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The Causes and the Progress of the Great War

Being a Lecture delivered by His Excellency Sir Walter Edward Davidson, K. C. M. G., Governor of Newfoundland, etc.

(Continued)

Any excuse will do to start a fight, if you want to force a fight, no matter how unwilling the other man may be, and the excuse was quickly found. The heir to the Empire of Austria—himself of German race—went on a Royal tour throughout some new provinces where most of the people were Slavs—and he was assassinated by two men, one of which was an Austrian subject and the other a Serbian subject, though both were Slavs like the Russians.

Thereupon, after first obtaining the permission of the German Emperor, a demand was sent to the King of Serbia of a very insulting character, ordering him to do very humiliating things such as no king had ever been before told to do. Nevertheless, the Ministers of the King of Serbia promised to perform nine of the ten orders, but asked that the tenth might be referred to the Hague Tribunal for amicable settlement. But this humble answer would not suffice, for the decision had been arrived at beforehand; and despite the remonstrances of our Foreign Minister, Austria declared war on Serbia and overran that country. The Czar of Russia remonstrated and ordered some of his armies to be got ready on a war footing, whereupon Germany and Austria (who had been preparing for war for months past) both declared war on Russia and on France as well. It was known that France and Russia were bound by treaty each to support the other in case a war of aggression was forced on either of these nations. Therefore, the German Emperor gave the order to invade France before the French should have time to get ready for war, and, because the French fortresses on the German frontier were strong and prepared for defence, the German armies were ordered to invade the territory of Belgium, so that the German invasion might pour into France along an unprotected frontier.

Then came the critical moment. Germany was confident that her military organization could crush both France and Russia. She had already prepared her arrangements that her troops should be ready on the very day of the declaration to invade France through Belgium, devastate the country, sack and burn the towns, butcher the population and dictate terms of utter subjection within a month; and then turn on Russia and smash her armies as soon as France was done with. And she trusted that England, the peace-loving and the unready, would temporize and then not strike until too late. And even if England did intervene, her land forces were insignificant, the men of England were untrained, the Colonies, even if willing, would be too late to be of any value. If England could be ejected into not fighting at all, she could be conquered later; if England did agree to fight, that could be used as an excuse for the conquest of the British Empire, once France had been humbled and the Russian armies had been defeated. And here is where the German Emperor and his arrogant generals, and his pettifogging lying diplomats made their cardinal blunder.

They chose their own time, before France had brought into force her new law of three years military training (instead of two), and before she could provide new heavy artillery to meet the siege artillery which Krupp had prepared. They chose their time, when Russia had lost her Navy and had not recovered from the disastrous war in Manchuria. They chose their time when England appeared to be in difficulties with Ireland, where a civil war appeared imminent, both sides having received their weapons from Germany itself.

They reckoned that France would again beg for mercy, knowing that her fair land must be devastated. They reckoned that Russia, being unprepared, might fear the results of a war, and would let the Serbs be conquered and the Balkan States be divided anew between Austria and Turkey. They reckoned that Italy would contribute her Army to attack France and her Navy to control the Mediterranean. They reckoned that Turkey would assail Egypt and raise a religious war on

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Newfoundland's Position

In a lecture delivered last week in the S. A. Citadel, St. John's, the Hon. J. A. Robinson, among other things, made the following statement:

"We are living in peaceful Newfoundland, continued the speaker. Our five hundred sons have rallied to the colors. Our naval reserve have gone to the assistance of Jellicoe. What would happen if the German Navy were not bottled up in the North Sea, and we did not have British ships to protect us. Why we would wake up some fine morning and find a German warship off our coast. She would not come in the harbor but would send and demand the surrender of Newfoundland. Failure to do so would mean that our city would be bombarded and the city laid waste. But what would happen if the city surrendered. Our banks would be looted, our money stolen, our men from 17 to 45 would be taken and trained for the army and navy. Our language would be changed and those who use the British language shot. After the lecture Brigadier Morshen proposed and seconded a vote of thanks to the lecturer, and asked the audience to rise and give a hand-clap."

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H. J. B. WOODS
Postmaster General.
General Post Office,
St. John's, Nfld., June, 1918.

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H. J. B. WOODS,
Postmaster General.
General Post Office,
St. John's, Nfld., Nov., 1913.

