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AND RETURN
AUGUST 11th, 1914
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For leaving time of Special Through Trains from other sections consult hand-bills at stations, or Ticket Agents.

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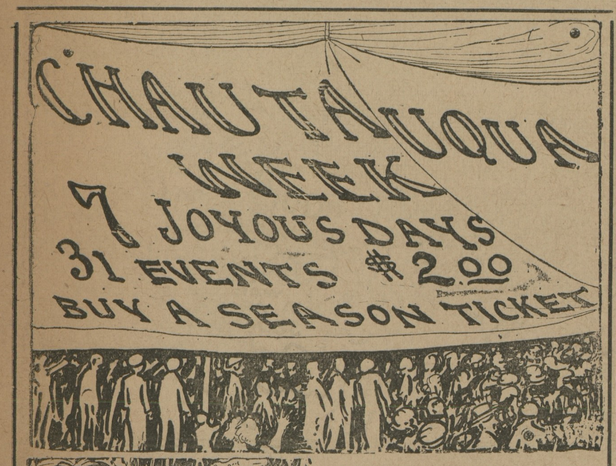

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August 31—Sept. 5

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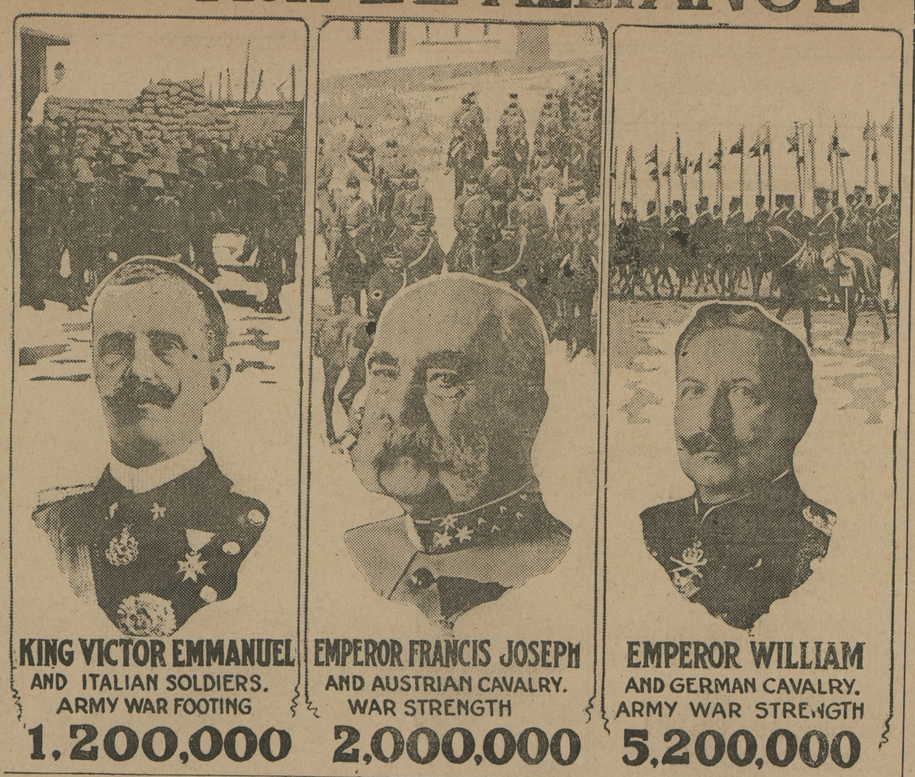

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The Triple Alliance

Germany, Austria and Italy Joined In Strong Bond For Offensive and Defensive War

By ERNEST WELLECK.

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THE triple alliance at present existing between Germany, Austria-Hungary and Italy was originally formed on May 20, 1882, and renewed from time to time, the last time on Dec. 7, 1912. It was the crowning masterpiece and, next to the unification of Germany, the greatest diplomatic achievement of Prince Bismarck, Germany's great "iron chancellor." It was really the outgrowth of the dual alliance between Germany and Austria concluded on Oct. 7, 1879, and signed at Vienna by Count Andrassy, then Austro-Hungarian minister of foreign affairs, and Prince Reuss, at that time German ambassador at the Austrian court.

In his "Reminiscences" Prince Bismarck with remarkable candor explained the considerations which prompted him to form the alliance with Austria. He realized the necessity of protecting Germany against aggression by an alliance with another great power. An alliance with France, for obvious reasons, was out of the question. The choice was between Russia and Austria-Hungary. Bismarck did not hesitate long with his decision in favor of Austria.

