

# SPANISH INFORMATION

## SERVICE texts

## and documents

A WEEKLY RÉSUMÉ OF OUR DAILY "SERVICIO ESPAÑOL DE INFORMACION"

No 15

Barcelona, March, 18, 1938

556, Av. 14 Abril

Letters to the World

## An Army and a Horde

For Marshal Petain

by Marcelino Domingo

You are the most prominent figure in the French Army. With Joffre, Foch, Lyautey and Gallieni gone, you stand out, foremost. Your hierarchy is undisputed. In war you brought prestige to the command with the glory of triumph and glory to your country with military victory. By your example in peace time you have increased the discipline of the «great silent one», the French Army, and helped to strengthen the Fatherland by guaranteeing the obedience of the Army to civil authority. In your prolonged life, parallel to the life of the Republic, which has passed through convulsive times, when passion overflowed all the limits of the Dreyfus case, when the workers victorious in the elections assumed the responsibilities of Government; in your prolonged life, Marshall, you have never attempted nor encouraged a military political rising. Whether or not in the privacy of your conscience you are in agreement with the will of the people, you have accepted it. The fact is that Verdun and Coblenz are incompatible. Verdun is a summit and Coblenz a place of iniquity. Coblenz is a place for ambitious people without honor, and Verdun is for heroes.

Could you, Marshal, who are the finest personification of an Army, say to the world in order that your words may be a ratification and warning, lesson and punishment, what a military man is. Could you offer as an example to the Army a military man who, being in command of a post in his own country, is at the same time conspiring in accordance with the Heads of foreign powers to bring about a military rebellion in his own country in order to benefit other countries? Would you consider as a model a general who, belonging to a country like Spain, assumed the international responsibility of pacifying a part of Morocco and prevented the natives from revolting and who then employed Moorish troops, brought over to Spain by himself in order to revolt against the colonizing State? Would you consider a model a general who delivers up his own country to be ravaged by foreign troops; a general who congratulates the head of a foreign power because the

troops of that particular foreign power have defeated the fellow countrymen of that general right in the latter's country; a general who shoots his prisoners ruthlessly; a general who in the XXth century accepts piracy as a means of war; a general who bombs the civilian population of his own country? If I had put these questions to you before July 17, 1936, certainly, Marshal, your answer would have been this: «As the questions asked formulate a hypothesis which, fortunately, neither the laws nor the climate of our civilization would allow to become a reality, it is not necessary for me to answer them, because the supposition of such an improbable, absurd monstrosity does

not deserve a reply. The case of the general of whom you are speaking cannot be discussed, because this general without honor, who is a perfidious traitor to his own country, destroys it, mortgages it to foreign powers, has never existed, does not exist and will never exist». But the questions, Marshal, were not put to you in July, 1936, but today, in 1938, when this improbable, absurd and monstrous general appears before the world as he is. This general exists. He is wearing his uniform and has a name. And his acts from July, 1936, up to this very moment exceed all hypothesis. No one can be punished for his ideas. But a man can be held responsible for the manner in which he carries out

his ideas. The military who compose the French Army, Marshal, may in the intimacy of their souls cherish and cultivate the most diverse ideas. However, would it not be a spiritual reedification if, preserving the ranks of the French Army and appealing to all the armies of the world, you said that a military man should never, in any case or for any motive take as a model that general who was born in Spain and who has sold and is destroying the country in which he was born? The battles fought by Franco cannot be termed battles. They are butchery. His soldiers are not equal no those whom you led in Verdun to prevent the invasion of your country and to save France's sovereignty. The system adopted by that general, if it prevailed, would not constitute a new art of warfare which could be studied in the military academies and be adopted by future soldiers. There is no man in the world callous enough, base enough, to venture to enclose this system in a text book, and if the system were adopted by other mi-

litary leaders it would mean that man had receded so far back of history that even the jungle could be considered a liberation.

Many French officers of high rank have published numerous articles pointing out the dangers that a fascist victory in Spain would mean for France. The defensive value of the Maginot line would be nil. Germany and Italy would occupy very advantageous positions in the Mediterranean. The communications of France with her African colonies would be cut. All this is very important, Marshal, for the French general Staff. But if France were no longer the country to react before an encroachment on her security, France would no longer be herself, and it would not matter what happened to her in a military sense. But France, for her own glory, is something more than the Maginot line and her Moroccan Empire. France is Pascal invoking the submission of force to law; she is Descartes giving to the world a method of thinking; she is the charter of the rights of men; she is the symbol of the civil and moral hierarchy of Europe. «If the light of France were extinguished, the world would be left in darkness», said the philosopher. Italy could perish under the tyranny of Mussolini and the foremost thing to be remembered would be the grotesque profile of the dictator. Europe suffers for it, but would not die. Italy has been dead so many centuries and Europe has lived without Italy. Germany may recede to barbarism under the dictatorship and offer us, in lieu of Goethe's thoughts and Wagner's music, the ridiculous figure of that hysteric and tragic clown, Hitler, whom John Gunther has described as irrational, contradictory, unable to determine what he will do next, a liar who believes his own lies. Europe would suffer by seeing Germany recede to barbarism, but would not die. Germany was subjugated for a long time, and it happened to be when Europe enjoyed a more ample, healthy and prosperous freedom. But it France wants to be faithful to her tradition, she has to consider that in her Europe is personified, eternised, defended and saved.

