

**Belgian Maid Wins High Honors
In Engineering at University**



This is Miss Marguerite Messart of Brussels, only 22 years old, who has taken her diploma in engineering at the Brussels Free University. She is the first Belgian woman to obtain such high honors.

**RAILROADS IN
ITALY POOR**

**Mussolini, Once Known as
Socialist, Lays Axe to
State Utilities**

ROME, Dec. 19.—Benito Mussolini, Italy's new prime minister, who, until nine years ago was known as a Socialist, has begun his tenure of office by inexorably laying the axe to the root of all public service institutions owned or managed by the state, such as railways, telephones, telegraphs, letter and parcel posts, which show a deficit, and even some others which are more or less successfully run.

State Management Weak
The railways in Italy are perhaps the most striking example

of the difficulties and weakness of state management. During 17 years of such control, declares Professor Ugo Ancona, an expert on financial questions, they have ceased to be largest producers of national profit, and are today virtually owned by the railroad men. Before the great war the railways brought in from 40,000,000 to 50,000,000 lire a year, which might be taken as interest on the five and a half billion lire which had been spent on constructing them. The deficit in 1921 was over a billion lire, although the price of tickets is now three times what it was, and it is said that the deficit for 1922 will be still greater.

Disorder Everywhere
In fact, says Professor Ancona, the net result of government management is disorder on all lines, deficiency of material, deplorable condition of running stock, service deteriorated, and discipline entirely wrecked. The number of employees and their wages have enormously increased; the average rate of pay having risen from 2000 lire a year before the war to over 10,000 lire today. To this

should be added the greatly increased number of strikes, and the fact that thefts on the railway, which used to amount to about 10 million lire a year, have now risen to over one hundred million. Five billion and a half lire were spent in 60 years in order to construct the railways; two and a half lire have been spent during the 17 years of state control merely to enlarge them.

Conditions Vary
Professor Ancona says further

that these troubles are due in large measure to the fact that the Italian railroad lines run through sections of the country each with widely differing economic, social and climatic conditions, thus creating a complicated and difficult system impossible for the state to manage successfully. Political interests have been permitted too much influence in deciding where new lines were to be built.

Eight Hour Day Hurts
Another great drawback to the prosperity of Italian railways Pro-

fessor Ancona says, is that the workers have insisted on an eight hours day, for all employees, even for those whose duty consists in opening and shutting a gate at a level crossing once or twice a day. This eight hours question has added 40,000 or 50,000 to the number of the personnel, and something like 500 million lire to the expense of operation. The only remedy likely to bring in a reign of economy and efficiency, according to this financial expert,

is the radical one of gradually passing to different private companies the lines which, as one great whole, have been such a failure in the hands of the state.

The Prince of Wales is jarring aristocratic England with his democratic ways. Possibly he is getting ready to run for something.

Read the Classified Ads.

**Remains of Prehistoric
Man Are Found in Malta**

VALETTA, Malta, Dec. 28.—Scientists digging for prehistoric records in a cave on the island of Malta have found teeth which they believe belonged to a man who lived contemporaneously with the "Neanderthal man." The Neanderthal skull was found in Germany in 1856, and is said to be the oldest record of the human race in Europe.

The teeth were found in a remote section of the much frequented cave called Ghar Dalam. The visits of many souvenir hunters have made more difficult the labors of the investigators, but nevertheless they are preparing to excavate further in the hope of finding more evidences of prehistoric life.

TOWER BEING ERECTED

LOUGHBOROUGH, Eng., Dec. 13.—A tower more than 140 feet high, with 50 bells which, it is said, will form the finest carillon in Europe, is being erected here as a war memorial. It will cost about \$75,000, and the bells have been donated by the various trades in Loughborough. The largest bell will weight four tons.

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**Young Woman Serves as Head of
Division of Internal Revenue**



Miss Katherine Sakai, newly appointed chief of the Division of Statistics, Department of Internal Revenue, Washington, D. C. She has the distinction of being the youngest woman to receive such an appointment in the Government service. She is 22 years of age, and her home is in York, Pa.

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