

Sir Edward Grey's Struggle to Save Peace.

Historic Despatches---Germany's De- vious Diplomacy.

(Daily Mail, Aug. 6th.)

An historic document of the highest importance was issued last night in the shape of a White Paper, entitled "Correspondence respecting the European Crisis," containing a large number of despatches telling the story of Sir Edward Grey's desperate fight to save the peace of Europe.

Telegraphing on July 27 to Sir Edward Grey, the British Ambassador in Vienna says:

I have had conversations with all my colleagues representing the Great Powers. The impression left on my mind is that the Austro-Hungarian Note was so drawn up as to make war inevitable; that the Austro-Hungarian Government are fully resolved to have war with Serbia; that they consider their position as a Great Power at stake; and that until punishment has been administered to Serbia it is unlikely that they will listen to proposals of mediation.

Sir Edward Grey telegraphed to the British Ambassador in Vienna, July 27:

I said (to the Austrian Ambassador in London) that it seemed to me as if the Austrian Government believed that, even after the Serbian reply (to the Austrian Note), they could make war on Serbia anyhow without bringing Russia into the dispute. If they could make war on Serbia and at the same time satisfy Russia well and good; but if not the consequences would be incalculable. . . . Already the effect on Europe was one of anxiety. I pointed out that our Fleet was to have dispersed to-day but we have felt unable to let it disperse. We should not, think of calling up the Reserves at this moment, but there was no menace in what we had done about the Fleet. . . . It seemed to me that the Serbian reply already involved the greatest humiliation to Serbia that I had ever seen a country undergo.

DEPRESSED HERR VON JAGOW.

Sir E. Goschen to Sir Edward Grey, July 29.

I found the Secretary for Foreign Affairs (Herr von Jagow) very depressed to-day. . . . He was much troubled by reports of mobilisation in Russia and of certain military measures, which he did not specify, in France. He subsequently spoke of these measures to my French colleague, who informed him that the French Government had done nothing more than German Government had done—namely—recalled officers on leave. His Excellency denied German Government had done this, but as a matter of fact it is true.

Sir R. Rodd (British Ambassador in Rome) to Sir Edward Grey, July 29.

The German Government are being informed that the Italian Government would not be pardoned by public opinion here unless they had taken every possible step so as to avoid war. He (the Foreign Minister) is urging that the German Government must lend their co-operation in this. He added that there seemed to be a difficulty in making Germany believe that Russia was in earnest.

In a despatch to the British Ambassador in Paris on July 29 Sir Edward

Grey says that he told M. Cambon (French Ambassador in London) that even if the Austro-Serbian conflict became a question between Austria and Russia England would not feel called upon to take a hand. If Germany and France became involved "we had not made up our minds what we should do. It was a case that we should have to consider."

PRIVATE AND FRIENDLY.

Sir Edward Grey to Sir E. Goschen, July 29.

After speaking to the German Ambassador this afternoon about the European situation, I said that I wished to say to him, in a quite private and friendly way, something that was on my mind. The situation was very grave. While it was restricted to the issues at present actually involved we had no thought of interfering in it. But if Germany became involved in it, and then France, the issue might be so great that it would involve all European interests; and I did not wish him to be misled by the friendly tone of our conversation—which I hoped would continue—into thinking that we should stand aside.

He said that he quite understood this, but he asked whether I meant that we should under certain circumstances, intervene.

I replied that I did not wish to say that, or to use anything that was like a threat or an attempt to apply pressure by saying that, if things became worse, we should intervene. There would be no question of our intervening if Germany was not involved, or even if France was not involved. But we knew very well that, if the issue did become such that we thought British interests required us to intervene, we must intervene at once, and this decision would have to be very rapid, just as the decisions of other Powers had to be. If we failed in our efforts to keep the peace, and if the issue spread so that it involved practically every European interest, I did not wish to be open to any reproach from him that the friendly tone of all of our conversations had misled him or his Government into supposing that we should not take action. . . . The German Ambassador took no exception to what I had said; indeed, he told me that it accorded with what he had already given in Berlin as his view of the situation.

THE GERMAN BID.

Sir E. Goschen to Sir Edward Grey, (Received July 29.)

(Telegraphic.) Berlin, July 29, 1914. I WAS asked to call upon the Chancellor to-night. His Excellency had just returned from Potsdam.

He said that should Austria be attacked by Russia, a European conflagration might, he feared become inevitable, owing to Germany's obligations as Austria's ally, in spite of his continued efforts to maintain peace. He then proceeded to make the following strong bid for British neutrality. He said that it was clear, so far as he was able to judge the main principle which governed British policy, that Great Britain would never stand by and allow France to be crushed in any conflict there might be. That, however, was not the object at which Ger-

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many aimed. Provided that neutrality of Great Britain was certain, every assurance would be given to the British Government that the Imperial Government aimed at no territorial acquisitions at the expense of France should they prove victorious in any war that might ensue.

I questioned his Excellency about the French Colonies, and he said that he was unable to give a similar undertaking in that respect. As regards Holland, however, his Excellency said that, so long as Germany's adversaries respected the integrity and neutrality of the Netherlands, Germany was ready to give his Majesty's Government an assurance that she would do likewise. It depended upon the action of France—what operations Germany might be forced to enter upon in Belgium, but when the war was over, Belgian integrity would be respected if she had not sided against Germany.

His Excellency ended by saying that ever since he had been Chancellor the object of his policy had been, as you were aware, to bring about an understanding with England; he trusted that these assurances might form the basis of that understanding which he so much desired. He had in mind a general neutrality agreement between England and Germany, though it was of course at the present moment too early to discuss details, and an assurance of British neutrality in the conflict which present crisis might possibly produce would enable him to look forward to realisation of his desire.

