



The VOLUNTEER FOR LIBERTY

Organ of the international brigades



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BRITISH LABOUR DELEGATION VISITS SPAIN

Major C. R. Attlee, leader of the Parliamentary Labour Party and of the Opposition in the House of Commons, Noel Baker M. P., and Ellen Wilkinson M. P., both members of the Executive Committee of the Labour Party, together with Mr. Dugdale, private secretary to Major Attlee and parliamentary candidate for Birmingham, formed an official Labour Delegation which has just concluded a visit to Spain.

The Delegation had been invited to come to Spain by Dr. Juan Negrín, President of the Council, and they made the utmost use of their stay here to find out for themselves the real conditions of the country. At Barcelona, Valencia, and Madrid they had various interviews with prominent Government and Military officials, and they utilised their time to the fullest extent in order to get in contact with the civil population and the soldiers to discover the feelings and the spirit of the Spanish people.

While in Madrid they paid a visit to the trenches in the Centre Front, seeing with their own eyes the battlefield of Democracy. Later they had an interview with General Miaja, Commissar Anton of the Centre Army, and Jesús Hernández, Minister of Education.

On December 5th they were received by Comrade Luigi Gallo, Inspector of War for the International Brigade, at the War Commissariat where they had explained to them the role and some of the achievements of the Brigade. Here also they were met by Lieutenant-Colonel Copic and Dave Doran, Commander and Political Commissar respectively of the 15th Brigade, and Captain Fred Copeman, Commander of the British Battalion who had come spe-

cially to Madrid to invite them to visit the Brigade to which are attached their countrymen.

LABOUR GROUP IN TALK TO THE ENGLISH SPEAKING OF THE 15TH BRIGADE EXPRESS DETERMINATION TO CARRY ON FIGHT FOR SPANISH CAUSE IN BRITAIN. MAJOR ATTLEE CONDEMNS "NON-INTERVENTION" AS "FARCE"

IMPRESSIVE RECEPTION

Their reception at the Brigade the following day was a fitting climax to their whirlwind tour. When they reached the town in which the Brigade is quartered they were met by the British Battalion and the Lincoln-Washington American Battalions drawn up at attention, with the scene lighted by gasoline torches held by the soldiers. The uneven, yellow glare outlining the trim lines of soldiers and the people of the town, crowd-

ed along the walls and balconies, prompted one of the speakers to compare it with scenes during the Chartist movement in England. The Chartists fighting for suffrage and other democratic rights over a hundred years ago had demonstrated by torchlight for their demands.

The First Company of the British Battalion received the honorary name of "Major Attlee Company" in the presence of Division General Carlos Walter, Inspector of War for the International Brigade, Luigi Gallo; Commander of the Brigade, Lieutenant-Colonel Copic; Brigade Political Commis-

sar, Dave Doran, and the entire delegation.

Lieutenant-Colonel Copic, former member of the Yugo-Slavian parliament, spoke at the ceremony in the name of the Brigade.

Major Attlee, himself an experienced soldier, spoke to the assembled Battalions.

"We are proud", he said, "of the deeds of those who have died and of those who still live. We have seen and know the spirit of the Spanish people and, like you, are sure of their victory."

In referring to "non-intervention" he stated "it is truly a farce. It should have been over long ago. Everybody knows it is a farce".

He promised, in the name of the entire delegation, to take the truth of the struggle back to Britain and to do everything in their power "to try to bring pressure to bear to change this policy so fraught with danger to Democracy".

BAKER CHEERED

Noel Baker in his speech referred to British tradition in relation to Spain during the Civil War of 1837 against the monarchy and oppression. "England sent 10,000 volunteers to aid the Spanish people in the struggle for Liberty and opened her armouries to send arms".

He was greeted with cheers when he declared, "I wish we were doing the same today".

"I am not very proud of the part our British Government has played towards democratic Spain", he said, cheered by Major Attlee.

Major Attlee led the assembly in a loyalist salute when Captain Fred Copeman called for a one minute silence in honour of the members of the British Battalion who had fallen fighting for De-



MAJOR ATTLEE, at the forefront, on the balcony of Madrid's War Ministry. General MIAJA (center) is talking to ANTON, Commissar of War of the Army of the Center.

(Continued on page 12.)

World Trade Union Unity Scores Big Advance

In recent weeks the cause of working class unity has advanced towards one decisive victory.

From November 23rd to the 26th the delegations of the International Federation of Trade Unions and of the Central Council of the Soviet Trade Unions met together in Moscow to discuss the fundamental principles on which trade union unity can be established on the basis of the anti-war, anti-Fascist struggle. The agreement arrived at has to be submitted for approval to the Bureau and the General Council of the I. F. T. U. on the one hand and the Central Council of the Soviet unions on the other, but this agreement lays the foundations for the entry of the Soviet Trade Unions into the I. F. T. U.

REACTION DISPLEASED

The reactionary press has received the news with grinding of teeth and howls of rage — the I. F. T. U. will be delivered over to the "Stalinist dictators", etc. In 1925, when the General Council of the British Trade Union Congress was supporting unity between the I. F. T. U. and the Russian movement, the reactionary press ran a sustained campaign, which for virulence and misrepresentation has rarely been

in the forefront of the fight against unity have tested their policy to its bitter end, while the General Council of the British T. U. C. is not quite the same champion of unity as it was in those days. But one thing remains unchanged — the words "international working-class unity" sound no more melodious to reactionary ears in 1937 than they did in 1925. The depth of the reactionaries' anger will be the measure of the victory against war and Fascism.

It is earnestly to be hoped that



at its present meeting the Executive of the I. F. T. U. will reach a decision favourable to the speedy incorporation of the Soviet trade unions, in accordance with the Moscow agreements. An International Federation of Trade Unions including in its ranks the millions of Soviet Trade Unionists, and soon, let us hope, those of the U. S. A. as well, will be an International with vast possibilities of mass pressure against the complacency and the complicity, the vacillations and the retreats of some Governments before the Fascist aggressors.

Another problem the I. F. T. U. Executive will have to consider is that of the circumstances which compelled the majority of the organisations in the U. G. T. to remove their former Executive. This problem has already been solved to a great extent by the Spanish Unionists themselves, who have shown that they will not tolerate the use of their great organisation as a manoeuvring ground for personal ambition and individual interest which do not coincide with those of the Spanish people. Their action has been further strengthened by the decision of the People's Front Government to recognise the new Executive as the legitimate Exe-

cutive of the U. G. T. It is fervently to be desired that the delegation which the I. F. T. U. sends to Spain will set the seal of its approval on the labour of unity already realised by the new Executive.

While there is an advance in the international trade union field, there is a setback in the political field. On November 25th the Labour and Socialist International rejected the Communist International's offer to begin joint conversations with a view to bringing international unity into the realm of reality. In their letter of refusal Adler and De Brouckère claim that the Annemasse agreement did not provide for joint conversations. In the text of that agreement we read, however: "They (i. e. the delegates of the two Internationals) are united in their desire that fresh contacts should be made with the least possible delay for a more detailed study of the concrete ways and means envisaged for providing Spain with material and moral assistance."

Months have gone by. We are still waiting for these "contacts with the least possible delay", and although "hope deferred maketh the heart sick" we have not yet lost our hope that better councils will prevail.

IN WHOSE INTERESTS?

In France it will be remembered that the Socialist comrades postponed the drawing up of a unity pact with the Communists on the grounds that what they wanted was organisational unity. Now the Central Committee of the

French Socialist Party has taken a decision which breaks up the unification commission, though it declares that the S. P. remains true to the policy of united action. Only Zyromski voted against this decision.

The resolution was quoted with great satisfaction in all the reactionary French press to the tune of "It's never too late to mend" and an accompaniment of oblique references to a "French" Socialism.

