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Dr. Negrin's Address to the Army Non-Intervention

"NATIONALIST" OFFENSIVE

The Prime Minister and Minister of National Defence issued the following address to the Army on April 8th, 1938.

«Spanish soldiers:

«On assuming the supreme command of the Air, Sea and Land Forces, which are making such sacrifices in order to attain victory, I am filled with pride at being a Spaniard.

«My first words must express a deep and sincere gratitude to the principal forger of our People's Army, whose name shall be indelibly written in the pages of History, and a cordial greeting to the friend, whom I have had to succeed in so difficult a task because of the need to unify and concentrate the political and military direction of the war in one hand.

«I address myself, in the first place, to all the officers of the Army of the Republic. To those coming from the old Army, who are the genuine representatives of the democratic traditions of the old Spanish Infantry, and who deserve the love of the Fatherland for the faithfulness they have shown to it. To those who have arisen from the Militia and who incarnate the invincible will of our people to fight for its liberties. The fervent collaboration between the two is a symbol of the unity of all Spaniards in the defence of the independence of our soil.

«I address the war commissars and I remind them that they must put more self-sacrifice and more enthusiasm into their work than ever before and that by excelling themselves every day they will set the most eloquent example to the Army.

«I address myself to the soldiers and remind them that they must not leave the posts entrusted to their defence by the Fatherland until death. The law will be inexorable with those who do not carry out this sacred command. At the same time

rewards and honours for all combatants who are worthy of them, from the first to the last, shall not be spared.

»For success in my task I count upon your obedience as soldiers to the orders of the Fatherland in danger and upon the energy of your heroism for the triumph of national independence which has been endangered by the treason of the ambitions of two foreign powers.

»I have been with you at the fronts and I know you. That is why I trust that, in compliance with the command of Spain, you will resist firmly and valiantly. Soldiers, my confidence is complete. Through the sacrifices of to-day which you bare calmly facing, one can already discern the victories of to-morrow. Just as you are, I am deeply convinced that we are going to win. There is only one way of achieving victory: by resisting. And you shall resist! In obedience not only to the voice of a man, but to the voice of our country which is sadly and angrily clamouring for freedom which has been lost in rebel territory and which is now threatened in the loyalist zone. This land which bestowed upon us modesty and pride, vice and virtue; this land to which we were bound by our fathers and to which we offer our sons; this generous land which is invincible for those who try to humiliate it; this Fatherland of ours demands its full independence, its unlimited sovereignty and the right to enjoy its freedom. It demands it from you and from me, soldier. From you and from me, who are its sons. Let the weapon, which is given to us to defend it, not be surrendered until death.

Officers, commissars and soldiers of the Air, Sea and Land Forces: An unbreakable order; Resist until death! One slogan: Victory. One cry: Long live Spain!

Barcelona, 9th. April 1938)

The Intervention of Italy and Germany in Spain

by EMILE VANDERVELDE

Eia, Eia... Alala!

This cry, uttered by the Fascist Grand Council, which sounds more like the clamour of a horde of savages than a demonstration of people belonging to one of the most ancient civilized nations, was received by the Gang of Black Shirts, who insist upon calling themselves the Parliament of Italy. They openly praised the efficiency of the Italian air force and the decisive part it has played in Spain.

A decisive part, indeed (not counting the German technicians) when it is a question of using their air force to crush the defenders of the Basque country and the Asturians; when it is one of the main factors in aiding Franco's offensive in Aragon in order to push the Republican forces towards the Mediterranean Sea; when it bombs open towns; when with unspeakable ferocity it practises collective slaughter on

the unarmed and harmless civilian population.

The sinking of the «Lusitania» by the Germans, caused the conscience of the whole world to revolt and this act was Germany's downfall. The massacres of Bulgarians in 1877 changed — owing to the stern voice of Gladstone — the course of English policy.

Until when, may we ask, will Europe and the world remain unmoved? Or, will they continue to appear satisfied with those few vain words of feeble protest at these most daring transgressions against International Law committed by those totalitarian tyrannies? Or are they satisfied with the Italian and German agreement to the so-called Non-Intervention which is not and never will be more than a «scrap of paper» which has been stained with blood and which now lies among the ruins of the victims of Barcelona?

Nobody has the right to doubt

the sincerity of the men who in 1936 made the «bona fide» agreement of Non-Intervention, because they did so in full belief that it would be loyally observed by all nations concerned.

Therefore, the thirty or more nations — and the men who formed part of their governments — which have carried out the laws of Non-Intervention cannot be reproached. But, what do those men who made the Non-Intervention agreement think about the results of this policy from the peace point of view?

In these tragic moments, when Europe does not recognise any other law except that of Might against Right; when the Austria of Dollfuss has been absorbed by Hitler owing to the indifference of the people, who surely must remember the bloodshed of March, 1934; when those small countries which look for decisive guarantees of security to those

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Officers, commissars and soldiers of the Air, Sea and Land Forces: An unbreakable order; Resist until death! One slogan: Victory. One cry: Long live Spain!

