

In grubbing your way about the corporate State you get gleams of meaning. Change which disturbs many people and which taken apart from the plan for the corporate State and the general idea of syndicalism can only be interpreted as the work of a dictator determined on getting absolutely into his own hands every particle of power is the change that has been made in all Municipal governments. They started out by putting at the head of each commune of 5,000 or less a podesta as they call it, or as we would call it a city manager. It was stated that the syndicates of the commune were each to select from their members a representative. These were to form a counsel that were to work with the podesta. As near as I could find out the counsels are not very active bodies yet, but they are still in the ear. The reason that they are not active is that the syndicates themselves are still in the formative period. Communes and cities have not taken generally enough to the idea though the thing is growing absolutely all the time. People say "But there are no elections". It is true. No elections of the old kind, that is what Mussolini wanted to get rid of. America ought to understand the situation in which Mussolini found the Municipalities. They were in the hands of the politicians and instead of two parties as with us there were any way from half a dozen to a dozen. Theoretically you elected to run your town the best people. These people are to devote themselves to the interests which are business interests. Roads, sanitation, schools etc. But we know particularly how it has worked out in many places in America. The political governor of towns and cities has become the source of corruption dangerous to the whole source of government. Could anything be a more severe criticism on democratic government

than the way Chicago and New York are conducted. not primarily in the interests of the city, but primarily in the interests of one of the two great parties. Now just what happens there has happened in an intensified form in the Italian cities and towns. It is to break this up entirely that a new form of government that will do the work of the town at less expense and more satisfaction, and at the same time correlate that work to that of other cities and towns, that Mussolini is aiming. It is not to suppress free expression, it is to get a more true expression. If you have a very protective force in a community organised, and representatives of those chosen in a counsel with a head who is disinterested, you get town needs attended to directly.

The lack of any such kind of representative for the protective force of the community has been attempted though not usually I think in our American centres by the Rotary Clubs. Groups of representatives of the towns activities meeting regularly for discussion. If the Rotary Club could be transferred in the town Counsel having at the head a Town Commissioner, you would get something of what Mussolini is aiming at. Of course you would break down your political system entirely, but the political system has, so far as the Municipality is concerned, has broken down in America.

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