

FORMAL DECLARATION WAS YESTERDAY PRESENTED TO AUSTRIAN FOREIGN MINISTER

**Austria Failed to Concede to Italy
Her Demands For Territory Prin-
cipally In Province of Istria**

FRONTIER FIGHTING BEGUN

**German and Austrian Governments Have Pre-
vented 30,000 Italians From Leaving The
Two Countries, It Is Reported, and Indigna-
tion Prevails in Italy; Reported That Popu-
lation of Trent, an Austrian Stronghold, Has
Been Reduced To One-Fifth By Italians;
Ambassadors of Hostile States Returning To
Native Lands; Germany Resents Attitude
and Has Withdrawn Ambassador at Rome.**

(By the Associated Press.)

Rome, May 23.—Via Paris.—Italy is at war with Austria-Hungary.

With the issuance of the general mobilization order, the Italian government issued a proclamation declaring war on Austria, which officially will begin tomorrow.

Prior to this, and after a lengthy consultation the Ministers of War and Marine proclaimed all the provinces bordering on Austria and the islands and coast towns of the Adriatic in a state of war which was equivalent to establishment of martial law, the step usually preceding the formal declaration.

Although drastic action has been looked for momentarily, Italians of all classes have been electrified by the swiftly moving events. Early this morning great crowds gathered around the Quirinal to await the ministers, who called on the King for the purpose of discussing the question and signing the decree.

When Premier Salandra and Signor Sonnino, the Foreign Minister left the palace the people cheered them enthusiastically. General Zuppelli, Minister of War, and Vice Admiral Viale, Minister of Marine, remained with the King for a considerable time after the others left and later they had a conference with Lieut.-General Cadorna, chief of staff and Vice Admiral Phaon Di Revel, chief of the naval staff.

Strong Forces Along Austro-Italian Front.

When the first blow will be struck cannot be foretold but after many months of preparation the army, which has been greatly strengthened, and the navy are ready. Exceedingly strong forces are in position all along the Austro-Italian frontier, on the Austrian side of which feverish preparations have been going on for the last few days to make the fortifications as strong as possible and to clear the way for effective artillery action.

The German Ambassador Prince Von Buelow, and the Austrian Ambassador Baron Von Macchio, are still in Rome, so far as is known. They have waited to the last moment in the hope that some way might be found to prevent a clash of arms. They will be given safe conduct when they do leave and so far as German and Austrian residents in Italy are concerned, every effort has been made to see them safely out of the country.

On the other hand, most alarming reports have been received from Italian border towns that Italian residents in the Austrian territory are experiencing difficulty in returning to Italy, and in many cases have been placed under arrest.

According to the Giornale D'Italia, the problem confronting the diplomats accredited to the Vatican has been solved satisfactorily. Austrian and German diplomats ignoring the situation in Italy will depart, as if they were merely taking their summer vacations before the regular time. It had been urged by some that the Italian government move energetically with respect to the diplomatic representatives and by others that the Vatican resist any effort to force them to withdraw. But these extreme measures failed, and thus the law remains untouched.

From Germany come reports that considerable sentiment is felt in official quarters there against what is alleged to be the obstinacy of the Austrian diplomacy responsible for the failure of the negotiations with Italy initiated by Prince Von Buelow, the German Ambassador. The suggestion had even been made that Austria should be left alone to fight Italy, but pledges taken by the German General Staff and by the German Emperor personally with Emperor Francis Joseph, resulted in the triumph of those advocating Austro-German solidarity even in a new war against Italy.

About 800,000 Bavarians and Hungarians already have been concentrated against Italy, Austria ensuring them commissariat service.

Thought Germany Will Plan Offensive.

Although Field Marshal Von Conrad Von Hoetzendorf, Chief of Staff of the Austrian army, had prepared for many years for a pos-

sible outbreak of war between Austria and Italy the belief is held here that the campaign will be conducted by the German General Staff, which will, it is said, plan a strong offensive movement against Italy in the hope of breaking the Italian lines and forcing their way into Italian territory thereby arousing alarm and strengthening the feeling favorable to peace.

Should such an attempt fail through the resistance of the Italian army, the Austrians and Germans would then have to resort to defensive measures against a certain invasion. The Austrian defenses are particularly strong and have been constructed everywhere even along the Dalmatian coast which already is protected by fixed and floating mines and guarded by a dozen submarines, carrying German officers and sailors.

The Austrian fleet is centered at Pola, with only a few torpedo boats and destroyers at Cattaro and Spalato. Other Austrian warships are in the Dalmatian Archipelago on the northeast coast of the Adriatic sea. Naval men here do not consider it likely that the Austrian fleet will leave Pola unless forced by an Italian attack.

Text of Declaration.

Amsterdam, May 23.—Via London, May 24.—A dispatch from Vienna says the Italian Ambassador to Austria, the Duke of Avarna, this afternoon presented to Baron Von Burian, the Austro-Hungarian Foreign Minister, the following declaration of war: "Vienna, May 2, 1915.

"Conformably with the orders of His Majesty, the King, his august sovereign, the undersigned Ambassador of Italy has the honor to deliver to his Excellency, the Foreign Minister of Austria-Hungary, the following communication:

"Declaration has been made, as from the fourth of this month, to the Imperial and Royal Government of the grave motives for which Italy, confident in her good right, proclaimed annulled and henceforth without effect, her treaty of alliance with Austria-Hungary, which was violated by the Imperial and Royal government and resumed her liberty of action in this respect.

"The government of the King firmly resolved to provide by all means at its disposal for safeguarding Italian rights, and interests, cannot fail in its duty to take against every existing and future menace measures which events impose upon it for the fulfillment of national aspirations.