And when in Spain, as is now the case, a traitor to his country who has betrayed his own word, who is destroying his own people, who converts invasion, the extermination of people and the bombing of civilians into a method of warfare, Spain is subjected to

## The Nationalist Army in Aragón

In one of the latest official communiqués issued in Salamanca «the magnificent nationalist troops» operating in Aragón are highly praised. Special reference is made to a corps completely composed of Moorish troops recently brought from Morocco.

Spanish Nationalism, the Religion of Christ, Eastern Civilization and Culture are symbols clearly understood by these black gentlemen, and this is what the world is told they are fighting for in Spain.

Lest they should not be satisfied with fighting alone for these high ideals, a promise that they would have beautiful women, easy and abundant booty, was thrown into the bargain.

And this is by no means all. We are continually receiving information through Gibraltar about the transportation of troops from Africa to Spain. There is a continuous flow of African cannon-fodder into Spain, the majority of whom are Moors.

Of late Mussolini has sent Franco large contingents of negroes from Eritrea, Somaliland, Abyssinia and other Italian colonies with Italian officers in command. These contingents replenish the «nationalist army».

In Franco's communiqué, which is mentioned above, reference is made to the Moorish army corps. An army corps is made up of two divisions; each division is composed of two brigades, and a brigade is made up of two regiments. Therefore, Franco's African troops in Aragón number 20,000 men, and to these must be added the Italian Black Arrows, Red Flames and Blue Arrows. Thus a total of 50,000 soldiers is reached, not counting the Foreign Legion, German and Italian technicians and tank drivers.

The Spanish people are fighting against half of Spain assisted by two other nations. We are

being brutally attacked by air, by sea and on land. The Spanish Government did not provoke this war, nor did they want it. Neither did the Spanish people.

We, the Spanish people, have placed ourselves entirely under the leadership of our own Government, the Government we elected on February 16, 1936, and are fighting for our freedom and the independence of our country. We are fighting to drive the black troops, as well as Mussolini's and Hitler's troops out of Spain. We pledge our life not to let them have their way.

While we are carrying out this tremendous struggle alone, the statesmen of the world made an indecorous agreement so that we could not get the means abroad to defend our soil. They have complacently shut their eyes and allowed the fascist powers to send men and material to crush us, while democratic and labor leaders abroad, who cherish the same ideals that we are fighting for, although they have the numerical power on their side, did not make a proper move to prevent this monstrous breach of International Law and decency. Platonic protests have never been of much help to any cause, especially with men whose moral standard and whose tactics are those of the most abominable American gangsters.

But we are determined that they shall not have their way. They shall not pass! We shall spare Europe the shame of having Hitler, Mussolini and their Spanish lackeys use Spain as a starting point to invade the rest of Europe. We shall prevent them from offering to the African troops, which they are using today in Spain, the women of France and the women of England and free looting of French and British towns in order to entice them to fight.

JUAN GARCIA.

(Continued on page 2)



(Continued from page 2)

cruel sufferings. But if this crime were left unpunished and repeated, the moral unity, the judicial authority, the civil conscience, the spirit which Europe incarnates would suffer more. Europe would suffer more for her silence than Spain for her martyrdom. Martyrdom may raise Spain to glory, silence would plunge Europe into derision.

Yes, Marshal Petain, European Marshal, this war which is being waged against Spain is more than a war against Spain, it is a barbarian crusade against Europe. If Europe which gave the world law, the rights of men, Democracy, responsible force, pacts and respect for the letter, and a humane and civilized sense to the struggle, one day ceased to be all this and became the glorified treason of the generals, the breaking of pacts, recognition of the pirates, of butchery and the mockery of all ethical and ju-

dicial principles, Spain, even in ruins, would be a brilliant example, France, even preserving all her monuments and saving all her men, would be a ruin. What would remain, even of yourself, Marshal Petain, if Franco were to remain as a testimony of a victorious general?

If there should appear in Europe today a man wearing religious habits, a preacher of false doctrines, the Pope would at once excommunicate him; if a fake scientist appeared advancing sophisms, all the responsible scientists and thinkers would rise to a man to condemn him. Now then, Marshal, a man wearing the uniform of a general, resorting to arms, has appeared in Europe trampling under his feet all the postulates of honor, morality and duty. In the name of the army, cannot a word be said against that traitor general, against that tarnished uniform by a man of prestige to save the

responsibility of all men wearing military uniforms?

