

LA GUARDIA RETURNS; WILL FIGHT NEARING

Congressman Back from Italian Front Confident He Will De- feat Socialist Opponent.

Congressman Fiorello H. La Guardia of the Fourteenth District, a Major in the American Aviation Corps on the Italian front, who is a candidate for re-election on a fusion ticket against Scott Nearing, the Socialist, returned yesterday on military duty. Incidentally he expects to find time to deliver a few addresses in his district on patriotism and the war.

In an interview at the Hotel Brevoort last night the Congressman said that he was not aware Scott Nearing was his opponent until he arrived in New York. He had understood that Upton Sinclair was the man.

"I have never seen my opponent," said the soldier-Congressman, "and do not know what he looks like or how old he is. If he is a young man, I shall ask him what regiment he comes from. I am confident that I shall win. I did so before, when the Republicans voted against me, and now they are on my side.

"There are plenty of Socialists in England, France, Italy, and also Germany, but they have all put on the uniform of their country and fought loyally for their respective uniforms. I have stood on platforms in Italy with Italian Socialists in soldiers' uniforms, and argued with them. I am not in touch with politics, as I have been away since April, 1917, and have no political speeches ready, but I have come to fight for my re-election to Congress, and mean to beat Scott Nearing for the seat."