



The VOLUNTEER FOR LIBERTY

Organ of the International Brigades

Vol. I - N.º 22

Madrid, November 8 - 1937

SPAIN HAILS SOVIET UNION'S ANNIVERSARY TODAY

225 MURDERED BY FASCIST BOMBS

Lerida Children Killed in School By Air Raid

An official Government report informs us that new fascist trimotors continue to attack civil populations in cities and towns distant from any battle fronts. Last week 9 fascist bombers flew over the city of Lerida, located more than 150 kilometres away from the Aragon front and bombed and machine-gunned the civil population. Among the buildings demolished was a school house where children were at session. After the air raid, the bodies of fifty children were excavated from the ruins of the school. The number of civilians dead total about 225. The authorities have not as yet completed the totaling of those injured.

SABOTAGE IN FASCIST PLANE FACTORY

In the Italian Aviation factory, Reggio-Emilia, 20 workers, all members of the Fascist Party, were arrested by the Mussolini government for acts of sabotage, it has been confirmed.

The "Voce degli Italiani", Paris antifascist Italian newspaper carries the news that 16 airplanes headed for Spain were forced down because of faulty machinery.

20 Years of Workers' Victory Nov. 7, 1917 - Nov. 7, 1937

Today we celebrate the twenty years of progress of Socialism in the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics. During these years, we have witnessed the transformation of old, backward, Czarist Russia into the great Soviet land it is today — taking its place among the foremost advanced nations of the world. From a land of industrial backwardness it has become one of the great modern industrial nations. In agriculture, the age-old methods of cultivation and production have been replaced by tractors and the most modern farm machinery. The old mud roads have been paved and up-to-date highways now cover the nation. Endless miles of railroads cross the breadth and width of Soviet soil. Unity and fraternity are established for all times between the peoples of the various nationalities, comprising the great Union of Soviet Socialist Republics. Education and culture have taken the place of ignorance and superstition.

Twenty years in which the workers and peasants have constantly seen tremendous improvements in their working and living conditions. Everything undertaken — nobly and honorably carried out. Following the lead of the Stakhanovites — thousands of workers and peasants, day by day, increase production in industry and agriculture — helping to create Socialist prosperity. Twenty years of progress in the fight to maintain world peace — while busily engaged in Socialist construction — that is the record of the Soviet people and its government.

We in Spain celebrate the twentieth anniversary of the great October Revolution in the midst of our great struggle against world fascism. We are fighting against the efforts of international fascism to implant in Spain its bloody regime of bestial terror and barbarism. We fight in the ranks of the heroic Spanish Peoples Army — with the full knowledge that the defeat of fascism on Spanish soil will be the victory of peace and progress throughout the world.

The Soviet people have taken sides in this struggle. They have seen their ships, laden with cargoes of food

(Continued on page 7.)

FLASH!

LaGuardia Reelected Mayor of New York; Crushes Mahoney By 450,000 Votes

As this issue goes to press, the news has just been flashed in that Mayor Fiorello H. LaGuardia, backed by a powerful labor and progressive — virtually a People's Front — vote, has been swept into office for another term as chief executive of the city of New York. The labor and progressive vote swept the Mayor back into office with almost a half million votes to spare, swamping the Tammany candidate, Mahoney, under a vote of 1,304,016 to 889,591.

★

We are still waiting anxiously for news of the elections in other large American cities, notably Detroit, where it is virtually certain that several labor candidates will be elected to the City Council.

LETTERS

from

HOME

FROM THE SOUTH
WALES MINERS'
FEDERATION

Dear Friend (Mr. Bill Morrissey): Your message of salutation from the Welsh comrades of the International Brigade to the miners of South Wales was read to my Executive Council, and I am instructed to reciprocate and wish the International Brigade every success and a final victory for the democratic forces in Spain.

Wish all good wishes.

Yours sincerely,

OLIVER HARRIS
General Secretary South
Wales Miner's Federation

Cardiff, Oct. 14, 1937.

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CHICAGO POST OFFICE
CLERKS SEND
GREETINGS

Greetings from Chicago to the heroic defenders of democracy. We in the states appreciate what you are doing. Carry on, and we will assist you all we can.

