



ITALIAN DEPUTES EMPOWER KING TO DECLARE WAR

VAST CROWDS SPREAD NEWS WITH "VIVAS"

Parliament Passes Measure Granting Government Authority to Open Hostilities With Austria by Vote of 365 to 54. Mobilization Reported Under Way.

Great Bodies of Troops on Austrian Border—Pope Casts Influence With War Party and Issues Prayer for Success of Country, Which Is Distributed Among Army. Ultimatum to Vienna Next Step.

The Italian Parliament this afternoon gave the King authority to declare war on Austria without further notice. The measure was passed by a vote of 365 to 54.

Great crowds in Rome greeted the announcement with cheers. Formal declaration of war is expected to follow within 24 hours. The Pope has issued a prayer for Italian success in war.

The Italian Green Book was made public in summary form. It blames Austria for the present crisis.

It is reported that mobilization orders will be issued at once. Already martial law prevails along the frontier and the railway lines.

Great pro-war demonstrations took place in Rome as the Deputies assembled. The King received a great ovation.

ROME, May 20.—Parliament by a vote of 365 to 54 this afternoon passed the bill giving the Government full power to act.

The news was immediately flashed to the great crowd awaiting the Deputies' return and massed about the Chamber. Cheers and shouts of "vivas" greeted the city and the message went rushing on to the Italian frontier towns.

The Government measure was introduced shortly after Parliament went into session. With scarcely any debate it was passed by a vote of 365 to 54.

The measure gave formal approval to the war program of the Salandra Cabinet. The decision now rests with the Chamber. Definite announcement, perhaps within 24 hours.

The procedure today was identical with that used in 1859, when the Government first received power to act from Parliament, declared war against Austria.

The correspondent here of the Paris paper that King Victor Emmanuel is preparing to issue immediately a manifesto for the national unity.

Pope Benedict has cast the weight of his influence on the side of his native Italy.

Concluded on Page Two, Column Two

Concluded on Page Three, Column Five

Concluded on Page Four, Column Two

Concluded on Page Five, Column One

Concluded on Page Six, Column Three

Concluded on Page Seven, Column Four

Concluded on Page Eight, Column Five

THOUSANDS WONDER AT MYSTERIOUS HALOES SURROUNDING SUN



"TRAIL HITTER" SHOT DEAD BY WOMAN ON HIS RETURN FROM CHURCH

Chester Shocked by Murder of James Bowen by Mrs. Stringfellow. Thousands at City Hall to See Murderess.

CHESTER, May 20.—"He ruined my life, promised to marry me and then would not, and so I shot him. He's dead. He got his deserts."

Thus Mrs. Kate Stringfellow, who shot down James Bowen after having seen him return from church services last night with another woman on his arm, confessed to the murder today, while thousands of persons stood packed in the street outside City Hall, waiting to catch a glimpse of the woman.

Bowen was one of the converts at the recent Nicholson-Hemminger revival in Chester. He had "hit the trail" at the tabernacle and his conversion was followed by the report that he was to be married, but not to Mrs. Stringfellow.

The conversion of Bowen made no impression on Mrs. Stringfellow. In fact, the insanely jealous woman seemed to have found in this further cause for wrath against the man, for it was joined with the fact that Bowen was to "settle down" and get married. Both had children, the young daughter and son of Bowen having been at their father's home, 719 East 7th street, last night, while their father was at church with Mrs. Charles Rostron.

WOMAN HIDING IN MAN'S BARN. The children, James, 12 years old, and Mildred, 11, went to the barn in the rear of the building at 10 o'clock to get a bucket of coal. Mildred was filling the bucket and James was standing nearby, when the woman, who was to "settle down" and get married, both had children, the young daughter and son of Bowen having been at their father's home, 719 East 7th street, last night, while their father was at church with Mrs. Charles Rostron.

The flare of the match revealed the white face of a woman in black. She was crouched under a table, and she held in her hand a revolver. They saw it was Mrs. Stringfellow.

"Why, what are you doing here?" cried Mildred.

For answer, the woman darted out of the barn. The children never dreamed that she was there in the hope of surprising Bowen when he came to get coal, and shooting him down. Mrs. Stringfellow then traced Bowen and Mrs. Rostron to Trinity Methodist Church, so she went to Mrs. Rostron's home, knowing that he would see her home, and hid herself in the shadow of the porch of the house at 415 West 2d street.

