

FOR KING FOR COUNTRY FOR FREEDOM

B R I T A N N I A

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THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT have not forgotten that since the war began Serbia's territorial integrity has been guaranteed by the Alliance to which our country belongs. This guarantee in question, was, on behalf of the Allies, given to Serbia on Oct 13th. The then Prime Minister of France, M. Viviani, on that date made the following Statement in the French Chamber; "France and England, in accord with their Allies are now fully agreed to send help to Serbia, who had asked for our assistance & also to ensure for the benefit of Serbia; Greece & Roumania respect for the Treaty of Bucarest, of which we are guarantors." M. Viviani also said that the Allied Governments had, when Bulgaria's hostile attitude became finally known, "declared to be null and void the advantages which we had announced we were prepared to offer to Bulgaria with the other Balkan States. We resumed our liberty of action towards her."

In fact just as the offer of Cyprus made to Greece is cancelled so the offers made to Bulgaria are cancelled!

IN THE NAME OF HONOUR & for the sake of British & European interests and liberty as well as the interests & liberty of Serbia, the British Government must be faithful to their pledge to guarantee Serbia's integrity. Concessions to Bulgaria would, it is obvious, be injurious to the interests of Britain & of the Allies generally. Because everything given to Bulgaria would, for practical purposes, be given to Germany. Ever since the war broke out, & avowed pro-Germanism became disgraceful, that same pro-Germanism has disguised itself as pro-Bulgarianism, & in the same way Germany (by bringing about the war) having thrown off the old mask, has worn & still wears a new Bulgarian mask!

WHEN THE TIME COMES for making peace, it will be found that what the Germans cannot openly & directly secure for themselves they will try to secure for Bulgaria. At all costs they will try to diminish Serbia and above all to deprive her of the parts of her territory which would serve Germany as highways for purposes of a future military and commercial war. For example, they will desire that failing Bessaraby, Bulgaria shall possess the North-Eastern and eastern part of Serbia and that Bulgaria shall also possess the valley of the Vardar. In a word, the Germans consider that if they themselves cannot be owners & masters of the Balkans, then the next best, & in practice the same thing, will be to establish a BULGARIAN HEGEMONY in the Balkans. Greece and Roumania have believed that Sir Edward Grey's diplomacy was also directed towards creating a Bulgarian hegemony in the Balkans, & this has alienated them from the Allies cause.

The Allies would have no right to make a bargain with Bulgaria who has chosen to be their enemy, without the consent of Serbia, who is a fellow member of the Alliance.

Bulgaria means Germany. That is the fact that the Allies must bear in mind. Significant quotations from Bulgarian writers are to be found in the recently published book "The Aspirations of Bulgaria." by Balkanicus.

ANOTHER OF SIR EDWARD GREY'S BROKEN PLLEDGES TO SERBIA was made by him on Oct 1st, on which date he authorised the statement issued by the Press Bureau as follows: "Information has been received that German and Austrian officers, have, for several days, been arriving in Bulgaria with a view to taking an active part in directing the Bulgarian Army. This action is precisely similar to that taken in Turkey, when German Officers forced Turkey to make an entirely unprovoked attack upon Russia last year. SINCE THE ALLIED POWERS ARE BOUND TO SUPPORT THE STATES WHO ARE THREATENED BY SUCH PROCEEDINGS IN BULGARIA, this news is regarded as of the utmost gravity."

But in spite of this public admission that Great Britain WAS BOUND TO SUPPORT SERBIA, Sir Edward Grey afterwards strenuously and stubbornly opposed the sending of military help to Serbia.

THERE IS TOO STRONG A TENDENCY on the part of some English men to hide their head in the sand where this question of Serbia's betrayal is concerned. But



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that does not prevent the people of neutral nations as well as the enemy nations from seeing & proclaiming the truth. As was to be expected, the enemy, having intrigued to bring about the betrayal of Serbia, are now condemning that betrayal. The Austrian "Neue Freie Presse" is one of the enemy newspapers which has taunted us with it. Maximilien Harden is doing the same thing. Neutrals, who, being onlookers, see a great deal of the game, have not failed to notice what has happened, and even a neutral newspaper so friendly as is the "Gazette de Lausanne" speaks of "the desertion of Serbia." Not only has our honour & our moral prestige suffered by Sir Edward Grey's conduct, but our reputation for good sense is also affected. The "Gazette de Lausanne" speaks of "an incredible series of mistakes," and informs us that we "have brilliantly failed in preventing the junction of the Germans & the Bulgarians & in defending the little Kingdom of King Peter." The same newspaper says that "with the occupation of the Balkan Peninsula, Germanism has achieved the object of the war." The same newspaper nevertheless believes that the Allies are going to win in the end, but the neutral nation's faith in our victory cannot be sustained unless we make an end of the mistake which in the past have so grievously compromised our honour & our military success. Another friendly neutral newspaper, the "Journal de Geneve", lately published an article affirming that in the Balkans we have by our mistakes of omission violated the most elementary rules of strategy.

IT IS HARDLY REASSURING, to say the least of it, to know that Sir Archibald Murray who was until lately Chief of the Imperial General Staff, is now to command in the Eastern Mediterranean & to be in charge of that very Balkan campaign of which he is one of the arch opponents. Mr Asquith in announcing the change stated that Sir Archibald Murray had rendered the Government invaluable help. Was Mr Asquith referring to Sir Archibald Murray's opposition to sending British military help to Serbia? This "service" we have seen described in one of our contemporaries as follows: "The General Staff at the very time when a prompt decision could have saved Serbia, were opposed to the adventure. Thus after two months delay the moment came when help could no longer be given to the retreating Serbian forces, & so the General Staff had it all its own way." Consider the effect that was produced, not only on Serbia's fortunes, but upon our own! Germany effected a junction with Bulgaria, and thereby with Turkey, and was enabled to send munitions for use against our countrymen in Gallipoli. Not only but Germany was directly assisted in preparing for an attack upon Egypt. The realisation of Germany's hope of securing the military assistance of Greece and Roumania was facilitated. The danger was created that the Port of Salonica would fall into German hands, and if the Murrays and the rest of them had had their way, we should actually have withdrawn from Salonica and given the Germans a free path to that Port just as they have been given a free path to Constantinople.

To sum the matter up Sir Archibald Murray, Sir Edward Grey and those who think with them have inflicted upon the Allies a HUGE DEFEAT in the Balkans, a defeat which can be repaired only by great sacrifices of men and money a defeat which means a serious prolongation of the war.

THE HOWEL LETTER whose publication seems to have decided the Powers that be to try to suppress "Britannia" has produced a very painful impression on all responsible and public spirited people who ask how stands the discipline of an Army in which an officer on active service can with impunity issue a letter of this description! The public would not have been surprised to hear that an officer who writes such a letter had been court martialled, but no news to that effect has yet appeared in the Press. The Howel letter was published in our issue of Dec. 10. and was described by us as being "not really a serious military opinion at all but more a hotch-potch of intrigues." The letter, as we further said, made some very strange references to a member of the Quadruple Entente and recommended the desertion and betrayal of Serbia. This letter or memorandum was sent out to various civilians, journalists and others, by Brigadier General Howel, a Staff Officer and a friend and confidant of Sir William Robertson who then presided over the British General Staff in France and is now Chief of the Imperial General Staff. Before confidence can be reposed in Sir William Robertson as Chief of the Imperial General Staff, it is necessary to know more as to his responsibility in connection with the Howel letter and also to know more as to his part in bringing about the desertion of Serbia.

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