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The Man from the Mountains.

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Just before I saw him yesterday he destroyed the written stuff he had for me, because the police called on him, but it turned out that all they wanted ^{was} to tell him he could stay in Baden till end of the month. He hopes to get permission to reside in Zürich after that, in which case he will be delighted to meet Dubois. Has given up idea of going to Italy now, as friends tell him he would be arrested if he should show himself in public there.

Says Mussolini is on island of Ponza in Gulf of Gaeta.

Germans have increased considerably in northern Germany, especially in Savonna and Udine. There is also a German army corps garrisoned at various points around Rome, controlling the political situation by its power to put through a coup d'état, occupy Rome if necessary. (Also the Italian troops in Rome are of the Fascist brand.)

Thinks, however, that Germans would fight a rearguard action clear back to the Alps, not try to hold the Po Valley, but from back in Alps would dominate the Po Valley and make things hot for an occupying force there.

The People

Disorganized and isolated. RR connections ~~take~~ take a week from Genoa to Milan or Milan to Trieste, so written orders, tracts, newspapers, courriers are too slow to allow of coordination of efforts. Radio is only way to coordinate people's action. There are many isolated small strikes of a day or half a day. He says all he meant to ask socialist party to do was "make propaganda for a general strike" but unfortunately the cable he sent to London through us said "déclarons Grève..." and result was that when London broadcast it Monday morning some people in Genoa took it for an immediate order and struck on that day. ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~ It also touched off a strike at the Breda works in Milan on either Monday or Tuesday -- where troops faced a crowd of Breda workers and commander gave order to fire, one of his officers raised objections and the commander shot him dead on the spot as if he had been insubordinate in the face of the enemy. No other victims of that incident. Troops were very rough with workers in Genoa also but no victims. Younger workers who disobey are put in the army and sent to Calabria although previously exempt from military service as technicians in armament factories. Thus the head of the socialist party in Italy and 3 ~~or~~ or 4 coworkers in the party were taken and sent to Calabria without even a chance to go home to change their clothes or tell their families goodbye.

Mussolini's price-control commissars have lost control of prices and they are rising rapidly, which of course is causing distress among workers and may prove very important.

The people are depressed and waiting. Milan and Genoa are somewhat active but Turin is quite, due to mysterious and "equivocal" quietness of communists. He says recent decrease in attentats in France is no doubt due to mysterious quieting down of communists. He implied that the communists