

perience of their European comrades and will not be stampeded into war by false cries, they can make themselves an exceedingly effective force in blocking the militarist game.

S. D.



British Blundering.

Critics, contrasting the high degree of German military efficiency with Great Britain's lumbering methods, are disposed to reflect upon British statesmanship. But is not this to totally misconceive the underlying principles of the two governments. An autocracy must from its very nature have unquestioned obedience. Since all authority rests in the head of the government, the subjects have no choice but to obey; and they do obey as long as the autocracy stands. Citizens in a democracy, however, knowing that authority comes from themselves, as expressed through a majority, are ever ready to question whatever they disapprove individually, and may yield obedience only when the majority is overwhelming. The British government temporized, for instance, with the defiant Ulstermen. Such action would be inconceivable to a German. This is because of his different point of view. The German looks to the State first. The individual is permitted such liberty as the Government thinks is compatible with the welfare of the State. The Englishman, on the contrary, looks to himself first, and gives to the State such allegiance as he thinks is compatible with his own welfare.



These diametrically opposed views result in very different kinds of government. The policy laid down by the German government is forthwith carried out willy nilly by the citizens. But the policy of the British government is debated by the people both before and after its adoption. This is why England has not had conscription, and why she has not had a large military establishment similar to that of Germany. The militarists have never been able to persuade the mass of the people that these things are necessary or desirable. When the war began England could send to the Continent only 200,000 men; if the war shall continue a year or more she will send 2,000,000 men. She might, indeed, before submitting to Germany, send twice or thrice that number. But, however fast, the number and the time will represent the mental state of the British populace. This has led some critics to say England blunders through. It leads them to say the same thing of this country; for we have a similar point of view.

England is preserved from sudden invasion by her fleet. Should a force be needed in addition—well, that can be attended to when the time comes. This country is preserved from sudden invasion by the oceans. Should troops ever come—well, we shall attend to that when they do come. Such a plan is condemned by the militarists as inefficient. But is it in reality? May it not be more costly to keep a nation in arms for forty years than to raise a volunteer army when it is needed? Militarists have tried to arouse public opinion by showing that the "next war" would be swift and certain. Yet it seems to drag along as it did in the good old days. Great Britain will lose a lot of ships, and she will sacrifice a lot of men; but it is not unlikely that it will be found when the war is over she has lost fewer ships and fewer men than Germany. And whether more or less, Englishmen will have the consciousness of knowing that the affair has from the first been in the individual citizen's hands.

S. C.



Mexico Still in the Throes.

At last a date, the 23d of November, has been set for the withdrawal of the United States troops from Vera Cruz. They would have been withdrawn long before this had it not been for General Carranza's stupidity in refusing to give assurances that Mexicans serving the United States would not be molested, and that importers would not be compelled to pay a second time the customs dues. General Carranza has from the very beginning shown himself to be utterly impossible as president of such a country as Mexico. Although profiting by the aid of this country he has had nothing but rebuffs and insults for President Wilson. His incivility lacked only General Huerta's virility to be as objectionable. And he has only his own stupid obstinacy to thank for his present predicament. During the earlier days of the rebellion, when he had nothing to do but stroke his beard, talk grandiloquently, and let Villa do the fighting, he served as a figurehead. It was only the threats of Villa then that kept him within a semblance of sanity. When he was finally placed in a commanding position his genius for setting things awry knew no bounds.



But this is not our affair. The Mexicans must settle among themselves who is to be at the head of the government, and what he is to do. It is quite plain that the democratic element in this revolution is still alive. Both Villa and Zapata stand by their original declarations, and are as