

Thousand Diners Hear New War Story

Marconi Describes How Italy's Neutralty Was Told to France in Time to Halt Germans—Viviani Called From Bed, Was Overcome by Surprise of News That Turned a Million Men Against Kaiser's Hordes.

New York, June 23.—The reception to the Italian commission culminated last night in a dinner given to the visitors at the Waldorf by Mayor Mitchell and attended by nearly a thousand citizens of New York. It was a dinner full of Italian and American patriotism made notable by the demonstrations for Guglielmo Marconi and for Mayor Mitchell, to whom each of the Italian speakers referred in terms of high praise and deep gratitude for his services to the cause of the Allies and his friendship for Italy.

It was notable, too, for the first statement of the circumstances under which Italy announced to France her decision to remain neutral at the outset of the war, thereby releasing for service against the German Army advancing through Belgium hundreds of thousands of French troops who would have been needed to guard the Alpine frontier if the Italian Government had decided to support the other members of the Triple Alliance in their aggression. The story was told by Senator Marconi in the course of a speech which began with praise of the accomplishments of the Italian Army and Navy and a description of the tremendous natural difficulties with which they are confronted. After describing the services which are now being rendered to the Allies by the army and navy of Italy, he said:

"And now, gentlemen, I come to what is perhaps one of the least known matters in connection with the war, the great, the absolutely decisive influence of Italy's conduct at the very outbreak of hostilities in 1914. Let me tell you a few facts concerning the inner political history of those fateful days of July, 1914, when the fate of Europe was trembling in the balance.

"Germany did not expect us to join her in her savage attack on the liberator which we eventually agreed to remain neutral. Her game was a much deeper and more treacherous one. She wanted us to leave France, our great Latin sister, in doubt as to our intentions.

"On the morning of July 30, 1914, that is to say, one day before Germany declared war on Russia, and two days before she declared war on France, the Marquis de San Giuliano, who was then our Foreign Minister, unofficially informed the French Ambassador in Rome that Italy would never side with the Central Powers in a war of aggression. This information was immediately wired to Paris, but it was not sufficient to make France feel absolutely certain that Italy's attitude was favorable to her, because there was as yet no official declaration of neutrality on our part.

"And France was saved. "On the 2nd of August, 1914, three days before England declared war against Germany, at a Council of Ministers held in Rome, Italy decided formally to declare her neutrality. The news was immediately communicated to our Charge d' Affaires in Paris, the Ambassador being absent. For some

reason the telegram did not reach him until 1 o'clock in the morning. Without a moment's hesitation, he went to see Mr. Viviani, the French Prime Minister, in the middle of the night.

"When he was introduced into Mr. Viviani's presence, the latter turned pale and drew back, for he was almost convinced that nothing but Italy's decision to join Germany would bring about the Italian Charge d' Affaires there at that hour. The revulsion of feeling when Mr. Viviani read the telegram was such that he could not hide his emotion. Within half an hour orders had gone forth for the mobilization for service in the north for nearly 1,000,000 men which France would have had to keep on her southern and eastern frontier to guard against a possible attack from Italy.

"That million men helped to stem the advancing tide of Germans, to win the battle of the Marne, and to save France from being crushed by the heel of German militarism. Had there been the slightest wavering, the smallest hesitation on the part of Italy, had any Italian politician been found to do one-tenth part of what Bismarck did when he altered the wording of the famous Ems telegram, and thus brought about the Franco-Prussian war, France would not have dared to withdraw a single man from the Italian frontier, and the history of the world might have been written differently.

"Gentlemen, is there any man who can think in view of what I have just told you, that Italy's conduct was not a decisive factor in the war?"

The dinner was held in the grand ball room, where that for the Anglo-French Commission took place six weeks ago, a hall decorated for the occasion by Lloyd Warren with American and Italian flags as the principal motif. This dinner like one given by the Mayor to Viviani, Joffre, and Balfour was arranged by a committee headed by Fire Commissioner Robert Adamson.

The Gas Range!

The Gas Range means comfort for the housewife; shorter kitchen hours for her, and a cleaner kitchen. It is a great mistake to think that cooking with gas is expensive.

Whenever a woman becomes used to gas for cooking, thoughts of a coal or wood stove fill her with gloom. A Gas Range is so much easier to operate, so efficient for all kinds of cooking, and so much cleaner, that the idea of going back to the old style methods is decidedly unpleasant. Yet in winter many housewives think they must use a coal or wood stove, because there is no other way of heating the kitchen. THERE IS ANOTHER WAY AND IT IS FAR BETTER THAN THE OLD. THE CLOW GAS STEAM RADIATOR WAY. may 23.11

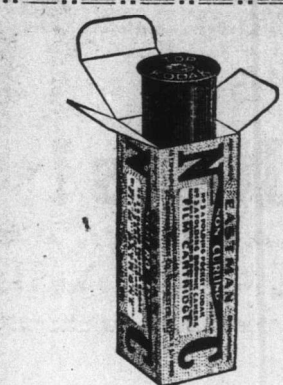
Household Notes.

Sugar gingerbread is often more acceptable in hot weather, than molasses ginger bread.

Always push the cake mixture well up into the corners of the cake tin before baking it.

Chickens that are kept in a small run must have green food daily or they will soon sicken.

And the Worst is Yet to Come--



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Tempted by the Enormous Wages Offered in the U. S. Munition Works, Clerks, travellers, and Parsons Have Donned the Blue Overalls and Have Been "Raking It In."