Excerpts from the Italian Press:

«The legionary troops operating in the centre of the line, which by virtue of their special constitution have greater mobility, are more aggressive on account of the spirit of the volunteers and their extraordinary capacity for offensive and daring, such as is displayed by all blackshirt units. The legionaries have driven from Guadalope to Matarrana. It must be admitted that the enemy troops have fought with tenacity, that their employment on the field has been intelligent and their artillery well trained. But the «Black Flames», the «23th March» and the blackshirts of the «Littorio», fused with the Arrows, are irresistible. This afternoon the columns of the heroic Generals Frusci, Francisci and Roatta, starting from the positions at Alcañiz, Castelserás and Calanda, arrived at the lines assigned to them as objectives. The «reds» promised the militiamen victory over the Italians on the anniversary of Guadalajara. But this time the sun is shining, there is no snow nor the cold wind of a year ago. The spirit of the legionaries is stronger than ever, and the Italian will more resolute.»

(«Corriere della Sera», March 21, 1938.)

«The figures given by Barcelona of the victims of the bombardments are 834 dead and 1,279 wounded. The majority of these are soldiers or people employed in war activities.»

The paper publishes several pictures. One of them was taken from the Pi y Margall monument, and the explanation states: «From the centre of Barcelona, the smoke of the explosions of the bombs dropped by nationalist planes on a military building in the outskirts and over the harbour can be seen.»

Below another picture of the city is written: «Another effective action of the bombardment, scoring a full hit on a railroad station, where an ammunition train was completely destroyed.»

And below a picture of Cortes street: «Shadows of the people filing by an arms factory partly destroyed by nationalist planes.»

(«Stampa Sera», March 22, 1938.)

«The blue Mediterranean is still many miles from here. Only legionary and nationalist planes have the privilege, when flying behind the lines of the enemy, to contemplate the coastal towns which, like Reus and Tarragona, — both exquisitely Roman, — are anxiously waiting for the arrival once more, with the Roman legions, of culture and civilization.»

(«Il Giornale d'Italia», March 24, 1938.)

«In order to destroy the fortifications of the reds the legionaries had to use 30,5 cm. guns.»

(«Il Giornale d'Italia», March 24, 1938.)

«In their last meeting the National Directory of the National Fascist Party passed the following motion: «...To point out with pride to the Blackshirts and to the Italian people that the bravery of the legionaries is once more a decisive factor on Spanish soil. Today as in the past, the power of the fleet is transmitted to the legionaries who are crushing the red militiamen. The Italians, who at home and abroad live and struggle 'united around the Duce', the unquestioned creator of victory and the power of the Fatherland, know that the crumbling of the social structure will be followed on the left shore of the Mediterranean by the fall of bolshevist barbarism and the triumph of the new civilization 'in the name of Mussolini'.»

(«All the Italian Press», March 24, 1938.)

«The old Italian helmets mix with the red fezes, with the Requeté berets, with enormous straw hats. Here one is truly breathing the air of the war of independence.»

(«Popolo d'Italia», March 24, 1938.)

«Special notice should be given to the operations carried through by the legionaries south of the Ebro against the enemy reserves. Few red guns have responded, but their fire has been well directed. They scored on the observation posts, the posts of command, the railroad lines of the rear and towns where the reserves were concentrated...»

(«Il Giornale d'Italia», March 24, 1938.)

But what about the «Generalissimo», the saviour, Franco?

The Intervention of Italy and Germany in Spain

(Continued from page 1)

nations where regimes are based upon strength and armed forces, because they have lost all hopes of finding this security in the League of Nations; when those so called democratic governments which calmly watch — perhaps with a little shame — the supreme efforts of the heroic people of Republican Spain to free themselves from the tentacles of the fascist octopus; the Spanish Republic only asks one thing from those who should help her, which is not force against force, nor a military intervention to stop the Italians and Germans from invading Morocco and the Balearic Islands, but merely the return to legal International Law which grants the right to all legitimate Governments to purchase the necessary arms and means to defend themselves.

A few days ago in Geneva, a statesman in whom Spanish Republicans have placed their hopes, said to me: «You have earned our good-will, but, is it not too late?». I answered him then, in the same manner as I answer him now from here: «No, it is not too late». And those who were under the impression that the resistance of the Republican forces was only a question of a few days, are grossly mistaken. No. I am still firmly convinced that Franco and his accomplices will never reach the Mediterranean Sea through Tarragona, in the same manner Hindenburg and Ludendorff never reached Paris through Amiens in 1918. They shall not

pass! And as I am writing this I still believe in the victorious resistance of the Republican soldiers in Aragon, in the same way as they bravely resisted — and are still resisting — the fascists in Madrid, following Franco's onslaught in 1936 over the high shelterless plains which separate the River Tagus from the River Manzanares.

It may be, and it may not be boasting, on the part of the Burgos «Officials», when they continue to affirm that thanks to the superiority of their modern war material and especially to the Italo-German air force, they will rapidly reach the Mediterranean coast and cut the Republican forces in two, which would mean the total separation of Catalonia from Castille and thus cause the complete strangulation of the Spanish Republicans' fight for liberty; those Spanish Republicans whom the so-called friendly Governments, with their Non-Intervention agreement, have tied hand and foot in order to deliver them into the hands of the International fascist «gangs».

