ITALIAN FINANCIERS OPPOSED TO WAR
PEOPLE OF PORTUGAL LOATH TO FIGHT

NEWS FROM FOREIGN CAPITALS

GOOD SHOOTING AT SEA IS A SCIENCE
TURKEY BEGAN FIGHTING VOLUNTARILY

MONEY INTERESTS IN ITALY STAND AGAINST INTERVENTION IN WAR

King and Royal Family Are Also Opposed to Joining in Conflict.

SITUATION IS ANALYZED

While Working Classes Would Back War Against Austria, Other Classes Take Different View.

The real attitude of Italy towards the war is described below by a special commissioner with exceptional facilities for gathering reliable information, who was sent to Italy on a tour of inspection by the International News Service.

(By the International News Service.)

Rome, Feb. 16.—(By Mail to New York.)—After numerous conversations with highly placed personages in Rome and Milan and close observation of the surface facts as they appear in Italy to an unbiased traveler, I am forced to the conclusion that however ardently the allies may desire her entry into the fray, there is no other reading of the signs in Italy than that:

1. The money interests and thinking classes have set their faces against becoming implicated in a war against Italy's former allies, and the possibility of the government departing from this policy is very remote.

The King Is Against War.

2. Popular sympathy in Italy runs very strong against Austria, and consequently for the allies.

3. The king and the royal family generally are against war which would pit the house of Savoy against the house of Hohenzollern and Hapsburg.

To a superficial or biased observer traveling in Italy, war talk of the working classes and of a section of the press might give the impression that war enthusiasm is permeating the nation. As a matter of fact, the war spirit is confined to that section of public opinion which is always swayed in favor of a war of conquest. Flashy oratory which disregards the cold facts of the situation has caught up the working class, but they cast little weight into the balance because a campaign against the war published with more highly colored rhetoric would swing them over to the other side tomorrow.

At the same time, the nationalist press, which is shouting for war, is under suspicion. And here I may say that the anti-Austrian movement has been secretly fermented and encouraged from French sources.

Wealthy Classes Opposed, Too.

But while the working classes would back a war against Austria, the thinking and wealthy classes, the men with important stakes in the country and influence in politics, take quite a different attitude. With them is the king and also Signor Giolitti, head of the most powerful political party in Italy, and who, it is expected, will shortly become premier again with a ministry solid for non-intervention.

So much is the king against stabbing his allies in the back that the idea that such a measure might be forced upon him became quite an obsession with him not long ago.

The king's opinion, as expressed by his first cousin, the Count of Turin, at his club in Milan the other day, is that Italy will not go to war because she has no interest whatever in doing so, and that while her neutrality, even armed and threatening to the Germanic powers, may be beneficial to the country, a war would be a great error.

"It is the king's belief and one which I share," said the Count of Turin, "that the present war will end with a peace treaty leaving Europe in statu quo ante bellum."

Fails to See Any Gain.

The government is against plunging into the great European vortex because it fails to see it gain by fighting any territory which it cannot get without fighting. It is commonly asserted in official circles that Prince von Buelow has formally offered to Italy the province of Trentino as the price of her continued neutrality and has not made difficulties about Italy taking over Valona and Durazzo, which will give her complete command of the Adriatic and render nil the military value of Trieste to Austria.

It was a plain fact that the solid section of the country does not crave for Austria and Trieste, and it is equally certain that the intellectual and business people of Trieste, for commercial reasons, shrink from the prospect of passing from Austrian rule.

Here again it is purely a question of business. If Trieste passed into Italian hands the flourishing ports would be half ruined. From its geographical position it could not be fed commercially and its thriving shipping business would be destined to stagnation and decay.

Commercial Gain Large.

The argument that it will rest with the allies, if they prove the victors, to award the spoils and that Italy will get nothing if she holds aloof, is met at Rome with the retort:

"The allies and the Germanic combatants will fight themselves to a standstill. Before peace is declared we shall be in practical possession of the Trentino and able to confront the allies with a fait accompli. Would they embark on another war to dispossess us?"

The national exchequer has not yet recovered from the severe strain of the Tripoli campaign.

Meantime Italy is benefiting tremendously from the business viewpoint of remaining neutral, and modern Italy is inclined to take a sordid view of its affairs at this critical moment.

Berlin May Clamp Lid Upon Cabarets

Berlin, Feb. 27.—While the proprietors of large cafes are pleading for an extension until 2 o'clock of the recent 1 o'clock closing order on the ground that they are facing ruin, the police are reported to be seriously considering the advisability of forbidding all afternoon cabarets and vaudeville teas.

