



The CANADIAN COURIER

The National Weekly



Vol. XVI.

September 19, 1914

No. 16

Story of the War from the Beginning

With the Tables Turned and Some of the Secrets Out, We are now Better Able to Connect Up the Events

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WHENEVER any old Kaspar of the future picks up a skull in Belgium and begins to tell his grandchildren "what they fought each other for," he will probably be puzzled just how to begin and where to leave off. He will remember that on the 28th of June, 1914, a crazy Serb in Bosnia shot the Archduke Ferdinand, heir-apparent to the throne of Austria and his wife at Sarajevo. So Gavrilo Princip, High School student and tool of a Slav conspiracy, started the world at war; when all he knew about it was—Slav vs. Teuton.

People remembered that in 1903 Servians shot King Alexander and Queen Draga in bed and put Peter on the throne; and that in 1912 she plunged into a Balkan war against Turkey. More Pan-Slavism. Ferdinand was the man who engineered the occupation of Bosnia and Herzegovina by Austria in 1908. He was the most problematical of all European rulers. Some say the Kaiser was jealous of him; some that he was a pro-Slav; others that he was an anti-Slav. But the Servians got him.

The Czar of Russia may have known what it meant. The Balkan States were full of Slavs. Russia was in the midst of a labour upheaval that threatened to become a political revolution. Germany was suspected of financing that revolution.

The Emperor of Germany heard about it. He also knew what it meant. Austria was having trouble with those Slavs. Germany hated the Slavs. So did the Slavs—Germany. The greatest war machine in the world was designed, first for defence against a possible invasion from Russia; second, as an engine of attack on Russia and any other part of the world that might come in the way at whatever time it might best suit the schemes of Germany. So for several days the newspapers had not a word of what Kaiser Wilhelm, world-emperor of the Germans, might be writing or telegraphing to the Kaiser Franz Josef, who had been given such a body blow by the Servians. But whenever that correspondence is made public the world will know who caused the war that started between the Pan-Slav and the Pan-German, and dragged the world in after it.

LONG before Serbia flung the fat into the fire, German military writers had been predicting a great war with Germany as the aggressor. General Von Bernhardi, in his book, "Germany and the Next War," said with charming candour words to this effect: "When we go to war with France it must be a war to the knife. We must not merely crush her; we must stamp her into the dust, never to rise again as a great power."

Since that time another writer's book on war became even more pointed. This was the book that the German Crown Prince praised so highly; Lieut.-Col. Frobenius' "Fateful Hour of the German Em-

pire." The writer reckoned that a great war was inevitable because France, Russia and England all hated Germany. He predicted that the German fleet would stay under cover as they have been doing; that a British expeditionary force would land in France or Belgium, not to fight German troops on land, but to get behind the fortifications of the German naval base and try to drive the fleet out to the open sea, where the British fleet would be in waiting—as they are now. He expected that when it came to the world crisis of war England would recognize

French government expect a war? Perhaps. There had been much talk of it; and too often had Germany trod upon the corns of France during the past ten years. It was Germany who demanded the dismissal of Delcasse, French Minister of Foreign Affairs, in 1905, when the foreign policy of France began to interfere with Germany in Morocco. It was Germany who had fleeced France out of 1,000,000,000 dollars as the cash price of peace after the Siege of Paris in 1870, and had taken also Alsace-Lorraine, originally German provinces until 1648. It was Germany who had stood behind Austria, in 1908, when she annexed Bosnia and Herzegovina. A great part of the thousand million dollars in French coins was still in the vast war chest of Germany in the Julius Thurm tower. France knew that. And France, who was an ally of Russia, had good reason for suspecting that Germany might soon be at the head of a world war. For the Kaiser had once genially said, "On our armaments alone does peace rest." That being interpreted—as much peace as is necessary to prepare for war.

ENGLAND heard about the challenge thrown down by Serbia to the German powers. Sir Edward Grey knew as well as anybody what it might mean. So did Winston Churchill, who had more than once asked Germany to proclaim a "naval holiday" in the mad race for a world-conquering navy. But at that time the biggest obvious issue in the British Parliament was whether or not Ireland should be given Home Rule. Ulster was arming for a possible civil war. And all the powers of Europe knew it. On July 18th there was a tremendous naval review off Spithead. The King, on the Royal yacht, passed 493 ships of all kinds built for purposes of naval war. It was the greatest assemblage of warships ever seen in the world. It was

not a pageant. It was a mustering at war strength. Every ship in that aggregation was manned and equipped at full fighting capacity. The King of England knew it just as well as did the First Lord of the Admiralty. It has been said that when the review was over the First Lord advised the British Cabinet to declare war upon Germany at sea, but that the Cabinet voted him down. He had been talking to the Premier of Canada about an emergency; and the Premier knew more about it than he was able to tell the House of Commons. The emergency was arriving. But it was not yet time for England to strike. England had no desire for war. She would not provoke war. Only one country could. That was Germany. And for ten years the newspapers and magazines had been full of articles by writers who talked about an Anglo-German war as though it were due to happen to-morrow.

On July 21, when the Home Rule crisis had reached a deadlock and civil war seemed to be inevitable, the



What one of the German bombs from a nocturnal Zeppelin did to a street in Belgium on the night of Tuesday, August 25th. These bombs were dropped in order to hit the provisional Royal palace, to which King Albert had removed from Brussels. One of them hit a hospital in which were wounded German soldiers. The wrecked house shown here was a hundred yards from the Palace.

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that Russia was a greater menace than Germany, and that the only way to keep Russia in check would be to keep the German army as powerful as possible; in brief, that England would conclude a separate peace with Germany in order to safeguard Europe and Great Britain against Russia. The recent signing of the three-power protocol has already given the lie to that expectation.

The President of France heard about the fire-brand chucked by Serbia into the powder magazine of pan-Germanism. So did Gen. Joffre and the Minister of War. Just before that event Mons. Humbert, in the French Senate, had made what looked like a sensational exposure of the fact that the French army in the event of a war was badly off for boots, as it had been in 1870. This was copied into the German newspapers, which were under the thumb of the Kaiser. It caused chucklings in Berlin. Again there were those who said this was a subterfuge on the part of the French to egg on Germany. Did the