

some, it was thought that, as a member of the Triple Alliance, Italy would be compelled to render support to Austria and Germany, but by others the view was taken that Italy could never forget the oppression she had endured from Austria, nor the good offices of Britain and France at the time Italian unity was effected and that as a consequence nothing short of compulsion could bring her to a support of Austrian and German arms. Italy, however, was not long in removing doubt as to the position she intended to take. On August 1, the day of the declaration of war by Germany on Russia, the Italian Minister of Foreign Affairs formally notified the German Ambassador at Rome that Italy would remain neutral, her obligations under the Triple Alliance applying only to defensive war. The Italian Foreign Minister, in a formal statement informed Germany that Italy considered herself released from her engagements in as much as the war started by Austro-Hungary, supported by Germany, was essentially an offensive war. She maintained that as it was not a question of defensive war, Italy should confine herself to pointing out that her obligations in the Triple Alliance did not oblige her to take up arms.

#### The Position of Portugal.

At a special meeting of the Portuguese Parliament, held on August 9th, the declaration was made that Portugal would place herself unconditionally on the side of Britain, according to the terms of her ancient treaty. The declaration was received with enthusiastic cheering for France and Britain. It followed a demand from Germany as to Portugal's intentions.

Premier Machado, in announcing the attitude of the Government, said: "**According to our alliance we have duties which we in no way will fail to realize.**"

Portuguese warships were ordered to prepare for a cruise around the coast, and foreign shipping in Portuguese ports were notified to remove their wireless installation.

It was reported that the Portuguese War Office has ordered the mobilization of three military divisions.

#### The Position of Japan.

Similarly, Japan, from the moment Britain was drawn into the war, made it clear to the world that in the event of British interests being threatened in the Orient, she would come to the speedy assistance of Britain, in accordance with her obligations under the Anglo-Japanese alliance. Saving the necessity of participation on these grounds, she would maintain an attitude of neutrality.

In Tokio on Saturday, August 1, the Premier, Count Shigenobu Okuma, in a speech dealing with the gravity of the situation, said that to bring about

a great peace a great war was something unavoidable. He added that perhaps a general disturbance in Europe would resolve itself into the final war of the world, leading to permanent and industrial peace. The Japanese Government, he said, had postponed its proclamation of neutrality between Austria-Hungary and Servia, and was in constant communication with the British Government.

In London, England, on the same day the Japanese Ambassador said that as long as the warships belonging to the nations composing the Triple Alliance remained at Tsing-Tau, Japan would take no action against them, but should they attack British interests, or should Tsing-Tau be attacked, a situation would arise which would be dealt with by Japan in the spirit of the Anglo-Japanese Alliance.

A proclamation issued at Tokio on Monday, August 4, by the Japanese Government expressed anxiety as to the European situation, and hopes for the speedy restoration of peace. It pointed out Japan's desire to remain neutral during the war, which it hoped would not extend to other parts of the world. **However, it said, should England participate in the hostilities, and the purposes of the Anglo-Japanese Alliance be threatened, Japan might be compelled to take the necessary measures for the fulfillment of its obligations.**

The Japanese proclamation was issued after an extraordinary session of the Cabinet, and was generally interpreted as preparing the people of Japan for the action of the Japanese navy as soon as Great Britain's decision has been announced.

Subsequent official pronouncements have all tended to show that Japan regarded the attacks on British shipping and interests by German warships in the Orient as necessitating and justifying active participation in the conflict, and already it has been officially announced that unless certain conditions are complied with by Germany within a specified time, a declaration of war on behalf of her ally will be made by Japan against Germany.

#### The Position Of Other European Powers.

Holland and Switzerland, like Italy, have clearly declared their neutrality, as have also Norway, Sweden, Denmark and Spain, though all have mobilized their forces to a greater or less extent as a precautionary means of safeguarding their neutrality.

The attitude of the Balkan States, with the exception of Servia and Montenegro has been one of neutrality up to the present time. Their recent experience of war may possibly confirm them in the wisdom of maintaining that attitude. On the other hand the bellicose nature of the peoples comprising these countries make it highly probable that should the war, as appears likely, continue for any length of time, some, if not all, of these countries will be drawn into the conflict as well.