

THE FOUNDATIONS OF VICTORY.

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In Henderson's life of "Stonewall Jackson" the author remarks that "It has been well said by a soldier of Napoleon, writing of the war in Spain, that neither the Government nor the army are the true bulwarks against foreign aggression, but the national character." And it would only be necessary to place before an unbiassed reader the news cables received during the last few days in order to elicit a verdict favourable to the British character, whether expressed in words of faith and determination by statesmen, publicists and organs of public opinion or manifested by dauntless deeds on land and sea and in the air. To the moving story of weeks of dogged defence on the battle-fields of Flanders and Picardy against the German hordes has been added a tale of marvellous skill and heroism on the part of the navy, proving, were any assurance needed, that the spirit of Nelson still burns brightly in the breasts of our sailors and that nothing will deter them risking their lives on any enterprise, however hazardous, when duty calls upon to engage the enemies of their country. Similarly when the civilian population is called upon by the Government to make further great sacrifices of material wealth, there is no mean-souled opposition to the Chancellor's Budget proposals. From organized labour, too, there comes an indication of the patriotism of the workers, who are at heart as sound as any other class in Britain, and







are prepared to place the war first and everything else after. The brain reels when an attempt is made to grasp the stupendous figures quoted by Mr. Bonar Law. They mean grave burdens placed on shoulders already carrying a weight which few could have believed it possible for the nation to bear during these long years of war. The attitude of Parliament towards the new Budget, unprecedented in history, reflects, as it has been said, Britain's spirit and strength, and from these and other signs our enemies must realise that the vigour and determination with which the war has hitherto been prosecuted will not be abated. Now that the magnitude of the nation's peril is understood, there can be no half-hearted effort made to win a victory over the foe which will make a recurrence of these present horrors impossible for the survivors of the war and of our children.







While it is perfectly natural that military and naval operations should make a stronger popular appeal than matters of finance and economics, it is desirable that these important factors should be kept in mind. The Germans are thinking of them. Even a fire eating soldier like General von Freytag-Loringhoven, Deputy-Chief of the German General Staff, whose book "Deductions from the world war" was referred to yesterday, goes so far as to admit that "The power of radical decision of a world war has slipped away from the armies. The strategical situation is conditioned by the world-economic situation . . . Victories which once



would have been absolutely decisive and the conquest of whole kingdoms, have not brought us nearer to peace." It is true that Germany by the separate peace with Russia and Rumania had hopes of getting some relief from the intolerable economic pressure of the Allies, but the throttling process can only cease if a German-made peace is concluded, and of that there is little likelihood provided the unity





of the Allies continues, the morale of the people is unbroken, and the supremacy of the seas rests with the Allied fleets. The importance attached by Germany to regaining the use of raw materials, like rubber, produced only in the tropics is shown by the attempt to force concessions from Holland in respect to the outputs of Netherlands Indies; and if, for example, she cannot get cotton, silk and jute as well as indispensable metals like tin and wolfram for which she has been entirely dependent on foreign countries, Germany's outlook after the war is a black one indeed. Having antagonised the whole world by plots and methods of frightfulness Germany is confronted by an alliance of nations that can, if they wish, doom her to economic ruin. By the command of the sea and their control of tropical products, the Allies hold the master key which can lock Germany from access to sources of supply vital to her life and prosperity. If the Allies display in the future the unity and immutability of purpose, and "the will to win" which have carried them so far on the road to victory, there can be no doubt as to the final issue of the war. Nor can there be any misgivings as to the future of the British Empire if, combined with the magnificent fighting spirit of her sons, the splendid patriotism of all classes rich and poor, adhesion is given to the sound economic and financial policy which Mr Bonar Law has followed in his recent Budget. When the war ends, as no Briton doubts it will, in the decisive defeat of Germany, there will be the satisfaction of having fought hard and honestly; while to the enemy will be left the knowledge that his plans of espionage and treason, his atrocities barbaric deeds and his schemes of domination have failed. He is morally a leper, economically a bankrupt, and the return of Germany to the comity of civilized nations is only possible when the absolutist ideals and militarist machinery of Prussianism have

been exorcised and destroyed.

A proclamation in the Straits Gazette makes a number of amendments in the Schedule relating to the prohibition of the export of certain articles.

The Colonial Chaplain, Singapore, has reported to the police, theft of a pair of brass candlestands, valued at \$48, from St Andrew's Cathedral, on Monday morning.

Thus the Resident of Oya, (Sarawak) in his March report: Court work has been very slack all this month, people not having enough money to spend on the luxury of litigation.

Kuala Lumpur Sanitary Board at its last meeting had no objection to the alienation of half an acre of State land near the new Police Station, Kepong, for purposes of a mosque for the Indian Moslems of that village.

A Tamil couple were charged in the Kuala Lumpur Police Court before Mr A W Just (Magistrate) with absconding from Bukit Jalil Estate on Jan. 17th. The husband, who had bolted for the second time, was fined \$10, and the woman cautioned.

In these war days it was quite refreshing to see Johnstone's pier present such an animated appearance as it did on Tuesday as the result of the assemblage of a large number of passengers—a good many of them from the grounded French mail—prior to going on board a steamer of the Canadian Pacific Ocean service for Hongkong en route for different Far Eastern ports.—“S.T.”

The American Consul-General, Singapore, has received telegraphic advices from his Government that sago and tapioca, two articles of extensive export to the United States from the Straits Settlements, are declared by the War Trade Board to be included in the list of restricted imports into that country, and cannot now be shipped unless license number is obtained prior to shipment.

In the Supreme Court, Kuala Lumpur, when Mr Justice Earnshaw took his seat on the bench, Mr D Freeman informed his Lordship that in the action Baker Morgan and Co v Doctor E Lionel Smith, a settle-

ment had been arrived at between the parties, and he asked his lordship to make an order to the effect that judgment be given for plaintiffs by consent, in the sum of \$2,400, and that no order be made as regards costs. His Lordship made the order asked for,

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