And this is a question of life and death, not only for the liberty and democracy of Spain, but alas, for the liberty and democracy of Europe, especially that of France.

How long will this last? Will they wait until it is too late to free Spain from the grips of her enemies by the restoration of her elemental rights?

Will the British opinion, supported by Lloyd George, Churchill, the Liberals and Labour Party, and the majority of the British nation succeed in making the Premier abandon Non-Intervention? And the French Popular Front, will they be satisfied with shutting their eyes or will they lessen the strictness of Non-Intervention or, what is better called «the police and custom-house intervention», against Republican Spain?

And those small democratic countries, which also have their share of responsibility, will they at the last moment have anything to say in the matter?

Those are the questions that the International socialists, and trade unionists, have put before the world on behalf of 25,000,000 members. Will they be listened to? If they hesitate and persist in following useless negotiations while the fascists continue their work with a sneer on their lips; if collective security, through the fault of Governments, tends to be converted into vain words, and collective insecurity becomes a shameful and horrible reality in which the strongest nations give the weak ones the example to submit by force, there will be no other way out except war, which will be a general war or the triumph, without fighting, of the Triple International Fascist Alliance.

Eia, Eia... Alala!

(From «La Dépêche».)

Security in rebel Spain

Martínez Anido's police are closely watched by forces of the Gestapo and O. V. R. A.

A PRISON AT LARGE

New versions, all of them from authorized sources, confirm the chaotic conditions reigning in the rebel zone and especially in the regions under the direct control of the rebel military «authorities» in the South of Spain.

When the sinister Martínez Anido was appointed «Home Secretary» in Franco's «Government», he did not lose much time in organizing a campaign to undermine the influence of Queipo de Llano in Andalusia. As a first measure he sent to the provinces of Huelva, Malaga, Seville, Cadiz, Cordova and Granada a veritable «cloud» of reliable officers of his Secret Service — those very same men who murdered so many workers under the Dictatorship, in Barcelona, Valencia, Saragossa and Madrid — with strict orders to eliminate, by all means within their reach, the foremost members of the Fascist Old Guard who were opposed to the union of their organization with the Requetés (Traditional Monarchists) which was proposed and advised by Raimundo Fernandez Cuesta the «Minister» of Agriculture and Secretary General of the Falanx.

The «purge» ordered by Anido was carried to such a point that the highest chiefs of the Falanx made a violent protest but at the same time, took «cover», under the protection of German and Italian forces, to save themselves from being butchered by the «arch-enemy and murderer Martínez Anido», as they qualify Franco's

Home Secretary in clandestine pamphlets.

The old general has not lessened his campaign. With the excuse that in the Gibraltar zone «many deadly enemies of the Nationalist cause» are at work he sent to the city of La Linea a so-called «Public Safety Battalion» commanded by a captain named Joaquin Zamora and formed by 1,250 picked men, the majority of whom are well known offenders and criminals with a «good» police record. These forces operate on the Gibraltar border, near-by shores and villages, and especially at all strategic points such as San Roque, Los Barrios, Algeciras and Puente Mayor.

Furthermore, Martínez Anido appointed as his delegate a certain infantry lieutenant-colonel named Sanchez Delgado, who was Berenguer's secretary when that general was Prime Minister. Sanchez Delgado has shown such refinement in torturing people in the zone under his direct control that the most cruel deeds committed by Gomez Griffiths in fifteen months in the same zone have almost been forgotten.

The new arch criminal surrounds his «operations» by a veil of mystery, so that his deeds are always left in the dark. Nevertheless, everyone knows that persons in disfavour with Salamanca or Burgos are arrested and «sent immediately to the northern provinces» or, to be more exact, they are taken out to sea in traw-

lers from the port of Algeciras and thrown into the Ocean after four or five hours sailing.

By this simple process hundreds of persons have been suppressed although many of them figured prominently in the fascist organization and were enthusiastic supporters of the rebel uprising.

To exercise a certain control over the forces sent by Martínez Anido, several hundred special secret service men have been scattered over Andalusia. These «Intelligence Service» men were appointed by the General Staffs of the German and Italian Armies, with strict instructions not to tolerate the least interference from any Spanish rebel authorities.

The foreign police have established a very close watch on the Gibraltar frontier. They count upon a formidable number of confidential agents everywhere, who accuse whomever they think fit and practise numerous arrests. And not only that; but this foreign force have their own jails throughout rebel territory as well as magnificent motorized units that keep almost constantly on the road, and maintain untiring vigilance in the streets of all villages, towns and cities, and all harbours, highways and frontiers.

As rumours spread that Anido's police and «Public Safety Battalion» are carrying out «services» of an economic character which result in fine «revenues», his agents are, in turn, closely watched by the military police of the Foreign

Fascist terror in the Basque country

Persecution in the Province of Alava

Previous to the rebel uprising, political assault of a bloody nature was unknown in Alava. The political activities of the different parties never went outside the limits of peaceful demonstrations.

When the military uprising broke out, the garrison of Vitoria was some 3,000 strong and had no need to resort to violent methods to impose its will. The simple declaration of the State of War and a few military parades in the city and surrounding country proved more than enough to dominate the whole district.

