

"SVENGALI EYES" OF PREMIER MUSSOLINI ARE RULING ITALY

Times Writer Declares Prime Minister Must Use Hypnotic Power.

This is the first of a series of articles by William Philip Simms, special NEA and Times writer. The writer declares that not since Napoleon has the world produced such an outstanding character as this humbly-born man who rose over night from obscurity to rule a nation.

By WILLIAM PHILIP SIMMS
NEA Special Writer.

ROME, May 14.—Is Benito Mussolini, prime minister of Italy, a strange new kind of Svengali? And is Italy playing the role of Trilby—an entire nation under the spell of this strange man's eyes?

Tonight I interviewed Mussolini and I confess I am inclined to believe this more than half true. From the moment I entered his amazing office in the new Foreign Affairs building here I had this feeling, a sensation I remember having only once before.

That was when I interviewed Mine de la Terre, the celebrated sorceress of Paris, now dead, in her mysterious room hung all round with black velvet and lighted only by the glow from crystal globes used in her practice of Black Magic.

I have interviewed kings and emperors, presidents and princes, premiers, dictators and all manner of men and women, but Mussolini impressed me as none of these impressed me.

He's "Different" Statesman

I mean he is different from any statesman I ever saw, as different as night from day. I have talked with political leaders whose profundity impressed me more, whose ideas more sound and in whose hands I would prefer to see placed the destiny of my own land.

But I have seen none other anything like Mussolini, the man with the hypnotic eyes, "black magic" statesman of Italy, the man who stares at citizens of his country, from king on down the line and they all sing to his bidding—like Svengali made Trilby sing in the romance which every one has read.

Does Mussolini realize his hypnotic power? He must. The first thing that met my eyes as I came ashore at Brindisi, way down in southern Italy, was a billboard picture of the Facist leader, a picture so extraordinary that it held me spellbound until I could make out what it was all about. The head was inclined forward just a trifle and from under beetling brows two enormous black eyes, the whites showing all round, huge, exaggerated eyes that stared straight at you and into you and through you precisely like the hypnotic stage pictures of Wilton Mackay as Svengali.

Pictures Seen Everywhere.

Over Brindisi I kept finding myself snatched at from the ambush of a fence and wall by those two orbs. I could well imagine the effect this might have on the ignorant and less sophisticated peasants of the country.

My sole object in coming to Italy was to see and talk with the remarkable owner of those eyes—the man who had turned Italy, almost overnight, into an armed camp ready to do his bidding—the man who marched on Rome with a powerful army at his back and "took" it without firing a shot, took it and forced the king to do his will—the man who dissolved Parliament and made his word supreme.

For that is what Mussolini did and nobody is more keenly aware of this than Mussolini himself.

He openly boasts that he has but to wave his hand and 160,000 "Black Shirts"—Facist soldiers—will snap into action and obey his slightest word.

Two Men Arrested

Following Ferguson's complaint, Willie Carey, 29, of 329 Kentucky Ave., and William Ford, 23, of 943 W. New York St., were arrested on the charge or robbery. Each was held to the grand jury in city court under \$1,000 bonds.

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