It is ironic that one of the pretexts for this decision was the article on the XXth Anniversary of the October Revolution by none other than Comrade Dimitroff, whom the whole Spanish people knows as one of the very best fighters for unity.

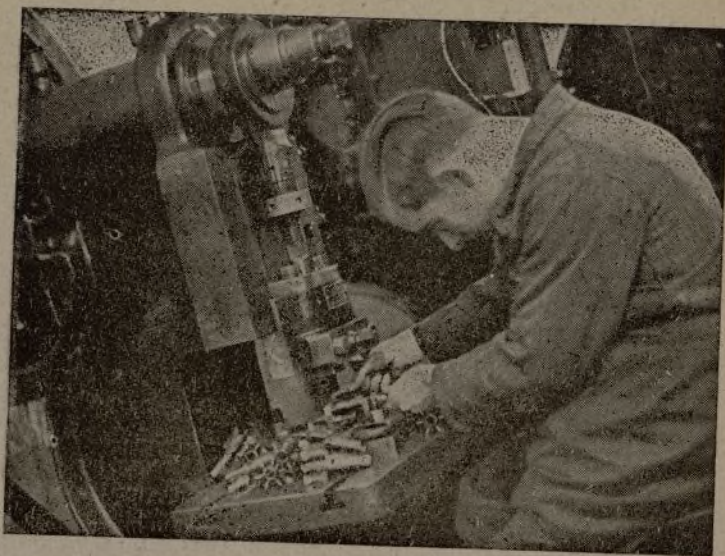
It is difficult to avoid the conclusion that the campaign devoted to breaking united action and preventing the full realisation of the People's Front programme has borne fruit in this particular instance, just at a time when a widespread reactionary plot against the French State is coming to light.

The balance sheet of unity is showing both gains and losses. The situation demands that the gains increase and that there be no more losses. The Fascist aggressors are becoming ever more shameless and the Governments of the Western European democracies continue to display a hypocritical impotence, a policy of inviting the burglar in for a drink and a friendly chat, showing him the next door neighbour's house and hoping for the best.

A. M. E.



paralleled. The General Council were told that their proceedings were "gravely mutinous", and the "Daily Telegraph" informed the world that their endeavours were "a matter of national humiliation". There have been many changes in the array of forces since 1925 — those leaders of German Social Democracy who were then



MAKING MUNITIONS in one of Madrid's modern war plants.

DISCIPLINE IN OUR ARMY

EDITORIAL

In the course of nearly a year and a half, the character of the Spanish Civil War has radically changed. Two trained armies are now facing each other. The outcome of events will depend more on strategy and less on chance. When the first International Column was formed, speed alone was essential; units were sent into the line with a minimum of training and co-ordination. The International Brigades are now an integral part of a disciplined fighting force.

If it had been possible to call up a fully disciplined army from the Spanish soil at the outbreak of the war, the subsequent history of events would have been very different. The Government's task in those days was to stop the advancing rebels by whatever means they could lay hands on. There was no time to organize discipline on a large scale. It was necessary then to rely on the self-discipline that is inspired in men who are fighting for what they believe in.

Self-discipline may suffice for a small group of men who remain in constant touch with one another. As the scale of organization widens and the work of the small units is co-ordinated, the problem of discipline is enormously increased. It becomes essential that the central command shall be able to rely upon the units carrying out instructions as quickly and thoroughly as possible. In other words, unconditional obedience is vital to the formation of a fully trained army.

In the early days a good deal of discussion went on in the International ranks. Even as late as Brunete, some men would discuss the merits of an order instead of jumping to obey it. This sort of behavior is a legacy of the old world, and shows how hard it is even for an anti-fascist to break his old habits. In his own country he often opposed authority, because it was in the hands of the wrong men. He is fighting against their allies now, but the position has changed. The authority under which he serves is on his own side. He realises now that every order is part of a general plan, that failure to carry out every order may endanger the whole plan.

This has been the volunteer's difficulty, to recognize the difference between one kind of authority and another, and to change his attitude accordingly. It is a difficulty which has been largely overcome. There is now a spirit in the units of the Brigade which is quite new. Recent recruits, who have been trained on the basis of the new discipline, have materially helped the change. The older members have responded. One of the most interesting aspects of life in the Brigade has been the capacity of the men to change. Such is the influence exercised upon them by their common purpose that its changing requirements have a corresponding effect on the men themselves.

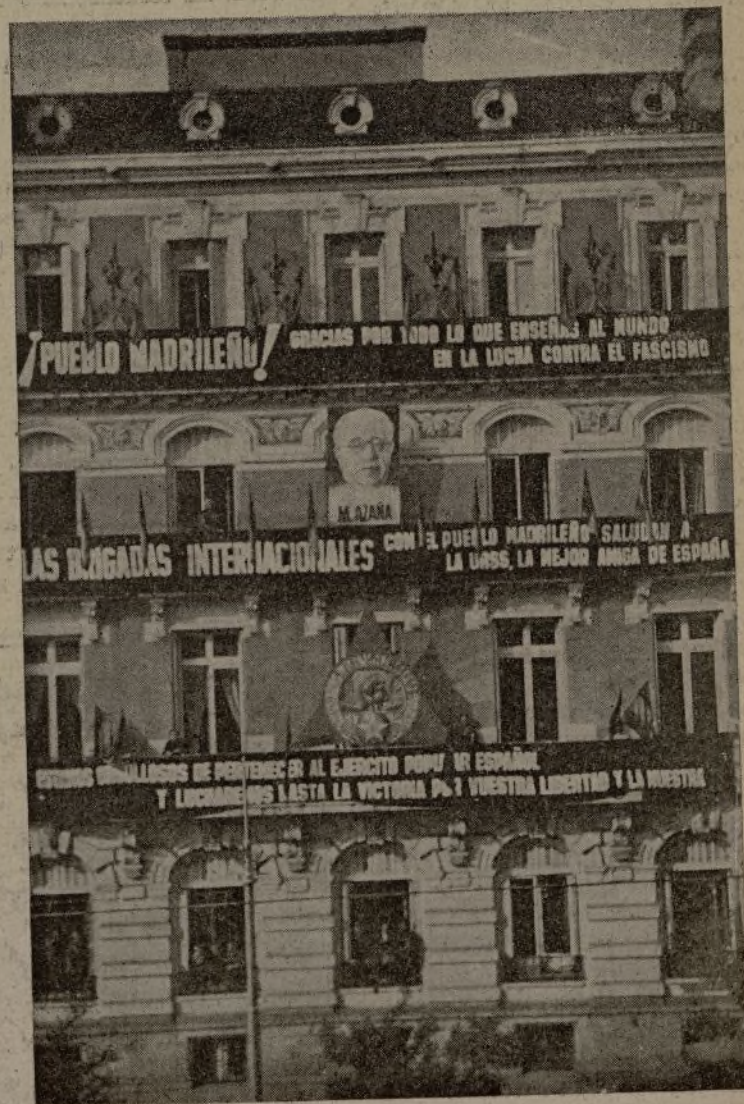
One of the hardest disciplinary lessons that our volunteers had to learn was the necessity of saluting. At first glance it seems a small matter, and even appears to introduce an element of class-distinction between officers and men. It reminded the men too much of the respect they were asked to show at home to those who exploited them.

Thanks to the institution of political commissars, whose duty it is to act as a link between the men and the command, the reason for saluting is now generally understood. There is no question of exploitation or empty respect, since the officers of the Brigade hold their positions by virtue of merit and service alone, and every soldier has an equal chance of rising to rank. Saluting is a simple device for assisting an officer to have his orders promptly obeyed. The soldier who is reluctant to salute is reluctant to obey; his reluctance means that his mind is occupied with the thought that he is "as good a soldier" as his officer, and if that is the case, he is likely to consider his own decisions as good as those he receives. Such a man cannot be relied on.

