

The Daily Mail

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THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 1926.

THE FASCIST STATE.

Abolition of municipal elections is a logical step in the development of the Fascist State. The podesta system of municipal rule by an official appointed by the central Government, already in force in smaller communities, is now extended to all, Rome and Naples excepted; and even in these two cases there are no elected officials. The Council of Ministers asserts, in promulgating the decree, that the Italian people are convinced of its wisdom, and believe that the elective system should be replaced by one which responds more readily to modern conditions. There is ground, of course, for this contention. Municipal administration has been among the least successful ventures of democracy, as experiments with the commission form of government have shown. Nor have the Italian cities been free from inefficient or corrupt rule.

It is probable, therefore, that the podesta (magistrate) system may be in most cases an improvement over city governments elected by popular vote. In the larger cities the podesta will have the assistance of councillors appointed either by the prefect of the commune or by the Minister of the Interior. There will necessarily be no local control of the administration. All authority will be deputed by the central Government. This puts in the hands of Ministers practically complete supervision of every aspect of Italian life. It confirms the dictatorship of Mussolini, since none of his subordinates, we may assume, would venture to question his policy on any vital matter. Thus Italy gets a Government so highly centralized that no shadow of local self-government is left. From the largest cities to the smallest villages the influence of Rome is supreme and indisputable. Rome was the first country to adopt municipal government and it is rather strange that it should be the first to abolish it.

Such is the vital principle of the Fascist State. Democracy has no place in it. The Government becomes a sort of superman that knows what the people need better than they know themselves. It is Prussianism carried to the tenth degree. That the Italian people, naturally one of the most democratic in Europe, should submit to it would be quite inexplicable, save for the disintegrating conditions which preceded the advent of Fascism. Mussolini's great service to his countrymen was saving them from a Socialism that was rapidly becoming Bolshevik. They are still feeling the reaction. They want efficiency and economy in Government expenditure, an end of labor troubles, the use of all the national resources in the achievement of national prosperity.

But there is a limit to the progress which may be made in leading strings. The play of antagonistic forces is essential. The perfect machine is a worse instrument of government than the imperfect judgment of a free people.

THE FORK OF THE ROAD.

John Alexander, 70 years old, pleads with a New York judge to send him back to Sing Sing prison. He has spent most of the last twenty-five years there. He has no other home.

"I am tired and sick," he says. "When I get 'home' I'll probably be made comfortable in the prison hospital."

It would be interesting to know at just what place in John Alexander's life he came to the fork in the road—and took the wrong turn.

"In the midst of life we are in death"—which means that as we travel the way there are always avenues leading off. And the end of some of them is death.

Mr. R. B. Hanson, K. C., Conservative candidate for York-Sunbury is carrying on a vigorous campaign throughout the constituency and is being most cordially received. Yesterday afternoon he attended a farmer's picnic at Hoyt Station and in the evening he addressed a meeting at Nashwaakasis. With polling taking place on Tuesday next it will not be possible for either candidate in York-Sunbury to hold very many meetings.

Some political predictions are being made these days. The St. John Globe predicts that Hon. P. J. Veniot Liberal candidate in Gloucester will be New Brunswick's representative in the next Liberal cabinet, and speak-

ing at Gagetown last night in the presence of Hon. Dr. Foster, Mr. C. R. Hawkins predicted that he (Foster) would be the next Premier of New Brunswick.

Every one concerned having received a fair allowance of publicity out of the tragic closing of Valentino's career, it is only fair and just that the poor fellow should be permitted to enter upon the long rest which, at least according to the best knowledge and belief, is free of clamor, barren of claptrap and unencumbered of cheap and vulgar posturing in the light of other people's fame.

Latest report from the astronomers is that the temperature on Mars varies in a day from 75 degrees at noon to 40 degrees below zero at midnight. What a wonderful land for that vacationist who loves to come home and tell you that he slept under blankets every night!

Canada, a London publication forecasts that the Liberals will carry two out of the eleven seats in New Brunswick in the approaching election. This will mean a one hundred percent. increase over the result achieved in the last contest.

Hon. Ernest Lapointe former minister of Justice in the Liberal Cabinet, spoke in Kent County yesterday afternoon and in the evening addressed a meeting in Moncton.

"Over 54,000,000 persons in the United States don't go to church on Sunday," we read, and it's a foregone conclusion they don't make up for it on any other day.

In all probability the next announcement that someone has swum the channel will find us engaged in the business of politely trying to conceal a yawn.

An Italian has invented a radio loud speaker that can be heard ten miles, and there's more competition for Mussolini to regulate.

And if a man is to be compelled to wear a wedding ring, who's to pay for it? Must he go down in his own pocket to advertise his bondage?

By playing every time her black cat gave tongue, Anna Fitzu, the singer, earned 1,000,000 francs at the Vichy casino. That's the cat's meow.

Scientists predict that 10 years will soon be added to the span of life. They don't say how we shall afford to live that much longer.

Personally, we think the air-cooled engine for airplanes would be better, as there is always so much of it handy.

