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The Fascisti: Their Origin And Aims.

(Catholic Register.)

We have been asked by many readers, "Who are the Fascisti?" "What is their origin?" "What do they propose to do?" "Why are they called Fascisti?" For answer to these questions and as a very clear, comprehensive and satisfying account of the present dictators of Italian politics, we cannot do better than give the following article from the Manchester Guardian. By way of preface it should be known that the Fascisti take their peculiar name from the "Fasces," which was the symbol of magisterial authority in ancient Rome. The "Fasces" (from Latin "Fasces," a rod or twig), consisted of a bundle of rods bound around the axe. The rods signified the power of scourging, which was a common punishment for crime in old Rome, and the axe symbolized the power of death or beheading. Axe and rods combined signified the power of punishing crime possessed by judges and magistrates. They therefore became a symbol of law and of government. As such they were carried before magistrates by the "lictors" or policemen of ancient Rome, just as the mace to-day is carried before the Lord Mayors of English cities, and before the Speaker of Parliament, or the American House of Representatives, to signify his authority.

A BLOODLESS REVOLUTION.

(From The Manchester Guardian.) The part of an English observer of the Italian crisis is at the moment to study it in a spirit of sympathy for Italy, for the nation as a whole, not for a section of it. The Fascisti, who at the Armistice did not exist, have now overthrown a constitutional Government by threat of force, impelled the King to reject the advice of his Ministers, and established themselves in power. We may congratulate Italy that she has so far escaped bloodshed. The discipline of the Fascisti has been good, their success in the occupation of important towns was immediate, and the action of the King perhaps averted what chance there was of civil war. Office and responsibility are apt to exercise a sobering influence on unshober minds, and some utterances are already attributed to the new Premier which suggest that he may pursue a policy more moderate than the speeches he has sometimes made. That remains to be seen. Meanwhile we may as well begin by recognizing what has happened in Italy.

Signor Mussolini has been victorious by a "coup d'état," by the exercise of unconstitutional violence. It is said that the bulk of Italian opinion is on his side, but there is no means of judging that. Amid the arms of the Fascisti the voice of criticism is silent. But even if it were true, it would still be irrelevant. If Italy is on his side, why declare a "general mobilization?" Mussolini's example, however moderately he might use his success, does permanent injury to his country. When a Lenin or a D'Annunzio, a De Valera or a Zeligowski insists by means of violence that he knows what his people want better than it does itself, he does an injury to its free development which is not soon or lightly healed. Italy will be fortunate if she, too, does not pay heavily for Mussolini.

ORIGIN OF THE FASCIST MOVEMENT.

For the origins of the Fascist movement we must go back to D'Annunzio, who fomented mutiny in the army and navy and seized Fiume. Had the Italian Government been strong enough to suppress D'Annunzio at once, there would in all probability have been no Fascists and no Mussolini. All recent history (in Ireland, for instance) teaches that unless an anti-constitutional movement of this kind is grappled with while it is still young and weak it will attract to itself support from the many elements to whom force or fanaticism or the idea of nationalist expansion makes an irresistible appeal. The Italian Government hesitated—our own record over Ulster forbids us to be censorious—and for many months D'Annunzio, with strong support in the army and navy, successfully defied them. But if the Nationalists, why not the Communists? So the workmen seized the factories and it was found that they, too, could use force with impunity. A compromise was made with them, and, if it failed in their object, it was not as they were not sufficiently organized and had not used force enough.

MUSSOLINI.

Then came Mussolini—a former Socialist and possessed by not less than the usual fervour of the man who has sprung from one extreme to another—and the Fascists arose. The Communist outbreak had struck terror into the heart of large masses of the population, who found that the Government could not protect them. Mussolini found a fertile soil and many allies. He preached to the youth of his country both the dangers of Communism and the gospel of a great Imperial Italy which D'Annunzio had already done much to make popular. Like Pompeius, he stamped his foot and an army arose. The manufacturers, the middle classes, everyone who had anything to lose supplied him with men or money. Glottis, the Premier, who had not dared to deal severely with the Communists, was not averse



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to the growth of a force which was likely to relieve him of a very troublesome task.

In its inception the Fascist movement was the most unnatural product of extreme weakness in the central Government, and it had its generous and its worthy side. But, as was inevitable with an organization which was under private and therefore under inadequate or inefficient control, it degenerated. It became itself a means of persecution against the Socialists and of open interference with the established State authorities. Sporadically but continuously it has waged the class war throughout Italy. No longer the upholder but the breaker of law, an instrument of tyranny instead of a bulwark against it, it has latterly threatened that it would, if need be, seize the reins of power. Parliament and Government, rent as they have long been between many little groups and only two or three parties of any size, have no more been able to assert the voice of the law and Constitution against Mussolini than they were against D'Annunzio or the Communists. Mussolini might have waited for the elections in order to submit his case to the electorate. He has chosen a shorter way, though there is nothing in the situation of Italy at home or abroad that justifies his haste. If Italy is really on his side, he should be able now to "repeal" his action by appealing to the people for their approval by constitutional means.

POLICY OF THE FASCISTS.

