paign, his dramatization of it as a War where various battles are waging, his success in creating a war spirit - an economic war spirit - are capped by his amazing power of energizing everything he touches. True it is the energizing of a man who has the full power of the state in his hands, and who also has the courage, or lack of scruples - if you wish - to use it relentlessly if there is opposition or lagging. That no doubt is a powerful persuader - but men also do things gladly under his compelling magnetism - a magnetism which is a phenomenon in itself.

Italy is teeming with the results of this energizing. A most typical one of a kind is giving a sea beach to Rome after years of promises and sporadic activities. Some fifteen miles from the city, at the mouth of the River Tiber, there was long before Christ a lively city - Ostia - the port of Rome. It was a city in the time of the Roman kings and dwindled. On top of it the Roman Republic built a city, which passed, and on this the Emperors built a third - a city of 100,000 people - compact, efficient, rich and beautiful - and this too died, and was buried deep under centuries of accumulating soil which became green and gay with all the wild grasses and flowers of the countryside and from which great cedars and cypresses grew.

The port filled up, and the old road between Ostia and Rome once as alive as that between New York and Bridgeport was abandoned - the country on each side for miles reverted to swamps from which rose a malaria so malignant that at certain times of the year it was regarded as almost sure death to pass a night on them. Twenty or thirty years ago the Italian Government
determined to redeem the marshes and give the Romans easy and cheap communications to the great beach in 1908 made excavations also to excavate the buried city, which it was suspected might rival Pompeii in interest if not in luxury, for Pompeii, it should be remembered, was chiefly a city of luxury, Ostia of commerce.

The work was begun and the first essential thing completed. The marshes are drained and are again under cultivation, but the electric road which the Roman people had been promised lagged. It became a joke - that road - and was when Mussolini came in. He soon reached it on his agenda and called in the directors of the company.

"When, he asked, "do you expect to give the people of Rome access to their bathing beach?" "Next year," he was told. "Why not this year," he asked. There were all the good reasons men have for leisurely accomplishment.

Mussolini asked a list of pertinent question, set down some figures, did some calculating.

"I will give you ninety days," he told the director, "to have the road bed between Rome and Ostia ready for an engine and train and ninety days from today I shall expect you to take me to the beach. If it is not done the government will take your concession and finish the road itself without compensation to you."

The story goes that ninety days from this imperious ultimatum Mussolini did go by train to Ostia over a properly made road bed. Since then the beach of Ostia has become a delightful place of recreation for the Roman people, who can go down and back for about 25 cents of our money. It is rapidly building up into a
popular Coney Island—with more taste and restraint.

As for the buried city—much, very much, has been done in the years they have been excavating. It is one of the most interesting things in Italy now, but so much more remains to be done! Mussolini itches to get his hands on it. He goes there, looks at it, but he has a sense of relative values. His money is limited. The Roman workers need cheap and good houses more than ruins, and so, it must be with a sigh—he is building the houses. Indeed he has forbidden all further building of high grade apartments in Rome until there is more decent housing for the poor available.

Apply this same terrific energy and absolute power to needs of far wider range, and you get still great benefits. Take what they have brought to pass in Sicily and the South. That should be looked at before the attempt to see what the past life of this man, who is doing these things has been, or attempt to trace the train of extraordinary events which led him to the March on Rome, or to appraise and weight our findings.

Let us then go South.