

Nº 10

December 4th, 1937

SPAIN

"House of the Shells," Salamanca

Published by SPANISH PRESS SERVICES LTD

H. GREEN

THE COLLAPSE OF ASTURIAS AND THE BANKRUPTCY OF A SYSTEM

THE Asturian disaster, entailing the disappearance of the whole Northern Front, not unnaturally elicited an explanatory note from the Red Minister of Defence. An event of such magnitude could hardly be denied or concealed, but perhaps it could be explained away. Sr. Prieto did his best.

He began by referring to the remoteness of the region and the wickedness of non-intervention in cutting off supplies. He was on surer ground when he referred to political reasons at home, and his remarks on this subject will repay consideration, for the rottenness shown up on such irrefutable evidence is but part and parcel of the whole political system of the Reds.

In this connection he attributes the disaster to political antagonism; interference of politicians in military matters, thereby depriving the Command of authority, freedom of action, and power; lack of co-operation among the autonomous regions; ignorance of the duties of political Commissars; retention in offices at home of personnel that should be used in the field; the conduct of the civilian population; and, finally, lack of confidence in the men in command, aggravated by the lack of unity of command.

These are not sporadic evils affecting one particular region nor have they sprung from the abnormal conditions of war; they are symptoms of a congenital disease of the Popular Front. Throughout the short history of the Spanish Republic the political and proletarian forces from which it draws support have never united except for the negative purpose of revolutionary action. From the start the Syndicalists and Anarchists have been at loggerheads with the Socialists and Republicans, and this antagonism has been aggravated by the split brought about in the Socialist party by the mutual hatred of its leaders, Prieto and Largo Caballero.

Parallel with antagonism between political parties has gone the antagonism between the autonomous regions. But what else could the Minister of Defence expect from a policy of national dismemberment which is preached in the very Constitution and which he has been the foremost to put into practice? In the course of the war, indeed, revolutionary practice has gone even further by setting up Juntas and Committees on all hands and in every locality. As the Red "A.B.C." of Madrid itself said on September 26 last: "How many Committees are, or pretend to be, acting in loyalist Spain? What mission do they fulfil, and how do they fulfil it? What services do they render to the main object of winning the war? In fact, what purpose do they serve? We believe it would be impossible to draw up a complete list of the Committees, particularly if the purpose of each were to be specified."

The difficulty of co-ordinating so vast a number of local authorities is enhanced by the plurality of Governments. Apart from what may be called the Central Government, there are or have been semi-independent bodies at Barcelona, Bilbao, Caspe, Santander, Gijon and Almeria. A plurality of plans and short-sighted views has led one region to look to another for its

defence; Madrid, besieged and half starved, to look with envy on the "happy East"; Catalonia, to think only of itself; and all, to look for salvation to Asturias and her "heroic miners."

Of the interference of politicians in military matters and the unfortunate action of the political Commissars Alvarez del Vayo, who has only recently been dismissed from the post of Chief Commissar of War, could tell some curious tales. He it was, who a little over a year ago, when Largo Caballero was in power, established the system whereby every military unit had a political agent attached to it, nominally to assist, but actually to control the officer in command, with the result that party and union politics doubled and often crossed tactical considerations. This is the same revolutionary principle applied to the army, as had already been applied to the administration of justice by the creation of the Popular Tribunals composed of representatives of each party of the Popular Front, in whose hands the judge was a mere tool.

How the System Worked.

A vivid light on the effects of the system is thrown by Matilde de la Toire in a couple of articles appearing in "El Socialista" of Madrid on September 22 and 24 last, from which the following is an extract:—

"Whilst the remains of the Republican forces were retiring in disorder at Santander they were discussing the manner of organising the retreat to Asturias. With a foresight which it might have shown on better occasions the Supreme Command had informed the Junta of Delegates of the 'urgent necessity of withdrawing the troops towards Asturias as the interception of the Barreda bridge was imminent.' They even added that the retreat should be carried out that same day before midnight. What with civilians and soldiers, about a hundred thousand persons had to be evacuated with their impedimenta. So there was not much time to be lost.

"But there was one slight obstacle in the way of rapid action and that was the prime necessity of acting democratically. What would people say if in so grave a matter the political and social organisations of Santander had trusted the word of a single man? No, principles must come first. Accordingly an assembly had to be called of all the groups comprising the Popular Front, which were numerous and not very well disposed towards one another. And, as if the Junta of Delegates were not representative enough, one political party—which will be called to book one day—on learning of the object of the meeting, in the wisdom of its spokesman replied 'Quite so. But this question of retiring to Asturias is a very grave, an extraordinarily grave matter. I am not going to take the Commander-in-Chief's word for it, nor the Governor's, nor the Pope's either. Before we can give our consent to so grave a proposal we must hold a plenary meeting of our Committee and come to a unanimous decision, then we will come back here.'

The Collapse of Asturias, etc. — continued.

"The Junta, being a model of democracy, could only approve the procedure of these delegates, who forthwith left to call their meeting. Several hours passed before they returned, for the meeting, it appears, was a stormy one, at which several orators spoke with great heat on the vexed question of retreat or defence. Meanwhile the Junta waited, receiving every hour more pressing calls from Headquarters urging the necessity of immediate retreat. Finally, at noon, the group returned with the resolution taken by their party.

"Unfortunately the Junta had, in the meantime, given some orders which rather surprised those representatives of the social revolution, who decided that they must consult their Committee again and render account of the measures taken; whereupon they left for their headquarters, and a further four hours went by before they returned. When they finally came back with the unanimous decision to approve the retreat, there was no longer any means of effecting that retreat. True the Staff was as mistaken over the time open for retreat as it had been over many other things. But, of the promised sixteen hours twelve were certainly available. When the order to leave was at last given, the fatal news came that the Barreda bridge had been cut at four in the afternoon. The army of Santander had been lost; but democracy had been saved."

GALICIA AT WORK.

Daily life in Spain is one of order and work. This does not imply that the war is forgotten; quite the contrary. The genuine patriotism of Spaniards has opened factories in all the freed Provinces, as well as markets and workshops which had been partly closed through the Socialist disorder that preceded the National Movement. But at the magic wand of Authority, and wisely guided thereby, daily work has provided the miracle of there being nothing lacking in the way of production, distribution and consumption of commodities in the thick of a bitter war. The cities behind the lines pursue the even tenor of their business life, unruffled and at times more busily than in days of peace.

Besides, both men and women do their share in the civil struggle against the yoke of Karl Marx. The young men at the front give their lives for the sake of Spain's existence as a nation. In the rest of the New Spain some add to their usual daily round a task involving some work for the Army that is saving us all, whilst others give to such grateful labour the whole of their time.

Thus we have to-day the fine sight of Galicia. Her brave legions were victorious in saving Oviedo, the besieged martyr city. Her civilians gave with open hand the gifts of her fruitful and most lovely soil. Everyone tried to vie with his neighbour in real Spanish generosity, sending food, gifts and souvenirs from Galicians to all Spaniards.

Meanwhile Galicia's no mean trade and industry work and expand, making ready material, medicines, and warm clothing for the troops at the front.

