

Topics of the Day.

By Our London Correspondent.

OUR ARMY'S GERMAN CRITIC.

LONDON, October 21.

COLONEL GADKE, the distinguished military critic has gone to his own country with a very poor opinion of the British Army, which he has been studying at the recent military manoeuvres in England. Here is his verdict:—

"In its present composition and training it is not equal to a conflict with a Continental army, and is, on the whole, apart from the smallness of its numbers, unfitted to play any part worth mentioning in modern war. As a land Power, Great Britain has fallen out of the ranks of first-class military Powers. In spite of this, her soldiers, and the raw material which she can command in the form of officers, are exceptionally good, and second to none in the world."

The German expert corroborates what was said recently by Lieut. Sutor, the English officer who was court-martialled for writing a pamphlet in which he ridiculed the training methods of the British Army. "The service of the button, the pedantry of pipe-clay," says Colonel Gadke, "plays an exaggerated role." He criticises the purely mechanical drill, the training for sentry duty, the church parade, the exaggerated value set on the men's uniforms, all of which, he says, interfere in a most detrimental manner with the proper training of the troops for service in the field. He thinks the British soldier is pampered, and pampering "does not make for efficiency in war."

Still more damaging is his criticism of the British generals. From the highest downwards, says Colonel Gadke, they did not know at the army manoeuvres how to begin to utilise their troops in masses, or how to combine and unite them in order of battle. In watching their manoeuvres, he was reminded of the Russian Army in its disastrous battles in Manchuria. Even the highest leaders seemed to lose their heads. But most astonishing of all, in Colonel Gadke's eyes, was not the awkwardness of the troops, or the weakness of their leaders, but the sorry figure which, according to this critic, was cut by the empires. Their decisions "were, as a general rule, as irreconcilable with what would have happened in a real combat, and so utterly in contradiction to the possibilities of warfare, that one can only ascribe utterly unsound tactical theories to the generals of the British Army. Here, also, the resemblance to the Russian campaign against Japan was unmistakable."

In short, Col. Gadke concludes that the British Army is not only too weak numerically to throw any decisive weight on the scales in a Continental war, but is also deficient in the war training of its soldiers and in the understanding of its leaders for the task which a great modern war would impose on them.

COUNTING THE COST.

Brief as was the duration of the French railway strike France has suffered enormous losses through it. For a bare week's confusion and riot the country has to foot a very big bill indeed. Accurate figures are, of course, impossible, but it is computed by the officials of the Ministry of Finance that the cost of the strike cannot be placed at less than ten or twelve millions sterling.

The value of goods "hung up" during the strike, between France and England alone, was nearly a couple of million pounds. A fair proportion of these goods were food-stuffs and other perishable articles, the value of which is irretrievably lost. A similar state of affairs, of course, existed in the interchange of goods between France and her Continental neighbours, Belgium, Holland, Germany and other countries.

The French railway lines themselves lost a million and a quarter in passenger fares and on goods freightage, and will be put to great expense to repair the damage done by the strikers, who themselves have lost quite £300,000 in wages.

The effect of the interruption of the international trains hit manufacturing and retail business men very severely. Paris houses where stocks were low were unable to fulfil orders. All industries

have lost tremendously. So in a smaller way the losses have filtered down until the smallest dealer has suffered.

As an instance of how a strike can affect every class of community, the women of the flower kiosks on the boulevards, whose takings averages £1 a day, have, for want of good flowers, sold only 5/ or 6/ worth.

The strikers, with their senseless attacks on property, have run up a bill amounting to hundreds of thousands, while the loss to the small farmers and small shopkeepers all over France is vast. It is possible to obtain some idea of how they have suffered from the market reports in the "Bulletin des Halles" which are published daily. The food-stuffs received in the Paris markets alone were reduced by half during the days of the strike.

Even the fishing villages remote from Paris felt the effects of the strike severely, their aggregate losses being estimated at over half a million pounds.

SALVATION ARMY DISCONTENT.

The recent resignation of several old and well-known staff officers of the Salvation Army has been the subject of a good deal of public comment, and has

stories now current against the Army, he will find many systematic contributors to the funds of the organisation diverting their money into other channels.

The reported withdrawal of an officer of Commissioner Coomb's long experience and ability has naturally made people interested in the Army anxious to know the reason why, after thirty-four years' service, he should desire to sever his connection with the organisation. General Booth has more than once signalled out this officer for his genius in conducting large and difficult undertakings. No name is better known throughout the ranks of the Army in all parts of the world, and many people feel that the heads of an organisation that lets a man of his calibre leave its ranks and does not acquaint its followers with the cause, are not acting fairly towards the members of the Army, nor to their good friends outside.

The Headquarters' policy of secrecy is undoubtedly opposed to the best interests of the Army, and is responsible for much of the discontent that without doubt exists at present among the rank and file.

His Wife's Income.

MR. BERNARD SHAW'S DILEMMA AMUSING SITUATION.

Mr. George Bernard Shaw is in a delightfully characteristic dilemma. The special commissioners who have control



A JAPANESE VIEW OF RUSSIA'S NEW POLICY.

