

# BRITAIN'S DUTY AS WELL AS INTEREST TO GO TO WAR, SAYS PREMIER ASQUITH.

## "We Are Unsheathing Our Sword in a Just Cause," to Fulfil a Solemn International Obligation and to Vindicate the Principle That Small Nations Are Not To Be Crushed in Defiance of International Good Faith by the Arbitrary Will Of a Strong and Overmastering Power.

**WESTMINSTER, August 6.** The spectacle of unity which is being presented by the House of Commons in this time of national emergency is very inspiring. This afternoon the House voted unanimously a credit of £100,000,000 for the purposes of the war, and with equal unanimity agreed to a resolution authorising an increase in the number of men in the British Army by no less than half a million.

In moving the vote of credit, Mr. Asquith made an eloquent speech which stirred patriotic feeling in the heart of every man who listened to him. He argued that the war had been thrust upon this country, and that the challenge could not be refused without dishonor to ourselves and without detriment to British interests. He laid great stress on our obligations to the small States of Europe, and on the position of the small States—a point on which he was warmly cheered by the Liberals.

**Striven for Peace**  
Mr. Asquith did not mince words in characterizing the methods of German diplomacy. Of Sir Edward Grey's services as the peace-maker of Europe he spoke in terms of eloquent appreciation. He cited the testimony of a White Paper circulated today as showing how strenuously, unremittingly, and persistently the Foreign Secretary had striven for peace even when the last glimmer of hope was fading.

**To Betray France**  
It will be recalled that Dr. Bodelschwiler, attaching great value to British neutrality, sought to induce us by a pledge that Germany, if victorious, would take no territory from France in Europe, and would respect the French Colonies. Mr. Asquith, our friend, and to acquiesce in the violation of Belgian territory. Mr. Asquith boils with indignation at the thought that such a cynical plan should ever have suggested to the British Government. If we had accepted these proposals "we could," he said, "behind the back of France have given free license to Germany to annex in the event of a successful war, the whole of the extra-European possessions of France."

**Machiavellian Diplomacy**  
In a loud ringing voice, charged with emotion, the Prime Minister said that what would have been our position in the face of that heroic spectacle, if we had assented to this infamous proposal? Mr. Asquith emphasized this declaration by bringing his right fist down on the table with a resounding bang. A tremendous outbreak of cheering proclaimed the House's delight at this vigorous denunciation of Machiavellian diplomacy. Had the Government listened to such proposals they would, said Mr. Asquith, have covered themselves with dishonor and betrayed the interests of the country. He quoted with marked approval Sir Edward Grey's repudiation of the proposal that we should acquiesce in despoiling France of her Colonies. "It would be a disgrace," said Sir Edward Grey, "to make this bargain with Germany, at the expense of France, a disgrace from which the good name of this country would never recover."

**Britain's Just Cause**  
Mr. Asquith, in moving the Vote of Credit for £100,000,000 said: "In asking the House to agree to the resolution, I do not think it necessary to traverse the ground again which was covered by Sir Edward Grey two or three nights ago. I do not think any of the statements he made are capable of not answer; certainly they have not yet been answered. (Cheers.) He stated the grounds on which, with the utmost reluctance and with infinite regret, his Majesty's Government have been compelled to put this country in a state of war with what for so many years, and indeed for generations, has been a friendly Power. But, sir, the papers which have since been presented to Parliament will, I think, show how strenuous, how unremitting, how persistent, even when the last glimmer of hope seemed to have faded away, were the efforts of my right hon. friend—(loud cheers)—to secure for Europe an honorable and a lasting peace. As everyone knows, in regard to the great crisis which occurred last year in the East of Europe, it was, by the acknowledgment of all Europe, largely due to the steps taken by Sir E. Grey that the area of the conflict was limited, and that, so far as the Great Powers were concerned, peace was maintained. (Cheers.) If his efforts on this occasion unhappily have been less successful, I am certain that this House, and the country, and I will add posterity and history, will accord to him what, after all, is the best tribute that can be paid to any statesman—that, never derogating for an instant or by an inch, the honor and the interests of his own country, he has striven, as few men have striven, to obtain that which is the greatest interest of all countries—universal peace. (Cheers.) But, sir, these papers, which are now in the hands of members, show something more than that; they show what were the terms which were offered to us—(cheers)—in exchange for our neutrality. (Resounded cheers.) I trust that not only members of this House, but all my fellow-subjects, will read the communications—read, learn, and mark—the communications which only a week ago passed between Berlin and His Majesty's Government."

