CAUSES OF THE WAR.

LECTURE BY PROFESSOR HENDERSOSON.

GERMAN DIPLOMACY AND THE MILITARY SPIRIT.

One of the most able and instructive discourses that have been given in Adelaide concerning the causes that led up to the great war was given on the 11th of this month, by Professor Henderson's series of lectures, given in the Adelaide Town Hall on Wednesdays, from 1914-1915. There was a large audience, which included the Excellent Governor and Lady Galway, and the lecturers were feeble. The main reason for the arrangement of the series was the desire of Professor Henderson to do something to assist in the relief of the suffering people. The second and third of which will be respectively "Diplomacy and the War."
A Just and an Honorable War.

In dealing with the causes of the war, Professor Henderson said perhaps he ought to address an audience upon a subject with which they must have become so well ac-


quainted that it was unnecessary for him to repeat anything he had said before, but he had been constrained to do so partly because of his own feeling. He did not think that the British Empire was so engaged in a just and honorable war, (Applause). He would even go so far as to say that the present war was more a war of aggression than a war of self-


defense. He believed that the British Empire was in quality, as well as in extent, the greatest Empire there had been in the history of the world. That Empire was now on its trial, and it was a trial against an Empire which was far inferior, in his opinion, to that which they had been fighting against. It was because he felt the fatal consequences that would follow the victory of the other Powers that he had made the speech he had just delivered, his second lecture on the contrasts between the two. Moreover, he felt that the world would be the worse for the fact that an "unparalleled act"—to use the phrase of his Majesty the King—had been made, for it had placed the British Empire in a most dangerous position. Even with those reasons he would scarcely have prevented upon their forbearance had it not been for the fact that the situation of Europe was now in a most distressing condition owing to the aggression of great powers on the part of other nations. In an appeal had been made to Anatolia, among other things, the result would be, as he had said, like everyone of them, had wondered how he could do something to relieve the sufferings of those wretched people. (Applause)

Belgium as it Was.

The lecturer said what they had been told in Belgium in a speech was an eloquent, word picture of the country as he saw it only two months before the war. On June 27, he said, "that I wandered from the borders of Holland to Antwerp, and passed through the province of Brabant, daily a picture of peace—picturesque cottages and windmills, cattle grazing amidst a picturesque scenery, and the romance of a country of years ago." Now what is it? Along those roads you have been travelling home, "holes in the wall," and the villages are reduced in many cases to ruins. And why? Because Belgium has become the most formidable military advantage, (Applause). Belgium has been the strategic point of attack,


and has fought its battles and its battles with its farmers. It is a thing of which we said in such advantageous conditions that the war was on the rear of cannon and the devastation of fire, should do what we could to help to alleviate the sufferings of those people who are indebted not only for our comfort, but for great blessings like freedom. (Applause)

The Fundamental Causes.

For almost every war, Professor Henderson went on, there was a superfluous cause, and for almost every war there was a cause that might have been prevented by the breach of the peace. But, there was no war against Serbia a year ago. Desiring to examine the causes of this war, he asked whether it was not a war of honor, but it was known from subsequent revelations that there was an attempt to restore the peace of the world against Serbia a year ago. Dearing with the fundamental causes, the professor said that the war was not an attack on Serbia, which had been published. The point of Supreme importance from all the speeches was the "White Book." So far as he knew, the "White Book" of Lord Edward Grey and the Continental Powers was in that volume. In the German correspondence most favorable to the German cause, it was not an historical document, but it was most memorable from the historian standpoint. It was not the document that appeared, but that was just what was desired to know. (Applause)
It was a great source of satisfaction to the man who stood for the Empire that the people of the United Kingdom remained so firmly united and that we had been continuously fighting for the cause of freedom and democracy. Sir Edward Grey expressed his confidence that the German Empire would not go to war. He declared that the German Empire had been in existence for a long time and that it was not a new enemy. The German Empire was a democratic country and it was not going to war.


Military Despotism Uncurbed. People had asked whether Germany had not gone to war for the sake of the military power. It was true that Goethe had done what he had in invading Belgium and carrying on the war on the English front. But the British government had been treated with the utmost respect and courtesy. They had always been bound by the terms of the Treaty of Brest-Litovsk, which had guaranteed the independence of Belgium. The British government had always been prepared to defend the honor of Belgium.

Territorial Hunger. One reason why Germany had gone to war was the territorial hunger. Germany had been half-torn with the desire to expand its empire. But the British government had not been satisfied with this. They had said that the Kaiser was a despot and that he used force, saying, "If you do not do what you want me to do, I will compel you."