The problem is fading out. It is rarely now that you hear objections raised in the Brigade to the new regulations. This reflects both on the command, whom the men respect, and on the men themselves, who want to get the war won. Above all, it is a tribute to the powerful sense of unity which makes such changes possible, and it seems to persist through everything and despite everything.



THE STUDENTS of the Lagasca Institute of the F. U. E. (Federation of University Students) are the "Madrinas de Guerra" of the 15th Brigade. These young students visited the International Brigade Headquarters of the Madrid Commissariat recently and were entertained by the Anglo-American delegation there.



THE WAY the Madrid International Brigade headquarters looked last month during the double anniversary celebration: of one year of the successful defense of Madrid, and twenty years of the victories of Socialism in the U. S. S. R.

A CLOSE-UP OF OUR CHIEF OF STAFF

Major Robert H. Merriman of the Fifteenth Brigade was once a university lecturer. Because he wears spectacles and has a quiet voice, some believe he has never been anything else. This is far from true. Bob Merriman's life has been tough, even hard-boiled.

True to the old American custom, he started living away from home at a very early age. He had worked through a number of jobs before he came to have any pro-



MAJOR MERRIMAN and his wife Marion.

fessional connection with books. The thirst for knowledge caught him when he was working in a logging camp, where he met a man who had read a little about much. He was inspired to do the same, and with this intention he trekked off to Nevada University, where he planned to spend a year studying as many subjects as he could cope with in that time.

The only subjects he had no interest in were those which he was compelled by statute to take, as a first-year student. In the effort to avoid them, he showed more initiative than any man had shown before him, and discovered a forgotten statute which gave him a reliable alibi. He got away with it. Before anyone else was able to do the same, the statute was formally repealed.

Bob Merriman's ideas about life in general are clear enough, but so far as his personal destiny is concerned he does not even trouble to rough-hew it. Provided he can work for his general ideas, he is indifferent how he earns his living. Mental and physical work are equally congenial to him. He may plan ahead, but he is ready to see his plans changed by circumstances without regret. His philosophy is very serviceable.

His single year of study lengthened to four; his many subjects narrowed to one, economics, on which he became an authority.

Just why his plans changed it is difficult to say, but suspicion rests on the girl he fell in love with the day he enrolled as a student. With a stroke of poetic justice, he married her the day they both left. During the four intervening years, both man and girl had to keep themselves. The girl had given a new twist to the old American custom by having her family walk out on her. They had now walked back again, and they, too, had to be kept.

Bob Merriman's small store of savings wore out with his shoes. Feeling he had a capacity for window dressing, he offered his services to a department store for a new pair of shoes, and got the contract. His ability earned him promotion to the counters, where he sold a corset so successfully that the manager, who watched him do it, gave him a permanent job. From then on he never lacked work. He reckons the oddest thing he ever did was to be a salesman in an undertaker's parlor.

Two years of university life had convinced him that it was all rather reactionary. He resigned from his fraternity—the only man who had ever done so. He resigned from eight other societies. He was unable to resign from the military R. O. T. C., which he had joined for the pay. As things turned out, this was fortunate, as his military grounding has since proved useful to the Spanish Republican Army. Had he been able to resign, he would probably have done so, as a protest against the exaggerated importance placed by

the authorities on military instruction. He made his opposition evident in the student paper, of which he was manager. In return for this he was denounced in public by the President, who refrained only from referring to him by name. This did not deter him from remaining another two years.

On leaving the University, a married man, he took a job digging ditches, which he liked. He is probably the only man in the Fifteenth Brigade who likes digging. An influential friend got him his next job at the University of California, where he eventually became a lecturer in economics. During this time he lived in a single room with his wife and the peripatetic family.

Despite the family, life became too still. They moved out and Merriman took a job in a Ford plant. Just at this time the San Francisco general strike broke out, and Merriman plunged into it, becoming an I. L. D. organizer. His knowledge of strategy warned him that it would be wise not to let his former employers at the University know about this. It might have stood out a mile; but as Merriman says, professors live in glass houses and never look out of them. When later he asked the professors to finance him to the Soviet Union on a traveling fellowship, they saw through nothing. He sailed with his wife.

As soon as he arrived he began collecting material for a book on the economics of collective farming. As a preliminary, he investi-

gated life on eighty farms. His book was already begun when the war broke out in Spain. At the same moment the current two-year period expired. This was too much. He packed up and became a soldier again.

Merriman arrived in Spain in January and joined the first American group. By the time it became the original Lincoln Battalion, he was its adjutant. He initiated a movement to establish efficient training centres in the open, the first of which was built at Pozo Rubio and destined for the Lincolns. They were already in camions, on the point of moving to their base, when an order came that they were to go straight to the front. The February trouble was starting at Jarama.

They spent the night in Albacete. Rifles were issued. In the morning each man fired three shots into the side of a hill with his own rifle, and that was the extent of his training with it. Events put Merriman in command of the Battalion the day they moved up. They went straight into the battle and laid the foundation of the Battalion's good record. They gained ground, even in those difficult days.

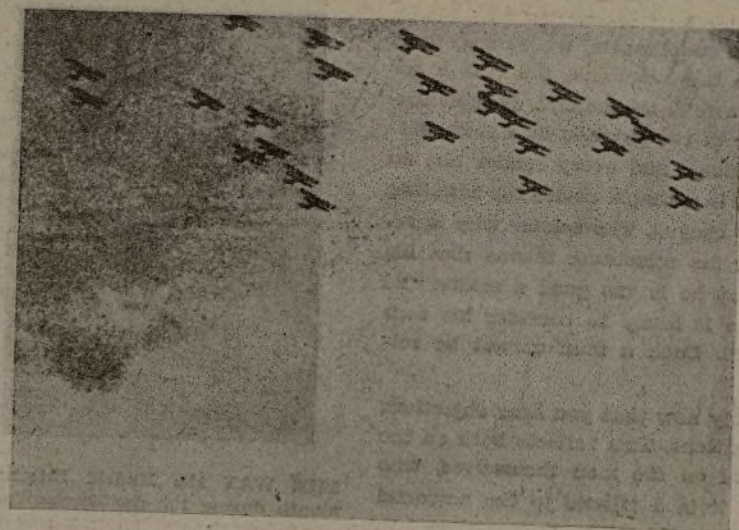
After twelve days of fighting, on Feb. 27th, Merriman was wounded in the arm. The hospital doctors were short of medical supplies, and put his arm in builder's plaster, which is several times heavier than its medical equivalent. He carried the weight and the wound around together.

When his wife heard the news, she caught the first aeroplane out, contrary to his instructions. Only recently she returned to the States to make propaganda, as one who had worked close to the war.

While still convalescent, Merriman took charge of the Officers' School. From here he was transferred to take command of the new Mackenzie-Papineau Battalion, whose thorough grounding is largely due to his efforts. He came up to Headquarters while the brigade was at rest after the Brunete offensive, and took over his present duties as Chief of Staff. A waft of additional efficiency blew in with him.

Since then he has been through the actions at Quinto, Belchite and Fuentes, a familiar figure, with a heartening coolness and a hatless head.

M. T.



OUR "GLORIOSA".

Two New Tasks Face the International Brigades

In the present situation in Spain the volunteers in the International Brigades are faced with new tasks in addition to those which they have been undertaking up to now. Firstly there is the question of giving effective help in the military and political training of the new recruits—an indispensable condition which determines a unit's fighting value—and secondly that of promoting the maximum number of new Spanish cadres from the ranks.

Our Army is growing every day; new recruits are flowing in. The necessities of the war make it impossible to give these men long months of training. The new recruits have to be trained in a few weeks and made into good soldiers, acquainted with military tactics. And it is precisely the "old soldiers", those who have gone through long months of war who should become the organisers, the moving spirits and the instructors among these new recruits.