**German Proposals**  
Mr. Asquith then proceeded to read extracts from the White Paper, beginning with the communication made by the German Chancellor to Sir Edward Grey on July 29, 1914. He read the terms on which it was sought to buy our neutrality. (Cheers.) Sir Edward Grey, continued Mr. Asquith, proceeded to put a very pertinent question to the German Chancellor: "I questioned his Excellency about the French colonies. What are the French colonies? They mean every part of the dominions and possessions of France outside the geographical area of Europe. The Chancellor said he was not able to give the same undertaking in regard to these colonies as he was prepared to give in regard to French territory. (Cheers.)"

**The One Way of Preserving Good Relations**  
I think in the circumstances the House will appreciate—I trust it will admire—the self-restraint of my right hon. friend. (Hear, hear.) He (Sir E. Grey) then said: "The one way of maintaining the good relations between England and Germany is that we should continue to work together to preserve the peace of Europe. If the peace of Europe can be preserved and the present crisis safely passed, my own endeavor will be to promote some arrangements by which Germany might follow a party which she could be assured that no aggressive or hostile policy would be pursued against her or her allies by France, Russia, and ourselves jointly or separately. I have desired this, and worked for it, as far as I could through the last Balkan crisis. (No statement," commented Mr. Asquith, "was ever more true.")"

**"This Infamous Proposal"**  
What does this amount to? Let me just say to the House, I do so not with the object of exciting passions against Germany, but to make it plain and make clear the position of the British Government and of Great Britain in this matter, what did that proposal amount to? In the first place, it meant this—behind the back of France, which was not to be made a party to these communications at all, we should have given free license to Germany to annex in the event of a successful war the whole of the extra-European dominions and possessions of France. What did it mean as regards Belgium? To Belgium when she addressed, as she did address in these last days, her moving appeal to us to fulfill our solemn guarantee of our neutrality, what reply should we have given? What reply could we have given to that Belgian appeal? We should have been obliged to say that without her knowledge we had bargained away to the Power that was threatening her our obligation to keep our pledged word. (Loud and prolonged cheers.)

**War Forced Upon Us**  
That document, in my opinion, states clearly in temperate and dignified language the attitude of this country. (Cheers.) Can anyone who reads it and who realizes and appreciates the tone of obvious sincerity and earnestness which underlies it, can anyone honestly bring against the Government of this country the charge that in spite of great provocation, for I regard the proposals made to us as proposals we might have thrown aside without consideration and almost without notice, in spite of great provocation my right hon. friend, who had already earned the title—and no one ever more deserved it—of the peace-maker of Europe—(cheers)—persisted to the very last moment of the last hour in that frustrated purpose? (Cheers.) I am entitled to say, and I do say on behalf of this country—I speak not for a party, but for the country as a whole—(cheers)—we made every effort that a Government could possibly make for peace.

**The Price of Betrayal**  
Yes, and what were we to get in return? For the betrayal of our obligations, what were we to get in return? We were to get a promise—nothing more—(laughter)—as to what Germany would do in certain circumstances—a promise, to it observed (I

am sorry to have to say it, but it must be put upon record), a promise given by a Power which was to that very moment announcing its intention to violate its own treaty obligations—(cheers)—and inviting us to do the same. I can only say if we had even dallied or temporized with such an offer, we as a Government should have covered ourselves with dishonor. (Cheers.) We should have betrayed the interests of this country, of which we are the trustees. (Cheers.)

