Anno 1920.

Fine della mia missione a Londra, e praticamente - fine della mia Carriera. - in età di 62 anni, alla quale avrei potuto ancora rendere qualche modesto servizio al mio Re ed al mio paese.

Ambassadeur Italie 28-IV-20 1
Berlin -

Personale v. Anche prima di ricevere suo teleg. di ieri mi ero caldamente adoperato presso circoli autorevoli competenti nel senso desiderato da V. E. Sono oggi tornato alla carica ...

E

TELEGRAMMA

Londra 23 ottobre 1920.

No.....

Conte Sforza Roma -

Teleg. di V. E. G.° S.° N.° ...

e per proposta che

Ringraziada per teleg. G.° N.° 4227 ~~Confermo che~~
Ella intende sottomettere a S. M. il Re ...

mi tengo

~~sono~~ come sempre ad intera disposizione ~~del Re~~ del Re e del Governo ...

pertanto

Qualora piacesse a Sua Maestà gradire mia nomina

accetterei grato animo ...

~~m'inchinerei con profonda riconoscenza, davanti Sovrana~~

~~Sovrana~~ ~~sovratutto~~

decisione, ~~nella quale, in questo momento, ravviserei nuova~~

~~testimonianza alta fiducia e benevolente fiducia di cui~~

~~vedrei fin lui onorato~~ ... Ringraziada pure vivamente

per cortesi provvedimenti relativi epoca mia partenza

che non eccederà tempo necessario per ~~so~~ doveri protocollari

e sistemazione mie cose ...

3

Roma, 1/ novembre 1920.

Caro Marchese,

Mi è grato parteciparLe che ho segnalato a S.E. Tittoni il Suo nome come candidato per far parte eventualmente della " Commissione dei Mandati " presso la Società delle Nazioni.

Cordiali saluti

S.E.
il Marchese G.IMPERIALI
R° Ambasciatore

L O N D R A

----ooooooo----

IL MINISTRO DEGLI AFFARI ESTERI

Londra, 30 novembre 1920

Caro Imperiali,

Mi è grato trascriverLe il seguente passaggio di una lettera privata da Lord Curzon direttami qualche tempo fa . Dopo avere espres_so il proprio rincrescimento per la di Lei par_tenza da Londra aggiungeva :

" his departure will be very much regret_ted in this country, to which he has always shown himself a good friend, and where he has acquired considerable influence, without ever compromising in the smallest degree his vigi_lant championship of Italian interests. In the latter respect particulary he can never have failed to present your case with earnestness and force"

Cordialmente

Sua Eccellenza
il Marchese IMPERIALI
R. Ambasciatore
LONDRA

5

Roma 22 dicembre 1920

Caro Marchese,

Quantunque la cosa vada da sè, pure desidero informar-La che stamane ho sottoposto alla Firma Sovrana il decreto che Le mantiene il titolo e il rango di Ambasciatore durante la Sua attività di Delegato Italiano nel Consiglio della Società delle Nazioni.

Cordialmente

Sua Eccellenza
il Marchese Imperiali
Ambasciatore di S.M. il Re

LONDRA

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Sforza

8

Gab. Sg. 4227.

Dolente Ci non vedere quale missione possibile offrirle dopo Londra Ingo Seligmann se gradirebbe quella di Prefetto di Palazzo. Di ciò jeri Torino parlai Presidente Consiglio Ministri che approvò idea.

Circa suo desiderio ~~ritornare in Italia~~ rimanere 6 settimane Londra provvederò perchè Ella se vuole possa rimanere tempo anche assai maggiore. Sfogn.

BRITAIN AND ITALY.

AN EDUCATIONAL ALLIANCE.

PRESSING NEED FOR COAL.

Specifically organised to celebrate the second anniversary of the battle of Vittorio Veneto, in which the Italian army finally overthrew the forces of the Austrian Empire, a dinner of the British-Italian League, at Princes' Restaurant, last night, was made the occasion of an educational announcement by the chairman, Sir Rennell Rodd, late Ambassador to the King of Italy. The announcement, which is of special interest to those who endorse the efforts of the league to promote good relationship between the two nations, was that Mr. Arthur Serena, founder of the "Serena chairs of Italian" at the Oxford, Cambridge, Manchester, and Birmingham universities, is ready to devote 1,000,000 lire (a lira is normally about 9½d., but now much less) to the endowment of properly equipped chairs of English at certain Italian universities; that he has entrusted the promotion of his scheme to the British-Italian League; and that the manner of the endowment is now the subject of negotiations between the league and the Italian Government. For the attainment of the best and fullest results from this generous scheme, it is desired to supplement the endowment by other donations, both from Italians and Englishmen, and Sir Rennell Rodd made an appeal to that end.

The banquet was attended by the Italian Ambassador, the Earl of Crawford (representing the Government), the Marquis of Crewe, Viscount and Viscountess Buruham, and General the Earl of Cavan, who commanded the British troops in Italy.

Letters of apology for absence were received from Mr. Fisher, M.P., Minister of Education, the Earl of Lytton, Mr. Clynes, M.P., Admiral Beatty, and Lord Weardale.

The CHAIRMAN, proposing "The Anniversary of the Victory," said our grateful hearts went out to Italy at the very outset of the recent great struggle when she declared her neutrality, and again we saluted her with the spirit of grateful comradeship when she took the determination to enter the Alliance. But did we altogether realise the desperate nature of the conditions under which the earlier phases of her struggle were waged? And did we fully realise what her entry into the conflict meant to us upon our hard-pressed Western front? Sixty divisions of the enemy which might otherwise have been transferred there were held throughout the war until the enemy were finally disposed of in the great victory they were now celebrating. At the close of the war there was a tendency here to forget the conditions under which our associates had laboured, but nothing could avail to kill the comradeship of the battlefield, which was one of the greatest assets the war had left. He had realised with some regret that among the simple people in Italy there had arisen a certain spirit of disillusion and bitterness. They felt that their credit was exhausted, and they realised that the disastrous exchange was making reconstruction almost impossible to them. They saw that the raw material of labour, especially coal, which we were unable to supply them with except at prohibitive prices, was being acquired with comparative ease by the neutral nations that had grown rich and prosperous through their neutrality. He did not know how that was to be helped, but he should like to think that our miners would devote of their own free will an hour a week or fortnight to help to set the most hardly pressed of our Allies on their legs again. (Cheers.) Let us never forget that Italy sacrificed all her pre-war wealth and prosperity, and lost half-a-million men in the battles for the freedom of the world. (Cheers.)

PEACEFUL REVOLUTION.

The League had for its aim the correcting of misconceptions and the promotion of better understanding between the two countries, and in that aim they had received no more efficacious help than that given by Mr. Arthur Serena, who authorised the announcement of his desire to found Chairs of English in Italian universities, and to devote one million lire—to that purpose. (Cheers.) He had already founded Chairs in Italian in the British universities of Oxford, Cambridge, Manchester, and Birmingham. (Cheers.) The chairman then referred to certain accounts of the prevailing conditions of life in Italy as, in his opinion, extremely exaggerated. He was in constant correspondence with all classes of men in Italy, and could not say their accounts in any way justified those accounts. Italy was passing through a peaceful revolution. The conditions prevailing there were precisely the same as the conditions prevailing everywhere else in the world. There would no doubt be very great modifications in the relations between Capital and Labour, and very important changes in the system of land tenure, but who was going to say that those changes were to be deprecated? The sober sense of the Italian nation had always prevented them from exaggeration in action, and he had no doubt that in Italy the evolution of the new order would be carried out without any serious trouble under the guidance of a dynasty which had always identified itself with popular progress. (Cheers.) In his opinion there would be no revolution and no reaction, and foreigners need have no apprehensions when they desired to visit that most hospitable of countries. (Cheers.)

Italy's difficulties were often exaggerated. Few would claim that the Italian or the British Press reported the situation in either country with complete accuracy. The consoling feature, however, was that the worst mistakes appeared to arise from ignorance rather than from hostility or malice. How necessary was it, therefore, that there should be an increase in the means of promoting a mutual understanding between us both. We wanted more Italian chairs in British universities, more Italian students in England, and vice versâ. In the British-Italian League they had an organisation which worked in both countries for a noble objective. For his own part, he positively declined to be despondent; he looked to the long traditions of unbroken and unbreakable friendship between the two countries and to the staunchness of our friends who represented Italian interests in this country. (Cheers.)

COMRADES IN ARMS.

