Daily News & Leader

AUGUST 5, 1914.

WAR WITH GERMANY.

Reported Sinking of a British Ship.

OUR ULTIMATUM.

Demand for Withdrawal from Belgium.

KING'S MESSAGE TO NAVY.

AT 11.17 LAST NIGHT IT WAS ANNOUNCED HAT A STATE OF WAR EXISTS BETWEEN GREAT BRITAIN AND GERMANY.

Late last night it was reported that the Government had received news of the sinking of a British mine-laying vessel by the German navy. The destroyer Pathfinder was chased, but eluded her pursuers.

Great Britain delivered an ultimatum to Germany yesterday, and demanded a reply by midnight. This action followed Germany's declaration of war on France and Belgium and the receipt of official news during the forenoon of the invasion of Belgian territory.

The Premier, in announcing the Government's momentous action to the House of Commons, stated that early yesterday morning Germany was asked for an assurance that her demand upon Belgium would not be proceeded with, and that her neutrality should be respected.

An immediate reply was asked for, and a message was received from the German Foreign Secretary to the effect that no Belgian territory would be touched, but that Germany was compelled to disregard Belgian neutrality owing to fears of a French attack through that country.

News also reached London that the German Army was marching into Belgium.

Thereupon the British Government repeated its request for an assurance of Belgian neutrality on the same lines as that given by France, demanding that a satisfactory reply should reach London before midnight.

This grave announcement was received with loud cheers.

First news of Germany's declaration of war on Belgium reached London yesterday in a telegram from Mr. Ernest W. Smith, the special correspondent of "The Daily News" at Brussels. The German action was a reply to Belgium's firm refusal to allow the Kaiser's troops to cross her frontiers.

Great Britain is prepared for war. The Navy is mobilised and at sea; the Army is being mobilised. Men and youths are flocking to the colours, and crowds besiege the recruiting offices.

Admiral Jellicoe has been appointed to the supreme command of the Home Fleet, with Rear-Admiral Madden as his Chief of Staff. Sir John French has been reappointed to his former post as Inspector-General of the Forces.

The Lobby Correspondent of "The Daily News" says that Lord Haldane, the Lord Chancellor, is acting as Assistant Secretary for War, Mr. Asquith retaining the office of Secretary. Lord Kitchener's services, it is believed, will be available in this country.

The British railways have been taken over by the Government for military purposes, and it is notified that the ordinary services may be dislocated for some time.

A scheme for the distribution of food is under the consideration of the Government; and yesterday Mr. Lloyd George announced details of an important scheme to insure our merchant ships against war risks, so that foodstuffs for the people and raw material for our industries may continue to come to our shores.

There has been panic buying of foodstuffs in large centres, and many shops have been compelled to close temporarily. Municipalities are beginning to take action to conserve the supplies.

Our military correspondent deals (on Page Three) with the question of invasion and the methods in which the fleet would oppose the transports of an enemy.

There is a division in the Cabinet on the question of British intervention. Lord Morley, Mr. John Burns, and Mr. C. P. Trevelyan have tendered their resignations to the Prime Minister.

News of Britain's promise to guard the northern and western coasts of France has been received with enthusiasm in Paris. French papers denounce Germany for "committing an outrage not simply against Belgium, France, England, and Russia, but the civilised world."

OldMagazineArticles.com