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George F. Sansone, R.O., Editor

On The Roads From Rome

Last Sunday evening at eight o'clock, Commendatore Luigi Villari delivered the following radio address over a network of Canadian stations.

He was introduced to the radio listeners in a short address by Mr. Frank Denton, the prominent lawyer who is well known in the Italian colony because of his warm friendship towards the Italians. Mr. Denton spoke about the extraordinary success of the visit of Comm. Villari and his colleagues to Canada this winter and the great effect it has had in welding together in a common interest the people of Italy and Canada, and he thanked Comm. Villari for all he had done.

We are told that all roads lead to Rome, but it was from the golden milestone in the centre of the Roman Forum that the roads originated in Rome itself and spread outwards to the most distant provinces of the Empire. That milestone was the centre, the very heart of Rome, as Rome was the centre and heart of the ancient world.

The roads were the ganglia, the nervous system, the blood vessels whereby the whole of that vast world organisation

was held together. Traces of those roads are visible today all over Italy, in France, Belgium, Germany, Great Britain, Spain, the Danubian lands, the Balkan Peninsula, Asia Minor, and North Africa. Even if the seas interrupted them, they recommenced beyond the seas and penetrated far inland, into the heart of the most remote regions all over the then known world. Wherever we see the great, smooth, irregularly shaped blocks emerging above the surface in ploughed fields, forests or swamps, then we know that there the Romans have passed. To this day the roads branching out from Rome bear the same names as in classical times — Appia, Salaria, Tiburtina, Latina.

Along those roads the legions of Rome marched forth to conquer new provinces or maintain order, or suppress rebellion amid the wilder tribes on the outer rim of the Empire, to repel raids of enemies on the border. And wherever the legions went, there the institutions and social organisation of the metropolis was set up. With the armies or after them innumerable trains of ox carts and beasts of burden proceeded slowly

along, conveying travellers and merchandise, and mounted messengers rode swiftly forth bearing orders, laws and decrees and private correspondence, the *positi equites*, fore-runners of our own postal services.

But these roads are symbols of something more than the material Roman Empire and its military conquests and its trade, just as the idea of Rome transcends that of territory. What Rome gave to the world was far more.

Other cities, other peoples have founded empires in past ages, empires which have vanished like the snows of yesterday, leaving no trace behind them, save a few ruins, whose very meaning is still a matter of dispute among archaeologists.

What else then did Rome give to the World? Those mighty roads were the vehicles of the great ideas with which Rome endowed world civilisation. The Roman Empire was the first to create an organised system of peoples, united under one rule, but each contributing something to the whole, a great structure made up of most diverse elements welded into a harmonious body. It created the idea of world citizenship, comprising all the peoples of the world as it was then known under the aegis of the immortal name of Rome. Men of all races might aspire to the highest positions, to the Imperial throne itself, for Roman citizenship conferred equality of rights and duties on all.

The symbols of that Empire are many and splendid. Wherever the roads drove through, there the cities, temples, market places, courts of justice, theatres, circuses, walls and fortified camps arose, and their remains survive to this day to tell the great story. Everywhere we find massive walls, graceful columns, beautiful sculptures with which the buildings were adorned. Greece has left works of more perfect artistic beauty, but the Romans built more solidly, and in their remains is unfolded the history of their civilisation as a whole, its religion, its military achievements, its culture, its trade, its laws. It is in this harmonious complexity that the true greatness of the Roman Empire lies, a greatness for transcending its material aspects.

I have mentioned the laws. Here we have another message conveyed along the Roman roads. It was in Rome that the first great co-ordinated system of civil law was evolved, under the Republic, later with greater perfection under the Empire. Then, when the Western Roman Empire had fallen before the onslaught of the Barbarians, while the East Empire continued to flourish for another thousand years, the whole mass of Roman Law was embodied in the Code of Justinian, the *Pandects*, the *Corpus Juris Civilis*, and given out to the world, a code destined to outlast the Eastern as well as the Western Roman Empire, directly to inspire the legislation of half the civilised world, and indirectly to affect and influence that of the other half as well.

Another great Empire, which lasted but a fraction of time as compared with that of Rome, the Napoleonic Empire, left as its most permanent heritage the modernisation and simplification of Roman law and its adaptation to the conditions of the nations of today. Those Napoleonic codes with but few alterations are the law of almost the whole of Continental Europe, Latin America and other lands in other continents.

But there were yet other messages conveyed from Rome along those roads. Before the Western Empire fell, it had become converted to Christianity, and so had the Eastern Empire, and the universal Catholic Church established its head-

quarters in Rome. The law, the organisation and the hierarchy of the Church were likewise derived from Rome. That Church sent its message throughout the ancient world, until most of the nations paid homage to it. Even the schismatic Eastern Church was largely derived from and inspired by that of Rome, and the very Barbarians who had conquered and destroyed the political Empire ended by being converted to its Church.