What would be the fighting value of a unit with a handful of trained men, but with the great majority of its members inadequately prepared? It is obvious that its value could only be negative.



We must therefore co-ordinate and concentrate all our efforts with the aim of providing our Army with the qualities which will enable it to inflict a decisive defeat on Fascism. We should profit by every opportunity, by every moment of rest to carry out training exercises, with old and new soldiers together, so that the experience of the older soldiers can be passed on to the new recruits. Let the more experienced soldiers give an example of discipline and goodwill, wherever they are. Only in this way will our International Brigades be able to

fulfil their role and maintain their reputation as shock units.

To bring this about, however, there are other conditions which are necessary.

In our International Brigades the best possible relationships must exist between the Internationals and the Spaniards. We must succeed in forming a united and monolithic whole, despite differences of languages and temperaments.

When reproaches are made about poor work among the recruits, one often hears the reply: "But we have no Spanish cadres to work among them." They ask for cadres everywhere—from the Division, from the Army Corps, or the Government. Obviously they get nothing or very little. The fact is that the same difficulties are encountered everywhere. There is only one solution—to develop new forces, new cadres.

We must know how to bring out the comrades with intelligence and ability who are hidden in the ranks and set them in responsible posts.

The quality and the qualifications of the cadres in our International Brigades should be measured by the number of new leading for-

ces they have been able to draw from the ranks.

It should be regarded as humiliating for the leaders of our Brigades to have to ask for cadres from other units. We ourselves must create them, and in such large numbers that we are able to send them to units that stand in need of them.

I know that there are comrades who have a feeling of pride when they count all the International officers and commissars in the Brigades: "See how many good elements we, the Volunteers for Liberty, have given to the Spanish cause".

It is certainly true that we have given many good elements to the Army. But we should take much more pride in being able to say how we have contributed to bringing out a large number of new Spanish cadres from our ranks.

By giving active assistance in the fulfilment of these two tasks—the training of the new recruits and the formation of new Spanish cadres—we shall have done a great deal towards strengthening and reinforcing our Army.

L. GALLO

Commissar Inspector
of the International Brigades.

WAR WAGED AGAINST ILLITERACY IN THE 45TH DIVISION

The 45th Division has given us the balance sheet of one month's activity on an important front. In the 12th Brigade 123 individual lessons have been given and 77 collective lessons. In two Battalions of the 13th Brigade the figures are 34 individual lessons and 40 collective lessons. The total for the whole Division is 255 individual lessons and 141 collective lessons. Out of 717 illiterates 60 have learned to read and write.

WHO'S DUMB?

"They're talking now of recognizing Franco as a belligerent."

"Are they? It hasn't taken eighteen months for some of us to recognize that."



ONE OF OUR cooks in the 15th Brigade getting the grub ready out in the open.

SCANDINAVIAN PAPERS SEIZED BY NAZIS

Berlin police have seized all Scandinavian periodicals, including Swedish, Danish and Norwegian, for publishing caricatures of Goering and Schacht. The Gestapo considered the pictures offensive.

Munitions men

Exult again

And say "What could be finer

With Spain at war

And — what is more —

Japan invading China."

The Nazi censors have gone to work on the film "Lloyds of London", now showing in Berlin. One piece of dialogue they cut out was the line in which a boy asks his uncle, "Does it go well with the war in Spain?"

SPAIN'S MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE TRACES AGRARIAN REFORMS IN RECENT INTERVIEW

In the forefront of constructive work carried on by the Republic must be put that of Agrarian Reform. Since July, 1936 the condition of the Spanish peasant has been changed altogether and this lot has improved from day to day. The famous decree of October 7th, 1936, nationalised the lands of the great rebel proprietors and handed over the entire use of them to those who cultivate the soil. I asked Vicente Uribe, the Minister of Agriculture, to tell me about the agrarian policy of the government.

PLIGHT OF PEASANT

"The agrarian question has always played a large part in Spanish politics. Before the rebellion the peasants lived under a semi-feudal regime. Almost half the fertile land belonged to the big proprietors — six great landlords possessed between them 264,000 hectares, entire provinces! The big estates of more than 250 hectares owned a third of the cultivable land, while many of the peasants had not even half a hectare. The farmers and small peasants, who rent land, paid enormous

tribute; 40 to 60 % of the produce of their labors went to the proprietors!

"The condition of the agricultural laborers was even worse. Before the rebellion, in the province of Albuquerque the workers were still paid only a single meal for toiling from sunrise to sunset. In Granada a day's work was paid four pesetas, in Extremadura 2.50, in Salamanca and Toledo 1.50. As for women they received 60 centimes at Toledo: and at Valencia an orange-picker received 2 pesetas for ten hours' work.

"This was not all. The agricultural workers only obtained these laughable salaries when their work was needed. During the off season, for months and months, they did not earn a penny. And their lives were more wretched than those of serfs in the Middle Ages. It was very simple: they died of hunger. In Extremadura the peasants were reduced to toasting acorns for food. But as the oak forests belonged to the lords they were arrested by civil guards when the peasants were caught gathering acorns and thrown into jail!

"The agrarian problem was one

of the underlying causes of the fall of the monarchy, and the Republic at once attempted to solve it. It was decided to distribute land to the peasants after having indemnified the proprietors. The misfortune was that the government was composed of men who were perhaps sincere republicans, but many of whom were also big landowners, or related to big landowners. This explains the weakness and dilatoriness with which the reform which was decreed in the enthusiasm of the first days of the first days was executed.

REACTION HALTS REFORMS

"Nevertheless, in 1932, after the pronouncement of Sanjurjo, the government suddenly became uneasy and decided to punish the monarchist rebels decreeing that they should be expropriated without indemnity. But the reaction was violent and when the Lereux-Gil Robles government came into power, all agrarian reform was shelved. The few small advantages which the peasants had obtained were removed. During the 'two black years', 1934 and 1935, there was a return to

the worst days of the monarchy.

"When the peasants tried to defend their rights, the landlords refused, purely and simply to allow them to work on their land. It was a sort of agricultural lock-out. 'We', they said cynically, 'we' have money, we can wait. Whereas, you, if you do not submit, we shall not give you any work and you will die of hun-



ger'. The peasants sometimes tried to rise, but the landlords put the hated civil guards on their track, the watch-dog of the big landlords.

"And this is why the triumph of the Popular Front on the 16th of February, 1936, was so overwhelming: all the peasants were against the reaction, they had voted en masse for the Popular Front. Also the first thought of the February government was to reestablish the agrarian laws of '31', and to raise the wages of the agricultural workers. But reaction would not admit defeat, the landlords continued to boycott the peasants. In May 1936, near Albacete, the Civil Guard killed 25 peasants. Fascism was already aligning itself against the will of the people.

"And then came the rebellion of July 18th, which broke in the middle of the harvest season. Naturally, in the country, as in the towns, everything was disorganised, people only thought of rushing to arms, and in the general disorder the crops ran a risk of being lost. The government understood the gravity of the situation and its first care was, in spite of all difficulties, to assure the gathering of the harvest. In every village agricultural committees were formed, composed of municipal counsellors and representatives of trade union organisations and political parties of the People's Front.



VICENTE URIBE, Minister of Agriculture.

"A great deal was done to give publicity and explain to the peasants the importance of field work to win the war. Everyone was mobilised. It was a complete success. The crops were not lost and the sowing was accomplished with such enthusiasm — large areas of uncultivated ground were sown — that the wheat harvest in 1937 was greater than in 1935 and 1936."

GREAT STRIDES

"Was it really on the 4th of September 1936 that the portfolio of Agriculture was entrusted to you?"

