

the operations of Russia to divert some considerable part of the German forces who are pressing them so hard on the Belgian and Luxemburg boundaries.

Already there is talk of the manner of the Germans' advance on Paris. We are told that they plan an encircling sweep toward the French capital. All that is a trifle premature. It has been often enough pointed out that the Belgians' resistance to the march across their territory was unexpected, and that the Germans are now fighting the battles which they had expected would be decided three weeks ago. The actual invasion of France has but just begun, and the long line of her fortifications from Dunkirk to the Swiss border are yet to be reckoned with. These defenses are modern and well planned. France has a great army, and she has as a reinforcement the English troops, whose numbers are unknown, but are probably much in excess of 100,000, mostly well-trained men. There will be a good deal of fighting before the Germans can approach Paris, which is so well defended by its rings of great forts that siege operations would have to be carried on upon an enormous scale, would be necessarily prolonged, and of uncertain result. Meanwhile the enormous cost and destructiveness of war will be no less exhausting for Germany than for the allies.

There are chances to be considered, too. There is the chance that by sheer weight of numbers Russia may threaten Germany in the east in such a way as to demand serious measures of defense. Austria already finds little Serbia more than a match for her, so that Germany could perhaps not count upon her ally to look out for the eastern frontier. Italy proclaims her intention to maintain her neutrality, but she is under great temptation as well as great provocation. She may yet be drawn into the war. Japan was within a few months of financial exhaustion at the time she concluded her treaty with Russia. It is possible that the limit of this war may be set by conditions of that nature.

GERMANY'S EFFICIENCY IN WAR.

That the Namur forts should have capitulated in two days is far less surprising than that the Liège forts should have resisted the German assault for more than three weeks. Even the English critics of military affairs seem to have permitted their minds to be confused by the unexpectedly sturdy defense of Liège. It was astonishing because nobody had looked for such exploits of arms from the Belgians, and in some quarters the hasty conclusion was reached that the efficiency of the Germans in war had been overrated. Nothing could be further from the truth.

It is a principle of German military strategy to overwhelm the enemy by an immense superiority of force. Liège was a mere preliminary. The German army of assault was hardly more than a strong advance guard; the great armies had not been brought up and the heavy siege guns came into position many days after the fighting began. The Germans did not overwhelm the defenders of Liège because they had not directed men enough against that point to adopt their traditional tactics. The English critics intimate, strangely enough, that the early capitulation of Namur may require much explaining, as if there had been treachery. It is much more probable that there the Germans advanced to the assault with immense numbers and irresistible force. That is the German plan wherever it can possibly be adopted.

Not only are the German successes in Belgium not surprising, but the allies must prepare for more "surprises" of the same kind. It is well-nigh impossible to overrate the efficiency of the German nation in war. It is hardly too much to say that it makes a business of war. To the business pursuits of peace it has, of course, paid great attention, also, but its industrial development has been directly tributary to the efficiency of the war machine. Out of the prosperity of German manufactures and business the cost of maintaining and equipping an enormous army has been defrayed. A very great part of the German people are professional soldiers, they are trained, they are always subject to the call to arms. Not only that, but the very constitution of the Government is precisely what is required for the highest military efficiency. WILLIAM II. is the ruler of the German people, but his utterances continually show that in his own mind he is first of all their military chieftain. Thus Germany has the same military chief through all the reign of its Emperor, however long he may sit upon the throne. This is all-important for the permanence and the high development of militarism. It is very different in France, where every few years a new President is elected and where the actual Government, the Ministry, is subject to overthrow whenever a Socialist group or a reactionary group is able to form a majority coalition with other groups.

Russia is also a military Power, but she falls far short of Germany's efficiency in war. We are told that the Czar is now at the head of an army of 4,000,000 intent upon the invasion of Germany, and that another army of 4,000,000 will follow the first. These numbers would be a cause of amazement if they did not provoke smiles. If the Russian armies, in respect to organization, discipline, equipment, were the equal of Germany's armies, the immense German legions now massed upon the French frontier would be hurried back with all speed to defend their capital against the Russian advance. What Germany thinks of Russia's military power is shown by the fact that probably more than three-fourths of her armed force has been hurled against France. It is, of course, possible that within a few days or weeks Germany may have the gravest reasons to take thought about the defense of her eastern frontier, or even about the safety of Berlin. The allies evidently count upon