Up to the time of April, when the United States joined with the Allies, there was a period of industrial prosperity there unequalled in any part of the world in any age—prosperity due, of course, to munition orders. Great Britain and France and Italy and Russia—especially Russia—were avid for guns, rifles, shells, small ammunition, leather-work, steel rails, and every form of railway equipment. They were prepared to pay any price, so long as the goods could be delivered quickly. They paid for speed.

The munition factories of the U. S. had to speed up as never before. The way to effect it was to offer the inducement of very high piece-work wages, and exceptional bonuses for overtime. For instance, skilled rollers in Pittsburgh mills have been earning their five guineas a day. Pupilders have been making almost as much.

Dazzling Wages.
But the money has certainly been earned. Clerks, even parsons, and other soft-handed men, lured by the glitter of £1,000 a year, have thrown off their black coats, donned the blue overalls, and tried to compete with the muscle-hardened artisan.

The big majority found the price they had to pay too high. They dropped out—exhausted.

Nor is the lighter work of the shell-factory without its compensating drawback. Several dozen plants in the U. S. have blown up—or been blown up—by German plotters.

A dandy, employed in sweeping out a lawyer's office, was caught by the lure of "easy money," and announced to his employer that he had decided to throw up the broom and offer his services to a neighbouring shell-factory. The lawyer had reluctantly to let him go.

That same afternoon the darkey returned, and signified his willingness to resume the broom.

"What happened?" asked the lawyer. "Ah went ter de gate, sah, and tol' de man Ah wanted some of dat dere easy money. 'All right!' sez he. 'What's your name?' sez he. An' I tol' him. And then he sez, 'Where shall we send the remains, in case of accident?' And I tol' him quick 'Dere ain't goin' to be no remains for dis yere nigger!'"

A remarkable feature of the boom has been that really-skilled workers—doing overtime on piecework—have in most cases been earning higher wages than their foremen. In many instances higher even than their factory superintendents.

The Golden Flood.
But this, of course, is a temporary condition of boom-time. When the day comes that munition orders dry up, and factories unclutch from the high-speed gear, hands will be laid off and wages relentlessly reduced. The superintendents and foremen will come into their own again.

In order that the extent of the war orders in the U. S. may be realised, here are a few round figures of supplies shipped out during the month of January, 1916, for the use of the Allies:

Explosives	£16,000,000
Firearms	2,000,000
Brass	7,000,000
Copper	6,400,000

Motor-cars	2,000,000
Metal-working machinery	1,700,000
Other manufacturers of iron and steel	5,400,000

Breadstuffs during that month were valued at £15,000,000; horses and mules at £1,800,000; boots and shoes at £300,000.

The total war exports for January, 1916, amounted to the enormous figure of over £69,000,000. Multiplying by ten, to get a conservative estimate of a year's trading, the U. S. looked complacently at a war income of six hundred million pounds sterling.

Little wonder that skilled workers could command their thousand a year!

The ideal of the American is to spend. The more money he flings away, the more he is respected and admired.

"Easy Money."

I am speaking, of course, of the period prior to the American declaration of war. At the time of writing it seems probable that the United States will be jolted out of its easy-money attitude, and that its nose will be held down to the grindstone of economy.

Munition towns, such as Bridgeport (Connecticut), Wilmington (Delaware), Pennsgrove or Eddystone; the motor-car focus of Detroit; or the steel city of Pittsburgh—all these have flung money about like mining-camps.

The skilled worker has gone to his daily job in his own motor-car, as a matter of course. Lesser lights, such as truck-handlers, sit astride a motorcycle. £120 is the sum that a Pittsburgh man—in his shirt-sleeves, and a clay pipe—is known to have paid out cheerfully for phonographs and records for his family.

Furs, jewels, silks, and satins for wife or sweetheart; eight-guinea suits for himself for Sunday wear; etcetera of the most showy and expensive kinds—these have eaten up a very large slice of the boom-money.

Only a few men seem to have had the prudence to lay by money for the inevitable day of the bursting bubble.

—Answers.

Your Boys and Girls.

Every mother likes to see her small daughter look dainty at all times. But girls, as well as boys, get their clothes soiled at play, and while boys can be put into overalls or rompers according to their age, few mothers will like to see their little daughters dressed in these homely garments. But there will be no objection to miniature bungalow aprons on the order of those worn by the mothers, especially if a pretty color is chosen. These aprons are quite easy to make at home.

The best kind of materials to use are the soft cotton poplins, ratine cotton and silk fabric that does not demand too much in the way of laundering will answer, provided of course, it is fairly substantial. To make the apron measure off twice the length for a deep hem, fold this and cut the top in kimono fashion, taken out under the selvage edges. This fulness is platted or gathered and set on after cutting sits in the body of the apron to fit.

A strip of the material holds the fulness down. If preferred, the skirt part may be gored all the way down, but the child does not get the freedom the fulness allows. The neck is cut square and edged with a white band, a sare the kimono sleeves. The closing is in the back from neck to waist line or for convenience in laundering it may be closed all the way.

At the Crescent.

Madame Olive Timmons sings the beautiful Irish ballad "Macushla" at the Crescent Picture Palace to-day. An episode in two reels of the "Girl from Frisco" series entitled "The Fight for Paradise Valley," featuring Marlin Sals and True Broadman, heads the picture programme, besides there is a great Biograph drama: "The Work Habit," a stirring drama of the wilds. "In the Elemental World" and a Kalem Comedy: "The Artist's" with Bud Duncan and Ethel Tear, the celebrated Kalem Comedy team. Don't miss this mid-week show it's an extra good one. On Friday and Saturday Madame Timmons sings "There's a Long, Long Trail."

WILD FRUIT PLENTIFUL.—Wild fruit blossoms are very plentiful on the outlying hills, and with a continuous spurt of fine weather an abundance of berries may be expected earlier than usual.

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