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the borders of India. They reckoned that peace-loving England and her Colonial Empire had lost the capacity to defend themselves and that the Irish would revolt. They reckoned that the Americans would be content to reap the benefit to be obtained from the ruin of England's trade. And they reckoned, above all, that their magnificent war organization would triumph at every contest.

Here is where these little Bismarcks reckoned wrong. France was prepared to fight for her existence. Belgium was prepared to fight for her independence. Russia was prepared to fight for her fellow-countrymen in Serbia. England was prepared to fight for the observance of solemn treaties, for the freedom of Belgium, for right against might, for her own honor. Ireland was prepared to sink her differences for the maintenance of the Empire; the Dominions Overseas were prepared to do all they could to help; India was prepared to give her fighting men and her resources for the cause which had loved her so well and so justly. America was prepared to denounce the attempt of might to overcome right.

So much for her enemies. And as to those whom she expected to help in the conquest of the world by Prussia:—Italy was not prepared to fight against England, her greatest benefactor; the Mohammedans of India and Egypt declined to rebel against the King-Lord, the King-Emperor. The Turks realized that a fight against England and Russia meant utter ruin. So the edifice of hate and cunning crumbled in the dust. Great Britain, Russia, France, Belgium and Serbia are banded against the would-be oppressor. Ireland and the Dominions—including the Union of South Africa—the Indian Empire, the Colonies, all declared their loyalty. It seems as if very little would cause Italy, Roumania, Bulgaria and Greece to join in the league against oppression. America has with one voice declared that England is in the right and Germany is in the wrong. Turkey is wise enough to remain quiet. Egypt, Algeria, Tunis and Morocco show no signs of hostility. The whole edifice of the diplomats tumbles down like a pack of cards and the country which has pushed over the cards is Great Britain, the country which the Prussian officers sneer at as the land of shopkeepers and politicians.

(To be Continued)

CHRONOLOGY

June 24, 1914. Concordat between the Pope and Serbia signed at the Vatican.

June 28, 1914. The Archduke Francis Ferdinand, heir to the throne of Austria-Hungary, and his morganatic wife, the Duchess of Hohenberg, assassinated in Sarajevo Bosnia, by a Serb student.

July 23, 1914. Austria sends ultimatum to Serbian government containing numerous demands, one of which was that the Austrian government be allowed to participate in the investigation of the murder.

July 24, 1914. Serbia requests an extension of time for consideration of the ultimatum. Request refused.

July 25, 1914. Serbia concedes all of Austria's demands save that of Austrian participation in the investigation of the Archduke's murder and asks for Hague mediation. Austrian minister leaves Serbia, declaring this reply to be unsatisfactory.

July 28, 1914. Austria declares war on Serbia; and the next day an Austrian force attacks Belgrade, the Serbian capital.

August 1, 1914. Germany declares war upon Russia.

August 4, 1914. Germany declares war on Belgium.

August 5, 1914. England declares war on Germany.

August 6, 1914. Austria declares war on Russia.

August 8. Montenegro declares war on Austria.

August 10. France declares war on Austria.

August 12, 1914. Montenegro declares war on Germany.

August 13, 1914. England declares war on Austria.

August 23, 1914. Japan declares war on Germany.

August 25, 1914. Austria declares war on Japan.

Your King and Your Country Need You

You who are Britons proud and free, Active and sturdy, young and strong, Duty calls in a vibrant key: "Hurry up there and come along!" From town and village, from tor and glen "Your King and your Country need you, men!"

Kiss your lassie and say "Good-bye," She'll be true, put your doubts away; Read her tears and her woman's sigh As needless tears that her boy would stay.

Get on your karkki and grip your gun, There's work you can do, and must, old son.

Talk is good when the task is through, Ale's all right when you've earned your drouth; Stop them both till they both are due, Give your muscle and spare your mouth, This Britain's weal and its pride are not Preserved by the pewter patriot.

There's a row to hoe and the ground is rough, Grit your teeth, lad, and do your share; Prove you are made of proper stuff, Make your people glad to know you're there.

The honor calling so take your kit And see the Old Homeland through with it.

You, who are Britons, mind and therr, Active and sturdy, young and strong, Duty beckons and calls to you: "Hurry up there and come along!" From desk and workshop, from field and fen, "Your King and your Country need you, men!"

—The London Chronicle.

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