

but that as soon as diplomatic action was begun, news of Russian mobilization arrived in Berlin. On July 30th, the German Government sent a peremptory demand to St. Petersburg for an unqualified explanation of Russia's "menacing mobilization" on the German and Austrian frontiers, and Russia was given to understand that unless these movements were forthwith abandoned, Germany would respond in kind. On the evening of the same day the German Cabinet, presided over by the Emperor, sat at Potsdam until midnight. A censorship over the telegraph lines was imposed at Berlin on the following morning. This was interpreted as implying preparation for German mobilization.

Speaking in the House of Commons, in London, Friday, July 31st, Premier Asquith said: "We have just heard, not from St. Petersburg, but from Germany, that Russia has proclaimed the general mobilization of her army and her fleet and that in consequence of this martial law is to be proclaimed in Germany.

"We understand this to mean that mobilization will follow in Germany if the Russian mobilization is general and is proceeded with."

On Saturday, August 1st, Germany sent an ultimatum to Russia, asking her to suspend her mobilization within twelve hours, and Germany became openly active in mobilization. The Emperor, Francis Joseph, of Austria, ordered general mobilization of all Austrian forces and called all reserves to the colors. Russia having refused Germany's demand to cease mobilization, the German Ambassador sent to the Russian Minister of Foreign Affairs at 7:30 o'clock a declaration of war,

Germany's Explanation Of Her Attitude.

Germany's explanation of her action as set forth in an official communication published in the North German Gazette, on the day war was declared upon Russia, was as follows:—

The Russian Emperor on July 29th, telegraphed the Emperor William urgently requesting him to help in averting the misfortune of a European war and to try to restrain his ally Austria-Hungary from going too far.

Emperor William replied that he would willingly take up the task of mediator and, accordingly, diplomatic action was initiated in Vienna. While this was in progress the news that Russia was mobilizing arrived in Berlin and Emperor William telegraphed to the Emperor of Russia that his role as mediator was by this endangered, if not made impossible.

The communication adds that a decision was to have been taken in Vienna that day in regard to the mediation proposals in which Great Britain had joined Germany, but that meanwhile Russia had ordered the mobilization of her forces, that upon this Emperor William addressed a last telegraph to Emperor Nicholas, emphatically declaring that his own responsibility for the safety of the German Empire had forced him to take defensive measures.

On Friday afternoon, July 31, a demonstration took place before the Kaiser's palace in Berlin, and Emperor William addressed his subjects as follows:

"A fateful hour has befallen Germany. En-

vious peoples everywhere are compelling us to our just defence. The sword has been forced into our hands.

"I hope that, if my efforts at the last hour do not succeed in bringing our opponents to see eye to eye with us and in maintaining the peace, we shall, with God's help, so wield the sword that we shall restore it to its sheath again with honor.

"War would demand of us an enormous sacrifice in property and life, but we should show our enemies what it means to provoke Germany. And now I commend you to God. Go to church and kneel before God and pray for His help for our gallant army."

On the afternoon of the following day, Saturday, August 1, the German Imperial Chancellor addressed a procession of demonstrators from the window of his official residence. He said:—

"At this serious hour, in order to give expression to your feelings for your fatherland, you have come to the House of Bismarck, who, with Emperor William the Great, and Field Marshall Von Moltke, welded the German Empire for us.

"We wished to go on living in peace in the Empire which we have developed in forty-four years of peaceful labor.

"The whole work of Emperor William has been devoted to the maintenance of peace. To the last hour he has worked for peace in Europe, and he is still working for it. Should all his efforts prove vain, and should the sword prevail, we will take the field with a clear conscience in the knowledge that we did not seek war. We shall then wage war for our existence and for the national honor to the very last drop of our blood.

"In the gravity of this hour, I remind you of the words of Prince Frederick Charles to the men of Brandenburg: "Let your hearts beat for God and your fists on the enemy."

How quickly these foreshadowings of war were followed by war from every side is all too well known today.

III. GERMANY AND FRANCE.

ONCE it became apparent in Europe that Russia and Germany were mobilizing their forces, military preparations increased in activity in practically all of the countries. It was known in Germany that an alliance existed between France and Russia which in the event of war between Germany and Russia would necessitate joint action on the part of the French and Russian forces. Accordingly, when Germany on the morning of Saturday, August 1, sent an ultimatum to Russia asking her to suspend her mobilization within twelve hours, she simultaneously sent a demand to France to the effect that the government at Berlin required France to say within eighteen hours whether, in case of war between Germany and Russia, France would remain neutral. Later in the day it was announced from Paris that by common agreement the time limit of Germany's ultimatum to France had been extended for forty-eight hours, which meant until noon, Monday, August 3.

France appears to have been kept fully inform-