

change its present policy so as to bear lighter on the people and thus come down to a bearable normal. Introduced by injustice, its very existence perpetuates that injustice. The people know this and the Government feels it. Such is the dissatisfaction and the viciousness of many that the authorities can not very well dispense with the militarism so unbearable to a free people.

XII.

To all appearances the taxation cannot be much lessened. The expenses of the Government, the interest on the national debt, and various pensions, subsidies and salaries must be paid. Should the present "Disarmament Congress" succeed in its object one great item — the tremendous cost of a standing army and a large navy would have a slim chance of disappearing. At present Italy's connection with the Triple Alliance necessitates the large army and navy and should the Congress come to naught Italy would still be under the same obligation. Even though Italy should recede from the Triple Alliance and the present "Disarmament Congress" succeed in its object, it is very doubtful if the Italian Government would disband the army, for in the present dissatisfied state of the country any weakness on the part of the Government would be eagerly seized by multitudes of revolutionists and no doubt the present form of Government in Italy would soon disappear. This the authorities know, so they maintain the army as a protection rather against the Italians themselves than against foreign foes. Then the whole case stands thus to all appearances the Government cannot change — it being almost constrained by circumstances to maintain its present policy and the people cannot bear this policy for any length of time so a clash must come between the people on the one hand and the Government on the other. To what methods and means an exasperated and enraged people can resort the French Revolution bears witness. The Government will depend for its existence upon the army. At present the Italian people are supposed to have a great sympathy and respect for the army, and the army for the people. The Government takes pride in parading this, but it forgets that this very sympathy will be its own death blow when the crucial moment comes. An army recruited year after year from among a dissatisfied people will in a short time also become dissatisfied with the Government and will want only an occasion