

THE WAR

SPECIAL PICTURES
BY AIR FROM ABYSSINIA.

Picture:- Addis Ababa : The first pictures from Abyssinia since the

crisis. Our cameraman, rushed to the scene by UNIVERSAL NEWS-REEL, is nearly rushed off his feet when the

Emperor Haile Selassie arrives for the Maskal Festival, celebrating the end

of the rains. But a cloud-burst rather spoils

the effect. Priests bring the Abyssinian bible which is reverently kissed by the Emperor in thanksgiving for the country's fertility after the rains. Ancient tradition has

given them an equivalent of our Maypole rejoicings, but in Abyssinia it has a religious significance. The poles are

young eucalyptus trees. War having not yet

been declared, Count Vinesi, Italian Ambassador attends

the celebration as if nothing had happened. Chieftans

and warriors are now privileged to air grievances freely to the Emperor, but they use this occasion to tell in

picturesque terms what their patriotism will inspire them to do

to the country's enemies. Many have a tremendous natural dignity, as men born to

command. Despite a downpour of hail, tribesmen make a great display of devotion to the Emperor. Since these men will be marching to the areas

of battle to show their sincerity by facing

the latest scientific inventions for

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mass murder. From this celebration the Emperor goes to the City prison. He has recently taken a decision to release most of the prisoners. Under baptism of fire and flying steel their crimes may be expiated.

This declaration is made by the Emperor, and the prisoners are released. There is our operator, securing a fine close up portrait of the Emperor. A powerful study.

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The great public thoroughfares and squares are alive with drilling

recruits. The air doesn't resound with the tread of marching feet, because no

boots are worn. Their stand-at-ease isn't too easy either.

These are more advanced in training. They

carry rifles - - mostly dated about 1890. They haven't beaten

Trafalgar Square for statues, but there's time

yet. The Empress has already taken

her place amongst the people making Red Cross Supplies. Her

daughter, Princess Hsakai is

with her mother, and has organized these

bandage making work parties. The Abyssinian

tribesmen don't very much agree

with modern Sergeant-Major's methods of drill and discipline. Men like these (note their

old weapons, by the way) will probably prove more formidable in their native mountains. They're tough

fighters, even though they can't keep in step. Here are several thousand

troops parading for review before marching hundreds of miles to the fighting line. Many of these units have

received some training from foreign officers accustomed to western military methods,

but it's difficult to see how they can balance the handicap

of being pitted against fighting aircraft and mechanised field units, poison gases, and what nots ! It will be some time before these troops can reach the battle zone. And

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there's just the
chance that sanity may break out and stop hostilities.

But perhaps that's too much to
hope for ! At the same time
the Abyssinians are not
entirely unequipped. Anticipating attacks by aircraft,
they have several batteries
of anti-aircraft guns, Archie
to you, old sweat ! Some of these have already been in
action, but to
what effect it is difficult to learn.

Many remember our own much over-worked phrase
"everything has gone according to plan." Anyway,
at the moment, reports
show that both sides appear satisfied with progress.
Did I say progress ? Ye Gods !