"Yes, and my party realised that the problem must be immediately and fundamentally dealt with. My first act, as minister, was to give a legal standing to the will of the peasants. At one blow the agrarian reform which had been talked of for 30 years was realised. On the 7th of October, 1936, we published the decree which is the agricultural charter of the Spanish Republic. The use and the enjoyment of the lands thus nationalised was given to the peasants and the municipal collectives."

"Under the monarchy in 24 years the Institute of Agrarian Reform had distributed 6,800 hectares of land to the peasants. The Republic from 1931 to 1936 distributed 164,000 hectares, and from the triumph of the People's Front in February 1936 up to July, 712,000 hectares. We, since the rebellion, have distributed more than three million hectares! Thus, thanks to the decree of the 7th of October the agricultural workers and the small proprietors have received land, the farmers and peasant owners have ceased to pay rent to the rebel proprietors, and the small proprietors have naturally kept their land as well as all those other landowners who have remained faithful to the Republic."

S. T.

SOVIETS ENJOY SPANISH FRUIT

In the first week of December 30,000 cases of Spanish oranges and lemons entered the Soviet Union through the port of Odessa. By the end of the month 100,000 cases of this fruit will be received.

"MORE AND BETTER BOOKS" IS THE SLOGAN IN LOYAL SPAIN

In Loyal Spain today books are almost as important as bullets. One of the tremendous tasks the People's Front Government has undertaken is the liquidation of the mass illiteracy which is one of the characteristics of the feudalism that the fascists want to perpetuate. Under the slogan "Culture is also a weapon against Fascism", mind is being united with heart in the battle. Thus books are beginning to flow throughout the land in a veritable flood. With a magnificent response the Spanish people have taken to learning and reading. This work of education, which began at the very outset of the war, has already produced results so widespread that the statistical estimate of 45 percent total illiteracy in pre-war Spain must be revised downwards many degrees for the loyal zone. It represents one of the greatest achievements of a people struggling with their lives for democracy and all that goes with it.

The English-speaking fighters in Spain are, of course, a highly literate group. Many are extremely well-read. But the contagion of a land and a people full of living convictions and driving ideas, has



aroused in them a thirst for reading matter equally noteworthy. Thousands of volumes in English have been gathered and organized, and libraries exist in each battalion, in each hospital, in the transport squadrons, in rearguard posts. Everywhere that Anglo-Americans go, books are sure to go with them — as well as papers, pamphlets and magazines. Needs and moods that books can answer are satisfied now with a considerable degree of general satisfaction.

But it was not always thus. These libraries were built with great effort and some expense. And it took a long time. Books had to be bought and more had to be



ENGLISH-SPEAKING comrades in one of their libraries at the front.

brought. They came from Madrid and Valencia, from New York and London. Cultural committees did what they could here in Spain; friends at home did the rest. Civilized men must know, must learn, must read — even in war. Let the book-burners do the reverse — even in peace.

Subjects vary greatly, but books on political matters compete with light fiction for main popularity. The latter category fills an obvious need. Movies and regular forms of entertainment are to be found only in the large cities, which soldiers reach only on occasion. Relaxation — which men crave so badly after the strain of battle or training — is therefore sought in reading right where they happen to be, since the libraries are brought along with other supplies. At such times many men plunge into books like swimmers into water on a hot day. They want — and get — the light stuff: detective and mystery stories, short stories, recent best sellers and strange as it may seem, even tales of war. Humor is of course, extremely popular.

At the same time it would perhaps surprise an observer who did not know the anti-fascist volunteers intimately to see how warmly they regard the established English classics, past and present. The plays of Shakespeare and Shaw, Bacon's essays, Gulliver's Travels, Robinson Crusoe and on to John Galsworthy and Ernest Hemingway — these are a few of the representative titles frequently requested. They are read with care and enjoyment not because of their hallowed reputations, for these fighting men can

hardly be considered bookish. If a book looks good they take it. The compulsory reading of bourgeois education is as unheard-of as fascist book-destruction.

But it is natural that the literature read most attentively should be on political subjects. Anti-fascists are thoroughly familiar with the basic truth of things as they are in the world today and are keen to know the course of events. All news of the day is, of course, most eagerly devoured. But things to keep them in touch with the shifting background, the fundamentals behind the happenings, — such books are seized upon and the men possessing them besieged until finished. The most recent instance of this sort is "When Japan Goes To War", by O. Tanin and E. Yohan.

Several copies of this book are in Spain, but not nearly enough to fill the bill. The same thing was true of Harry Gannes' "Spain in Revolt" and Louis Fischer's pamphlet "Spain in Arms". The how and why is what they seek, these readers-in-arms.

Political history and general theory are unceasing subjects of reading and discussion, so far as many individuals are concerned. Theory and practice must be combined at all times, of course, but where are men doing it better than in Spain today? If it is true that some of the greatest leaders of the masses could not find the opportunity to study until thrown into jail, we may look forward to the development of many a potential leader, putting the enforced idleness of certain periods during war to similar use.

M. M.

A Labor Impostor Passes

The fight which is being made for the unity of working-class forces of Britain has been profoundly affected by the past actions of the one-time Labour leaders such as MacDonald, Snowden and Thomas. Snowden died last May, unmourned by any but those members of the owning classes whose servant he had been.

And now the leader of the trio has died and it is interesting in the light of present-day events, when unity is so essential to the continued existence of freedom and liberty in Britain and through the world, to trace the pattern of events which led to the present position in world events, for it is certain that British policy has had a profound effect on the course of world events, and Ramsay MacDonald was directly responsible for the eclipse of the Labour Party in the years following the second Labour Government. His



RAMSAY MACDONALD in Court Dress.

guiding star in all his actions from the war years onwards was his hatred of Marxism and Bolshevism. When he died, the Nazi paper "Deutsche Allgemeine Zeitung" appraised him thus:

"As a Socialist he was an outspoken opponent of Marxism".

MOVED BY HATRED

The essence of his being is shown by the manner of his acting when the Zinoviev forgery came to his hands. So blinded by his hatred was he that he was prepared to lose the impending General Election of 1924, in order that he might send a ferocious note to the Soviet Government demanding an explanation.

The "letter", was palpably a forgery, and the cynical attitude of the Tories to the whole business is typified by the comments of Major-General Sir Wyndham Childs, one time Chief of the London Metropolitan Police, leader of the infamous Arcos raid, and no lover of the Communists, as his utterances show. "I regarded the Communists as social pariahs and a body of persons against whom every political party should wage ceaseless war." This is the man, who when writing on the "letter", wrote the following. "There were no new ideas and no new directions (in the "letter"), but it chanced to appear at a psychological moment and its importance was exaggerated out of all proportion in order to suit the exigencies of a political situation caused by the forthcoming Election.

LETTER A FAKE

"I first became aware of the despatch of Mr. MacDonald's note by reading the daily papers. It was then that I realised the importance which was being attached to the Zinoviev letter from a political point of view. Very few people are aware that there *never* was any Zinoviev letter at all. The document in the possession of His Majesty's Government purported to be nothing more than the English translation of an alleged copy in Russian of an alleged original.

"Had Mr. Ramsay MacDonald been more conversant with the machinery of the organisation which he controlled in addition to administering the office of Prime Minister, I think he would have sought other opinions before despatching his note. I feel that his

ASTURIAS

High in your mountain fastness still you fight,
Lacking in arms out-numbered by the foe.
Rather than bondage, to die for what is right
And with your ebbing strength deal blow for blow.

Proudly you give your all in freedom's cause,
A bright example to oppressed mankind,
Cut off from aid, yet fighting without pause,
Steel horde ahead, wild barren rock behind.

From belching cannon's mouth and from the skies,
The steely death rains on you day and night,
Traitorous diplomats ignore your children's cries,
Deaf to your agony, blind to your plight.

