



THE ITALIAN LORDS OF WAR.

King Vittorio Emmanuele III, at the head of his general staff, who has taken the field in person against the Austrians. He is the centre figure in the picture.



A VETERAN GENERAL.

General Conava, hero in the war against the Turks, is the von Hindenburg of Italy.



ITALIAN FIELD ARTILLERY IN ACTION.

The range of the Italian field gun, of which this is a good sample, is 6,000 yards, as compared to the French 9,000 and the German 6,600.

WHY DO THE NATIONS RAGE ?

Because Germany is the Organized Enemy of all Free and Independent Peoples

By JAMES JOHNSTON

WHY do the nations so furiously rage together?" says von Bethmann-Hollweg, piously, to the lord of Potsdam.

"And the people imagine a vain thing?" echoes the Kaiser. "God punish Italy!"

Punishing nations seems to be the Kaiser's chief pastime. But he has been so long gnashing at England without hurting her much, that he may find it

a very startling business to keep Italy from making bad inroads upon Austria. Of course Italy has not declared war on Germany. A mere matter of form. It was not the departure of the Austrian ambassador that broke up the game of international poker along the Adriatic, but the polished exit of Prince von Buelow, ambassador extraordinary from Berlin. One of these days, however, the Kaiser will detach a few army corps from some segment of the war circle around the Fatherland and hurl them against the Italians. One of these days, also, he will take his last stand in the middle of Germany, the great circus-master cracking the whip over Germans, Austrians and Turks. The entrance of the Italian million of armed men and the Italian navy of fine second-class fighting power into the conflict puts the greatest peninsula of Europe to the south in league with the greatest Island in the world to the north; it makes almost a complete ring of bristling war around the Teutons except on the south Austrian frontier; and it reduces Germany and Austria to the condition of the most colossal state of siege ever known in the history of war.

that memorable document drawn up and reaffirmed; first in 1887, when Bismarck was the Machiavelli behind; again in 1891, 1902, and 1911. At each renewal it was clearly set forth—for defensive purposes only. Hence the necessity for Germany to pretend that the war was really started by the Allies

cause Austria had to be watched or she would play the game of grab still further among the Balkan states east of the Latin states once owned by Italy. The grabbing of Bosnia-Herzegovina from Serbia was Austria's first breach of the Alliance. In 1913, when Austria sent her ultimatum to Serbia, Italy was not consulted—but insulted; her opinion was not wanted. Proof—that this was to be war, not of defence, but

of aggression. Italy demurred. Austria tried to bludgeon her into war. She declared her neutrality; reasons—that she was not allied to take part in an aggressive war, and that to join the Teutons would be to expose her own fleet in the Adriatic to the Mediterranean fleets of France and England.

SO the Austrian ambassador, who up till nearly the end of 1913 had been playing first fiddle to Germany's envoy, soon took second desk when Prince von Buelow, with the silk hat, the cane and gloves, came over from Berlin with a whole battery of Machiavellian methods to work on the poker-players along the Adriatic. By this time Baron Sonnino had become Foreign Minister in Italy. He was a snag in von Buelow's path. Sonnino understood this smiling Prince and ex-Chancellor, who spoke Latin and Teutonic and had an Italian wife and a villa on the outskirts of Rome. Sonnino remembered what von Buelow had himself said in October, that—"the intervention of Italy against Austria after the two countries had been bound for years by the treaty of alliance would be



ITALIAN SHARPSHOOTERS AT LONG RANGE.

Italian infantry in action are only less remarkable than the fierce Italian cavalry; and they will be much more useful in this war.

—on the principle long ago enunciated by Bismarck that no war, however successful, is justifiable unless you can prove that the other fellow started it.

There were three sides to this triangle; and Germany did her best to occupy two of them. Bismarck created the Alliance to put a solid German-built wall across Europe between the Latin and the Anglo-Saxon in the west and the Slav in the east. Austria went in because Germany made her do so; Italy be-

a violation of international rights such as the world never saw before." Von Buelow feared that Italy would arm against Austria. He worked tooth and nail to prevent it. He would be satisfied with Italian neutrality. Sonnino and Premier Salandra gave him no guarantees. They held out for concessions to Italy along the Adriatic to balance the aggression of Austria upon Serbia. At the same time the army was being strengthened, equipped and stimulated to

Why has Italy entered the war? And why did she take ten months to make up her mind? Blunderbund German diplomacy; as with the United States, so worse with Italy, whose people and army got tired of international poker along the Adriatic with the Balkan States and Italia Irredenta as stakes in the game. Long ago Germany spoiled the Triple Alliance by dragooning into it the Turk, who a short while ago was the field enemy of Italy. Four times was