The only resistance of the political groups loyal to the Republic was a declaration of a general strike which ended in a couple of days.

Nevertheless, in Alava, as everywhere else in rebel territory, not less than 500 persons have been executed or simply murdered since the fascists got the upper hand there.

The first to fall victims were three Basque youths named Elguezabal, Estabillo and Cortabarría who, on July 25th were on a trip to Mount Gorbea where they were arrested by a rebel band. These three young men were not performing military duty of any kind. Their presence in the Gorbea region was just casual, for they were in the habit of making excursions to the mountains near the city. They were taken to Vitoria, court-martialled, and shot a few days later accused of committing «acts of rebellion», as was stated in the official declaration published in the local newspaper «El Pensamiento Alavés» on August 14th.

Nor could Alava be free from other cruel acts of fascist repression and cruelty, and just as examples we mention the following:

In revenge for the heavy casualties suffered by the insurgent army in the offensive against the Basque country, General Mola ordered the immediate execution of 60 persons previously jailed. Fortunately the order was not completely carried out, because some of the local conservatives protested against such a ferocious slaughter. Nevertheless, the execution of seventeen of the arrested persons on the night of April 14th, 1937, could not be prevented. The place of execution was near the village of Azaceta, on the road to Navarre.

Many prominent citizens were shot with this first group. Foremost among them were Don Teodoro González de Zárate, Mayor of the city and Don José Luis de Abaitua, one of the local leaders of the Basque Nationalist Party. Señor González de Zá-

Staffs appointed, as experience proves, to keep within bounds the activities of Queipo's enemies. Not a week goes by without the German and Italian police having to search the homes of Anido's men. They even go as far as to «examine» the Spanish Police Headquarters and take away all documents, money, jewels, etc., whose presence there nobody can justify.

In this complicated labyrinth of insane ambitions, rape and plundering, carried out by the «keepers of the peace», move the unhappy people living in the Spanish rebel zone.

rate, a life-long republican, earned the respect and esteem of every person in the town by the way in which discharged his office.

Before leaving jail all the prisoners were obliged to sign an order of release. Señor González, aware of the end awaiting him, requested the authorities allow him to stay in jail until the following morning. This request should have been granted according to Spanish Penal Law. Nevertheless, his request was refused. They were briefly informed that they were at liberty to go and that they had to be in the prison shut behind them the following morning. They were taken to the place of execution. This was a case of simple murder.

When on the following morning their relatives went to investigate their whereabouts the officer in charge of the prison merely answered: — «They were set free last night. If they do not get home we cannot tell where they have gone to.»

A few hours later the bodies were found.

Señor González's son was thrown into jail some little time afterwards and his widow left without means to live, for the possessions of the Mayor had been seized on superior orders.

Señor Teodoro de Olarte, member of the Provincial Chamber of Deputies, was also executed and his body found on the wayside near Puebla de Arganzón, some 16 kilometers from Vitoria. The body was badly mutilated and by the expression on the face it could be seen that he had been tortured. Several of his ribs were broken. Señor Olarte had not been tried by a jury whatsoever.

Another of the victims was Don Isaac Puente, a well-known doctor of the village of Maestu. He was member of the C. N. (National Confederation of Labour) but his whole family were traditionalists. Owing to his magnanimous character he had no enemies in the district.

The rebel authorities did not allow the family to hold a funeral or even wear mourning.

Alfredo Martínez de Arago, a horticulturist, was in hiding for some time because he was afraid to suffer the consequences of the Fascist domination. One day when the loyal airplanes over Vitoria he was seen and immediately shot in one of the central spots of the town, opposite the local Government building.

In Elciego, a small village of some 1,300 inhabitants, not more than twelve men have been shot. Among them the Uribe brothers and another man nicknamed «Pulido» (the polished one). None of them appeared before a jury.

Arrests and imprisonments amount to thousands. At present there are some 1,000 prisoners in Vitoria in the provincial jail and the residence of the Carmine Friars, which has been temporarily converted into a jail.

Social Work in War-Time Spain

Impressions of a Relief Worker

The most paradoxical thing about Spain in war-time has been not only the amount, but the high quality of the constructive work achieved by the Government for the civilian population. This country, struggling for its very existence, with three foreign armies on its soil, with everything its war machine to improvise from scratch, has yet had the time and the imagination to create preturbular hospitals, infant welfare centres, and maternity homes, a campaign against adult illiteracy, and, above all, a vast number of colonies for its refugee children.

I not only visited scores of these colonies up and down the country, from Puigcerda, in the Pyrenees, to the province of Almeria, in the south, but, as I was myself starting a form colony for boys at Creventente, in the province of Alicante, I studied them closely, going in and out of them all hours and talking to the teachers in charge and to the children, as well as consulting the delegates of the Ministry of Education as to their organization and the guiding principles on which they are run. And the more I found out about them the more deeply I was impressed. I did not want in my colony to fall behind the standard set by the Government, and I confess I found it very hard to live up to it. I admit I scarcely expected this result.