Failing to obtain satisfactory results merely by making appeals, the police have issued an order forbidding the sale to soldiers of all heavy intoxicants. Virtually everything but beer is placed under the ban.

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Top, left to right—British transport wagon finds hard going on a rain soaked Belgian road; the frozen ground in Poland has made trench digging difficult. Accordingly it has become the custom of Russian soldiers to dig holes in each of which one man may partially conceal himself while awaiting the enemy. This photograph shows a group of soldiers so entrenched and wearing a warm if unsightly winter head dress.

Bottom, left to right—David Lloyd George, the British chancellor of the exchequer on the right, and Mr. Montague, director of the English bank in Paris, leaving the French finance ministry in Paris on the occasion of the chancellor's recent secret visit to the French capital; French reservists in a military training camp learning how to shoot; M. Bark, the Russian minister of finance (on the right) leaving a public building in Paris.

PEOPLE OF PORTUGAL ARE NOT ANXIOUS TO ENTER EUROPEAN WAR

Lisbon Dispatches Are Said to Have Been From British or French Sources.

(By the International News Service.)

Lisbon, Feb. 12.—(By Mail to New York.)—Dozens of dispatches have been sent out through English or French sources representing Portugal as about to plunge into the great war on the side of the allies. Americans may have wondered why this much heralded event failed to happen.

The British wish is father to the thought. There is a war party here, but the mass of the intelligent Portuguese realize clearly the folly of embarking on hostilities if the peace can possibly be kept. As in the case of Italy, sentiment for peace has been augmented steadily by the recurrent object lessons of misery caused by the war from Belgium, France, Poland and Servia.

A Grave Political Crisis.

The war question has caused a grave political crisis in the Portuguese republic, now 5 years old. The country is under a military government. The new cabinet is a war cabinet, but it found the opposition to its policy far greater than anticipated. One month after the war cabinet took office the president suspended it and called General Pimenta de Castro to form the military government which now rules.

The cabinet had put the control of the government into the hands of a secret revolutionary party called the "White Ants." The cabinet found its stumbling block in the army itself, for the Portuguese officers are opposed to joining an expedition to England.

The anti-war newspapers were severely suppressed, but nevertheless the insurrection against the war cabinet became so alarming that on January 20, 64 officers were arrested in Lisbon. Several officers retired when they learned they might be ordered to Great Britain.

General Castro's first act after assuming charge of the government was to release the 64 officers and restore their swords to them. He annulled the suspensions of the newspapers and reestablished the freedom of the press.

The insurrection is merely an echo of the great popular belief that, despite official statements, Portugal has no cause for war in Africa. The government has announced that Germans have invaded Angola and has given out the list of dead and wounded. But, despite popular hatred of Germany, the government has failed to convince the public that it did not take the first step.

This belief has been strengthened by the surreptitious circulation of private letters from reliable persons in Angola describing what has taken place.

Napoleon's Girth 41 Inches.

Paris, Feb. 27.—The belt worn by Napoleon at the battle of Waterloo, which shows that his girth then was 41½ inches, has been presented to the National Military Museum by Mme. Poilpot, widow of the military painter.

Would Reward Big Families in France

Decrease in Birth Rate Suggests Plan for Nation to Encourage the Raising of Children.

Paris, Feb. 27.—The problem of repopulation in France is receiving the attention of the Academy of Moral and Political Sciences. Figures were read at a meeting of the academy, showing that the number of births annually in the country during the past 20 years fell from 860,000 to 750,000. It was estimated that if a proportionate decrease continued for another 20 years the future military classes would be 30,000 below the classes of 1914, 1915 and 1916.

The question was considered so vital that it was suggested that important advantages should be accorded fathers of families having numerous children and that the idea be generalized that the normal family comprise three children. It was suggested also that the heads of such families be allowed to share in a proposed recompense.

M. Millerand, the French secretary of war, issued the following note:

"All reservists and territorials who are fathers of six children, even though already serving in the army, will be incorporated in the 1877 class, which will be the last class of reservists to be called to the colors."

A Million Germans To Defend Alsace

Extraordinary Preparations Are Being Made for an Offensive Campaign Against the French Invaders.

Paris, Feb. 27.—Refugees, who have been expelled from Alsace-Lorraine, assert that the Germans are making extraordinary preparations to resume the offensive in that region.