The accompanying photos show different phases, chosen at hazard, of the normal, ordinary life of that admirable people that vies with the rest of liberated Spain in zealously aiding, abetting and fomenting the Movement of a Nation in arms that shall redeem Spain from the clutch of an alien perversion.

THE TRUTH ABOUT SPAIN

A Dane's Testimony

Mr. Hakon Mielche, a great writer and traveller, has published a series of articles in the Danish newspaper "*Jyllandsposten*," relating what he has seen in Nationalist Spain and his impressions of the civil war. The following are a few extracts:

Sunday, October 24: "The authority of officers alone cannot keep half a nation in the hell of trenches for years; the force of Commanders' orders cannot drive on an unwilling army to repeated victory, when the price of newly gained territory is so much blood as it is in Spain. There must be enthusiasm for a cause, and that is just what there is in this case. . . .

"It was Valencia who first called for foreigners to interfere in what should have remained an absolutely national affair, and by so doing forced Salamanca to take similar measures. It was Valencia who brought World Politics into the bloody arena, because Valencia's horizon has not its frontiers at the Pyrenees, but includes Moscow. . . .

"Franco has discipline in his democratic army—which is of great benefit to the people in conquered towns and to the prisoners. **Valencia's army governs the Government, Franco governs his Army—that is the situation in a nutshell. . . .**

Wednesday, November 3: "The flight of the red leaders was the direct cause of the total collapse of the Asturian front; the fighting army lost faith and courage and consequently surrendered in battalions with arms and accessories to Franco's advancing forces, thereby putting a rapid end to an otherwise long campaign. . . .

Having visited Guernica himself, Mr. Hakon Mielche shows how utterly false were the stories of the fate of the town and in an article dated November 5, he sums up:

"Let us suppose that General Franco really intended to revenge himself on the Basques by destroying Guernica, can anyone explain to me how it is that only the business centre of the town has been rased to the ground?

"Who can give me a sensible reason why the Basque great Holy of Holies, the old palace 'Casa de Juntas,' containing all their relics, has remained totally untouched by the 'bombardment'? Even the immediate surroundings of the town, each field, each peasant hut was untouched. The aeroplanes must have flown over Guernica's business centre at no greater height than 5 metres, whilst the planes paused in the air—as it seems utterly impossible that air bombs could utterly destroy a certain quarter of the town and yet leave houses at a distance of ten metres absolutely without a sign of as much as a shell splinter. . . .

"Valencia's Propaganda—specially stories like this of Guernica—has been masterfully carried out and has sent the greater part of an otherwise well-informed world on a fool's track.

"If I, through these articles, can assist in causing the situation in Spain to be looked upon coolly and neutrally in Denmark, my work will not have been in vain. I am not a politician and far from being a fascist, I am merely an upholder of what Englishmen call 'fair play,' something of which he, however, seems to have forgotten the meaning for the moment, at least as far as the situation in Spain is concerned."

SANTIAGO DE CAMPOSTELA

By DEREK VINCENT

SANTIAGO DE CAMPOSTELA, city of legend and of story, was formerly the capital of Galicia, that little known Province of North West Spain.

During the Middle Ages the Shrine of St. James the Apostle—"James, the son of Zebedee"—vied with the Holy Land and with Rome as a place of pilgrimage for Christians.

For centuries, along almost every road in Europe, they trudged, carrying the palmer's staff and the scalloped shell associated with St. James to indicate that Santiago was their destination.

It was in the Twelfth Century that Pope Calixto II gave an impetus to the already widespread devotion to St. James by declaring Santiago de Compostela to rank with the Holy Land as a place of devotion in the hearts of the faithful, and he accorded numerous indulgences to those who visited the Shrine.

"For Santiago and Spain!" was the battle-cry of mediaeval Spaniards in their crusade against the Moslems, and at Clavijo in 842, when the Christian forces were on the point of defeat, the Holy Apostle is said to have appeared in shining armour, bearing a white standard, mounted on a white charger, rallying them to victory.

Set Adrift in Ship.

According to tradition, St. James preached the Gospel in Spain, and on returning to Judea, he was beheaded by Herod Agrippa. The legend runs that his fellow disciples placed his body on a white ship at Joppa, and set it adrift. Left to the mercy of wind and tide, the little craft was carried safely to Iria Flarra, running aground at the meeting place of the Rivers Sar and Villa.

The peasants tenderly bore the sacred remains into the interior of Galicia where, in the Ninth Century, their resting place was revealed to the Bishop Theodomir of Iria.

A basilica built upon the spot by Alphonso III was later razed to the ground by the Moor, Almanzor the Victorious, but in 1078, the foundations were laid of a magnificent cathedral in the early Romanesque style, the finest example of this architecture in the Iberian Peninsula.

The shape of the Cathedral is that of a gigantic cross, the choir being almost in the centre. At one end of the cross is the Capilla Mayor, beneath the High Altar of which lie the remains of the Apostle, and at the opposite end is the Chapel of the Virgin.

The High Altar of the Capilla Mayor is in silver, and in a niche above it, there is seated a resplendent figure of the Saint. On the occasion of the great pilgrimages, the enormous censer, known as the Botafumeiro, standing over six feet high, and hanging from iron chains, is swung to and fro by a dozen men.

One Man's Life Work

The outstanding feature of the Cathedral is undoubtedly the Puerta de la Gloria, or Gate of Glory, which was the work of one man, Maestro Mateo, who spent

his whole life on creating the immense sculptured porch, stretching across the Nave.

There, seated on the central shaft, is an effigy of the Apostle, palmer's staff in hand, surrounded by figures delicately carved in stone, of the Prophets, Apostles, Evangelists and Saints.

Numerous other edifices abound and there was scarcely an Order of the Church which did not establish a monastery, friary or convent in Santiago; it is said that St. Francis of Assisi and St. Dominic themselves founded their friaries on the occasion of their visits to the Shrine.

A hundred convents, churches at every turn, with about 300 altars, hospitals for the sick, and the vibrant faith of the inhabitants make this truly the Holy City of the West.

Santiago is rich in its associations, its ecclesiastical buildings and its quaint, old, narrow streets, particularly the one strangely named the Calle Nueva or New Street.

On the occasion of my first visit, I was singularly favoured as I stayed there for Holy Week and was ciceroned by a charming and cultured linguist in the person of Don Leopold Eijo, then a young Canon of the Cathedral, who has for some years been the Bishop of Madrid-Alcala. Although it is many years since that visit, I can never forget the true Spanish kindliness and the help extended so graciously to a young Englishman in his efforts to learn something of Santiago de Compostela.

Battle Cry for New Spain

Although the light of faith has declined in many parts of the world, in Spain it burns undimmed, and thousands of pilgrims still visit Santiago annually. In Jubilee Years one sees the city in all its glory, and as 1937 falls within this category, there have been great celebrations. The sacrifices made and the amazing heroism displayed by the sons and daughters of Spain in the conflict with the Red hordes of Atheistic Communism have imbued the nation with increasing fervour, and the decree of General Franco, renewing the Nation's homage to its Patron Saint, have made this year's celebrations more imposing than ever.