"His Majesty, the King, declares that he considers himself from tomorrow in a state of war with Austria-Hungary.

"The undersigned has the honor to make known at the same time to his excellency the foreign minister that passports will be placed this very day at the disposal of the Imperial and Royal Ambassador at Rome and he will be obliged to his excellency if he will kindly have his passports handed to him.

(Signed) "Avarna."

Declaration Presented at Vienna.

London, May 24.—The Italian ambassador at Vienna on Sunday afternoon presented a formal declaration of war to Baron Von Rajecz, the Austro-Hungarian Foreign Minister. This announcement is made in a Vienna dispatch to Reuter's Telegram Company sent by way of Amsterdam.

War Correspondents Not Allowed.

Turin, Italy, via Paris, May 23.—Commander in Chief Cadorna, Premier Salandra, and Foreign Minister Sonnino have agreed, says the Stampa, that war correspondents shall not be allowed with the Italian army and that the Italian press bureau shall operate in the same manner as do those in France and Great Britain.

30,000 Italians Held.

Rome, via Paris, May 23.—The report reaching Rome that the German and Austrian governments have prevented 30,000 Italians from leaving the territory of those countries has created a profound impression. The Giornale D'Italia declines to believe the report, not only because this would be opposed to the right of nations, but for the reason that Italy not only permitted the departure of Austrians and German from Italian soil but protected these nationals.

From the Austrian side of the frontier news reaches Udine that the Italian residents are actually being hunted and that the fate of 600 who left Trieste hoping to reach Italy is unknown, and that the greatest anxiety for their safety is felt.

At Rovigno, in Istria, 62 Italian citizens have been arrested. These include the mayor, and the secretary of the municipality. All Italian citizens residing near the fortifications of Pola have been taken into custody by the police, and at Cormons, on the frontier, 1,000 Italians, for the most part women and children, have been concentrated and prevented from leaving the territory.

Population Reduced One-fifth.

The popular of the town of Trent, one of Austria's strongly fortified towns, has been reduced one-fifth. During the last two days the inhabitants have been terrified by the explosion of mines, with which the military authorities were destroying houses, bridges, and everything within the fortified zone that might interfere with future artillery actions.

The remainder of the residents of Trent have been notified to be in readiness to leave instantly.

Pope Benedict Prepares Document.

Paris, May 23.—A Temps dispatch from Rome says: "It is stated that Pope Benedict has prepared a document justifying the Vatican for its decision to main-

tain absolute neutrality but leaving Italian Catholics free to act in the war, according to their own consciences without engaging the responsibility of the Holy See.

"It is said the Pope will protest formally against the expulsion of the Austrian ambassador and the German ministers accredited to the Vatican, declaring it is contrary to the canons."

Annual Merchant Marine Articles.

Paris, May 23.—Havas dispatch from Rome says that the Journal officiel today published the following decree:

"In consideration of the fact that the warring powers in the present conflict exercise the right of capture and retain in their ports merchant vessels belonging to the enemy which are in said ports at the opening of hostilities, articles 211 and 212 of the merchant marine code are hereby annulled in the eventuality of host participation in the war."

GERMANY MAKES MOVE.

**Claims Italy Made Unexcusable Attack
Against Dual Monarchy.**

London, May 24.—A Berlin official dispatch received by Reuters Telegram Company, by way of Amsterdam and dated May 23, says:

"The Italian government today caused to be declared through the ambassador to the Austro-Hungarian government, the Duke of Avarna, that Italy considers herself in a state of war with Austria-Hungary.

"The Italian government, by this unexcusable attack against the dual monarchy, has also broken without right or without her grounds for alliance with Germany.

"The loyal relationship existing conformably with the treaty between Austria-Hungary and the German Empire, and still more firmly welded by the comradeship of arms, has remained unimpaired by the outbreak of the third ally and her desertion to the enemies' camp. The German ambassador therefore has received instructions to leave Rome conformably with the Austro-Hungarian ambassador."

QUIET AT WASHINGTON.

**Italian and Austrian Embassies Had
Not Been Notified at Late Hour.**

Washington, D. C., May 23.—At a late hour tonight the Italian and Austrian embassies here, as well as the State Department, were without official notification of Italy's declaration of war on Austria but officials began the preparation of a neutrality proclamation to be issued by President Wilson probably tomorrow when Ambassador Thomas Nelson Page addresses the American government of Italy's action.

The United States government in accordance with requests received nearly a month ago, will take over the custody of Italian diplomatic and consular interests in Austria and Austrian interests in Italy arranged for the care of prisoners and the safe conduct of consuls and diplomatic officers and the protection of embassy archives.

It is taken for granted in diplomatic quarters here that as a result of the declaration of war against Austria, Germany and Turkey, as the allies of that country will announce a state of war with Italy. Switzerland will look after German interests in Rome while the United States is expected to take charge of Italian interests in Berlin and Constantinople.

One subject on which information is awaited is the attitude of Italy toward the naval operations of the allies, whether Italy will subscribe to the order in council, making impossible all commercial intercourse with Germany and Austria through the Mediterranean and whether the same rigid rules as to contraband will be enforced by the Italian fleets as by the Austrian fleet.

Cutting Commerce May Prove Serious.

The cutting off of commerce to Germany and Austria through the Mediterranean, it is thought in official quarters here, soon will be seriously felt by the central powers. The entrance of Roumania, shutting off a wheat supply from Southeastern Europe would be another important factor. There long has been an understanding between Italy and Roumania, according to official information here, to enter the war at approximately the same time. Whether Bulgaria, anxious to regain territory

(Continued on Page Eleven)