«Quand les grands esprits deviennent vacants», said the moralist, «les toiles d'araignées s'y mettent». True enough. Spider webs can be seen in all European institutions left vacant by great minds... The French army, «the great silent one» which has attained legal victories in war and silent discipline in peace, is a European institution which can be saved from spider webs if it shows, by its own example, to the armies of the world the impregnable line. If Franco should one day shake the hand of a French General, he could not be honored, because nothing can honor him now: the man whose hand he shakes would be dishonored... You, Marshal Petain, in the name of the submission of force by law, can say the word which Law, frightened by force, has not yet been able to utter. (From «Mercantil Valenciano».)

## Sacred Traditions Cannot Be Maintained by Force of Arms

by Rev. Father Salvador de Hajar

The article which we print below was written by the Rev. Father Salvador de Hajar, one of the most celebrated Spanish preachers, who was in Saragossa at the time of the rebellion. Horrified at the atrocities and cynicism practised by the Fascists, his Christian spirit and Spanish feelings revolted, and he managed to escape from the territory occupied by Franco and his foreign accomplices and to take refuge in Loyalist Spain.

\*\*\*

«I am not an apostate nor a heretic, neither am I a schismatic», said Father Salvador. I am a Catholic priest, a religious Capuchin monk who loves the House of God. I believe in its dogmas and I obey its hierarchs. My life up to the present has been like a church candle which in the mystical penumbra of the monastery gave its flame before the altar and whose light spread the doctrine of the Gospel in the streets and squares.

Since I was twelve years old, I have passed my days in the austerity of the Franciscan Monastery. My mind and heart became saturated in the light and fervour of religion. Seventeen years of monastic life have affirmed my faith in God and I have put the results of my intellectual studies at the service of religion.

During the four years of Apostleship, I have given proofs of my services as a preacher, in the press and in the pulpit, in children's and adults' colleges, in nunneries and convents. I have preached the doctrine of Jesus Christ in the dioceses of Burgos, Navarre, Saragossa, Jaca and Huesca. Pulpits of Saragossa!... Watch-towers of my faith! You have heard my voice lashing with ferocity the cynical hypocrites, who, misrepresenting the religion of Christ, have misconstrued His Commandments.

In those days of my priesthood, as in those of my conventual retirement, my eyes have seen many lives dragged down by hatred, corruption and injustice. Catholic lives!... The most fanatic ones! Whilst my eyes were

blinded by the scandal and antagonism between the doctrines preached and the sinful behaviour, my soul, thirsty for want of truth, pierced composedly the pages of the Gospel where the word of Jesus Christ shone out truth and life. I sought the truth in order to live. The truth which enlightens the mind like love feeds the heart... Love and truth of Christ! I could not find them, either in the customs of the clergy or in those of the supposed by pious people.

\*\*\*

I was one day reading the Bible when the silence of my cell was interrupted by the clash of arms. Remembrances of war arose in my soul. Saragossa revolted against the legitimate Government of the Nation!... Civil war had broken out!... Brotherly hatred was let loose and tinted red with the blood of brothers and brethren workers.

The sanctity of customs cannot be obtained by violence nor by force of arms, but by practising the Gospel with kind hearts. Those men who hoisted the war banners shouting «For God and Country!» did not know this. I suppose the country never asked for the blood of its children in order to enjoy peace! I firmly believe and maintain that God abhorred and to-day curses those who first drew their swords with the excuse of defending religion. Religion only admits the existence of one blood, that is the blood of the Redeemer, Jesus Christ!

The military people did not know this, many so-called Catholics ignored it. Those who should have protested, in the name of Jesus Christ, against this double brotherly bloodshed, both as Spaniards and Catholics, kept silent... and thus, religion was condemned to slavery under the military power and to be hated by the people who realised that the true religion was being corrupted. Religion, when it is separated from its spiritual atmosphere and sinks into mundane affairs, attempts to end its own life.

Religion of Jesus Christ!...

The whole world admires and follows religion when it is pure and holy, loving and charitable, when it is the protector of the poor and the defender of the weak as preached by Jesus Christ. But, when religion preaches charity, and abandons the poor in order to serve the rich, when it forgets the Holy Spirit which is its kingdom in order to conquer the world, or to serve the earthly masters, then, the people hate and persecute religion as a falsifier that does not preach the true Gospel of Jesus Christ. That is why many Spanish people do not believe in religion. I speak like a son who loves his mother and weeps because he sees her being hated and persecuted for her sins.

Bitter tears have been shed by many who have contemplated with sorrow the sins of the Catholic Church and the sacreligious lies of those who have preached the Gospel and afterwards have denied it by their actions.