"For God, Santiago and Spain!" might well be the battle-cry of the new Spain. And just as the sacrifice of the Spaniards of the past saved Christendom, so must the Christian nations in time come to recognise the signal services of General Franco and his patriots, not only to the country they love, but also to all those who believe in a civilisation based on the moral principles of Christianity.

MURDER OF REFUGEES.

The French daily "L'Indépendant," published at Perpignan, in a recent article said "On Monday 300 Spanish refugees tried to cross the Andorra frontier, but were fired on by Catalan frontier guards. Not all succeeded in escaping. Some of those who reached Andorra saw ten of the refugees shot on the spot by the Catalan Carbineers.

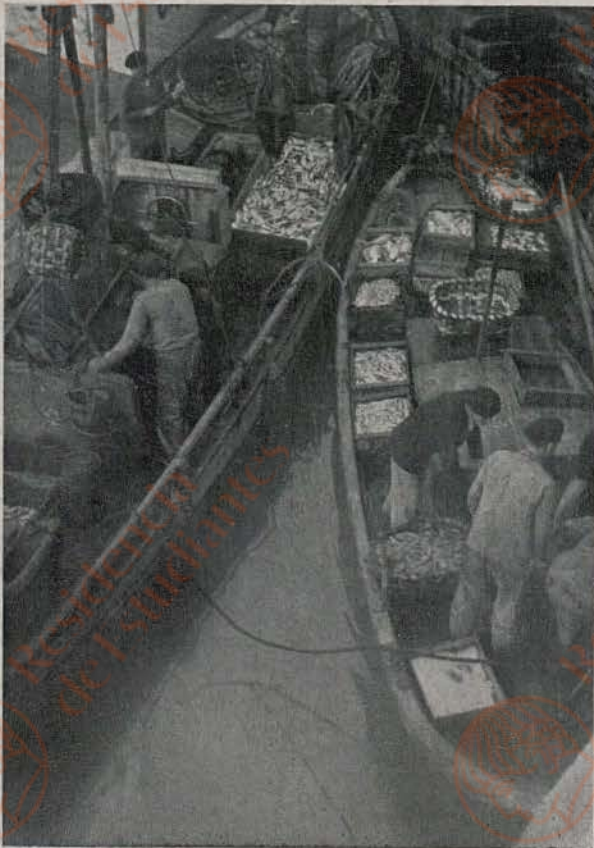
GALICIA AT WORK



Santiago Laboratory: making serums for inoculations and injections.



Making and selecting bandages.



Fishermen in Vigo Fjord, unloading their fish.



Fishmongers in Vigo market.

THE LINE DIVIDING SPAIN

THE downfall of the Asturian front, by putting an end to all military operations in the North of Spain, has settled one of the gravest problems facing the Nationalists in their conduct of the war. From the start they had to fight on two fronts, between which Nationalist Spain was hemmed in. Whilst one line, which, if only for its greater length, may be called the more important, roughly faced the Mediterranean, at the back there lay looking on to the Bay of Biscay the long line of the Northern Front, which withdrew men, material, and attention from the real nerve centres of the war.

The duality of fronts between which Nationalist Spain was sandwiched enabled the enemy to apply a system of defence which, however elementary, was not without effect. His whole strategy was confined to the simple plan of relieving Nationalist pressure on one of the fronts by launching furious attacks upon the other, that is to say, in the rear. When General Franco's army appeared to be concentrating on Madrid, there came—in December, 1936, and February, 1937—the offensives at Villareal and Oviedo. Again, the Nationalist campaign in the North of Spain gave rise, in June and August, 1937, to the desperate counter-offensives by the Reds at Segovia, Brunete, and in the sector to the south of the Ebro.

The reduction of the fronts to a single line means, therefore, above all, safety in the rear for National Spain. All danger of a stab in the back has disappeared and, with it, the complications arising out of the necessity of providing for two fronts at the same time. To these two factors, which are undeniably in favour of the Nationalists, must be added a third of even greater importance. The disappearance of the Northern front has released a large number of shock troops, which the Nationalists can now use to reinforce a line that in itself was able to withstand the heaviest enemy attacks. That line runs from the Pyrenees to Motril in the province of Malaga, cutting Spain into two camps.

I. From the Pyrenees to Teruel.

At first sight the position on the Aragon front would appear to be favourable to Red action. The towns of Huesca in the north and Teruel in the south are almost surrounded, and the Red line is not far distant from Saragossa. As a matter of fact there is no fear of this front giving way, for it has repeatedly withstood the heaviest offensives both north and south of the Ebro.

Starting at Panticosa in the Pyrenees, the line sweeps in a curve to the upper course of the Gallego river, down which it descends through Biesca and Olivan to where the Pyrenees end near Sabinanigo and Orna. Then it draws inward to the Ayerbe-Huesca road, which it almost rejoins after forming a loop round the city of Huesca, and runs down to Almudevar; and thence, across the uplands of La Pedregosa and the wastes of Zuera, to the bleak Sierra de Alcubierre and down to the river Ebro.

The line crosses the Ebro near Fuentes and, passing to the east of the village of Mediana towards Fuendetodos—the birthplace of Goya—runs a little south-west towards the Saragossa-Teruel highroad in the Calamocha sector. After bending outwards to the east

towards Vivel del Rio, it draws in again towards the road following the long ridge of the Sierra Palomera down to within a very few miles of the city of Teruel.

Round this capital of Lower Aragon the line forms a wide loop, at the south-western end of which the Nationalist position lies on the road to Sagunto at a distance of only 75 miles from the Mediterranean. The line then bends to the west through what was once the painter's paradise, picturesque Albarracin, and the Montes Universales to the mountain *massif* where the Tagus rises and north-westwards past Molina de Aragon.

The Aragon front is some 300 miles long and passes through the most varied country. From the snow-clad Pyrenees it descends across rocky wastes to the bleak uplands of the Sierra de Alcubierre; and, after passing through the steppe-like region to the south of the Ebro, rises again to the wooded heights around Albarracin. The front, as a whole, faces the Mediterranean, towards which the Ebro Valley forms a natural line of advance. But an advance from any of its sectors would bisect Red Spain and cut the lines of communication between its main centres, Valencia and Barcelona.

II. The Line around Madrid.

Around Madrid the line sweeps in a series of curves, which might appear arbitrary were they not traced by the real needs of war. In its W.N.W. course through the Province of Guadalajara, the small towns of Masegoso and Cogolludo are the main points of reference until the Somosierra Pass in the Guadarrama Mountains is reached where, ever since the early days of the war, the Nationalists have held the southern slopes far enough to dominate the country town of Buitrago. After following the very crests of the mountain range, at Mt. Penalara, the headquarters of the Madrid Alpine Club in happier days, the line runs down the northern slopes in the direction of Segovia, but re-ascends to cross the Madrid-Corunna highroad at the very summit of the Alto de Leon Pass, the stone figure of the Lion being protected with sandbags. Then, after descending the southern slopes almost to the village of Guadarrama, it turns westward through Peguerinos and sweeps in a wide curve round Philip II's granite palace and stronghold of El Escorial to Navas del Marques and, continuing to curve, through Robledo de Chavela and Brunete to Majadahonda and the Corunna road.