General the Earl of CAVAN, proposing "The Italian Navy and Army," said it had been stated that his own army formed the spearhead in the battle of Vittorio Veneto. But the spearhead was useless unless it was backed up by a well-tested shaft, and it was such a shaft that the Italian army supplied—a shaft he could trust, and which never failed him throughout. (Cheers.) As to the military results of the war as they affected Italy, that country had now a natural strategical frontier nearly all round her northern plains, and he hoped that whatever pressure might be brought to bear politically or otherwise, in years to come, Italy would always hold the watershed of the Alps. In that respect Italy was in a better position than France, who had not got the natural frontier of the Rhine. With regard to the eastern frontier, he doubted whether D'Annunzio knew exactly where that frontier should be, or how many Italian divisions he would require to hold it when he had got it. He was glad to have the opportunity of saying how grateful he was for the way he and the army under his command were treated in Italy. His Majesty the King of Italy graciously received him twice, and the generals and headquarters never refused to hear anything he had to say. He was also grateful for the help that the Italian soldiers in the ranks gave to his own soldiers. He never had a single instance brought before him of a quarrel between British and Italian soldiers. (Cheers.)

Colonel RIGGI responded.

THE PERSONAL EQUATION.

Viscount BURNHAM, submitting the health of the Italian Ambassador, whom he described as the incarnation of Anglo-Italian friendship, observed that he belonged to the old order of diplomacy. It seemed to him just as futile to argue about the old diplomacy and the new diplomacy as to discuss whether we were living in an old world or a new one—a subject he would not dare to enter upon in the presence of the Dean of St. Paul's. (Laughter.) Diplomacy was not a thaumaturgic science; diplomacy depended upon policy, and the main thing was to get the right man in the right place—a man who could truly interpret the country he represented to the country to which he was accredited. In these days, it seemed to him, the general plans which were supposed to guide the destinies of mankind depended almost entirely for their realisation upon the personal affections of men and women. Covenants and protocols [illegible] very little. When the old sys[illegible] of Europe became a dissolving view of disaster and sometimes of despair, when the old bounds were broken and the old formulas disappeared, what we had to trust to was the sweetness of human relations. We had to depend on the personal equation, and such an Ambassador as the Marchese Imperiali had proved himself to be in living in our midst over so long a period of years was an invaluable factor in the peace and happiness of the world. (Cheers.) He was sceptical about some of the new means of communication. Cheap travel was no doubt good, but some few years ago, when he heard a party of Cook's tourists at the Piazza del Duomo at Florence asking whether they were in Florence or in Rome he was doubtful whether they had drunk in the spirit of Italy or if it had been too strong for them. (Laughter.) He was the last person to speak disrespectfully of the newspaper Press, but perhaps in special correspondence we had the same phenomenon as those superstitions which grew in the savage world from the worship of fetishes, by noting the rare occasions when the portent was justified and forgetting altogether the many times when it did not come off. (Laughter.) In the same way in our special correspondence in the Press there were presented to the public sensational incidents which rarely occurred and did not count for much; and we sometimes forget the great tendencies of human affairs which counted for everything. When they noticed the rare insult or outrage and forgot that it was wholly exceptional to the normal life of the people, the public vision was distorted. Perhaps, therefore, we were driven back, not, of course, upon the old ignorance, still less upon the old and inadequate means of communication, but more and more upon personal association. For that reason it was, above all, of extreme importance to have as the popular as well as the official representative one whose tact and ability had been so fully proven and was so generally acknowledged as was that of the Italian Ambassador. In proposing the Marchese Imperiali's health his lordship expressed the universal wish that he might long occupy a post which he honoured as much as it honoured him. (Cheers.)

The ITALIAN AMBASSADOR, responding, said, as to his faith in the victory they were celebrating, he could not doubt it, because he believed in the justice of the cause and in the glorious future of his country. (Cheers.) They were not only celebrating a victory, but also the spirit of comradeship and brotherliness that united Britain and Italy in the years of the war. That must be the foundation of their future relations, and nothing was more conducive to the growth of those relations than such a gathering as that. (Cheers.) One of the lessons of the moment was that, as soon as the war came to an end, his country set aside all spirit of animosity, and did her best to establish lawful relations with her enemies of yesterday. Italy was filled with new ideals arising out of the war. She was proceeding with a broad mind through a necessary evolution in the field of labour—an evolution which was perfectly compatible with the glorious democratic and Parliamentary institutions to which she owed all her achievements. He promised them that, wherever he was, whatever office he filled, he would do all he could to further good relations and friendship between Britain and Italy. (Cheers.) The generous work of Mr. Serena would go a long way to promote the aim they all had in view. (Cheers.)

An ex-soldier of the Italian army afterwards addressed the gathering.

Amongst those present were:

Lady Rodd, Count and Countess Bottaro Costa, Sir Arthur Stanley, Admiral Sir E. and Lady Hall, General Sir N. Lothian, Marg. Graziani, the Marchese and Marchesa Paulucci di Bruno, Sir Gerald and Miss Strickland, Sir Seymour Fortescue, Sir Eric Geddes, Sir Henry Newbolt, Lady Mabel Howard, Sir Geo. Buchanan, the Dean of St. Paul's, the Countess of Carnarvon, the Marchesa Nerli, Admiral M. Kerr, Lord and Lady G. Wellesley, Lady Berwick, Sir E. Denison-Ross, Count and Countess de la Feld, Count and Countess Bellegarde, Colonel Rocke, Lady Currie, Colonel Bryant, Mrs. Bryant, Colonel Hoare, Colonel Watkins, Mrs. Hoare, Sir Courtauld Thomson, Sir Stuart Coats, Capt. Foxcroft, Marchese Serra, Count Navasquez, Contessa Navasquez, Cav. Marchesi, Cav. Casale, Cav. Mazzi, Cav. Graceni, Cav. Pisano, Cav. Garginli, Com. Hilton Young, M.P., Sir John and Lady Struthers, Capt. Dunstan, Sir Carlo Placci, Cav. Gelardi, Cav. Poggi, Cav. Formilli, Cav. Rosen, Cav. Oddenino, Capt. Larking, Miss Cust, Mr. R. Hoare, Miss G. Rabl, Mr. Ruskinson, Mr. G. Johnstone, Mr. Max Muller, Mr. Albert Ball, Dr. Brock, Mr. Hanbury, Capt. Goad, Mr. Goode, Mr Radice, Mrs. Denison, Mr. R. Boyle, Mrs. Wynne, Mr Gordon Watson, Mr. R. Thompson, Mr. Hindson Douglas Harmer, Mr. Holmes spicer, Miss Mile Warrender, Mrs. Culver-Ferguson, and Dr. Se

MARQUIS IMPERIALI TO LEAVE LONDON.

ALLIES' DEBT TO ITALY'S GREAT AMBASSADOR.

From Our Diplomatic Correspondent.

The Marquis Imperiali's intention to retire from the Italian Embassy is now definitive, but he will not leave London for two or three weeks.

In that interval a worthy occasion will doubtless occur for a fuller expression of our indebtedness to this eminent representative of our Italian Allies and friends than was possible to Earl Crawford and Lord Burnham at the British Italian League dinner.

The retiring Ambassador, during the ten years he has spent among us, has been as sagacious as active in seizing opportunities to strengthen the old and to create new ties between the two countries. To him, in no small measure, it was due that Italy threw herself wholeheartedly into the great war by our side.

The difficult process of recovery from that heroic effort has thrown upon him duties that he has faced with great resource and a firm faith in the democratic future of his country.

The British Government has always met him with warm sympathy and understanding; and his successor—report says he will be the Commendatore di Martino, now Italian Ambassador at Berlin—will find this sincere good will continued, whatever difficulties such problems as those of exchange and coal supply may present.

G. H. P.

Signor Giolitti is carrying through a game of "general post" in Italian diplomatic appointments, and the Marquis Imperiali is to leave London. This latter change is regarded with universal regret. Italy has never sent us a more popular Ambassador nor a truer friend. Signor Giolitti's foreign policy is far-reaching. His remarkable nominations and transfers are meant to play their part in opening a new epoch of European diplomacy.

MARCHESE IMPERIALI.

"A GREAT AMBASSADOR."

FROM A DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT.

By the retirement of the Marchese Imperiali, announced this morning, this country loses a staunch friend and Italy a great Ambassador. His Excellency's achievement as a zealous and unremitting missionary on behalf of Anglo-Italian friendship would of itself suffice to vindicate that description of him by a member of the present British Cabinet. For the Marchese during his eleven-year tenure of the Italian Ambassadorship to the Court of St. James's added many links to the chain of amity between the two kingdoms, even as, at critical moments in the international and Inter-Allied outlook, he invariably succeeded in consolidating such ancient ties as may have seemed to wear rather thin. Hardly a week has elapsed since, on the occasion of the banquet given by the British-Italian League in honour of Vittorio Veneto, with which the names of Generals Diaz, Caviglia, and Cavan will remain for ever inseparably associated, Viscount Burnham paid a tribute to the Ambassador's success in promoting the cause of common aims and common ideals in terms which were a good deal more than an expression of individual regard and affection—that of the admiration and gratitude of the British people.

