

may be relied on to inform the new, unified kingdom of Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes which shall give the Southern Slav race the opportunity to live its own unhampered life.

SERBIA RESTORED.

On the very day which saw the abject surrender of the "great Power" whose brutal and merciless attack on Serbia precipitated the war the Serbian Army re-entered Belgrade. With this reoccupation of the capital came the recovery of practically all the territory of the kingdom, and already millions of Serbs and their kinsmen are turning from the ruins of the Hapsburg monarchy to unite themselves with the State which carried the banner in the national movement toward liberty.

Twice in the first six months of the war Austrian armies invaded Serbia; the second of these attacks even compelled the evacuation of Belgrade; but eventually Serbia, alone and unaided, repelled them both. Not till a German General and German troops stiffened the third Austrian attack, with Bulgaria striking in the rear when the Serbian armies were occupied in the defense of the northern border, did the little kingdom collapse. At the moment its collapse seemed to be complete. Three years ago every foot of Serbian soil was in the hands of the enemy; the remnants of the army, survivors of the terrible retreat over the mountains, were grouped at Corfu, and the Government was the somewhat unwelcome guest of King CONSTANTINE. The losses of three wars and of the typhus epidemic had cut down the population; the starvation, executions, and deportations which accompanied Bulgarian and Magyar rule reduced it still more. Nearly half of the population of the Serbia of July, 1914, is dead. There was some plausibility in the argument of the Bulgarian Premier who said last Summer that Serbia had ceased to exist.

But Serbia lived, in the remnants of an army with much to avenge, in a national consciousness that no misfortune could extinguish, and in the consciousness before the world of a just cause. It was the Serbian Army that broke the Bulgarian line in September and began the work which has just been completed. The unusual emotion which breaks out in the statement of the French War Office is fully justified:

This army (the First Serbian Army) participated in all the fighting, marching without cease and without repose, always in contact with the enemy, whom it held by the throat, very often badly provisioned, but knowing no fatigue and no hunger. It pushed ever forward by the will to conquer at any price.

It was what might be expected of the army whose recent achievements include Kumanovo and the Bregalnitzza, Shabatz, Valjevo, Monastir and Kaimakchalan. Behind the Serbian people lies a long and gloomy history of oppression, war, and hope deferred; but the spirit which has carried it through to victory is the spirit which