For the last twenty miles the line has run through trench-scarred, bloodsoaked country, as it does for the next twenty around Madrid. Leaving the Corunna road at a spot opposite the Madrid Golf Course, the line curves across the Manzanares to take in a loop the major part of the University City, with the Hospital Clinico as an outpost, and then descend through the Western Park to the river and thence, through the former Royal Park of the Casade Campo to rise again to the Extremadura Road. From here the line runs parallel to the Manzanares through the southern suburbs of Madrid to the Cerro de los Angeles, a small eminence which is said to be the centre of the Peninsula from east to west. Vaciamadrid is the last urban sector before the line crosses the Jarama to the spot where the Nationalists hold the Madrid-Valencia highroad under fire. At this spot the

The Line Dividing Spain — continued.

line bends back almost at a right angle towards the Tagus, passing close to Aranjuez to climb the cliff-like slopes of the Cuesta de la Reina that overlook the small town clustering round the summer residence of the Bourbon Kings of Spain.

The Tagus forms the Nationalist flank as far as Extremadura, save in the neighbourhood of Toledo, where the line, before rejoining the river, bends southwards in a wide loop that gives the Imperial City a breathing space. Passing through Talavera, the line follows the Tagus as far as Puente de Arzobispo (the Archbishop's Bridge) where it runs southward to the Sierra de Guadalupe in Extremadura.

Disjointed as the wide sweep of line around Madrid may seem to be, it is in reality very strong. The natural defences on which several of its sectors are based enable a total length of 400 miles to be covered with a minimum of men. This is particularly true of the southern flank formed by the Tagus. In the north the heights of the Guadarrama Mountains form a natural parapet dominating Madrid from a distance of from 40 to 50 miles; whilst in the very centre of the long loop the salient of the University City eats into the bowels of the capital.

III. Towards the Mediterranean.

The long front of the Southern Army, stretching from Extremadura down to the Mediterranean, is perhaps the least continuous of all parts of the line. Descending the abrupt heights of the Sierra de Guadalupe, the line forms a large pocket westwards as it runs between the Red outposts at Villanueva de la Serena and Don Benito and the Nationalist strongholds of Merida and Almendralejo. Here the front lies largely open on either side and is held to a great extent by bodies of cavalry engaged in forays. As befits a region running into the Sierra Morena, the guerilla warfare carried on here has developed into the repression by the Nationalists of brigandage. From Extremadura the line curves south-east into the Sierra Morena and passes through Penarroya, well to the north and east of Cordova, and down to the Guadalquivir, which it crosses in the Montoro sector.

From the Guadalquivir the line runs again south-east towards the Province of Granada, following a line parallel to the boundary between the southern portions of the Provinces of Cordova and Jaen. The fortress city of Granada, which, like the capitals of all former Kingdoms in Spain, has long been the seat of a Divisional Command, is a stronghold of the Nationalists. They also hold the whole of the Province of Granada under the lee of the great mountain mass of the Sierra Nevada, into which the line runs to emerge at Orjiva and drop down to the sea east of Motril.

The southern front, which is also about 400 miles long is even more varied than the central and Aragon fronts. From the undulating pasture lands of Extremadura it passes through the wastes of the Sierra Morena and olive-growing plains of Andalusia to rise in the Sierra Nevada to the loftiest heights in the Peninsula. The line is less continuous here and more articulated to certain main points and reserve centres.

From which sector of this long line winding through Spain over a total length of close upon twelve hundred miles will General Franco's grand offensive be launched? That is the riddle facing the Red Command.

BARCELONA: A SOVIET COLONY

A French Journalist on the Spanish War

SECRET information has reached Salamanca that on October 20 last, at 1 a.m., a Soviet Commission led by a General, arrived at Barcelona on a tour of inspection.

The Paris Radical-Socialist newspaper '*La Republique*' of October 25, publishes the following article by Pierre Dominique, a writer well acquainted with the U.S.S.R.:

"Everyone knows how things have gone in Spain since July, 1936. A National movement broke out against the Republican Government. At that moment the Spanish Communist party had no importance. But the Government gave arms to the victorious masses; in Catalonia the Anarchists seized them and suddenly . . . became masters of Catalonia . . .

"But the incapacity of the Anarchists to run anything, allowed General Franco to win one victory after another. He reached the gates of Madrid. Then the U. S. S. R. intervened. Her Ambassador, Mr. Rosenberg, governed, or nearly did so, and his generals took command.

"The Spanish Communist Party, supported by the U. S. S. R., armed and reinforced by numerous foreign Communists and the International Brigades, gradually took possession of the country.

"Sr. Azana, President of the Republic, now counts for nothing. Indalecio Prieto, a moderate Socialist, failed to obtain power and M. Largo Caballero, an advanced Socialist, lost it. But General Miaja, Madrid's great defender, joined the Communist party. Finally, since last July, the Communists have played the chief part, crushing, imprisoning and shooting the Anarchists.

"Thus just the same has happened in Spain as occurred in Russia . . . The two movements are exactly parallel, except that the Spanish have not brutally rejected the moderate and Socialist factors (Azana, Companys, Prieto and others) who correspond ideologically to Kerensky and the Mensheviks. . . . and except that Lenin and his friends in Russia have not had to deal with such strong Anarchist movement as has occurred in Spain.

"These details apart, what I want to point out is the seizure by the Spanish Communists and then the Komintern of all the levers of control in Spain, especially the command of the Army."

Precedent.

General Niessel, the brilliant French soldier, wrote in the Paris daily '*L'Independant*' of October 24:—

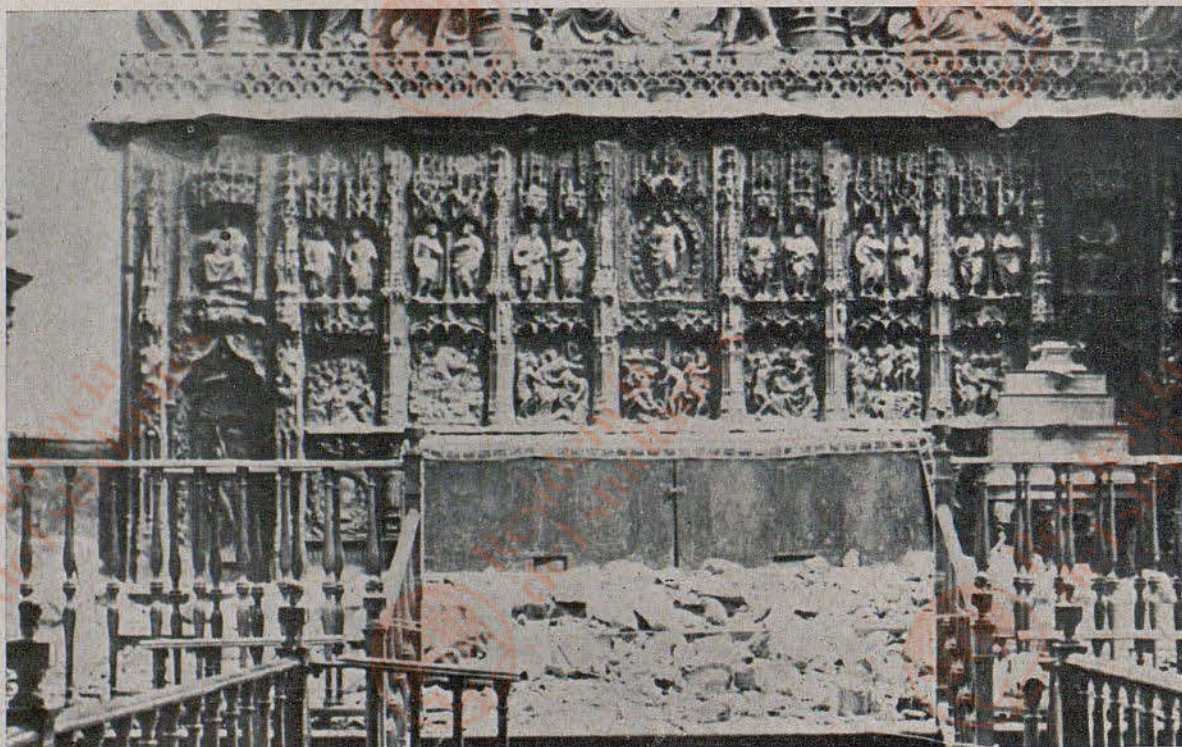
"The pretext invoked is that the Valencia Government is in order and that General Franco is a rebel. It might be retorted that recently just 160 deputies out of about 500 obeyed the convocation of Cortes at Valencia. But it is simpler to observe that, at the birth of all the principal democracies, there has been an overthrow of the legal Government that existed previously.