In the Renaissance, together with the revival of classical learning — in itself another message from Rome — there came the Reformation, which wrested from the Roman Church the allegiance of most of Northern and North-Western Europe. But what that Church lost in the Old World it more than regained in the New, for the whole of America south of the Rio Grande and a considerable part of the Continent North of that river still owes religious allegiance to Rome. Catholic Prelates from all parts of the world sit in the Curia, and the orders of the Vatican are obeyed in the remotest regions of Asia and Africa.

Throughout the Middle Ages even the Roman Imperial idea survived, in a much altered form, and the Holy Roman Empire bore witness to the strength of the traditional Roman conception of world rule. It was not until the Napoleonic Wars that the last survival of that Empire came to an end.

Nor must we forget the language. Even after Rome had ceased to exist as a political entity, its language, albeit in a debased form, continued to be spoken. Later a whole series of rich vernacular tongues endowed with splendid literatures were developed from the Latin of ancient Rome — modern Italian, French, Spanish, Portuguese, Roumanian. For many centuries after the peoples of Europe had ceased to speak the tongue of Cicero and Virgil, Latin remained the language of culture, of Government, of the law, of diplomacy, and of the Catholic Church, and is the language of that Church even today.

Thus, for many centuries after the Roman Empire had disappeared, the civilised world was united in one Empire although it ruled only nominally over large areas' the Holy Roman Empire, in one religion, with the Catholic Church, in one language of culture, the Latin tongue.

With the formation of the great national States of Europe and later of the New World, these unities vanished. Yet the spiritual traces of Roman concept and of Roman civilisation survived and they flourish to this day Roman culture, Roman law, Roman literature have permeated our varied civilisations, the Roman Church still flourishes over vast areas of the world, and if the Roman Latin tongue is no longer spoken, it is still the basis of true culture, both in the Old World and in the New.

For many centuries the land which had been the metropolis of the ancient Roman Empire had been in a state of decadence, split up into many weak, separate States, and parts of it were ruled by alien princes. But Italy was destined to surprise the world once more by her ever resurgent vitality. Italy, as an independent unified State seemed an impossibility. Yet the miracle was accomplished through the genius of King and by Statesman and the valour of her soldiers, of Victor Emmanuel II, of Cavour, of Garibaldi, and since 1861 she has been once more a nation, one of the great civilised nations of the world. In still more recent times she has arisen to higher destinies and has become not a lesser among the great Powers, but a great Power second to no-

ne, respected and admired by all, and one capable of influencing the course of world events. Once more has Rome, through modern Italy, given a message to the world. Under a new and more vigorous regime class war, that most odious heritage of the industrial revolution through the civilised world, has been eliminated in Italy. has found the solution of economic conflict without hatred or division of class, but on a basis of equality and social justice for all citizens and classes. That is Rome's newest message to the world. For if Italy's new institutions and political concepts are the outcome of her own experience and conditions, and the mentality of her own people, and therefore peculiarly her own and not of universal application, the principles on which they are based, the idea of nation-wide collaboration and of a disciplined and planned economy without class war, may prove of value for other peoples besides the Italians.

The new Italy like the old has always been inspired by feelings of friendship towards Great Britain, ever since the days of Italy's struggle for independence when she found warm support in British public opinion. Italians and British have understood each other better perhaps than any other two peoples of the World. But Italians do not always realize the significance of the British Empire as a whole, nor the individuality of the great Dominions composing it. It is very important that they should do so, and the initiative taken by the Canadian National Council should contribute to increase that understanding as far as Canada is concerned. For us who have visited Canada under the auspices of that Council, the country has been a revelation. We have been received and entertained with the greatest cordiality and hospitality, and enabled to see the country in the ple-

asantest manner and to meet many of its most representative and interesting citizens. We have indeed realised what a great country it is, what splendid possibilities it has, and what a fine, vigorous and dignified people inhabit it. A new nation has been created, one in which the traditional British spirit of order and respect for the law — two typically Roman concepts — have been established amid the new conditions of a pioneer land. That, I think, is the greatest achievement to Canada's credit.

On returning to Italy we shall endeavour to make our countrymen understand Canada both in herself and as an essential element in the British Empire. And I trust that we, on our part, have helped to make Canadians understand the Italy of today and its political and economic and cultural problems.

Your Empire, the modern counterpart of the ancient Roman Empire, and Italy, the descendant of ancient Rome and the exponent today of Roman ideas, are destined to collaborate in playing a great and dominant part in the new settlement of the world on a basis of peace and justice. If our two peoples make that collaboration ever closer, the other great civilised nations cannot but be attracted towards it and be drawn likewise into the task of preserving world peace.

One other point the British and Italian people have, in common, loyalty to their respective Kings. As a great Italian statesman said sixty years ago, the Monarchy unites us. That is as true of Italy today as it was then. Similarly in the British Empire the Monarchy is the living symbol of unity within the Commonwealth. A Monarchy under a well beloved and deservedly beloved Sovereign is an idea which in Italy as in the British Empire commands the loyalty of millions.

