

SAYS ITALIANS ARE DETAINED

Consular Agent at Welland Blames Their Canadian Employers

ARE AIDING THE CAUSE OF ENEMY

Writer Urges That Coercion be Applied to Such Workmen

Mr. Giovanni Danovaro, Royal Consular Agent of Italy, at Welland, Ont., in a letter to The Daily News charges that in certain cases superintendents, managers and foremen of Canadian factories have been responsible for failure of Italian reservists to answer to the call of their country. He suggests that the Dominion Government prohibit the employment in Canadian factories or on Government or municipal work of men subject to military service.

Mr. Danovaro's letter under the caption "Renegades and Helpers of the German Cause," reads as follows:

"From the month of May, immediately after Italy's declaration of war on Austria, all the representatives of the Royal Italian Government in foreign countries published the decree of mobilization addressed to Italian reservists. Here in Canada notices were published in the newspaper, meetings were held and calls sent out by the Consul-General in Montreal, the Vice-Consul in Toronto and by all the Consular Agents. To this call there responded about seven thousand reservists, who in a few months were sent to Italy. Many of them are to-day at the front. But there still remain several thousands who up to the present have turned a deaf ear to the decree of mobilization and who certainly will not budge from Canada unless some sort of coercive measures are to be employed.

Foremen Are Blamed.

"Desirous of searching out the motives which are holding back these cowardly renegades who refuse to fulfil their sacred duties of citizenship, I have been investigating the matter, and have learned to my surprise that in many Canadian factories the superintendents, managers or foremen themselves, through fear of not having workmen enough, counsel these soldiers not to go. Would it not be well if the Canadian Government were to decree that in no Canadian factories, Government or municipal works employ should there be given to men subject to military service?

"Is it not evident that the retaining in Canada of thousands of Italian soldiers is tantamount to treason to the Allies, who, at this very moment, have need of men to insure the ultimate victory?

Aiding German Cause.

"Is it not manifest that superintendents, managers and foremen of factories, in giving employment to these apostate conscript, are aiding the German cause? Is it not plain that by refusing to give work to these cowards they would force them to serve under the banner of Italy or of Canada? Here, from Hamilton to Niagara Falls, my Consular district, I am aware that in several factories there are men of from 20 to 39 years of age who have been recalled, and who, if they found themselves without work to-morrow, would go, willy, nilly, home to do their shares at the front, and take their place along

side the Allied soldiers in Europe
and carry on the work of patriotism,
civilization and of justice.

• "Giovanni Danovaro,
"Royal Consular Agent of Italy,
Welland, Ont."

Welland, Dec. 20, 1915