

ITALIAN RESERVISTS HAVE FINE SEND-OFF

Addressed by Leading Citizens
at Exhibition Grounds

FINE PATRIOTISM SHOWN

Mayor Church, Mr. N. W. Rowell,
President Jos. Oliver, Dr. D. Marino
and Other Prominent Men Speak
on the Issues of the War.

Marching like veterans and bedecked with the flags of the allies, one hundred Italian reservists, who have responded to the call of their country for duty at the front, made a wonderful impression at the Exhibition grounds yesterday. The occasion was quite in keeping with the military spirit which pervaded the events on the day of the official visit of his Royal Highness the Duke of Connaught, Governor-General of Canada. The reservists, accompanied by many of their fellow-countrymen, manifested a remarkable spirit of patriotism and self-sacrifice in the noble cause for which they have offered their services.

Headed by Creator's Band and marshalled by Dr. D. Marino, Italian Consul in Toronto, and Dr. Gigliotti of Erie, Pa., leader of the Garibaldi party in the United States, the reservists marched from the Dufferin Memorial Gates and were reviewed on the promenade in front of the director's box in the Grand Stand. They were tendered a royal welcome by Col. Dr. J. O. Orr, Manager of the Exhibition, and President Oliver on behalf of the Exhibition Directorate.

Mayor Speaks in Italian.

Mayor Church, in extending the greetings of the citizens of Toronto to the reservists, filled a new role. His Worship spoke in English and Italian, and his remarkable command of the latter amazed those within his hearing. It was a great day for the Mayor as well as the reservists.

"We are proud of the Italian people," said his Worship. "They have done a lot in times of peace in helping to build up this city and Canada. The Italian reservists in Toronto and in the smallest hamlet throughout Canada have nobly responded to the call of their native country for service at the front. Italy has always been an ideal neighbor of Great Britain, and you have every reason to be proud of your great leader, King Victor Emmanuel."

"Three cheers for King George" was called for by the leader of the reservists, and the response was glorious.

President Oliver Speaks.

"On behalf of the directors of the Canadian National Exhibition," said President Oliver, "we thank you for your presence here to-day. You have displayed wonderful patriotism in answering the call of your country to assist in fighting for the liberty and freedom you have enjoyed ever since you came to this country.

"We are glad Italy is fighting side by side with Great Britain, Belgium, France, Russia and Serbia, and we trust that God will watch over and keep you out of danger during your voyage across the ocean."

Mr. Rowell Speaks on Liberty.

Mr. N. W. Rowell, K.C., introduced by his Worship Mayor Church as the able leader of the Opposition in the Provincial Legislature, was accorded a warm welcome.

"I am sorry that I cannot address you in your native tongue," exclaimed Mr. Rowell.

"English just as good," broke in a voice from the crowd.

"Every Italian loves liberty," said Mr. Rowell. "Your fathers fought for it, yes, struggled for it, and their united efforts produced a loving-liberty that you still adorn as a monument of their self-sacrifice. I know that when you, as sons of a great fighting nation, get into the thickest of the fray you will display the courage of your fathers and forefathers. You will be fighting side by side with the allies for a great and gracious cause—freedom, which I hope you will be spared to enjoy in the days that lie before you."

Italian Consul's Address.

When Dr. D. Marino, the Italian Consul in Toronto, was introduced, the band struck up "God Save the King" and the national air of Italy, amidst prolonged cheering.

"I am sorry that all the great nations of the world that have been enjoying liberty and freedom have been forced into a great crisis, the magnitude of which is the greatest in the history of the world," said Dr. Marino. "On one side, it is force and oppression; on the other, liberty and freedom, which we, as citizens under the united flags of Italy and Great Britain, have been taught to cherish and adore.

"The war of to-day is one that demands that the individual arise to the occasion. It is a great and grand duty, a powerful duty, and the young men have gloriously demonstrated to the world that they are prepared to follow in the footsteps of their forefathers—noble warriors who never faltered when the cause of liberty was at stake. In the name of liberty I greet my valiant countrymen, who have shown the greatest proof of loyalty and self-sacrifice to the allied forces by responding to the call for battle. Long live King George and King Victor Emmanuel." (Prolonged cheering.)

Other Citizens Speak.

Short addresses of welcome were also delivered by Sir John Eaton, Col. Dr. J. O. Orr, Col. W. K. McNaught and Dr. Gigliotti.

Among the local Italian societies which took part in the parade were: Vittoria Emanuele III., Umberto Primo, Operaia and Trinacria.

Earlier in the day the reservists, together with a crowd of 2,000 spectators, had listened to addresses in front of the City Hall by Mayor Church, Mr. A. Claude Macdonell, M.P., Mr. Edmund Bristol, M.P., Dr. Marino and others.