

or Nicholas today issued a manifesto in which his majesty outlines the events leading up to the declaration of war by Germany. The text follows:

"By the grace of God we, Nicholas II, emperor and autocrat of all the Russias, King of Poland and Grand Duke of Finland, etc., to all our faithful subjects make known that Russia, related by faith and blood to the Slav peoples and faithful to her historical traditions, has never regarded her fates with indifference.

"But the fraternal sentiments of the Russian people for the Slavs have been awakened with perfect unanimity and extraordinary force in these last few days, when Austria-Hungary knowingly addressed to Serbia claims unacceptable for an independent state.

"Having paid no attention to the pacific and conciliatory reply of the Servian government and having rejected the benevolent intervention of Russia, Austria-Hungary made haste to proceed to an armed attack and began to bombard Belgrade, an open place.

"Forced by the situation thus created to take necessary measures of precaution, we ordered the army and navy put on a war footing, at the same time using every endeavor to obtain a peaceful solution. Pourparlers were begun amid friendly relations with Germany and her ally, Austria, for the blood and the property of our subjects were dear to us.

"Contrary to our hopes in our good neighborly relations of long date, and disregarding our assurances that the mobilization measures taken were in pursuance of no object hostile to her, Germany demanded their immediate cessation. Being rebuffed in this demand, Germany suddenly declared war on Russia.

"Today it is not only the protection of a country related to us and unjustly attacked that must be accorded, but we must safeguard the honor, the dignity and the integrity of Russia and her position among the great powers.

"We believe unshakably that all our faithful subjects will rise with unanimity and devotion for the defense of Russia's soil; that internal discord will be forgotten in this threatening hour; that the unity of the emperor with his people will become still more close and that Rus-

sia, rising like one man, will repulse the insolent attack of the enemy.

"With a profound faith in the justice of our work and with a humble hope in omnipotent providence in prayer we call God's blessing on holy Russia and her valiant troops.

"Nicholas."

#### GERMANY STATES POSITION

An official statement issued at Berlin August 2, says:

"In consequence of a Russian attack on German territory, Germany is in a state of war with Russia. The French reply to the German representations is of an unsatisfactory character.

"Moreover, France has mobilized, and an outbreak of war with France must therefore be reckoned with any day or any moment."

Another statement declares that Russia has invaded Germany during a time of peace, "in flagrant contradiction of Russia's peaceful assurances."

#### EMPEROR WILLIAM DEFENDS COURSE

A Berlin dispatch, dated August 4, says. Emperor William opened the imperial parliament at Berlin with an important speech from the throne, of which the text was partly as follows:

"The world has been a witness of the indefatigable manner in which we stood in the front rank during the worries and troubles of recent years in the endeavor to spare the nations of Europe from a war between the great powers. The greatest peril which had arisen owing to the events in the Balkans appeared to have been overcome, but then the assassination of my friend, the Archduke Francis Ferdinand, opened up a great abyss.

"My ally, the Emperor Francis Joseph, was compelled to take up arms for the protection of his empire against the dangerous agitation existing in a neighboring state. In pursuing its interests the Russian empire stepped in the way of Austria-Hungary. Not only our duty as an ally called us to the side of Austria-Hungary, but the great task was cast upon us, at the same time with the ancient community of culture of the two empires, to protect our own position against the attack of unfriendly forces.

"It was with a heavy heart that I

was compelled to mobilize my army against a neighbor with whose troops mine had fought side by side on so many fields of battle, and with sincere regret I saw the breaking of a friendship to which Germany had been so faithful. The imperial Russian government, giving way to an insatiable nationalism, has stepped to the side of a state which through a criminal act had brought about the calamity of this war.

"That France also placed herself on the side of our opponent was not surprising to us. Only too often had our efforts to bring about more friendly relations with the French republic come into contact with the expression of old hopes and with longstanding malice.

"The present situation arose, not from temporary conflicts of interest or diplomatic combinations, but as the result of ill-will existing for years against the strength and prosperity of the German empire. We are not pushed on by the desire of conquest. We are moved by the unbending desire to secure for ourselves and those coming after us the place in which God has put us. My government and, above all, my chancellor, tried until the last moment to prevent the worst happening. In enforced self-defense, with clear conscience and clean hands we grasp the sword.

