

of Germany's refraining from the invasion of Belgium. This refers to a belated conversation which Prince Lichnowsky held with the British Foreign Secretary on 1st August, *after* the official German reply had been received in London, declining to give the undertaking to respect Belgian neutrality which had been so readily given by France. The German excuse for the misrepresentation of the facts might easily be that the incident did not escape the notice of Mr. George Bernard Shaw. But it is perfectly clear from the record (White Paper No. 123) that Lichnowsky was speaking for himself and not for his Government when he asked Sir Edward Grey if England would remain neutral provided Germany undertook to leave Belgium alone. The mischief had already been done. The German Ambassador's belated query comes under the head of unofficial and personal conversation, and the German Government has never claimed that it had authorized him to put a question which had by that time become inadmissible. It was known that Lichnowsky had lost all influence at Berlin, and the English Foreign Secretary was quite justified in brushing the question aside, as he could not possibly, as things then stood, have tied his hands by giving a pledge of neutrality during the whole period of the war in answer to what was at most a personal suggestion on the part of the German Ambassador. On the very day on which Prince Lichnowsky was still talking ineffectually in London, Germany announced to Luxembourg that she proposed to occupy her territory, and next day it was Belgium's turn. The elaborate network of strategic railways, leading from the Rhine to the Belgian frontier, had not been built for nothing! The real truth was carelessly told by the German Foreign Secretary, Herr von Jagow, when he said "They had to advance into France by the quickest and easiest way, so as to be able to get well ahead with their operations and endeavour to strike some decisive blow as early as possible."