In reply to his Excellency's inquiry how I thought his request would appeal to you, I said that I did not think it probable that at this stage of events you would care to bind yourself to any course of action and that I was of opinion that you would desire to retain full liberty.

Our conversation upon this subject having come to end, I communicated the contents of your telegram of today to his Excellency, who expressed his best thanks to you.

SIR E. GREY'S REPLY.

Sir Edward Grey to Sir E. Goschen, (Telegraphic.) Foreign Office, July 30th, 1914.

YOUR telegram of 29th July. His Majesty's Government cannot for a moment entertain the Chancellor's proposal that they should bind themselves to neutrality on such terms.

What he asks us in effect is to engage to stand by while French Colonies are taken and France is beaten so long as Germany does not take French territory as distinct from the Colonies.

From the material point of view such a proposal is unacceptable, for France, without further territory in Europe being taken from her, could be so crushed as to lose her position as a Great Power and become subordinate to German policy.

Altogether, apart from that, it would be a disgrace for us to make this bargain with Germany at the expense of France, a disgrace from which the good name of the country would never recover.

The Chancellor also in effect asks us to bargain away whatever obligation or interest we have as regards the neutrality of Belgium. We could not entertain that bargain either.

We must preserve our full freedom to act as circumstances may seem to us to require in any such unfavourable and regrettable development of the present crisis as the Chancellor contemplates.

Sir Edward Grey declares that the present crisis safely passed, his own

endeavour will be to promote some arrangement to which Germany could be a party assuring her and her allies against any aggressive policy by France.

IF GERMANY WANTS PEACE.

In a despatch to Sir Edward Goschen, dated July 31, Sir Edward Grey suggests that England, France, Germany, and Italy might offer to Austria to undertake to see that she obtained full satisfaction of her demands or Serbia provided the demands did not impair Serbian sovereignty and the integrity of Serbian territory. Sir Edward Grey points out that Austria has already agreed to respect them, and says that Russia might be informed by the four disinterested Powers of their offer, all Powers, "of course," to suspend further military operations or preparations.

Sir Edward Grey authorises the Ambassador to sound the German Foreign Secretary about this proposal, and adds:

I said to the German Ambassador this morning that if Germany could get any reasonable proposal put forward which made it clear that Germany and Austria were striving to preserve European peace, and that Russia and France would be unreasonable if they rejected it, I would support it at St. Petersburg and Paris, and go the length of saying that if Russia and France would not accept it his Majesty's Government would have nothing more to do with the consequences; but, otherwise, I told the German Ambassador that if France became involved we should be drawn in.

You can add this when sounding Chancellor or Secretary of State as to proposal above.

Telegraphing to Sir Edward Grey on July 30, Sir Edward Goschen says that the Foreign Secretary told him he had heard with regret if not exactly with surprise the substance of the communication to Prince Lichnowsky, to which Sir Edward Grey's despatch quoted above refers. Prince Lichnowsky's telegram had only reached Berlin very late; "had it been received earlier the Chancellor would, of course, not have spoken to me in the way he had done."

GERMANY WITH AUSTRIA.

Sir M. de Bunsen (British Ambassador in Vienna) to Sir Edward Grey, July 30.

Although I am not able to verify it, I have private information that the German Ambassador knew the text of the Austrian ultimatum to Serbia before it was despatched and telegraphed it to the German Emperor. I know from the German Ambassador himself that he endorses every line of it.

On August 4 Sir Edward Goschen was instructed to demand the immediate release of British ships detained in Hamburg, Cuxhaven, and other German ports on the grounds that their detention was totally unjustifiable and in direct contravention of international law and of the assurances given by the German Imperial Chancellor.

Sir Edward Grey to Sir F. Villiers (British Minister at Brussels.) August 6.

You should inform Belgian Government that if pressure is applied to them by Germany to induce them to depart from neutrality, his Majesty's Government expect that they will resist by any means in their power, and that his Majesty's Government will support them in offering such resistance, and that his Majesty's Government in this event are prepared to join Russia and France, if desired, in offering to the Belgian Government at once common action for the purpose of resisting use of force by Germany against them, and a guarantee to maintain their independence and integrity in future years.

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Here and There.

BOWING'S SHIPS.—The Prospero left Griguel yesterday afternoon coming this way. The Portia sails at 11 a.m. to-morrow for Western ports.

FOGOTA SAILS.—The S.S. Fogota, Capt. Dalton, sailed for the northward at 10 a.m. to-day, taking a large freight and the following passengers in saloon:—E. Winsor, J. P. Kelly, Capt. Woodland, Ensign Woolgray.

Mrs. F. Payne, Miss Calpin, Rev. P. O. Walter, Lieut. Osmond, Miss J. Benson, E. Noel, Capt. Rodway, Capt. Willis, Misses Sorries (2), Master Sorrie, Const. A. Humber, Mrs. Humber, M. O'Neill, J. Avery, and S. Barbour.

SALT CAROQ ARRIVES.—The schr. R. J. Owens arrived to-day from Cadiz after a passage of 32 days, bringing a cargo of salt to A. Goodridge & Sons.

DIED.

At Portugal Cove, on Friday morning, there passed away Fredericka Hibbs, beloved wife of Fred Hibbs, aged 31 years, leaving a husband and three children to mourn the loss of a good wife and a loving mother.—Sydney and Montreal papers please copy.

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