CHILDREN'S COLONIES

When I first came to Catalonia, in March, 1937, I was dazzled by the beauty and charm of its children's colonies. Some of them are in exquisite surroundings, in hotels or villas by the Mediterranean or on the hillsides behind Barcelona, in the midst of luxuriant gardens. The houses are furnished with simplicity and in good taste, and look like modern boarding schools for the rich rather than homes for ragamuffins from the slums of Madrid or the cave dwellings of Malaga. The standard of cleanliness is of the highest, with cool, tiled floors and staircases freshly washed every day, the painted walls without finger-marks, the beds, with their bright cretonne covers, always made with the same trim precision. Cleanliness, I was told, is a fetish of the Republic. The old regime neglected it; cleanliness was more important.

There is a delightful colony by the sea near Valencia. The boys and girls are in family groups in five different houses. Angel Lorca, a charming, white-haired old man, himself a pioneer in education in Madrid and a follower of Cosseo, is in charge of them. When I arrived at this colony the children were all bathing in the sea, but they were soon collected and gathered together in a large, friendly room for their evening session. They sat round tables painting or playing games or sewing, all absorbed and happy, for some time; then they recited and sang to us with the verve and spontaneity that the Basque children have taught us to expect. Then Angel Lorca asked the leaders of the children's committees how they were getting on — one with a new time-table, another with the clothes problem, a third with the care of the chickens and the rabbits. The

atmosphere was idyllic and infinitely far from war.

I have done relief work in many countries during and since the war — in France, Serbia, Austria, Russia —, but never did I work so happily or in a moral climate so propitious. How can one explain this?

Part of it is due to the Spanish people themselves—good-natured, ardent. The Spaniards are a passionate people, and with all the intensity and fire of their nature the best of them are setting about to reform, to learn, to create new things. I found many who were eager to learn from foreign relief workers, in their conviction that English and Americans had a greater experience of social work than they, and most generous in their expression of gratitude for help in the hour of their need. At the same time, no amount of desire for a new Spain would be of use if the Government had not been strong enough to enforce law and order on its territory. This was perhaps its most remarkable achievement. During the nine months I spent in Government Spain, from March, 1937, to January, 1938, I travelled often from one end of the country to the other, times without number walked alone on dark country roads, and, a much more intricate task, found my way through blackened cities, but I never met with anything but friendliness and help from the Spaniards I encountered.

CULTIVATION OF THE LAND

Many relief workers have been struck by the immense effort that was put into the cultivation

of the land. It is true that not all crops were the most useful for feeding a population increased by 1,250,000 refugees, but such as they were they were well tended. All travellers through the rich garden of Murcia last autumn saw the hillsides red with pimentos drying in the sun, the waving miles of maize, the rich tomato crops, the fields full of silver-beet, potatoes and cabbage, hemp, and peanuts, while the drier, less well irrigated lands had well-cultivated vines, olives, and almonds and the hill terraces the pomegranate and carob tree. Girls and old men were everywhere busy with these harvests.

South of Valencia the changing ricefields, now under water as far as the eye can see, now covered with green shoots, and later yellow with ripening grain, were a constant interest and delight, and no one, however long in Spain, can become blasé about the Gardens of Paradise — the illimitable groves of orange and lemon trees. Far from letting these fall out of cultivation, the Institute of Plant Pathology, near Valencia, which is concerned with the improvement of the crop and the combating of disease, is working full time, and I shall never forget the eagerness and patience with which the scientist in charge explained to me methods of cross-cultivation and showed me the «good» insects he was breeding to devour the «bad» that sometimes attack these trees — like anti-aircraft guns, I thought.

Francesca M. WILSON

(From «The Manchester Guardian».)

Constructive Policy of the Spanish Government

Agricultural Training Within the Reach of the People

The Spanish Government have introduced an innovation in agricultural training which represents an important transformation in this field. All peasants qualified to study modern agricultural methods will be admitted to the technical schools which are being established. This is being done with the object of forming skilled agricultural laborers capable of carrying out and directing the work on the land without confusing practice with routine, and also to create a sufficient number of technical experts to carry out work on agricultural research, direct rural industries for agricultural by-products, and manage official services which will be set up by the State in an ever increasing number in order to increase cultivation of the land.

For this purpose it was deemed necessary that all Spanish citizens should have access to training centers, in order to enable all peasants displaying ability to obtain as much scientific training as possible. This will hasten the adoption of the most up to date agricultural methods throughout Spain.

The following system of training will be employed:

1. Travelling classes.
2. Lectures on specific subjects.

3. Courses for the specialization of workers and peasants.
4. Training of foremen.
5. Training of agricultural experts.

The travelling classes will be organized in each province with the necessary personnel and material, and will visit all the agricultural districts with the object of establishing contact between the experts and the peasants. The lectures on specific subjects will be organized by technical bodies dependent on the Ministry of Agriculture.

Besides, farms will be adapted for training purposes for the specialization of workers and peasants and also for the training of foremen, who will undergo a six month training course for a period of two years. This course will cover only one branch of production. The training of experts will be done by means of a six month course for which the usual preliminary training will be required.

