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THE EVENING BANNER

BENNINGTON - VERMONT

Wednesday, September 15, 1915.

SOLDIERS FROM BENNINGTON

Italian Reservists in the Village Who Expect to Join Their Colors Oct. 1.

Probably no nationality represented in the Bennington census is following the European War more closely than the local Italians. Of these Bennington is to furnish its quota for the war. There are a large number of Italian citizens in the community only waiting the word from the Italian consul at New York to leave the town and take their places at the front.

The attitude of these men toward the European conflict is interesting. No race of people are more hyperheated Americans than these sons of sunny Italy. It is probably more difficult for the Italian to sever his national ties than any other race of people, excepting perhaps the Germans. While they consider America the land of personal and social freedom, as well as financial opportunity, the case is rare where the mother country does not hold first place in their patriotic sentiment.

This is evinced by the interest which is manifest among those of Italian birth in Bennington. There are a large number of these employed upon the Everett estate, among them several who expect to take their places at the front before the snow flies.

Several of these men board at the home of Carlo Deltato at 129 Jefferson avenue. Mr. Deltato has charge of the Italian laborers on Mr. Everett's palatial estate and he is probably the best informed Italian on their martial sentiment of any man in the village.

There is a large amount of misunderstanding in the mind of the lay citizen over the status of Italian reservists in this country. A case in point is the attitude of the men under Mr. Deltato.

There is no compulsion on the part of the American Italian to take his place in the ranks of the mother country. It is purely voluntary. These men, if they leave the mother country for social or financial betterment, and wish to maintain their citizenship in Italy, list their names with the Italian consul in New York, specifying thereby their willingness to aid in fighting her battles in time of national stress. There are actually no "reservists" in America except such as have thus voluntarily offered to place themselves at the command of the Italian government.

This is largely the situation of the local men. The reason, Mr. Deltato states, that Bennington Italians have not been more prompt to return to Italy for enlistment, lies in their not having yet been called to the colors by the Italian consul. The shipping facilities between America and Italy are extremely limited. The Italian in Bennington whose name is thus listed, has his fare paid through to the city where his regiment is recruiting by the Italian government. The government at the entrance of Italy into the conflict, made contracts with American steamship companies to transport their men from New York to two points, Marseilles and Naples. These soldiers do not travel in any special steamer, but must wait in New York until enough have responded to cover the consignment allowed to each vessel by the steamship company.

It happens, however, that America holds so many patriotic Italians that the reverse was true. The number, who congregated in New York far exceeded the steamship accommodations. Therefore the men have to wait around New York, sometimes for weeks—and at their own expense—before they can get passage.

Furthermore, the Italian battle-line is so short that Italy also has more men at present than she can conveniently maneuver. The result is that many who would willingly serve, are slow in being taken across.

The Sant Anna, which caught fire at sea day before yesterday had on board the first Italian boy whose opportunity came for passage. He was Vergilio Nardazi, who has been employed by Mr. Deltato on the Everett estate during the past year. Although he left Bennington over a month ago, he was obliged to put in the intervening time in New York.

During the past week, however, Francesco Mute, similarly employed, has received word from the Italian consul that there is room for him on the next boatload and expects to sever his employment the coming Saturday night. Four other laborers have got word to report at the New York pier of the Fabio line October first.

Mr. Deltato, himself, while not a listed man, states that he would willingly go to the war were he so situated that he could get away. About three months ago he purchased a homestead on Jefferson avenue which he has rebuilt and improved until it is one of the most attractive homes on the street. Beside his remaining three children, he is the father of a lusty three weeks old youngster, which combined with his home and the excellent position he holds with Mr. Everett, compels him to forego the excitement he would like to experience along the Italo-Austrian battle-line.

Mr. Deltato's interest in the war is stimulated by the enlisting of three of his brothers, all of whom are at

present engaged in actual service in the Tyrolean Alps. One of these is a second lieutenant and from them he receives some realistic first-hand impressions of the great conflict.

During the past week he has received a consignment of postcard pictures snapped at the front, giving cursory detail of the experiences through which his brothers are going. They are fighting at places 10,000 feet above sea level, and it is a curious circumstance that while the recipient of the communications is sweltering in semi-tropical heat, the senders are fighting four and five inches in snow and the thermometer in places down to freezing and below.

The men are already making preparations for an extensive winter campaign, although they state that the active fighting for the year will close about September 20th. After that date it is almost impossible to move troops or artillery as the winter comes quickly.

Mr. Deltato states that the impression that has been circulated in this country that Italy has gone into the war for conquest, is largely erroneous. He states that himself and countrymen view the matter almost entirely from the standpoint of checking the Prussian military menace while the time is opportune in conjunction with the Allies.

AUTOS PAY FOR ROADS

Vermont Machines Taxed Over Half Million in Present War.

