

PEOPLE OF TREVISO, ITALY, HAD TO WEAR GAS MASKS

(Special Correspondence of the Italian American News Bureau, Chicago.)

MILAN, Italy.—How gas masks were worn generally by the people of Treviso is described by Alighiero Castellani, writing from the Italian front. "Treviso which," he writes, "is so near the firing line and has suffered from the bombing planes of the enemy like Mestre, Venice and Padua, has passed anxious nights. The city was an immediate objective of the enemy's offensive; therefore its safety as a result of the valor of the army is the cause of exultation and rejoicing from all the citizens.

"At the beginning of the offensive about June 15, the enemy dropped on the city and its suburbs several bombs, which, fortunately, did little damage. "When fighting was in progress in close proximity to the city, poisonous gases were blown over the town by the wind and most of the inhabitants had a taste of their fumes. Masks were worn and proved an adequate protection.

People Kept at Trade.

"The people continued confident of the result. Even during the Austrian offensive their traffic in silk cocoons was kept bustling, as in times of peace. Count Baresano de Rignan, the prefect, enforced the precautions provided by the army. Commanders whose district included the province of Treviso, to protect the inhabitants and preserve normal living conditions as far as was compatible with the exigencies of war, both in the city and the country.

"The cultivation of the fields continued without interruption and the peasants received every kind of encouragement. Where the battle raged, as at Fagnano and Monastir, the inhabitants were obliged to leave their lands. Soldiers immediately took their places and did the necessary work between the flying bullets of the enemy, whom they answered from time to time. They took care of the silk worms too, without any doubt about their ability when the time comes to drive out the enemy. Like the Roman legionaries, they were soldiers and farmers.

Peasants Stay at Work in War.

"During the fierce struggle our people remained in the invaded districts beyond the Piave, seeking to learn from one Italian prisoner or another, something about the resistance we were making. Their intuition gathered much more from the rubble and the curses of the Austrian officers. When the Austrians were obliged to fall back in waves on the cities, the villages and the country districts between the Piave and the Tagliamento, they heard deafening

shouts on all sides for Italian victory.

"The outburst to which the population was subjected are incredible. Obligated to restrain their thoughts and stifle their heart throbs, they continued to endure the depths of adversity with pride, expecting that the day of deliverance would come and that soon. They studied every means of eluding the rigorous vigilance of the Austrian censorship, some of them re-

calling the ruses of Italian conspirators in the early days of the Risorgimento.

"A gentleman of the Udine and a refugee received a postal card from the invaded territory. The card told him things were going well, that the peasants were tilling the fields, that the women were drawing big wages in the spinning mills, that life was not bad at all.

"Beneath the writing was the stamp of the Austrian military censor who must have leaped for joy when he read such a roseate description of the life people led in the claws of the double eagle.

"However, the writer had put at the bottom one word in the dialect of Friuli, which the censor could not decipher. It means 'The opposite is the truth.'

Little Stories That Will Interest You

BY ROY S. DURSTINE

PARIS.—(By Mail).—Down in 'one of the French port towns is a Y. M. C. A. hut entirely devoted to serving the navy. Behind the counter of the canteen is a small, gray haired woman who used to have a boy in the navy.

His ship was torpedoed last spring. It sank so quickly that there was time only to cut away two or three rafts. The officers and crew went into the water together. It was every man for himself. But there was not room on those rafts for everybody.

This woman's son, who was an officer, swam from one raft to another, making sure that every possible man was saved. Then, because his raft was sagging with the overweight, he dropped quietly over the side and let himself go down.

The navy knows that story. It knows that this mother is trying to take up her son's job where he left off—taking care of the blue-jackets. You ought to see the way those boys look at her and speak to her as she works in that Y. M. C. A. hut.

PARIS.—(By Mail).—How sincere the gratitude of the French people is toward the Americans is shown in a note which accompanied a gift of flowers from the inhabitants of a French village to the Y. M. C. A. secretary of a foyer du soldat, on the occasion of the feast day of Joan of Arc.

"Last night I had a signal proof of the sincere affection these people entertain for us Americans," the secretary wrote in telling of the presentation. "This being a feast day, several young folk of our village landed on me with a surprise more beautiful than you could imagine. Had a general and his staff come in a limousine to adorn me with the Croix de Guerre I could not have been more pleased or honored.

"Bearing bouquets of roses, about 500 single flowers, they came, with the youngest, a girl, presenting, together with the flowers a manuscript adorned with the tri-color. I was dumb with pleasure and amazement when the little one read their mes-

sage. It was, of course, in French. I give you the translation, as follows:

"Mr. John, in honor of St. Joan, allow us to address to you our best wishes for your happiness on this her feast day. We do not know how we can convey to you our gratitude for the kindness which you have always shown us and for your friendship toward us. Also we feel embarrassed to offer you our assurances of affection. However, be assured that they come from the hearts of your big friends and little friends and are as sincere as can be.

"You have left your family, your country, your friends, to add your name to the names of our heroes. Yours is a noble task, and you have a right to our admiration which we are but feebly expressing through these few flowers. They are but the token of the friendship which we entertain toward you and all the American people. Viva l'Amerique! Viva la France!"

PARIS.—(By Mail).—The French knack of giving a witty turn to the most sinister aspect of life was exemplified in an artistic although some-



RISK LIVES TESTING

POISON VOLCANO GAS NAPLES.—In order to examine and discover the nature of a new explosive hydrogen-like gas emitted from Vesuvius, A. F. Perrett, an American scientist, and Alexander Malledra, at the risk of their lives, examined the various gases of the great volcano now in the worst eruption since November.

The Americans and Italians spent nine hours near the bottom of the mine crater of the volcano. They have returned.

PAPER BEDCLOTHES

VOGUE IN LEIPSIG Visitors to the Leipzig fair are requested by the Leipzig hotel keepers to bring their own bedclothes with them. The hotels, however, are making trials with paper bedclothes.

American forces in France are now conducting "balloon propaganda" in Germany, similar to that carried out on a great scale by the British. Pamphlets and leaflets containing official information, maps and cartoons are sent out over the German lines. In one week the British distributed 1,250,000 pamphlets.

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