All articles and items in this weekly may be reprinted

REPUBLICAN CULTURE

The old Monastery of Montserrat preserves, not only its wealth, but the characteristics it had previous to July 18th.,

1936

In the atrocities campaign launched against the Republic by the insurgents and their allies, they have not omitted a single accusation that might discredit it before the eyes of civilized World. Of course, all these immoral efforts and all these falsehoods of the rebels have crumpled before the strength of realities exposed by the Republican Government. The efforts of all men of goodwill to preserve the cultural level and defend the artistic treasures have been of such a nature that even the most sceptical have expressed their appreciation at the tenacious work of the Republic, which in spite of present abnormal conditions, has not neglected the preservation and proper maintenance of everything that might mean culture and intelligence.

A CURATOR COMMISSAR

From the microphone of Radio-Seville, Queipo del Llano has repeatedly given the «sound» news that the «reds» had destroyed the Monastery of Montserrat. According to his «reliable» information the artistic treasures kept within the old walls of the Monastery had been profaned and destroyed by the Republicans. Nevertheless, the reality, as has been proved by foreigners who visited the Monastery recently, is absolutely different.

When the military uprising broke out, the Catalonian Government appointed a Curator Commissar, the Catalonian M. P. and Secretary of the House, Sr. Carlos Gerhard. The monks were moved from the Monastery with every consideration and respect, excepting two of them whom expressed the desire to continue living in the old building. Immediately after the monks abandoned the Monastery, competent persons were appointed for watching and looking after the building.

THE SAME AS BEFORE JULY 18th, 1936

We have visited many monasteries in loyal Spain recently. In everyone of them may be observed the same care and maintenance as before. But in the Monastery of Montserrat the care is carried out in an exceptional manner. It is kept, to the smallest detail, the same as before the July 18th, 1936.

Nobody can truthfully deny the working capacity of the monks of Montserrat. It is enough to look at the Library, magnificent and well looked after, to understand the love monks had for learning. But in contrast to the cleanliness of the departments of study, the magnificent dining-room and other dependencies which we could call «exterior», where the friars frequently received visits, is the filthiness of the cells, which are so dark and dirty. Perhaps well disposed persons could point out, considering the size of the cells,

the spirit of sacrifice, and others could even go as far as admit it. But when one bears in mind the splendid dining-room, no one can find an excuse for the lack of cleanliness, although the lack of the simplest things is always taken for granted when referring to monastic life.

Up to three days ago, the cells were left absolutely untouched. The intimate remembrances, private correspondence, objects of personal use, were still in their original places.

«To such an extent» — the Curator Commissar tells us — «was this so, that not long ago one of the monks now living in a foreign country, wrote us requesting us to send certain musical scores which he had left in his cell. We only had to go to the spot indicated by him and found his papers and documents in perfect order.»

PRESERVATION AND RESTORATION

To preserve an artistic monument, to keep the works of art sheltered therein, does not amount, simply, to leaving everything where it was before; it is necessary to maintain them clean and repair them when necessary. Sr. Gerhard has seen to this with splendid zeal and so, when one passes the Chapel in the old Monastery, one can see everything so clean, polished and bright that it seems as if Services could start without a second's delay.

Floor and furniture in the magnificent Library shine like mirrors. The rows of books and shelves are as neat as ever. Between the books one can in certain places see white cards indicating the place where a book has been taken out. The shelves seem to be awaiting the monk's hand to return the volume to its usual place after withdrawing the card. On the little individual tables there are books, many books, open at the page where work was interrupted. Books are also piled up in corners and shelves, proving the editions issued in the Monastery.

THE LAST MEETING OF PARLIAMENT

The dining-room, magnificent in size, where the last meeting of the Republican Parliament took place, has acquired anew its characteristic aspect.

Only up to yesterday, overlooking the impressive landscape that does not fail to attract the attention of even the most unimpressive, the little carriages of the funicular-railway crept up and down the ravine, marking a dot of civilization in such a wild country. Yet, this showing of civilization, splendid when seen at close quarters, seems ridiculous and unimportant compared with the enormous masses of granite that shoot their mighty needles towards the skies.

Fascism among the Andalusian landowners

Soldiers are employed to work in the fields while the farm labourers are left to starve

Hatred towards the Farm Hand

The insurgent problem in the Andalusian fields, offers several curious aspects, especially in the provinces of Seville, Granada and Cadiz, where the owners of enormous farms are very numerous.

In the above-named provinces merchants and manufacturers, as well as the middle and working classes hate Queipo de Llano, the feudal lord of lives and properties in southern Spain.

A certain person who has lived nearly eighteen months in that zone tells many a queer story of the way Fascism is interpreted by the landed gentry of the South.

—«Manufacturers and merchants» — explains our informant — «protest against the mandate of the babbler-soldier, because during the whole period of the war he has not issued a single order which did not prove harmful to them all. Trade in particular, is dying a slow death and industry is absolutely bankrupt. Banks refuse credits and facilities for the simple reason that bills of exchange pile up high in their vaults, and the courts of justice have to attend to hundreds of cases of suspension of payment and bankruptcy. The few shops and stores that still keep going lead a miserable life. Although the buyers are few, the shop-keeper must pay, besides the ordinary taxes, new and heavy ones without counting the forced contributions for the needs of the war.