At 11 o'clock Bowen and Mrs. Rostron came along arm in arm. They did not talk long on the porch and presently the door closed, and Bowen, alone, stopped to light a cigar. The woman, who was lying in wait for him, evidently sprang forward before he had had a second puff of the cigar, for later it was found

among the superstitious was that the agape and staring, with heads tilted heavenward, this morning and this afternoon, gazing at two great clearly defined dark rings around the sun.

Slightly a street corner or open space anywhere but was crowded with men, women and children curious and speculative as to the cause of the unprecedented phenomenon. The superstitious were filled with terror, believing that the unusual spectacle was a portent of war or some dread calamity. In some sections, particularly in the negro and foreign districts the alarm amounted almost to frenzy.

According to Dr. Monroe H. Snyder, professor of astronomy at the Central High School and director of the Philadelphia Observatory, the phenomenon is due to an area of abnormally low temperature in the atmosphere miles from the earth. This theory of low temperature existing in the upper ether is justified by the unseasonable temperature that has obtained locally for the last week or so. The low temperature freezes the moisture, forming ice crystals. The sun's rays refracting through the crystals form a shadow which is concentrated in the rings.

Professor Snyder said that while such rings were extremely common in higher latitudes, particularly in the northern regions, they were extremely rare in this part of the earth.

"Never in my long experience," he said, "have I seen anything to equal it. There are two rings. The smaller and best defined is at a distance of about 22 degrees from the sun. The larger and less distinct is about 46 degrees away."

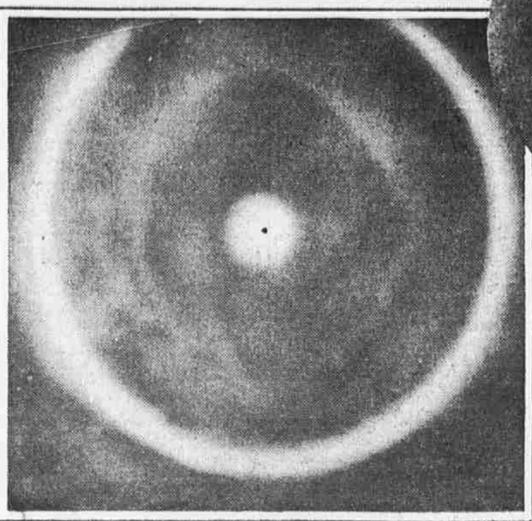
George S. Bliss, head of the local weather bureau, offered essentially the same explanation as did Professor Snyder. He said that the phenomenon was similar to a rainbow formation, except that a rainbow is caused by refraction, where the rays of the sun shine directly through the tiny clouds which act as a prism. The present spectacle, he said, is a shadow of refractive formation.

When the phenomenon first became apparent about 10 o'clock newspaper offices, the Weather Bureau and every other source of information that was held as authentic was besieged with telephone calls and personal queries as to what the rings were and what they meant.

MANY SEE WAR'S PORTENT. Many recalled that the last time a similar spectacle occurred in this section was just before the Civil War, and thousands of persons firmly believe the rings are a portent and foretell this country's participation in a world war.

Residents of the Italian section interpreted it as a sign directed especially at them, some believing it foretold Italy's participation in the war with disastrous results and others taking the opposite view that it indicated success to their arms.

One negro in West Philadelphia was firmly convinced that the end of the world was at hand. Another insisted that it was another rainbow such as appeared to Noah and that it was a message from heaven that peace was at hand.



The upper photo shows some of the heaven-gazers. Below is a typical quaint illustration. The picture of the sun-rings was taken by an Evening Ledger staff photographer.

CITY EXCITED BY SPECTACLE OF DARK RINGS AROUND SUN

Science Attributes Them to Cold Temperatures in Upper Air, But Startled Laymen Perceive Portent of Grim Visaged War.

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But the most prevalent interpretation

BURNS DIGS UP NEW EVIDENCE ON 'LEXOWERS'

Porter Confers With Detective in New York on Disclosures About Politicians.

The progress of the work of investigating political corruptionists in this city overshadowed in interest today the fact that the "Lexow" commission resolution, which was passed by the Legislature, will not require the signature of Governor Brumbaugh.

So completely has the political boom-erang thrown by Senator Edwin H. Ware at Mayor Blankenburg recoiled upon the Republican Organization that from the talk about City Hall it might have been supposed that it had been the Administration that opened the investigation rather than its enemies.

