

INDISCREET ALIEN INVITED TROUBLE

Insult to Italy's King Brought
Threatening Mob About

Austrian

WAS SAVED BY DETECTIVE

Charged With Destroying Prop-
erty, to Wit, One Postcard
—Crowd Was Loath to
Disperse

Several incidents which have occurred in the city recently should demonstrate to all enemy aliens the advisability of eschewing any violent outbursts of patriotism when they come in contact with the sons of Britain's newest ally. In two cases during the past week, timely interference by the police has probably saved the lives of Austrians who were beset by Italians, eager to vent their wrath for an indignity put upon their nationality. Wasil Nicoluk, aged 26 years, of 2854 Esplanade avenue, is the latest subject of Francis Joseph to incur the displeasure of Italians, and his life was undoubtedly saved by Detective Nassa, who rescued him from a large and angry crowd and placed him under arrest.

The affair occurred at 6 o'clock last evening at St. Urbain and Atlantic streets, in the north end Italian colony. An Italian was peddling to his fellow-countrymen pictures and postcards depicting war scenes on the Italian front. Approaching Nicoluk under the impression that he was an Italian, the pedlar attempted to sell him some pictures. The response was one which made the patriotic blood of the Italian boil with rage. "To h— with Italy. To h— with the King," said Nicoluk. "I am an Austrian." So saying, he snatched a postcard bearing the likeness of King Emmanuel from the Italian's hands and tore it into bits, then made off down the street.

With a yell the Italian went after him, threatening vengeance. Hundreds of Italian workmen were upon the streets in the vicinity, seeking their homes after their day's work, and it was but a moment before they had learned what had happened, and were rushing after the fleeing Austrian.

The Italians had their man cornered when Detective Nassa came along. The Italian detective was none too soon, for in another moment the Austrian would have gone down under sheer weight of numbers, and, once down, it is very doubtful whether he would have ever risen again. It was a time for prompt action, and in order to avoid the commission of a murder, Detective Nassa had the choice of arresting some 400 Italians and allowing the Austrian to go, or arresting the Austrian and keeping his assailants off. Nassa chose the latter course. In order to protect his prisoner until he arrived at the Beaubien street police station, the Italian detective had to use more diplomacy than force. He is well known to the inhabitants of the Italian colony, and he reasoned them into staying their hands until he reached the station, although the crowd, growing larger at every block, followed, hooting and shouting threats at the Austrian. It required a fifteen-minute lecture by Detective Nassa, after he had disposed of his prisoner, to induce them to return to their homes.

The Austrian was locked up on a

charge of destroying property, Nassa having been told of the picture-tearing episode. He will appear in the Recorder's Court this morning, and will probably be a candidate for an internment camp, which will doubtless be a safer place for him than would Montreal after yesterday's outbreak.

ITALIAN WAS BEATEN.

Another case of a similar nature occurred last week in St. Genevieve street, where a house was occupied by two Austrian families and one Italian family. Learning of an Italian success at the front one day, the head of the Italian household went home, and, after telling his wife the good news, he gave vent to several "Viva Italias." The Austrians, who were not working, inquired the source of his rejoicing and, when they learned that it was over a battle in which the Austrian forces had been defeated, they set upon the Italian and gave him a severe beating.

This occurred at a time when most of the Italians of the street were away at work, but when they arrived home for supper they learned the news. At about 7 o'clock that night, a concerted yell from a hundred Italian throats aroused the district, and scores of Italians, armed with bricks, clubs and knives, surged around the Austrian domicile, trying to gain entrance or induce the occupants to show themselves.

The police arrived just as the first volley of stones was hurled at the house and the riot was temporarily quelled, but the Italians promised that that would not be the end of it. In the morning the Austrians made no move, and while the majority of the Italians were at their day's work, the Austrians removed their wives, children and household goods to parts unknown.