## Inside Italy-What Mussolini Has Done

## A Traveler from Abroad Studies the New Roman Empire

TTALY DOES NOT want war. and Italians do not like Germans. Italy is not in position to endure a long war and will go to almost any extent to prevent a war that would make. it a military ally of Germany.

These are among some of the impressions I received on my recent visit to Italy.

Mussolini, from my observations, has done a remarkably fine job in Italy. He is the idol of the working classes and seems also to have the support of the upper classes. Business men of the country are somewhat divided in their opinion of his internal policies, but as a whole the opinion is more favorable than unfavorable. His external policies, and in particular his relations with Germany, have not been so favorably received by the people as a whole.

It is generally recognized that Mussolini has rebuilt Italy morally, mentally, and physically. Those who knew the country fifteen years ago assert that it has been completely transformed and that Mussolini has done more for the Italians in a bare space of fifteen years than ever previously had been done for them in a whole century.

Fifteen years ago there were disorders throughout Italy. A is a worry to him, however, that countess whom I know told me he cannot convert his wealth or that her father, a distinguished

editor of The Tribune and was man high in public life. In the so informative of conditions in Italy that it is being published. Because it is necessary to protect sources from which this information was gathered, the name of the writer cannot be divulged.

porting of the profits. They are Italian companies.

. . .

Through information obtained from a business man in Milan I got the impression that income taxes in Italy are lower in rates than those of the United States. The indirect taxes, on the other hand, are higher, because there is a tax upon every sales transaction. The income tax in Italy is determined by negotiation rather than by statement, so there is plenty of opportunity for manipulation. The amount arrived at becomes the annual tax for a period of three years. The business man in Italy who

conducts his business within the boundaries of his country and does not have to export his goods prospers and apparently is satisfied with the system. It profits into something more sub-

• This letter was sent to the the leading Fascists of Rome, a course of our conversation he explained a number of points of the governmental policy of his country, including that in respect to its dealing with the Jews. The Italian attitude toward the Jews, he pointed out, is altogether different from that these companies lie in the ex- of Germany. Since the war, and especially within the last few investing them, however, in of- years, Italy has had a great infice buildings and in shares of flux of Jews. It therefore, ac-



'Mussolini does not undertake any move without first consulting the sovereign." .. . Il Duce and King Victor Emmanuel at an army

Britain it moved into Ethiopia. Then France and England decided to impose sanctions. It was these sanctions that forced Italy into the arms of Germany. The Italians, my authority repeated, do not like the Germans and do not trust them. They look upon Germany as a colossus. It is the belief of the man who thus revealed the Italian distrust and dislike for the Germans that if France could only come to a decision to satisfy Italy a strong combination of Italy, France, and Spain would be in position to restrain Germany from further territorial acquisitions.

His explanation of the Italian attitude was especially interesting in view of subsequent events. Italy is discontented. Its actions, he said, were based not upon aggressiveness but upon a desire to make countries that have possessions collaborate in finding a basis for a true peace, with justice. The Italian conception of justice means some measure of the world's goods, such as raw materials and colonies. The distribution of colonies, the Italians point out, does not corre-

spond with the size and populations of foreign nations. Italy has claims upon France

for certain colonies which were promised her during the war and of which, it contends, it was cheated through the post-war negotiations. My informant intimated that Italy's general claim might be liquidated if France and Great Britain could make it possible for Italy to develop its empire. The Suez canal charges heavy fees on all shipping passing through it, but France and Great Britain are compensated by dividends issued by the canal company. Italy, which is the second largest user of the canal, wants the administrative régime revised so as to allow it a reduction in canal fees or allot it shares in the company. Italy also wants a port as an outlet for Ethiopia and a share in the railroad linking that country with the sea.

While traveling in their country I spoke with many Italians and became thoroughly convinced that the French and the British could have bought Mussolini off in March, immediately after Hitler's conquest of Czecho-Slovakia. While Premier Daladier's speech in reply to Italian demands was approved highly in England, the United States, and France, it served to convince the Italians that through peaceful negotiations their claims on France and Great Britain could not be set-

This is an illustration of the general proposition that these issues cannot be settled by peaceful means, but only by force. The two dictators, Mussolini and Hitler, seem to be smart enough not to attempt to use force on either France or Great Britain, but only to use it at the proper time against weak nations that are unable to defend themselves.

In Rome and everywhere south of Rome, as I have pointed out, the people are thoroughly in harmony with Fascism. As I went through the north of Italy

I found less saluting and more opposition to the régime. In Florence I learned that between 90 and 95 per cent of the people in Rome and south of it were stanch supporters of the régime, that around Florence and other northern regions slightly more than a majority were for the régime, and that in some districts, as that around Venice, the opposition was greater than the support. The farther north one goes the more outspoken do the people become against Mussolini's policy of collaboration with the Germans. They fear the inevitable battle that must occur some day between a powerful Germany and Italy.

members of national opera ballet on parade in Berlin

"It is generally recognized that Mussolini has rebuilt Italy morally, mentally, and physically."