Yet I doubt whether, outside Ministerial and diplomatic circles, the rôle played, and the influence exercised, in recent years by the Marchese Imperiali upon the general evolution of international policy, as upon Italy's contribution thereto, is widely realised and recognised. For, despite the warmth of his Neapolitan eloquence, and his social qualities of tact and temper, the retiring Ambassador had a dislike equalling M. Paul Cambon's to "conducting international shopping in the limelight"! Some of our "modernists" might feel tempted to denounce his methods as "secret diplomacy." At any rate, whether "secret" or not, those methods were sober, and made for smoothness in negotiation. The magnitude of the Marchese's task and accomplishments—as also of the dangers and difficulties he was repeatedly called upon to avert, circumvent, or overcome—might be gauged by the barest record of the tremendous crises of the past decade and his participation in their solution.

ITALY AND ENGLAND.

During the Libyan war of 1912 it fell to him to handle the exceedingly delicate problems of the Italian blockade of the Straits and the Italian occupation of the Dodecanese—problems which placed at times a not inconsiderable strain upon both Anglo-Italian and particularly Franco-Italian relations. He manipulated them with a deft and masterly hand. The Balkan wars of the same and the following years tried his abilities to the utmost. For there was no other European diplomat who worked more whole-heartedly or more effectually with Sir Edward Grey for the localisation of the conflicts, and, at the London Ambassadors' Conference, for a settlement in accord with the requirements of a general peace. Our then Foreign Secretary conceived for the Italian Ambassador's sterling qualities of character and intellect an esteem resulting in a close and lasting personal friendship whose intimacy has since extended to other British statesmen of the first rank.

The tragic months of the summer of 1914 found the Marchese Imperiali, whose country was still nominally allied to the Central Empire, once more on the side of Sir Edward Grey in the latter's supreme endeavour to prevent a world-catastrophe, and the correspondence exchanged at that date between the Italian Ambassador and his chief at the Consulta, the Marchese di San Giuliano, will doubtless, when published in full some day, attest the fervent devotion of the former to the principles of peace and right and to the cause of friendship with Great Britain. M. Take Jonescu has already told us in his memoirs of the sadness with which, on the eve of the great war, he and the Marchese Imperiali descanted on the unnatural alliances in which both Italy and Roumania, "these Latin sisters," were still enmeshed. Throughout the trying period of the peninsula's neutrality the Italian Ambassador could no more conceal his own feelings as to the merits of the Allied cause and his hope that Italy would soon shine forth as a champion of that cause than his American colleague, the late and lamented Dr. Page, a little later, in respect of America's neutrality. The Marchese had his solace, however, when it devolved upon him to negotiate some of the most important conditions of Italy's entry into the war. Had he been the sole Italian negotiator concerned in the drawing up of the Treaty of London, that much-criticised convention might yet have retained some trace of imperialism, but of an imperialism more truly Italian because more liberal in its outlook. For Imperiali was at one and the same time a nationalist and an idealist.

As far back as 1906-1910, the period of his Ambassadorship at Constantinople, where his defence of Italian interests earned for him the respect even of his French opponents, he had already a powerful conception of the world-mission of the new and growing Italy. But his fine and generous notion of what had been, and what should be, his country's share in world policy never obscured the Marchese Imperiali's vision of the more immediate and vital national interests. He defended the latter, whether as a leading "consultant" at the original Paris Peace Conference, or as a leading delegate, alongside his friend and colleague, Senator Scialoja, the Foreign Minister, at last winter's London Conference, where the Turkish Treaty was elaborated, or, again, in his more private discussions with British statesmen on Italy's economic needs, with a tenacity of purpose that prompted one of our own champions to an outburst where admiration mingled with annoyance: "But, Marquis, how obstinate you are!"

Certain is it that the Marchese Imperiali enjoys, in a measure unsurpassed by any other Ambassador and but rarely equalled, the personal confidence of his Majesty's Government.

FAREWELL TO A FRIEND.

The impending departure of the Marquis IMPERIALI, the Italian Ambassador in London, which is now officially confirmed, will be deeply regretted in this country. The outside world knew little of his work—the best Ambassadors never covet the limelight—but it is no secret that the British statesmen and the officials of the Foreign Office with whom he came in contact had for him the highest respect. The Marquis IMPERIALI is not only a man of high character but he has in a remarkable degree a very fine knowledge of the British character and a keen understanding of British foreign policy and the principles which underlie it. Such a knowledge and understanding were of inestimable value in the delicate negotiations between two countries which, though originally in opposite camps, ultimately found in a comradeship of arms the surest guarantee of their own interests and a most convincing vindication of the liberties of mankind. It was doubtless the possession of these qualities which has prompted the *Corriere della Sera* to describe the retiring AMBASSADOR as "a firm and faithful friend" of this country. This friendship was signally shown during the Balkan Conference of 1912 in London, when the old belief that a Balkan outbreak inevitably meant a European conflagration was for the time being at any rate effectively dispelled. The credit for the comparatively successful labours of that Conference was to a great extent due to the ITALIAN AMBASSADOR, who, occupying a midway position between the two groups of the Great Powers, was able to exercise a moderating and pacifying influence. When the Great War broke out and the Germans invaded Belgium the Marquis IMPERIALI had the vision to see and the courage to avow that in the interests of civilisation alone it was the duty of Italy to stand by Great Britain and France. The AMBASSADOR has been criticised for his share in the drawing up of the famous Pact of London, which sealed the entry of Italy into the war; but it must always be remembered that the framers of that agreement had, of course, no idea of the uncompromisingly hostile attitude which Mr. WILSON was ultimately to adopt. Further, there followed incessant battles over its interpretation, placing a great strain on the diplomatist who had to fight in London for the rights of Italy. Throughout these wearisome negotiations the Marquis IMPERIALI never lost his head and never forgot that the maintenance of friendly relations between Great Britain and Italy was of far more importance than the precise interpretation of any treaty. He leaves London with the knowledge that he has laboured without ceasing for the strengthening of the old historic friendship between England and Italy, and that he has not laboured in vain. We hope also he will understand that he carries with him the respect and sincere good wishes of a country which amid all its failings never forgets a staunch friend.

DIPLOMACY FOR PEACE.

SPANISH AMBASSADOR'S PRAISE OF BRITAIN.

The SPANISH AMBASSADOR responded to the toast. He said:—In the land we live in—you, I hope, until the close of a long and happy span of years; I during an unforgettably pleasant period of mine—the axiom of "Honesty is the best policy" has become trite, not merely by verbal repetition, but, I am glad to say so without flattery, by constant practice. (Cheers.) This rule of human conduct pervades the whole atmosphere of Britain no less than the air we breathe, and, like it, filters into our very being. Thus it is that I feel compelled to make a public confession, explaining that I am neither an impostor nor a usurper. I wish to make it quite clear to you from the first that I am neither the "doyen" of the Diplomatic Corps nor the Italian Ambassador, who, to use the parlance to which we were prone at school, is at present the "next man up."

My revered colleague, M. Cambon, is away in France. As for Marquis Imperiali, he finds himself on the point of leaving the London Embassy for good. This confirmation of such sad news will, I feel sure, fill you all with sincere regret. None can approach this meritorious servant of a great and, if I may talk Italian in English, most sympathetic nation without being deeply struck by his exceptional highmindedness, his invariable straightforwardness, his exquisite tact, and undeniable talent—in a word, by his ability. A real friend to this country without ceasing to be a true Italian at every beat of his heart, you will, I make no doubt, all join in my tribute to my illustrious colleague and friend, than whom I can wish to meet no better. We will part from him with a pang. (Cheers.)

I nostri movimenti diplomatici

Il barone Aliotti "undesirable,,

Londra 10, sera

(D. R.) — A Londra il movimento dei diplomatici che rappresentano i vari Stati dell' Intesa presso gli Stati Uniti di America è seguito con grande curiosità.

L' ambasciata di Washington è per la Gran Brettagna, la Francia e l' Italia forse la più importante del mondo, non solo perchè l'America ha una situazione politica in pieno sviluppo, ma anche perchè la ripresa economica dell' Europa non può avvenire rapidamente senza il concorso degli Stati Uniti di America e ognuno tende a prendere il suo posto, passando innanzi, possibilmente, agli altri.

Il governo italiano aveva destinato all'Ambasciata di Washington il barone Aliotti, ch' era anche partito per gli Stati Uniti.