Of Mussolini's policy the little that is known is not encouraging. At home the mainspring of the movement has been anti-Socialism, which has taken the form of destroying the property of Socialist institutions and ejecting Socialist officials from the posts to which they have been legally elected. If this method should be elevated into a principle of government by a Ministry founded upon a threat of war, "Force begets Force" will be its epithet. Abroad the Fascists proclaim a flamboyant Nationalist policy of the sort for which no other people has had much stomach since the war. The re-opening of the Adriatic question with Jugo-Slavia—what a time for "re-opening" a problem that was hardly settled without another war!—the conversion of the Adriatic into an Italian lake, the acquisition of Malta, the recovery of Italian-speaking districts of Switzerland, and, even, according to a good authority, the "demolition of the British Empire" (though presumably as an ideal rather than an immediate proposition)—these are among the aims attributed to the fascist leaders.

It would be sad indeed if the unconsidered flow of heady oratory were to inspire not only the orators but also the statesmen which they will now become. It would be a grievous loss if the aid which during the last few years Italy has so often given to the cause of moderation and goodwill in reconstructing Europe were now to be withdrawn and she were to dissipate her energies on a class-war at home, waged under constitutional forms, and Nationalist ambitions abroad, when for all of us, the need is to sacrifice something of our personal ambitions for the larger good. But it may be that Signor Mussolini and his crusaders have been misunderstood.

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Telegram Fashion Plate

The Home Dressmaker should keep a Catalogue-Stamp Book of Pattern Cuts. These will be found very useful to refer to from time to time.



A PRETTY FROCK FOR AFTERNOON AND EVENING.
4166-4175 Brocaded canton crepe is here shown, with vest and facings of white georgette. This model is pretty for satin, crepe de chine or chiffon velvet.

The Waist Pattern 4166, may be developed without the sleeves or the bretelles. It is cut in 6 Sizes: 34, 36, 38, 40, 42, and 44 inches bust measure. The Skirt 4175 is cut in 7 Sizes: 25, 27, 29, 31, 33, 35, and 37 inches waist measure. The width at the foot is 2 1/4 yards. To make the dress with sleeves for a 28 inch size requires 6 3/4 yards of 40 inch material. For vest, girdle and panel facing of contrasting material, 1 1/2 yard will be required. The dress requires 3/4 yard less without sleeves.

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A NEW STRAIGHT LINE FROCK.
3812. Charming simplicity is featured in this pleasing style. The panels add length and becoming fullness. The closing is invisible at the left side of the front panel. This is a good design



A BOY'S PLAY SUIT.
4142. This is a good model for galatea, drill, seersucker, gabardine and serge. The back is made with drop portions. The sleeve may be finished with the cuff or only the sleeveband.

The Pattern is cut in 4 Sizes: 2, 3, 4 and 6 years. A 2 year size requires 1 1/4 yard of 40 inch material. To trim as illustrated requires 3/4 yard of contrasting material 32 inches wide.

Pattern mailed to any address on receipt of 10c in silver or stamps.

BOYS' BLOUSE AND KNICKER-BOCKER TROUSERS.

Pattern 3436 furnishes these two practical styles. It is cut in 5 Sizes: 6, 8, 10, 12 and 14 years. A 10 year size will require 1 1/4 yard of 36 inch material for the Blouse and 1 1/4 yard for the Knickerbockers.

Serge, chevot, corduroy and khaki are good for the Knickerbockers and cambric, madras, linen, chambray and flannel for the Blouse.

Pattern mailed to any address on receipt of 10c in silver or stamps.

Plain water added to fondant when melting it to cover small cakes and candies, usually destroys the velvety texture of fondant. To avoid this add a light sugar syrup to the fondant.

Jars and bottles of Christmas "goodies," such as candies, jellies or preserves, can be wrapped in cylindrical packages with red crepe paper fringed and tied at the ends to represent big snap mittens.

New prune sauce is made by washing and soaking prunes and pouring enough syrup over them to cover. Bring to boil and cook slowly until

soft. Serve with cream or low sauce and nuts.

Alphabet soup makes an indispensable when preparing children's party. They can be on place cards to spell out the name or they can be decorated in decorating the letters on the

A delicious apricot ice cream in the following manner: 2 cups apricot pulp, 2 lemon juice, 2 cups thick cream, 2 cups milk. Freeze to a stiff consistency and add the stiffly-beaten white cream. Finish freezing and allow to stand two hours.

remodeling. Satisfaction and figured silk could be used. As illustrated, a new shade of brown, a new decoration of novelty.

The Pattern is cut in 3 Sizes: 18, and 20 years. A pattern of this size to any address on receipt of 10c silver or stamps.

A CHARMING LITTLE
3872. Loose fitting, a pretty sleeve design, these lines, these are the lines of this attractive velvety velvety velvety or in linen, or combined remodeling or combined materials it is also a good design. The Pattern is cut in 3 Sizes: 38, 38, 40, 42, and 44 inches bust measure. To make as illustrated, 3 3/4 yards of figured material, 3 3/4 yards of figured material, 40 inches wide. The pattern is about 2 yards.

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