

February 26, 1915.

Mr. Arturo Giovannitti,
Editor Il Fuoco,
214 Second Avenue,
New York City.

Dear Sir:-

Referring to attached questionnaire:

1) It is doubtful whether the intervention of Italy would bring the European war to a speedier settlement. If Italy joins the Allies, it is quite possible that this may prolong the war. On the other hand, if Italy joins Germany, this may lead to a speedier settlement, but at a cost to Italy and to other neutral nations which may be involved, greater than pays for the advantages.

2) I most decidedly believe that Italy should remain neutral, for her own interests as well as those of the world at large. Italy is now the only great ^{neutral} nation, which is impartial, as America, though neutral, can not be impartial, due to its close business relations with, and especially its financial relations with England, and the commercial advantages which America gains by supplying war materials to the Allies. Therefore, when the war finally terminates, neutral and impartial Italy would have a position as mediator, which America due to

its unfortunate situation can not have.

3) to 5) I do not think that Italy could possibly benefit by joining the one or the other belligerent by getting anything what she can not get as price of neutrality, while in case Italy joins the losing side, she would seriously lose in prestige and in colonial territory, and in addition would in the war suffer far more heavily than she unavoidably suffers now as neutral.

Italy joining the Allies, in case of the Allies winning, would get their best thanks, possibly the Italian provinces of Austria, but would find Russian influence dominating on the other side of the Adriatic, and England and France controlling the Mediterranean.

If Italy joins the Allies and the Allies lose, Italy will lose all chance of getting control over the other side of the Adriatic, where the distance from the Italian coast is so short, that a strong and hostile power on the other shore threatens the safety of Italy. Also, she would lose its North African colonies.

If Italy joins Germany, and Germany wins, Italy would have a right to the Italian provinces of France, though it is doubtful whether Italy would care much for the same, as they were voluntarily ceded to Napoleon. However, Italy

would regain the old empire of Carthage, Rome's first colony, which with modern methods of agriculture is capable of again feeding large populations, as it did under the Caesars. The foremost gain of Italy however would be, that with England's sea power broken, Italy's coasts would be safe, while with the enormous coast line Italy has, she can never be safe as long as some other nation rules the oceans with so great a superiority as England did. On the other hand, siding with Germany would lay Italy's coasts open to wide spread destruction by the Allied fleets, and for this reason alone, Italy's joining Germany is questionable. Also, Epirus - Albania should come under Italian influence for Italy's safety.

If Italy joins Germany, and Germany loses, Italy would lose its African colonies, its coast cities would be laid waste, and for a long time all chances for expansion to take care of the increasing population would be lost.

6.) As stated, Italy's great role in this war is to limit the extent of destruction: as long as Italy remains neutral, Roumania, Bulgaria, Greece will have to remain neutral; but with Italy joining the war, all these nations will be involved, and the war will indeed be a world's war.

Thus on Italy, as the leader of the neutral nations, rests an enormous responsibility, but as the reverse, in the readjustment after the war, Italy is in the best position to be the umpire and the mediator, and, with its fresh and unbroken army and navy, will be able to exert a powerful influence towards permanent peace terms. It goes without saying from the preceding, that progress, humanity and civilization require Italy to remain neutral, as the last sane great nation of Europe.

7.) United States should and undoubtedly will keep out of the war, though we are in a very difficult situation: the United States were colonized largely by the British, and until the 80's of last century, the majority of the population were of the Anglo-Saxon race, and America's social, political, industrial and financial systems therefore were English, and still are essentially so today. However, with the enormous immigration, in the 90's of last century, the German and Irish contingent passed beyond the Anglo-Saxon, and the Irish have always been antagonistic to the British, and the Germans are rapidly becoming so; since that time, the enormous Mediterranean and Slav immigration is rapidly approaching the Anglo-Saxon and the Irish German, and the interests of the American citizens

of Italian and other Mediterranean descent, and of Slav descent, are not those of the British, but are independent Americans, like those of the German and the Irish, so that America is now in the beginning of an internal readjustment, from an Anglo-Saxon nation, to an American nation, whose characteristics combine the best there is in all components, the Italian as well as the German, Irish, Slav or Anglo-Saxon. Thus we have enough to do with our internal affairs, without mixing up with the world's war.

Yours,

CPS-SW