A GROUP OF CHICAGO
POST OFFICE CLERKS

Sept. 28, 1937.

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AND SOME CONFETTI
FOR THE VOLUNTEER

Dear Comrades: Congratulations on the splendid special anniversary number. Everybody at — was tremendously impressed with the make-up and the contents. Many copies are being sent home by the patients and personnel, who feel that the VOLUNTEER is one of the finest publications in Spain.

With anti-fascist greetings,

IRVING BUSCH
Commandante American
Hospitals in Spain.

Oct. 29, 1937.

*

What do you think of THE VOLUNTEER? Write in when you

In the Name of 400,000 Auto Workers



GENERAL OFFICES

801-5 HOFMANN BLDG.
DETROIT, MICH.

Cadillac 8146-7-8-9

International Union

United Automobile Workers of America

GENERAL OFFICERS

HOMER MARTIN President
WYNDHAM MORTIMER First Vice-President
ED. HALL Second Vice-President
WALTER N. WELLS Third Vice-President
GEO. F. ADDES Secretary-Treasurer

September 14, 1937

Mr. John Rossen
c/o Socorro Rojo #273
Plaza del Altozano
Albacete, Spain

Dear Brother Rossen:

Your letter of August 23 has pleased me very much indeed. I am delighted to know that you are enough interested in your union, although in distant Spain, to remember the date of the Convention and to send these greetings.

It was a great Convention. You would have been impressed by the militant spirit and the progressive attitude of the delegates. I am sure that we have established a more effective way of dealing with our problems and a more efficient structural set-up since the Milwaukee Convention. I know we will be able to stabilize our relationship with General Motors, Chryslers and other corporations in a satisfactory way as a result of the Convention. At the same time, we are ready for a vigorous campaign to organize Ford Motor Company.

We have not forgotten the fight that is being waged by our fellow-unionists against Fascism and we want you to know that we are 100% behind you in your struggle.

With every good wish, I am

Fraternally yours,

Homer Martin
Homer Martin
General President

hm/ab
uopwa #26
c i o

AT LEAST 400,000 American workers belong to the U. A. W. A., whose president's letter to one of our comrades is here reproduced. Among the Americans in Spain are many auto workers who will be cheered to know that just as we, in the thousands, are fighting fascism on the battlefields, are they, in the hundreds of thousands, fighting to make fascism and its unnamed but known sponsors impossible at home.

have the chance, and let us know. Everything goes — suggestions, criticisms, contributions — so long as the aim is constructive and meant to better our paper. And, whenever possible — barring shortage of

our varied paper supply, or shortage of zinc for the making of cuts, or a shelling that puts our printshop's electric power out of commission, or the sudden decision of our best engraver to chuck his job and

join the Peoples Army (which happened recently) — we'll make fullest use of your confetti or your brickbats. Address all communications to THE VOLUNTEER, S. R. I. Plaza del Altozano, 63 E, Albacete.

WILLIAM DOBBIE, BRITISH LABOUR M. P., AND FORMER RAILWAY WORKER, SPEAKS OVER MADRID RADIO

I am speaking from Madrid after an experience in Spain which I shall never forget.

I attended the opening of the Cortes in Valencia last Friday and, in view of the international situation, it was indeed a historic meeting. I, with Ernest Thurtle, was attending the Assembly to convey to the Government of Spain a message of good will from the Labour movement of Great Britain.

Dr. Negrin, the Prime Minister, welcomed us to the Cortes. We extended our greetings to him and delivered our message, which was received by the Prime Minister with much satisfaction and has been received everywhere in the spirit in which it was sent.

The speech of the Prime Minister in which he emphasised that the Government wanted peace and order to develop the country according to the democratic decision of the nation, while on the other hand they would resist fascist aggression to the last man, was received enthusiastically. A vote of confidence in the Government was moved in which conservatives, anarchists, socialists, liberals, communists, in fact all sections of the House, expressed their agreement and was carried unanimously.

