



The VOLUNTEER FOR LIBERTY

organ of the international brigades ★

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December 21

The fall of Teruel on the afternoon of December 21 was the climax of operations which the Republican Army had been carrying out for just a week. The Army of the Levante took the rebels completely by surprise when it launched an attack on the morning of December 15. Day by day, it executed the plans of the general staff like clockwork.

1st

Ten hours

Most dramatic of all, perhaps, were the operations during the first day when, in the bare space of the available ten hours of daylight, the two columns entrusted with making the pincers movement simultaneously from the north-east and south-west, established contact with each other midway between Campillo and Concud. This movement, which enclosed the rebels in a circle of



TERUEL

iron, practically sealed the fate of Teruel.

The planning of the operations was no less brilliant than the way in which they were carried out. Fortified by the most skillful German military engineers, Teruel was thought to be virtually impregnable. Yet the Republi-

can Army completed the whole series of operations with far fewer casualties than in any previous large-scale attack. The secret of this success was the fact that, with the exception of Concud, none of the strongly fortified rebel positions were attacked from the front. The Republican com-

mand singled out all the weak spots in the insurgent line of defense and drove wedges deep into the enemy's rear. Thus isolated, the strongholds of the enemy fell with little resistance when attacked from behind.

Working in this way during the seven days of the offensive, position after position fell into the hands of the Republicans, while the ring of insurgent territory around the city grew smaller and smaller. At last there remained nothing but Teruel itself and two heights, Santa Barbara and El Mansueto, immediately east of the city. The final operation consisted of cutting between Teruel and these positions. The city was entered simultaneously by Repu-



André Marty

Returns to Spain

André Marty, member of the French Chamber of Deputies and the man who was the driving force in organizing the International Brigades, has returned to Spain. His arrival in Madrid was made the occasion of a celebration by the Commissariat of the International Brigades, attended by leading figures of the army and civil government.

Pointing to the impregnability of Madrid and the victory at Teruel, Comrade Marty said the working class of the world feels justified in its unswerving faith in Spain. In France, particularly, the people are concentrating on increased aid in the anti-fascist struggle. "It shows itself in many ways", he said. "The port workers of Le Havre and Marseilles and the metal workers impose dues upon themselves daily to raise funds for various needs among the Spanish people." The same firm and growing support is found in all countries, he

explained. "The policy of non-intervention", Comrade Marty said, "becomes plainer every day to the large masses in the democratic nations as a policy of intervention in favor of Franco. Such a thing cannot long continue."

Comrade Marty showed that whenever things are bad for Franco somebody speaks of mediation and compromise. "But Teruel", he said, "shows that the will of the people of Spain is for final victory and the crushing out of fascism, nothing less."

Addresses were also delivered by General Cardenal, representing General Miaja who was ill; Gómez Egado, representing the Mayor of Madrid; Comrade Piñuela, new political commissar of the Center Army; Ossorio Tafall, commander of the André Marty Battalion of the 14th Brigade; and Pérez Vitoria, president of the Popular Front.



OUR TANKS enter Teruel.

blican columns from the north, northwest and south.

NEW ARMY STRONG

The capture of Teruel is the culminating point of the growth, or perhaps coming of age, of the Spanish People's Army. It is the logical result of experience gained in Casa de Campo, Segovia, Brunete and Belchite. In each of these campaigns the young Republican Army displayed more strength, more agility and greater cohesion than in the preceding one. In the counter-offensives at Guadalajara and Pozoblanco this army was already capable of routing the Italian troops. It has now completed its development and has proved itself equipped to gain all its objectives in a first-class battle carried direct to the enemy. A clear indication of this is that not a single non-Spaniard participated in Teruel and that not a single reserve was brought into action.

What increases the significance of the army's conduct is the fact that it operated under weather conditions that the word "awful" does not exaggerate. A heavy blanket of snow lay everywhere and at times the wind rose to a gale that swirled the snow so thickly visibility was impossible for a more than a few feet. The cold was so constant and intense that some men actually perished in it. Minister of Defense Prieto stated "I do not believe any other troops in the world could have marched under similar conditions"

The offensive was planned and directed by Colonel Sarabia who last autumn was placed in charge of the Republican Army on the Teruel front, and by General Rojo, Chief of the General Staff.

Both these men were members of the old Spanish Army and remained loyal to the Republic. As



NUNS and Civilians evacuated from Teruel.

soon as the Government received word of the capture of Teruel, it conferred on Sarabia the rank of General. Sarabia and Rojo, previously, are the only two men to have been promoted to generals during the present course of the war.

From a military point of view the holding of Teruel by the rebels had long been misconceived. If at first it was a dangerous salient which chance or, more accurately, the treachery of the civil guards placed in fascist hands at the very outset of the uprising, a salient which threatened to cut Loyalist communications along the Mediterranean coast, it later became a menace to the rebels themselves. This was borne out by their attempt last July to broaden the salient. It is now proved beyond all doubt by the success of this offensive.

For moral reasons, however, Franco had no other course than to maintain Teruel, whatever the cost in men and material. For, by talking of a slash through to the coast on that front, he had boosted the name of Teruel until it was on the lips of all, both in rebel territory and abroad. He simply could not, therefore, afford to withdraw his troops and leave Teruel to the Republicans. In the same way, once Teruel was surrounded and cut off by Government forces, Franco was compelled to sacrifice thousands of his best troops in a vain effort to relieve the beleaguered city. In one attack which the finest fascist troops delivered along the plain near Concud, they formed a perfect target for Loyalist artillery on the heights and were driven back in complete disorder after losing what is conservatively esti-

Besides the tremendous stimulating effect it will have on the Republican Army and rearguard, the capture of Teruel is of great strategic importance to the Government. It creates a new and shorter road to Madrid, and thus permits transfer of troops and material from the Aragon front to the Madrid front or vice versa much more rapidly. The distance from Alcañiz, the central point of communications for a large part of the Aragon front, to Madrid is 70 miles shorter via Teruel than via Valencia, and 85 miles shorter from Alcañiz to Guadalajara. It also constitutes the point of an axis along which new major offensives can be developed.