**What We Are Fighting For**  
Unhappily, in spite of all our efforts to keep the peace, and with that full and overpowering consciousness of the result of the issue to be decided in favor of war, we have thought it to be the duty, as well as the interest of this country, to go to war. The House may be well assured it was because we believe, and I am certain the country will believe, we are unsheathing our sword in a just cause. If I am asked what we are fighting for, I can reply in two sentences. In the first place, to fulfill a solemn international obligation—an obligation which if it had been entered into between private persons in the ordinary concerns of life would have been regarded as an obligation, not only of law but of honor, which no self-respecting man could possibly have repudiated. I say, secondly, we are fighting to vindicate the principle—in these days when material force sometimes seems to be the dominant influence and factor in the development of mankind—we are fighting to vindicate the principle that small nationalities are not to be crushed and good faith by the arbitrary will of a strong and overmastering Power.

**Scope of The Vote**  
It is that that object may be adequately secured that I am now about to ask from this committee—to make the very unusual demand upon it—to give to the Government a vote of credit of £100,000,000. I am not going to ask from the Committee to do anything more than to vote the money. I am sure the Committee do not wish to enter into the technical distinction between votes of credit and Supplementary Estimates. There is a much higher point of view than that, if it were necessary, I could justly upon purely technical grounds the course we propose to adopt, but I am not going to do so because I think it would be foreign to the temper and disposition of the House. There is one thing I do call attention to, that is the title and heading of the bill. As a rule in the past votes of this kind have been taken simply for naval and military operations, but we have thought it right to ask the Committee to give us its confidence in the extent of the national area of the vote of credit so that we may be able to allow us to expend may be applied not only for strictly naval and military operations, but to assist in the maintenance of the confidence of trade, industry, business and communication, whether by means of insurance or indemnity against risk or otherwise, for the relief of distress and generally for all expenses arising out of the existence of a state of war. I believe the Committee will agree with us that it was wise to extend the area of the vote of credit so as to include all the various matters. It gives the Government a free hand. Of course the Treasury will account for it, and any expenditure that takes place will be subject to the approval of the House. I think it would be a great pity, in fact, a great disaster, if in a crisis of this magnitude we were not enabled to make provision—provision more needed now than it was under the simpler conditions that prevailed in the old days—for all the various ramifications and developments of expenditure which the existence of a state of war between the Great Powers of Europe must entail on any one of them.

**Lord Kitchener At The War Office**  
I am asking also in my character of Secretary for War—a position which I held until this morning—for a supplementary estimate for men for the army. Perhaps the House will allow me for a moment just to say on that personal matter that I took upon myself the office of Secretary of War under conditions upon which I need not go back, but which are fresh in the minds of everyone, in the hope and with the object that the condition of things

in the army, which all of us deplored, might speedily be brought to an end and complete confidence re-established. I believe that is the case—in fact, I know it to be. There is no more loyal and united body, no body in which the spirit and habit of discipline are more deeply engrained and cherished than in the British Army. Glad as I should have been to continue the work of that office, and would have done so under normal conditions, it would not be fair to the army, it would not be just to the country, that any Minister should divide his attention between that Department and another—still less that the First Minister of the Crown, who should look into the affairs of all Departments, and is ultimately responsible for the whole policy of the Cabinet, should give, as he could only give, part of his attention to the affairs of our army in a great war.

**500,000 More Men**  
I am asking on his behalf for the army power to increase the number of men of all ranks, in addition to the number already voted, by no less than 500,000. (Cheers.) I am certain the Committee will not refuse its sanction, for we are encouraged to ask for it not only by our own sense of gravity and the necessities of the case, but by the knowledge that India is prepared certainly to send us two divisions, and that even our own self-governing Dominions spontaneously and unasked has already tendered to the utmost limits of its possibilities both in men and in money every help it can afford to the Empire in a moment of need. (Cheers.) The Mother country sends us the example while she responds with gratitude and affection to these filial overtures from the outlying members of her family.

