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PROBS—SHOWERY

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Whether Gr. Britain Will Fight Or Not Will Be Known Today; Canada To Stand By Empire

ANNOUNCEMENT WILL BE MADE TODAY BY PREMIER ASQUITH IN COMMONS; SILENT AS TO NATURE OF DECISION

Another Cabinet Council scheduled for this Morning — War Element said to be in Majority — Reported Churchill threatens to Resign unless England Support Allies—Four Great Powers Engaged in Actual Warfare, yet Two of them, Germany and France, as far as known in England, have Not Declared War.

Diplomatic Relations between France and Germany not Suspended Yet? — Neither Willing to be First to Declare War, each Trying to Shift Onus on the other.

London, Aug. 2.—Four great powers of Europe, Austria-Hungary, Russia, France and Germany, are now engaged in actual warfare, but the extraordinary position obtains that two of them, Germany and France, have not only declared war against each other, as far as is known here, but have not suspended diplomatic relations, and this, despite the fact that Germany's ultimatum to France has either been ignored or rejected.

The explanation would appear to be that Germany and France are each seeking to throw upon the other the onus of beginning the war. In fact, while the nations of Europe are flying at each other's throats, they are vying with each other in protesting their desire to maintain peace, and they repudiate the responsibility for plunging the whole continent into bloodshed.

In this curious situation France, according to British opinion, has the strongest justification. She certainly was the last to mobilize and seems to have taken the greatest precautions to avoid frontier collisions. On the other hand, Germany, in addition to invading French territory without making a formal declaration of war, has violated the neutrality of Luxemburg and declines to give any understanding in respect to Belgium's neutrality.

The efforts of the British ambassador at Berlin to secure such an understanding have been wasted. It is difficult to see how Great Britain can avoid being drawn into the conflict to protect Belgian and Dutch neutrality, and on this point Premier Asquith's official announcement in parliament is awaited with intense anxiety, the British public being no longer under any illusions as to the gravity of the crisis, which transcends anything in their experience.

The least observant man in London today could not fail to be impressed with the fact that something tremendous was happening. Short of actual formal mobilization, the British government is taking all necessary steps to meet a situation unprecedented in the nation's history.

This Sunday has been a day of the greatest suspense. England has known for a century. For hours the cabinet council, while the whole country believed it to be wrestling with the question with whether Great Britain should take up arms in support of her allies of the Triple Entente.

No statement was made officially concerning the cabinet's deliberations, except that the premier would make an announcement in the House of Commons tomorrow, and the cabinet would hold another meeting in the morning.

The government took three measures for defense today, none of them inconsistent with the policy of remaining outside the conflict, if that should be her policy. The naval reserves and naval marine pensioners were called out by proclamation the territorials, who had just assembled at the training camps for annual practice, were ordered back to their headquarters; the Home Secretary prohibited flights over the entire kingdom, and territorial waters, except by military craft.

All these measures are purely defensive. Great Britain would feel obliged to take them with a great war raging close to her shores, even if there was no question of her participation.

Censors took charge of all the cable offices in the Kingdom tonight. All code messages were prohibited, even to Australia. Telephonic communication with the continent was entirely stopped. The Brussels telephone, which was the last line working, is silent tonight.

London maintained her calm to the last moment tonight. A great crowd assembled around the government offices at Whitehall awaiting the decision of the cabinet as to whether Great Britain would take part in the war, but when it was found that no statement was to be made the crowd melted away, only a few groups remaining to discuss whether the cabinet, as some put it, "had decided to funk or fight."

No statement of the decision taken by the cabinet will be made tonight. Premier Asquith will announce Great Britain's position in the House of Commons tomorrow. Prior to this announcement another cabinet meeting will be held.

The general impression is that the war party in the cabinet is in the ascendancy, but not a word was allowed to leak out of the cabinet chamber concerning today's proceedings. It was said that Viscount Morley, Lord President of the Council, and Viscount Haldane, Lord High Chancellor, led the peace party, and that Winston Spencer Churchill, First Lord of the Admiralty, threatened to resign if the government did not stand by its unwritten agreement to support France against German attack.