The capture of Teruel and its surrounding area leaves the Republic with a gain of hundreds of square miles of territory, rich in coal and iron so necessary for the expansion of the war industries, as well as with one of the best timber regions of Spain.

Numerous insurgent prisoners were captured the first day and more were taken each succeeding day and night. Many deserted to Loyalist lines, including whole companies in some instances. They have been conveyed by the hundreds from Teruel to Sagunto and Valencia. So rapid was the onslaught and operation against the city that barely a fascist soldier escaped to fight again another day. And the entire large store of arms and ammunition which the rebels had accumulated there is now in the hands of the Government.

There is no doubt that Franco must make ferocious efforts to retrieve his disaster. Come what may, the victory at Teruel has permanent significance.



STREET-FIGHTING in Teruel.

DELBOS COMPLETES TOUR OF EUROPEAN NATIONS

French Foreign Minister Finds that the Mass of People of Europe Prefer Democracy and Call for the Defeat of Fascism. Steps are Taken to Boycott Japanese-made Goods.

M. Delbos, French Foreign Minister, has been round Europe. His journey, rather than a triumphal progress, might be described as an inspection of the wreckage. In Poland, Rumania and Yugoslavia he had the opportunity of seeing the damage that France's friendships have suffered. All three countries have turned towards the probable aggressors and are seeking assurances from them in return, naturally, for concessions. The Four-Power Pact, the failure to take a firm stand when Hitler marched into the Rhineland, the sabotage of sanctions in the Abyssinian War, the policy of Non-Intervention, etc., all this diplomacy conducted in the name of peace is now threatening France with isolation and encirclement.

DEFENSE OF MINORITIES

It is not yet possible to judge whether Delbos' visit to Czecho-Slovakia has strengthened the resistance of that possible "Spain of tomorrow" against the threats of Hitler and his agents. It would be well if the rights of national minorities were always respected, but in any case Hitler's qualifications to be considered their champion are slight enough. There was once a great uproar about the German minority in Poland, until one fine day Poland's policy became pro-Nazi and the matter was closed. Nor do we hear much about the oppressed German minority in the Italian Tyrol; and if a Hitlerite took over the Government of Czecho-Slovakia and helped to open the way to Nazidom's supremacy in Europe, then the pressing question of the German minority in Czecho-Slovakia would also be "closed".

NOT THE PEOPLE

M. Delbos might learn two lessons from his journey: the first—that wavering, compromise and retreat are not identical terms with peace and collective security; the second—that although the governments of Poland, Rumania and Yugoslavia have ceased to count the League of Nations and their agreements with France as the main factors in their foreign pol-

icy, nevertheless those Governments do not have the people behind them. The Polish people demands a reversal of the policy of the fascist ruling clique in Warsaw. In Rumania the pro-fascist policy of Carol and his Prime Minister, Tartaescu, has been defeated at the elections. It remains to be seen whether Carol can foist on the Rumanian people a new Hitlerite Government in which the dominant party only secured 10 % of the votes cast. In Yugoslavia Delbos was greeted with shouts of "Long live democratic France! Down with fascism!"

This is the force which can be mobilised behind the policy of peace, irrespective of the wishes of the Becks, the Carols, etc. It is a force which can still be irresistible if the democracies end the policy of capitulation and give more than kind words to collective security.

BOYCOTT PRACTICAL

World indignation against the Japanese crime in China is still increasing, and with it the possibilities of a large scale boycott of Japanese goods. The World Peace Assembly has taken the decision to organise a boycott beginning January 1.

The distribution of Japanese trade is such that an effective boycott is possible. *L'Humanité* has pointed out that Japanese troop movements are made with



JAPANESE AVIATION swoops down on the "Panay", bombing it. The sinking of this American ship has caused great indignation in democratic countries of the world.



CHINESE women-students in a military school. These women want military training, so that they too can pitch in to help their country to defeat the Japanese invaders.

American trucks. Japanese bullets are made with American lead. The petrol for Japan's planes comes from Dutch and American sources. The cotton which is essential for her war industry is provided by India and the United States. She obtains coal from Indo-China. Her nickel comes from Norway and Britain. She receives machine tools from France. According to figures published by the World Peace Assembly and based on League of Nations statistics and reports of the Tokio Chamber of Commerce and Industry, the United States, India, Great Britain and France take 38.9 % of Japanese exports and provide 47.6 % of her imports. 40.5 % of the total tonnage of ships passing through the Japanese customs consists of non-Japanese vessels, and about a third of them are British.

From these figures it is clear that a determined boycott by the democracies could force Japan to leave her prey and seek peace.

During five months' fighting Japan has achieved no decisive results. It is true that her forces have penetrated far into Chinese territory, but they have not been able to break a Chinese Army which is still in process of mobilisation and is growing stronger. Vast sums are being swallowed up in the war. A fierce partisan struggle is being waged in Manchuria. The unrest of the Japanese people is reflected in the mass arrests which are being carried out.

An indication of what could be achieved by firm action is provided by the sequel to the sinking of the "Panay". The United States now has an apology, the promise of an indemnity and the dismissal of a Japanese officer. This is a

distinct toning down in the "I care for nobody, no not-I!" attitude adopted by Japan in the earlier stages. Whether or not the apology, the indemnity and the dismissal satisfy Washington, they will certainly not satisfy the people of America who are awakening to the danger of Japanese aggression in the Far East and for whom Roosevelt's Chicago speech, the call to world democracy to close the ranks, means more than just words.

TERUEL

The taking of Teruel is a smashing victory for the Republic on the Spanish Front and no less on the international front. The intense reactionary campaign advocating compromise or representing Franco as certain of success in a hypothetical forthcoming offensive, had not been without its effects in some democratic and working-class circles, where a mood of pessimism had set in. In Britain Major Attlee's confident statements on his return from Spain had already done much to dispel the gloom, and now his statements have been backed by the deeds of the Republican Army. On the other hand there has again been a big discrepancy between fascism's words and deeds—this time a very welcome discrepancy.

