

August 12, 1914

The war

The ongoing large war at the same time a family feud. Emperor Wilhelm in Germany and King George in England are cousins [first cousins]. So is the case with Wilhelm and Tsar Nicholas in Russia as well.

How much can it cost to be pulled into a war such as the one now being fought in Europe? A statistician has calculated that it will cost approximately \$14.125.000 per day.

The navies from three of the war countries:

England	1.037.000 tons	
France	772.000 tons	
<u>Russia</u>	<u>413.000 tons</u>	
Total	3.122.000 tons	<i>(incorrect total)</i>
Germany	606.000 tons	
<u>Austria</u>	<u>231.000 tons</u>	
Total	837.000 tons	

The numbers include existing battleships, armored cruisers and gunboats as well as those under construction. The existing ones are less than 20 years old. It also includes destroyers, torpedo boats and submarines.

These were the numbers in 1909. The countries may have increased their naval ships since then but the ratio would be similar. It looks like Germany and Austria faces a war on sea against a combined navy that is three times as large.

If Sweden finds it impossible to remain neutral they will join the alliance England/France/Russia. That would mean yet another enemy for Germany.

---- *(Bottom of first column)*

The real battle on the sea will likely take place on the North Sea between Germany on one side and England and France on the other. The orders from the English admiral is to take captives or to destroy.

Right outside the American coast they say that there are three English, two French and three Germany warships. They are tasked with capture their enemies merchant ships.

It sounds like we in the United States will be so much directly affected of the war that we will be tasked with temporary war taxes. This is due to the fact that our imports from other countries have diminished so much that the income from customs not are enough.

Russia has captured several Germany merchant ships in the Black Sea.

Japan is making extensive rearmaments but have stated that they don't plan to ship either army or navy units to Europe. Japan is an ally of England.

Germany plans to use airships to drop bombs on the English navy.

The impact of the war on the American trade interests can be noted from these numbers. The import from France and Germany is usually around \$ 1 million daily. This have stopped due to the fact that the governments have taken charge of the railroads and hardly any merchant ships dare to set out. The export from this country to Europe usually adds up to \$ 4 million daily, of which one third goes to France and Germany. The export to those two countries have stopped.

The 5<sup>th</sup> this month about 1000 Frenchmen departed New York to help with the war in their home country.

The same day in New York there were around 12,000 men who wished to travel back to their home countries to help with the war, but it was not possible for them to depart.

Germany insists that Italy as a member of the triple alliance will bring its armed forces to assist Germany. King Emanuel in Italy insists they will remain neutral. Emperor Wilhelm is now threatening king Emanuel with a declaration of war. If this happens Italy will declare war with Austria.

The House of Commons in England decided on Thursday to increase the funding for the war to half a billion dollars. Among higher officers they are also discussing to increase the armed forces to half a million men.

Germany has made an attempt to push in to France through Belgium. Already as they entered Belgium they suffered a big defeat when they lost a lot of men at the city of Liege and were forced to retreat. The Belgian officer in command had let King Albert know that they could remain in Liege for a length of time.

Already in 1871 it was predicted that the German Empire would collapse in 1914. It is almost looking like this destruction now is on its way.

Belgium seems currently as the main place for the war. Germany's intention is to go through Belgium and reach France. The Belgians have tried to stop this. Now French and English soldiers are hurrying to Belgium to assist with the defense against Germany.

----- (*Bottom of second column*)

The Frenchmen to get in to Germany.

Last Friday the German consuls in Canada received orders to leave the country.

Last Sunday intelligence was shared that Liege in Belgium finally had to accept defeat for the Germans. Belgium had fought long and hard against Germany and the victory Berlin announced on Sunday was costly. It is not known how much Germany lost in this battle but it they lost more than 25,000 men.

Sweden and Norway have agreed on not allowing any hostility between the countries due to the war.

It looks now like Germany will make an effort to conquer Helsinki, the Finnish capital, to find a way to continue to St. Petersburg. About King Peter of Serbia

The following story is told in an English newspaper about King Peter: A French businessman, who had acquired a large fortune was very determined to decorate his chest with a symbol of grace. He was able to get himself appointed as a commander of a Serbian order. He was very proud over this reward and was able to exchange the stones on the medal with real diamonds.

Some time after this he visited Belgrade and decided to request to see King Peter to thank for the honor. He dressed up with this honorable symbol, but King Peter knew quite a bit about jewels and immediately noticed the difference. King Peter wore at the same time the large cross of the same order but it only had some small brilliance, and when it was the French man's turn to step out the King expressed lively:

- But what is this? I gave instructions that you would be appointed with the large cross. That medal is much too simple for you. Wait a second and you will receive mine.

The French man was so surprised and before he could do anything the King had taken off his large cross and exchanged it for the medal the French man had, which he put in his pocket. The King had never heard about the French man before, because the appointment had been handled by the ministers.