Facing danger, without fearing hatred or injurious reproaches from the rebels, I managed to escape from them, as I was horrified at what I saw whilst I was in the rebel zone. I am here now in the loyal zone and I enjoy light here, for on the other side darkness reigns. I cherish the truth here, because there only falsehood reigns. I love peace and Jesus Christ here, while on the other side there only reigns a man who brought about this horrible strife and went against the word of the Gospel... FRANCO... Antichrist! He declares that he does not destroy churches and yet his shells and bombs wreck them. With Franco's money Mosques are being erected to Mahomet... Franco declares that he does not rob the churches and yet their treasures are used to pay the Moors to defend him. He maintains that he respects the Ministers of God and yet the weapons of his soldiers are tinted red with the blood of Catholic priests... And the Archbishops, Bishops and monks keep silent at these horrible facts... «Deaf Dogs», as the Bible calls them... And whilst many priests and religious people, venerable by

**The "SERVICIO ESPAÑOL DE INFORMACION" is published daily in Spanish and French, and weekly—Monday, Wednesday and Friday respectively—in German, Italian and English.**

their virtues, knowledge and age, are exiled or imprisoned, the rebel people in churches and in the streets are praying for Franco's victory... Mad people you are. Do not evoke that Antichrist, for it is he who commands the Moors, Germans and Italians who are plotting against the independence of our fatherland and against the purity of our faith.

The Spanish Church withheld the true Jesus Christ and concealed the right path towards Him. So it was that many of the Spanish Catholics were dragged into the orgy of fratricidal hatred, corruption of customs and falsification of the true Gospel. The rebels blaspheme the sacred name of Jesus Christ by uniting together His name with that of Franco in their mad cries... There is the man!... Franco!... The cause and supporter of this Civil War, the leader of the foreign invaders of our country, the chief of the wreckers of towns, the captain of violators of homes and maidens, the murderer of Protestant clergymen and Catholic priests. That is the man for whom the Spanish rebels are praying...

Jesus Christ is forgotten!... He preached peace and love and brotherhood, respect for the

neighbours' goods, for home charity and innocence. He curbed the corruptors of His religion and the profaners of His Temple. In His life on Earth, He enlightened the roads of Judea for children by His miracles.

He made the streets of the squares echo with His words for the poor, and curbed the hearts of the wealthy tyrannical masters. He multiplied the loaves and the fishes in order to feed the people who were like they are here to-day, hungry and thirsty for bread, love and justice. He gave His Gospel, His blood to save His Church and this true Christ is forgotten by many who call themselves Ministers and Followers.

I do believe in Jesus Christ, I detest those clergy and those theologies who are not of the Church, those who have corrupted the doctrine and the altar, the Redeemer of the World, in order to serve those men who exploiting religion in benefit of the military cast.

I am not an apostate, neither am I a heretic nor am I a schismatic!... I am a priest, a Capuchin Monk, at the service of the truth and well-being of people.

### Ministry of Labour

## National Accident Insurance: New Institution in the Republic

The old insurance law, passed some forty years ago, was inadequate and often unjust, and was therefore revised by the Republic. New laws, modelled on the Geneva regulations, were passed in 1932 and 1933, according to which accident insurance pensions are paid on the following scale: In cases where the victim is permanently disabled but not entirely incapacitated for continuance of his usual work, his life pension amounts to 25 per cent of his salary. If he is unable to continue his usual work, the pension amounts to 35 per cent of his salary. If he is entirely incapacitated for any sort of work, the pension amounts to 50 per cent of his salary.

This law makes it compulsory for owners of factories to form Mutual Insurance Companies or to deal direct with the National Insurance Bank.

The Bank is an official agency, organised on a non-profit basis, which receives funds for deposit from the Mutual Companies or factory owners, and pays out the insurance pensions. Pensions are not paid from interest on capital, for this would enormously increase the costs of insurance, but from the capital itself.

The total amount of disability and death pensions paid from capital by the National Insurance

Bank from 1933 to 1936 was 14,017,602.92 pesetas. The Mutual Insurance Companies deposited a total of 39,383,282.32 pesetas for the payment of insurance pensions. These figures clearly show the large number of accidents covered by insurance.

The National Insurance Bank also administers a special fund known as the Guarantee Fund for the payment of pensions in cases where the owners have not fulfilled their obligation to insure workers or where payments are in arrears.

The Guarantee Fund is financed by the Government according to regulations formulated at Geneva, and protects the workers whose employer has failed to pay late in paying into the National Insurance Bank funds which cover his pension.

The Bank also administers a Loan Fund. It runs a Workshop Clinic in Madrid which is open to all workers, and is brought into play for its equipment and organisation. In addition to clinical work, this organisation does extensive work in the field of medical inspection.

The national insurance organisation has a legal department for the aid of workers in case of fraudulent contracts. This department also checks on possible abuses of insurance privilege.