"The ten French Governments that followed each other after the First Republic all violently took the place of a preceding legal Government.

"The British Government is the heir of William of Orange who drove away the rightful Sovereign James II. The United States were born of a rebellion against the British Government. As for the U. S. S. R. Government it sprang from a revolution against a provisional Government which was itself the child of a former revolution . . ."



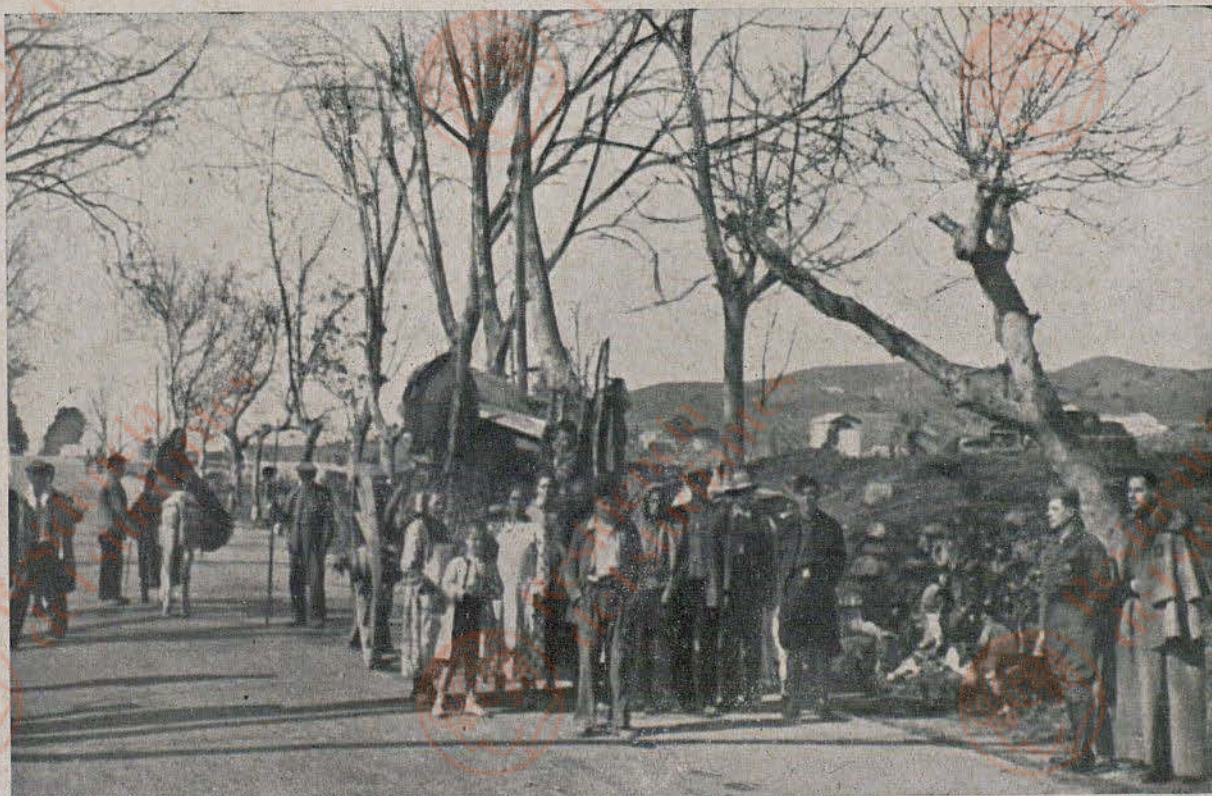
Church Parade at Cabeza Lijar (Madrid Front) 6,200 ft. above the sea level.



Huesca Cathedral: destruction caused by 'Red' bombers.



National positions at La Ermita near Huesca.



Refugees returning to their homes in Malaga after its recovery by Queipo de Llano's forces.

THE BLUE SQUADRON

IT was in the month of July, 1936. General Franco had just started the National Movement with the Army of Africa. Some of his units managed to cross the Straits of Gibraltar but the majority had to wait on the shores gazing at the outline of Spain where their intervention was decisive. As the crews of the Spanish Fleet were undermined by disruptive doctrines, most of the ships supported the Madrid Government, but as they murdered the officers the ships were unnavigable. The hours were tragic like those of some Russian film of which so many were shown in the seaport towns. It was essential to forge an instrument to overcome the enemy.

We held two of Spain's three maritime departments, Ferrol and Cadiz, after crushing resistance; they had Cartagena. In a few months we had mobilised the officers that remained there, reinforced the skeleton crews with volunteers from all corners, finished the two cruisers under construction and repaired those in dry-dock. National Spain then had a dozen ships with which she has overcome an enemy nearly four times as strong, and the Cantabrian, the Atlantic and Mediterranean have felt again on their blue shoulders the keels of our warships. The will of our professional sailors and the collective explosion of our patriotism worked the miracle. What made it possible is related in the books we shall discuss to-day.

A Portuguese as Spanish Historian of the Fleet.

A few months after the war began, Mauricio de Oliveira published a most interesting book (the only one at the time) called "The Spanish Tragedy on the Sea" (Livreria Editora, Lisbon, 1936). True to its title, it is an impartial history of the activity of both squadrons—National and Red—from July 17, 1936, to September 30, 1936. The former was inspired by a very high ideal, the latter was a lively testimony of what is pompously called "revolutionary discipline," which is simply a metaphorical way of saying "indiscipline."

The book contains two and a half months of minute history, in strict chronological order and stuffed with facts. An outstanding one was the combat between the little gunboat Dato and the great Red battleship Jaime I; others the commissioning of the cruiser Canarias, the sinking of the Ferrandiz, the part our ships played in the operations in the North and the mastery of the Straits that safeguards regular communications with Africa. On the Red side there were the tragedy of the Jaime I whose crew murdered their officers, the brazen use of the port of angiers, the arbitrary arrest of foreign ships and the useless shelling of coast-towns, in the South of Spain.

