

R O M E, 13th August 1926.

H.P. Burton, Editor,
McCall's Magazine,
232 West 37th Street,
NEW YORK CITY

Dear Mr. Buxton,

I am sending you under separate cover a copy of the second article, also a package of photograph postal cards of Mussolini. Please use the one of the wife, and some of those informal ones of him himself. He is really very handsome at times when he drops his Roman pose. In the roll there is a copy of the Fascist song "Giovanezza" which I think you might possibly work in, and I think the bird of peace roosting in the sword handle is a dear, and should be used, but I think possibly later when I talk a little of the way he is licking foreign relations into shape. He seems to have them all eating out of his hand, a peaceful treaty with everybody. I wish that in this article, if you have not done it in the first, you would get a good graphic map of Italy, Sicily and Sardinia made to show what the country really covers. You had a very interesting one of Florida.

I have done the best I could to arrive at the facts and try to get some judgment that would pass muster. I am sure about the economic war; that is really the big thing here, and his dramatising of it.

I have seen him as you would gather from this article, but it was "no interview", but I may see him again later if I can, and it seems wise. Caetani, who was the Italian Minister in Washington you may remember, just after the war, has been very nice to me. I spent two hours with him yesterday at his house, with Mussolini's secretary. He has been with him for four years day and night, and it is really a day and night job, and the intimate things he told me about him are very interesting. I am gathering these all up for probably the last article. The things come very slowly. I am leaving Rome tomorrow for ten days in Florence. While there I shall make an expedition to see the town and the country where Mussolini was born, and passed his boyhood, and where his family now lives. Then I go to Genoa, and Turin, and Milan where it has already been arranged I should see all the big industries, - Fiat, Pirelli, Caproni. The men themselves have promised to see me, so you see I ought to get something that is not stale, and that is real. What I really want to find in these visits is how the corporate state is working. It is a fascinating undertaking, and I want to find out too if I could what has become of the Communists. You never saw anything so peaceful as this

country, and do not be deceived. It is not fear. The great mass of people are happier than they have been for years, and they would tear you to pieces if you touched their Mussolini. Certainly it is a big dose to swallow for a good Democrat like myself, but he has got something I am sure, that we will have to take notice of.

But I do not want to write an article, I just wanted you to know that I really am working as hard as I can, trying to get the thing straightened out so that it will at least be sound. I shall not try to sail before the middle of October.

In the roll I have sent you is a print of the bust of Mussolini by Caprino, a well known sculptor. I think it is interesting to use it as the way a modern sees him, though it is a shame they should make such a brute of him. If you want a note for this you can put something like this:-

Portrait bust of Benito Mussolini by Lorenzo Caprino used on a folder distributed at this year's Annual Grain Exhibition. The legend on the folder read:- Benito Mussolini, Leader of Italy's agricultural forces presents arms to fight and win the second offensive in the Wheat Battle, which is to give the country independent food. What are these arms that every farmer should at once possess in order to create his production?

Hard Labor,

Adequate Fertilisers.

Careful and diligent Cultivation.

Yours faithfully,