

ITALIANS IN CANADA MAY RAISE REGIMENT

If Militia Will Accept Services
They Are Ready

GIVE TO PATRIOTIC FUND

Big Meeting Under Auspices of Italian
National Clubs Proclaims Adher-
ence to British Arms in European
War Struggle.

Toronto italians held a meeting in St. George's Hall yesterday afternoon for the purpose of arranging for an appeal to all Italian citizens in behalf of the Patriotic Fund. The gathering owed its inception to the Italian National Club, and many prominent representative Italians were present.

Would Fight Despotism.

Mr. Michael Basso occupied the chair and was supported by Mr. H. Corti, editor of *La Tribuna Canadiana*, the **Toronto** Italian weekly newspaper. These two gentlemen addressed the meeting in their native language. Mr. Corti said it would not do for Germany to win; that they, as Italians, dwelt in a country that was free from excessive militarism, and if Germany and Austria won it would mean that even Italy would come under her German despotism.

Want to Raise Regiment.

Mr. Basso said he had no hesitation in saying that Italians were pro-British in every way. They all realized and appreciated the freedom they enjoyed under the British flag. He further stated they would have no trouble in raising a regiment of Italians in **Toronto** to go and fight for Britain against Germany. Many of his fellow-countrymen had asked him if that were possible. Some of them would have offered themselves to the military authorities but for the difficulty of language. But, should it be necessary, the Italians of **Toronto** may yet send a regiment to Europe. In the meantime they were taking the present opportunity of showing their respect and sympathy with Britain, who was fighting against a tyrannical ruler. Italians in **Toronto** had waited to see what part Italy would take in the conflict, and if she had joined the allies their first duty was to their homeland, but now it was their duty to support Great Britain.

Money for Patriotic Fund.

A canvass will be made during this week and a report will be received next Sunday at the Canadian National Club, when the money will be handed over to the fund.

The platform was decorated with a background of the flags of the allies, in which the Italian flag was included.

In conversation with some of the Italians present The Globe found them fully acquainted with the European situation. They agreed that it would have been impossible for Italy to fight against Britain, to which she owed her unity under Garibaldi. They also said that Germany had secretly helped the **Turks** during the late war between Italy and Turkey. Italy knew this, and had not forgotten it.