In the evening Mr. Thurtle and myself had the privilege of meeting the Prime Minister in his private residence. He confirmed the prospect opened out to me that as time went on slowly but surely the Government would get better in organisation from a military standpoint and that the industrial population were playing their part by applying themselves to an intensive organisation of supplies, by the opening of new factories and by the extension of existing works. It is very true to say that in the minds of the ordinary man and woman in Spain there is a great wondering as to why the democratic countries of the world who are members of the League of Nations deny to the Spanish Government, which is also a member of the League,

the right of application of International Law to buy the things that are needed to defend the democratically elected Government of the country, while these nations stand idly by and watch the violation of all international principles by the fascist states who are assisting the rebels. This question has been put to me by many representative people in Spain.

The Government are confident they will win, and they only want to win because they represent the will of the people.

On Saturday the House again met and, after a speech by Pasionaria, who is a deputy for the Asturias, and who is the wife of a miner as well as the daughter of a miner, and who represents a district which has made wonderful sacrifices for the ideals of the Government, the House adjourned.

On Sunday, there was a terrific bombardment from the air at Valencia.

As I stood in that scene of death and desolation, and later on watched the clearing of the debris, and the taking away of dead and wounded civilian population, I wondered if there is no force in our great world civilization that can put an end to acts of barbarism like this.

In contrast to this I visit a war prisoners' camp where there are 1,168 prisoners. A number of them speak English and they all look pretty good physically, they all agree that they are treated well, and that their rations are as good as they were while in the rebels' army.

There are no luxuries to be obtained in the way of food in Valencia and the Government have very wisely decided to ration early, so that they may be able to meet the exigency of the winter, no one is starving, but every one is rigidly held to his ration.

On Monday I proceed to Madrid.

A year ago and then later I was in this city when it seemed

fairly probable that the rebels would capture it. Today I am confident the city is impregnable.

I have seen on the way from Valencia a change in the personnel and morale of the soldiery. While in 1936 I saw untrained, unarmed men and women defending the barricades, I now see well trained young men, well equipped with arms, and enthusiasm for their country and their cause, ready to defend it to the last.

I pass through the streets of Madrid and on through the section of the area which has been bombed and shelled so often, and I see people still living in this district. I pass through the gates of the Casa de Campo. This is the immediate Madrid front, a wonderful park, part of which the rebels still hold. I meet the Major, a young man, like most of the officers and I am impressed by the demonstration of comradeship and trust exhibited by everyone toward him.

I walked along with the officer into some territory lately captured from the rebels and which the Government troops were clearing.

I saw some gruesome sights which make one wonder what kind of people are engaged in

this struggle and what passions stir their breasts!

I saw men and women tied together lying dead in circumstances which made one shudder. This has not terrorised the youth of the Spanish Government forces, but has made them say more determinedly than ever, the aggression shall not pass this way.

I finish my survey at 2 A. M. on the morning of the 6th. Today by 7 A. M. I am again looking round and today I have seen the work of making and preparing armoured cars. I have seen and talked to the railwaymen who are operating the armoured train.

I have seen also the educational work which is being carried on in the training schools of the various battalions. This last year hundreds of young men have learned to read and write in the army and are preparing for a nobler citizenship when the war is over, under a democratic Government, than ever has been known in Spain before. As I leave the railwaymen in their armoured train they shout: "Salud! Long live the Spanish Republic!"

This spirit can never be broken. The Government of Spain has the people behind it.

I am confident they will win.



A GROUP of women and children leaving their "refugio" after an air raid. Such women and children were bombed, and 225 killed, at Lerida a week ago (see story on page 1).

MADRID POPULAR FRONT GOVERNMENT HONORS THE INTERNATIONAL BRIGADES

At a huge meeting arranged by the Popular Front Government in honor of the volunteers of the International Brigades, on Sunday, October 31, an enthusiastic crowd jammed the Calderon, one of Madrid's largest theaters, to express their gratitude toward the antifascists who have come from every part of the world to join them in their fight against fascism. General Miaja, chief of the army of the

center and the people's beloved defender of Madrid, presided over the meeting. He presented banners to the delegates of the various units of the International Brigades.

A large hand embroidered silk banner, in the colors of the Spanish Republican flag with the Madrid antifascist emblem placed in the center was presented to each of the five International Brigades.



THE 15TH BRIGADE banner, given by the Popular Front of Madrid to the Anglo-American fighters, held aloft by Lieutenant Harry Poll, the leader of the Brigade's delegation to Madrid. At right, center, the entire delegation is grouped around the Brigade banner and the smaller Battalion banners. At right, top, General Miaja salutes at the International Brigade's celebration. Part of the audience can be seen at right bottom.