# M A D R I D

## Radio Broadcast Over Station EAR, Madrid

by Albert Rhys Williams

«From Madrid to Heaven», said the old Madrilenos, and in heaven a chink to look at Madrid. And today despite the fact that it is a besieged camp, the city glistening in the warm Spring sun justifies the pride and love the people of Madrid have in it. The pear and cherry trees are bursting into blossom. The throngs saunter calmly along the beautiful Prado. Children romp and play their games along the sidewalks. General Miaja this afternoon held a reception for the journalists in their newly opened club. The theatre and cinemas play to crowded houses, and most of the stores, especially the book shops, do a thriving business. One hears laughter and banter and snatches of old Castilian song. Only at nightfall does the city take on the aspect of a besieged city. There are no street lamps; the curtains are carefully drawn; and a great silence reigns in the darkened streets. Occasionally this silence is shattered by the rumble of the Fascist batteries, and German shells come dropping into the centers. For over a year and a half, the one-time capital has been under heavy bombardments. One hundred and sixty shells have struck the Telephone building which still holds its head high in the heavens, a symbol of the iron courage, the will for freedom and independence of the Spanish people. For this rain of shells and bombs does not intimidate people, does not diminish their power of resistance or morale. Rather it serves to increase them, and to spur them on to a greater activity. Steadfastly, the work of making uniforms, guns, and munitions goes on in the 178 new workshops and plants and factories created since the outbreak of the war.

Yesterday I was conducted through one of these new plants which, in many ways, is the most unique in all the world. This place has now been ingeniously converted into a munitions factory equipped with furnaces, lathes, cranes, and trip-hammers. There is a food canteen, a kitchen, and a restaurant; a first-aid station, a rest-room, library, and even a school for apprentices. And here in three shifts, night and day, the workers—men and women—are turning out of tons thousands of light artillery and anti-aircraft shells. No matter how furiously the rebel batteries and airplanes may pound, the work of manufacturing the materials to repel the fascist invader goes steadily ahead.

Out at University City yesterday, I saw some of the frightful affects of that invasion. It was against this section, in the attempt to crash a way into Madrid, that the fascists flung their battalions of half savage Moors brought over from Africa. There, the magnificent structures dedicated to arts and letters, to science, medicine, and philosophy are riddled with holes, reduced to tangled masses of steel girders and pulverized masonry. To me, this is a symbol of what Fascism means to culture and civilization. And the fascist batteries still continue to blaze away—making still wider the area of destruction and desolation.

As a besieged city, half ringed about by the fascist forces, its streets plunged in darkness, with hundreds of buildings and homes blown to atoms, with its citizens emerging from a second winter in quite unheated houses, and still on short rations, one might think that Madrid could be a depressing spectacle. But it is not. Quite the contrary. I repeat, there is something exhilarating, stimulating, and inspiring in the atmosphere. There is a spirit of optimism, a morale and elan, that is infectious.

This seems unaccountable until one probes beneath the surface; until one grasps the ideas and ideals and purposes that move these people. That is reflected in an old drama of Cervantes that is now being played in one of the theatres. It tells the story of Numancia — the old Spanish city besieged by the Romans, in which all the inhabitants, every man, woman, and child chose death by throwing themselves

into the flames, rather than capitulate to the oppressor. That act typifies the spirit and determination of the Spanish people of today.

Rather than capitulate to the successors of those Roman invaders, to the Italians and their allies the Germans — the Spanish people chose to suffer, to sacrifice and to fight on to the bitter end. But it is not right to say «to the bitter end». For they firmly, confidently believe that the end is victory, the passing of the age of oppression and superstition and ignorance when half the people were illiterate — the building of a new Spain, of a new and just social order.

So among scenes that are in themselves tragical, one feels anything but tragedy. The tragedy is that the outside world does not understand that there on the fields of Castille, Catalonia and Aragon the Spanish people are fighting, not for themselves, but for us. They are the shock troops in the struggle against Fascism for democracy and civilization.

### EDUCATION

## Education Before the Establishment of the Republic

When the Republic was proclaimed in 1931 there were, according to statistics supplied by the «Bureau International d'Education» at Geneva, 2,801,675 children of school age in Spain.

Although the number of cities, towns and villages in Spain is 46,802, the number of teachers was only 36,680. In other words, even if one were to reckon on only one teacher for each city, town or village, there were still 9,402 places without any teacher at all.

In Madrid there were 146,374 children of school age. Forty thousand of these went to public schools and 51,000 to religious schools. Fifty-five thousand did not go to school at all.

In Barcelona there were 120,000 children of school age. Thirty thousand children went to public schools, 63,000 to religious schools and 27,000 did not go to school at all.

In the smaller towns and villages the situation was naturally even worse.

The result of this neglect of education by the state authorities under the Monarchy was that Spain had a greater percentage of illiterates than almost any other country in Europe.

The percentage of illiteracy in the various parts of Spain in 1931 was as follows:

Andalusia . . . . .	66.26 %
Murcia . . . . .	70.10 %
Extremadura . . . . .	64.55 %
Valencia . . . . .	58.08 %
Aragon . . . . .	52.24 %
Castille . . . . .	47.70 %
Catalonia . . . . .	39. . . . .
Basque Country . . . . .	33.99 %

During the first two years of Republican administration 9,820 new schools were opened, a far greater number of schools than in seventeen years under the previous administration. Three thousand of these new schools were «school groups» where the

pupils of each grade are grouped separately, ensuring efficiency in teaching. Due importance was also given to primary education. In the first Republican budget provision was made for 700 primary schools.

