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EDITORIAL.

THE WAR EFFORT OF THE UNITED KINGDOM.

In a few days the great Festival of Christmas will have come and gone—in the sixth year of war. Is it possible, taking into consideration the tragedy of war, to wish “A Happy Christmas,” realising, as we do, that the ground of Europe is red with the blood of thousands of young valiant men, the best beloved of their nearest and dearest—and yet why not? Great happiness need have nothing to do with hilarity—the grosser gratification of the flesh—and we are of opinion that our wonderful people, near and far, have a right to happiness in so far as possible for the valiant manner in which they have faced disaster, terror and death for years.

STATISTICS RELATING TO THE WAR EFFORT OF THE UNITED KINGDOM.

In November the Prime Minister presented to Parliament, by command of His Majesty, “Statistics Relating to the War Effort of the United Kingdom.”

It is a thrilling record and should be studied by the whole nation at home and abroad.

As self praise is no recommendation, we quote what our American friends, through their wonderful Press, are kind enough to circulate concerning the part that Britain has taken in its stride, throughout the five years’ monumental struggle for liberty and justice, and to offer thanks for their generous appreciation and praise recorded by the New York correspondent of *The Times*.

GENEROUS APPRECIATION OF THE AMERICAN PRESS.

“Blood, sweat and tears,” “Democracy at war,” “Hats off to British!”—it is under such captions as these that American newspapers to-day expressed the admiration and wonder of the people of this country over the figures “both grim and glorious” of Britain’s war effort as given in the Prime Minister’s report to Parliament.

“Like the newspapers to-day, radio commentators last night were eloquent in their praise of the accomplishments, stout-heartedness, and endurance of the British people, characterising their war effort in itself and in proportion to their human and material resources as the greatest ever made by any people. Their words and those of the newspapers went far and wide, and there can hardly be anyone in the United States to-day who has not had a new vision of British determination and fortitude, and of how great a part Britain has played in gaining the approaching victory.”

“No nation in this war has given so much from so little with such miraculous results,” the *New York World-Telegram* declared. “The overall contributions of Russia and the United States have been larger in many ways, but not relative to their size and resources. In this later phase of the war the Russian and American contributions and sacrifices will increase more rapidly, but the United Kingdom, with its almost superhuman initial effort, bought and paid for the time in which Russia and the United States raised the overwhelming superiority in man-power and machine-power now defeating the German aggressor. We must never forget that.”

“Statistics at best are dry fare,” the *New York Times* wrote. “Sometimes, though, a statistical summary will so illumine a situation, the figures will bring up so clearly a mental picture of the human beings the figures represent, that their mathematical simplicity gives them an added impact. Such are these. . . . The average American, snug against the winter in his unbombed home, has no trouble, for instance, in translating a statistical table showing that one out of every three houses in England, Scotland, and Wales has been destroyed or damaged by bombs. He can visualise how the block where he has his home would appear were every third house in ruins or, at the least, windowless against the cold or roofless against snow and rain.”

The newspaper recited other figures from the Prime Minister’s report—figures of men and women in the war effort, military and civilian casualties (making comparisons everywhere favourable to the British with the efforts made by the American people, three times as numerous); figures of ship losses and shipbuilding; figures of aeroplane, tank, and munitions production—and all in a spirit almost of awe. “The British were fighting Hitler, part of the time almost alone, for two years before the Japanese bombed us into the war,” the *New York Times* went on. “The British people have stood up magnificently against every weapon Hitler could throw against them. On that tight little island, ‘that fortress built by nature for herself,’ our British cousins have fought the good fight, held the line, and contributed their full share to victory.”

The *New York Herald Tribune* devoted its first leading article to “the really remarkable conspectus of a democratic people fully mobilised for war and fighting on . . . a larger part of the whole story than has ever been told or than any other Government has told in regard to the efforts of its own people. . . .”

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