Yet when the history of this war is writ
And all this bloody massacre exposed,
We your brothers will then in judgment sit
And deal out justice to our mutual foes.

Then you shall be avenged, Asturias,
For every drop of blood you gladly gave,
To make our fight for Liberty victorious
From fascism and war the world to save.

H. G. SUTCLIFFE

department did him a disservice in permitting him (or possibly inducing him—I do not know which) to send the note without having the original letter in his possession. There was no more evidence that the Zinoviev "letter" emanated from the I. K. K. I. than that the publications of the C. P. G. B. came from the same source. I am not, of course, speaking of evidence in the "police-court" meaning of the word; if I were, it would have to be admitted at once that there was no evidence whatever given in the House of Commons as to the existence of the Zinoviev "letter" or its receipt in this country.

NOT SO DUMB

"On November 21st Sir Austen Chamberlain directed a Note to the Soviet Government in which he stated that 'I have the honour to inform you that after due deliberation His Majesty's Government find themselves unable to

recommend the treaties in question to the consideration of Parliament, or to submit them to the King for His Majesty's ratification.' The Note further went on to quote an extract from Mr. Ramsay MacDonald's Note, and which concluded by saying that the "Soviet Government would do well to weigh carefully the consequences of ignoring this pronouncement."

Childs' final comments on the matter are "If Mr. Zinoviev did actually despatch this letter to the Communist Party of Great Britain, he must surely have taken temporary leave of his senses. What was the situation? A Labour Government in power, and a treaty with Soviet Russia was about to come before the House of Commons for its consideration, so I can only conclude by giving it as my opinion that if Mr. Zinoviev did send it he was, in colloquial language, a blithering idiot."

This effusion of Childs' shows all the pride in his class that one would expect for having pulled off a slick trick on the electorate. Whether MacDonald was as dumb as he seemed, is, in view of what happened later, open to some doubt. But this incident shows the type of man he was and the kind of influence he had on the Labour Party in the post-war years. He has gone, but there are still those who oppose working-class unity in Britain. The MacDonald tradition will not die an easy death. But die it will. Die it must.

O. C. G.



Look! Warships!
Yeah? That's fine. We're getting
back to civilization.

MEDICAL STUDENT ESCAPES TO OUR LINES AND REPORTS OF TERROR IN SARAGOSSA

According to a report from the Eastern front, it seems that in one of our sectors at the Ebro River a soldier jumped out of the enemy lines, signalling not to be fired upon. He made a wild sprint for our parapets, and though the fascist sentries fired furiously, he was lucky enough to reach our trenches unhurt.

At headquarters he said he was a medical student and felt overjoyed at having escaped from the fascist yoke. His testimony was full of interesting facts, for he had been detained from August 23 to September 1, last year, in the Information Service of the Phalangists, in Saragossa, and from then until August 19 this year in the provincial jail.

The true assassins of the Saragossa proletariat are General Urrutia, Lieutenant-Colonel Dario Gazapo, and Police Commissioner Cogerti, who is also the administrator of Saragossa. Other agents who have punished the workers and leftists are Mulo, the Phalangist chief; Villuenda, the local leader; the Phalangist police, Lamarca, Toro, Pinilla, Navarro, Herretero, Trébol, and López del Olmo, who is also the station agent.

CITES CRUELITIES

There are also many elements of the worst type in the various squads of the "Cuerpos de Seguridad", "Asalto", and "Guardia Civil", those who are at the head of the assassins, distinguishing themselves by their cruelty and callousness against the workers. Outstanding among them is a lieutenant of the "Guardia Civil", whose name the medical student

could not remember, but who is in charge of the Mareria district of the Aragon capital. As examples of utter cruelty he cited the assassination of don Antonio Pla, vice-president of the provincial



THE "NATIONAL" ARMY

committee of Saragossa, whose eyes were gouged out in the presence of the student, and the case of López Conde, member of the municipal council of the city, who was horse-whipped to death. The same atrocity was inflicted on Manuel Marin Sanchez, the municipal librarian. The provincial inspector of Sanitation, Señor Albifana, was killed shortly before the same fate was met by his son, despite the latter's rank of lieutenant. Comrade Gallo, of the J. S. U., was shot, but when his family came to the morgue to claim the body they found it with the throat cut also. When the mother of Gallo protested at this added barbarity, some Phalangists present in the morgue pushed her out with shouts and jeers.

The student said he had seen an endless number of civilians ta-

ken from the Saragossa jail and shot. Among them were don Francisco Araoda, retired professor of the faculty of sciences; the Muniesa brothers, professors of the faculty of medicine; the civil governor, don Angel Varea Coronel, and many others.

He related also how the prisoners were trained by the prison officials. One of these officials, Julio Diez, boasted proudly of his ruthlessness and demonstrated it by killing an old man, shortly before he left the prison. Some of the champions of cruelty exercised themselves by putting the whip to the inmates.

Others who were outstanding in their cruel excesses include a Captain of the Information Center of the Phalange; one who bragged of having shot "thousands"; and one called Marques, who did not conceal the fact that he had shot the prisoners at Belchite. Quite famous also were two men who are known in Saragossa as the brothers "Al Capone", a nickname given to them because in every quarrel or brawl they immediately resorted to pistols. At present they are members of the body-guard used by the general of the Fifth Division.

All those known to have been members of revolutionary organizations in Saragossa must be denounced as a matter of law, afterward to be shot.

When a prisoner is condemned to work under the custody of the "Guardia Civil", it is considered a dreadful fate. The guards treat them in a terrible manner and many workers are in the hospital as a result of the blows and beatings they have received.

TRIBUTE PAID TO FOUNDER OF SPAIN'S SOCIALIST PARTY

The Delegation of the Committee for Unification of the Socialist and Communist Parties issued the following statement on the twelfth anniversary of the death of Pablo Iglesias:

"To be faithful to the doctrines of Pablo Iglesias, we must on this day make a solemn promise, take a revolutionary oath, to fight more closely every day for the triumph of the workers and of the masses. For Socialists and Communists particularly, the me-



PABLO IGLESIAS

mory of this teacher should be an imperative duty to work and fight united until we have welded ourselves into one Party, the Single Party of the Proletariat.

"Pablo Iglesias, tireless fighter throughout his life for the rights of the workers against the exploiters, against all the enemies of the proletariat and the people, is an example for all the Spanish workers and anti-fascists during these moments in which the gravity of the situation forces us to fight closer together every day in order to win the war, to fight to the finish, to crush Franco, and to hurl the invaders out of our country."

APOLOGY!

A Horn & Hardart picket tells about the cop in uniform who apologized for going into the store, explaining that it has the only available washroom in the neighborhood.



OUR CAVALRY

The Myth of a Dictator: How it was Invented

The well-known German author in exile, Conrad Heiden, has published a book entitled "Hitler: The Life of a Dictator." In it he explains how and by whom the myth of a "führer" came to be created; how the National-Socialist Party was started, climbed to power and enslaved all Germany. The fifth chapter of the book is called "Dietrich Eckart Looks For a Dictator" and shows that the idea of a "führer" arose from the topsy-turvy notions of a bad poet, a drunkard unbalanced by the war. Here are some excerpts from this chapter:

"Whoever had the luck of entering the Ortiga Tavern, in the Bohemian district of Schwabrig, in Munich, on a certain summer's night in 1919, would have been able to sit at a table together with the regular habitués of the café, and thus witness the invention of Hitler. Or perhaps it would be more accurate to say the invention of the legend of Hitler.

"In this tavern the poet, Dietrich Eckart, was holding forth. He was a man of medium height, but corpulent, with an impressive bald head and very small eyes; and quite plainly a man who loved wine to excess. He had a habit of using curse words which in no other language sounds quite so well as in the Bavarian dialect.