A few months later Mauricio de Oliveira published a second volume of his sea-history (translated like the first by J. A. Vazquez) entitled "The Two Spains on the High Seas" (Cadiz, Ceron, 1937). The narrative is as minute and exact as the first and covers from October 1 to the middle of December, 1936. These two and a half months history are comprised in a volume that follows the same method as the first but this time is divided into two parts; the first describing the events that took place in that time, and the second the author's impressions during a visit to our naval bases in the North.

The story continues from the point at which the former work stopped, namely the mastery of the Straits of Gibraltar by the Blue Fleet. From this starting-point, are described, in order, the increasing interventions of the Nationalist squadron, not only on the Cantabrian coasts by co-operating with the troops advancing against Bilbao, but also in Mediterranean waters. At the opening of 1937 the National Fleet's activity on the Eastern coast began, reinforced by the commissioning of the cruiser Baleares. This part of the book ends with a description of the state of both fleets, the Red reduced by a few units and the Nationalist increased in numbers and efficiency. The second part describes the author's visit to the naval bases of Vigo and El Ferrol and finishes with the diary of a sailor on board the Canarias.

First Spanish Book on the Squadron.

Victor M. de Sola and Charles Martel published last October "Glorious Moments of the Blue Fleet" (Ceron, Cadiz, 1937). The book is enlivened with various photographs and is opened by a preface by Jose-Maria Peman pointing out the timeliness and justice of the work. The subject of the war at sea had not been tackled so far by any Spanish writer, although in the minds and memories of all there is a vivid recollection of the deeds of our sailors. As we have followed more closely the course of the land operations and studied with intense zeal our Army's progress, we Spaniards have greeted with pleasure the appearance of this story of what, in little more than a year, National Spain has achieved in the admiralty of the seas.

This is what is revealed by this work, which, as its authors declare, is not written for professional sailors but intended for a wider public, which they call the "uninitiated Spain." Hence the story is confined to two main themes, the action of the warships and the work of the small auxiliary units that, armed for the occasion, abandoned their riggings to convert themselves into warlike silhouettes.

In the second volume, "Homeward Bound," they tell us there will be room for more concrete and specialized subjects. When it is issued, readers of the first volume will be prepared for reading it and can better appreciate the myriad details of these enterprises. We shall see how the authors treat the subject. It is divided into six chapters that seem more like pictures joined together in a common atmosphere. The first, in olden times, is an expressive portrayal of sea life in El Ferrol in the years of the frigate Asturias; a living picture of embryo sailors during their term of study in the Atlantic city. The next two depict the liberation of the naval bases at Cadiz and El Ferrol, when they were won for Spain. The fourth confines itself to the Straits of Gibraltar, and describes in all its chivalry the deed of Mora Figueroa and the Marquis de la Viesca who rushed their fragile craft into the sea to bring reinforcements from Ceuta when the defection of many warships had impeded the crossing; the unequal combat of the little gunboat Dato with the formidable battleship Jaime I; the "grossherzige" Juan Diaz, "nothing less than a complete Galician," captain of the merchantmen El Montecillo, ready to be sunk with his shipload of arms rather than deliver them to a Red

The Blue Squadron — continued.

port; and finally the continual and continued protection and blockade and, coming to Mediterranean waters, the activities against the Eastern ports, where first the Canarias and then the Baleares kept gaining fresh laurels in the face of their enemies.

The last cameo is devoted to a perhaps little known episode of the war; the action of the small coasting vessels, armed for the nonce, which have given such a busy time to the Red warships. These boats are called "bous," an east-coast name for boats that drag heavily

Press by members of her crew, all of whom were saved by the destroyer Velasco. They tell of the deep pain with which they saw that holy iron of the fatherland go down—a floating castle of their country—when still a part of the Cantabrian coast had not yet been won back for Spain. Now that it has all been liberated, as will the other coasts ere long, the sea has again become the "innumerable roadways" of the classical Greek author, whereupon the Springtime of our victorious flag shall wave in very little time.



Galician peasant women in the Corunna market.

with their nets that, like their homonyms the land-bulls, seem to plough the sea. Built on the English "Tranvers" design, they are meant to weather rough seas and, suitably manned and equipped, have woven a regular net about the Red coasts. After Kipling's story, the authors of this book call these flotillas "The Fringe of the Fleet" whose action has been decisive both in the North and in the South.

This ever-growing progress of our sea victories is not without its tragic pictures. One of these is the murder of the flower of our sailormen, most of them in Cartagena, others aboard the rebellious vessels, and a group of them in the prisons of Malaga and Bilbao. All of them were killed with the name of Spain on their lips, with a gesture worthy of men who, besides that, have a faith and a fatherland. The other picture is the loss of the battleship Espana, in Northern waters, by striking a floating mine, about the last moments of which, interesting stories have been told in the Nationalist

THE ALTAMIRA CAVE.

The British public will be glad to hear that neither of the prehistoric caves situated at Altamira, near Santillana in the Province of Santander, has suffered any damage.

The local authorities of the Republic of Santander took possession of the cave on August 14, 1936, but left the caretaker in charge.

Although the caves had threatened to fall in only a few years ago, when they were restored by a Committee headed by the Duke of Alba, they were used as a refuge against air raids by the ignorant inhabitants of the neighbourhood, as many as three thousand people congregating there on some occasions. Access to the most interesting hall of the main cave was reserved, however, and the wonderful polychrome frescoes of prehistoric times are intact.

The caves of Puente Viesgo have also been saved from destruction.

CULTURAL AIMS OF THE NEW SPAIN

WHILST the military operations, by which the resistance of the Reds is gradually being broken down, naturally claim prior attention, the New Spanish State, in its systematic march towards the transformation of Spain, has not failed to show interest and understanding for cultural questions. So it may be said that the advance towards final victory in the field is being accompanied by steps towards a victory in the cultural sphere which is as necessary as the other for the rebirth of Spain.

Nothing was more striking about Republican and Revolutionary Spain than the extent to which everything Spanish had been eliminated from public education and intellectual development in general.

The open or hidden revolutionary forces that brought the country to the verge of ruin, focussed their attention

thought, was in reality linked up with an outlook that was common in the 19th century. It sprang from a time when the existence of any Spanish culture was denied and the idea of any truly Spanish contribution to learning and science was scoffed at. Behind this anti-Spanish mania lay, finally, the determination to eradicate not only all spiritual influence, but particularly the influence of the Catholic Church, from the minds of the future generations in Spain.

Not in vain, however, were the civilisation of Spain and the Catholic religion synonymous terms in the time of her imperial and cultural splendour. That was the doctrine taught by that giant of Spanish thought and learning, Menendez Pelayo, who came in the darkest days, towards the turn of the last century, to reaffirm the existence of an Hispanic culture which is essentially



Guadarrama Mountains Front, North of Madrid, looking towards the city.

first on the primary schools. Under the Republic a purely materialistic outlook on life prevailed in the Board Schools and pervaded their teaching, and every vestige of spiritual influence or symbol of religion was banished from them. At the same time primary schools directed by religious bodies were suppressed altogether, paradoxically enough in the name of State culture; and the schools run by private persons or groups found such difficulties placed in their way as rendered their working practically impossible.