No one imagines that with Teruel fascism in Spain is finished. We all know that there are difficult times and heavy battles ahead; but we know, too, that in Teruel coming events cast their shadow before.

A. M. E.



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VICTORY AT TERUEL

Honor and glory to our Spanish comrades of the Republican Army! They have proved at Teruel what we have always argued on their behalf; given time to organise and train themselves, they are second to none as front-line soldiers. At Teruel, taking the offensive in adverse climatic conditions and against strongly fortified posts, they routed Italian, German and Moroccan regulars. In the annals not only of Spanish but of European military history that is an achievement, for which it is hard to find a parallel.

Here then are some of the fruits of our coming to Spain! We held the lines for months on end, giving a breathing-space for the organisation of the Republican Army. How well that interval has been availed of, the victorious heroes of Teruel are witness!

But when our Spanish comrades can win victories without our aid it does not follow that our task in Spain is finished. On the other side of the enemy lines are Germans, Italians, Portuguese—international fascist invaders. So, on our side of the lines must remain the fighters of the international working-class.

For this is no national civil war in which we fight from abstract motives of idealism. This is an international war between fascism and democracy. Fascism has rallied all its available men and munitions; the working class, vanguard in defense of democracy, must do likewise.

While the war continues — and continue it must until Democracy triumphs — it is the duty of the international working-class to aid their gallant Spanish comrades. That duty we of the International Brigades have fulfilled in the past year. Let us fulfill it in ever-increasing measure in the year of victory now dawning.

FRIENDSHIP

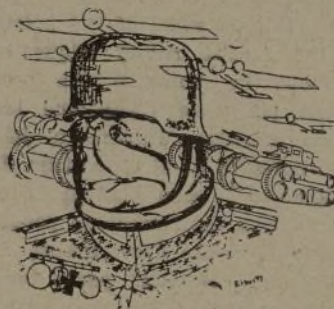
Last November, the Popular Front organised a week of homage to the International Brigades, commemorating the anniversary of the defense of Madrid. So warm was Spain's gratitude that the unexpected sum of 270,000 pesetas was subscribed. This money could be used for whatever the volunteers saw fit.

Now they have given their answer, characteristically and fittingly. For the Spanish soldiers throughout the entire Republican Army, 150,000 pesetas is presented for additional comforts to their winter welfare. In this way the International volunteers express their comradeship even to those Spanish brigades with whom we have not yet served side by side.

The rest of the money will be devoted by the International Brigades commissariat to cultural work in our own ranks, and to caring for the sons and daughters of Spanish members of our various units. Doing this work of peace before victory is finally ours is a signal to Spain and to the world that we are confident it will be ours.

IN THE FASCIST ZONE

Abd-el-Jalek Torres, Moroccan youth leader, officer in a Moorish brigade, supporter of Franco since the beginning, has been sentenced to jail... Latest figures on Italian trade balance have been juggled



around but cannot hide the enormous deficit of 3,350 million liras between imports and exports. The preceding year's deficit was only 572 million liras, which is also plenty... Hans Drick, Nazi "volunteer" and athlete, winner of the pentathlon at the Berlin Olympics, lost out the other day in a Madrid sector. He will be buried in Germany... Flash! Any day now the world will be astounded by the announcement of a Society of Nations to rival the well-known League of Nations which, it will be recalled, was supposed to perpetuate peace. Whether headquarters are to be at Nuremberg or Munich will be decided by tossing a Banco de Franco peseta... Just in case you're not quite sure, Japan has not yet declared war on China... Mickey Mouse and Donald Duck are banned from movie screens in Yugoslavia as being "anti-monarchist" and also "rebellious". Don't you think so?... General Ludendorff cashed in the other day. He invented totalitarian warfare, but died in bed. He opposed Hitler's intervention in Spain as being small fry. The old boy was always nice to us. When he helped Hindenburg crush the Czarist army, he practically started the October Revolution... The figures are official that the Moors

in Spain from the Anyera district of Morocco have had 368 dead and 830 wounded. The figures are official... A fascist soldier nabbed at Teruel cried, "Let me pray before you kill me." After he was given a chance to pray he was also given a meal, a trip to the rear, a pick and shovel and a job on the road. Was he also given a surprise?... "The long-awaited fascist offensive has begun", announced a political commissar to his men on an inactive front. "It has begun", he said, "and Teruel is ours!"... Time Magazine shows its impartiality by calling the rebels Rightists and us Leftists and tells this little tale: "The mere presence in the Balearics of Bruno Mussolini provoked so many bomb raids as Leftists tried to exterminate him, that Spanish Rightists were vastly relieved when Bomber Bruno flew back to Italy with part of his fascist squadron..." And this interesting item on the inevitable: "In



MOORS IN SPAIN

sunny Morocco, impatient wives and sweethearts of Moors fighting under Rightist Franco demonstrated at Tetuan, screaming "We want our men back", precipitated a bloody 24-hour riot put down by 130 executions..." Father Coughlin goes back on the air again. Did someone say offensive?... When Cardinal Verdier, archbishop of Paris, returned from Rome and announced the desire of the Catholic Church to collaborate with all men of good will, regardless of religious belief, the Nazi organ "Angriff" said, "The Vatican is entering common action with Moscow."



Ralph Fox and John Cornford

A year ago this week the famous No. 1 Company of British and Irish comrades went through their baptism of fire with the 14th Brigade on the Cordova front. For the International Volunteers this was undoubtedly the most difficult and most dangerous period of the war, a period when the fascists were advancing on all fronts, a period when the Loyalist forces were short of arms and had had no time for proper training.

Under these circumstances it is not surprising that in those days casualties were heavy. The first



RALPH FOX

Volunteers fought under almost unimaginably adverse conditions — conditions such as we shall never experience again in the course of the war.

