and fortification of any interoceanic waterway across the isthmus of Panama. There have, it is true, been numerous official protests on the part of America against the perpetuity of this treaty of half a century ago. At

man. Just at present every one in the Gallic republic, from count to concierge, is bent on making the coming exposition a great success, and it is only natural that the statesmen of France will bend every energy toward remaining on friendly terms with all the great powers until the city on the Seine shall have wrung the expected number of francs from its few million visitors during the summer's exposition. But there are certain territorial considerations that are worth even more than a few million francs, and Paris is waiting only for the least excuse from London to open the old sore of the Egyptian question and fling the gauntlet in the face of her ancient enemy.

Then, too, France has still another quarrel of long standing with Great Britain, and one that seems hopelessly intricate in its complications. This is what is known as the French shore question in Newfoundland. The recent undisguised hostility of the French press and a portion of the French ministry, in affiliation with the Fashoda affair, has given this old matter a new importance. There is almost a touch of the ludicrous in this old quarrel of almost two centuries' standing, when it is remembered that it practically hinges on the vital query, "Is the lobster a fish?"

The French claim that the lobster is all intents and purposes a fish. The Britishers claim that this delectable crustacean is not and never was a fish. By old treaty rights the French have the privilege of fishing on the west and northeast coasts of Newfoundland. Accordingly they have established lobster factories for the packing of the aforementioned delectable crustacean. To this the Newfoundland fishermen

commissioners had to tell how French fishermen, while permitted under the treaties to frequent the seaboard only during the summer months and erect temporary structures for drying purposes, had assumed the right to control the entire region, had put up big permanent factories and had persecuted the sparse and poverty stricken native population along the coast.

None of these things was easy for John Bull to swallow, but swallow them he had to, because just about that time President Steyn was giving him an uneasy feeling and old Oom Paul was getting on his nerves.

England, over and above this, has always had a well-developed fear of French aggression in Newfoundland waters, because France enjoys the absolute and annoying ownership of St. Pierre Miquelon, a group of little islands off the head of Placentia bay. This the Frenchmen make their headquarters during the fishing season. St. Pierre, the capital of the little group, is strongly fortified, and, indeed, it is believed that the island holds immense

more insidious and less expensive methods of enlarging his map. This great white bear prefers to work in his quiet, implacable way, with no hurry and no waste. Even the will of Peter the Great advised the extension of the empire down to the Persian gulf and suggested that it would be well to "hasten the decay of Persia." During the last 40 years Russia has truly hastened the decay of Persia, but in a very overt manner. A Russian railway now runs from Reht to Kazvin. Russia has ports and towns in the north of the old empire of Xerxes, and half way down to the gulf Russian interests are dominant. Not long ago the Russian government authorized the Loan Bank of Persia to take up the national loan of \$17,500,000. The czar, in guaranteeing the bonds, accepted as security the revenues of all the custom houses of Persia, excepting those on the gulf. Persia has also promised not to contract any foreign loan until this present loan is entirely paid off. In other words, Persia is financially and politically under the heel of the White Czar, and England is

but stretch out one steel hand and it is his. But this he hardly dare do. So he tentatively runs a railway toward it. In fact, he is a firm believer in railways. His Transcasian railway has been pushed through from Baku on the Caspian sea. From Bander Abbas on the Persian gulf, he is stealing into Afghanistan, and by the time John Bull has eyes thoroughly open it is more than likely that Russian troops will be marching through the streets of that ancient city. The construction of the Transcasian railway by Russia is already absolutely decided upon. The line will be 1,500 miles long and will cost the Russian government 150,000,000 rubles. Bander Abbas will be reached by way of Tabriz, Hamadan, Isfahan and Kerman. No nation in the world has done more railroad building than has Russia during the last ten years. All these roads have been built not by private corporations, but by the Russian government. That is the way Russia has been keeping her great army out of mischief. Laying rails takes the exuberance of spirits out of would be fighters, and, besides, it comes cheap. Russia is not a wealthy country like Great Britain. She has a tremendous standing army to keep up, and it is just as well that this army should earn its salt. This it can do by building and operating such a fine big concern as the

SELLING GUNS IN AFRICA.

