

1915

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The Toronto World

TWELVE PAGES—MONDAY MORNING MAY 24 1915—TWELVE PAGES

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ITALY DECLARES WAR ON AUSTRIA

ARMY OF 100,000 ITALIANS MAY BE MOBILIZED AT VALCARTIER

BRITISH WIN BIG BATTLE ITALY IS NOW AT WAR

Greece, Roumania and Bulgaria Next GERMANY WILL AID AUSTRIA

BRITISH WIN NEAR FESTUBERT IN ADVANCE AGAINST GERMANS FRENCH ALSO GAIN SUCCESSES

German Attack on British Lines of La Bassée Easily Driven Off With Big Losses to Enemy—French Beat Off Counter-Attacks North of Arras and Take Important Positions.

Special Cable to The Toronto World. LONDON, May 23.—Having defeated a strong German attack north of La Bassée on Saturday night the British troops began an offensive movement from their new positions east of Festubert to the northward where the Germans began their assault, and had made considerable considerable progress by nightfall today.

After defeating a series of German attacks delivered in the sector of the front between Arras and the sea, the French troops this morning resumed their victorious offensive in the region north of Arras and gained decisive advantages. The attempts of the enemy to resume the initiative were costly in men and ammunition, the French war officer reporting the failure of German bombardments and the repulse of German attacks everywhere.

At the time of reporting for Sunday night's communique, the French had gained a considerable measure of success in their renewed offensive north of Arras, and fighting was being continued on several points on the sector with extreme violence. North-east of the chapel of Notre Dame de Lorette, the French infantry made steady if slow progress, to the extent of several hundred yards, some prisoners being taken.

North of Neuville St. Vaast the French carried a series of German trenches and reached an important cross road at the north of the village. The Germans were also driven out of some groups of houses which they still held in the village.

VERONA, Italy, May 23.—The Austrian barracks at Rovereto, a town in the Tyrol, with about 12,000 Italian inhabitants, was blown up Saturday. The police immediately placed under arrest many Italian citizens, although there was no evidence to show that the Italians were in any way responsible for the explosion.

GOVERNMENT OF TURKEY BLAMED FOR MASSACRES

All Members of Administration, as Well as Agents, Held Personally Responsible by Triple Entente for Butchery of Armenians. LONDON, May 23.—(11.17 p.m.)—A joint official statement by Great Britain, France and Russia, issued tonight, says: "For the past month, Kurds and the Turkish population of Armenia have been engaged in massacring Armenians, with the connivance and help of the Ottoman authorities. Such massacres took place about the middle of April at Erzerum, Derhian, Moush, Zeitun, and in all Cilicia. The inhabitants of about 100 villages near Van were all assassinated. In the town itself the Armenian quarter at Constantinople is raging against the ineffective Armenian population."

TEUTONS IN KHAKI WERE SHOT DOWN

"Don't Shoot, We're Grenadier Guards!" Shouted Advancing Germans.

BRITISH NOT DECEIVED

Not One of Party of Sixty Germans Made Escape.

LONDON, May 23.—The British "eye-witness" describes how a party of sixty Germans, "dressed in khaki taken from the dead," advanced toward the British trenches, one of their number calling out in excellent English, "Don't shoot. We are Grenadier Guards." When an officer walked towards them, the "eye-witness" says, he was fired upon, and thereupon his men opened fire and charged with the bayonet. Some of the Germans stood and fought to the last, but most of them turned and tried to escape but all of them were killed.

AUSTRIAN AMBASSADOR GIVEN HIS PASSPORTS

ROME, May 23, via Paris.—Baron Von Macchio, the Austro-Hungarian ambassador to Italy was handed his passports at 3.30 o'clock this afternoon and will leave Rome tonight or tomorrow morning.

U. S. WILL PROTECT AUSTRIANS IN ITALY

PARIS, May 23.—The Rome correspondent of the Havas Agency says that The Messenger's representative in Vienna sends the following despatch: "Austria has asked the United States to take over the protection of Austrian subjects in Italy. The American Government has transmitted instructions to its ambassadors in Austria and Italy."

ITALIANS MAY BE MOBILIZED AT VALCARTIER

Hundred Thousand From Canada and U.S. Likely to Respond.

TRANSPORTS REQUIRED

Great Influx of Reservists From Across Border Seems Likely.

OTTAWA, Ont., May 23.—What is to be done regarding the immense number of Italian reservists on this continent from the Yukon to Mexico is exercising the minds of the authorities here. In the absence of General Hughes, nothing definite could be ascertained tonight as to whether any steps to cope with the new situation had been taken by the militia department. However, the expectation of officials here is that mobilization will take place in Canada.

GERMANY DECIDES TO AID AUSTRIA

Ambassador Instructed by Berlin to Leave Rome at Once.

INEXCUSABLE ATTACK

"Our Ally Has Deserted to the Enemies' Camp," Say Huns.

LONDON, May 23.—A Berlin official despatch, received by Reuters' Telegram Co. by way of Amsterdam, and dated May 23, says: "The Italian Government today caused to be declared thru the ambassador to the Austro-Hungarian Government, the Duke of Avarna, that Italy considers herself in a state of war with Austria-Hungary."

FORMAL DECLARATION PRESENTED AT VIENNA

LONDON, Monday, May 24.—The Italian ambassador at Vienna on Sunday afternoon presented a formal declaration of war to Baron Burian von Radez, the Austro-Hungarian foreign minister.

