Obviously when a government is in a position to act when it decides there is need, without appeal to Parliament, you get things done, and some of the economic experiences of Italy in the last three years and a half has many illustrations of the loss and damage prevented by relieving bad situations at the moment when the relief would prevent serious damage, perhaps the destruction, of an industry. In 1924 for instance the sugar interests in Italy were badly hit by a poor crop and increased prices of production. Czeco Slovakia which can produce sugar cheaper than Italy even under good conditions, was putting it down at so low a price that the sugar interests were seriously embarassed. Now in the judgment of the Italian Government anything that injures one of its much needed industries must be corrected if possible, and without delay a tariff was put on sugar. It was made clear that this was not necess arily a permanent measure it was a relief measure.

The same thing was done a year and a half ago in regard to wine. The cutting off of our market by prohibition law hit Italan wine growers seriously. However, they seem not to have produced less wine, but they found themselves with an oversupply and price was lowered, and with the heavy tax which the State puts on wine, it was really threatening their interests. The Italian Government needed the wine tax. It amounted to something like 500 million lire, but rather than embarass and discredit a staple industry, it removed the tax for the time being.

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When one compares the flexibility of this system, the possibility of doing a thing when it will be some use with the practical years of effort it would take in the United States to get a change in a tax or a tariff, it cannot be denied that there is something for the Italian system. Our Congress would have talked and delayed until the poor wine growers and sugar people were out of existence. However, an injury to one of our tremendous industries is a small matter compared to the disaster to a country situated economically as Italy is.

There are various other examples. For instance, having work done where it is most needed instead of where wealth and strength are the greatest, as the matter of irrigation. There are certain crops in Italy, as rice, sugar, and a percentage of cotton, which are raised on irrigated lands. The Government sets aside a certain sum every year to apply to irrigation. The individual interested in the irrigation project pays 4% for ten years, of the total cost, or 40% in all. The other 60% is carried by the Government and when the cost is settled, the debt is liquidated. The scheme becomes then an improvement. Now the North in the past has had nearly all of the money devoted to irrigation. It was the aggressive, prosperous influential part. But the last appropriations show a complete change. The South is getting nearly all the money. This is in line with Mussolini's statement when he first came into power. "The Italian Government has long neglected the South" he said. "I propose that we do everything that we possibly can for them." One of his first trips was into Sardinia. When he spoke at Sassafra, Mussolini was not a little shocked to find that the town had no water system at all, and in his speech he said "I promise you that the first thing

my Government

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my Government does is to give you waterworks. So then it came to irrigation, the last reports show that it is the South East, the toe of the boot, Sicily, the country around Naples, where irrigation projects are fostered. In the South it is possible to do this because for the first time water in quantities is becoming available. For many years the country along the South Eastern coast has been so dry that at times ships have to be sent with water that the people might have enough to drink. There was no sure supply for irrigation, and yet this country was not without rivers, though their flow was more or less irregular. Some ten years ago a tremendous scheme was started in that part of Italy, something on the lines of our Rossevelt Dam , a big basin across which a sizeable river flowed being dammed. It is estimated that 160,000 H.P. will be furnished by this undertaking, power enough to generate electricity for Naples. It is said that it can even be carried across the Straits to Sicily. (What proportion of this water is used for irrigation?)

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