

# Italy Will Pay Her Debts And That Pleases America

Naturally a Sympathiser With France Italy, Economically Hurt by French Occupation of Ruhr, Lining up With Britain and United States

By DAVID LAWRENCE

This is the 15th of Mr. Lawrence's dispatches from Europe dealing with post-war reconstruction problems as they appear to him after five years absence. He finds that the French have made amazing progress in restoring those portions of their country that were devastated in the war, but that their mood after five years is still one of vivid war recollections. That is why he started his survey of European reconstruction on the battle fields of France where he saw every student of French policy should start.

Rome, August 2.—Italy, unlike France, has promised to pay her war debt to America irrespective of whether any reparations are forthcoming from the enemy powers. Italy is weaker from an economic viewpoint than France, but she makes no conditions about her promise to pay.

"The Italian government," said Premier Mussolini to the writer, "has declared it will meet the obligations completely because we have set our signature down and are not advocates of the scrap of paper theory. Naturally as the United States has given relatively good terms to Great Britain, Italy expects to be given terms proportionate to her economic strength."

In other words, the Italians wish to pay but they want the terms made so the debt can be distributed over a period of years consistent with their capacity to pay. They also want interest charges that are not burdensome simply because the period of payment may be lengthy.

Several months ago the idea of Italy paying anything on her debt to America was usually dismissed as fantastic. Overwhelmed with debts and torn asunder by internal difficulties the prospect of paying any foreign debt was not worth discussing. The American Government in the last few months, however, has been able to settle its terms with Great Britain and this has stimulated American ambassadors elsewhere to urge other countries to follow Great Britain's example.

Italy recognizes that first of all she must regain the confidence of American capitalists and that a step in the direction of paying the war debt would make a profound impression. As an instance of this policy of currying favor with America there has been a good deal of winning and dining of American business men who might be presumed to exert their influence when they get home from their travels.

Words spoken by the American Government through Ambassador Richard Washburn Child, supporting the Mussolini government come as a natural sequence to the latter's promises to pay her debts. There is no doubt that Mussolini has profited internally by the words of Child as well as by the words of President Harding which were reproduced in every Italian newspaper from one end of the Italian boot to the other.

Externally the Italian government under Mussolini also is playing a shrewd diplomatic game. Originally the Italians were inclined to favor their Latin associates. Mussolini likes France for sentimental reasons as that country harbored him when as a socialist, fleeing from the Italian police, he needed an asylum.

But France's Ruhr-policy has injured Italy's economic position by depriving her of coal. Moreover, Italy being weak in manufactures wants to buy cheap and the virtual suppression of German trade has compelled Italy to buy from countries where the rate of exchange is higher.

So today Italy is veering close to Great Britain and even closer to the United States.

Mussolini's entente with Washing-

## Fast Norfolk Club Loses To Best City

Visitors Outhit Locals But Fielding Of Home Team Was Too Fast

In a game featured by air tight playing on both sides, Elizabeth City Thursday afternoon defeated the Riverside Athletic Association of Norfolk 1 to 0, in the fastest game of ball seen here this season. The lone run scored by the home team was made in the first inning of the game and after this inning not a man was able to get to third base. The visitors outhit the locals with seven hits to their credit against five for the winners. Twice the Norfolk boys got on third base with only one man out but each time they were shut out by the fast team work of the homers.

Wallace, twirling for Norfolk, showed considerable skill on the mound, retiring three men in succession in four innings. Ballentine pitched a good game, especially after the first two innings during which the visitors picked out three of their hits.

The most exciting feature of the game was executed by the locals in the seventh frame. J. Guess hit by short. Whitaker flied out to Trueblood. Allen got to first when Calvert fumbled his bad grounder and J. Guess went to third. Allen started for second on Ballentine's first delivery to Host. Host pegged the pill to second and J. Guess started for home. Abbott played back to the plate and J. Guess was tagged out.

Another spectacular feature was Shipp's fast double play in the eighth inning. Hood covered center field in his usual brilliant style and Ballentine made a good catch of a pop fly on the third base line.

J. Guess starred in batting for the visitors with two hits out of three chances. H. Guess made a brilliant catch of Shipp's fly in right field and the general defense work of the visitors was excellent.

The one run made by the local team was started when Shipp hit to left field and Hood sacrificed. Calvert hit through second base and Abbott walked. Trueblood hit to center and Shipp scored. Calvert was tagged out at third and Bundy flied out to Guess.

Fans were disappointed at 5 o'clock when they learned that four of the players from Norfolk had not arrived and the game started off with substitutes from Elizabeth City. Before the second inning had been played, however the tardy players arrived and the game was started all

over again, both teams showing plenty of pep throughout the hard fought battle. And fans went home satisfied—declaring that it was the best game of ball they had seen this season.

The score by innings:

	R.	H.	E.
Norfolk	000	000	000
E. City	100	000	000

	AB.	R.	H.	E.
Shipp, ss	4	1	1	0
Hood, cf	3	0	0	0
Calvert, 3b	4	0	1	1
Abbott, 2b	2	0	1	0
Trueblood, 1b	3	0	1	0
Bundy, rf	3	0	0	0

	AB.	R.	H.	E.
Henderson, lf	3	0	0	0
Host, c	3	0	1	0
Ballentine, p	3	0	0	1
Totals	28	1	5	2

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