"To the people and races of the German empire my appeal goes forth to stand together fraternally with our allies in defense of that which we have created in peaceful work. Following the example of our forefathers, firm and faithful, earnest and chivalrous, humble before God and ready to fight when in face of the enemy, let us confide ourselves to the everlasting Almighty who will strengthen our defense and conduct it to a good end."

At the conclusion of his speech the emperor addressed the deputies directly, saying: "Gentlemen: You have read what I said to my people the other day from the balcony of the castle. I repeat now that I no longer know any parties. I know only Germans, and in order to testify that you are firmly resolved, without distinction of party, to stand by my side through danger and death, I call upon the leaders of the different parties in the house to come forward and lay their hands in mine as a pledge."

#### FRANCE AND BELGIUM

The following summary of events in France and Belgium is given in The Public of Chicago:

"On the evening of July 31, as reported in press dispatches, Baron von Schoen, the German Ambassador to France, informed the French Premier of Germany's ultimatum to Russia that time limit of which would expire at noon next day, and asked what would be the attitude of France in case of a German-Russian war, requesting an answer before one o'clock on August 1. France asked in reply whether Germany could not avert the war. The German ambassador said he would communicate with Berlin and return to the French foreign office at four o'clock that afternoon. This he did; and immediately after his visit there was ordered the mobilization of the entire French army to be complete at midnight of August 2. This order was accompanied by a joint proclamation from President Poincare and the members of his cabinet explaining that the other states of Europe, even the neutral ones had already taken 'this measure as a precaution' and saying that—

"The powers whose constitutional or military legislation differs from ours have, without issuing a decree of mobilization, begun and carried on preparations which in reality are

equivalent to mobilization and are but the anticipated execution of it.

But our legislation does not permit the completion of these preparations without a decree of mobilization. Conscious of its high responsibility and feeling that it would fail in its sacred duty if it did not take this measure, the government has signed the decree. Mobilization is not war. Under the present circumstances it would appear, on the contrary, to be the best means of assuring peace with honor. Strong in its ardent desire of arriving at a peaceful solution of this crisis the government, under cover of these essential precautions, will continue its diplomatic efforts and still hopes to succeed."

"Martial law was declared through France and Algeria on August 3 and parliament was summoned to convene in two days. On August 4 the French minister of war issued the following note:

"The German ambassador has demanded his passports and diplomatic relations between France and Germany have been broken off. War is declared."

"Jules Cambon, French ambassador to Germany, was instructed to ask for his passports and before leaving Berlin to protest to the German government against its violation of Luxembourg and against its presentation of an ultimatum to Belgium.

"On the 10th, France declared a state of war to exist with Austria-Hungary, the French foreign office giving out the following statement in explanation.

"Contrary to assurances given by Austria to the French minister of foreign affairs that no Austrian troops were taking part in the Franco-German war, the French government has ascertained beyond any possible doubt that certain Austrian troops are at present in Germany, outside the Austrian frontier. These troops, which have set free certain German troops destined to be employed in fighting the French, ought indubitably de facto and de jure, to be considered as acting against France."

"On July 31 Great Britain asked France and Germany simultaneously whether they would respect the neutrality of Belgium guaranteed by Great Britain, France, Austria, Russia and Prussia in the treaty of London, 1831. France promptly answered 'Yes.' Germany's foreign secretary declined to say.

"August 3, Belgium received from Germany a twelve-hour ultimatum demanding that German troops be suffered to cross Belgium to the French frontier and promising in return that at the end of the war, Belgian territory should stay unimpaired and Belgium compensated. Germany stated as her reason for her request that she had learned of the presence of large bodies of French troops on the west Belgian border ready to operate via Namur (a Belgian fortified city) and that Germany must defend herself. This communication further stated that if Belgium adopted a hostile attitude against the German troops and put difficulties in the way of their advance, Germany would be obliged to consider Belgium as an enemy. In that case Germany would not enter into any undertaking with Belgium, but "would leave the final relations of the two states to the decision of arms." The reply of Belgium expressed her surprise at Germany's statements since France had just given reassurance of her intention to respect Belgian neutrality. Belgium, it said, had too high sense of her dignity and interest to accede to such demands as Germany's and therefore refused them definitely and, protesting against any violation of her territory, was resolved to defend her neutrality. It was officially an-

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