

THOUSANDS OF FOREIGNERS IN TORONTO TO OFFER SERVICES

Formation of Local Contingent is Now in Progress

MR. MICHAEL BASSO IS WORKING HARD

In Italian Colony—Will Fight for Great Britain

Unable to return to their respective countries to fight against the German invader, about fifteen thousand foreigners in Toronto are banding together and will offer their services to the British Government for duty at the front. This course has been decided upon owing to the fact that numerous foreigners who wished to enlist in the Canadian contingent were told by the officers at the Armouries that however much their offer was appreciated it could not be accepted. The patriots, however, were not daunted by this decision and the formation of a foreign contingent is now in progress.

One of the hardest workers in rounding foreigners up in Toronto is Mr. Michele Basso, Italian interpreter. He is mostly concerned with the Italians and he told The News to-day that already a couple of thousand of his countrymen had notified him that they were willing to fight for Great Britain. Outlining

his plans Mr. Basso made the following statement.

Meeting to be Called.

"So far we have not fully decided just what we will do. The Italians are waiting to hear what will be the outcome of the trouble between their country and Germany. Should the latter declare war on Italy, natives of that country in Toronto would like to go to their motherland to fight in its defence. But I feel sure that Germany will not declare war and as we wish to do our share for Great Britain we are calling a meeting within a couple of days when foreigners will be given a chance to enlist."

"Remember, although I think it very unlikely, should Italy decide to assist Germany, not a single Italian in Toronto will go to Italy's aid. We will fight for Italy only when she sides with England. And if our country is not drawn into the struggle then we will fight for the British Empire."

"Even though I have passed my seventieth year I am going to enlist in the foreign contingent," concluded the interpreter.

Hebrew Volunteers.

The fifteen thousand foreigners who Mr. Basso declares will form the foreign contingent, will be composed of Italians, Russians, French, Swiss, Belgians, Dutch, Servians and any other foreigners whose sympathies are with Great Britain.

In addition to these there will be a special regiment of Hebrew volunteers. Mr. Louis Gurofsky, the well known Hebrew steamship agent and formerly a sergeant in the 10th Royal Grenadiers, is fitting out the regiment at his own expense. Any Hebrews who wish to enlist are asked to communicate with him. He has already notified Lieutenant Tromp at military headquarters of his move and has asked the latter to take them over and despatch them to any place he thinks fit.