Ora è giunto al *Forcign Office* una notizia assai grave e che in Italia è forse ancora ignota, ed è che il segretario di Stato di Washington ha dichiarato al Governo italiano che non gradiva la nomina del barone Aliotti. Il nuovo ambasciatore è *undesirable*. Questa notizia non teme alcuna smentita. Si ritiene che le cause di questo mancato gradimento da parte del Governo di Washington non siano di natura politica, ma risalgano alla permanenza dell'Aliotti a Washington in qualità di consigliere della nostra Ambasciata.

A quanto si dice si stanno svolgendo ora pratiche per far andare il barone Aliotti ambasciatore a Tokio! Non è precisamente lo stesso; ma in Italia non si guarda tanto per il sottile in materia di diplomazia.

Intanto bisogna provvedere all'Ambasciata di Washington e, secondo ciò che hanno pubblicato i grandi giornali, l'on. Giolitti ha pensato al senatore Rolandi Ricci, come ha pensato di mandare il senatore Frascati a Berlino e il comm. De Martino a Londra, mettendo a riposo il marchese Imperiali.

Nel mondo diplomatico produce viva impressione il trattamento fatto al marchese Imperiali, che ha avuto prima, durante e dopo la guerra un contegno lodevolissimo. Senza essere un grande uomo, esso è ritenuto un vero galantuomo. Oltre a godere la fiducia di Lloyd George, egli ha la grande amicizia personale del capo dell' opposizione Asquith e la più viva simpatia del ministro degli Esteri lord Curzon. Il comm. De Martino, per i suoi studi, per i suoi precedenti, per il suo temperamento era adattissimo a Berlino e nessuno riesce a spiegarsi perchè deva venire a Londra.

Nessuno degli ambasciatori italiani a Londra ha avuto la fiducia e il rispetto del marchese Imperiali e gli uomini più diversi da Balfour a Sir Edward Grey, da Lord Cecil a Austen Chamberlain, avevano per lui la più calda simpatia e la più piena fiducia nella sua parola e nel suo senso della *responsabilità;* ciò che conta in Inghilterra più che ogni astuzia diplomatica.

Ma che cosa accadrà a Washington in questi mesi decisivi?

L'Ambasciata italiana è affidata al consigliere conte Brambilla, che è senza dubbio un ottimo diplomatico e ha molte simpatie in America, per aver sposato la figliuola dell'ambasciatore degli Stati Uniti a Roma Moyer, un'americana che ha la più grande devozione per l'Italia e il più sincero patriottismo.

Ma la presenza di un ambasciatore che abbia grande autorità è indispensabile.

La Gran Brettagna ha mandato in America i suoi maggiori uomini: basterà citare fra tutti Lord Reonding, il più fine avveduto dei politici inglesi. Ha mandato da poco tempo il ministro Geddes, che è l'uomo di più grande fiducia di Lloyd George.

La Francia ha a Washington il vecchio ambasciatore Jusserand, che conosce tutto e tutti e che ha fatto una mirabile organizzazione di propaganda.

Egli serve assai bene il suo paese; non solo la sua opera si ritrova dovunque, nella stampa, nei circoli politici, nel mondo bancario, ma si può dire che la Francia non abbia altra mira che di avere le simpatie degli Stati Uniti di America.

Perfino la Jugoslavia ha come ministro di legazione un agitatore formidabile, il Gruic, la cui moglie è un'americana e che ha un'attività senza limiti. In America tutti sanno l'azione che essa ha avuto non solo in passato su Lansing, ma che ha pur ora su Baker, su Houston e anche sui più autorevoli senatori.

Il problema dell'ambasciata di Washington è uno dei più gravi: che cosa farà il Governo dopo che il barone Aliotti è stato cortesemente rifiutato?

Tanto al *Foreign Office* come nei circoli politici inglesi tutto quanto accade nella diplomazia italiana non si spiega.

Il rifiuto di Aliotti da parte dell'America e il collocamento a riposo del marchese Imperiali sono due avvenimenti politici non lievi per il nostro paese e che vanno seriamente considerati.

La succursale del Banco di Roma a Tivoli

derubata di oltre mezzo milione

Roma 10, sera

Stanotte i ladri hanno compiuto un audace furto nella sede del Banco di Roma a Tivoli. Due pesanti cassaforti sono state assalite. Solo stamattina il custode della sede si è accorto dell'opera dei ladri e si è recato sul posto il commissario di P. S. Olivieri. I ladri sono entrati prima negli uffici e di qui nella stanza del cassiere. Presso una parete si trovava una pesante cassaforte che è stata subito presa di mira. La «ballerina» ha intaccato lo sportello principale vicino alla serratura ed in breve vi ha praticato un foro che è bastato per far saltare i chiavistelli. Padroni del campo, i ladri hanno portato via oltre 113 mila lire di biglietti di banca. Compiuta questa prima operazione i ladri hanno tentato di aprire una seconda cassaforte di marca tedesca; ma questa ha resistito all'assalto. I ladri allora si sono introdotti nell'ufficio del direttore signor Innocenti e hanno adoperato la sega circolare contro un piccolo scrigno di acciaio incastrato nel muro. L'operazione è stata facile; dalla piccola cassaforte sono stati rubati effetti bancari e titoli per circa 500 mila lire. Dell'audace furto è stata subito avvertita la questura di Roma e sul posto si son recati funzionari della polizia scientifica

La partenza del nostro Ambasciatore.

46

Noi veniamo ultimi nel dare la notizia che S. E. il Marchese Imperiali lasciava la carica di Ambasciatore a Londra per essere destinato ad altissimi incarichi.

Noi abbiamo voluto attendere una conferma più che ufficiale che, oramai è venuta: è noto anche che il successore sarà S. E. On. De Martini, attuale Ambasciatore a Berlino

Qasta novità, alquanto inaspettata, fa parte di un generale cambiamento che l'On Giolitti intende di apportare nella politica estera, — inviando — nomina eloquentissima, il Senatore Frassati, Ambasciatore a Berlino.

La stampa inglese unanime ha tributato a S. E. il Marchese Imperiali, le piu' alte manifestazioni di simpatie e di amicizie; Egli è stato dichiarato il piu' popolare degli Ambasciatori italiani finora a Londra.

Se pensiamo che Egli fu l'Ambasciatore italiano durante la guerra e la somma di responsabilità che Egli ha dovuto assumere in questa Capitale che è il vero centro politico e diplomatico, anche se nominalmente esso trovasi a Parigi, noi vediamo che S. E. Imperiali ha dovuto sopportare un compito enorme da far tremar le vene e i polsi.

La Colonia italiana, Giovedì sera, ha voluto marcare la sua simpatia verso di Lui, dandogli l'addio ufficiale nel Banchetto tenuto all'Holborn Restaurant, in occasione del genetliaco di S. M. Vittorio Emanuele III.

E non poteva essere migliore omaggio per Lui l'essere associato negli onori alla Maestà del Re che Egli rappresenta.

In questa circostanza non vogliamo tacere le benemerenze infinite della gentile Roma, S.E. la Marchesa Imperiali, la quale è stata l'Angelo di carità di tutte le Istituzioni di beneficenza italiane, e che in tutte le circostanze ha portato la sua iniziative benefica.

Il nostro Giornale invia alle L. L. E. E. il Marchese e la Marchesa Imperiali l'espressione di omaggio e di simpatia.

RETIRING AMBASSADORS

LORD CURZON'S TRIBUTE.

MEMORABLE SERVICES.

As was stated in yesterday's *Daily Telegraph*, Earl Curzon of Kedleston, Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, gave a dinner at 1, Carlton House-terrace on Wednesday evening in honour of M. Paul Cambon, the French Ambassador, and the Marchese Imperiali, the Italian Ambassador, who are retiring from their posts very shortly. Lord Curzon's guests included the Prince of Wales. In proposing the health of the retiring Ambassadors, Lord Curzon said:

Your Royal Highness, your Excellencies, my Lords, and gentlemen, this is not an occasion for speech-making, but I ask your Royal Highness's permission to propose the solitary toast of the evening. I should like to say, in the first place, that the number present this evening would have been swollen by more than one-half had all those whom I invited to attend, and who desired to do honour to our guests this evening, been able to be present to say farewell to the two distinguished men who for years past have served as Ambassadors in this country—the French Ambassador (M. Cambon) and the Italian Ambassador (the Marchese Imperiali). These two eminent men are almost simultaneously leaving our shores after a career of service here in which they have not only rendered faithful service to the countries and the Governments which they represent, but have become almost national institutions in our public life. (Hear, hear.)