The wife of a foreman at the important machine works of Graffenstaben, a town south of Strassburg, and including Fort Von der Tann, says that more than 1,000,000 men are being assembled along the Rhine and that formidable entrenchments are being prepared. Every village is reported to have been put in shape to sustain a siege.

All the inhabitants whose German sympathies are doubtful, refugees say, are being expelled from the region and every person showing inquisitiveness is taken into custody and sent into Germany.

French Soldiers Genuine Spartans

Paris, Feb. 27.—Georges Clemenceau says, in an editorial in L'Homme Enchaine, that General Joffre recently opened several hundred letters from French soldiers and officers to their families, in order to see that no information as to military movements was thus being divulged. He found not a single word of complaint, grumbling or dissatisfaction, though the letters covered a considerable period and represented all grades and sections of the army. All breathed the spirit of self sacrifice combined with the firmest confidence.

M. Clemenceau comments: "What an emotion for our chief! What a force for our country! I know nothing finer in history."

TRAVELING HOSPITAL USED BY FRENCH FOR MOST SERIOUS CASES

Six Automobile Vans, One an Operating Theatre, Sent to the Front.

Paris, Feb. 27.—A new model traveling hospital has left Paris with the purpose of attending serious cases at the front. The expedition consists of six automobile vans, one of which is an operating theatre. One car is fitted with a heater for the sterilization of bandages and instruments. There are four cars for the personnel—five surgeons, two general practitioners and 40 trained hospital attendants.

The hospital will be established within the next fortnight, at a point about 10 miles from the trenches. If the experiment is successful the authorities intend to establish six similar hospitals, each in charge of a prominent surgeon.

This is the first time any belligerent has attempted to install a theatre for major operations so near the front. Doctor Gosset, a Legion of Honor officer of the Academy of Medicine, who is considered the greatest Paris surgeon, commands the expedition. The chief physician is a leading member of the younger school of bacteriologists. Dr. Louis Petit, formerly attached to the First Zouaves, with whom he served at the battle of Charleroi, in the great retreat in the battle of the Marne, and in the pursuit until he was wounded at Berry-au-Bac, on the Aisne.

In the course of the retreat Doctor Petit performed a heroic act at Fimes, for which his colonel promised to reward him with a recommendation to the Legion of Honor. He personally conveyed the wounded in a wheelbarrow across the river bridge under heavy fire, while the rest of the regiment was under cover, without injury to himself or wounded.

The automobiles used by the hospital form a part of a cargo of 500 sent from America for Germany, which the British seized at sea. They gave half to the French government. The staff is provided with complete apparatus for bacteriological work.

SIENKIEWICZ DEPICTS POLAND'S PLIGHT; HAS NO PART IN THE WAR

Author of "Quo Vadis" Tells How His Country Has Been Made Desolate.

London, Feb. 27.—The Daily News correspondent, Ernest Smith, writing from Berne, Switzerland, says:

"Henryk Sienkiewicz, the famous Polish novelist, author of 'Quo Vadis,' is, like tens of thousands of his compatriots, a refugee, driven from home by the war. He is at Vevey, with the members of the committee for the relief of victims of the war in Poland, of which he is president. No more appalling picture of death, destruction and devastation has ever been drawn than that outlined by Sienkiewicz. He says:

"'Poland has nothing to do with the war. She has been conquered and partitioned. She is not one of the belligerent nations—yet a million and a half of her sons are fighting fratricidal battles in the armies of three different warring states.

"'In Poland there are 15,000 villages burned and thousands of chapels and churches damaged. Out of its 10 provinces nine have been occupied by Germans, who seized everything they found, even to the peasants' chickens. The homeless villagers have sought shelter in the forests, where women and children are dying of cold and hunger by the thousands daily.

"'Not a scrap of meat nor a drop of milk remains for the civil population. The material losses are estimated at $500,000,000. Agriculture and every industry has been ruined.

"'The state of affairs in Gallicia is just as dreadful.'".

Typhus Epidemic in Bulgaria.

Paris, Feb. 27.—A Sofia dispatch to the Balkan agency says that an epidemic of typhus fever, which broke out among Servian prisoners of Bulgarian nationality sent to Sofia by the Austrian authorities, has spread to the civil population and is ravaging the regions around Sofia, Plevna and Philippopolis. Dysentery also is said to be prevalent.

Says Blockade Is Only to Make Stir

Rome Newspaper Declares Germany's Purpose is to Arouse Neutral Nations Against Great Britain.