It is well known that merchants supply guns and rifles of all sorts and conditions to the natives and others on the east and west coasts of Africa. Old Tower Hill muskets, with bayonets complete, can be bought for a rupee at Zanzibar; Birmingham double barreled muzzle loaders are sold in great numbers—these guns are serviceable weapons and seldom burst; there are, besides many others, rifles of first rate make and high price, which are bought by the Arab chiefs on the east coast.

These chiefs are very particular about their rifles; they will pay a long price, but always insist on having a trial shot; neither will they believe that the powder is good unless they get a hearty kick on the shoulder. The traders are, however, sometimes equal to the occasion. The agent of a "firm" trading

In one of the African protectorates undertook one day to explain to some naval officers the merits of some of the selling an expensive rifle. The party to be let into the secret was taken on to the roof of a coal shed; there was a row of sheds, in all about 60 yards long, each being connected by a plank bridge, so that one could walk from end to end. Resting against the end wall of the last shed was a thick plank; on the plank a target was painted. On moving the plank after a shot a bullet was found imbedded in the wall exactly behind the center of the bullseye.

Thus the most important condition of the Arab buyer was satisfied; the other condition was easily met by the use of cartridges loaded with powder of extra strength. There is nothing wrong in these arrangements, as it is well known that you may sell a man a good gun, but you cannot make him a good shot.

WHEN THE FIRE WAS OPENED. The British naval service is said to be "free from snobs;" at all events even Thackeray could not find a specimen for his book. It may also be claimed for the service that dandies are few and far between, though occasionally one may be found even in a gunroom mess. The senior midshipman of a big ship "up the straits" was famous not only for the extreme smartness of his dress, but also for the remarkable elegance of his figure—a broad chest, wide shoulders and a wasplike waist that certain young ladies envied and many admired.

Owing to the nature of the surroundings, there cannot be many mysteries about the toilet of a midshipman. Consequently supplies ripened into certainty; heads were soon laid together and a plot arranged. The result was that one morning a very peculiar dish appeared on the gunroom breakfast table.

The senior midshipman, who always sat at the top of the table and was very particular that all the dish covers should be taken off together ("make an evolution of it," he used to say), noticed on the particular morning that the dish in front of him was not uncovered. He called the steward, who whisked off the cover. The result was that instead of the usual "ham and eggs" a well worn pair of stays appeared. At first silence, then roars of laughter, in which, after a bit, the owner of the "improvers" joined heartily.

FACTS ABOUT RIFLES. The difference between the various army rifles of Europe is considerable, and, in fact, no two national weapons are exactly alike. First, as to weight, they vary from 8 pounds 3 ounces to 9 pounds 12 ounces. The lightest is carried by the Italians, and the heaviest by the Austrians, while the British Lee-Enfield weighs 9 pounds 6 ounces. In caliber the Roumanian and Italian rifles are the smallest, and the Portuguese is the largest. The English is a medium bore, being smaller than the French, Austrian and German and larger than the Russian, Spanish and Swiss.

The heaviest bullet is thrown by the Portuguese and Austrian rifles, and the lightest by the Roumanian and Italian. Here, again, England has chosen the middle way, having a bullet larger than the Swiss, Italians and Roumanians and smaller than the Belgians, Austrians, Germans and French. With regard to speed, the Italian bullet travels the quickest of all, but the Roumanian ball runs it pretty close. The slowest bullet is the Portuguese; and the Austrian is also very slow.

Here are a few of the muzzle velocities per second: Portuguese, 1,672 feet; Austrian, 1,706 feet; British, 2,000 feet; German and Russian, 2,034 feet; French, 2,073 feet; Roumanian, 2,236 feet; Italian, 2,297 feet. The Mauser rifle is used by Germany, Belgium, Spain and Turkey, and it carries five cartridges in the magazine. The Lee-Enfield and the French Lebel rifles carry eight cartridges.

OVER THE ROOF OF THE WORLD. Hitherto the longest range on record is said to be that of a 9.45 Krupp gun fired at Meppen in Germany before the emperor's visit on April 28, 1892. The shell mounted 21,456 feet into the air and fell 17 1/2 miles distant in a matter of 70 seconds. Such a gun at Pre St. Didier, in the Alps, would have cleared Mont Blanc with nearly 8,000 feet to spare and struck at Chamouni.