Among those who died in this action there were two comrades whose deaths represented not only a great loss to the anti-fascist movement, but also a great loss to English letters. They were Ralph Fox and John Cornford.

WORLD WRITER

Ralph Fox was killed on the 3rd of January at the age of thirty-seven. He had already won a high place for himself among the leading writers of the post-war period. His influence among British intellectuals was far reaching and steadily growing, an influence directed towards drawing men of science and letters in ever closer contact with the proletarian movement.

In 1920 Ralph Fox joined the Friend's Famine Relief Expedition to the Samara region in South-East Russia to relieve the victims

of the famine which followed in the wake of the White Armies. He believed he saw in the new Russian civilisation, even in those early, troubled years, a solution to the world's political difficulties. His experiences there gave the material for his first book, "Children of the Steppes" in which he showed distinct literary ability.

Apart from his only novel "Storming Heaven", Ralph Fox concentrated all his attention on political writings. His study of "Lenin" is perhaps the best written in the English language. In addition he wrote "Class Struggles in Britain", "The Colonial Policy of British Imperialism", "France Faces the Future", and "Genghis Khan". Two books appeared posthumously, "The Novel and the People" in which he defined his view of the relation between art and politics, and "Portugal Now", a study of the conditions in Portugal at the time of the outbreak of the Spanish Rebellion.

Ralph Fox not only wrote politically, but also worked politically. As a Communist, he took his place in the workers organisations and he lived, worked and taught alongside working men. His presence in Spain was the proof of his readiness to combine practice with theory. His death was the proof that he was prepared not only to work, but to sacrifice ev-

erything for the anti-fascist struggle.

BRILLIANT POET

John Cornford, young poet and brilliant university student, met death on his twenty-first birth-



JOHN CORNFORD

day. He was the most prominent leader of the Student movement in England, and his efforts, more than those of any other single individual, helped forge unity of the Left wing student organisations.

His active life left him little time for writing, but what he did do in this respect showed considerable promise. Several of his poems, mostly of an anti-fascist character, have appeared in "Left

Review" in England and efforts are being made to collect all of his works in order to produce them in one volume.

Comrade Cornford was one of the very first International Volunteers to arrive in Spain in the late summer of 1936. He took part in the defence of Madrid and after a short return home to deal with some personal affairs he came back to take part in the action on the Cordova front where he met his death. His personality was tremendously vital, he was amazingly cool in the difficult situations during the actions in which he took part. He was a constant source of strength and inspiration to the group with which he fought. He was a great comrade and a brave soldier of Freedom.

SOME SOLDIERS ARE SO ROUGH

A raw young volunteer was receiving tuition in bomb throwing from an instructor. After everything had been carefully explained to him, he was given a live bomb and told to throw it.

He pulled out the pin and handed the bomb to his instructor, remarking:

"Well, and what do I do now?"

He was so deeply offended at the reply he received that he reported the instructor for using bad language.



GROUP OF COMRADES attached to the original English-Speaking Company of the 14th Brigade.

PEASANTS ESTABLISH NEW COLLECTIVE FARM AND POINT TO THE WAY OF SOCIAL ABUNDANCE

On July 21st, 1936, barely two days after the military uprising in Spain, the little village of Valdeganga de Cuenca received a visit from a delegation purporting to be from the capital of the province. The delegation introduced themselves to Juan Ramon Laparra, the Mayor of the village, and, after following the usual Spanish custom of talking about everything except the business they had in mind, finally announced that they had come to take

In addition, the property includes one of the best known sanatoriums in the country, the mineral waters of which are famed for their cure of rheumatism. There is a large house, accommodating over 100 patients, a bath-house and a swimming pool. The sanatorium showed on the average an annual net profit of 20,000 pesetas.

Now the building has been given over to the British Medical Unit for the duration of the war for use as a convalescent home

small domestic animals) he happened to possess and provided that he became a member of one of the trade union organisations.

COLLECTIVE STARTED

The idea of collectivisation was beyond the comprehension of most of the inhabitants of Valdeganga, and even those who to some degree did understand what it involved, did not venture to throw in their lot with the collective farm. As a result of the meeting only three more families agreed to join in, who, together with the six families working the land previously, made a total of nine. Any member of the village has the right to join the collective at a later date, provided that he complies with the above mentioned conditions.

The nine families have now been working the land together since March. It has been a hard struggle, for 600 acres is a lot of land to till when one has no machines. The ploughing is done by a pair of oxen and most of the other work by mules. When I remarked on how well these animals looked, the Mayor, who is also secretary of the collective farm, said: "Yes, they look well and fat now. But they were very different when we took over. The former owners used to keep them half starved. And, indeed, it was

pesetas a year (\$15 or \$75 at the old rate of exchange). On this sum they had to support not only themselves, but also their famil-



A LITTLE refreshment after work.

ies. Many of them used to sleep in the stables with the mules, because they had no other accommodation."

GOOD HARVEST

The chief crop of the collective farm is corn, although it has many acres of potatoes and vineyard as well. There are also over 300 head of sheep and goats. In 1937 there was an abundant harvest, one of the best ever known in that part of Spain. And to cope with the situation the collective farm borrowed a reaping machine, for otherwise it would have been im-



SOWING the fields.

over the estate of the rich landowner which lay within the jurisdiction of the village and that henceforth this estate would be run by a workers' committee in Cuenca. Fortunately for Valdeganga its Mayor was a quick-witted man.

"That's all very well", he said, "you may be the bosses in Cuenca, but I am the boss in Valdeganga".

He immediately summoned the village council, who unanimously decided that no other authority than the village of Valdeganga was legally entitled to take over the estate in question. The delegation returned to Cuenca empty-handed and the estate became the property of the people of the village.

WAR HOSPITAL

The estate is, indeed, a rich one. It consists of some 600 acres of cultivated land, practically the whole of which can be irrigated, and over 5000 acres of pine woods.

for wounded from the fronts. The people of Valdeganga have thus foregone the profits of running it as a health resort and have made this their contribution to those of their fellow-countrymen who are fighting for the freedom of Spain.