Madrid's ancient emblem consists of a crown within which looms a bear on its haunches facing a tree. A three-pointed star on the lower edge of the crown represents the world's antifascist emblem. Each battalion in each Brigade was given a pennant-like banner which was as carefully and as beautifully made as the larger one. In addition, a gramophone with records, a radio, and some books were distributed to various Brigade delegates.

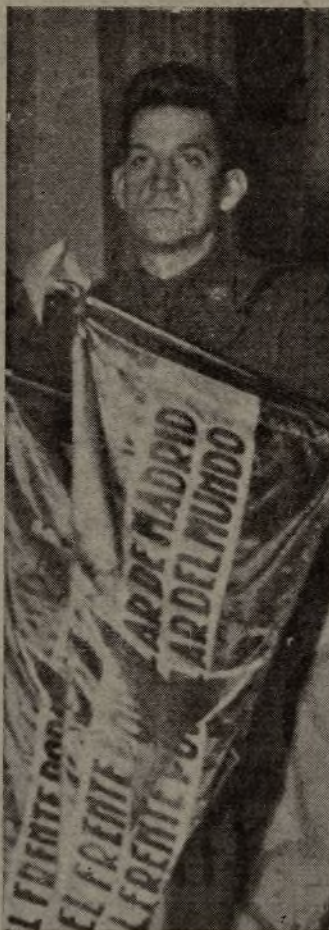
At the long table on the platform with General Miaja were seated Frank Ryan, commander of the Irish fighters in Spain, who has been with the International Brigades from almost their inception and Artur Dorf, first Commissar of the first International Battalion which went into battle on the Madrid front during the dark days of last November. Among others at the table was the General Secretary of Madrid's Popular Front Government.

The program opened with the presentation by General Miaja of the banners and gifts

to the delegates of the various Brigades and Battalions. Each delegate filed past and as a young girl presented him with a banner, he was received with a warm hand-shake by the famous General.

Unavoidable transportation difficulties kept the regular 15th Brigade delegation from arriving in Madrid in time to receive its own special banners from General Miaja. In its absence, the regular Anglo-American delegation at Madrid accepted the gifts in the name of the 15th Brigade. Both banners and gifts are now on their way back to the Brigade, in the capable hands of the delegation of ten headed by Lieutenant Harry Poll.

There was little speech-making. In its place the generous Madrileños prepared a program of entertainment. The music bands of the 112th, 40th, and 75th Brigades contributed their services to the festival. There were humor skits and stage dancing. Pretty girls sang the "Flamenco" as the audience joined in at intervals with the drawn-out traditional "Olé!"



FRANK RYAN

FASCIST PLOT TO GRAB FRENCH MOROCCO FOILED

News from the French Moroccan zone indicates that fascist elements have provoked a general rebellion with intentions of wresting control of this territory from France and establishing another fascist State in Africa.

The situation in the city of Fez was so serious as to have



made it necessary for the Government troops to march into the center of the city where they battled with several hundred fascists who occupied the Karuyine University, using it as a fort. The fascists were finally subdued by an encircling movement of the Government troops. Government planes were also called into action.

MILITARY RULE

The city of Medina is now under strict military rule following the defeat of the fascist uprising. During the fray 30 were wounded and many nationalist Arabs arrested.



The natives of Casablanca repulsed the fascist agitators from Port-Lyautey. During the fight four were reported killed and 22 injured. Eighty fascists have been detained in connection with the rebellion. Government authorities have taken special measures to institute order once again. Arrests have been made in Rabat and Marraques.



CROWDED FACES in the balcony of the Calderon Theatre form the background for one of the numerous posters and signs which decorated the large hall. "The Popular Front of Madrid to the People's Front of the World!"

BRITISH YOUTH AID SPAIN

BY D. BURKE

(Member of Executive Committee, Scottish Youth Peace Council.)

Comrades in Spain are already very well acquainted with the character of the aid rendered to the Spanish people by the British Youth in the International Brigades. The intention of this article is to deal with the activities of the young people's organisations in Britain.