On the day of Queen Victoria's jubilee, 1887, a 9.2 inch gun was fired at Shoeburyness, and the shell landed 12 miles distant. Captain—now Major—Ingalls of the United States army calculated the position of the fall beforehand within a few hundred feet. He estimates that an 18 inch 125 ton gun in construction for the United States government will have a range of nearly 2,000 feet per second. The angle of elevation it requires is 40 degrees. The shell is to strike at 21 miles and will reach a maximum elevation of 20,516 feet. The weight of the shell will be 2,370 pounds, and it would just comfortably topple over the crest of Mount Everest if fired from sea level.

him as a special mark of favor to the city of London for its services in the war. The military rule is that five times the number of an entrenched enemy are required to dislodge the latter. It is reported that six weeks before relief came to Kimberley Cecil Rhodes predicted the actual date on which the town would be relieved.



and danger. Attention has been directed to them afresh because of the jaunty but determined manner in which England has declined all mediation in the winding up of her bitter and expensive campaign in the lower end of the dark continent.

Although friendless, however, England feels secure because of the fact that each of her enemies is jealous of the other. This international enmity, she knows, is so strong as to render difficult an effective alliance against her and her plans of empire building.

The British empire today has no less than five tender spots, none of which will bear very severe handling by either herself or her enemies. The first of these to suggest itself is the Alaska boundary. One year ago England was clamoring very noisily for a solution of the Alaskan boundary difficulties. Canadian forces had even been sent up into the disputed territory, and for a time feeling was at a dangerous pitch. Then John Bull saw that trouble was brewing elsewhere and cooled down very considerably. Both the conference at Quebec and that at Washington practically demonstrated the lack of unanimity in the different members of the congress of arbitration. But when trouble in South Africa arose the officials at Washington, not wishing unnecessarily to embarrass an ostensibly friendly power, allowed the matter to go over on suspended judgment.

But of late a new difficulty has arisen. It has been perceived by our government that even at the present time Great Britain is busily engaged in strengthening her tremendous fortifications at Esquimaux. The government of this republic, it might be added, has never understood just why Great Britain should convert this British Columbian harbor into a second Gibraltar. This move seems particularly inscrutable when it is remembered that this fort especially menaces Portland, Seattle, Tacoma and other cities, notwithstanding the fact that English statesmen have been most assiduous in declarations of their undying admiration and brotherly love for this country. While Great Britain has the right to fortify every inch of British Columbia, and all of Canada for that matter, it must, naturally, seem a little strange that she should make armed preparations against a republic for which she is so industriously protesting eternal friendship and affection. Esquimaux is conveniently near to Alaska, and it is in the face of such circumstances that careful students of the trend of things political are beginning to look upon that part of the map with renewed apprehension. Not that there must inevitably be war over this long disputed boundary line. But it takes only a spark to explode the powder magazine, and after the result of the Venezuelan boundary case America is not likely to

one time it looked as though Great Britain would insist on the letter of the treaty and that the actual construction of the canal, accordingly, should be indefinitely postponed. But now that the matter has been looked into and the position and claims of the two nations have become better understood there seems less and less danger of serious complications arising. Still Nicaragua must be looked upon as another of Great Britain's sore spots, to be touched with the lightest of diplomatic fingers for some time to come.

Another part of the world's map which should give the ordinary Englishman an uneasy feeling is that territory lying about the ancient little town of Fashoda on the Nile. Frenchmen have not forgotten the Fashoda affair, nor is the dispute for which it stands by any means settled. In fact, it has been reported that French officers and officials in this country have been notified by their government that they should hold themselves in readiness for a call to arms in view of the present critical condition of affairs.