As a result of this positivist and materialistic trend of official teaching the eradication of typically Spanish thought and feeling from public education and national culture in general was carried to extraordinary extremes. The Republican and Revolutionary programme in this respect, though dressed up in the guise of ultra-modern

spiritual. His work is now being carried on by the minds directing the New Spanish State, and his lordly figure in the world of learning has been chosen as the guiding beacon in a new intellectual development which, whilst drawing its sap from the roots of Spanish tradition, shall be fertilized with the blood shed on the field of battle.

Lectures to Schoolmasters

Various measures have already been taken in Nationalist Spain to inaugurate the change in the system of public education and in the cultural outlook of her people. The annual school term has been preceded this year by a fortnight's course of sixty lectures delivered by the most eminent University professors and men of letters to national schoolmasters and mistresses who

Cultural Aims of the New Spain — continued.

attended in their tens of thousands at the several Universities throughout the country. These lectures dealt with points of capital importance for the purpose of imparting a spiritual and patriotic foundation to primary teaching. Artistic and historical, religious and pedagogic subjects were put before the masters and mistresses to show the aim towards which the New State would have them direct their labours. Those lectures may be said to have provided the directors of our national schools with arms for the great mission, which, as the Head of the State recalled in a recent address, is assigned to them:—

"It is you, schoolmasters, who are called upon to cultivate our national ideals and whose lofty and sacred mission it is to forge the future grandeur of Spain. Yours is a creative task, and from the prominent place you occupy you must devote your heart and soul to the training of the generations that are to establish the Empire our people calls for.

"Our soldiers are fighting on the front, but it would avail us little to achieve victory there if we did not fulfil our obligation to disarm the enemy morally and form his conscience by inspiring a loftier spirit in his mind. This is the task that awaits us in that other battle, in which you, schoolmasters, will be the officers and the generals. It is you who are called upon to disarm Red Spain."

Secondary Education

Not only from the primary, but also from the secondary schools, the so-called "Institutos Nacionales," had all trace of spiritual and religious training disappeared. Though religion has been reintroduced and the spiritual outlook restored with a view to training Spanish citizens, the fear of acting hastily, and the desire to establish a thorough reform in secondary education, has led to only partial changes having been made as yet in the programme and methods of teaching.

Partial reform has also been made of the system of Public Libraries, Commissions have been appointed in each University to report upon all the public libraries in the country, with a view to their improvement. By ensuring that every library, whether popular, technical or scholarly, shall satisfy the requirements of its class of reader, it is hoped to contribute toward the aim of raising the cultural level of the nation.

The Universities.

More definite steps have been taken, in the higher as in the lower stages of public education; and, as in connection with the primary schools, the name of Menendez Pelayo has been invoked in an important change introduced into the programme of the Universities. Under an Ordinance issued on September 15 last by the Technical Commission of the Council of State the Universities in Liberated Spain have since October 15 arranged for a series of lectures to be given in two half-yearly courses on Spanish Literature, History, Learning and Science with special reference to the great Spanish savant. As the preamble to the Ordinance says: "Now that Nationalist Spain is laying the foundations of a new State, at once progressive and traditional, our Universities may well seek inspiration in the fruitful labour of the great Hispanic scholar."

A great number of students are attending these classes which cover a variety of subjects ranging from art and history to theology, economics, politics and law. Thus, in the peaceful cloisters of the Universities the youth of Spain are being prepared to take over from the fighting men at the front the task of building up the New Spain.

A DENIAL FROM SENOR LERROUX.

How Propaganda is manufactured.

"*L'Independent*" of the Eastern Pyrenees, which had reproduced as authentic an apocryphal letter attributed to the former President of the Council of Ministers, Senor Alejandro Lerroux, the text of which has been published in "*La Vanguardia*" of Barcelona, has received an autographed letter from Sr. Lerroux repudiating the false document.

This Perpignan newspaper, in its edition of November 14, inserts in a prominent place on its front page this denial, and reproduces the text in facsimile. Here it is:

"Estoril, November 11, 1937.

"To the Editor of the "*Independent*," Perpignan.

"Sir,

"The newspaper that you direct has reproduced an apocryphal letter which has been supposed to have been written by me. As long as this letter only appeared in the Press devoted to the service of the Spanish Frente Popular, I considered this manoeuvre an insult beneath my contempt. As it has been reproduced by a French newspaper, it wounds me as an injustice.

"The presumption of my approaching death causes me no anxiety: it may be what is desired by those who would have liked to assassinate me. Nevertheless, I am of opinion that I have still a few years to wait. What astounds me is that those who have read and reproduced the declarations I made to "*L'Illustration*" on January 30 last, should suppose me to be so changeable in my convictions.

"To-day, as from the very first day, I am at the side of General Franco and of the Army which is fighting the Spanish Frente Popular for a triumph which I consider to be assured or for defeat if that absurdity could happen.

"When peace shall be re-established in my country by the triumph of the Nationalist Armies, moral liberty will also be re-established in all consciences. Then will come the moment for the definition of attitudes. Nevertheless, there is one attitude which I shall never adopt: that attitude which might cause me to put myself ideologically against General Franco and the Army.

"The gratitude owed to them by the Fatherland and by all patriots would oblige me, in such a case, to withdraw myself from public life."

Believe me, etc.,

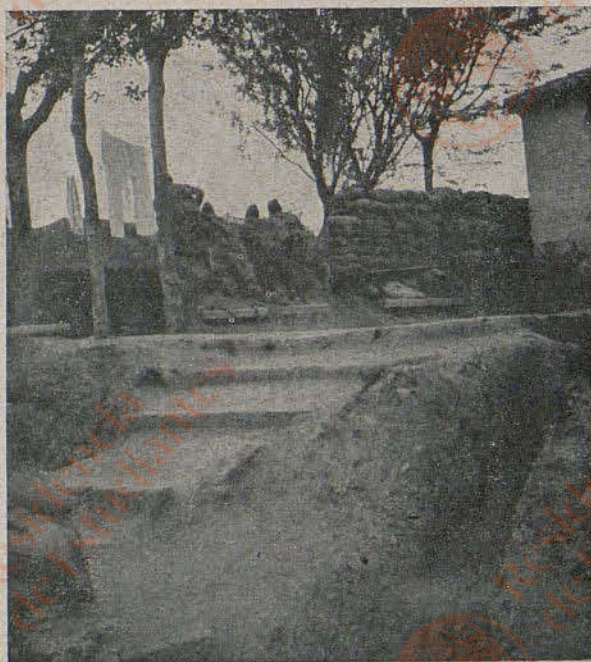
A. LERROUX.

