

Italy Memo - October 20, 1933

Will
Justice White just back from a big swing
in Europe at the Naval Conference, Russia, Italy. I asked
White, How about Italy? A famous answer.

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Mussolini has made a man of Italy. This
interests me very much since it was my conviction, ~~give him~~ *W.C.D.*
~~time~~ *that* and he would make a man of Italy, that led me to talk
as I did when I came back in '26. I remember Sally said
at that time, after hearing me talk at the P. & B., "We're
all for her, but we didn't believe a word she said."

Another good Mussolini story - Mrs. Samuel
Scott, the reader, said that Fletcher told it to her. Lady Asquith
was ushered in. "Mr. Mussolini," she said, "you wouldn't
last five minutes in England." "Madam," he replied, "I am
not in England, I am in Italy."

They feel much less a sense of caution on the
part of people evidently than I felt. Evidently much has been
pressed with order, firmness, general standard of present living.
believes that in five years Russia will have brought up its
peasant class to the present Italian standard.

White is exultant over Russia, says his eyes
have seen the coming of the Glory of the Lord. Between three

and five million people, according to the correspondence with whom he hobnobbed in Russia, had died this last year. And now a plague of typhus is sweeping across the country as a result of the famine and no one is allowed to report it. He sees this as part of war. You would think nothing of sacrificing that many men in any war.

Thinks the Germans have already killed many hundreds. They have two million in camp - communists.