

ITALIAN RESERVISTS WERE GIVEN HEARTY SEND-OFF LAST NIGHT

Victoria Theatre Was Crowded—Address Full of Enthusiasm and Confidence

51st REGIMENT
OFFICERS PRESENT

Men Leave for the Front Tomorrow, and an Appropriate Farewell Arranged

It was an enthusiastic gathering that met in the Italian theatre on Murray street last evening to bid farewell to the 104 reservists of the Italian army who are leaving tomorrow on the noon train for Montreal en route to join the army in Italy. Not only did the Italians turn out in force to attend the function, but there were also quite a number of the English speaking citizens present. The band of the 51st Regiment was present for a while and played a number of selections. The major portion of the musical programme, however, was contributed by the excellent Italian orchestra.

When the party of reservists leave tomorrow both the Italian band and the 51st Regiment band will be at the C. P. R. station to bid farewell to them, and there will probably be a large attendance of citizens.

Mr. William Grassi, local Royal Italian Consul Agent, was chairman, and there were a number of speakers, both Italian and English speaking all of whom emphasized the righteousness of the allied cause, and the glory that was the due of those who went to fight in its support.

The first to speak was Rev. Fr. Martinez, who addressed the meeting in Italian, and he was followed by Mr. A. Ianni, one of the most popular of the local Italian colony. Sergt. E. Zoratti, one of the reservists, spoke briefly expressing the appreciation of the men at having the support and good will not only of their Italian fellow citizens, but also of their English speaking compatriots. Mr. V. Vincentelli spoke both in Italian and in English.

Lt.-Col. Penhorwood, who was the first of the English speaking visitors to speak, remarked that while in the past he had been among the Italians looking for votes for himself he was now looking for votes for the allied cause, and he expressed pleasure at the part the Italian allies were taking in the war.

Mayer McPhail referred particularly to the loyalty that the Italian citizens

had shown not only to their own nation but also to the British Empire, and spoke of the fighting qualities they had shown in the campaign around Trent and Trieste. In the course of his remarks the mayor said that Col. Penhorwood has volunteered to go in the front in the capacity of a second lieutenant if the militia department would permit him.

Mr. A. C. Boyce, M. P., dealt with Italy's part in the spread of civilization, and pointed out that Britain received its first civilizing impulse and its first message of Christianity from Italy.

Mr. W. H. Munro, an old favorite with the local Italians, brought a laugh by offering to pay \$1.50 for every hair of the Kaiser's mustache which the reservists should bring back. Magistrate Elliot, Crown Attorney F. J. S. Martin, Capt. G. H. Hayward and Capt. H. Sargeant also addressed the meeting briefly.

In the course of his address in English Mr. V. Vincenzetti said:

"We are glad to have with us today some of the leading citizens of St. Ste. Marie, Ont., and officers of the 51st Regiment Soo Rifles to join with us in bidding farewell to our fellow citizens who are about to cross the seas to fight the battle of liberty against the German and Austrian Empires, side by side with the French and British allies.

"Most of us here are natives of Italy and citizens of the British Empire and our hearts are doubly in the fight when we realize we are fighting for our native country and our adopted country at the same time.

"Italian soldiers have already shown the world that they are second to none in the great war and we know the contingent from St. Ste. Marie will nobly do its share. British and Italian connection is of long standing. Italy introduced civilization in the British Isles and later the Christian religion and Italy has now entered the struggle to assist her ally Great Britain to preserve the liberties of the world.

"With such allies fighting together the war can have only one result: and we hope to again ask you to come here to welcome home our Italian contingent on their return, not only from Trent and Trieste but from Vienna.