During the Boer war France has had plenty of opportunity to display her real feeling toward England. She has taken advantage of that opportunity to the full, and it has not been done in a way altogether to please the English-

most vigorously objected. The French fishermen went on catching and packing their lobsters, so the Newfoundland fishermen went to work and broke up a factory or two just as a gentle hint as to their attitude in the matter of regarding the lobster as fish. There were charges and countercharges, and the matter finally had to be taken up by the two home governments and then carried before a board of arbitration. A modus vivendi was arranged and the two nations agreed to enact legislation for enforcing the arbitration awards. The adjustment was by no means satisfactory, and Newfoundland chafed under the pressure of the home restrictions; but things drifted along until the end of 1899, when the term of the modus vivendi expired. England, as was the case with the Alaskan boundary dispute, was not at this time in a position for outside trouble, so a crisis was averted by an extension of time of one year. French fishermen are still regarding lobsters as fish, and Newfoundland fishermen are still making it as disagreeable for the Frenchmen as possible. But the adjustment is only temporary, and the situation is a disagreeable one. The commission recently appointed by Mr. Chamberlain did not bring in an altogether satisfying report. Among other things, the English

stores of arms annihilation. This practically gives a key to the St. Lawrence, the straits of Canada. Great Britain worth nothing, has no troops in the matter, her nearest garrison is Halifax. So there are very serious reasons why Great Britain show with apprehension the presence of hostility of France and feigningness regarding the outcrops when the present temporary expires.

But Great Britain more dreaded enemy than that which is Russia. There was when England's influence powerful in Persia as it once was. Of late a change has come for the energetic Slav has been closer and closer upon Persia and Peking. Of all the great pe one believes England most affix the imperialistic passion is of the czar. So it is only now and then that such powers rub are considerable friction. For years now it has been a peten exploited journalistic tradition the Slav and the Anglo-Saxon love to some tremendous and the clash of arms. This may not be true, but one thing is, and that is that the Russian never beats the tight. Here effective,

unable to do a thing. There has been no breach of international amenities, no inducing invasions and nothing that was not entirely legitimate and allowable. But Russia won and is still winning what John Bull would have given his eyeteeth to possess. What the czar wants more than anything just at present is a port on the Persian gulf. Just why he wants that is as clear as water. Such a port would constitute a jumping off ground, when once a military railway was laid from Caucasus, for the long cherished Russian invasion of India. To the Slav mind Asia should all be Russian. The Slav claims that country because he himself is more Asiatic than European. England believes in making sense of a thing, so now she is able to menace Great Britain at three points—from Tibet on the north and from Persia on the west of India and from Peking in the east.

Just at present England's Indian army is at its lowest ebb. Troops have been drawn off from Asia to carry on the campaign against the Boers, and Russia, naturally, has realized that England's weakness is her strength. So this is why there is so much Slav activity in the neighborhood of Herat just at the present time. Russia wants Herat very much. To take it the czar need



THE CZAR OF RUSSIA AND HIS PRIME MINISTER MURAVIEFF

WARTIME TOPICS. In times of peace water in some parts of South Africa costs 25 cents a quart. Stick in to the Boers if you get at them, cried a girl to the Gordons as they left Edinburgh.

In one of his earlier published lectures John Ruskin said, "When I tell you that war is the foundation of all the arts, I

mean also that it is the foundation of all the high virtues and faculties of men."

The Boer has a language of his own, known as "Taal."

General Miles keeps up his good housekeeping by constant practice. Wherever he may be or whatever the

weather, a morning never passes but he takes a brisk ride.

The British soldier has not always worn a red uniform. White was the prevailing color under Henry VIII and dark green or russet in the time of Elizabeth.

The German war authorities have duplicates of all bridges in France. If, in case of war, any of these bridges were

destroyed, they replaced in six hours.

Cavalry coversies an hour when walking, 12 1/2 hour when trotting, 15 miles when galloping.

Wheat costs 2 shillings in Cape Town. Lively 25s a day.

Traction engine by the British forces in vial for the

conveyance of supplies. They drag heavy loads up steep hills and save the struggling horses.

A consignment of 22,000 woolen outfits has been ordered from a firm of Berlin manufacturers by the Transvaal government. Cloaks for the army are included in the consignment.

Before the war the population of the Transvaal was estimated at 750,000, of

whom only 115,000 were whites. The latter included 57,000 uitlanders, 50 per cent of whom were British subjects.

To mobilize the entire force of the Boer army when war was declared took but 17 telegrams from General Joubert.

Lord Roberts telegraphed his congratulations to the lord mayor of London. A. J. Newton, regarding the baronetcy which the queen will confer upon

him as a special mark of favor to the city of London for its services in the war.

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