

August 26, 1914

## The War

Some about the reasons again

The situation is so complicated that it is difficult to point out any one measure that explains the reason for the war. The question: What is the reason to this war? has therefore received many different answers.

Among those who has tried to respond to the question and point at the reason closest to the surface is a Finnish-American who has spent the summer in Europe. He wrote about the war while we during the middle of this month was on his way back to New York. We would like to share a few things from a letter he had published in the "Finnish American" on August 20<sup>th</sup>. This Finn shows a lot of knowledge and has been in contact with several prominent statesmen on the continent. Among other things he says in his letter:

"On June 28 the Austrian successor to the throne, Frans Ferdinand, and his wife were killed by a conspiracy, which later has shown is widely spread in Serbia. It has been proven that at least one general staff officer, several other officers, judges in Serbia – yes, even King Peter's oldest son, the deposed heir to the throne, were co-conspirators and they have been found guilty of the murder of the archduke. The bombs and revolvers used by the conspirators are checked out from the arsenal in Serbia. It was just natural that Austria would demand that the investigations would be held in Serbia with under as strong control as possible. The proper offices in Serbia would not accept this, since they know their rotten system would come into full light, so they replied vaguely at least twice, as Austria demanded a clear answer. Austria had no other choice than to give an ultimatum to Serbia, and this country would likely had fallen to the book of prayers, if not for the telegram from the tsar, which arrived in Belgrade and encouraged them to avoid a clear reply and to try to gain time. The result was naturally Austria's declaration of war, which immediately led to the mobilization in Russia.

Can you really believe that 'the Slavic blood' is so strong that a people like the Serbs, the scum of the Balkan Peninsula and miserable barbarians, would need to be taken under the wings of the Russians? No, that is only an excuse for Russia. This country's envoy to Serbia, Hartwig, has been the instigator of intrigue on the Balkan.

He was the one who arranged the first Balkan war against Turkey, with the intent to crush Turkey and make the Dardanelles free for the Russian war ships. But he followed the second Balkan war, when Turkey regained some of what they had lost. This was a setback for Russia and its representative Hartwig, politics, and the one who crossed the Russian calculations was the Austrian successor to the throne. One can follow the threads of the conspiracy all the way to Hartwig and to Russia.

That this man was successful to get the Serbs hypnotized and on his side is best shown by the fact that when he died at the beginning of July – after the murder – he received a royal funeral by the Serbian government.

The order of mobilization was ordered in Russia after Austria's declaration of war against Serbia, and this naturally was meant to threaten Austria and its ally Germany, but at the same time the tsar

sent a message to Emperor Wilhelm to put the weight of his influential words on the scale for the benefit of the peace, Russia's duplicity was clear. Emperor Wilhelm answered that he would do all that he could to keep peace in Europe and get the war localized if only Russia would cancel its mobilization. The replay was naturally one of avoidance, which is why Germany issued an ultimatum to Russia and finally declared war on August 1. We know the rest."

### The Japanese-German situation

It has raised many brows that Japan has entered the war and issued a declaration of war against Germany. If Japan would be involved at all it would be against Germany due to the Anglo-Japanese Peace Treaty. The allied countries don't mind Japan's involvement since that will thin out the German forces.

But there are a few issues that made it fairly easy for Japan to take this step. There has been an old dispute with Germany since the war in 1895, when Germany together with Russia and France made Japan vacate Port Arthur. This happened after Japan's victory over China. The big Japanese statesman, Prince Ito, is said to have expressed regarding the event: "We can never forgive Germany. Russia considers us a future rival in the Far East. France is of course her ally and has important possessions and old interests in eastern Asia; we can understand their reasons. But Germany has always said they grant us genuine friendship and doesn't have any interests in this area. That she would affiliate with these and stab us in the back – her actions were hateful and undeserved.

### Short messages

It is becoming harder and harder to sum up the news from the war. The information coming from Europe is very limited, but the reports are also contradictory. Thus, we can only share a few messages.

A part of the German navy has been seen outside Gotland, Sweden. It is said to be about 90 different warships. A flotilla of German torpedo boat destroyers is said to be located in Kallyat [Kattegat?] between Sweden and Denmark.

The United States has a fairly large army in Europe, which as soon as possible will leave the war fields. It is estimated to be approximately 40,000 American tourists in Europe.

According to messages from Rome, Greece has decided to support Serbia against Austria.

Austria intends to move its troops from the Serbian border and concentrate on Russia.

During the last two weeks the newspapers have speculated in the large naval battle, which will take place immediately, when the English navy will wipe out the German – or the opposite way around. So far there has been no words about the battle.

Germany has taken over all of Belgium. Since the fortress in Liege fell the opposition doesn't seem to have been too hard. Brussels, the capital, is in German hands. It is also reported that they have taken Ostend, by the English Channel.

What do the English think, letting Germany take over and travel through Belgium? Its neutrality was so important to the English.

Germany has imposed war taxes upon Liege amounting to \$40.000.000 and upon Brussels to \$10.000.000. How the Belgians will be able to handle this is difficult to imagine.

France and England has assisted Belgium with a 100 million dollar loan.

According to recently received messages from Paris the French are no longer the aggressive in Alsace-Lorraine but the Germans are now the aggressors.

Italy is in a troublesome situation. Germany, Russia and France are trying to convince Italy to enter the war on either side. It is not so easy to be peaceful at these times, it looks like.

Germany seems to be between two fires. In the south the allied powers England and France. Russia has now entered Germany in the east approximately 500 km.

It looks like one of the largest battles will take place along the French-Belgian border and in Alsace-Lorraine. French and English troops will battle against almost the whole German army plus the German reserves.

Japan has now declared war. As mentioned in the last issue Japan had given Germany an ultimatum and demanded a response before dinner on Sunday. No response was given by that time and Japan declared war against Germany. Japan demanded that Germany would retreat from Kiachow along China's eastern coast. The Japanese intends to force the Germans out of that possession now.

According to the Japanese prime minister England is behind Japan's actions against Germany.