THE ITALIAN VANGUARD

By Frank A. Scandiffio

Club Dance

The Italian Club wish to pay homage to a man, representative of Mussolini in our Queen City, a man who has worked ceaselessly and relentlessly to foster goodwill between our people and Canadians, a true representative of the Italian people for the five years he has been here; a true gentleman in every sense of the word, Chev. Dr. G. B. Ambrosi, Royal Vice Consul. We can think of no better method of paying our respects to him than by holding a banquet and dance in his honour.

Chev. Ambrosi has earned the respect and friendship of all with whom he has come in contact, both in business and socially. We are not alone in our praise as it is evident that many prominent people will be present at the head table to pay their respects. Everyone is invited to attend.

At the conclusion of the banquet to be held in the Crystal ball-room of the Royal York Hotel, there will be a dance commencing at 9.30 and continuing until 2 A. M.

To defray expenses, the cost for the banquet and dance is \$2.00 per person. If you find you are unable to attend the banquet which commences at 7 P. M., it is possible to purchase a ticket for the dance for the small sum of 75c.

This is the first venture of the Italian Vanguard Club, the youngest organization in the Italian colony. We seek the co-operation of you Italian people in order to ensure a successful evening. Remember the date: Wednesday, April 25th. Tickets may be received from any member of the Vanguard Club.

"Ask and ye shall receive". The St. Agnes Sodality asked and they received — plenty. The Vanguard Club, at their requests, were hosts at a banana party given at Henry Barone's house. This party was different and reputed to be the first of its kind, consisting entirely of banana creations — banana fritters, banana cakes, banana cream pie, banana cream (plain), banana butter, banana sandwiches, just bananas, etc., etc. ... and then "yes, we have no bananas". Prominent guests were those inimitable banana dealers, Sam Sisto and Anthony Rico. Needless to say, they felt quite at home in this fruitful atmosphere.

When Adams was called upon to give his version of that well known fairy tale "Jack and the banana stalk" he replied sheepishly: "Let's stalk about something else."

Quietly ensconced in a dark corner sat Amy, drinking banana after banana in his coffee. The pugilists, Vic Bagnato and Natale, were booked to give an exciting five-round bout which tamely ended up in a square dance, Natale being the best dancer and the subsequent winner of a dozen bananas.

Bananas must be enticing as we noticed some new faces amongst those present, Mary and Lou Dipede, Helen Bagnato and Pearl Racioppa being the most noticeable. The "Fire Sale Quartette", Lillian and Eleana Missori, Elsie and Alma Morello bedecked in their resplendent array, were conspicuously present in their favourite color, a beautiful red which proved an excellent background for the gold of the bananas.

See you at the dance.

WEDNESDAY

O. G. I. VANGUARD CLUB

APRIL

BANQUET and DANCE

25th

The Royal Vice Consul of Italy in Toronto Chev. Dr. G. B. AMBROSI

XII E. F.

ON THE QUINQUENNIAL OF HIS WORK OF FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN CANADA AND ITALY

Royal York Hotel CRYSTAL BALL ROOM

7.00 p.m.

Admission \$2.00

CIRCOLO EASTER BALL

Successful Event

Seeing is believing, that old adage, was truly demonstrated at the Circolo Colombo dance last Monday evening at the King Edward hotel. For weeks the press agents boosted to the skies the good things which were in store for the guests of the Circolo Colombo on Easter Monday night and some four hundred people attended to see these promises materialize.

The programme arranged by the committee was complete in every detail, the well known Circolo hospitality was ever present and as predicted, before the evening was well under way the whole party was one big, happy family. Sociability permeated everywhere. The happy throngs were out to have a good time after the quiet Lenten season and they certainly gave vent to their feelings. Old and young alike sought to let loose their suppressed desires in fun and the committee was right on the spot to accommodate them.

Loren Cassina and his orchestra far surpassed their New Year's performance. Their music was superb and entrancing.

President Jos. Piccininni and his charming wife received as host and hostess of the evening and this they did in a most amiable manner. The dance was on par with other Circolo Colombo successes and will go down as the outstanding social event of the season.

Although the dance proper was held in the Crystal ball-room, part of its success was accounted for by the hospitality shown on the floor below.

Once again the genial Sal Cirra, "Unc' Lamantia", "Unc' Lopresti, etc. were hosts to a large number of the guests. Everyone fortunate enough to receive an invitation was treated royally. As usual, the writer had the distinction of "clearing up" on the delicious sandwiches.

The Bridge club attended en masse, and did they have a good time! It was certainly great to see Jim Piccininni, Ang. Teolis, Frank Abate and the rest of the bridge "hounds" there.

Bob Polito, the chairman of the dance committee, was a prominent figure for the first part of the evening, but he suddenly disappeared much to the chagrin of the beautiful girls with whom he had promised to dance.

Dr. Michael Cosentino and his pal, Geo. Sansone, arrived late, but they made up for lost time.

T. Mari was the busiest man on the floor. How that man can take it! He danced repeatedly and with a different girl each time from the beginning until the end of the dance. Oh hum, the quarters at 12 Elm St. must have given him a new lease on life.

It is unfortunate that some of the directors of fashion shows were not on hand. They certainly could have picked a complete show from amongst our Italian girls. The gowns were beautiful but, of course, so were the girls.