"Before the war this Dietrich Eckart had been the editor of a weekly in Berlin which was a firm supporter of the Kaiser. But like

enjoyed would seem to be the destiny of the Nazis in Germany.

"Among other works he made an adaptation of Henrik Ibsen's "Peer Gynt". It was notable for the extreme liberties it took with



HITLER

Ibsen's meaning. But Eckart asserted, in his incomparable manner, that he was concerned only with the spirit, not the form, of the original.

"This man, more of an artist in living than in writing, had become attracted to politics since the war, as had many others of the literati. He began calling for the creation of a party 'to combat the Jews and Bolsheviks.' To the motley Bohemian crew that frequented the Ortiga Tavern he declaimed, 'It must be a party of the German bourgeoisie. Why? Because a worker is also bourgeois when he is a German. Are we going to regard the middle class and the farmers as either capitalists or tramps? Don't they have to work for what they have? They should be emulated. But the proud financiers have to be destroyed. We must return to simplicities.'

Then he proceeded to explain his plans for the organization of the new party: 'At its head,' he said, 'there must be a strong man, capable of making himself heard like the sound of a machine-gun...

The Spanish Republican Theatre in the War

The theatre company directed by María Teresa León, well-known playwright and producer, has given performances to the soldiers defending the fronts in the Escorial sector near Madrid.

Speaking after the first performance María Teresa said:

"This is a new departure for our company. It is our duty to let the soldiers know that we remember them. At the same time we accustom those who have never seen plays to see them and those who have hitherto only seen bad works to see good ones.

"One fine, but cold morning we arrived at the front in order to give a little joy and merriment to men who, before the war, had only known rough work in the fields and who had no time for amusement, men who now, in the struggle for freedom, are living face to face with death. Our actors are not like the wandering actors who formerly went from village to village inspired rather by hunger than by the desire to act.

"We come to visit our soldiers in a happy frame of mind. From the road the distant enemy lines are visible. Far away can be heard the thud of bursting shells: white smoke can be seen rising from a clump of trees on the horizon. The undulating landscape, with its green hills, does not in the least betray the proximity of war.

"During a performance of 'Mariana Pineda' two soldiers were standing by my side. One of them said to the other: 'All my life I have done nothing but dig and now I am here like a lord.' This frank expression of satisfaction goes a long way to explain what our struggle means. The peasant who has now become a soldier

finds it difficult, yet pleasing to find he is one of the many who are now no longer downtrodden and despised, but who, on the contrary, are given the opportunities which once were only the lot of the few."

The audience, most of whom are men, follow the play with the utmost attention. Afterwards they mix with the actors and chat with them. In former times the actors were something apart from the audience, as separated as were the villages from the cities. Everything was out of the reach of the peasants — justice, culture, art... Now all is within their grasp.

They can learn to read and write, they can see the theatre, they can talk with the actors, they themselves can become actors. The Republic has introduced them to a world of feeling. And now when they are fighting and cannot go to the theatre, the theatre comes to them. How things have changed! The Republican soldiers are happy and cannot lose, for every day brings with it a new object in life. Every one of them now has the strength which a hundred men formerly had, in the days when life had no prospects and when every atom of stimulus was crushed in them even before they left their mother's womb.

KULTURI

BERLIN. — Nazi police seized and destroyed all foreign newspapers containing the pastoral letter issued by the German Episcopal Church. Among these forbidden papers were all the English dailies and several French.



a true Bavarian and natural Bohemian he did not last very long in the capital. He then devoted himself to the theater and wrote a series of dramas. The two or three plays which were produced had very little success. And to compose dramas which are not produced, or if produced, are not

for the rabble must be forced to shiver in its boots.

"This man should not be a politician or an official. The public no longer feels any respect for officials. It is best that such a man be a worker who could say things without restraint, one who is not obligated to anyone... My God!" he shouted, "if only Noske had not been such a so-and-so!" (Here came one of his characteristic vulgar expressions).

Then he continued with his specifications for leadership. "He does not need much brains. The trade of politician is the most stupid in the world, and every fishwife

knows it. I prefer a conceited monkey, capable of giving the Reds a loud answer and who will not flee before the raised hoofs of a horse. I prefer him to a dozen learned professors."

And as the climax of this lecture on political science, Eckart said, "He must be unmarried. In this way we can attract the women to us."

This is the picture of Hitler, and many people still remember that the prophetic image was painted in a fly-by-night tavern in Schwabrig. Dietrich Eckart is the spiritual author of the myth of a "führer."

DOCTOR BARSKY RETURNS TO SPAIN

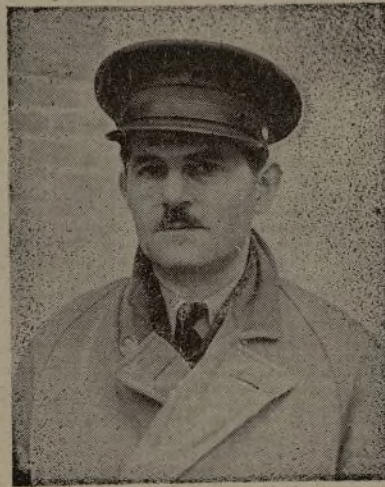
After a four-month speaking tour of the United States, in which he spoke to enthusiastic audiences from Maine to California, Major Edward Barsky of New York has returned to Spain to resume his work with the American Hospitals in Spain. Major Barsky, who headed the first American Medical Unit to arrive in Spain early last February, toured the States under the auspices of the Medical Bureau to Aid Spanish Democracy.

"There is a definite increase and crystallization of sympathy for Spain in the United States", said Doctor Barsky on his return to the American Base Hospital, "and the Medical Bureau has now drawn more and more people to its side in the gathering of medical aid for Spain." At meetings in all the major cities of the United States, Doctor Barsky was received by large audiences and definite financial returns. A high point in the Doctor's trip was the formation of a West Coast Medical Unit for Spain, complete with doctors, nurses, technicians, and equipment under the leadership of Doctor Leo Eloesser, professor of surgery at Stamford University Medical School. This unit, now in Spain, increased tremendously the interest and activity for the Loyalists on the entire West Coast and in meetings in Los Angeles, San Diego, San Francisco, and Berkeley. People from all classes were brought together and responded to Doctor Barsky's pleas for aid.

At a meeting in the University of California, which is represented in Spain by a large group of students now in the 15th Brigade under the leadership of Robert H. Merriman, one time professor at the U. of C., Major Barsky addressed a large audience of professors, their wives, and students of the school. "This was a high

spot on my tour", stated the doctor. "The response was excellent. The interest equalled, if not in physical size, at least in enthusiasm, my meeting in Madison Square Garden, New York."

In Chicago and its suburbs, in Rockford, Illinois (the scene of a tremendous movement for the C. I. O.); in Boston, before Harvard students at a meeting in



DOCTOR BARSKY

Woods Hole, Mass., where, with Dr. Walter B. Cannon of Harvard Medical School, Major Barsky addressed representatives from 17 universities working at the Marine Biological Laboratories. He also spoke before a group of doctors at the annual convention of the American Psychological Association in session at the University of Minnesota. In all these and other meetings for medical aid to Spain, money was raised and solidarity was expressed.

At a meeting of the staff, Doctor Barsky was welcomed back to Spain and to the scene of the first American Base Hospital. At this reunion the Doctor addressed the staff and congratulated Major Doctor Busch on the splendid advances made in his absence. He expressed the hope for even further strides in hospitalization in the future. Dr. Leo Eloesser was present at the gathering and spoke of some first impressions of Spain. The eminent California surgeon told of the high type of surgical work he witnessed in Spanish hospitals. He told those present (in perfect Spanish) of his hopes for an even greater unity with our Spanish comrades.