A Youth Foodship Committee for Spain was formed in October, 1936, and represented in it were the University Labour Federation, Young Communist League, Labour League of Youth, League of Nations Youth groups and an organisation called the Popular Youth Group. This committee organised three campaigns.

The results of these campaigns were—the first realised £1,500 in cash and about £1,000 in food; the second £700 in cash and £1,000 in food, while £500 in cash and £200 in food was realised in the third campaign.

The character of the activity indulged in called for great patience and energy on the part of the members of the youth organisations. It was customary to issue leaflets appealing for donations, to distribute them carefully round the workers houses and then to conduct a house to house canvass on a later evening to collect the donations. As examples of what this meant, during the second campaign 100,000 and 60,000 leaflets were distributed in this fashion in Glasgow and Edinburgh respectively.

Another form of work was the organising of socials and dances where, instead of a cash payment for admission, all attending brought gifts of food. At such functions souvenirs from Spain were auctioned and I have seen young workers pay as high as ten shillings for a souvenir, an indication of their high feeling as they could ill afford so much. Short ten to fifteen minute speeches on events in Spain

were also made at these functions.

Film Shows mass rallies were also organised and collections in food and cash taken at them. These activities continued until July 1937 when, as a result of the International Youth meeting at Paris, the youth organisations in Britain conducted a much more serious and wider discussion on how to aid the Spanish people.

It was considered that the main task confronting youth was to increase the number of youth organisations actively conducting aid for Spain, and that the Foodship Committee was too much confined to the "left" organisations.

The movement to broaden out was facilitated by a decision of the British Youth Peace Assembly against non-intervention and supporting the claims of the People's Government of Spain. After a discussion between the organisations concerned it was agreed that the Foodship Committee should become a special sub-committee of the B. Y. P. A. and that all the organisations affiliated to the B. Y. P. A. should be encouraged to participate in the work of the sub-committee.

Under the leadership of the B. Y. P. A. the movement to aid Spain has been much broader and more successful. Support is now being given to the activity by new organisations such as the National Council of Girls Clubs, Congregational Church Union, Methodist Church Youth (both the latter being Christian youth organisations) and many others.

The B. Y. P. A. initiated a campaign for 100,000 tins of milk (Fit for Babies) and the Archbishop of York, Bishop of Bristol, Sir Walter Layton, Sir A. Salter, Lord Cecil, Sir Stafford Cripps M. P., Duchess of Athol, and many others have donated cases of milk to the fund.

A loud-speaker van toured Great Britain organising mass rallies and street collections of money and tins of milk. The 10th. to the 17th. October was declared a special Self Denial Week in aid of the children of

Defense of Madrid

Madrid, heart of Spain,
throbbing with fevered pulses.
How fiercely your blood mounts,
from heat to heat.
Now you will never be able to sleep,
for, if Madrid sleeps,
she will want to wake up one day,
And there will be no dawn.
Don't forget the war, Madrid;
never forget that ahead
the eyes of the enemy
cast on you glances of death.
Hawks hover in your sky
and aim to swoop about
your red tiled roofs,
your streets, your brave people.
Guard, Madrid, against
the word, the thought, the whisper
that in the heart of Spain
one drop of blood dare turn to snow.
Fountains of courage and manliness
are yours as always.
Boundless rivers of wonder
have to stream through those fountains.
Let each quarter at its hour,
if that evil hour should come
—hour that shall not come—
stand firmer than
the strongest fortified place.
Men like castles;
the battlements their brows;
huge ramparts their arms,
gates that nobody penetrates.
Whoever cares to look into
the heart of Spain, let him come soon.
Madrid is a long journey.

Madrid knows how to defend herself
with hands, with feet and elbows,
Madrid can jostle and bite,
the wrath of Madrid stands up
straight and hard,
by the green water of the Tagus,
in Navalperal, in Sigüenza,
where whine bullets, bullets
that seek to change warm blood to ice,
Madrid, heart of Spain,
of soil within which there is,
if you search for it, a great hole,
deep, huge, overwhelming,
like a vast gorge waiting...
Only to give them death.