I sometimes feel tempted to ask myself, in my present office, what are the functions of an Ambassador? I take it that the business of an ambassador is, first and foremost, to represent the views of the Government by which he is accredited and the people from whom he comes. He must represent their traditions, their policy, their point of view in this country. The French Ambassador in England stands for France; the Italian Ambassador stands for Italy; and faithfully have these two illustrious men carried out that part of their programme. (Hear, hear.) But, my lords and gentlemen, there is a great difference between an Ambassador and a great Ambassador. A great Ambassador, I take it, is the man who not merely discharges his duty to those from whom he comes, but who, at the same time that he represents what is in their mind, and brings home to us what are the characteristics and views of his own people, is capable of entering into and understanding the ideals, appreciating the virtues, and even being rather tender to the foibles of the country to which he is accredited. That is the difference between the Ambassador and the great Ambassador. The great Ambassador is the man who can say when he goes away that not merely has he understood and been appreciated by the people among whom he has lived, and whom he has endeavoured to serve, but he has left the relations between the two countries better, stronger, and placed on a more solid foundation than he found them. (Hear, hear.)

M. CAMBON'S GREAT RECORD.

If that be the test that we apply to a great Ambassador, surely, my lords and gentlemen, we may truly say that the test has been satisfactorily met and overcome by our two guests of this evening. They have through all these years been in this country deserving and retaining the confidence of their own Governments and winning and retaining ours. (Hear, hear.) It is now, I think, something like twenty-two years since the French Ambassador, M. Cambon, entered the portals of the Foreign Office. During that time he has met and conversed with five successive Secretaries of State, three of whom are still living—Lord Lansdown, Lord Grey of Fallodon, and Mr. Balfour, who all intended to be present this evening, and would have been present but for engagements which rendered it impossible. I speak therefore not merely for myself, who am the last of the series, but for all when I say that to each one of us during this long period it has been a great advantage and a great charm in our conversations week by week with him to profit by the mellow wisdom, the cool and unruffled temper, of the dis[tinguished] man who sits upon my right, and to enjoy his perfect command of the most beautiful language that exists in the modern world. (Hear, hear.)

But M. Cambon has not only been known in England by the Foreign Office aspect of his duties. He has been a great social figure, and during this long period, extending now to nearly a quarter of a century, we have learned to regard him in England as the embodiment of an old-world grace of manner, an exquisite culture, and a vivacious and sprightly wit, characteristic of the nation which he has represented. (Hear, hear.) I have sometimes had the pleasure of hearing M. Cambon at the Guildhall, and on the annual occasions when it has been his duty, as the doyen amongst the Ambassadors, to speak for the foreign representatives in this country I have observed a phenomenon with which all of you must now be familiar, namely, that, behind the diplomatic uniform our guest conceals many of the qualities and excellencies of the rhetorician, and I have sometimes thought that what diplomacy has gained by his services the Senate has lost. I have no doubt that when he speaks this evening, as I hope he will do, he will once more give us an illustration of the perfect command that he possesses of that wonderful instrument, the French language. (Hear, hear.) Such are some of the characteristics of one of our guests to-night.

THE MARCHESE IMPERIALI.

The Marchese Imperiali has been with us for a shorter period of time. I think it is now about eleven years since he first came to this country, but during that time one may truthfully say that the particular qualities which we appreciate in his countrymen—their chivalrous ardour, their high spirit, their eager ambitions—have found an admirable exponent in him. (Hear, hear.) Always courteous, always urbane, always the grand seigneur, the Marquis Imperiali has established a position in our midst such as few foreign Ambassadors have enjoyed. (Hear, hear.) May I add that that position, great as it is, has been rendered greater by the assistance which he has received, if I may be allowed to mention her in this company, from his wife. (Hear, hear.) But for circumstances which I deeply regret, Lady Curzon would have been present here this evening, and if that had been so we should have welcomed the Marchesa Imperiali, to sit by the side of her husband and to hear not merely the things we have to say about him but the things we should like to say about her. (Hear, hear.) These two together, the Ambassador and his wife, have entered into our life in England, have appreciated our spirit, and have understood our institutions in a manner quite rare even among the representatives of other countries; and I hope his Excellency will believe me when I say that in leaving us they leave a gap in our midst which it will be very difficult for anybody to fill. (Hear, hear.)

I have spoken in these few words of the part that has been played in our public and social life by these two eminent men, but I cannot forget that they rendered a greater service still. They were Ambassadors here before the war; they were Ambassadors during the war; they have been Ambassadors during the period in which we have been endeavouring to reap the victorious consequences of the war; and it is not too much to say that these two illustrious men, perhaps more than anybody else who sits at this table this evening, were the architects of that entente which has saved and will in future be the guarantee of the liberties of the world. (Hear, hear.) Only those of my predecessors who were behind the scenes can know the part which our two guests played in removing difficulties, in representing the spirit of their countrymen, in formulating the plans which ultimately resulted in victory, and in continuously and always presenting a front of bold courage to the difficulties which we had to meet and which we succeeded in surmounting. (Hear, hear.) The victory of the war is the victory of us all and not of one party, one nation, or one group of individuals alone; but in so far as any two men contributed to it by the part which they played in the Alliance, M. Cambon and the Marquis Imperiali may justifiably claim that the credit was theirs. (Cheers.)

FUTURE OF THE ENTENTE.

Their service here is over, and they are about to return to their own countries. They will have the satisfaction of feeling that the Entente, the alliance, which they helped to form rests on solid and sure foundations. I sometimes attend with the Prime Minister the conferences at which the representatives of the various Powers meet at the same table, sometimes here and sometimes abroad. What strikes me at these conferences—at which our two guests are regular attendants—is not so much the occasional but never serious divergence of opinion that transpires between this party and that party, or this Government and that Government, as the breadth, width, and depth of the foundation of union upon which our common co-operation and action are based; and at this moment I would say (and I am sure the Prime Minister will endorse it) that it is inconceivable that this alliance, of which our three nations are the most conspicuous members, should be broken or should even be shaken. It won the war; it continues to be the guarantee of peace; and I know nothing in the circumstances of the day or of the future that lies before us that can possibly bring about its rupture. (Hear, hear.)

If our distinguished guests go away with these feelings, may they not indeed say that their work here has been not of an ordinary but of an extraordinary character, and that they have helped in building stones in the wall that will guard us from the dangers that lie ahead and secure what we think we have already won, namely, the peace of the world? (Cheers.) They are retiring. M. Cambon in the fulness of age is going to a retirement which will, we hope, be as happy as it is honourable, and which will be the deserved reward of long years of service in the interests not only of his country but of mankind. The Marquis Imperiali, a younger man, is returning to his country still full of life, force, and vigour, capable of rendering great service to his country and the larger cause which I have pleaded. We wish them both happiness and success in their retirement. We bid them good-bye with feelings of admiration for their public virtues, of regard amounting, I think I may truthfully say, to affection—(hear, hear)—for their private and social qualities, of gratitude for what they have done in this country, and of hope that they will not forget us any more than we shall forget them.

I give you the toast of "The French Ambassador, M. Cambon, and the Italian Ambassador, the Marchese Imperiali." (Cheers.)

M. CAMBON'S REPLY.

M. CAMBON, who spoke in French, said:

I am much touched by the sentiments Lord Curzon has just expressed with so much cordiality and goodwill, and I thank him for his kindness in bringing us together for the last time in the company of distinguished men who for so many years have been concerned with the direction of the affairs of Great Britain. I have always found among them that loyalty and frankness which makes relations pleasant and secure, and in the tragic days we have passed through I have never seen them inspired but by lofty and generous thoughts.

Your Royal Highness will allow me to recall that twenty-two years ago I had the honour of being accredited to the Court of the illustrious and revered Queen from whom his Royal Highness is descended, Queen Victoria; I then saw pass the reign, glorious but too brief, of King Edward, and finally, I was present at the accession of your Highness's revered father. I shall always retain a respectful and grateful memory of the kindness of the Royal Family.

I shall not conceal from you my regret at leaving England. I shall leave here friendships which will remain dear to me, but there is a moment in one's life when one has to yield to the dictates of age. I have heeded them not without sadness. I shall take away from London precious memories, and I shall always feel the deepest gratitude for the welcome I have received.

ITALY AND GREAT BRITAIN.

