

A STRONGHOLD OF ANARCHISTS

ITALY'S ACTION IN RESPECT TO CARRARA FULLY JUSTIFIED.

Thousands of Desperate Men, Engaged in the Marble Industry, Ready for Revolution—Stern Military Law Necessary to Keep Them in Subjection—Quiet Restored in the City and Also at Massa di Carrara—Quiet Prevails Throughout Sicily.

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ROME, Jan. 18.—The correspondent of the United Press returned to-day from Carrara and Massa di Carrara, where the state of siege as been proclaimed, owing to the attempts of Anarchists to start a revolution in the district. He found both towns somewhat more animated than usual, although trade had been resumed and public confidence seemed to have been restored. Cavalrymen rode incessantly through the towns, and infantry with fixed bayonets patrolled the streets. All soldiers on duty in the towns had orders to prevent groups from gathering in the streets.

Everything that could be learned during a short sojourn in the towns went to show the wisdom of the Government in decreeing the state of siege. The recent outbreaks in several parts of the country were due undoubtedly to Anarchist propaganda, as Premier Crispi said. The Anarchists selected Carrara and Massa di Carrara for their most comprehensive plot, because there they found the most advantageous conditions.

The workers in the marble quarries are the most abandoned lot of laborers in Italy. A host of them are ex-convicts or fugitives from justice, who give false names and whose identities could be established in but few cases. They earn fair wages, but their work is so hard that applicants at the quarries are few and the overseers must take whom they can get without discrimination concerning anything except muscle and endurance.

Many of the quarrymen camp in almost inaccessible spots above the quarries and go to town only during fetes. They are so quarrelsome that fatal fights frequently occur in their camps. It has been found almost impossible to discover the identity of any murderer among them, as every man knows that vengeance will be sure if he shall betray a comrade.

Even when the criminals among the quarrymen are known, it is difficult to arrest them, as watchers on the high rocks near the camps give warning of the approach of gendarmes, and the fugitives can hide themselves beyond chance of discovery. The quarries are very old, and for a long time it was customary to keep a battalion from the garrison in view of the men, as their recklessness and brutality constantly threatened outbreaks.

The inclination of the workers to rebellion had long been proverbial, yet about ten years ago the troops garrisoned near the quarries were reduced greatly. The Anarchists began at once to scatter their propaganda among the laborers.

Several violent revolutionists who had been expelled from Belgium and Switzerland went to Avenza, near Carrara, in 1885 and founded the first Anarchist group in Italy. The district in which the quarries are situated was consequently the original hotbed of Anarchism in Italy. The new movement spread rapidly.

The leaders recently have collected money and arms and established an understanding with the workingmen of Pisa, Spezzia, and other centres of workingmen's interests, planning to start revolution simultaneously in several provinces. They were to plunder the houses of the rich, set fire to the public buildings, open the prisons, and rally to the cause of revolt every man who should show himself ready to pillage and fight against the authorities.

The outbreak near Carrara last Saturday evening was the initial move, but the further execution of the plot was thwarted by the swift action of the authorities. It is known that the Anarchists killed on Saturday night between Carrara and Massa, and on Tuesday at the Fassola bridge, were much more numerous than the troops thought. The Anarchists were eager to conceal their losses, and carried most of the dead bodies off with them.

More than 2,000 Anarchists of the Carrara district have taken refuge in the mountains. Strong bodies of troops are following and surrounding them. The fugitives are in need of food; many of them are without sufficient clothing. The cold is so intense that with many of the revolutionists it soon will be a choice between surrender and death by exposure. Most of them are expected to yield soon to the police.

The country around the Carrara and Massa district is tranquil. The rural population of Tuscany and Liguria is especially hostile to the Anarchists.

Rumors that were current here that the service of the Red Cross Society was about to be mobilized caused momentary alarm, it being thought that such action indicated that serious trouble was anticipated in some part of the kingdom. The rumors were officially denied to-day. They arose from the measures that have been projected to use the Red Cross Society in Sicily in the transportation of the wounded if the conflicts in that island shall be continued. Perfect calm prevails now throughout Sicily.

PARIS, Jan. 18.—Semi-official inquiries made in Sicily absolutely disprove the reports that France has supplied the revolutionary element there with subsidies or arms.

BRUSSELS, Jan. 18.—A dispatch from Rome to the Independance Belge says that the intimate friends of Prime Minister Crispi believe that, owing to the situation in Italy daily becoming worse, he will demand of the Chamber of Deputies that plenipotentiary power be conferred upon him for a year.