

(continued from previous page)

and her only philosopher with a world-wide reputation, he is a national figure revered even by those who cannot understand what he is talking about.

His Views on Liberty

Once before he ventured into politics. He was Minister of Education in 1920-21, but with the rise of Fascism which he detested he retired again to his speculations. That he may be ready to play his part in the re-birth of a free Italy is suggested by the book he wrote in 1938—published in English as *History as the Story of Liberty*—in which he lays "particular emphasis . . . on the relation between the writing of history and practical action." He says to those who are rejoicing or bemoaning that liberty has now deserted the world: "to assert that liberty is dead is the same as saying that life is dead, that its mainspring is broken." There is, he says, no ideal that can make men's hearts so beat as liberty. "The law of life which is history . . . calls for an ideal in which liberty is accepted and respected and so placed as to produce ever greater achievements."

A VERY different man is Count Carlo Sforza. He is a wealthy aristocrat, head of the ancient house whose founder, Francesco Sforza, was first Duke of Milan in 1450, and his wife comes of one of the oldest Belgian houses. The Count held many high political offices before the rise of Fascism and led the democratic opposition to it while that was possible. Mussolini made many offers to win him over but Sforza said "The only thing I want is to be free; it is the only thing this fellow cannot give me!"

Mussolini's Greatest Enemy

After his voluntary exile in 1928 Sforza became Mussolini's best hated enemy, for in his travels and books he gave the lie to the slogan that "Fascism is the best bulwark against Communism." He showed that the great liberal tradition of Europe was the true bulwark against revolution and that in any case a Bolshevik danger never existed in Italy. He has criticised the Soviet regime for its intolerance, but in his book *The Totalitarian War and After* (1941) he prophesied that Russia would one day "turn to the side of

civilisation—while Fascism and Nazism are fatally on the side of barbarism . . . old Russia may prove some day that she is still a great human force."

After the Nazi-Fascist invasion of Spain, Sforza went to France to warn Daladier against further flirting with Mussolini, whom he knew to be in complete agreement with Hitler. On hearing him, he tells us, Daladier became pale with rage and would have run him out of France if he had dared. In the fatal June of 1940, Sforza was in Bordeaux trying to persuade Petain and Weygand not to break faith with Britain. A friend warned him during these negotiations that the new French government was planning to hand him over to the Nazis, so he collected his family and with difficulty chartered a small Dutch trawler. All their luggage was lost on the beach, and after five terrible days, in which they were frequently bombed, they arrived in England.

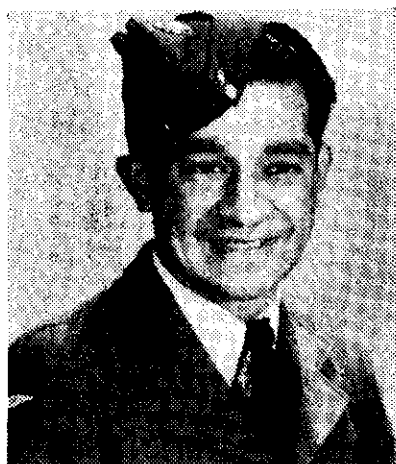
Mr. Churchill welcomed Sforza as an Italian who had frequently warned Britain against Mussolini. The Count went to America the following month and has since been lecturing in various universities on international relations. He believes in a Europe of regional federations. In August, 1942, a Pan-American Conference of Free Italians was held at Montevideo and Sforza was recognised as the unofficial leader of the Free Italy movement throughout the world.

Are They Too Old?

The return of these men to power raises some interesting speculations about the future of liberated Europe. For example, if we are to rely on men who had already made national or world reputations before the gangster epoch of Nazi-Fascism, we shall be pinning our hopes to elderly men. Croce is 77, Sforza, though a vigorous athletic figure, is 70. Thomas Mann, the outstanding German liberal thinker is 68. Further, will these powerful intellects be able to seize the imagination of the masses as did the dictators and their henchmen? If these men are to be merely provisional leaders of the interim period, then Europe will have to find, and find quickly, younger leaders from the people themselves who belong to the great liberal tradition of Europe and who can make it live again in the changed conditions of a new age.

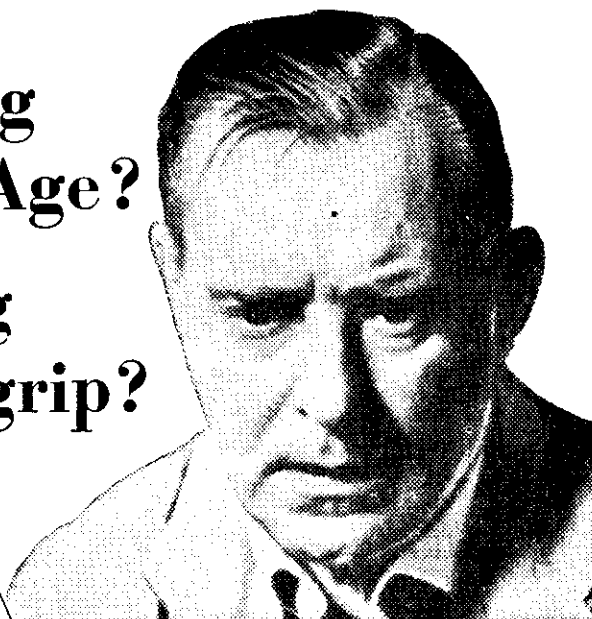
—H.W.

Recruits For Kiwi Concert Party



TWO BROTHERS, Phil (left) and George Campbell, who are well-known musicians and who will be returning with the N.Z. Kiwi Concert Party, now on furlough. They were in the Centennial Exhibition Band and the 12B and 42B Orchestras

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