M. H.

A Watch Makes the Rounds

A well-known comrade and old-timer of the Fifteenth Brigade came out to Spain with a watch. He obtained this watch by means of a swap, which he arranged in London on his way out. On the back of it he inscribed a brief message in Irish Gaelic.

He was wounded in the February actions at Jarama. While he was at the dressing station, waiting with the blood running down his arm, he supposed that the watch would be of no further use to him. He gave it to a comrade who asked to have it rather than see it thrown away, and after that he thought no more about it.

Some months afterwards an American came up to him and said, "You're an Irishman, perhaps you can tell me what this message means on the back of my watch."

It was his own. The American passed it over without demur. He had taken it, he said, from the wrist of a French comrade, as it seemed a pity to let it be buried with him.

The watch was going, and still goes on the wrist of the man who brought it to Spain. By what devious process of exchange it came into the hands of a Frenchman will probably never be known.

1000 Years on Strike!

Thirty million working days were lost this year by strikes in 21 countries throughout the world. According to the annual bulletin of the International Labor Office at Geneva, this is equivalent to one worker's non-productivity for a period of one thousand years.

Japanese Bombard Catholic Mission

Japanese bombing squadrons, in a raid over the town of Huang-Teh, dropped several heavy charges on the Catholic Mission there. According to reports, the mission had clearly identified itself by ground markings. Casualties and material damages reach considerable figures.

Spanish Painter Goes to The United States

Pablo Picasso, the celebrated Spanish painter, will represent his country at the International Congress of Artists meeting in New York this month. Picasso had previously refused many invitations to go to America, and accepts this time to show his loyal support of the Government.

Not Even Fascist Bombers Could Ruffle his Dignity

Where was Wattis when the bombers came over? Wattis was shaving; or if you can think of something else not unconnected with a man's personal preparations for the day, perhaps you're right.

Wattis was a Brigade figure. He was indeed. Any two other Brigade figures would have fitted inside Wattis' belt together. He was a Great Guy. It was Wattis who looked after the Brigade's food supply up to the time when he was wounded while we were taking Belchite.

When the bombers came over one morning during the Brunete offensive, Wattis was shaving behind a tree. This Brigade figure, half uncamouflaged, offered a wide, pink target to the bombers; but Wattis went on shaving.

"Get under cover, for God's sake!" shouted someone, running past. "They're coming over!"

"Cover be damned," said Wattis. "Do you think I am going to pull up my shirt for those blighters?"

And if that wasn't what he called them, it began with the same letter.

HIS MASTER'S APPETITE



"Howdy, General, salud eh! Like the soup?"

U. S. Ambassador to Germany Resigns

Professor William E. Dodd, American Ambassador to Germany, has resigned his post. Mister Dodd is noted for his progressive tendencies. He and his son have spoken frequently in the United States before anti-fascist audiences.

CATALONIA TEXTILE INDUSTRY IN THE WAR-

The great importance assumed in Catalonia by the industry of the textile manufacturing syndicates and their development in the present economic and social situation, have prompted us to obtain an account of their various problems. With this purpose the members of the Secretariat of the regional committee of the manufacturing, textile and related industries of Catalonia have given us the following information:

At the outset of the uprising, when we had taken charge of the factories, we found that many individuals had come to be small capitalists by buying a few looms. There were others who had formed companies by contributing capital and buying twenty or thirty looms together, but had not



THE WOMEN of Spain are daily becoming more involved in their country's war industries.

developed very successfully; they had been forced to become dependents of the large enterprises. The big firms were the ones which received the important orders. When the order was very large and greater productive capacity was needed, they resorted to the small companies to serve them and complete the work. In the manufacturing and textile industry there were many such cases of houses who had no life of their own, who merely worked for others.

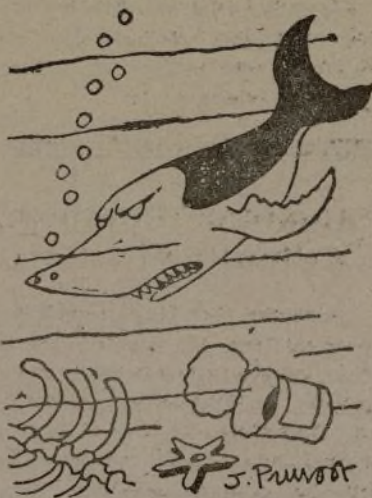
When the large firms were collectivized those of the greatest potential output refused to give work to the smaller firms, but this contradictory situation was abolished by the "Decree on Collectivization", which required the large to help the small.

Eighty percent of the regional production had been for the home trade and the remainder for ex-

port. The industry used 400,000 bales of cotton, most of it coming from America and some from India and Egypt. But when the uprising began the supply of prime materials was rapidly exhausted. Capitalism had declined to pay the debts it owed to the American exporters, and we were forced to deal with a very limited amount of raw material. This we attached, paying what was due. Through the efforts of a certain Bank we were able to settle all debts by the end of the year. This was eloquent proof of our attitude. But there still remained the painful problem of the lack of raw materials. In seeking a solution of this problem a committee went to the Government in January 1937. We calculated the value of foreign exports at some 300,000,000 pesetas and proposed a formula to the Government. This consisted of exporting manufactured goods and converting it, through commission agents, into bales of cotton which we would receive by land; for we imposed the condition that the material would be brought to the frontier. We would thus secure the advantage of a discount from the French railways and we also planned to request the same from the Spanish rail. But difficulties arose and this idea never materialized.

Our structure consists of industrial syndicates, grouped according to manufacturing zones, which number seventeen. Each has its own committee and together these delegates constitute the Regional Committee.

FOOD SHORTAGE



"What's the matter with these pirate submarines? It's time they sank some more refugees."



ANOTHER photo of the delegation. Ellen Wilkinson M. P., is on General Miaja's left. Major ATTLEE is on the extreme right.

BRITISH LABOUR DELEGATION VISITS SPAIN

(Continued from page 1.)

mocracy. Two rifle salutes were fired into the air by squads of picked British and Spanish soldiers during the silence.

"Help us to get arms", was the plea of the British Volunteers in the battalion. "We'll do our part here, fighting not only for the freedom of the Spanish people, but for the very existence of the Labour Movement threatened by Fascism in Britain and the entire world. You must carry on the fight back home."

General Walter voiced the determination of the International Volunteers and the Spanish people to prevent Spain "from becoming a European Abyssinia".

MEETING TO AID SPAIN

After visiting the barracks of the British Volunteers the delegation had dinner at the Brigade Headquarters before continuing on their journey to Valencia. Prior to their departure the delegation stood at attention during the playing of the Spanish Republican anthem, then stood at salute while singing the "International" in company with the soldiers.

"Good courage and good fortune", cried Miss Wilkinson in parting.

Almost immediately after his return to Britain, Major Attlee will be the principal speaker at a great Labour Rally at the Albert Hall in London. This meeting is the climax to a great Aid-Spain Campaign which the Labour Party

has been conducting over the last few weeks. The Campaign has as its immediate objective the collection of food and milk for the Spanish people, and the political objective of rousing public opinion in order to force the British Government to drop its policy of "non-intervention".

With regard to the collection of food and milk, the support given by the working-class parties, and by the Co-operative movement especially, is such that the success is assured. In the case of the campaign to rouse popular opinion against the policy of the British Government, there is as yet no evidence that this is going with a real swing.

Major Attlee will return at the climax of this campaign—a campaign which has not yet attained the necessary results. He will be fresh with memories of his visit here, memories of a people who will fight to the bitter end, memories of International Volunteers including his own countrymen who are fighting for the Liberty of Spain and the Peace of the World.

What he must do is clear to us and to himself. He must turn this meeting from being the climax of one campaign into the first step of an even greater one—a campaign which will really bring results, a campaign of direct action in favour of the Spanish Republic.

A. D.