I was informed in Florence that a survey of homes already had been made in that region to determine the number of officers that might be accommodated in the event of war. The people of that city also confirmed the statements obtained elsewhere in the country that Italians had a universal dislike for Germans and that Germans held the Italians in no high regard. In all my travels in Italy and Germany, I might mention here, I never have met an Italian with a good word for the Germans or a German with a good word

for the Italians. It is my conclusion that this

alliance between Mussolini and Hitler is an unnatural one and that Mussolini would not be supported by the Italian people in any war involving France and Great Britain in which the Italians would have to fight side by side with the Germans. A story was told to me in Florence that when some Italian

officers and their wives were sent to Vienna after Hitler's coup there was noticeable no little ill feeling between the Germans and the Italians. One German officer, according to the story which came to me, said to a woman who was not an Italian: "We Germans do not like the Italians-furthermore, we don't

The Germans when they went into Austria, I learned, sent a strong force immediately to the Brenner pass.

From all that I heard and all that I saw in Italy I believe Italy does not wish for war. The Italians openly discuss their aversion for the Germans. They also express a dislike for the French. Still, it is my impression that Mussolini does not want war. Those close to him believe he knows that war would mean the collapse of his régime and Italy.

Next week-The same writer describes conditions in Germany.



'Mussolini . . . is the idol of the working classes." Il Duce frater nizes with Fascists in Rome.

Children of the country are extremely patriotic." . . . Two thousand boys and girls in exhibition in Mussolini forum honoring visiting notables.

general of the World war, had lost complete faith in Italy when he saw people openly insulting any one wearing the Italian uniform. After the war the country had the mental attitude of a defeated nation. Today, however, the Italian people have learned discipline. They have learned how to live better and cleaner

Children of the country are extremely patriotic. School buildings and school equipment are excellent and education and training are said to be of a high order. Slums gradually are being eliminated and modern hospitals are being built.

There is no unemployment. Italy has sufficient of food, although the workingmen and their families do not have, or cannot afford to have, much meat in their diet. There are no labor disputes. Of more than ordinary interest to me was a sign in the office of a factory in Naples. It read:

## Discipline must be accepted. When not accepted it must be MUSSOLINI. imposed.

Employés entering or leaving the premises read this sign daily with a show of respect rather than one of resentment. Everywhere, especially in Rome and south of Rome, I noted the love and admiration for Mussolini which was spontaneous among the workingmen. A guide and a chauffeur would tell me, "He is one of us."

During my travels in Italy I was accompanied by an American banker and his Italian representative. Through them I learned that business was prosperous in that country. Companies, they told me, were maknamed two great American corporations which they said were much as 70 and 80 per cent on ment with the king. their capital. The difficulties of

stantial than the paper currency of his country.

This leads to the crux of the requires raw materials. Mussolini without doubt is establishing a state of society in Italy that commands admiration. But the question is: Can he support it? And how can he get the necessary foreign credits to do it?

I met an Italian woman of the nobility who was on friendly terms with Mussolini and who not longer ago than last summer had returned to Italy from a trip to America. Signor Mussolini, according to this woman, was of him in America was so unfa-

"People criticize me for the wars that I have made, but they don't think of the wars that I have avoided," the woman quoted Mussolini as saying.

She went on to explain the premier's relations with the king. According to her, the two are on friendly terms and Mussolini does not undertake any move without first consulting the sovereign and obtaining his approval. Premier and king have long conferences twice a week. It is the woman's belief that this respect for the king's opinion on the part of Mussolini is an evidence of the latter's cleverness.

Italians are thoroughly loyal to their king. Even my guide, a true Fascist, told me that all Italians trusted their king to control Mussolini or his successor against any acts that would be detrimental to Italy's interests. Before going to Italy I had the impression that the king ing lots of money in lire. They and Mussolini were not fully in accord. My visit taught me that I had been wrong; that the premaking enormous profits -- as mier was working in full agree-

I had an audience with one of

cording to my informant, came necessary to eliminate the undesirables among this racial group and to prevent a large whole matter, which is that Italy number of new ones with comis not self-sufficient and that it munistic doctrines from entering

The Italian law on this subject, I was assured, does not affect Jews who were in the country before the war, being applicable only to those who have entered the country since the termination of the war.

If any Jew can prove that he has done something of material advantage to Italy he immediately is classed outside of this restricting law. If he has served in the army, for example, coneager to know why the opinion tributed to art or industry, or done something for the betterment of Italian industry or finance he is left free of restrictions. I found in my travels in that country that Jews do continue their business enterprises in Italy.

> The Fascist leader whom I interviewed told me that the Italians did not like the Germans. This was his prelude to an explanation of Italy's present position in international affairs. To survive, he said, Italy must have raw products and colonies. These colonies, he went on to tell, were promised to Italy during the war. Since that time, in answer to Italy's demands, France and England have continuously said no. The reply has been unsatisfactory to Italy, and in the opinion of my informant the French policy for years has been a stupid one.

A few years ago France could have liquidated all of the Italian claims, I was told, by either giving up some German mandate or permitting Italy to go into some undeveloped colonies or states such as Ethiopia. When Italy could obtain satisfaction from neither France nor Great

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