The rest of the estate, however, remains in the hands of the village. During the latter part of 1936 it was run by a group of six families who had either worked on the estate in the time of the landlord or lived close by. It had no official status other than that it had been taken over by the village.

In March of 1937, however, when the policy of the Government regarding the development of collective farms had been made clear, the Mayor summoned together all the inhabitants of the village and announced to them that the estate was to be converted into a collective farm. Anyone who wanted had the right to join the collective, provided that he added to it whatever property (excluding house, furniture, kitchen garden and



PLOWING the furrows.

not only the animals they kept in this condition. It was the same with the farm laborers, too. These men had to work from dawn till dusk and they were paid 500

possible to get in all the crop. The machine, although very old-fashioned, served its purpose and worked ten times as quickly as the peasants harvesting with

sickles. The machine cut the cornfields in the floor of the valley, while on the hillsides, where the slope is steep, sickles were still in use. The peasants would sing at intervals during their work and their song would spread out across the valley to the hills beyond.

Valdeganga is a peaceful spot and there is little to interrupt the song of these happy peasants at work, happy, because for the first time in their hardworking lives, they are enjoying the fruits of their labor. Occasionally one hears the drone of a plane as it passes overhead. At such times the harvesters leave off their work and with their sickles raised in the air they wave to their heroic aviators, the story of whose bravery and skill has reached every nook and corner of Republican Spain. Twice a day refreshments



are taken out to the harvesters in the fields. Leaving their sickles embedded in a pile of sheaves, piled up on end so as to make a patch of shade in the parched cornfield, the harvesters gather in a circle for their meal. Out of the bread and the wine they make a soup, which quenches their thirst and nourishes them at the same time, while large pieces of meat are produced and eagerly devoured. Harvesting in Spain creates an appetite. Shortly after noon the harvesters return to the nearby house where their midday meal awaits them. Then, during the hottest hours of the day, they take their siesta, lying in the shade of the elms that line the front of the house. The day is a long one, from daybreak until sunset, and this rest at half-time is a necessity for all.

Harvesting by sickles is done in this collective farm by a group



of ten men. The first takes a row, while the one following behind takes the next row to the right and so forth. In this way ten men cut as many rows at once, which is about the equivalent of one small machine. Each harvester gathers his corn in armfuls as he goes along, leaving it in bundles to his left. These bundles are then collected and tied into sheaves by a group of men known as "binders".

PROFITS INVESTED

In war time, when the Government is sorely in need of all the wheat it can lay hands on, special measures have to be taken regarding the sale of the harvest. All the wheat in Republican Spain is bought up by the Government at a fixed price. Farmers, however, are entitled to keep enough wheat for their own needs and for the sowing of next year's crop.

In this collective farm there is no general distribution of profits at the end of the year. On the other hand, a fund is kept into which all the profits are paid and from which all workers over the age of fifteen receive 4 pesetas for each day they work. All general expenses of the farm, such as repairs and improvements, are also paid for out of this fund. Recently a new cart was bought, which cost 1,000 pesetas. Should the resources of the fund show any great increase, the wage of 4 pesetas a day would be raised accordingly.

But even the rate of 4 pesetas a day compares most favorably with the standard wage of 500 pesetas a year paid by the former landowners to the farm laborers. Counting an average of 300 days' work for each man, one

finds he earns 1,200 pesetas annually or more than double what he received formerly. And in addition to this sum in cash, he retains enough wheat, potatoes, meat, wine, etc., to keep himself and his family for the coming year, whereas previously he had to purchase all his food from the landowner.

BETTER LIFE

For the present only the large-scale farming has been collectivized, while such things as kitchen gardens, chickens, etc. have remained in private hands. Next season, however, collectivization will be complete. The women, for example, whose task it is to look after the minute plots of kitchen garden laid out somewhere in the neighborhood of each cottage, will next year all work together and cultivate one large plot, which can be irrigated. In this way production will be considerably increased.

The members of the Valdeganga collective farm are a hardworking but happy crowd of people. They are still poor, very poor if judged by British or American standards. But they are happy because they

know they are on their way to a richer and better life, because they are certain that henceforth they themselves, and not a rich landlord living in Madrid, will enjoy the profits accruing from what they produce by the sweat of their brow.

ARABS TRICKED BY ITALY FOR SERVICE IN SPAIN

The Gibraltar correspondent of the London "Daily Herald" reports the latest developments as to how Franco's "volunteers" offer their services. The article says:

"Mussolini has found a new way to send reinforcements to Franco without violating the letter of the non-intervention agreement. By proclaiming himself protector of Islam, the Italian dictator has sent thousands of native Arabs from Italy's North African colonies to Spain. The trick is as follows. The Italian authorities extend an invitation to Arabs of Tripoli and Lybia to board ships which, they say, will go to Morocco; there they will be able to proceed to make a pilgrimage to the sanctuary of Muley Idris in French Morocco.

"But the pilgrims never get to the holy city of Fez, for when they reach Melilla, in Spanish Morocco, they are signed up in the Foreign Legion by fascist recruiting officers, who tempt them with the pay of five pesetas a day.

"It is calculated that in the last fortnight, seven to eight thousand Arabs have been enlisted in this manner. A secret air service has been organized to speed up transportation between Tripoli and Melilla, and between Melilla and Cadiz. This service operates daily."

GREETINGS TO PEOPLE'S ARMY

The Minister of National Defense sends a message to the Republican Army:

"In the dawning of the year 1938, I salute with the greatest warmth the Armies of land, sea and air, who are so heroically serving the people, of whom they are the innermost part. I express my profound desire for the triumph of our cause, the justice of which proclaims itself to the entire world, and I cherish the tenderest remembrance of our comrades who have succumbed in the combat. Soldiers, aviators and sailors: Salud and Victory!"