Director of Public Safety Porter went to New York today to confer with Detective William J. Burns concerning the mass of evidence which he has collected and placed before Mayor Blankenburg, and to look over it, it was said, important new evidence which has been discovered.

So that the news from Harrisburg today, that Attorney General Brown had decided that the resolution creating the "Lexow" commission was effective without the Governor's signature, was welcomed by Independents as well as by Organization men, and if anything more heartily by the former, because the removal of the possible obstacle from the path of the powerful political body which will "investigate" the conduct of municipal affairs here makes certain the opportunity of Detective Burns to make public the evidence he has collected against the Organization leaders.

The news that Governor Brumbaugh will not have to pass upon the creation of the "Lexow" Commission was quite satisfactory to the Independent leaders here today. The entire responsibility for planning and creating the investigation body will now rest with the Republican Organization, and the Administration leaders back of the Mayor can now proceed during the night.

Concluded on Page Four, Column Two

TUTTO IN ITALIA E PRONTO PER LA GUERRA CONTRO L'AUSTRIA

Mentre il Parlamento Si Riunisce Per Discutere il Libro Verde, il Generale Cadorna E a Vicenza Per Preparare l'Offensiva Contro il Trentino e l'Istria.

L'Italia e dunque alla vigilia di dichiarare aperte le ostilita contro l'Austria. Oggi si e riunito il Parlamento ed il Governo ha distribuito ai deputati e senatori il testo del Libro Verde, dal quale risulta che l'Italia ha fatto tutto per evitare la guerra, senza pero riuscire a convincere l'Austria a fare quelle concessioni che avrebbero soddisfatto le esigenze dell'opinione pubblica italiana.

L'apertura del Parlamento e stata preceduta da grandi dimostrazioni in favore della guerra e tutte le case di Roma sono oggi imbandierate. Alla seduta della Camera assistevano gli ex-deputati italiani dell'Austria Biondini e Piatichio. Erano presenti pero i deputati socialisti Labriola e De Felice, che sono favorevoli alla guerra. Le dimostrazioni neutraliste sono fallite in tutte le citta dove sono state tenute.

La Camera dei Deputati ha dato oggi pieni poteri al governo presieduto dall'onorevole Salandra, con 385 voti favorevoli al governo—cioe alla guerra—54 contrari. A Roma si attende ora lo scoppio delle ostilita.

Si dice che la Romania ha deciso di attendere ancora un po prima di dichiarare la guerra all'Austria per il fatto che vuole vedere l'effetto della vittoria austro-tedesca in Gallizia e delle prime mosse dell'esercito italiano.

(Leggete altre notizie della situazione in Italia nella 2a pagina di questo giornale.)

QUICK NEWS

"EQUAL RIGHTS" BILL PASSED BY LEGISLATURE. HARRISBURG, May 20.—The "equal rights" bill was finally passed by the Legislature today, both houses concurring in the measure, which was reported from a conference committee after strenuous efforts had been made to defeat it. The bill prohibits, under penalty of a fine not exceeding \$100, the proprietor of any hotel, restaurant, cafe or place of amusement from excluding any person from his establishment because of race or color.

BRITISH GAIN BETWEEN LA BASSEE AND NEUVE CHAPELLE. LONDON, May 20.—Official dispatches received today from Field Marshal Sir John French state that the British made a further gain between Neuve Chapelle and La Bassee last night, and that they are consolidating their new positions at Festuber and Quinke.

DRUG CLERK FOUND DEAD IN STORE CELLAR. John Purcell, 24 years old, a clerk in the drug store of Hickman & Miller, 336 South 2d street, who disappeared last night, was found dead in a coal bin in the cellar of the store today. The Coroner is making an investigation.

ITALIAN REGIMENTS SPED TO AUSTRIAN FRONTIER. PARIS, May 20.—A dispatch from Milan this afternoon states that several Italian regiments have been dispatched to the eastern front. By the eastern front is meant the Austrian frontier.

FIRE RAZES ONTARIO TOWN'S BUSINESS SECTION. CRYSTAL BEACH, Ont., May 20.—The business section of the beach village was almost completely wiped out by fire today. The loss was \$150,000.

AUSTRIAN FLEET SAILS TO SHELL VENICE, PARIS REPORTS. PARIS, May 20.—A dispatch from Milan states that the Austrian fleet at Pola has sailed to bombard Venice as soon as war is declared between Italy and Austria.

