

Agresti:

Madam Agresti tells me she first went to Italy when she was sixteen and that was in 1886. She went back sometime in the '90's after her marriage. She says that with Lubin she one of the was/founders of the International Agricultural Institute, that she holds no official position there now but that she is first in counsel and follows closely its work. It was in connection with the Agricultural Institute that I think I first met her through Gertrude Shelby.

She has been an interpreter for the Italians at the League of Nations since the beginning, was the interpreter of ^{Stresa} Stresa and tells of going with representatives ^{General Peace} to the Conference soon after the War held I think in Brussels. At all events there were representatives of the leading powers ^{Germany included} - Snowden was there and he made a terrible remark which she said made a terrible impression on her. "We have the corpse of Germany on the table." Mussolini she said would never have made such a remark as that, he understands too well the vitality of people. He has too much sympathy with national ambitions; he is not sympathetic with the German temperment in her opinion, he understands better than certainly Snowden did.

She has been active in the ^{Delegation} Delegation ^{League} for the last three or four years. Andrews tells me that he first knew her at the first labor conference where she was of great value. Her present ~~first~~ official position is that of executive secretary of the Association of Italian Corporations and the Fascist Confederation of Industrialists - the organizations which send out the monthly report of business and financial affairs in Italy.

She tells me that she came over here at the request of three groups of Italian women - Business and Professional Women - Association of University Women. ~~and~~ ^{Woman's Council} These of course are branches of the ~~American~~ ^{International} society. She is interesting on women in answer to a question. The point that I had never touched was that the women teaching in the Universities of which there are several hundred have equal positions on faculties with men and lecture to mixed classes. She thinks there is a larger degree of ^Equality in the ^{education} than in any other country. This I think is true, but you get ⁱⁿ academic circles a special class of scholarly women - better early training than our women have. A point which impresses me and which she makes well - better than I have ever heard it made - is the sense of ^{the} ~~word~~ ^{internationalism} distinction to nationalism which is inherited by the Italians. They were a world power in their early days, a world power in Europe in the days of Caesar. Again when the Church became dominant in Italy it was a world church, not an Italian church. Their art was something universal, that is, that Italy has it in her blood to ~~belong~~ ^{the consciousness of belonging} to the world and not belong to one spot in the world, and to consider that the world belongs to them rather than one spot in the world as you might say.

This sense is strong in Mussolini. He feels the centuries of Italian world power in his veins and always has. I think it is one of the means by which he has ~~has~~ ^{aroused} the Italians to the sense of their possible international importance, shamed them

from the position into which they had fallen, of a race of
 of petty articles,
 shop keepers, manufacturers/ the financial tools of great
 German financiers, particularly. This is explained in the
 Italian venture which is difficult for people of our tradition
 to understand. We ~~can~~ ^{an} speak of a people as young as we are with
 little experience in government. The Italians have tried all
 kinds in their twenty five hundred years; we have tried only
 one kind and have been only one hundred and fifty years at it.
 And the dangerous point at the moment is that we have lost the
 power to stir youth as Mussolini has stirred youth from the
 sense of possible greatest of country and their responsibility
 to bring Italy back. *How are we stirring youth to see meaning - the*

idea is lacking our confidence!
 She emphasizes the sense ~~he~~ ^{she} has of Europe which
 she thinks is greater than any other public man. That very
 boldness in announcing what he thinks about a thing; his
 fearlessness in stating what he believes to be facts, rather
 than hiding behind his ideals, ~~that~~ ^{Mussolini} so shocks English people.

Her talk at the Arts Club was highly successful.
 She gave an impression of mastery of the subject - her point
 of view. It was a clean well argued statement and you knew
 she knew what she was talking about. She was particularly
 interesting, I thought, in the ~~position~~ ^{explanation} of the corporate state -
 the way it is working out. She made such a comment as
 that of this morning by Dorothy Thompson on Italy look rather thin.
 Her sheer ability impressed me, with a dry humor and quite
 unconscious that many of the audience *felt* ^{her} willingness
 to stand up there was proof of great courage.

It doesn't take courage to expound a thing of which you are convinced, as she is, and about which you know as much as she does.

Her fighting spirit is aroused and she has a certain scorn I think of the uninformed offices and emotional judgments that she meets here. I rather think what is *with assurance* /she ~~may~~ has to fight/boredom rather than *opinion* It takes courage to fight boredom.

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