CULTURE AT THE MILL

Where the Brigade last rested, Headquarters were established in the private rooms of a riverside grainmill. The mill was under the control of the U. G. T. The men who worked there spoke of their old employer with a casual tolerance. He chose to go, it was his own affair. They might find him a job if he cared to come back.

The machine rooms were spotlessly clean. Machinery was of the latest type, and wherever possible was enclosed in polished wood. The power station generated enough current from the flow of the river to supply several surrounding villages with light. You could walk into any factory in an industrially developed city in Britain or America and see nothing that worked more smoothly or with less dust and noise.

The man who formerly owned all this was making enough money out of it to cover extensive and elaborate improvements to his private quarters. He left before they were completed. Headquarters staff ate their meals in his big living-room. He had let himself go on this room; it was lavishly baronial, but its baronialism was childish and not like the bored, cynical taste of the seeded aristocracy.

When a rich man does this sort of thing in Britain or the States, he generally makes a round of the antique-dealer's show-rooms and fills his rooms with products of the past. He may understand what he is doing, or he may not. Sometimes he orders a "period room", and commissions a decorator to fix it up.

In Spain not even the amateur baronialist needs to fall back upon past ages. Owing to the late industrial development of the country many feudal traditions long since dead in Britain overlap here into the present day, among



them the traditions of craftsmanship. In the rural districts of Spain, and even in the cities, craftsmen are still working as their predecessors worked several centuries back. When the baro-



THE FIFTEENTH BRIGADE boys getting ready to move. Sketch drawn by Comrade Henryk.

nialist calls in his craftsmen, he is as likely to get good work as bad. It is difficult to give the ex-mill-owner credit for knowing the difference between them, because the work he accepted is of uneven merit and the whole effect intolerably exaggerated.

Every visible wooden surface in this room has been heavily carved. Some of the carving is in itself very fine. Fantastic animals and foliage cover the beams of the ceiling, picked out here and there with colour. The garish vigour of these inventions recalls Gothic carvings four or five centuries old. Not only has the tradition remained, but the life is still in it.

Up in the village the peasants furnish their cottages with better taste than the rich man, though they are probably unaware of it. They plan more simply, but the same traditions are at their disposal. Here and in all the villages of Spain, pottery and woodwork in daily use is of the richest beauty. In England, such stuff exists in the homes not of the peasantry, but of a few people who have caught the enthu-

siasm of William Morris, and not all of them share his understanding of social developments and their effect upon culture.

When the Spanish Civil War has been won and the People's Front Government continues under peace-time conditions its present energetic policy of cultural development, it will have these living traditions to call upon. Under the right control the cultural legacy of feudalism can be saved from the slaughter which has nearly or entirely extinguished it in the industrially advanced countries.

Rising capitalism looks after the material conveniences of life, invents machinery and, up to a point, encourages science, but it does little for culture. In so far as the human need for ornament can be put to profit, to that extent capitalism will be interested in it. In the effort to extend its profits, it is concerned, as usual, with speed and quantity. Art is put on a mass-production basis. The craftsman's enthusiasm disappears. Ornament is created without interest or love. Deterioration is inevitable.

There has been more bad art put into the world since the beginning of the Industrial Age than in any previous period of social development. The high standard of feudal art, however, was unstable because it was largely unconscious. It was not necessary then to emphasise the differences between good art and bad, since there was no great danger of the bad crowding out the good. Nobody could have imagined then how far the standard was going to descend.

Now, however, it will be impossible not to be aware of the differences, for industrialism has established a wide margin of comparison, and the object lesson will remain in front of us as long as we need it. The task will be to make the craftsman more conscious of what he is doing, and so to put him in a position where he can not only continue his tradition but develop it, and relate it to the modern life around him. We shall see changes for the better.

A nation fully conscious of the value of culture is well armed against reaction. The people have in their hands the material for the intellectual and emotional development that is the real stuff of civilisation. While reaction is still strong and has arms of its own, the world has to fight for the elementary right to become civilised, with weapons that are forced upon it. Even so, and even under the restrictions of war, the growth of culture in Republican Spain continues. The efforts of the Government are justified by their effect on the spirit of the fighting forces. Some of us who come from countries industrially more advanced than Spain envy the Spanish people their future. With such a fine and wide-spread heritage of culture, they will prove to have a firmer foundation than ourselves when the peace-time process of civilisation begins in its full intensity.

The Brigade's mill offered a picture in miniature of Spain's transition. Old culture stood side by side with modern machinery. Signs of bad influences were there but their source was gone. The Spanish people were at work, controlling their own industry; and housed in the same building were Internationals of the army that is defending all that is best in Spain, for the sake of all that is best in the world. M. T.

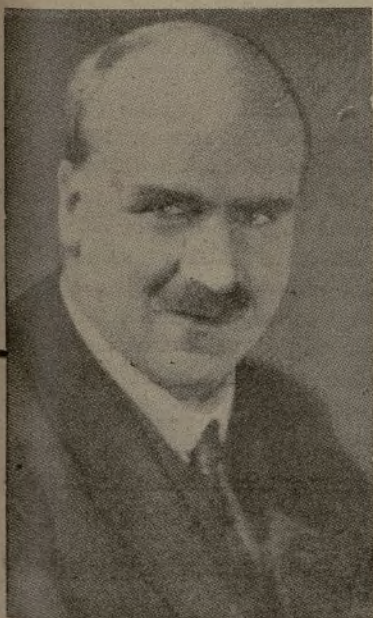
PROF. HALDANE BACK IN SPAIN. WILL MAKE A SPECIAL STUDY OF BOMB-PROOF SHELTERS

J. B. S. Haldane, Science Professor at University College, London, and one of the world's outstanding authorities on gas defense, has returned to Spain. He has been here before, advising the Republican Government on precautions against gas attacks both at the front and in the rear. This time, he says, his mission is to learn from Spain the methods of protecting crowded cities aga-

how a people unites to defend its rights. We can learn how an army is organized under working-class leaders. We can learn that measures of defense for women and children which the British Government says are hopelessly expensive are quite practicable in a land where lives count for more than money."