—«The middle classes hate Queipo del Llano owing to the terrible treatment he deals out to them. Employees, doctors, engineers, teachers and lawyers are constantly abused and insulted. Salaries are always in arrears besides being heavily reduced. There is little of them left to survive on and, consequently it is not surprising to see people of the middle classes not only modestly, but miserably dressed. Families, who before the insurgent uprising lived with comparative ease, now eat in the public dining-rooms of the Social Aid in order to avoid starvation.

—«The workers, of course, also hate Queipo del Llano, as from their ranks thousands and thousands of men and women have disappeared for the sole crime of being loyal to the Republic.

Queipo's principal support comes from the great landowners, from the proprietors of those enormous estates where fighting-bulls are reared, from owners of farms where salaries of 1.25 pesetas and a «gazpacho» (sort of cold soup) are paid for strenuous, slaving work, while the young aristocrats «db their time away by molesting the wives, sisters and daughters of the farm labourers. It is among these people that Queipo is a great favourite. Since fascism mastered the situation in the countryside, there are no labour problems. Few, very few workers indeed, managed to save their lives in cities, villages, hamlets and «cortijos» (farms). Those lucky enough to remain alive lead a miserable existence and gather daily around the fountain which stands in the principal square of every Andalusian town. The Lords of the land do not forget the time—

not long ago — when they were obliged to increase the salaries and give the labourers human treatment. Now they take advantage of the situation and, with the complicity of the radio-general have found a magnificent solution for all the farm problems, with the result that even moderate conservatives, have severely criticised the brutal acts of other «gentlemen» owners because they find great difficulty in attracting the Farm Hands to work on their own estates.

The process followed by these aristocrats is amazingly simple. When an owner has to plough, sow or irrigate his land, he just

goes to Queipo who immediately sends 50 or 100 soldiers to do the job without paying them a penny for it. Nevertheless, they work twelve to fifteen hours daily on nothing but cold food.

Meanwhile, the labourers of the district are left to bask in the sun, and their children, wives and sisters to starve. But they must up the fascist cry «Arriba España!» for, if they fail to show their «joy» in this manner, they are brutally beaten by the Civil Guard or the fascist legions.

—«Many, many an honest worker has murdered. The last case that came to my knowledge — our informant says — happened

in the district of Morón (Seville Province) in a farm belonging to the Conde de la Maza, a well-known monarchist and lieutenant-colonel in a cavalry regiment, who order 180 soldiers to work on one of his farms. The protest aroused in the village was truly alarming. The labourers were angered, for in the last four months they had not done a single day's work. Their families joined in the protest.

«To pacify the workers Queipo de Llano sent several trucks full of Civil Guards who mowed down the crowd with machine-guns killing over fifty and wounding a considerable number.

«Once the riot was under control, the fascist legions arrested the more prominent of the «ring-leaders», all of whom belonged to the famous J.O.N.S. (one of the fascist organizations) and later on their bodies were found riddled with bullets on the roadside near-by.»

Government prisoners. The Italian forces never fly the Fascist flag and when they enter they produce small banners with the colours of the Italian flag. Recently this was forbidden by officers, but the Italian «volunteers» persist in wearing them.

The prisoner confirms the existence of Italian «carabinieri» in certain fascist cities, where they do guard duty, while on the roads there are control posts manned by Italian black-shirts. At important stations there is an Italian control and there are large «Comando Militare di stazione».

He confirmed the fact that General Bergonzoli had been wounded by a bullet in both legs, stated that he had never left front and that he had remained a mobile field hospital until wound healed. He is known as «electrical beard», because whenever he harangues the troops his beard stiffens as if it was charged with electricity. According to the prisoner Bergonzoli has a terrible temper and punishes officers and men alike for the smallest reason. He is hated by everybody.

He confirms the fact that an Italian soldier can leave the peninsula until the war is over.

As there were certain urgent cases of soldiers who wanted to return to Italy owing to the fact that relatives had died or as a result of wounds which required special attention, General Bassani wanted to grant leave to the soldiers. But when leave had already been granted, an order came from G. H. Q. absolutely forbidding leave. One explains this by the fact that the Italian forces are so tired that if they went to Italy none of them would return to Spain.

The Falangists and Requetés are despised by the Italians because they hate one another. When they talk to the legionaries the Falangists say that the Requetés are traitors who want a king, and the Requetés say that the Falangists display a lot of uniform and a lot of pistol, but that they never do any fighting.

The Italian forces belonging to the Italian Army are annoyed being in Spain, because in all theatres of Saragossa they are made to stand for a quarter of an hour making the fascist salute and to listen to an enormous number of marches, a thing which they were never made to do in Italy. For in Italy a soldier salutes only when the Italian national anthem is played. In any case in Italy the national anthem is not played so often as it is in Spain, where it is played so much that it loses its solemnity and earns nothing but the hate of the people who have to listen to it.

Speaking of the operations around Tortosa, the prisoner states that in his belief the fascists would never reach Tortosa «since it is very difficult front and the enemy are fighting very well».

