

# DARK WAR CLOUD HOVERS ON EUROPEAN HORIZON

## AUSTRIA-HUNGARY SEVERES DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH SERVA; NATIONS ARE ALARMED AT SUDDENNESS OF UPHEAVAL

### Smaller Nation Refuses to Humiliate Itself by Acceding in Full to the Demands of the Allied Country, Which Asked Full Reparation for the Assassination of the Archduke and His Wife in Bosnian Capital. Britain is Said to Favor the Austrian Side of the Embroglio. Actual Hostilities Are Expected at Any Moment.

LONDON, July 26.—The Serbian minister here today received a despatch from Kraguevatz stating that Crown Prince Alexander, acting as regent, had ordered a general mobilization of the Serbian army and summoned the Skupstina to meet tomorrow in the old fortified capital city of Nish, 130 miles southwest of Belgrade.

LONDON, July 26.—Sunday's developments appear to furnish new proof that Austria is fully determined to make war on Serbia, and the possibilities of a general European war seem greater than ever confronted the present generation.

The Serbian reply to the Austro-Hungarian ultimatum was an acceptance of almost all the imperious demands, except that Austrian officials shall not participate in the investigation and fix the responsibility for the anti-Austrian propaganda. Serbia proposed an appeal to the power at The Hague for the settlement of that feature.

Notwithstanding this humiliating surrender, which was more than Europe expected of the proud little nation, the Austrian government today gave the Serbian minister his passports, which may be construed as a virtual declaration of war.

Austria committed an act of war by arresting the chief of the Serbian general staff, General Putnik, near Budapest, but he was soon released by the Emperor's direct command.

#### NO FORMAL WAR DECLARATION.

A formal declaration of war is not expected because Serbia is not a party to The Hague convention, which requires this. The suspension of all parliamentary and judicial institutions has been decreed in Austria and an ironclad censorship has drawn a cordon of secrecy around the country, so that the outside world is in complete ignorance of everything happening there, except what the government wants the world to know.

Ever now the Austro-Serbian war may be closing in upon Serbia and launching a sudden blow, as Japan did when she sent her fleet against the Russian ships without warning.

While Austria announces a "partial mobilization" the Austrian ambassador at London has issued a significant notice to all Austrians liable for military service to return home. The only possibility of averting war at the eleventh hour which Austria recognizes is that Serbia shall reconsider her reply to the Austrian note and bow to all the demands. Even then Austria proposes to exact payment for all her expenses in connection with her military measures.

#### RUSSIAN STAND UNCERTAIN.

The question as to whether Russia will take up arms to save her Slav protégé from a crushing blow is the crucial feature of the situation on which the peace of all Europe hinges. The same degree of secrecy which Austria has imposed has been established in Russia also, and therefore it cannot be known what military preparations are in progress there. The Russian government has permitted

interests, to prevent an unwarranted disturbance of industrial interests and to counteract disquieting reports.

The Neue Freie Presse says that the minister of finance will raise \$65,000,000 for the government's immediate requirements and adds that negotiations between the powers for the localization of the conflict will continue. In diplomatic circles there is a feeling of optimism that these negotiations will be successful, and it was said by one of the diplomats today that France has no intention to expose herself too much on Serbia's behalf.

Baron Giesl Von Gieslingen, the Austro-Hungarian minister to Serbia, who left Belgrade last night on the breaking off of diplomatic relations, arrived here today.

#### MARTIAL LAW IN FORCE.

The Imperial decree issued yesterday gives the government enormous powers to ensure the secrecy of its measures. The authorities are entitled to open all letters. Only telegrams approved by the censor can be despatched to any point. Newspapers publishing details of military preparations or movements can be suppressed.

All the railways are guarded by sentries, who are under orders to use their arms on any person approaching the line who fails to stop when commanded.

The prospect of war is not regarded here as child's play. The Serbians put 20,000 men into the field during the Balkan wars. Both officers and men are passionately patriotic. It is expected that Serbia will attempt to hold the front along the Danube and the Drina with only a weak force, while the greater part of the arms will be concentrated in the central district, probably near Nish or Kraguevatz, and another strong force in Novopazar, which will be destined for offensive operations against Bosnia.