With the utmost sharpness Professor Haldane denounced the attitude and policy of the British Government toward Loyalist Spain. He spoke clearly and bitterly: "The British Government has deliberately and repeatedly broken international law in favor of fascism. And our ruling class is delighted if the fascists can also kill a few British boys who are willing to risk their lives for democracy. Yes, after all," he observed, "they might be a nuisance to their betters when they came home."

To Professor Haldane the victory of the all-Spanish troops at Teruel is especially significant for having been achieved without any assistance from the International Brigades, but he expresses keen satisfaction with their constant readiness for action. After spending several days with the Anglo-American Brigade, Professor Haldane, who was a captain in the famous Black Watch Regiment during the World War, said of his countrymen in Spain, "The British Battalion is incomparably more efficient than a year ago. It has good rifles and machine guns, and good discipline, though not yet perfect. On the other hand, its very high morale and its experience of war make it more than the equal of any British regular army battalion."



PROFESSOR HALDANE

inst air raids. The elaborate measures being taken by the British Government for such contingencies have been severely criticized on the grounds that maximum attention is devoted to wealthy residential areas.

Professor Haldane is going to examine the bomb-proof concrete shelters in Madrid, Valencia, Barcelona and elsewhere which have been built for all the people exposed to danger from the air. "If I find that this is true," he said emphatically, "I am going to raise hell when I come back. What Spain can do in war time, London, Manchester, Glasgow and our other big cities can do in peace time."

LOT TO LEARN

Continuing the same theme, Professor Haldane declared his conviction that the people of Spain are doing the greatest work of the world today by beating back the fascist onslaught. "We have a lot to learn from Spain," he said. "We can learn

ELEGY FOR OUR DEAD

There is a place where, wisdom won, right recorded,
men move beautifully, striding across fields
whose wheat, wind-marcelled, wanders unguarded
in unprotected places; where earth, revived, folds
all growing things closely to itself: the groves
of bursting olives, the vineyards ripe and heavy with
glowing grapes, the oranges like million suns; and graves
where lie, nurturing all these fields, my friends in death.

With them, deep in coolness, are memories of France and
the exact fields of Belgium: midnight marches in snows --
the single-file caravan high in the Pyrenees: the land
of Spain unfolded before them, dazzling the young Balboas.
This earth is enriched with Atlantic salt, spraying
the live, squinting eyelids, even now, of companions --
with towns of America, towers and mills, sun playing
always, in stone streets, wide fields -- all men's dominions.

Honor in this lies: that theirs is no special
strange plot of alien earth. Men of all lands here
lie side by side, at peace now after the crucial
torture of combat, bullet and bayonet gone, fear
conquered forever. Yes, knowing it well, they were willing
despite it to clothe their vision with flesh. And their rewards,
not sought for self, live in new faces, smiling,
remembering what they did here. Deeds were their final words.

E. R.

Madrid, September 1937.

A CHINESE SOLDIER

My Chinese friend and I were sitting and smiling at each other in the culture room of the hospital when the radio began broadcasting in English. I listened for a moment and then turned to him. "Nanking", I said, "has fallen".

He nodded courteously, as always, but his pleasant face did not change expression. He continued to smile, his nearly mahogany skin creasing around his narrow little friendly eyes.

I felt almost hurt at his indifference. Could he remain unconcerned at the fall of his country's capital to the murderous Japanese invaders? "Is it nothing?" I asked. We speak to each other in Spanish which neither of us know very well. Perhaps that was the reason I grasped his answer slowly.

He said, "The floods cover many fields, but the farmers continue to plant seeds and tend the trees".

After a while he rose and limped away. He got a bullet in the leg at Cuesta de la Reina some weeks ago with the French 14th

Brigade, and just recently began to walk. He has to use a cane. As his stocky figure began ascending the stairs to the room in which he sleeps, a little Spanish nurse flew to help him. His smile was the same as ever, but he refused. For perhaps a full minute it was a duel between two kinds of graciousness. Finally, reluctantly, she permitted him to go.

He started up the stairs, the cane in his right hand, the banister in his left. He went very slowly. But he never faltered. The friendly little altercation with the nurse had aroused the attention of all in the room. Everybody had raised his head from book or domino game. There were Germans, Poles, Americans, Frenchmen, Roumanians, Swedes and Spaniards. They did not take their eyes from him.

And thus, with all the world watching to see if he could do it, a wounded Chinese comrade slowly climbed the stairs to the very top.

M. M.

Stamp as Tribute to U. S. A.

A Government decree last week authorized a special series of postal stamps commemorating the cordial relations that exist between the peoples of Spain and the United States.

From the Madrid F. U. E. to All Students In the International Brigades

The University and Student Federation (F. U. E.) of Madrid is anxious to achieve closer comradeship with the students fighting in the International Brigades, and appeals to them to get in touch as soon as possible with the headquarters of the Madrid F. U. E., Calle de San Bernardino, 14.

The Madrid students are proud to regard their international comrades as honorary members of the U. F. E. H. They are deeply moved by the sacrifice and heroism of these comrades in the war in Spain, and they want to express their gratitude in some way. They want to establish close and friendly relations with them and show them that they are living in a brother country which regards them as its finest sons.

For this reason the Madrid F. U. E. wishes to get in touch with these comrades so as to offer them our assistance and do everything in our power to help them.

At the Madrid Students' Club, the students of the International Brigades who are on leave in our capital will shortly have the opportunity to devote their leisure moments to educational and cultural work which will bring the Spanish and international students closer and closer together.

We wish to establish relationships of a permanent character not only with the foreign comrades who are fighting in Spain but also with the students and the student organizations of all countries, so as to build up, day by day, the mass student movement of unity against fascism and in defence of peace, liberty and culture.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE F. U. E.
OF MADRID

December 23, 1937.

