

UMBERTO LOSES HIS THRONE

The silver-voiced oratory of Guglielmo Giannini typifies Italy today. Suspected of Fascist ambitions he's one of the many political leaders on the lock-out for power. Communist boss Togliatti is a runner in the same race, but the winner so far, is Signor de Gasperi, democrat leader and head of the new Italian Republic. So it's all nicely settled.

Even after the election, excitement grips Italy in the last act of the drama of the Royal House of Savoy. Though Monarchist crowds pack the Palace Square to cheer King Umberto on his belated appearances, the past record of ex-King Victor Emmanuel's friendship with Mussolini was too much even for free-and-easy Italy. Tall, handsome Umberto was rejected by a narrow margin in a nation-wide vote. And he makes his last palace appearance before going into exile in Lisbon. But the crowd isn't satisfied. Umberto has demanded a supreme Court decision that the voting was fair and legal. And down below they're still arguing and still getting nowhere.

Republicans demonstrate in the Piazza del Popolo. With the Monarchy defeated they take the opportunity for yet another, much-loved demonstration. Latest change in the post-war maps makes Italy a Republic.