The MARCHESE IMPERIALI said: I wish I could find adequate words in which to express the feelings of emotion and great appreciation I have for the words which have just been uttered by our distinguished host. If I have succeeded in fostering and cementing the traditional ties of friendship which unite our two countries, I think I may esteem myself very fortunate, for in so doing I have carefully and faithfully carried out the policy and the instruction of my Government and the wishes of my countrymen. (Cheers.) The handsome reference which Lord Curzon has made to my modest work fills me with deep and legitimate pride. If I have achieved any success I owe it chiefly to the courtesy, to the benevolence, to the trust by which I have been honoured by the British Government. It has been my privilege to deal with three Foreign Secretaries, and I can honestly say that our relations, private as well as official, could not have been inspired by a more friendly spirit. I bring with me to this gathering a most dear, a most pleasant recollection of these relations; and I gladly seize the occasion to offer to you, Lord Curzon, as well as to your two eminent predecessors, Lord Grey of Fallodon and Mr. Arthur Balfour, my most intense and affectionate thanks. But it is a fact that a moment arrives in life when every man, especially when he has been living forty years abroad, looks forwards with a certain amount of pleasure, and even with great pleasure, to settling down in his own country.

As far as I am concerned I am bound to say that this pleasure, which I certainly feel is most deeply marred by the profound grief—I honestly say it comes from my heart—which I feel in leaving this country—this country to which I am, always have been, and always shall remain, profoundly attached. (Cheers.) That is no wonder. Looking back on the eleven years I have spent among you, I have found nothing but cordiality, sympathy, and benevolence. I leave here, I trust, friends for ever dear, and I carry away with me memories—precious memories—which neither time nor distance will ever succeed in effacing. (Cheers.) My lord, I remember hearing once of a great Frenchman who said: "Les grandes pensées viennent du cœur." I certainly cannot boast, and I have not the presumption to think for a moment, that I have expressed any great thoughts, but I assure you that every word which I have uttered this evening comes straight from my heart. It is from the bottom of my heart that I venture this evening to offer my most heartfelt wish for the prosperity and the happiness of this Empire and of the august person of its King-Emperor, and, if your Royal Highness will permit me to add, of the Prince of Wales, whom we Italians have learned to love and cherish. We shall never forget that he came and fought with us during the time of the Great War. (Cheers.)

Banchetto di Commiato
A SUA ECCELLENZA IL
Marchese Imperiali.

Una magnifica serata di vibrante italianità fu quella di Lunedì sera al Principe Restaurant in occasione del Pranzo di Commiato che la Colonia italiana ha offerto a S. E. il Marchese Imperiali di Francavilla, Ambasciatore di Sua Maestà il Re d'Italia presso la Corte di San Giacomo.

Alle ore 8,30 le magniliche sale del Principe, erano affollate da una eletta schiera di Signore e di Signori, che nell'attesa dell'ospite illustre conversavano animatamente, e fulcro della conversazione era l'unanime rincrescimento per la sua partenza. Alle 9.00 precise arriva S. E. il Marchese Imperiali e S. E. la Marchesa, tutti sono alla più affettuosa accoglienza. Scambiati i saluti d'uso le L. L. E. E. entrano nella sala da pranzo accolte dalla "marcia reale." L'immensa sala accoglie circa 300 persone, grandissimo il numero delle Signore, le quali colla loro presenza vollero dimostrare a S. E. l'Amb. benefattrice tutta l'affettuosa stima per l'opera da Lui svolta a pro dei sofferenti e dei bisognosi.

La più schietta cordialità regnò fra i convitati durante il pranzo rallegrati da una scelta orchestra. Il tenore Valente cantò l'aria dei "Pagliacci" "Vesti la giubba" e la romanza della "Aida," riscontrando una nutrita salva di applausi. Il Prof. Colombo, applauditissimo, volle una volta ancora dare saggio della sua virtuosità suonando col violino la fantasia di Sarasati del "Faust." Si arriva così alla fine del pranzo e S. E. si alza per proporre il brindisi a S. M. il Re d'Italia e a S. M. Re George nostro alleato e amico.

Si alza quindi il R. Console Generale Marchese Faà di Bruno, il quale legge i telegrammi di adesione alla festa di coloro che non poterono intervenire e cioè del Cav. Gino Costa, Presidente della Società di Beneficenza, del Comm. Bruce, del Cav. Pirelli, ed altri.

Si alza quindi il Segretario dell'Ospedale Italiano il quale ricorda tutta l'opera svolta a pro dell'Ospedale di S E l'Ambasciatore e da S.E l'Ambasciatrice, pronta sempre a soccorrere ed a lenire i dolori ed i bisogni ovunque si presentassero, ed alza il bicchiere al più distinto degli Ambasciatori. Il Signor Osvaldo Valli ha quindi la parola.

Egli dice di voler esprimere il sentimento suo e della "Società Mazzini e Garibaldi," di cui è Presidente da diversi anni. Ricorda le parole di Mazzini agli operai italiani nel 1866.... e narra brevemente la storia del Sodalizio il quale è stato onorato dal patronato di S.M. il Re e di S. E. il Marchese Imperiali di Francavilla, tenendo desta una nobilissima gara nell'assistenza morale e materiale della Società. Egli dice degli elogi che furono al nostro Ambasciatore tributati sia dal Sovrano Inglese, che da Ministri e parlamentari. Ciascun italiano partecipa a questi elogi e ne esulta benchè l'assenza sia ora rammaricata dalla partenza di Lui che nei momenti tragici del dolore seppe alta la fiaccola della fede, inneggiare così nei momenti di gioia alla Patria imperitura e vittoriosa.

Si alza quindi il nostro Novelli il quale porta il saluto dell'Unione Reduci Militari Italiani con parole nobilissime. A Lui fa seguito il Signor De Drago, Segretario della Società dei Redenti. Egli si dice interprete della devota gratitudine di tutti loro per il benevolo patrocinio che la loro causa ha sempre trovato presso Sua Eccellenza, ed il convincimento del loro ideale di riunirsi alla Madre Patria è il miglior tributo che si possa rendere a Colui che alla loro causa aveva portato il più valido appoggio.

Si alza quindi il Signor Margheri, che riassume, applaudito, un fervido saluto a nome del Club Cooperativo. Il Cav. Golardi dice poche e vibranti parole sicuro d'interpretare il pensiero di tutta la Colonia anche di coloro che sono assenti.

Il Signor Terroni porta', applaudito, il saluto dei Gelatieri facendo rilevare l'importanza assunta dalla Federazione Gelatieri, la quale ha trovato in Sua Eccellenza un valido sostegno nella lotta, che la sopradetta Federazione ha dovuto sostenere per il proprio sviluppo. Ringrazia perciò a nome dei Gelatieri tutti sicuro che da entrambe le parti si conserverà perenne la memoria del valido aiuto ricevuto e della stima reciproca.

In seguito il Comm. Canziani Presidente della Camera di Commercio Italiana e Presidente della Dante Alighieri dice il seguente discorso:

„Eccellenze, Signore e Signori,

„Nell'ultima riunione della Colonia in occasione del Genetliaco di S. M. il Re, io ebbi già ad esprimere il nostro intimo rammarico per l'annunciata partenza dall'Eccellenza Vostra e stassera sono lieto che siamo riuniti per riaffermare i nostri sentimenti.

„Non è forse per me necessario di rievocare l'opera politica svolta da V. E. nel lungo e tempestoso periodo passato in questa Metropoli.

„Il lavoro diplomatico di V. E. è troppo noto perchè io mi soffermi ad accennare quanto troverà degno posto nella Storia —A me invece sia lecito un compito più modesto: quello cioè di esternare ancora una volta l'apprezzamento e la gratitudine di noi tutti per le molteplici benemerenze acquisiate da V. E. fra i nostri connazionali.

„Per la Camera di Commercio, per la Dante Alighieri, e per altri bisogni della Colonia fu mia fortuna di trovarmi frequentemente a contatto col nostro Ambasciatore, ed in ogni circostanza ho avuto campo di constatare la Sua grande benevolenza e vivo interessamento per tutto ciò che toccava le necessità ed aspirazioni della Colonia.

„Ancora una parola di apprezzamento — ammirazione e riconoscenza debbo pure a Sua Eccellenza la Marchesa Imperiali — fulgido esempio della Donna Italiana, e sempre prima nelle opere di Carità. Lavoratrice instancabile per la Croce Rossa, per i soldati al fronte, per i poveri e gli infermi.

„V. E. lascia questo paese dove per più di un decennio tenne alto ed invitto il nome italiano, e nelle alte missioni a cui certamente sarà chiamato, la seguirà sempre il nostro pensiero e fervido augurio.

„La Colonia serberà incancellabile ricordo di V. E. e si permette di offrire a mezzo mio in segno di affettuosa riconoscenza e memoria questa "Pergamena" che ho l'onore di presentare.

„Alzo il bicchiere invitandovi a bere alla salute di S. E. l'Ambasciatore:

„Viva S. E. il Marchese Imperiali!

„Viva S. E. la Marchesa Imperiali!....."

Dopo di che presento' la Pergamena a S. E. il Marchese Imperiali — il quale si alza commosso —per rispondere, accolto da una incessante ovazione.