RAFAEL ALBERTI

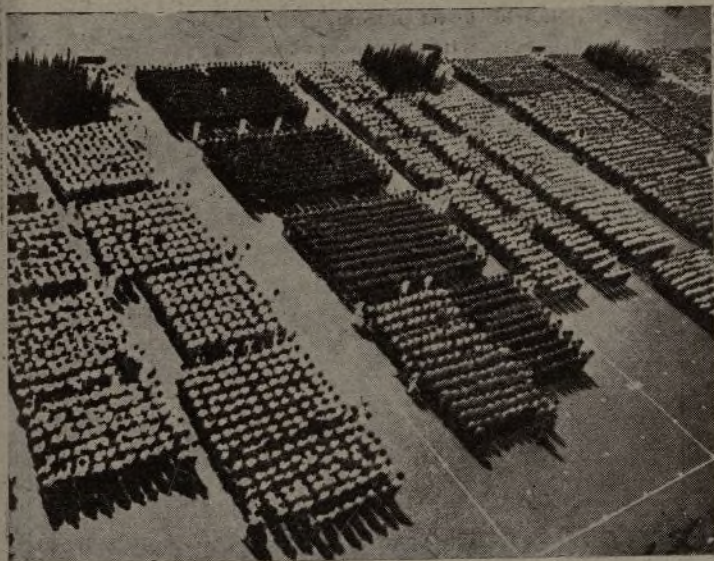
Spain and during this week the youth throughout Britain denied themselves little luxuries and organised collections among their friends. The collections were sealed in Special envelopes and handed over to the B. Y. P. A. The figures for this campaign are not yet on hand but the organisers are

confident that they will reach the objective set.

Attention is now being directed to organising the work on more regular and consistent lines so as to ensure regular aid to the Spanish people. At some future date I hope to be able to give a further report of our successes in this respect.

THE SOVIET UNION 20 YEARS OLD TODAY

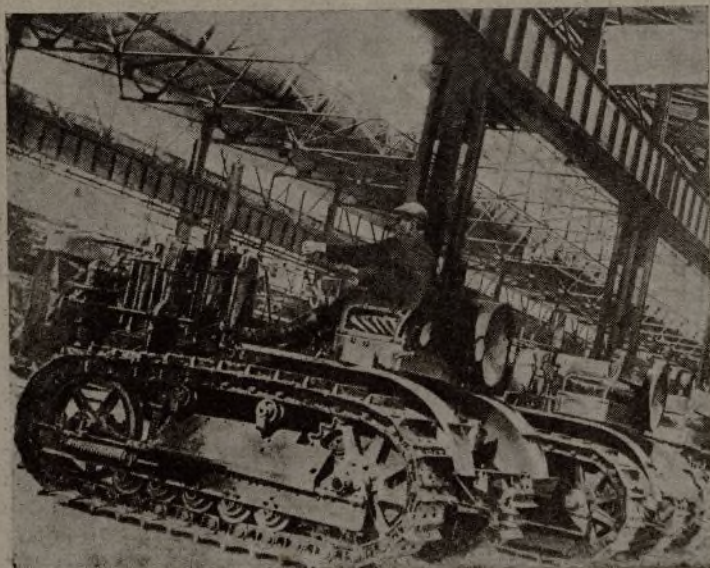
(Continued from page 1.)



THE SOVIET ARMY PARADES IN THE RED SQUARE



A FLOAT AT ONE OF THE SOVIET FESTIVALS



WHERE THE U. S. S. R. BUILDS DEFENSE WEAPONS

and supplies, sunk by the pirate fleets of international fascism. But still their aid continues unabated. The solidarity of the Soviet people and their representatives, who championed our cause at Geneva, will never be forgotten. The Soviet people have shown by their acts of solidarity and support to Spain that they justify the claim of Stalin who declared that "the Soviet people are the greatest bulwark of world peace".

Today, in paying homage to the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, we must learn from their successes. The best tribute we can offer to the Soviet Union is the building of an unbreakable anti-fascist unity. The unity which is expressed in the Peoples Front — the weapon which guarantees our coming victory. A year ago today Madrid was saved from the fascist invaders because the people were united. This unity must now be made stronger than ever. Unity among the armed forces, unity in the rearguard. United support of the Peoples Front government. This is the road which will lead to great triumphs of the Peoples Front in all of Spain.