Figures compiled in the secretary of state's office show the steady increase in revenue from automobile fees during the past six years. The receipts have been as follows:

March 1, 1909, to March 1, 1910	\$ 27,749.59
March 1, 1910, to March 1, 1911	44,989.51
March 1, 1911, to March 1, 1912	64,535.49
March 1, 1912, to March 1, 1913	86,694.50
March 1, 1913, to March 1, 1914	108,849.36
March 1, 1914, to March 1, 1915	169,362.10
March 1, 1915, to August 1, 1915	175,992.31

This makes a total \$769,982.84 received in automobile fees during a period of six years and five months.

It will be noted that the receipts for the period of five months, March to August, this year exceed the receipts of any previous year, but the bulk of the registrations occur during the first six months of the year, so that it is unsafe to base the receipts of the last half of the year on those of the first half. Nevertheless, the increase in registrations and fees over last year is large.

The receipts for the first five months of this year exceed the receipts of the first six months of last year by \$38,837.78. The number of licenses issued to the present time is nearly 10,800, or a ratio of more than one automobile to every 32 persons living in the state.

As all the fees received go into the permanent highway fund it will be seen that the automobile is doing much to improve Vermont roads.

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Bennington, Vt.
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Manchester Fair

THE ANNUAL BENNINGTON COUNTY FAIR

OPENS TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER, 14

CONTINUING THREE DAYS

Many improvements have been made to the grounds this year. The track has been rebuilt and is in excellent condition. Some lively races are promised. A new platform has been erected in front of the grandstand for the new attractions.

The Poultry Show, which has for the past few years been omitted, has this year been reinstated, and keen interest is certain.

This year twenty-five dollars will be given in the Boys' Judging Contest, which is under the supervision of an expert from the State Experiment Station. The awards will be made to the five boys under 18 years of age securing the highest number of points in judging dairy cattle, sheep, swine and horses. It is hoped that every boy with a fair knowledge of farm animals will compete.

Special amusements will be provided for the younger children on Thursday, the 16th, under the supervision of capable leaders.

Every Effort Has Been Made to Make the County Fair a Success and We Trust You Will All Enjoy It

Excursion Rates Every Day During the Fair

PLANTING BIG ORCHARD

Westminster Company Has Capital of \$50,000.

Vermont fruit growers are watching with interest the work of the Connecticut Valley Orchard company with headquarters at Westminster. The capital stock of this corporation is \$50,000. It owns 137 acres of land and has been in operation about four years. Some 50 acres are now in trees and other land is being prepared. It is expected 50 acres more will be set by another spring.

On the area already set are 6500 trees. Of these 150 are cherry, 100 quince and the balance apples. Varieties preferred are McIntosh, Spy, Wealthy, Baldwin and Greening. Raspberries and blackberries are being grown to some extent in the young orchards. An extensive irrigation project is under consideration.

Thoroughly up-to-date methods in the handling of the trees and the soil are witnessed, says the New England Homestead. Bookkeeping is an important item. The figures show that at the end of three years each tree had cost \$5.20. Eventually the corporation expects to have a cold storage plant and suitable place for grading, packing and shipping. The superintendent is J. W. Collins.

STATE NEWS

Calvin Bassett, 51, who has been a guest at the Vermont state prison for some time, left unexpectedly without giving his future address to the prison authorities. The date of his departure was Sept. 4.

Charles F. Hersey of Hardwick has donated to the Memorial building in that village an officer's pistol which was dug up in excavating near Bunker Hill monument in 1905, and a hand cut mallet. Imbedded in the mallet is a bullet plainly discernible. The bullet was found in a tree on Look-out mountain, a block was cut out of the tree and the mallet resulted. It is an interesting relic of the Civil war.

Signs of a protracted winter or a mild and brief season are said by the discerning in Vermont to be conflicting this year. The facts that trees are thickening their bark, that squirrels are unusually busy and that birds are making an early start for the South are said to point in one direction while others, noticing that corn husks are thin are predicting a warm winter.

Tracey E. Hazen, a native Vermont er, born in Jericho Center, the son of the late Rev. Austin Hazen, a well known Congregational minister of an earlier day in Vermont, is in the state collecting material for a genealogy of

the Hazen family in Vermont. The first Hazen settler was Joseph Hazen who came to Vermont from Connecticut previous to 1790 with a family of eight children. Mr. Hazen is the professor of botany in Barnard College, Columbia university.

Willard S. Isham of Washington, a native of Burlington and a graduate of the University of Vermont, well known as an inventor of high explosive shells, has been visiting in this state. He has filled recently a large order of shells for the United States navy.

Large imports of hay from Canada have increased the customs receipts in the district of Vermont, giving an upward turn to figures that have been dropping steadily for many months. The month of August shows an increase of nearly \$1,500,000 in value of imports.

J. B. Eldridge of Waterbury finished on Wednesday loading the last of four cars of maple logs to be shipped from Morrisville to Manchester, England. These logs have been taken from the very choicest maple trees selected from the best sugar orchards in town, and are to be used in the manufacture or large rolls to be used in cotton mills in England.

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