Rome, Feb. 27.—Commenting on the diplomatic exchanges between the United States and Germany on the question of the submarine blockade of England, the Giornale d'Italia says:

"The German note to the United States does not deny the rights of neutrals, of which the great American republic has become the champion, nor does it renounce the threatened reprisals. The German purpose has now been revealed. All the noisy and somewhat ridiculous maneuvers of the imaginary maritime blockade had for their sole object the compelling of neutrals to make their voices heard in England asking the British government to permit provisions to enter Germany.

"Germany has been asserting that the danger of famine was absolutely non-existent. As a matter of fact, Berlin is seriously anxious and scarcity of food already is being felt among the less well-to-do of the German civilian population."

Admiralty Clerk Is "Find of the War"

Winston Churchill Gives Credit for the Safe Transportation of Troops to Former Minor Employe.

London, Feb. 27.—Winston Churchill, in the course of his speech in the house of commons gave credit for the wonderful success of the British transport arrangements to Gaeme Thomson of the admiralty, whom he described as "one of the discoveries of the war, a man who has stepped into the place when the emergency came, and has formed, organized and presided over performances and transactions the like of which were never contemplated by any state in history."

Thomson has achieved a wonderful rise during the last three months. In October he was superintending clerk in the transport department under Rear Admiral Savory. In November in the navy list he appeared as holding the position of assistant inspector of shipping. By January he had become head of this great department and director of transports.

George Anxious to Decorate Poincare

England's King Wants to Invest President of France with Insignia of Order of Garter.

London, Feb. 27.—King George is desirous of investing President Poincare with the insignia of the Order of the Garter. This dramatic compliment would involve a considerable departure from precedent and would necessitate the passing of a special statute. The actual function will probably take place during the king's next visit to the battle front, which is likely to be before Easter.

Edward III when he originated the Garter, did so while meditating an attack upon France, intending that it should serve in honor of his successes on French soil. The last time the Garter was bestowed on a Frenchman, the recipient was also England's military ally, Napoleon III.

TURK LEADER DENIES THAT KAISER CALLED OTTOMANS INTO WAR

Talaat Bey Says the Porte's Own Interests Led to Entering Conflict.

Constantinople, Feb. 27.—"Turkey declared war without being urged by Germany or impelled by any other influences save those of the empire," said Talaat Bey in a statement made in reply to questions concerning the political military situation in his country.

Talaat Bey today fills the posts of minister of the interior, minister of finance and minister of marine in the Turkish cabinet. Two weeks ago, in addition to these offices, he was also made minister of war, which gave him the four most important portfolios in the administration.

He is a "Young Turk" and is undoubtedly the most important man in Turkey at the present time. His advice is heeded everywhere, and he virtually directs the public affairs of the Ottoman empire.

Blames Russia and Britain.

"Turkey engaged in military operations," he continued, "only when actions on the part of Russia and Great Britain made defensive measures necessary, and today Turkey has taken all steps needful to carry the war through.

"The holy war is not menacing Christians, but the holy war is a fact which the enemies of the Mohammedan world should bear in mind.

"Christians in the Ottoman empire who are participating in the destinies of their country are not suffering from conditions brought about by the present state of affairs, and any statements to the contrary are a result of British, French and Russian intrigues, the purpose of which is to direct against Turkey the pressure of neutral countries of lower standing in the Ottoman world."

Complaints of American Press.

Talaat Bey complained of the attitude of foreign newspapers, including the American press, which he said were oblivious alike of the position of Turkey under the pressure of the entente powers and the efforts of the Young Turks to accomplish the reforms associated with that party.

"On land and sea alike the Russians and the British provoked hostilities," he declared. "Our action finally was the result of efforts to bottle up our fleet by mining the entrance to the Bosphorus.

"Turkey is prepared to carry on the war to the end of the European conflict. The fact of being able to face the enemy on four fronts simultaneously against forces three or four times greater than ours, and to mobilize at the same time an army of more than 1,000,000 men for a reserve, is for us as well as for our allies a matter of the greatest importance, and for our allies a precious advantage.

There is a tribe of Indians in Mexico whose language is limited to about 300 words and who cannot count more than ten.

NAVAL GUNNERS HAVE HARD JOB OF HITTING SHIPS AT TEN MILES

The Meaning of Good Shooting at Sea Explained by the London Correspondent.

TARGETS ALWAYS MOVING

Now It's the "Man Behind the Instruments," Not the "Man Behind the Gun."

By William G. Shepherd.