It is known that the Lancashire Liberals are putting strong pressure on the government to keep out of the conflict at all costs, and it is said that Premier Asquith is somewhat influenced by this. But the average Englishman is saying tonight that the government has no alternative, after the neutrality of Luxemburg has been disregarded by Germany and after Germany's refusal to say what her attitude would be with regard to Belgium.

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CANADA WILL DO HER SHARE TO MAINTAIN EMPIRE'S INTEGRITY

Ottawa, Aug. 2.—The following official message was handed out from the Premier's office this afternoon:
From the Governor General to the Colonial Secretary:
Ottawa, Aug. 1, 1914.

My advisors while expressing their most earnest hope that peaceful solution of our existing international difficulties may be achieved and they strongly desire to co-operate in every possible way for that purpose, wish to convey to His Majesty's government the firm assurance that, if unhappily, war should ensue, the Canadian people will be united in a common resolve to put forth every effort and to make every sacrifice necessary to ensure the integrity and maintain the honor of our empire.

DRAMATIC CIRCUMSTANCES MARK BREAKING OFF OF RELATIONS

St. Petersburg, Aug. 2.—The rupture of diplomatic relations between Russia and Germany took place under dramatic circumstances. It was midnight Friday when Count Von Pourtales, the German ambassador to Russia visited Foreign Minister Sazonoff and asked for an urgent interview. As soon as he was received he formally called upon Russia to cease her mobilization in twelve hours. The allotted period of time passed without an answer.

At seven o'clock Saturday evening Count Von Pourtales again called upon M. Sazonoff and again asked if Russia would cease mobilizing her forces. To this the Russian statesman replied: "Inasmuch as the Russian government has not answered within the time you specified, it follows that Russia has declined to agree with your demands."

Three times Count Von Pourtales repeated the German ultimatum, and each time the Russian foreign minister met his statement with the same answer. Finally the Count rose from his chair, bowed and left the room without another word. He and the members of his staff departed from St. Petersburg by way of Finland.

The protection of Russians in countries at war with Russia has been entrusted to Spain.

GOV'T TAKES CHARGE WIRELESS SYSTEM IN GREAT BRITAIN

London, Aug. 2.—The government has assumed control of all wireless transmission. A special Gazette announcing this fact, says that the government in the present emergency, has taken over control of wireless telegraphy and that the use of wireless by foreign vessels while in British territorial waters will be subject to such rules as made by the admiralty.

The Times in a special war edition today says it is plain and acknowledged that the duty and interest of Great Britain which consist in the support of France against attack by Germany and the preservation of the neutrality of Belgium, Holland and Luxemburg against a German invasion must be fulfilled.

"There is no room for difference of opinion," the Times continues. "The prospect before the government is that of having to fight not only for its honor but for self-preservation against attacks on the whole foundation on which the peace and civilization of Europe are based."

"K." COMPANY ON THEIR WAY TO HALIFAX

London, Ontario, August 2.—Hundreds cheered "K" Company of the Royal Canadian Regiment, as the men entrained for Halifax at the Grand Trunk station tonight. The Seventh Fusiliers band escorted the company to the train and contributed a number of patriotic airs as the train was about to pull out.

Forty-two members of the local force entrained, with Major C. H. Hill, the commanding officer, in charge. A meeting of the officers of the Seventh Fusiliers has been called for tomorrow night, to take steps for immediate drilling.

62ND FUSILIERS

REGIMENTAL ORDERS BY LIEUT. COLONEL J. L. McAVITY, O. C. 62ND REGIMENT, ST. JOHN FUSILIERS:

St. John, N. B., August 2nd. A meeting of Officers is ordered to take place at the Armouries at 10 a. m., Monday the 3rd inst. All staff and company officers must be present.

By Order,
Acting Adjutant,
A. O. DAWSON, Capt.

BULLETIN

London, Aug. 3.—The Daily Chronicle publishes a rumor that Emperor Francis Joseph of Austria has been assassinated. This has not been confirmed.

AMBASSADOR OF RUSSIA AT BERLIN GIVEN PASSPORTS

GERMANS OPEN FIRE ON FRENCH POSTS AT BETT CROIX—LORD BERESFORD CALLS ON ENGLAND TO PAY DEBT OF HONOR TO FRANCE—BUSINESS WORLD AWAITS WEEK'S DEVELOPMENTS WITH ANXIETY—CANADA WILL FIGHT TO HELP MAINTAIN HONOR OF MOTHERLAND—LONDON CALM IN FACE OF CRISIS.