**Mr. Bonar Law's Help**  
Speaking with great fervor, Mr. Bonar Law promised the Government the help the Opposition could give. Mr. Austen Chamberlain has already been assisting the Government in the measures to meet the financial situation, and Mr. Walter Long is a member of the committee dealing with prospective unemployment. Mr. Bonar Law offered his own services and those of all his colleagues in any work the Government might desire them to perform. This generous offer was vigorously applauded by the Prime Minister. The Opposition leader thinks that Berlin if it had chosen could have prevented this terrible conflict. He has never been a believer in the theory that a war between England and Germany was inevitable, and speaking a year ago said that if it occurred it would be due to the failure of human wisdom. Today he said this war is due to human folly and not the wickedness of either the folly or the wickedness of either. "Our struggle is against Napoleonism once again, but thank Heaven there is no Napoleon."

**Voices of Criticism**  
Once the war spirit has been aroused there is an impatience to listen to the voice of honest dissent, and when Mr. Ponsoby, looking

very pale, and very resolute, rose to speak, the Tories attempted to drown his words with their clamor. Mr. Ponsoby, however, obstinately held his ground, and when he said he intended to give his hearty support to the Vote of Credit, the Conservatives were appeased. There was great cheering when this fearless Radical said, "The case as it appears in the White Paper is overwhelming." Yes, but the ultimate causes of the war must be sought further back in our Continental entanglements and our worship of the ideal of the balance of power. "This," he said, "is a people's war, and not a diplomat's war." Still the present is not a time for recriminations and reproaches. We must all stand shoulder to shoulder.

**LENGTH OF THE WAR**  
(New York Evening World.)  
The two most recent "central European" wars were settled in an amazingly short time. In 1866 Prussia and Austria went at each other's throats over the juicy Schleswig-Holstein bone-to which neither of them, by the way, had any right. That war lasted only seven weeks, and it ended in Prussia giving Austria a terrible and humiliating beating.

**THE POETS SONG**  
By Tennyson.  
The rain has fallen, the poet arose,  
He passed by the lawn and out of the street,  
A light wind blew from the east of the sun,  
And waves of shadow went over the wheat,  
And he sat him down in a lonely place,  
And chanted a melody loud and sweet,  
That made the wild swan pause in her cloud,  
And the lark drop down at his feet.  
The swallow stopped as he strayed,  
The snail's shell stood with the dew on his back,  
And stared with his foot on the prey,  
And the nightingale thought, "I have sung many songs,  
But never a one so gay,  
For he sings of what the world will be,  
When the years have died away."  
Minard's Liniment Cures Colds, Etc.

**"TAKING DOWN THE SIGN" AFTER DECLARING WAR**  
WORKMAN REMOVING THE BRASS PLATE FROM THE ENTRANCE TO THE GERMAN EMBASSY.

ing the Junkers and Hohenzollerns, there is another Germany, lovable, peaceable, gracious. Speaking with an earnestness that impressed the House, Sir Willfrid Lawson said he had been sent to the House to promote peace, retrenchment and reform. Where are they now? he asked. Mr. Allen Baker, who has worked so hard for Anglo-German unity, quailed the sense of the House by impugning to it a desire to go joyously into war.

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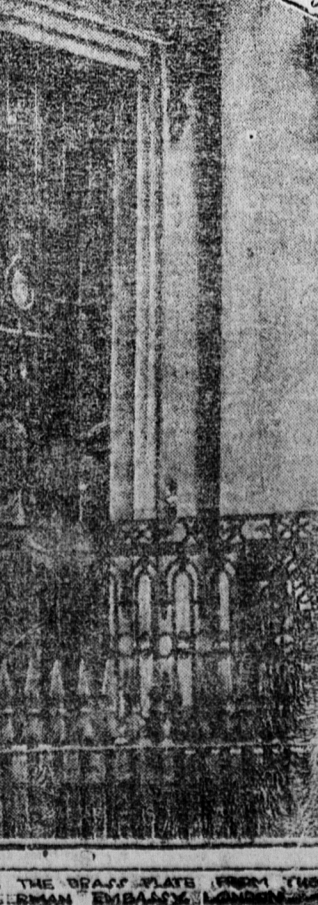
wars continued, with breaks of long or short duration for more than twenty years, and ended at Waterloo when the English, the Prussians, the Dutch and other allies overcame Napoleon. Russia and England by the way, were Germany's constant friends then.

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