

2,000 ITALIANS PACK TO LEAVE FOR FRONT

Order Has Been Received to "Prepare"—No Word of Transportation.

Toronto Italians are stepping high and wearing their weskits well protruded to-day over the following typewritten notice pasted to the front of the Consulate early last night:

MOBILIZZAZIONE GENERALE RISERVE DEL R. ESERCITO AND R. MARINA.

Tutti i riservisti delle classi anteriori al 1885 sono invitati a tenersi pronti per rispondere alla chiamata sotto le armi.

Riservisti con famiglia sono avisati che il Patriotic Fund accordera alle loro famiglie i medesimi privilegi accordati alle famiglie dei soldati Canadesi.

Ufficiali di complemento hanno l'obbligo di partire immediatamente e presentarsi alle sedi dei loro distretti arrivati in Italia. Saranno rimborsati delle spese di viaggio e riceveranno un'indennita' di campagna.

Which says: That all Italian reservists, military and naval, over 20 years of age, are to hold themselves in readiness to answer Italy's call instantly; that all who have wives and families will be cared for by the Patriotic Fund; and that all holding commissions in the Italian army or navy return at once, and they will be reimbursed at home for the expenses of their return.

Therefore, to-day, roughly 2,000 Italians are packing their trunks. Signor Primo Nardello, the Vice-Consul, is continually besieged by reservists. To all he recommends a careful perusal of the notice.

"It says, simply, prepare," said the Consul.

"I have no further word. But when the call comes this office will provide all reservists with traveling expenses."

It is, in fact, known that the Consul-General at Montreal is negotiating with the C.P.R. to transport reservists from all over Canada to Montreal, and from there by C.P.R. lines, to some Italian port. If some such arrangement is made, we may see the reservists on their way within a week.

The Consul-General in the United States has issued the same order. To avoid clashing with the neutrality of the United States, it is believed that reservists in that country, numbering at least 100,000, and perhaps much more than that, out of a population of 2,000,000, will mobilize in Canada, probably at Valcartier. Some announcement in regard to this is expected at any time.

In Toronto there are no commissariat officers, as far as is known. Consul Nardello knows of none.

In Canada there are about 5,000 military reservists fit for active service. When the call comes the transportation will not be issued until the men have passed a medical examination before Dr. Harley Smith.

Four vessels of Italian lines are listed to sail from the United States in June. Commissioned reservists will take advantage of these. However, special boats will be chartered for the general reserves if some such company as the C.P.R. does not undertake the whole job.