He knew that Russia would be a more powerful ally but with his usual acumen and almost prophetic foresight he realized that such an alliance would in the end be fatal to the national and racial interests of the Teutonic peoples of Europe. He foresaw the tremendous growth of pan-Slavism so carefully nurtured and disseminated by Russia and aiming at the supremacy in Europe of the Slavs, with Russia as the ruling power. Bismarck knew that Austria, in a greater measure even, was threatened by the ascendancy of the Slavs and had even more reason than Germany to fear Russian aggression and interference, particularly in the Balkan peninsula.

Austria as a Bulwark.

The preservation of Austria as a bulwark against pan-Slavism was considered necessary by Bismarck to maintain the balance of power in Europe and insure the continuance of peace. Racial kinship, national traditions and common interests strongly favored Austria as the natural ally of Germany, and these considerations induced the chancellor to conclude the defensive alliance of 1879.

Under the terms of the original treaty the two powers were to combine their entire military strength for mutual support in case either of the two powers should be attacked by Russia. Should one of the two allied powers be attacked by some other power the other agreed not to support the attacking power and to preserve at least a neutral state friendly to the allied power. Should Russia support the attacking power, however, the two allies should make common cause against the enemy as if Russia had been the aggressor.

The terms of the alliance were rather one sided and lacked the element of reciprocity. Under the agreement the two allied powers were bound to support one the other only against Russia. But only Austria was in imminent danger of being attacked by Russia. Germany's most dangerous enemy was France and not Russia. Yet, under the terms of the alliance, Austria was bound only to preserve a state of friendly neutrality should Germany be attacked by France. To protect the interests of Germany Bismarck arranged in 1887 a neutrality treaty with Russia, which was canceled, however, a few years later by his successor, Caprivi.

Italy Versus France.

Italy entered the triple alliance in 1882, soon after the French invasion of Tunis had roused the Italian people to a point of wrath and bitterness which for the moment quite extinguished all ancient grudges toward Austria and even temporarily quieted the agitation for the "redemption" of the Trentino and Triest.

This Italian bitterness toward France lasted until 1899. In its fiercest moments it provoked a tariff war which cost Italy many millions. The military expenditures necessary to keep Italy up to her engagements with her allies cost still more. As for Tunis, it remained French, and in 1899 and 1902 France and Italy recognized France in Tunis and Morocco as well. France agreed to an ultimate Italian protectorate in Tripoli.

With these treaties the Italian enthusiasm for the Austro-German alliance cooled visibly. The Italian desire to include in the kingdom the Italian speaking territories of Austria reasserted itself. Finally the Austrian annexation of Bosnia and Herzegovina brought Italy face to face with the possibility of a future Austrian expansion along the Adriatic in Albania, and the increasing strength of the Austrian fleet raised questions concerning the mastery of the Adriatic which profoundly stirred the whole nation.

Italy's Army Divided.

With the Tripolitan expedition the last sentimental connection with Berlin and Vienna vanished, if any still survived. From Berlin came a denunciation of Italian aggression which fairly astounded the Italians. While Paris journals viewed with calmness and even with a certain measure of sympathy Italian expansion, which French agreements had legalized, German newspapers denounced Italy as a worthless and perfidious ally and gave ready currency to reports of the brutality of Italian troops.

To all these sources of Italian bitterness there is now added the serious change in conditions the Tripolitan annexation has brought. Henceforth for many years a large Italian army will have to be kept in Tripoli. But in the event of a war between the triple alliance and the triple entente British and French fleets would command the communication with the Italian peninsula, while Egyptian and Algerian armies would be able to invade Tripoli itself. By her African expedition Italy has in a measure given hostages to the sea powers.

Weakened as an Ally.

As for the German aspect of the case, the Italian course toward Turkey weakened Italy manifestly as an ally since it diminished her European army and increased her vulnerability to Anglo-French attack. But, what was even more serious, it shattered the bonds between Germany and Turkey because, although Germany had assumed the position of a protector of Turkey and in return counted upon the Turkish army as a reenforcement to the armies of the triple alliance, she was obliged to stand aside and permit her ally to attack and dismember her friend.

As for Austria, for nearly a dozen years the statesmen of the dual monarchy have perceived the change in the direction of Italian ambition. Trieste, the Trentino, the Bosnian annexation, the future of Albania—all of these are points where Italian and Austrian designs conflicted, and for several years Austria has been building forts from the Tyrol to the gulf of Cattaro and preparing for a conflict with Italy.

Based on Three Treaties.