The amount assigned to education was increased by of Republican administration, 53,000,000 pesetas in two years a large part of it being allotted to increase teachers' salaries affecting 86 per cent of the total number of teachers.

However, the most important work of the Republican administration was the construction of new school buildings. The previous administration, the Monarchy, had a budget of only 20,000 pesetas for the construction of new schools, and the first Cortes of the Republic on September 16, 1932, voted a «cultural loan» authorising the Ministry of Education to expend the sum of 400 million pesetas for the construction of new school buildings over a period of ten years.

In Madrid alone eighteen new schools were built comprising 234 sections for different grades with accommodation for 12,000 children. In this way the number of children who could not attend school for lack of room was reduced to 43,000. Fifteen provinces established over 100 schools each; twelve provinces over 200 new schools each; four provinces over 300 schools each. Valencia established 400 schools, Madrid and Barcelona 500 each, and the remaining provinces 50 schools each.

The budget for sending students abroad was increased to two and one half million pesetas. One million pesetas were assigned for scholarships; half a million pesetas for residences; four million pesetas for other institutions, and 700,000 pesetas for educational missions.

## The Tragedy of Puebla de Híjar

After the bombing of Alcañiz, which caused the death of one hundred non-combatants, the majority of whom were women and children, the Italo-German air force bombed Puebla de Híjar. The heaviest toll was taken in the hospital. One hundred and five patients were crushed to death under the debris. The same day other squadrons of the air force of the «foreign legion» bombed Tortosa and Reus taking a further toll of fifty lives. Mussolini's and Hitler's warplanes in Spain are carrying out air raids on the civilian population at such a rapid pace, that by the time we go to print, the number of civilians killed from the air in the name of Religion and Civilization can probably be counted by the thousand.

Objectives of military importance! The little town of Alcañiz and its civilian population constitute objectives of military importance! The patients in the hospital of Puebla de Híjar constitute objectives of military importance! And Tortosa and Reus, and their civilian populations are also objectives of military importance although they lie a hundred miles from the front lines.

The men who carry out these air raids do not care. Their Führer, their Duce, sent them to Spain to kill. What difference does it make to them whether the people they kill are young or old, male or female. They are ordered to kill, are paid for killing, and besides, the people they kill are only Spaniards. And does not a Spanish General, Franco, pay them to kill, and do not the Dignitaries of the Spanish church give them their blessing before they set forth to bomb the Spanish civilian population?

Bombing open cities is amusing for these German and Italian flyers, and the experience they are gaining on Spanish cities will be a valuable asset to them when they go (and they will no doubt go) to drop bombs over the civilian population of France and England, although Mr. Chamberlain may not believe it now.

### All articles and items in this weekly may be reprinted

For school material . . . . .	4,297,000 ptas.
For professional education . . . . .	3,000,000 "
And a subsidy for private schools . . . . .	200,000 "

In the first budget of the People's Front administration the amount assigned for teachers' salaries was increased by 91,823,000 pesetas.

The budget for 1937 assigned 40,000,000 pesetas for the creation of new schools. A remarkable comparison may be made: In the territory controlled by the Government there were 68,890 teachers, or 32,210 more than in the whole of Spain under the Monarchy.

During 1937, 64,000,000 pesetas were spent on the construction of new schools.

Under the Monarchy the school budget amounted to 14,314,000 pesetas, while under the People's Front Government, despite the tragedy of the war, it amounts to 143,000,000 pesetas for the territory controlled for the Government.

Another interesting aspect of the educational program of the Government is the campaign to stamp out illiteracy among adults. For this purpose 7,570 classes were organized in 1937, which were attended by 169,620 semi-illiterate adults, and 4,946 classes, given by national school teachers for illiterates. There were also 407 classes given by flying shock brigades, covering a total of 122,553 pupils.

For boarding schools . . . . .	2,000,000 ptas.
For scholarships . . . . .	5,000,000 "
For extension of studies abroad . . . . .	1,250,000 "
For school canteens . . . . .	7,250,000 "

this sum also includes sums for children's clubs, children's libraries, etc.

### FOREIGN AFFAIRS

## Foreign Medical Aid in Spain

The following statement was made to the press by a representative of the Foreign Medical Aid Committee which is helping the Spanish Military Medical Services:

«The Foreign Medical Aid Committee began to function in Spain nearly a year and a half ago. Today the organisation has 17 base hospitals and 6 mobile surgical units, with a total of 5,028 beds; 116 ambulances of various sizes, 53 large trucks, 13 light trucks, 23 touring cars, 7 mobile operating theatres, 7 disinfection trucks, a number of gasproof ambulances, etc.

