

not profitably employ the seized capital in making goods. The experiment of Soviet Russia with its confiscated factories is a sufficient answer to the curious notion that seizing a part of a nation's productive forces will promote the public welfare.

Of course, to the extent that a levy on "capital" would include evidence of indebtedness, and particularly government bonds, the practical effect would be cancellation or repudiation to the extent of the tax, and this would relieve industry of future taxation that otherwise would be imposed to meet the claims of landholders.

Turning Over The Iceberg

AMONG the various schools of what are termed liberals, radicals or progressives, there is a growing tendency to complain of the inefficiency of representative governments, and to demand such changes in the methods of selecting legislators and administrators as will increase the influence of what are vaguely called "the people." It is claimed that under the system of party government the public interests are neglected, and that control of the party machinery enables a few "bosses" to manipulate nominations and elections, despite popular primaries and similar devices. The shortcomings and limitations of lawmakers and public officials are ascribed to the alleged fact that the politicians are in control, and elections by groups of agricultural, industrial, and labor interests are suggested for establishing what is fondly expected to be more efficient and economical government.

The effort to make government more truly representative of all the people would seem destined to failure so long as the great majority of the voters take but little interest in public questions. Too much stress is laid on the machinery for recording the public will, and not enough on the vastly greater importance of educating the electorate so that it will be able intelligently to pass upon the various issues submitted to its judgment. From many of the proposals put forward by reformers who vainly hope for a regeneration of society through more laws and governmental agencies, it would seem that they believe that if political power can be put in the hands of group interests, existing social and economic disorders would quickly disappear. They are doomed to disappointment, for there is no magic in numbers, or in the conflict of antagonistic interests, that will supply greater efficiency in public affairs. Their attitude toward the problems of government is that of one, who, observing that the portion of an iceberg exposed above water is cold, believes that if it could be overturned the lower portion would be found to be warm. There is no reason for thinking that by giving the "plain people" a greater share in moulding public policies, that wiser laws or more competent administration would be assured. It is not the manner in which public sentiment finds expression, but the quality of that sentiment that is all important. Given a people who know what is best for

the general welfare, and how to attain their purpose, they have the power to enforce their will. To enable a larger number of imperfectly educated voters more directly to shape legislation, will bring no improvement. The iceberg is cold all the way down.

The Lesson of The Fascisti

THE peaceful revolution by which the government of Italy was taken over by a non-official body of armed men, who forced the King to call upon their leader to administer the laws, has been variously regarded by Americans. To many the setting aside of constitutional forms at the request of men who had no other mandate from the people than their own will to rule, has appeared a parallel to the overthrow of the Kerensky government in Russia by the Soviet dictatorship. The important distinction is found, however, in that whereas the Lenine despotism aimed to destroy the rights to liberty, property and the freedom of expression, Mussolini and his followers assert that their purpose is to maintain these rights against Socialistic and Communistic movements. Whether the aim justifies the attempt to govern without consulting the Italian people is a question to which the answer will depend largely upon the faithfulness with which the pledges of the new dictator are fulfilled.

To those misguided persons who have been deluded into believing that desirable social reforms can be brought about by violence, the success of what are termed the reactionary policies of the Fascisti should prove a wholesome warning. Originating as a protest against extreme radicalism, the movement spread rapidly until it became sufficiently powerful to suppress all outward Socialist activities. The methods resorted to for breaking up radical assemblages, and putting an end to strikes, were practically those suggested by the Syndicalists, Communists and other extremists in dealing with property owners and capitalists. As George Bernard Shaw once said, in protesting against the notion that violent methods can help solve the labor and other social problems: "When it comes to violence, the forces of reaction can give the radicals cards and spades."

That attempts to overthrow the established order of society by force inevitably provoke retaliation in kind, is so evident that it is surprising that there is still foolish talk of establishing co-operative commonwealths by violent revolution. A resort to physical force by radicals invites the use of force by reactionaries. In the old fable of the wind that tried to make the traveller give up his cloak, the harder it blew the closer the garment was held. Utopia builders who rely on class-hatred, envy and physical force to abolish the defects of the imperfect society created by as yet imperfect people, will find an instructive object lesson in the recent developments in Italy.

CAIN first of all men set boundaries about lands.

JOSEPHUS' "Antiquities of the Jew."