

MUSSOLINI HOLDS NEW DEAL IS SOUND

But He Declares Strikes Are
Not Necessary and Cites
Italian Methods.

SEES COOPERATION NEEDED

Asserts America Must Work
for Collaboration Between
Capital and Labor.

By GLADYS BAKER.

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ROME, Sept. 8 (by Mail).—Premier Mussolini, busy with Italy's own pressing industrial and economic problems, is not too busy to keep a close and watchful eye on the domestic troubles and perplexities that beset the United States, and these, he implies, puzzle him.

"Why are there strikes in America?" he demanded during an interview in his private office in the Palazzo Venezia. "They are not necessary. Here in Italy we have done away with strikes and lock-outs; we do not waste our time in brawls."

Sees Principle Approached.

Challengingly, Italy's dictator looked across his great desk. It was suggested to him that there were differences between fascism and America's New Deal. The Premier gave a vigorous nod.

"Ah, yes," he said, "but America approached one of fascism's principles when the new régime delegated more power to the executive head of the government."

He was asked whether he believed the principles of fascism could successfully be applied to solve the problems of America.

"I do not know," Signor Mussolini replied. "Conditions in the United States are different. The temperament of the people, the urgencies of the times, the historical background, are not of the same pattern as in Italy. Besides, America has the New Deal. Mr. Roosevelt is a man of prestige. I understand he has the country with him."

One had the feeling Premier Mussolini really did not believe this.

"Do you think the New Deal is workable?"

"I believe it basically sound. If it doesn't function it is because the methods of application are at fault. America must work toward closer cooperation between capital and labor."

Explains Differences.

Asked how the method of applying the New Deal differed from fascism, Premier Mussolini said:

"No citizen in the Fascist State has the anti-social right of rebelling against any law of the collectivity. The Fascist State, with its corporative conception, interprets the duty each citizen has to fulfill. This applies alike to employer and employee. From the paramount necessity for production arises the need of tribunals in case of discord; and finally the need of protective legislation.

"In this manner we have exalted work and the worker and at the same time have not neglected capital. We consider capital an increasingly important factor in the productive strength of our nation."

"What about your unemployment situation?"

"Despite the striking increase in our population—a population of 42,000,000 which will number 50,000,000 in fifteen years—Italian industry is absorbing its unemployed without appreciable lowering of wages as measured by their purchasing power.

"Life as the Fascist sees it is serious, austere, religious. Fascism wants a man to be absorbed in action with all his energies; to have a manly conception of the difficulties that exist and be ready to face them. It conceives of life as a struggle."

Not For War But Sees It.

The Italian leader was asked about his "prepare for war" speech, delivered at the recent army manoeuvres at Bologna, and his remark, "War might break out from one minute to the next."

"That speech was clear and true," he replied instantly. "I repeat what I said. My position is unchanged. As a political man I am not for war. As a philosopher, as one who follows the course of history, I do not believe in the possibility of universal peace."

"What situation might arise to precipitate a conflict?"

"Any attempt to concentrate power in Europe. An attempt by Germany to annex Austria, for example. An independent Austrian State is highly essential to the

peace and equilibrium of Europe. Austria holds a key position comparable to that of Belgium and Switzerland. All three must be maintained intact."

"Do you look for war soon?"

A slight smile came over the Premier's face and he replied: "You expect me to be a prophet!"

Then, gravely:

"I cannot tell just when war will begin, but the economic situation in Europe is bad."

He shook his head.

"Working For Mankind."

Then he was asked whether, with the Fascist conception of life as a struggle, he found happiness in it. It was twilight. A wind blowing in from the African coast had gathered Rome's moisture and was pelting it in hailstones against the windows. Hundreds of lights in crystal chandeliers were flashing off and on. Premier Mussolini's booming voice matched the deep, distant roll of thunder.

"Fascism denies the materialistic conception of happiness as a possibility," he said.

"But you, as a celebrity?"

"I am not a celebrity," he replied sternly. "I am a man—a man working for humanity and mankind."

Then, abruptly, with unquestionable decision, he said:

"The conversation is finished."