London, August 2.—News of the progress of hostilities is vague and conflicted, owing to the severe censorship everywhere imposed. It is alleged that the Germans poured 100,000 men into Luxemburg, who will concentrate on the French frontier. Actual German invasion of France occurred at Nancy and Longwy, while a battle is reported to have taken place at Nancy.

From the Russo-German frontier comes reports that Russians invaded Germany near Schwinden.

Serbia, the original cause of the upheaval, seems to have lost sight of. The Austrians, according to reports, from Nish, have virtually ceased operations against Serbia, in order to meet the greater danger in Russia. Montenegro has mobilized to assist Serbia, and is reported bombarding Cattaro, in Dalmatia.

Various rumors are current of naval movements, but none of them is reliable. Tourists of all nationalities are stranded in France and Germany, owing to the seizure by the governments of all the railways for military purposes. Those who have succeeded in reaching England tell thrilling stories of the anxious times passed by them, and the difficulties and inconveniences of getting here.

London, Aug. 2.—The King issued a proclamation declaring a moratorium for a month, and the suspension of the Banking Act tomorrow appears assured. Parliament will probably pass a bill for a loan for defensive purposes to the amount of \$250,000,000. A rise in the price of foodstuffs was expected tomorrow, although the board of trade has issued a re-assuring statement that there is a wheat supply of four months in the country.

The newspapers of England are confronted with the possibility of a paper famine. Most of them depend upon the Scandinavian countries for stock, and have only a few weeks' stores in the country and shipping in the North Sea is paralyzed.

The peace movement continues, but finds little popular response. The Archbishop of Canterbury and the Bishop of London both spoke for peace today. A number of Cambridge professors have issued a manifesto, deploring the possibility of war with Germany, while another manifesto emanated from influential quarters quoting Premier Asquith's recent statement that Great Britain had no understanding with France and Russia which would compel her to join with them in war.

Lord Charles Beresford has issued a letter calling upon the country "to pay a debt of honor to France." He declares that Great Britain would forever be disgraced in the eyes of Europe if she failed.

The railway stations are filled with naval reservists in bright new uniforms, entraining for the coast stations. Officials raided the streets today and commanded the latest and most powerful motor vehicles, turning out the passengers and ordering the drivers to proceed to naval and military headquarters, where the cars were to be used for military and Red Cross purposes. A great number of reservists are employed on the motor buses, and traffic, as a result, has been greatly curtailed.

The business world looks forward to this week's developments with the greatest anxiety. Monday is a bank holiday, fortunately, and thus the banks will have time to make arrangements against a possible siege on Tuesday.

There was a score of great enthusiasm outside Buckingham Palace tonight. A crowd of five or six thousand persons gathered before the Palace, and sang the national anthem and called for King George, who, with Queen Mary, appeared on a balcony and bowed in response to cheers given him and for France.

A number of processions were formed late tonight, and paraded the streets singing and cheering.

Berlin, via Brussels, Aug. 2.—The Russian ambassador at Berlin has been handed his passports.

Belcourt, France, Aug. 2.—The Germans opened fire on the French posts at Petit Croix today. Details of the engagement are not known.

Five persons were surprised today while cutting the telephone line near Mervillars. All were arrested.

TWO GERMAN CRUISERS SIGHTED OF ST. PIERRE

Sydney, N. S., Aug. 2.—Two German cruisers were sighted today off St. Pierre. They are probably from Mexican or West Indian waters. It is surmised that the object of their presence so near Sydney harbor is to secure coal for a trans-Atlantic voyage or have been detained to watch the port and the entrance of the St. Lawrence.

A statement to this effect was made this evening by Captain Postin, the officer commanding the regiment detailed to guard the cable station at Loyd Cove. He was notified of the presence of the warships by cable from Newfoundland and requested that shipping be notified of the fact. It is conjectured that St. Pierre itself may be the objective of the cruisers which may be awaiting word of a formal declaration of war between France and Germany. The French cruiser Friant cannot be far away. Admitting the report about the German cruisers being correct, a naval fight seems imminent in these waters.