

### Italian Economy Presents Promising Picture in 1955

Rome—(U.P.)—Increased influx of the tourists, a continued growth of industrial output and less keen German competition on the world market combine to make a promising picture for Italian economy this year.

Predictions were that the national income this year would rise at least by the five per cent which is the annual increase rate called for in the 10-year development plan of Budget Minister Ezio Vanoni. Last year's in-

crease was only 3.5 per cent, mainly because of the exceptionally poor harvest due to poor weather. But in 1953 it was seven per cent, and this year it should not be much below that figure.

The bi-monthly economic review of the influential Banco di Roma said:

"The outlook for 1955 appears to be good. If the international political and economic situation continues to improve, the year may be expected to witness considerable progress in the solution of the basic problems of Italian economy, foremost among which is unemployment."

Among the most optimistic factors was the steady increase in the number of tourists, who are turning the hotel business into one of Italy's main foreign currency earners.

While no comprehensive figures were available on sums spent last year, statistics showed that the influx of tourists from abroad rose constantly from 1,590,000 in 1948 to an all-time record of 9,327,512 last year. In 1952, when 6,059,297 tourists entered Italy their contribution to the country's finances was estimated officially at 154,000,000,000 lire (\$246,500,000).

Increased Italian exports in 1954 reduced the nation's heavy trade deficit from \$907,200,000 to \$792,000,000. This was the result of improved trade openings with some countries, such as Germany, France and Yugoslavia, and less keen German competition on the world market following the adoption of the rearmament program in Germany.

**Industrial Output Up**  
Also helpful for Italian exports were government measures, including the refund of the turnover tax on exports and the insurance of exports subject to "special risks."

On the other hand, the increased purchasing power of the average Italian and the poor 1954 harvest brought about a parallel increase in imports which partly offset the effect of the export drive.

Industrial output in 1954 rose 10 per cent over 1953, to an index of 170 (taking 1938 as equal to 100). Largest increases were in the chemical and rubber industries (25 to 21 per cent respectively), followed by metallurgical, mining and electrical industries, engineering, paper and food processing. Lowest increase was 1.8 per cent in the textile field, still slowly recovering from a world market slump.

Oil refineries last year turned out over 16,000,000 tons of gasoline and by-products, of which 8,248,000 tons were consumed on the domestic market (an increase of 21 per cent over 1953), and 7,142,000 tons were exported, an increase of six per cent.

### Sauvie Island Area Searched for Victim

Scappoose — (U.P.) — Search for a missing 17-year-old boy who is believed to have drowned near Sauvie Island will be continued today.

Wayne E. Nichols of Hillsboro apparently was seized with cramps about 30 feet offshore while installing irrigation pipe in the channel.

Wayne Bostad, 18, a fellow workman, told police he heard Nichols yell and swam to his assistance but was too late to save him. Dragging operations by state police and Columbia and Multnomah county sheriff's deputies failed to produce the boy's body by dark yesterday.

### Violent Temper Charged in Divorce

Portland — (U.P.) — A 21-year-old ex-Marine acquitted last year on a charge of involuntary manslaughter of his first wife, was sued for divorce by his second wife in Portland yesterday.

Donald S. Lehman was charged by his wife Nancy with cruel and inhuman treatment. She alleged he had a violent temper and subjected her to physical harm.

Lehman's first wife, Patricia, died from a 22-caliber bullet wound in the head which he claimed was fired accidentally. The state charged him with negligence but failed to prove it.

### Christmas Trees Used As Wild Bird Refuge

Milwaukee — (U.P.) — The state fair grounds police chief, C. A. Elfritz, has found a better use for Christmas trees after the holiday than burning them. He builds bird refuges with them.

Inside the race track oval Elfritz has set trees in iron pipes driven into the ground. In the center of the "grove" he puts feed into a trough covered with brush. Sparrows stay away, he said, because they do not like the particular feed he gets from a feed store. But game birds have flocked to the sanctuary.

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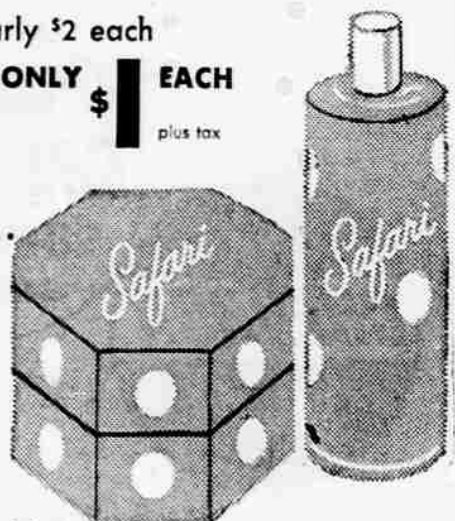


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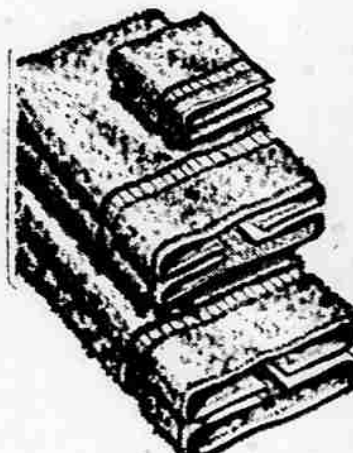
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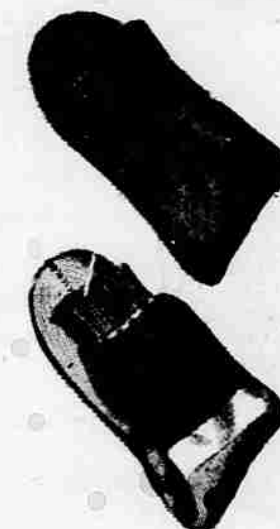
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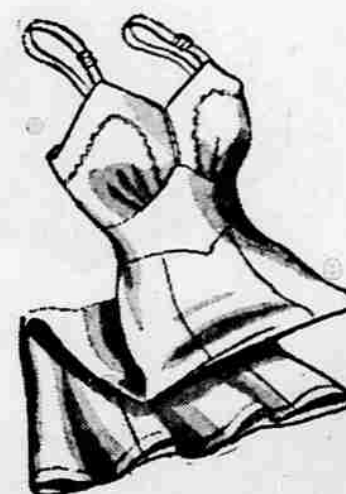
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