»There are 163 foreign doctors and 68 Spanish doctors in the Foreign Medical Aid. Among these there are 10 foreign sur-

geons and 9 Spanish surgeons. Up to December 31, 1937, the base hospitals of the Foreign Medical Aid attended to 27,015 wounded and sick, most of whom were evacuated from Foreign Medical Aid front hospitals by Foreign Medical Aid ambulances.

»We have had a number of casualties. Two Divisional Medical Commanders, one Brigade Medical Commander, and three Battalion Medical Commanders have been killed. One doctor died of a contagious disease at the front, one died of illness in the rear, and one disappeared. A considerable number of stretcher bearers, ambulance drivers, etc., have been lost.

»In addition to our medical work, we have organised seven children's homes, housing over 600 orphans. To help these homes the wounded soldiers of the International Brigades have contributed 200,000 pesetas.»



# Spain is Being Brutally Murdered

Barcelona is being bombed continually, night and day, at short intervals. The victims can be counted by the thousands, non combatants all of them.

Men who call themselves Spaniards, men wearing religious habits, ministers of the Catholic Church, who claim to be defending the doctrines of Christ, have turned Spain over to Hitler and Mussolini to try out totalitarian methods of warfare.

Spain, so generously ceded by the Spanish patriots and the noble and pious leaders of the Church, is a wonderful testing ground for the totalitarian weapons, which would if they succeeded in crushing the Spanish people, enable them Germany and Italy to occupy valuable strategic positions. Their immediate objective may be Spain, but much as Mr. Chamberlain may try to delude himself, the ultimate object of Hitler and Mussolini is to add more territory to their empires, and this they will snatch from France, England and Belgium and possibly from Soviet Russia. Spain would afford them a wonderful position to strike a fatal blow at France and England.

While from Berlin Hitler and Goering speak openly of their intervention in Spain, while Mussolini's newspapers openly voice praises of their forces fighting in Spain, the British Prime Minister shilly shallies desperately in order to avoid admitting to the representatives of the English people that Germany and Italy are waging war against the democratic and legal Government of Spain.

How long will France and England continue under the delusion that Germany and Italy will be satisfied with the conquest of Spain?

And the bestial murderers of Spain believe that they will win the war, but they will certainly fall victims to the same methods of warfare they are employing against Spain. No, they will not win, they cannot win. Neither France, nor England, nor Soviet Russia, nor the United States of America will allow their cities to be destroyed, their women and children to be murdered by German and Italian war planes.

Spain is setting a bloody precedent to the world, and the democratic countries will soon be faced with the unavoidable fact of a war, and they will have to use the same methods of warfare which will be used against them—aircraft against aircraft, high explosive bombs against high explosive bombs. And what will become of Rome and Berlin when the combined forces of the democratic countries wage against them the same kind of warfare they are today waging against Barcelona? They are the initiators of the most barbarous, the most murderous, the most gruesome kind of terror a human being could conceive, but they are destined to experience the same sufferings they are inflicting on others, and the fate they deserve is to be entirely wiped out from the face of the earth.

## HEALTH

# Centralisation of Food Supplies for Hospitals

The Government has undertaken the organisation of food supplies for hospitals. Funds granted by the State for this purpose have been badly administered in the past with the result that the quality and quantity of food varied greatly in different hospitals. Dissatisfaction with State Hospitals was caused largely by insufficient meals and the different treatment given patients able to pay for their keep.

This has been changed and there is now no distinction between paying and non-paying patients. At the same time a Hospital Food Supply Department has been set up to control the purchase and distribution of food.

The administration of supplies is now centralised. This cuts down costs, facilitates the purchase of food-stuffs in regions where they are plentiful, and insures direct control of the quantity and quality of food supplies.

There is a standard menu for hospitals based on the daily rations given below:

### BREAKFAST

Coffee or chocolate . . . . .	6 grams
Bread . . . . .	80 "
Milk . . . . .	250 "
Butter . . . . .	15 "
Sugar . . . . .	20 "

### LUNCH

Soup . . . . .	300 grams
Potato flour . . . . .	80 "
One egg with potatoes or omelette.	
Meat . . . . .	120 "
Bread . . . . .	100 "
Fruit . . . . .	200 "

### TEA

Milk . . . . .	300 grams
----------------	-----------

### SUPPER

Soup or boiled vegetables . . . . .	300 grams
Meat, fish or egg . . . . .	80 "
Bread . . . . .	100 "
Biscuits (4) or cheese . . . . .	50 "
Sweets . . . . .	75 "
Milk . . . . .	250 "

## AGRICULTURE

# Thirty Tractors Distributed to the Peasants

The Government have purchased 30 tractors which they are distributing in the following manner:

Six to the farm schools established by the Institute of Agrarian Reform in Valencia, Cuenca and Albacete, where they will be used to instruct the peasants in tractor-driving.

