

an acceptance of reality and show them the road out of the misery which their own passivity brought upon them. The only clear statement of present fact and future policy which I have seen is contained in a pamphlet issued by the Communist party in Naples. It was printed in 1943, and in the first paragraphs pointedly reveals the international position of the Italian people, pointing out how they suffered fascism for twenty years and abetted Mussolini in this and previous years. Its platform consists of three planks. First, national unity on the broadest lines, with the Italian working class as the basis of this unity; secondly, a greater and more energetic prosecution of the war against the Nazis on their soil; and thirdly, the most efficient mobilization of all industrial resources left to them. Two months ago Palmiro Togliatti (Ercoli) spoke at Rome and repeated this programme, laying special emphasis on the need for national unity and appealing point blank to the Allies to arm and equip a large Italian Army of Liberation. He rightly considers that the existence of a considerable armed Force composed entirely of Italian units, pursuing a successful war against the German invader and his Fascist satellites, would give a feeling of unity and purpose to the Italian people which is now totally absent, and it would largely remove the clogging apathy from their national affairs.

If the Communist party has not got the largest support of the Italian parties, it has certainly enrolled the most vociferous and propaganda-conscious elements.

Walls in working-class districts are smothered with red paint; symbols and slogans hit the eye at every corner urging death for the King and Badoglio, long life for Churchill, Roosevelt, and Stalin. Working parties of Italians roar through the villages in American lorries, continuously singing the *Bandiera Rossa*. Other parties remain silent and leave the paint in the shops; their future supporters lie on the beach and tell you, "Yes, there are many Communists, but there are even more who are against Communism. Why don't they show it? Well, they are not very interested in politics. I, for instance, prefer to lie here on the beach and get brown rather than paint walls and attend meetings. When the Allies leave Italy we shall settle our affairs; until then we are helpless. No, I do not know who Bonomi is. Croce is certainly a great man, but I have read none of his works; I am reading architecture, you know, at the university, and he is hardly in my line. Incidentally, when you go back to camp, could you possibly get me a bar of soap? Going already? *Popolo di cinque paste* we call you English, 'five-mealers'; you eat so much. When will we see all these supplies you talk about?"

As I go I notice two new posters on the beach wall. One is the work of the apolitical students from the university and calls for a return to Catholic duty and study. The other demands to know who overthrew Mussolini and who was the natural leader of the Italian people. The answer: *il Re, solo il Re*.

Korero's Competitions

Here are the results of *Korero's* competitions for writers and artists. In the section for short story or descriptive sketch on Service life at home or overseas, only a first prize of £7 10s. is awarded. The winner is 24563 Gunner Jim Henderson, Soldiers' Ward, Hutt Hospital, with a story "The Fatherland (from facts known to Ivan Tong, Kiwi p.w. in Germany)." For drawings a second prize of £5 is awarded to 71625 S/Sgt. L. J. Ferguson, N.Z.T.S., Army H.Q., Wellington. The prize-winning entries will be published in an early issue.