Egli incomincia col dire che malgrado le sue pupille non siano facili al pianto pure questa sera si sente così commosso dall'unanime attenzione che un velo di nebbia gli passa sugli occhi. Egli dice che scriverà la data del 9 Dicembre 1920 come una delle più memorabili della Sua vita; passa in rapida rassegna il tempo trascorso dal suo arrivo a Londra ad oggi e si sente fiero di affermare che sempre quando Egli ha dovuto fare appello alla Colonia, sia per opere di bene, sia in qualunque altro evento, la Colonia ha sempre risposto con uno slancio che le fa onore e che ha dimostrato al mondo come gl'italiani sentano vivo l'affetto che loro lega alla gran Madre l'Italia. Ben due guerre furono dall'Italia sostenute in questo frattempo e sempre Egli ha trovato negli italiani a Londra qual medesimo slancio, quella medesima fede sicura nei destini del proprio Paese.

Nel lasciare la Colonia italiana per ritornare in Patria Egli porterà con Se un ricordo indistruttibile che rimarrà impresso nel suo cuore Egli invia un saluto reverente a tutti coloro che la Patria tanto hanno amata e che col loro sacrifizio permettono all'Italia d'oggi di raccogliere il frutto; approfitto' dell'occasione per dire il monito di Mazzini, del grande apostolo:

"Fratelli amatevi! educatevi! organizzatevi! per far sì che l'Italia di domani sia nel mondo qual fattore di giustizia che la sua Storia millenaria e il suo passato reclame le addita....."

Invita quindi a continuare sulla via che si addita la Storia di ieri per forgiare la Storia di domani sicuro che gl'italiani di Londra non saranno da meno dei fratelli d'Italia, e finisce invitando i presenti al grido che tante volte ci ha riunito, dal primo cittadino S. M. il Re all'ultimo soldato — "Viva l'Italia grande, immortale!

Una fragorosa salva di applausi accoglie la fine del discorso. Prima che le L. L. E. E. possano prendere commiato vengono dai presenti circondate e pregate di apporre la propria firma al Menù, come ricordo della bella serata, mentre la "marcia reale italiana chiude L.L.E.E. che partono commosse.

Merita una parola speciale di elogio il servizio inappuntabile del "Prince's Restaurant" sono oramai una simpatica tradizione degli italiani le riunioni al Principe e vogliamo anche mettere in rilievo che la serata fu italianissima e notevolmente squisita anche nei vini i quali furono tutti forniti dai nostri amici "Bragg e Rossi."

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Il rammarico degli italiani a Londra per la sostituzione del marchese Imperiali

Londra, 1 mattina.

(vice). Ha destato profonda impressione nelle colonia italiana di Londra la notizia pubblicata da alcuni giornali del probabile ritiro dell'ambasciatore Imperiali che verrebbe sostituito dal comm. De Martino attualmente ambasciatore a Berlino. Il marchese Imperiali, che regge da undici anni questa ambasciata, è molto popolare nella colonia ed ha saputo cattivarsi le generali simpatie per il suo tatto, per la sua signorile affabilità, oltre che per l'unanime riconoscimento del suo valore, della sua lealtà, del suo alto patriottismo, che gli hanno valso la più profonda estimazione del Governo e del mondo non ufficiale inglese. Si ricorda che nel recente banchetto organizzato dalla Lega Anglo-Italiana, Lord Burnham ha esaltato l'ambasciatore italiano come il perfetto rappresentante dell'amicizia anglo italiana, augurando che la sua opera potesse svolgersi lungamente al posto da lui tenuto tanto degnamente.

L'ambasciatore Imperiali in tale occasione ha riaffermata la sua fede nei destini del popolo italiano, lumeggiando opportunamente gli ultimi avvenimenti che avevano potuto dare all'estero l'impressione di un cosidetto movimento rivoluzionario, come la crisi di un popolo cosciente dei propri diritti, ma non meno rispettoso delle tradizioni democratiche cui deve la propria esistenza e la propria unità nazionale.

L'amicizia anglo-italiana ha avuto sempre nel marchese Imperiali un sostenitore sincero e leale che per prestigio personale acquistato colla propria attività illuminata e coraggiosa ha potuto spesso parlare con franchezza ed anche nei momenti più difficili ha saputo in ogni circostanza tenere alto e rispettato il nome italiano. La stampa inglese riconosce oggi questi meriti, accennando con sincero rammarico alla eventualità di un allontanamento del marchese Imperiali. Il «Daily News» dice che egli si è acquistato coi suoi eminenti servigi la stima e la gratitudine del governo e del popolo inglese. Il «Daily Chronicle», che come è noto è portavoce del governo inglese, reca un ampio elogio dell'ambasciatore, il quale, durante 10 anni ha spiegato un'opera attiva e sagace non trascurando nessuna occasione per rafforzare i vecchi legami e crearne dei nuovi tra le due nazioni alleate: dobbiamo a lui in parte se l'Italia si schierò al nostro fianco nella grande guerra. L'attuale difficile crisi italiana gli ha imposto dei doveri che egli ha saputo affrontare con grande abilità e ferma fede nell'avvenire democratico del suo paese. Col Governo inglese egli seppe sempre mantenere rapporti cordialissimi ed una stretta intesa di vedute. Il «Daily Chronicle» conclude augurandosi che abbia a presentarsi presto l'occasione per potere dimostrare all'eminente rappresentante della nazione alleata ed amica la più ampia espressione di gratitudine da parte del Governo e del popolo inglese, già manifestata verbalmente durante il recente banchetto della Lega Italo Britannica.

ITALY'S AMBASSADOR.

THE RETIREMENT OF MARCHESE IMPERIALI

20

(By Edward Hutton.)

By the retirement of Marchese Imperiali, the Italian Ambassador, and of M. Paul Cambon the French Ambassador, our two chief Allies lose at the same time two great diplomats who have represented them in England, not only during the whole period of the war and the armistice, but during the time in which the great storm was gathering to lay Europe in ruins. That that triple alliance which, after all, gave us the victory was possible at all was largely due to their work. They prepared it and brought it to pass, and thus certainly saved their countries from ruin and defeat, and as surely Europe from destruction. What Europe owes to these two men history will be able to estimate. Their retirement together certainly marks a change, the passing of an epoch; and whatever the future may hold, it is certain that neither Italy, nor France, will ever be better served in London than both have been during the last ten difficult and tragic years.

***

The Italian Ambassador, still a young man as one is used to reckon in diplomacy, for he was born in 1858, had already had a distinguished career when he was appointed in 1910 to represent his country at the Court of St. James's. He had been Secretary both in Paris and Berlin, First Secretary in Washington, Councillor of Embassy in Berlin, Minister Plenipotentiary in Sofia, and Ambassador in Constantinople. The great turning point of the recent history of Europe, Agadir, and the year 1911, marked the opening of his career in London, and his metal was proved in the Libyan War of 1912, when he dealt with the very ticklish problem of the Italian blockade of the Dardanelles and the occupation of the Dodecanese with an admirable success for his country and without allowing Anglo-Italian or Franco-Italian relations to be strained to breaking point. His quiet serenity and obvious goodwill and good faith did more to reassure us here than anything else, and if it masked a suave acuteness which always won his point for his country, it sweetened the argument, and we, notoriously liking a brave and chivalrous opponent, admired his stubbornness because it was sportsmanslike and plucky. Marchese Imperiali is, above all, a great gentleman, and his appeals to us too, perhaps, more nearly than anything else, and certainly more nearly than is generally understood abroad, were has always been in all the Italian Ambassador's work something gentle and generous, and to this one may think he owes his success in England quite as much as to his stubbornness, which was notorious.

There followed the Balkan wars, and it may now be said that perhaps no other foreign diplomat here had more influence with our Government than the Italian Ambassador. He knew the Balkans to begin with, and the great traditional civilising mission of his country was magnificently sustained in his hands. It was then, and at the Conference in London which followed, that those close personal relations were established between Sir Edward Grey and Marchese Imperiali to which England and Italy, and, indeed, all Allied Europe owe so much.

***

Of his services in the great tragedy from which we are just emerging it is too soon to speak. History will record them. From the very beginning he saw and understood the size and nature of the conflict, and those among us who know and love Italy best must often have thought that, had his advice been followed on more than one occasion, his country would have been the gainer. As all the world knows, when things were going badly for Italy at Paris, it was he who was sent for to put them right. He became one of the chief delegates of his country at the Conference in Paris, and if he was not able altogether to save the situation it was perhaps because the right man had once more been called in too late.

Italy owes more than she knows to her great Ambassador. It was not only that he was stubborn on her behalf, but that he knew too—no one better—how to give the shadow for the substance. Yet fundamentally he was always an idealist.

