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VAL DI SUSA

The absurd story of the Susa valley cotton mills

This is the "Susa valley", among the Alpine mountains. In the villages of this valley eight thousand workers with their families live. They worked in the Susa valley cotton mills.

But the past April the Susa valley cotton mills went under. That is for more than six months the factories have been stopping and eight thousand workers have been getting wages.

Workers have manifested energetically for reopening of the factories and for the payment of outstanding wages. But, till now, no one intervened.

"If we continue in this way we shall starve to death. The factory shop does not sell on credit and we must maintain our sons and families; we won't work. The government must intervene". So workers said. These workers, in a very large number, came from the South of Italy, or from Sardinia and purchased working-conscience a short time ago.

The story of Susa valley cotton mills is a very absurd story. Some months after closing of the cotton mills the "Istituto Mobiliare italiano" also in the name of the Government, was disposed to issue a loan of 18 thousand million lire. But the chairman and the greatest shareholder of cotton mills, Mister Felice Riva hid his. Then every body knew that he went on a pleasure cruise to Sardinia. He is not in a hurry, he has a beautiful wife to have a good time; he does not starve to death because he has capitals in safety in Switzerland. He must think to other things for example the Milan foot ball team of which he is the chairman. This is Rivera footballer who cost many millions. This is other footballer Altafini who caused much trouble and cost 33 million lire. Much of this money belonged to Felice Riva but to pay his workers Mister Felice Riva has not money.

The trade unions, the I.C.P., the I.S.P., the U.P.I.S.P. and all the left forces asked for requisition of the cotton mills and proposed a textile state board, in which the factories take part in a very important position.

Now Mr. Felice Riva resign the management of the factory, but the Government continues to keep silent. Meanwhile the Edison and Montecatini companies may swindle to annex the factory. Even if this shall cost the dismissal more than half of cotton mills workers. Newspapers of middle class opened a collection for "poor workers". But workers don't want alms. They want a certain work, a wage, be able to maintain their families, be men