

THE LIBERAL ATTITUDE

IN a Statement given to the press on the day of the declaration of war between Great Britain and Germany, but before war had been declared, Sir Wilfrid Laurier, the Liberal Leader, emphasized the necessity, in the presence of so grave a crisis, of calling "a truce to party strife." In full sympathy with this attitude the Canadian Liberal Monthly refrains, in its present issue, from publishing any matter calculated to excite partisan discussion, or to embarrass the Government in any way at this hour of supreme moment to Canada, and to the world. It must not be assumed that, in adopting this course, Liberalism in Canada is abandoning, in any particular, any of the policies whether of trade, tariff, or defence which it sought to enforce while in power, and for which it has strenuously contended in Opposition. On the contrary, existing conditions have, it is believed, shewn as nothing else could possibly have done, the wisdom and patriotism of these policies, and may yet lead to their general acceptance. Neither is it to be assumed that the Administration has so improved as to render its conduct above criticism in its present management of the country's affairs. It is simply that it is thought fair-minded Canadians everywhere, recognize this is not the time for party divisions, party debate and party struggle, and will agree that comment which might otherwise very properly be made may with propriety and without loss, be withheld until a later time.

Believing that irrespective of party, its readers at this time are mostly interested in the present war, the Liberal Monthly devotes its entire issue to a review which it is hoped may help to an intelligent appreciation of its significance as part of the world struggle between the contending forces of freedom and oppression.

THE EUROPEAN WAR

PART I.

CAUSES, INFLUENCES AND FORCES

ON Sunday, June 28th, Archduke Francis Ferdinand, the heir to the Austrian-Hungarian throne and his consort, the Princess Hohenburg, while on a visit to the Provinces of Bosnia and Herzegovina were shot dead in the main street of Sarajevo, the capital of Bosnia by a student named Gavrio Prinzip, a lad but 18 years of age. Only an hour before, a young compositor, named Nedelgo Gabrinovics, 21 years of age, had attempted the assassination of the Archduke by throwing a bomb at the royal automobile as it was proceeding from the station at Sarajevo to the City Hall, where a public reception was to be held and an address of welcome presented. The Archduke saw the deadly missile thrown and warded it off with his arm. It exploded behind the automobile wounding members of his suite, but not killing anyone. The injured were taken to the hospital and the Archduke proceeded to the City Hall. After participating in the official ceremonies he left with the Princess to visit the wounded members of his suite, and it was while driving through the streets of Sarajevo on the way to the hospital that the Archduke and the Princess were killed by a fusillade of bullets fired from an automatic pistol in Gavrio Prinzip's hand.

The Relations of Austria and Servia

To understand how this incident, grave as it was, could have led to a war between Austria and Servia which has set all Europe aflame, it is necessary to study racial influences, and to view the relations between Austria and Servia as these have found expression in the changed political conditions of the two countries.

For several centuries during the occupation of the Balkan Peninsula by Turkey, Servia was a Turkish Province, but she never lost her racial consciousness or her national aspirations. In 1878, she was declared independent of Turkey by the treaty of Berlin. By the same treaty Turkey's suzerainty was recognized over the Provinces of Bosnia and Herzegovina, but these provinces were turned over to Austria for administration on the pledge that she would respect their independence. The treaty of Berlin contemplated the evacuation of the provinces of Bosnia and Herzegovina after the restoration or "order and prosperity", following their occupation by Austria; but instead of "order and prosperity" insurrection and fighting did not cease until 1882, and instead of evacuation, the provinces were formerly annexed by Austria on October 7th, 1908.

The annexation of Bosnia and Herzegovina nearly brought on a European war. Russia protested, and Germany at once sent Russia an ultimatum to keep quiet or accept war. Russia had not recovered from her defeat by Japan in 1904, and was in no condition to begin a new war, so she subsided. But Servia has never forgotten Austria's piracy, and Russia has never forgiven Germany her rebuke.

The Northern boundary of Servia touches the Southern boundary of the Austro-Hungarian Empire on the Danube. For some time Servia has felt the encroaching pressure of Austria. The extension of Austrian territory by the annexation of Bosnia and Herzegovina was felt by Servia to be at the expense of her country, and helped to justify the fear long entertained by the Servians, and which events have