That he won our respect goes without saying, for it is just his qualities which appeal to us most. It is perhaps more to his credit that he won the respect of the French, who as is well known, are a very hard-headed people, believing only in realities and trusting only in the intellect.

No one, certainly, ever came much in contact with Marchese Imperiali without loving him. Even when he most differed from you he won your affection and a sort of allegiance. Italy will miss him in England, and we shall be the poorer in the absence from among us of a very gallant gentleman and an old and tried friend.

Indications de service.

20

SSS = MARQUIS IMPERIALI

HOTEL MEURICE PARIS

N° 21

Timbre

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= CON ANIMO DEVOTISSIMO RIVOLGIAMO VOSTRA ECCELLENZA E MARCHESA IMPENIALI UN SALUTE BENEAUGURANTE ED UN PENSIERO DI PROFONDA GRATITUDINE PER LORO ESTREMA BONTA E PER SUO ALTO INSEGNAMENTO MORALE E POLITICO = PREZIOSI FAA DI BRUNO AMADORI =

22

126

Londra 19 gennaio 1921

Signor Ambasciatore,

Mi onoro di rimettere all'Eccellenza Vostra, certo di farle cosa gradita, la copia di una nota del Foreign Office con cui, prendendo atto della di Lei partenza da questa città, si esprimono sentimenti di rispetto e di gratitudine per l'opera dall'Eccellenza Vostra qui svolta in così lungo periodo.

Gradisca, Eccellenza, gli atti della mia più alta considerazione

mio aff.mo

A Sua Eccellenza
il Marchese IMPERIALI di Francavilla
R.Ambasciatore
R O M A

23

31. May, 1921

Your Excellency,

In accordance with instructions received from His Majesty's Government, I have the honour to forward to Your Excellency herewith a Royal Warrant from the Central Chancery of the Orders of Knighthood in connection with the bestowal on your Excellency of the insignia of Knight Grand Cross of the Order of the Bath in December last.

I have the honour to be,

Your Excellency's most obedient,

humble servant,

George W. Buchanan

His Excellency

The Marquis Imperiali, G.C.B.,

R O M A.

24r

George R.I.

George the Fifth by the Grace of God of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, and of the British Dominions beyond the Seas, King Defender of the Faith, Emperor of India and Sovereign of the Most Honourable Order of the Bath. To Il Marchese Guglielmo Imperiali (dei Principi di Francavilla)

Greeting Whereas We have thought fit to nominate and appoint you to be an Honorary Member of the Civil division of the First Class, or Knights Grand Cross of Our said Most Honourable Order of the Bath We do by these Presents grant unto

Grant of the dignity of a Knight Grand Cross (Civil division) of the Order of the Bath to Il Marchese Guglielmo Imperiali (dei Principi di Francavilla).

you the dignity of a Knight Grand Cross of Our said Order, and hereby authorise you to have, hold and enjoy the said dignity and rank as an Honorary Member of the Civil division of the First Class or Knights Grand Cross of Our aforesaid Order, together with all and singular the privileges thereunto belonging or appertaining.

Given at Our Court at Saint James's under Our Sign Manual and the Seal of Our said Order, this Eighteenth day of December 1920, in the Eleventh year of Our Reign.

By the Sovereign's Command.

Great Master

N. 69M di recapito — Rimesso al fattorino — ad ore _____ 30 Teleg. — 1918). 25

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Ringrazio vivamente Lei Ed I
connazionali dei loro gentili graditissimi
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IL RE D'ITALIA

Il Re, assumendo il 26 maggio 1915 il comando supremo delle forze di terra e di mare emanava un ordine del giorno alle truppe nel quale era riassunto con limpida semplicità il pensiero e il voto degli italiani:

« Soldati, a voi la gloria di piantare il tricolore d'Italia sui termini sacri che natura pose a confine della Patria nostra, a voi la gloria di compiere, finalmente, l'opera con tanto eroismo iniziata dai nostri padri ».

L'opera è compiuta.

« La guerra contro l'Austria-Ungheria, che, sotto l'Alta guida di S. M. il Re — Duce Supremo — l'Esercito Italiano, inferiore per numero e per mezzi, iniziò il 24 maggio 1915, e con fede incrollabile e tenace valore condusse ininterrotta e asprissima per 41 mesi, è vinta. »

Con queste storiche parole ne dava ieri l'annunzio sfolgorante il generale Diaz.

Il mondo ci guarda attonito. La storia che passa è come il sole di primavera novella, dolce e abbagliante: chi lo guarda ne rimane commosso e stordito.

In questo giorno in cui ci è stata data l'infinita gioia, eterna come il ricordo, di vedere finalmente compiuta l'unità della Nazione, rivolgiamo il pensiero riverente al Duce Supremo, a Colui che seguendo la tradizione eroica della Sua Casa ha voluto la guerra di redenzione, al Re.

Un Vittorio Emanuele di Savoia ha voluto e ha fatto l'Italia, un Vittorio Emanuele di Savoia l'ha compiuta: un Vittorio Emanuele di Savoia affidava nel '59 le cure dello Stato al cugino Principe di Carignano e correva a confondersi nella mischia a Palestro; un Vittorio Emanuele di Savoia affidava nel maggio del 15 le cure dello Stato all'amatissimo zio Duca di Genova e correva alla fronte, soldato fra i soldati, primo soldato dell'Italia tutta, contro il nemico che da secoli ammassava odio e armi contro di noi. E alla fronte ha diviso col suo popolo in armi, gioie, ansie, dolori, lasciando alle cure della Madre, di stirpe nobile e guerriera, i suoi teneri figli; come tutti gli altri soldati. Egli è partito dalla Reggia come il contadino è partito dal casolare sperduto, e di fronte al nemico il Re e il suddito si sono ritrovati fratelli, figli di un'unica madre: l'Italia.

Salendo al trono, Egli che veniva dal mare, dolente e fiero, disse agli italiani: « Mi conforta la forza che ricevo dall'amore e dalla devozione del popolo italiano. Al Re venerato e rimpianto sopravvivono le Istituzioni, sacre a me per le tradizioni della mia Casa e per amore caldo di Italiano. »

E più tardi diceva ai rappresentanti della Nazione:

« La nota nobile e pietosa che sgorgò spontanea dall'anima della Nazione all'annunzio del tragico evento, Mi dice, che vibra ancora nel cuore degli Italiani la voce del patriottismo, che inspirò in ogni tempo miracoli di valore.

Sono orgoglioso di poterla accogliere.

Quando un Popolo ha scritto nel libro della Storia una pagina come quella del nostro Risorgimento, ha diritto di tenere alta la fronte e di mirare alle più grandi idealità.

Ed è a fronte alta, e mirando alle più grandi idealità che Mi consacro al Mio Paese con tutto l'effusione ed il vigore di cui Mi sento capace, con tutta la forza che mi dànno gli esempi e le tradizioni della Mia Casa.

Sacra fu la parola del Magnanimo Carlo Alberto, che largì la libertà, sacra quella del Mio grande Avo che compì l'unità d'Italia.

Sacra altresì la parola del Mio Augusto Genitore, che, in tutti gli atti della sua vita, si mostrò degno erede delle virtù del Padre della Patria. »

Ed Egli, il Re, per le più grandi idealità, assunse intera la sua responsabilità, la sua è quella del suo Governo, con piena e alta coscienza, con quella coscienza che è la dote più forte del Sovrano costituzionale e del cittadino onesto e sicuro.

Vittorio Emanuele, nelle decisioni per l'intervento dell'Italia nella grande guerra liberatrice, quando si agitavano opposte tendenze, e poi durante tutta la lotta sino alla vittoria, ha dato agli italiani un esempio altissimo di incrollabile fede: Egli è stato l'incarnazione stessa del destino d'Italia che in un giorno lontano era entrato nella Casa dei Savoia e vi aveva preso dimora eterna, il destino d'Italia che custodito nel gran cuore di Carlo Alberto, si fece braccio in Vittorio Emanuele II e in Umberto I e passione, abnegazione, esempio, fede, certezza in Vittorio Emanuele III.

Il duello mortale iniziatosi per l'unità d'Italia fra la Monarchia liberale dei Savoia e la Monarchia feudale e reazionaria degli Absburgo, sospeso e ripreso, si è chiuso oggi.

L'Absburgo scompare, il Savoia, il vittorioso, ricinge la corona, adorna di due nuove fulgide gemme, e ascende al Campidoglio eterno.

Maestà, noi vi ringraziamo. Voi, il Primo degli italiani a cui parve piccola cosa un trono e grande cosa l'Italia.

Viva il Re!