

called, Franz Josef of Austria. Beside them was the king of a tiny nation of about six million people, a nation that was by treaty neutral, and not called upon to play an important part in international affairs.

After the tragedy of Serajevo, on June 20, the two emperors agreed to chastise Serbia, even at the cost of a general conflagration. Germany was convinced at that time that the hour had struck, as Russia and France were clearly unprepared. But Germany stood in need of a *casus belli*, and manoeuvred day and night to obtain one, on either the eastern or the western frontier, in order that in facing the world it might appear to have a clear conscience.

For a number of years, under a general programme Germany had been determined to invade France through Belgium, and on the 26th of July, some days prior to the declaration of war, completed a draft ultimatum. It was sent to Von Bulow, the German Minister at Brussels, on the 29th of July, with orders that he was not to open it until he was wired instructions to do so. That document stated:

The German Government has positive information that the French troops intend to march on the Meuse section by way of Givet and Namur. . . . The steps taken by the enemies of Germany will force her to enter the Belgian territory.

That was sent on the 29th of July, although it was not until two days later that the German Ambassador at Paris asked as to the intentions of the French Government in the event of war with Russia. On the 30th of July, Von Jagow wired his Minister at Brussels to open the sealed envelope which had been sent him, and to execute his instructions. He added:

The Belgian Government must be given the impression that all these instructions have only reached you this day.

The duplicity of the German Government is apparent in those lines.

On the same day, the 30th of July, France had ordered her covering troops to withdraw to ten kilometres from the frontier. On the 3rd of August Germany declared war on France, falsely alleging that bombs had been thrown on Nuremberg. The Prussian Minister himself declared at Munich that this statement was an error.

The ultimatum prepared on the 26th of July shows clearly the bad faith and duplicity of the German Government towards Belgium. We all know what followed. The decision of Belgium surely was, as my right honourable friend has said, most momentous in the history of the Great War. It proved to be the unmaking of Germany, for it brought Great

Britain and the Dominions into the conflict, and the invasion of the heroic little country aroused universal disapprobation. If the Allies had been vanquished, Belgium probably would have become a German province.

King Albert risked the fate of his country to save the national honour, and he and his people gave to the world a splendid lesson of moral courage. Had Belgium remained neutral it would have lost its self-respect. Its enemies had an extraordinary fate. The Hapsburgs crossed the Danube on a punitive expedition, and, as I have remarked before, they came back shorn of their crown and a large part of their territorial possessions. The haughty and vainglorious Hohenzollern learned of his fate on Belgian territory, at Spa, and ran away to a foreign land, where he is now chopping wood. But Albert, the King of Belgium, will ever live enshrined in the heart and memory of generations to come, as one who played the part of the chivalrous, undaunted knight, *sans peur et sans reproche*, in the great and fearful drama through which it was our lot to live.

THE LATE SENATOR FORKE

TRIBUTE TO HIS MEMORY

Right Hon. ARTHUR MEIGHEN: Honourable members, as if this House had not suffered enough losses in the long list which we recorded in terms of regret at the opening of this session, we are now called upon to note the death of one of our members even since the session began. Senator Robert Forke, of Brandon, in western Manitoba, who was a member of the Senate for more than four years, has passed to the Great Beyond. He was one of a limited number of federal legislators in our country who were born outside its borders. In common with the first two Prime Ministers of the Dominion, he had his birthplace in old Scotland, a distinction which, entirely aside from the company in which he shared it, he valued proudly indeed. Having had the advantage of an education in his own country, he came to Canada at the early age of twenty-two years and took up the vocation of farming. His subsequent career affords about as conspicuous an example of the success of an immigrant as this young country can boast, even to this day. Starting with nothing, he built up a reputation throughout western Manitoba for energy and resourcefulness. He became in time the reeve of his municipality, and perhaps the honour which he valued most highly among all that came to him was that of having been re-elected to that post over the long term of twenty years.