The school boy is now preparing for a ten months' stretch—and gosh! how he does dread it.

The evil element in a community is the one that breaks one set of laws while nice people break another.

A Roman holiday now means Sunday, when Mussolini doesn't make 'em work.

Long ago mother cooked and canned. Now she dare not even can the cook.

THROUGH OUR SIEVE

Add Dictionary: Vacation. A period of unrest.

Honesty keeps more men out of jail than cleverness.

In the advertisement nothing ever goes wrong with the automobile.

Snob: An undesirable who is afraid he will be caught acting human.

So far as known Art has never yet made Nature feel ashamed of herself.

It takes two to make a collision and one of them may be a telephone pole.

True, we do fade as the leaf. And the more we think about it the faster we wither.

Notwithstanding she could get in on a pass, Mrs. Dempsey isn't going to see Jack fight.

On or off location, the stars of Cinema surely know how to register emotion in a way to inspire publicity.

Man never got rich on his hindsight. But wealth isn't everything and many men seem to get a lot of happiness by telling of the money they could have made had they purchased a certain piece of real estate that was offered them for a song twenty years ago.

SOME UNUSUAL BIT OF NEWS BUT ALL TRUE

New York—A suggestion for birthday parties where a candle for each year would crowd the table, at a dinner to August Heckscher, philanthropist, there was one candle marked with degrees like a thermometer to indicate he had lived 78 years.

Philadelphia—Father Penn has done something that Father Knickerbocker refused to do. Jack Dempsey has a boxing license. The number is 3,151. Two of the digits indicate the general opinion of Father Knickerbocker's speculative fraternity as to Dempsey's position among the heavyweights after Sept. 23.

New York—William Muldoon would rather help boss boxing in New York than take \$5,000 for telling what he thinks of Dempsey and Tunney. He has refused an offer to write about them because of his official position.

Indianapolis—Would Hagen bet on himself? No, sir. But he'll play any other golfer for a suitable fee. This is his answer to a challenge of George Duncan for a match for a wager of \$2,500.

Ashbury Park, N. J.—Big Pat McDonald, who throws weights for fun and for a living, keeps traffic in order in New York's Broadway, thinks nothing of saving a life or two in the surf on his vacation. Many saw him rescue a girl from the undertow. "Nothing more than I did the other day without many finding out about it," he remarked.

Williamstown, Mass.—Song birds in other parts of the country who want to attain stardom like Marion prairies analyzed by a chemist. A scientist has informed the institute of politics that perhaps cultural traits can be induced by fertilization of the soil in which foods are grown.

Philadelphia—The dentist has replaced the duckling stool. Women who are pernicious gossips should have their teeth fixed. The opinion has been expressed at the International Dental congress that poor teeth cause some girls to become bitter toward society because the other sex shuns them.

New York—The next celebrity that Mary Pickford and Douglas Fairbanks want to see is the engineer of a train headed west. They say they are in a hurry to get to California to see the sun shine again. Now that a hot wave is in prospect after protracted rain they probably will see too much sun on the way home. They start Monday.

Philadelphia—A married man should have one night's liberty a week. In the opinion of Judge Samuel Gray, a bachelor. And so the judge freed a husband accused of desertion after quarrels that started when he would not explain where he went every seventh night.

PUBLIC OPINION TOO MANY BLOWERS.

Fredericton, N. B., Sept. 8, 1926. The Editor of The Mail, Dear Sir,—

For many years residents in King's Ward put up with the offensive odor of the then "Gas House," without putting forth very strenuous efforts to chase the Gas Light Company out of Town. Those people were not inferior to any present inhabitants of the Capital of New Brunswick. Why, then, this present agitation to shove the Maritime Electric Company plant over the river? "What We Have We Hold" is a better attitude. It has been well said that there are other Blowers than those which cause the noise and vibration some down-town citizens have complained of.

Faithfully yours,

TOLERATION.

FAIR RENT OFFICER.

Fredericton, Sept. 8, 1926. The Editor, The Daily Mail, Dear Sir,—

Without advocating more civic (who should also be "civil") officials and salaries, one may suggest the advisability of some present official acting as a "Fair Rent" Officer. Anybody second the motion?

Yours truly,

R. U. FAIR.

Mexico City—Big headline in Friday's El Universal: "God be praised; the Americans are weary of jazz!" underneath is a story that many requests for Mexican orchestras are being received from various cities in the United States.

WINTER COATS

Our showing of Fall Coats cannot be surpassed in the city, comprising all the newest cuts and cloth. Secure yours now while the selection is complete.

We are also showing a very nice range of Children's and Misses' coats at remarkably low prices.

JOHN J. WEDDALL & SON

Agents for Pictorial Patterns

An automobile plant in Indiana is being sold as junk. It advertises a few cars a filling cast and 800 office chairs. It is assumed that the factory operated at seating capacity.

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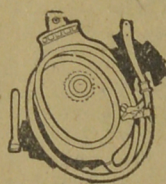
CUT FLOWERS

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Ada M. Schleyer

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