In place of threats and intimidation, which had formerly been her pet policy, Russia has, since the late war, adopted that of dealing with others with sweet words and soft manner. That is why she is now so popular both in the Far East and Turkey. Why, even now a friendly compact has been arrived at between Japan and Russia to defeat American ambitions in China.

caused not a little anxiety among the rank and file of Salvationists, and among the friends of the Army. We want to know the true reason why old and esteemed officers like Commissioner Coombs, Commissioner Sowton, Colonels Moss, Howell, and Southall, Brigadier Morris, Majors Morris and Patterson, and Staff-Captain Williams have left or are leaving the Army, but "Headquarters" prefers to keep silence on the subject. This adherence to the old custom of remaining dumb when maligned by enemies or deserted by friends does the Army no good, and is no longer acceptable to many officers and members, nor to the outside friends of the organisation. It gives colour to the adverse reports concerning the Army now in circulation, and points to the caustic criticisms of the Army's methods indulged in by "John Bull." That journal has attacked the Army week after week, making allegations of a very serious nature, but apparently neither General Booth nor Mr. Bramwell Booth deem it worth their while either to refute the charges made, or to take any action against the persons responsible for their publication.

This silence on matters affecting the credit of the Army is not commendable. It is not a private concern, and it is dependent to a very large extent upon the goodwill and pecuniary assistance of the general public for the maintenance of its many charities. Unless the "Gen-ral" speedily takes the world into his confidence upon the matter of the recent resignations, and takes steps to put an end to the circulation of the many adverse

of the Income-supertax have demanded from him a return of his wife's income. He declares he does not know it, and has no means of finding out, but the commissioners are adamant.

So Mr. Shaw writes a column and a half letter to the "Times" explaining the situation in his own peculiar, whimsical way.

When he first received the demand he pointed out to the commissioners that in compliance with their demand he had asked his wife the amount of her income, and she had refused to disclose it.

"As far as I know," he continues, "I have not legal means of compelling her to make any such disclosure; and if I had, it does not follow that I am bound to incur law costs to obtain information which is required not by myself, but by the State."

The commissioners replied politely but firmly that it was not their business to advise "as to the means to be adopted in a particular case to enable the taxpayer to acquire the information necessary to put him in a position to make the return required by the Acts."

Mr. Shaw thereupon had an interview with the commissioners, but while he was able to convince them that his difficulty was in no sense a personal one, the problem remained unsolved. He points to the feeling among women suffragists against the compulsory disclosure of a wife's income to a husband, and adds:—

"Even in the supertaxed class there exists the equivalent of the working man who earns 34s. or 36s. a week, but tells

his wife that he gets only 25s. Therefore, many of these ladies are of opinion that women should refuse, on principle, to disclose their incomes to their husbands.

HUSBAND'S PREDICAMENT.

"Now comes the question of what is to happen to husbands in my predicament. Let us suppose that the interpretation of law can be strained to the point of inducing the courts to enjoin me to make the required disclosure.

"I go to my wife and tell her that I shall be put in prison if she does not tell me her income. She replies that many women have gone to prison for the cause, and that it is time that the men should take their turn. And I to languish in gaol, to the delight of the whole suffragist movement, because I cannot perform impossibilities?"

"Take the obvious alternative. Suppose the courts enjoin my wife to disclose her exact income to me. She refuses. She is sent to prison. She promptly resorts to the hunger strike. Mr. Lloyd George and Mr. Winston Churchill have then either to forcibly feed her, and be banished to South Africa as their unfortunate colleague the Viscount Gladstone was banished by Lady Constance Lytton, or else surrender at discretion.

"I suggest that Mr. Lloyd George had better cut the Gordian knot by hurrying through a short Act making married couples independent of one another in their liability to supertaxation."

Mr. Shaw also objects to the imposition of supertaxation on gross income. "As long as the taxation is on the gross," he writes, "it will mean that the propertied classes in this country will be taxed, not only on their own incomes, but on the entire revenue derived by the State from taxing them; that is to say, on a considerable part of the State's income."

"I do wish that when the people of this country make up their minds to Socialist measures they would elect Socialist Governments to carry them out."

The supertax takes effect when an individual's income exceeds £5,000 a year. It is then levied at the rate of 6d. in the pound for every £1 of the amount by which the total income exceeds £3,000.

"HAD TO GASP FOR BREATH."

KNIFE-LIKE STABS CAUSED BY INDIGESTION.

A WOMAN'S AWFUL ILLNESS ENDED BY BILE BEANS.

Mrs. Louisa Jane Noy, of East-street, Brompton, Adelaide, S.A., says: "Acute indigestion caused me terrible suffering. Especially when breathing the pains were most dreadful. I would simply have to gasp for a long breath would be impossible. Sharp pains would shoot through my chest and go through to my back. It seemed as if someone had planted a knife in my back. In the region of the heart fullness and accumulation of wind was very distressing. When these attacks came on I was not fit for anything, and would have to lay up while they lasted. Vomiting fits, violent headaches, and attacks of biliousness also added to my misery. As the result of much retching I became very sore."

"I tried many remedies that were supposed to cure these complaints, but they were like water on a duck's back, and had not the slightest beneficial effect. It seemed impossible for me to get any relief. Bile Beans were recommended to me, so I procured a supply. I had only been taking Bile Beans a short time when the shooting pains ceased, and the fits of vomiting ended. As I persevered with Bile Beans the headaches became less and less severe, and biliousness was a thing of the past. After a complete course, all my troubles were ended, and my cure complete."

"I am now always in good health, and take an occasional dose of Bile Beans to maintain it."

Bile Beans are a safe and a sure specific for constipation, indigestion, headache, bad breath, liver trouble, sleeplessness, loss of appetite, nervousness, that tired feeling, heat, lassitude, debility, anaemia, and female ailments. Sold by all chemists and stores.