London, Feb. 14.—(By mail to New York.)—Place a 13½ inch gun on a ferry boat at the New York battery, ready for firing. Ten miles distant, in the Harlem river, at the other end of Manhattan island, place another ferry boat, which is to be the victim of this theoretical battle. Now tell the gunners on the battery ferry boat the exact location of the boat in the Harlem river and order them to sink it. Can they do it? They can, if they shoot as well as the English sailors of Sir David Beatty's fleet in the North sea battle of Sunday, January 24.

The first shell which the Lion sent into the Blucher was fired when the ships were 17,000 yards apart—51,000 feet, or nearly 10 miles. Our battery boat would have an easy job of shooting across the length of Manhattan island and sinking the Harlem river craft, for neither boat would be rocking in a heavy sea or moving at the rate of half a mile a minute, as were the cruisers in the North sea fight.

Shell's Flight Is Eight Seconds.

It required eight seconds for this first shell to the naked eye, to be mark looked to the naked eye, to be the size of the lead in a pencil. From the time the shell left the Lion, to the time it hit the Blucher the latter boat had traveled two city blocks, and when the gunner of the Lion fired his shell, the gun pointed not at where the Blucher was at that particular instant, but where it would be eight seconds later. In other words, the shell was so accurately timed that the Blucher ran in underneath the shell, as it fell and took it on her deck as if she were trying to save it from falling into the sea.

Let's imagine a gunner figuring out his chances of hitting the Blucher.

"She's traveling at the rate of half a mile a minute, and I'll have to allow for that," he says. "We're traveling at about the same rate, but in a different direction, and, if I load my gun now we'll have traveled a half mile before I shoot it, as I must allow for that. She's wobbling, too, in the sea, and I've got to allow for that. I can't point my gun at her and shoot, because it will take eight seconds for the shell to reach her. I've got to figure it out so that the shell will be in the air ready to meet her when she comes up to it."

Beyond the Human Brain.

It's beyond the human brain or the human eye to make such a mass of calculation as our imaginary gunner is trying to force upon himself. In fact, there is no such gunner. There is, indeed, no one man who serves a gun on one of the gigantic battleships of today.

Placed in the fighting masts, high above the deck, are the instruments which make all the calculations that are necessary for getting a shell to a right place at the right time. These instruments make allowances for the speed of the ship which is firing, for the speed of the fleeing ship, for the rolling of both ships and even for the wind and the moisture in the atmosphere. It's like working a problem in arithmetic. The instruments indicate a certain set of figures.

Without even looking at the target, which they can barely see—or, indeed, which they do not see, owing to the fact that they are closeted in the great steel turret—the men at the gun thrust the shell into its breach, cram in behind it the sacks of cordite and stand aside. Somewhere on the ship is some fire control, a man with a set of either levers or electric buttons cause the great gun to move about like a live thing and elevate or lower its slender tip as required.

When Ship and Shell Meet.

A second later the shell is in the air. It climbs to a height of, perhaps, a mile and a half. Its target, swaying with the roll of the sea, now on a wave top and then in a valley, rushes along toward the point where the two shall meet. It is like fate; the witch of mathematics has arranged and decreed it.

The ship and the shell meet. The explosion of the shell is terrific; it twists and wrenches steel as if it were tinsel.

But there is one more astonishing thing to happen before the effect of this shot has died out. Thirty-two seconds after the shell strikes, the men on the victim ship, if they listen, can hear the sound of a heavy muffled boom. It is the explosion of the gun, 10 miles distant, which sent the shell. The messenger of death traveled five times faster than sound itself.

Navy men throughout the world have known at what distance modern guns are effective, but, in general, the range of guns and the results of target practice have been secrets from the laymen.

Old Style Shooting Passes.

However, Sir David Beatty, in his report to the British admiralty, explained that we "began to hit at 17,000 yards." This remark, simple in itself, opens to the mind of the ordinary newspaper reader something of the wonders which the navies have secretly achieved during the past 10 years.

During the Japanese-Russian war no such shooting as was seen in the North sea recently was possible. In the Spanish-American war the "man behind the gun" who squinted through a telescope sight, pointed his "shooting iron" like a rifle and banged away at a ship two miles distant, received the praise for Dewey's victories. But his day has passed, within a short decade. It's cold science now. It's the man behind the instruments who counts.

France to Aid Ruined Firms.

Paris, Feb. 27.—A bill providing for a credit of 500,000,000 francs ($100,000,000), from which loans can be made to small business interests ruined by the war, thereby enabling them to start again, will be introduced in the chamber of deputies by Georges Berry.