BULGARIA WON'T ATTACK ROUMANIA, SAYS PREMIER

GENEVA, Switzerland (via Paris), May 23.—The Journal de Geneve states that Vassil Radoslavoff, the Bulgarian premier, has announced officially that Bulgaria will not attack Roumania if the latter enters the war.

THE OFFICIAL DECLARATION

AMSTERDAM, May 23.—(Via London, May 24, 2.05 a.m.)—A despatch from Vienna says the Italian ambassador to Austria, the Duke of Avarna, this afternoon presented to Baron Von Burian, the Austro-Hungarian foreign minister, the following declaration of war:

"In conformity with the orders of his majesty the king, his august sovereign, the undersigned ambassador of Italy has the honor to deliver to his excellency, the foreign minister of Austria-Hungary, the following communication: "Declaration has been made, as from the fourth of this month, to the imperial and royal government of the grave motives for which Italy, confident in her good right, proclaimed annulled, and henceforth without effect, her treaty of alliance with Austria-Hungary, which was violated by the imperial and royal government, and resumed her liberty of action in this respect."

"The government of the king, firmly resolved to provide by all means at its disposal for safeguarding Italian rights and interests, cannot fail in its duty to take against every existing and future menace, measures which events impose upon it for the fulfillment of national aspirations. "His majesty the king declares that he considers himself from tomorrow in a state of war with Austria-Hungary. "The undersigned has the honor to make known at the same time to his excellency the foreign minister, that passports will be placed this very day at the disposal of the imperial and royal ambassador at Rome, and he will be obliged to his excellency if he will kindly have his passport handed to him."

FEAR 158 LIVES WERE LOST IN BRITISH RAILWAY WRECK

All Except Six of Killed Were Soldiers of Royal Scots Regiment—Train Disaster Greatest in History of Britain.

Official announcement was made tonight that 158 persons were killed or are missing as a result of the triple collision which occurred yesterday morning on the Caledonian Railway, north of Carlisle. All except six of the killed were soldiers belonging to the Royal Scots Regiment, 500 of whom were traveling in a troop train. At least 200 persons, mostly soldiers, were injured.

STRICT SECRECY OVER DECISIONS

King Victor and His Ministers Held a Long Conference.

CALL MEN TO COLORS

All Males Between Twenty and Forty Are Needed for the Army.

MAYOR OF ROME LEAVES FOR SERVICE AT FRONT

Half of Aldermen and Two-Thirds of Council Will Soon Be Fighting.

KITCHENER HONORED BY BELGIUM'S KING

LONDON, May 23, 8.35 p.m.—King Albert of the Belgians, according to an official announcement made today, has conferred upon Field Marshal Earl Kitchener, the British secretary for war, the grand cordon of the order of Leopold.

The First Clash

ROME, May 23, via Paris, 11.30 a.m.—A clash, which is generally regarded here to be the first skirmish of the Italo-Austrian war, occurred today between Italian and Austrian troops at Forcella di Montozzo, in the pass between Pont di Legno and Pejo.

Official Proclamation Issued Sunday Afternoon Was Followed by Border Skirmishes—German Officers Expected to Conduct Austria's Campaign.

ROME, May 23.—(Via Paris, 11.55 p.m.)—Italy is at war with Austria-Hungary. With the issuance of the general mobilization order, the Italian Government issued a proclamation declaring war on Austria, which officially will begin tomorrow. Prior to this, and after a lengthy consultation the ministers of war and marine proclaimed all the provinces bordering on Austria, and the islands and coast towns of the Adriatic in a state of war, which was equivalent to the establishment of martial law, the step usually preceding the formal declaration.

When Premier Salandra and Signor Sonnino, the foreign minister, left the palace, the people cheered them enthusiastically. The troops changing guard at the royal palace were the object of a stirring manifestation amid "Vivas" for the army and for war. Gen. Zupelli, minister of war, and Vice-Admiral Viale, minister of marine, remained with the king for a considerable time after the others left, and later they had a conference with Lt.-Gen. Cadorna, chief of staff, and Vice-Admiral Phaon di Devel, chief of the naval staff.

ARMY AND NAVY READY

When the first blow will be struck cannot be foretold, but after months of preparation, the army, which has been greatly strengthened, and the navy, are ready for whatever task may be set them. Exceedingly strong forces are in position all along the Austro-Italian frontier, on the Austrian side of which feverish preparations have been going on the last few days to make the fortifications as impregnable as possible, and to clear the way for effective artillery action.

KING OF GREECE IS SERIOUSLY ILL

Berlin Specialist Has Been Summoned to Operate Upon Monarch.

TEMPERATURE IS HIGH

Premier Gounaris Gives Up Contemplated Voyage to Saloniki.

ITALIANS ARRESTED

On the other hand, most alarming reports have been received from the Italian border towns that Italian residents in the Austrian Tyrol are experiencing greater difficulty in returning to Italy, and in many cases, have been placed under arrest.

GERMANY NOT ENTHUSIASTIC

From Germany come reports that considerable resentment is felt in official quarters there against what is alleged to be the obstinacy of the Austrian diplomacy responsible for the failure of the negotiations with Italy, initiated by Prince von Buolow, the German ambassador. The suggestion had even been made that Austria should be left alone to fight Italy, but pledges taken by the German general staff and by the German Emperor personally with Emperor Francis Joseph

boundary statistics... Little Italy friends... SCREAM

TRACK RACES

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ROYAL AND EUROPEAN PLANS

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