M. LEMERY ON GENERAL FRANCO

The French Senator and ex-Minister, M. Henry Lemery, contributed the following appreciation of Franco to the September number of the "Revue des Ambassades":—

"General Franco is not only a gallant and skilful military leader. In a recent paper in which he stated his ideas on the organisation of the country, he gave proof of a lofty mind fully conscious of the role which the cruel circumstances of his country have thrust upon

him. What General Franco intends to set up in his country is no servile copy of Italian Fascism or of German National Socialism. His intention is to reform his nation in the mould of its own traditions; to seek in its history and the instincts of the race for the elements of the regime which is to restore its moral balance and stimulate the redeeming impulse of its energies. That regime, he said, is to be essentially Spanish as the universal suffrage of the centuries would have it."



*Parapet at the Santa Lucia Shrine near Huesca :
Aragon Front.*

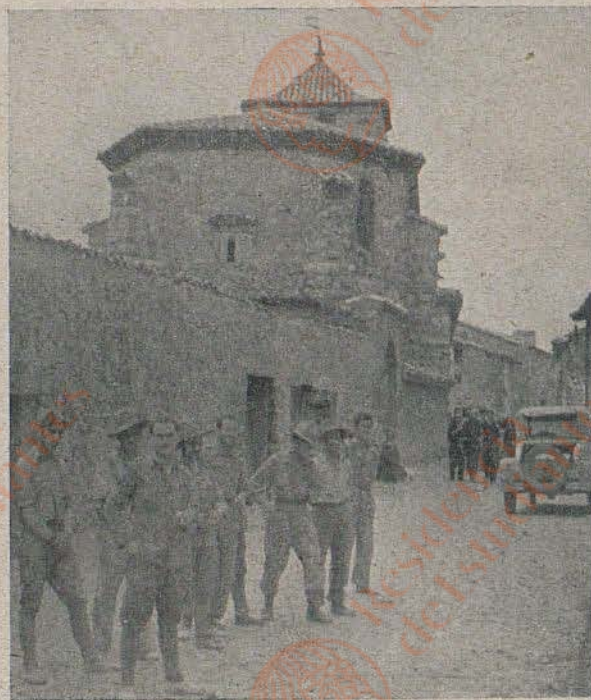
SOTELO AND PRIETO.

On July 13, 1936. Shock Police in the service of the Popular Front Government dragged the ex-Minister Don Jose Calvo Sotelo from his home in the early hours of the morning and murdered him. The Prime Minister and Minister of the Interior, Casares Quiroga, had not a word of censure for this crime, perpetrated by the Government itself in order to remove a formidable opponent.

On July 17, 1936, or four days later, on the eve of the Nationalist Rising, Prieto admitted in the columns of "El Liberal" of Bilbao that Spaniards had been deprived of the right of civic order and protection of their lives. He wrote:—

"The citizens of a civilised country—pardon the redundancy, for there can be no citizenship in an uncivilised country—are entitled to the protection afforded by law and order. For some time—why deceive ourselves?—the citizens of Spain have found themselves deprived of that right because the State cannot fulfil its duty of guaranteeing it to them

"Just as History occasionally pronounces civil revolutions to be justified, so it may approve of military



*Bruchales Church near Teruel where the 'Reds' had
their H.Q. until driven out, July 16, 1937.*

insurrections, when the civilian or military rising puts an end to regimes which, for some reason or another, have become incompatible with the political, economic or social progress demanded by peoples.

"Spain has been suffering for too long a period from upheavals which spring from disturbances of that kind in either quarter."

BRITISH OFFICER ROBBED BY "COMRADES."

Salamanca, November 26, 1937: The dangers of British subjects enlisting in the 'International Brigade' have been amusingly illustrated at Valencia.

According to "La Vanguardia" (November 19), a Lieutenant belonging to the British Army who joined the Valencia International Brigade, has had his pocket picked in Valencia where some comrades put into practice the share-and-share-alike policy of Communism by abstracting his wallet containing eleven thousand pesetas. The officer seems to think he has not received his share, for he has caused his friends to be arrested.

"NOT A BOMB ON GIJON YET."

The bloodthirsty Socialist ringleader and Governor-General of Asturias and Leon, Belarmino Tomas, wrote the following letter to his wife who had been evacuated by aeroplane to France. Apart from its bourgeois tone and terrible spelling, the letter is interesting for it shows that, in spite of Belarmino's protests broadcast to the world, there had been no air raids on Gijon, and also that whilst promising the militiamen he would die at their side, he was secretly preparing for flight.

"Gijon, 29. 9. 37.

"To Severina Vega,

"My dear wife and children: I seize the opportunity to send you these few lines by some people who are being evacuated, so as to let you know that we are all right here, and hope that nothing has happened to you. I know what happened to you on landing, but I believe you were not hurt, from what I hear, though the news kept me anxious for some days.

"Here the morale is much better now and, though the enemy pressed very strongly, he is a little quieter now and our people are holding out better than ever. I firmly believe that the North will never fall into the fascists' hands, for the war will come to an end before that happens.

"The air force visit us every day, but so far they have not dropped a single bomb on Gijon, but you know that we have a safe shelter.

"I suppose Arce has seen to things properly in the way I told him to. It is imperative he should do something there with Llanos or David.

"Write and tell me if you have found a house and where, and how your health is and those nerves of yours; if you feel at all ill go straight to the doctor. That is the only thing that is worrying me, for I know what you are like.

"I tell you again, don't worry on our account, for nothing has happened, nor will happen, to us and soon we shall all be together again. Think only of yourself and of your health. If there is anything you need, wire to me at once.

"Love, lots of love, for you and the children from your boys and particularly from this one who thinks of nothing but you.

(Signed) B. TOMAS.

NO PRESTIGE IN CRIME.

On October 12 last Sr. Matias G. Sanchez-Sorondo, a member of the Argentine Senate, delivered a speech at Buenos Aires of which the following is an extract:—

"Spain, the Mother of worlds and heroes, did not win her glorious name by burning churches, torturing religious men and women, shooting prisoners, stealing public and private funds, and destroying or dispersing abroad the treasures of art accumulated by the patient labour of generations, nor by committing every crime in common law nor by outraging and making a mockery of the dearest and most sacred interests of man.

"If those excesses could be considered alone and without reference to their cause, it might be said that they were the work of the evil passions of an unruly mob. But we know that it is not so. We know that outrage and pillage, arson and assassination, are political methods taught and ordered by a group in power which uses them systematically as instruments of government under the direction of Russia.

"That group, dependent on the Soviet, which has seized power in Spain and wields power in the name of Spain, will tomorrow seize power in France and use her name, and then, if it can, will establish itself in our country and use our name.

"Spanish America, if it is Spanish, should continue to be distinguished

by that name. If it is not Phoenician or Carthaginian, it should take its stand openly on the side of the true Government of Spain so as to help them in their fight for the essential principles of our civilisation. We cannot send them soldiers, machine guns, or aeroplanes, but we can give them the moral assistance of our sympathy with their Cause, a sympathy we owe them and cannot withhold without prejudice to our honour.

"Let us break off relations with Valencia! Let us recognise Franco! For the sake of our blood-ties, for the ideals of civilisation, for the dignity of the Argentine Republic!"



The Galician Fjords, like this one at Marin, are ideal spots for tourists.

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SANTIAGO CATHEDRAL



The Left Lateral Nave.

Regalo de
Dña María Carraño Lepout

Diciembre 1997