Five to Aragon.

Eighteen to different parts of New Castille where the prepara-

tion of the land for the spring sowing is most behindhand.

One to the General Administration of Prisons to aid in the work of land drainage being carried out in the penal colony of Albatera.

The use of these tractors will not only compensate for the decrease in animals working the land, but will also accustom the peasants to modern agricultural methods and will prepare them for a further development in this respect.

## Catalonia

# The Cooperative Movement in Barcelona

In an interview on 7 February 1938 Juan Farré, General Secretary of the Cooperative Council of the Catalan Government, stated that the Barcelona Cooperative Union at present has 60,000 members. It also has 70 branches and assets amounting to 15 million pesetas.

The cooperative movement is also growing rapidly in the towns and villages of Catalonia. In Figols private trading has practically ceased and the entire population belongs to the cooperative. The same is the case in Bagur and Palafrugell where 85 per cent of the population belong to cooperatives.

# The Appeal

The renewed outbreak of air bombing of densely populated cities in Spain and the resultant slaughter and maiming of hundreds of non-combatant men, women and children have filled the civilised world with horror. The undersigned, representing diverse sections of the British Nation, implore the leaders of Republican and Nationalist Spain, for the sake of the Spanish people and in the interest of humanity, to abandon by express agreement the deliberate bombing of civilian populations.

This appeal, signed by a large number of British religious and political personalities was issued some time ago.

Dr. Negrín, The Spanish Prime Minister, made the following statement to foreign correspondents in regard to this question:

## The Bombardments

—The Government has never wished to bombard the Fascist

rear. After the intensive bombing of our civil population we consented, on the advice of experts, who considered this the only means of bringing the bombardments to an end, to demonstrate that we were equally equipped to strike a hard blow in the rear. We announced that if the bombardments continued we should be obliged to retaliate, but that our only wish was to stop them. Negotiations were set on foot the result of which you all know Franco refused to agree.

The crew of every plane which bring down is German or Italian. The death of two hundred citizens in Barcelona or Salamanca means little in Germany or Italy, whereas we feel the same grief for the victims in rebel Spain as for our own. They are all Spaniards; they are our friends. Even if they were not, we would not wage a war of extermination on those holding different ideas from our own.

# Note Issued by the Representatives of Republican Parties of Spain

In a conference held by authorized representatives of the Left Republican Party, Republican Union, Federal Republican Party, Catalan Left Republican Party, Catalan Republican Action and the Basque Nationalist Party, these parties showed themselves in complete agreement in the appreciation of the political, economic and social problems of the nation as a consequence of the war and as regards the combined efforts to muster all the resources of the parties and republican feeling for the defense of the Republic and the principles of liberty and democracy.

As a result, they reiterate their support to the Government and express their appreciation to the People's Army for its heroic sacrifices in the war for the independence of Spain. They assure them that all Spaniards, at the fronts and in the rear, will intensify their efforts to defend our country against oppression and

slavery and, after attaining victory, to uphold a regime of freedom, peace and social justice.

Republican opinion denounced once again before the world the criminal aggression against our country. In its Constitution the Spanish Republic proclaimed its pacific ideals, but our soil has been invaded by two foreign powers under the cover of a military revolt, and the ultimate objective of these powers is to secure strategic positions for aggression on a larger scale against Europe. In fighting for their freedom the Spanish people are also defending the freedom of other peoples and the human conception of democracy and civilization. After proclaiming the character of the war which we are waging, the Republican Parties of Spain cherish the hope that the democratic countries will respond with sentiments and action befitting the tremendous sacrifice we are making.

## AGRICULTURE

# Inauguration of a Farming School in Albacete

In order to continue the work of elevating the peasants, the Government are inaugurating the Farming School of Albacete, installed by the Institute of Agrarian Reform on the Acequion estate, ten miles from that city.

This estate has an area of 1,550 acres, including dry and irrigated land, vegetable gardens, unploughed and other kinds of land. It is suitable for instruction in agricultural work to the land workers so that they may correctly work the estates in this region. The estate also has livestock and facilities for rabbit and pigeon breeding.

In the magnificent palace where the proprietor of the estate once resided, thirty pupils can be lodged in comfort for a year's course in general and practical agriculture. Fifteen pupils can also be accommodated for instruc-

tion in tractors, pruning, horticulture, etc.

The teaching, which is eminently practical, is given by agricultural engineers, skilled agriculturists, veterinary surgeons and special overseers, and permits an effective training of pupils of 16 to 18 years of age. The pupils receive not only training in agriculture, but also physical training. Fields for sports and a lagoon for swimming and boating are available for the purpose.

The Minister of Agriculture and the Director of Agrarian Reform and the technicians have carried out a magnificent work. They have been congratulated by the land workers who benefit by the new centre for their contribution towards raising the agricultural knowledge of the peasants of the region of La Mancha and towards perfecting the exploitation of the land.