

BALDI SAYS SCHOOL EDICT INSULTS ITALY

Omission of Italian Tongue From Optional Languages Here Is Protested Against

Announcement by the public school authorities that Latin, Greek, French and Spanish will be optional in the higher schools here has caused Chevalier C. C. A. Baldi to protest an alleged discrimination against the Italian tongue.

Chevalier Baldi, as president of the Federation of Italian Societies of Philadelphia, has written an open letter to Dr. George Wheeler, associate superintendent of schools, protesting against omission of the Italian language from the list announced.

"You may take out the German language so that when we fight again we may not know what the enemy is saying and I find no fault," the chevalier wrote, "but when you discriminate against the language of Dante, the language of the discoverer of this country, the language of Mazzini, Garibaldi, D'Annunzio, Rizzo, Milla, Diaz and Marconi—the language of 500,000 killed, 1,000,000 mutilated and 2000 blinded, I must protest in the name of

300,000 people who, though I have not consulted them, I am satisfied will agree with me that you have offered an insult to all the Italian blood that was shed to gain the victory that we are enjoying today."

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