Before ending his declaration the prisoner expressed his thanks at the treatment he had received at the hands of Republican soldiers and officers who «sacrificed their food to give it to him.» The Major who took him prisoner provided him with a stretcher on which to rest. He states this freely and spontaneously and without any compulsion «so that if this document reaches the hands of Italian who have been deceived they will know that the Republicans are very humane people.»

(The Signed Original is in the Possession of the Republican General Staff).

EDUCATION AND HEALTH

Entire Health Service Organised by the State

Previous to the Fascist rising the State health service only included work for the prevention of epidemics and other infectious diseases which constituted a social danger. The help given was on charity lines.

When the two services of Health and Social Welfare were fused, the hospital formerly called the «Princesa» was inaugurated under the name of «Hospital General». This hospital functioned independently of the other health services. This greatly restricted its utility.

Since July, 1936, and particularly since the constitution of the Ministry of Health and Social Welfares in November of the same year, Provincial and Municipal councils have been formed which, with the revolutionary health policy advocated by the Government, have become responsible for the installation and reuniting of hospitals.

In May, 1937, the Health and Social Welfare Services were separated. This separation was further defined by the Decree of August, 1937. The Public Health Service was now fulfilling a new and more efficient

service, not only in the care of combatants, but in that of the general public.

Whether or not it should be incumbent on the State in normal times to organise the entire Health Service of the country, there can be no doubt that in the present circumstances the State should assume this responsibility. It seems likely also that in the Spain of the future the Government will continue to exercise control over the Health Service.

The new health measures to be taken are not only for combating contagious diseases and epidemics. Many other diseases also are caused by social conditions, which it is the duty of the State to investigate and improve. The State policy of prevention will combat disease at its source. This can only be accomplished by government inspection and, in certain cases, by the taking over of the service by the State.

This policy has resulted in the opening, under the State Department of Health, of the following general hospitals:

National Cancer Institute (Madrid), 100 beds; National Surgical Hospital, 350 beds; National

Children's Hospital (Madrid), 350 beds; National Medical Hospital, 350 beds; Refugee Hospital (Valencia), 350 beds; Rol-dán Polyclinic (Cartagena), 250 beds; Alcañiz Hospital (Teruel Province), 100 beds; Barbastro Hospital (Huesca Province), 150 beds; Caspe Hospital (Saragossa Province), 100 beds; National Leper Colony (Fontilles), 350 beds; Hospital for Skin Diseases (Moncada), 100 beds; Ophthalmic Institute (Madrid), 250 beds; Cargagente Maternity Hospital (Valencia), 50 beds. Total, 350 beds.

In addition, the following hospitals will be opened in April, 1938:

Lorca Hospital, 100 beds; Gandía Hospital, 100 beds; Villarrobledo Hospital, 100 beds; Oncological Institute (Madrid), 50 beds. Total, 350 beds.

Projects outlined by the Ministry of Health include a net of general hospitals which will cover all Republican Spain and the reorganisation of all provincial and municipal health services will be undertaken with this end in view.

Ministry of National Defence

Giovanni Frumeto comes from Porto-Venere, near La Spezia. He is 23 years old and belongs to the regular Italian army. He does not belong to the fascist party, for members of the regular army have the right to choose whether they wish to join the fascist party or not.

He declared that the senior officers in his barracks in Italy asked for volunteers to go and fight in Spain and made an appeal stating that Italy had recognised Franco as the only legitimate Government of Spain since the Republicans were nothing but a mixture of Russians and Frenchmen who wished to convert Spain into a Soviet Republic, a thing which the Duce could not allow. The prisoner declared emphatically that when volunteers are called for in the Italian army for any mission, men are compelled to offer themselves for otherwise they would be punished in one way or another.

Before he entered the army, Giovanni Frumeto was studying to be a teacher, but lack of economic

means forced him to abandon that career and to enlist in the regular army.

In Italy fanatic propaganda is being carried on against the «reds». But, since he has been a prisoner in their hands, Frumeto realises to the full how false this propaganda really is.

He disembarked at Cadiz from an Italian transport ship which, it was rumoured on board, was being convoyed by two Italian destroyers. All on board were members of the «Littorio» division. The ship also carried several cars and trucks as well as some 6.5 c. m. guns.

His parents in Italy are paid a salary of 50 lire as well as an additional daily bonus of 37.50 lire. In Spain he himself receives a wage of 542 pesetas. The bonus is not received regularly, but the rest of the money is paid punctually on the first of every month.

He expressed surprise that the workers in fascist territory were able to live on the meagre wages

they earn in view of the high cost of living.

He has seen a considerable number of Germans in Seville, Soria and Logroño, most of whom were employed in technical services such as radio-telegraphy, fortifications, anti-aircraft batteries and heavy artillery. None were common soldiers. This fact is not welcomed by the Italians.

An Italian newspaper entitled, «Il Leggionario» is published daily in Saragossa. Formerly it was published in Salamanca. It is entirely in Italian and carries on a tremendous campaign of propaganda so as to prevent the «volunteers» from being taken prisoner or from deserting to the Government lines, by telling them of the torture methods employed by the «reds».

All the Italians fighting in Spain are well aware of the Italian defeat at Guadalajara. The officers declare that the Garibaldi division was composed of «men of evil living».

The Italian officers have forbidden everybody to speak to the