

## What is Fascism?

### AN ANTI-LABOR MOVEMENT OF TERROR.

Many a newspaper reader must have seen references to Fascism and the Fascisti in Italy without having any very clear idea as to whether it was an art or a political movement. In the January *Quarterly Review*, Mr. Vincent Bugeja gives an interesting account of the rise and influence of this post-war political party.

Ever since the great Labor and Socialist victory at the General Elections of November 16, 1919, the country has been in a state of unrest. Old ideas of traditional party government were gone, for the support either of the Socialist or the Popular party (the latter a Catholic party which stood for radical and Christian, as opposed to revolutionary, social reform) was now indispensable. There have been outbreaks, notably the seizure of factories and land in August, 1920, but following these has been a great Nationalist revival, and a revolt against Socialists. In this revolt the growth of the anti-Socialist reaction known as "Fascism" has played a great part.

"This movement," says Mr. Bugeja, "has developed from the patriotic and nationalistic programme of the 'Fasci dei Combattenti,' or clubs of ex-service men. At first valuable organisations for the defence of the interests of former soldiers, the Fasci gradually admitted as members large numbers of young men whom the war had left without any certain means of livelihood, and who were too proud or too lazy to work with their hands. The element thus introduced into the Fasci was a turbulent one; and the Fascisti formed excellent material for such military adventures as that of Gabriele D'Annunzio. A considerable proportion of the poet's legionaries in Fiume was drawn from the Fasci in different Italian towns."

The commercial classes and landed proprietors financed the movement, in self-protection against Labor, and Fascism began a campaign of violence. "Their efforts," says Mr. Bugeja, "are mainly directed against Labor organisation and Socialist propaganda in any form. Labor newspaper offices and *Cemere del Lavoro* have been destroyed by them; Socialist literature has been burnt; workmen's meetings have been broken up; and Socialist leaders present in cities other than their own have been forcibly marched to the railway stations and compelled to return to the places whence they came.

#### Terror Let Loose.

"During the first three months of 1921 the Fascisti let loose a veritable Terror throughout the length and breadth of Italy. . . . The accounts of vendettas by the peasants of the south-eastern provinces against the land-owners were followed by the story of three bloody days in Florence, then by the news of the burning of the great shipbuilding yard of San Marco di Trieste. In the Central Provinces there was scarcely a town which did not witness fatal conflicts between the opposing factions of Fascisti and Socialists. The total toll of human life ran into hundreds."

"Wounded were counted in thousands; and the destruction of property at the San Marco yard alone was estimated at more than 30,000,000 lire."

But the movement seems to be likely to perish by its own violence. So far as it fulfilled any useful partisan purpose, as a rallying point for the friends of peace and order against the friends of revolution, that function is likely to be taken over by the State, for—

"Another ground of hope is the present widespread belief in Italy in the necessity of the rehabilitation of State authority, which means of course the disintegration of the Fascist movement. The essence of Fascism is the usurpation of the powers of the State by an organised faction within the State. Although the majority of the Fascisti have been and still are animated by the best of patriotic motives, their ardor has blinded them to the fact that their methods lead straight to anarchy. Reconstruction at home and prestige abroad cannot be secured by the aimless activities of an organisation largely inspired by a desire to discredit Parliament."

Snow-white, soft fresh linen is the result of regularly using "NO-RUBBING" Laundry Help; in 1/- packets at all stores.

## WEDDING BELLS

### KELLY-REILLY.

The wedding was solemnised at St. Mary's Church, Makikihi, on September 12, by Rev. Father Peoples, S.M., of Daniel, son of Mr. P. Kelly, Timaru, and Mary, second daughter of Mr. P. Reilly, Makikihi. The bride, who entered the church on the arm of her father, was charmingly attired in a cream souple satin frock daintily embroidered in pearls. She also wore the customary veil and wreath, and carried a bouquet of hyacinth and maiden-hair fern. The bridesmaid (Miss Helen Reilly) wore a pretty frock of apricot organdi muslin, with hat to match, and carried a bouquet of pink hyacinths. Mr. John Reilly (brother of the bride) was best man. After the ceremony, the wedding breakfast was partaken of at the residence of the bride's parents. Rev. Father Peoples presided, and the usual toasts were honored. The bride and bridegroom, who are well known, were the recipients of numerous valuable presents, including cheques for substantial amounts. The newly-wedded couple left in the afternoon for the North Island, where the honeymoon was spent. In the evening Mr. Reilly entertained a number of friends and young people at a social in the Makikihi Hall.

## New "Britannica" Announces Discovery of the "Missing Link"

In the twelfth edition of the *Encyclopedia Britannica*, which is to appear shortly, Prof. Grafton Elliott Smith, of the University of London, makes the startling statement that science has at last found the missing link between man and monkey. In a most iconoclastic article he sweeps away, as out of date, the conclusions of Dr. Edward B. Tylor, F.R.S., who, in writing on "Anthropology," for the eleventh edition, declared that "no bones, with the exception of the much-discussed *Pithecanthropus erectus*, have been found which can be regarded as definitely bridging the gulf between man and the lower creation." The London savant, strange to say, has not discovered any new fossils, but simply confounds his timorous peers by recognising in the Piltdown skull (a subject of controversy for years) the long-sought "missing link." This is not all. Delving further, he declares that mankind springs from the Siwalik Hills at the base of the Himalayas, where the anthropoid apes, the ancestors of the chimpanzees, gorillas, and the human family, were bred. This was in the Miocene period.

All of this is so arbitrary that we cannot but recall Darwin's letter to Haeckel in 1868, wherein he wrote: "Your boldness sometimes makes me tremble." So must the best scientists of the day address Dr. Smith. They have already passed on the Piltdown fossils. They doubt whether the jaw-bone and the imperfectly formed cranium, which were found at a considerable distance from each other, belong to the same individual; they admit there is no proof that both are human. The burden of proof is clearly on the shoulders of Dr. Smith. Others have jumped at conclusion. A few years ago *Pithecanthropus erectus* of Java was hailed as the intermediate between man and ape. Now science knows the skeleton is that of a gibbon. Twenty scientists have twelve different opinions of the Neanderthal skull, while practically all admit that the Galley Hill remains, the most ancient of all, represent clearly *Homo sapiens* as we know him to-day.

Virchow's dictum that "we have no fossil remains of imperfectly developed man" stands as the almost universal opinion of reputable science. Wherever remains have been found man has always appeared as true man. Palaeontology has shown us an older race of men with beetling brows and an absence of chin, but there is no trace, as yet, of even a probable argument in favor of the ape-like animal progenitor of man. We have not obtained Dr. Smith's argument; only his conclusions have been broadcasted. Will he bolster up his assertions, as Haeckel did his Law of substance, by fraud and falsity, or will this twentieth century Columbus make modern science bow its head in shame at his display of erudition?

**Leonard Coakley Ltd.**

**Auckland's Progressive Auctioneers and House Furnishers**  
65 QUEEN ST., AUCKLAND.

—Phone 2238