SWEDISH STEAMSHIPS FORCED TO SUSPEND SERVICE. COPENHAGEN, May 20.—Swedish steamship companies trading between Stockholm and Norrkoping and the British ports of London and Hull have decided to suspend their service because of the constant interference by German warships in the Baltic Sea.

SNOW FLURRY SHOCKS DETROIT. DETROIT, May 20.—Detroit had a shock today when a snow flurry, lasting only a few minutes, greeted the populace. The northern part of the State has had snow several times this week, and fruit growers are fearful for the 1915 crop.

BRITISH SUBMARINE SINKS GERMAN TRANSPORT IN BALTIC. GENEVA, May 20.—A Petrograd dispatch to the Tribuna states that an English submarine penetrated the Baltic Sea and sank a German transport off Libau.

SCHWAB HAS ORDER FOR 8000 CANNON. BETHLEHEM, Pa., May 20.—The Bethlehem Steel Company has received an order for 8000 cannon from Lord Kitchener, of the British War Office. The order was accompanied by a check for \$16,100,000, partly for work already done by the Bethlehem Steel Company for the British Government and partly an advance payment for material that will go into the 8000 new field pieces.

PRESIDENT WILSON RETURNS TO WHITE HOUSE. WASHINGTON, May 20.—The President returned to the White House today from New York, where he reviewed the Atlantic fleet.

TUG ENGINEER DIES AT HIS POST. While the tugboat Alexander A. Hamm was tied up at the Tasker street wharf in the Delaware River today, Kempton Davis, 50 years old, the tug's engineer, was attacked by heart disease as he sat in his engine room and died. Joseph Devlin, of 2227 Sears street, discovered the body. It was taken to the Morgue.

HAVE YOU GOT YOUR \$1965? WASHINGTON, May 20.—The Census Bureau's estimate of the national wealth is \$187,739,000,000. That, said the bureau in a statement today, figures out \$1965 for each man, woman and child in the country.

TWO BROTHERS FOUND GUILTY OF MURDER. BELVIDERE, N. J., May 20.—Frank and Tony Lutero, of Alpha, were found guilty of the murder of James Russo by a jury in the Supreme Court here today, and the two men were sentenced to from 15 to 30 years in State prison by Justice Tronchard. The Lutero brothers were charged with strangling Russo to death on the Lehigh Valley Railroad tracks near Alpha on the night of July 7, 1912.

MOBS BEGGING BREAD BESIEGE VILLA. WASHINGTON, May 20.—General Villa was almost mobbed by throngs of men, women and children begging for food when he arrived at Torreón, on his way to Chihuahua, to bury his brother, Antonio, and his troops had to beat the crowd back from his train.

SLAVS FROM BESSARABIA SPEEDING TO GALICIA. New Army Sweeps Bukovina—To Join San Forces. GENEVA, May 19. A telegram from Innsbruck states that a strong new Russian army coming from Bessarabia is flinging back the Austro-Hungarian forces in Bukovina. It is marching toward Central Galicia, with the object of joining the principal Russian army in Galicia.

THE KENSINGTONIAN SAYS: While Edward Jeremiah Dougherty received a beautiful blue medal last week for his sticking qualities and he feels real stuck up about it.

THE WEATHER TODAY

FORECAST.
For Philadelphia and vicinity—
Fair and cool today.
For details, see page 2.

Observations at Philadelphia
S. A. M.

Barometer	30.25
Temperature	60
Wind	North, 10 miles
Sky	Clear
Precipitation last 24 hours	None
Humidity	52
Minimum temperature	54
Maximum temperature	60

Almanac of the Day
Sun sets tomorrow 4:40 a. m.

The Tides
PORT RICHMOND.
High water 6:31 a. m.
Low water tomorrow 1:24 a. m.
High water tomorrow 9:59 a. m.

CHESTNUT STREET WHARF.
High water 6:19 p. m.
Low water tomorrow 1:22 a. m.
High water tomorrow 6:48 a. m.

REEDY ISLAND.
High water 9:40 p. m.
Low water tomorrow 3:35 a. m.
High water tomorrow 10:25 a. m.

BREAKWATER.
High water 9:11 p. m.
Low water tomorrow 4:11 a. m.
High water tomorrow 7:07 a. m.

On the Pacific Coast
San Francisco—Weather, cloudy; temp., 52
San Diego—Weather, clear; temp., 50

Lamps to be Lighted
at 7:00 p. m.