#### RUMOR OF FIRST BATTLE.

According to a Serbian rumor the first encounter between Austria and Serbia has occurred near Semendria, on the Danube, twenty-four miles southeast of Belgrade. Some vessels conveying Austrian infantry were said to have been fired on from the Serbian side of the Danube and to have returned the fire.

General Radomir Putnik, chief of the Serbian general staff, who was arrested shortly after ten o'clock last night at Keienfeld, near Budapest, while on his way to Belgrade, is still a prisoner. He professed great surprise at his arrest, pleading ignorance that a state of war existed. He refused to enter a motor car, but was eventually taken to military headquarters. Four others, in civilian clothes, who are believed to be Serbian staff officers, were arrested at the same time. General Putnik's daughter, who accompanied him, was sent to a hotel.

#### GAL. 9 Austrian

#### REPLY UNSATISFACTORY.

VIENNA, July 25.—Diplomatic relations between Austria-Hungary and Serbia were formally broken off tonight. War is regarded by the public as almost a certainty.

Martial law has been declared throughout the Austro-Hungarian empire. A military censorship has been established in the telegraph offices here.

The Serbian government waited until the last moment left it by the terms of the note and only minutes before the hour of six when the Austro-Hungarian ultimatum expired did the Serbian premier appear at the legation and present his government's reply to the Austrian minister Baron Giesl Von Gieslingen.

life was resolved to have the whole bill paid or nothing.

#### RUSSIA'S POSITION.

The vital question to Europe is whether Russia will come to the rescue of her little Slav brother, leading to the involvement of the other powers, and making of the war a dread struggle of Slav against Teuton for European supremacy.

Reports from St. Petersburg say that the Russian army is mobilizing, but it is to be remembered that Russia mobilized several corps when Austria annexed Bosnia, and the German emperor, stepping to the side of his ally, as was said, "in shining armor," put a veto on Russian intervention.

Austria and Serbia are both mobilizing but the silence of all the dispatches on the subject of military preparations indicates that an ironclad censorship has been established in both countries.

The Serbians have decided not to attempt to defend Belgrade, the garrison having already been withdrawn, according to Vienna reports, and the seat of the government has been removed from Belgrade to Kraguevatz, a strong strategic point sixty miles to the south.

#### REFUSAL TO HUMILIATE.

Serbia's refusal to humiliate itself to the extent that its big neighbor has dictated is not unexpected. The Serbs have been in a proud frame of mind since their success in the late Balkan war, and the government which yielded to such demands as Austria's could not last, even the dynasty would be imperilled. Serbia's little ally, Montenegro, seems determined to cast its lot with its cousin in war.

Serbian partisans abroad advance the theory that Austria has made up her mind to dispose of her neighbor which has long been a thorn in her side, and has chosen a moment when the nations of the Triple Entente are handicapped by home troubles—Great Britain with a threatened civil war in Ulster, Russia with a great strike and France with a political upheaval—to strike a decisive blow.

#### ENGLAND FAVORS ARMISTICE.

England shows no enthusiasm over becoming embroiled in a war which might prove a great calamity to her interests. As far as opinion can be gathered amid the paralysis which overcomes all British activities over Sunday, sentiment here tends towards Austria. This is based on the belief that Serbian intrigues for undermining Austria by a Pan-Slav movement have been so open that no nation could tolerate them, and in the present exuberant state of Serbian national pride only the sharpest and most peremptory measures could have any effect.

One result of the sudden threat of international complications is to thrust Ireland from the center of the stage. It may even force the British factions to a compromise which even if it were taken could not accomplish much, and a general election under the present circumstances appears out of the question. It is doubtful if even the government's bitter enemies would want a change in the cabinet and the upheaval of a fierce political campaign while the nation needs to keep a cool head and free hands for the protection of its European position.

## ALL EUROPE ALARMED AT WAR PREPARATIONS

### British Foreign Minister is Urged to Mediate in the Dispute.

LONDON, July 27.—The London morning newspapers urge Sir Edward Grey, the British foreign secretary, to mediate in the Austro-Serbian situation with a view to averting war, if that be possible, and, if not to do his utmost to secure the influence of the powers to localize it. Some of the newspapers suggest the formation of an ambassadorial conference, as was done during the last Balkan war, with a view to settling the controversy.

While the cabinets of the other European powers were busy today discussing the crisis, Premier Asquith and Sir Edward Grey, secretary of state for foreign affairs, according to the English