The original triple alliance of 1882 was concluded for a term of five years, and when it expired in 1887 the Irredentists and other radical factions in Italy strongly opposed the renewal of the agreement. It required all the influence and political persuasion of Premier Crispi to bring Italy into line. In 1891 the treaty was again renewed, as it was in 1892, but with added distrust and opposition on the part of Italy. The last renewal was for a term of twelve years, and in 1904 the alliance, somewhat modified in its terms, was renewed for ten years, with the provision that any one of the contracting powers had the right to cancel its adherence to the alliance by giving notice one year before the expiration of the treaty.

The last renewal of the alliance was made on Dec. 7, 1912, two years before the expiration of the agreement, and it is understood that this premature renewal was due to the fact that certain changes in the treaty were necessary so as to make the alliance more binding in view of the expected complications in the Balkan peninsula resulting from the annexation of Bosnia and the Herzegovina by Austria and the war in the Balkans.

The triple alliance is based upon three treaties; the first between Germany and Austria, the second between Germany and Italy, and the third between Austria and Italy. The terms of the treaty between Germany and Austria are practically the same as those of the original treaty of 1879 and are directed against Russia. The German-Italian treaty provides for mutual assistance in case either of the two powers should be attacked by France. By the terms of the treaty between Austria and Italy friendly neutrality is assured by Italy should Austria be attacked by Russia, and by Austria, should Italy be attacked by France. The terms of the treaties between Germany and Italy and between Austria and Italy have never been made public. The German-Austrian agreement, however, was published on Feb. 3, 1888, at the instigation of Bismarck, to put a stop to Russia's warlike preparations.

The Fleet of Italy.

Ostensibly the treaties upon which the alliance is based provide only for the conduct and attitude of the contracting powers in the event of war with Russia or France.

There is little doubt, however, that under these general terms specifications were made as to the conduct of each of the powers interested in time of peace. It thus became evident soon after the rearrangement of the treaty by Bismarck and Crispi at Friedrichsruh, in the spring of 1887, that Italy had undertaken to maintain a formidable fleet on the Mediterranean, while as a quid pro quo Italian agricultural products were to have convenient access to Germany and Austria. It is also evident that since Germany has begun to construct a modern fleet, Italy has not maintained the fleet of the late eighties in first class order or augmented it by distinctively modern craft.

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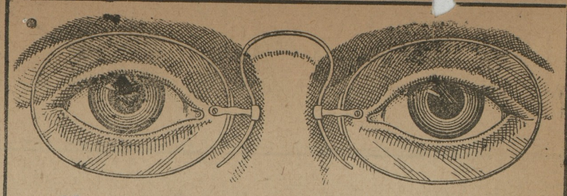
SARAH GALLOWAY,

late of Kent county, Maryland, deceased.

All persons having claims against deceased are hereby warned to exhibit the same, with the proper vouchers thereof, to the undersigned, on or before the 14th day of January, 1915, otherwise they may be excluded by law from all benefits of said estate. All indebted to said estate are requested to make immediate payment to the subscriber.

Given under my hand and seal this 14th day of July, 1914.

S. SCOTT BECK,
Executor.
July 18, 1914—3t



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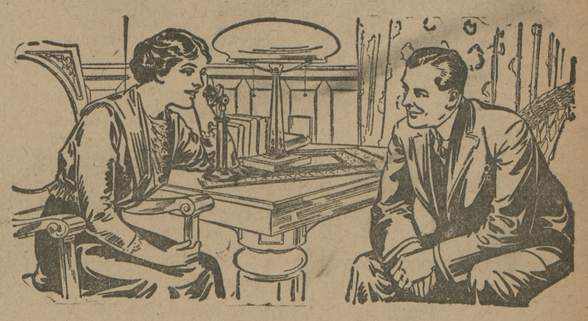

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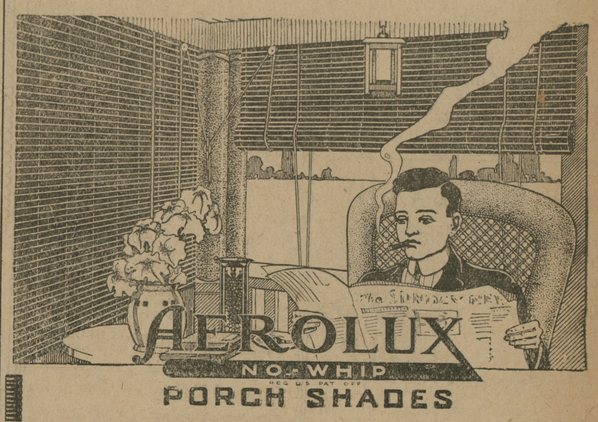

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