Long live the great Soviet people and their leader, Stalin!

Long live the heroic Spanish people and the Peoples Front which is leading us to victory!



A RUSSIAN WORKER, IN THE LAND OF JOBS FOR ALL



SOVIET WORKERS LISTENING TO A TALK ON SPAIN

FASCISTS CLOSE DOWN MORE SCHOOLS AS LOYAL SPAIN OPENS NEW ONES

The so-called "Bulletin of State", published in Burgos, on September 5th, contained a decree by virtue of which the following national and elementary schools were to be closed as from October 1st.: Astorga, La Toja, La Estrada, Bujeda, Soria, Priego, Tudela, Trujillo, Carmona, Cazalla, Cervera del Río Alhama, Olivas, Fregenal de la Sierra, Guernica, Haro, Cinca, La Robla, Medina del Campo, Medina de Rioseco, Miranda de Ebro, Nerva, Peñaranda, Portugalete, Reinosa, Sanlúcar de Barrameda, Santoña, Tafalla, Toro, Utrera, Vélez Málaga, and Villanueva de Lugo.

The closing was ordered of the School Institutes of Seville and Malaga.

In the preamble of the decree it is stated that as the war is costing a lot of money and that as expenses of a civil nature must therefore be reduced, it was thought advisable to enforce these cuts in the department of education.

EDUCATION ON THIS SIDE

Almost on the same day there appeared in the "Gaceta de la República" a decree calling for the establishment in Barcelona, Valencia, and Madrid of six-monthly courses of intensive preparation in subjects of general education.

In the same number of "Gaceta" there were two other decrees of an analogous tendency.

In the midst of a civil and international struggle, at a time when it is defending its territory inch by inch against international traitors and foreign invaders, the Republic does not for a moment neglect educational problems. Schools are run for the soldiers on all the fronts. The moment a new village is captured, teachers are sent and school buildings are restored. Not one single educational establishment has been closed; on the contrary, many new ones have been opened. For the Republic knows that battles are won not only by force of arms, but equally by awakening ideas and sowing knowledge in the brains of the young and the illiterate. The new generation, whose initiation to life has been accompanied by the roar of battles and the sound of bombs, will be grave and firm. They will look at life not as a sport, but as a mission of obligations. They will know the full meaning of the words "duty" and "responsibility", which the frivolity of the later days of the monarchy and of the dictatorship had deprived of all their value...

FASCIST CULTURE

On the 12th of October of last year, the day known as the "Festival of the Race", General Millan Astray stood on the steps of the University of Salamanca and cried: "Down with Intelligence!" Yes. The Fascists hate intellect. They hate books and science. They hate the universities and the kindergartens, where the tiny children being to understand the things around them. They hate everything connected with reflection, meditation, criticism, logic. Their ideal is a people held in ignorance and slavery, downtrodden and superstitious.

They close institutes. They suppress schools. And the number of gaming-houses and taverns is greater than ever...



KIDS LIKE THESE are attending the newly-opened schools in Government Spain. No need to describe what fascism does to these smiles. You've seen the shrapnel-torn faces...

IN MEMORIAM



HARRY HYNES

Company Political Commissar
in the

**George Washington
Battalion**

Killed in action at Brunete
JULY-1937

Original Goya Plates Being Reprinted

The Calcographic Department of the Ministry of Education and Fine Arts in Madrid is engaged in reprinting two of Goya's series of plates. They have collected the original plates of the 'Desastres de la Guerra' (Disasters of War) and of 'Tauromaquia' (Bull Fighting). The plates are steel-faced. An edition is being made of five prints on Antique Japanese paper, fifteen on imperial Japanese paper and 130 on arches paper. These 150 prints will be for sale. It is probably the last edition which will be taken off the original plates. They have not been reprinted for a long time. The first complete edition of the Disasters of War was printed in 1863, and Goya died in 1828, so there was never a complete edition printed in his life-time.

NEXT WEEK:

"NO AXE TO GRIND"

By

DOROTHY PARKER

Read What One of America's Outstanding Sati-
rists Has to Say About
Spain After A Recent
Stay Here.

DIANA (U. G. T.) Larra, 6. Tel. 41105. - Madrid.