THE EVENING TELEGRAM, ST. JOHN'S, NEWFOUNDLAND, MARCH 13, 1923-8

## Blew up "Eye" of Austrian Army

STORY TOLD FOR THE FIRST TIME.

NEW YORK .- (Canadian Press.) Prince Gelasio Castani, in a recen address here, recounted for the first time details of his famous war ex ploit-the blowing up of the mount ain Col di Lana, the "eye" of the Aus trian army, in 1916. Addressing the American Institute of Mining and Metallurgical Engineers, Ambassador Caetani, who was graduated from Columbia and obtained his first job as a "slag car pusher" in the workings of the Daily West Mine, Park City, Utah, spoke modestly of his feat. He said two other engineers, Bonfiole and Grimeldi, had contriubted equally to the success of the mining of Col di Lana, a cone-shaped mountain in the Dolomitic Alps, 9, 000 feet in height. "Col di Lana was the eye of the enemy," he said, "that spied every road of access, that looked over our defenses and our rear We were called upon to blind that eve. An assault was ordered. And in the attempt to scale the bare and precipitous flank of the mountain 10,000 of our bravest men met death. "Col di Lana had the voracity of a jaw crusher." Then Prince Caetani an officer of engineers, was sent to the sector to replace an officer who had fallen in the assault. He joined the Italian party on the mountainside, but-"We had almost reached the peak; we hung with our fingers and shoe nails on the ice cliffs, but try as we might we could not make that last step," he continued. "Time and again our plucky little men tried to rush the gap, but machine-guns mowed them down and their bodies remained in a frigid No-Man's-Land. "One day Colonel Perelli asked me what I thought could be done. I told him we ought to get underneath them and blow 'em off. And so the mine was started, the thirteenth of Jan uary. "We worked three months. There were two engineer officers, Bonfioli and Grimaldi, besides myself, and eighty picked miners. We start ed surveying the position, a difficult task, through loop holes. Finally we started tunnelling towards the center of the peak. We bored 150 feet, then drove a 42 degree raise with the intention of getting close to the surface under the enemy's first line trench Upon the suggestion of two of our miners we had an 18-foot sectional wood-augur forged. The rock was soft and decomposed. From the roof of the raise we drilled almost verti cally until we broke through to the surface. By that time the Austrian sentries were feeling our blasts under their feet. They notified headquarters that we were mining the Austrian position. Headquarter answered not to get causelessly excited; that the Italians were probably only mining for shelter. They lost three days phoning up and down, and to this we owed our success. Towards the middle of March the enemy started counter-mining. We had

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