Italians Still Meet With Armed Hostility From Ethiopians

Mussolini seeks new victims for his aggressions, but he cannot seem to make a real job of the conquests he so triumphantly proclaims to Italy. Ethiopia, for example, is far from being as fully subjugated as the Italian war machine, rolling over unarmed native troops, expected it would be by now. Reports filter through the rigorous censorship and all bring the same news. Italian difficulties in Ethiopia are steadily increasing.

The London "Times" is the reliable source indicating Mussolini's latest worries in the conquered territory. Essential supplies are quite scarce, and gasoline and other imported raw materials are subjected to the strictest rationing. Viceroy Graziani was forced to issue a decree to that effect. Cars and trucks may be used only in cases of absolute necessity.

MERCHANTS UNEASY

Other symptoms of alarm to fascist headquarters are the unwillingness of home firms to send further exports to dealers in Ethiopia until existing debts are paid, and the discontent among

Italian businessmen generally over the lack of opportunity and actual loss of money already suffered in Ethiopian trade. Rules and regulations are not solving the problem.

They surely cannot alleviate the mounting unrest among the Italian soldiers on duty in Ethiopia. The correspondent says, "Deserters frequently surrender at the French Somaliland frontiers. About a fortnight ago a group of ten soldiers gave themselves up to the French authorities, giving as explanation the terrible hardships they had to suffer and harsh treatment by their superiors."

Meanwhile guerilla warfare goes on unceasingly. Night attacks on truck convoys are common and Italians are found dead every day. A series of mass executions of natives has not had the result of breaking their spirit. Although Addis Ababa and the larger cities are considered safe, Italian officials and merchants will not go elsewhere without heavily armed guards.

HE LEARNED HIS LESSON

Orders against looting are very strict. Military gear thrown away by the evacuating fascists and trifles left about the streets are legitimate capture. The dangers of taking such stuff are not disciplinary, but can be equally sharp.

A comrade from New Zealand had an experience in Villanueva de la Cañada which will discourage him for a long time from appropriating things that once belonged to fascists, when next he finds himself in a captured village.

In Villanueva he picked up a good fascist coat. Though he tore off the falangist badge, it still looked like what it was. He found a mauser gun, for which he discarded his own. He put a few fascist papers in his pocket as keepsakes, also a rubber stamp.

Further on, being separated from his unit, he encountered some Spanish comrades from another Brigade. At such times, everybody is on the alert.

"What's this gun?" said one.

A fascist would probably have given the answer he gave. They



LOYAL SPANISH WOMEN in a war factory making shells.

looked at his coat. Its origin was obvious. They searched his pockets and found the papers and the stamp.

A crowd collected.

"Fascist spy!" shouted somebody.

"Stand aside," cried a man with a revolver. "I'll put him under arrest."

The New Zealander heard the

click of a gun being cocked. To his dying day he will never forget that sound.

Had not a Portuguese comrade rushed up and identified him, his dying day would have overtaken him then and there.

In the future, he will be more careful how he snaps up the unconsidered trifles that fascists have left behind.

U. S. MEDICAL BUREAU TO AID CHINA

The American Medical Bureau to Aid Spanish Democracy will also aid China. Dr. Walter B. Cannon, noted physiologist of Harvard University and national chairman of the Medical Bureau, has offered the services of more than a hundred leading members of the medical profession to organizations arranging help for the Chinese people. Liberty-loving Americans, Dr. Cannon said, still believe in democracy and abhor fascism wherever it appears.

Dr. Cannon's statement said, "In view of the fact that our limited and overworked forces are laboring day and night to render adequate medical aid to Spain, we offer as a concrete expression of our sympathy, to place at the disposal of all individuals and groups who wish to render medical aid to China, the technical facilities we have developed in our past year's experience in helping Loyalist Spain."

NEWS IN BRIEF

HAMILTON, ONTARIO.—Major Ludwig Renn, commander of the 11th Brigade, now on leave of absence for propaganda purposes, addressed a large audience here, and showed that most newspapers falsify reports on the true situation in Spain. The People's Army, he asserted, is prepared for anything and may even take the offensive before the enemy start theirs. This speech was made two weeks before Teruel forced all the newspapers of the world to wake up to the truth of the internationally famous anti-fascist author's statements.

BARCELONA.—At a meeting of Socialist Deputies in the Spanish Cortes it was agreed to propose to the Second International that an international assembly of Socialist parliamentarians be held in a city in Spain. The meeting was attended by Indalecio Prieto, Largo Caballero, Alvarez del Vayo and Ramón Lamóneda, of the Committee for the Unification of the Socialist and Communist Parties.



— A delegation of Madrid journalists attending the Exposition of Madrid, showing how the city was attacked and is being defended, received a gift for General Miaja, consisting of a Mauser-type rifle, light machine-gun and a Schneider-type rifle. All of these weapons were manufactured in Catalonia.

— The National Plenum of the Syndicalist Party has unanimously elected Marin Civera as chairman of its national executive Committee. He succeeds Angel Pestaña, leader of the Syndicalist Party for several years, who died recently of long-standing illness. The plenum decided to erect a mausoleum in his memory.

NEW YORK CITY.—Taxi-drivers throughout the city are on strike to force the companies to comply with union contracts drawn up last June. The number of men involved is 4,300 and is increasing steadily as the strike progresses.

NEW YORK.—Mayor La Guardia is definitely a member of the American Labor Party according to the election law of New York State, since he enrolled under its emblem during registration week last October. His wife did likewise.

The six councilmen elected by the American Labor Party decided, at their first caucus, to concentrate on a fight against high food prices and rents, and will demand a yardstick power plant, municipal ownership of transit and a city-owned milk distributing system. The Labor Party delegation consists of B. Charney Vladeck, Manhattan, who was named chairman, Louis Hollander and Andrew R. Armstrong, Brooklyn, Michael J. Quill and Salvatore Ninfo, the Bronx, and Charles Belous, Queens.

Peter M. Cacchione, Communist candidate who lost out by only 245 votes in Brooklyn, is driving powerfully for a recount which may still elect him by revealing strongly suspected vote-manipulations on the part of Tammany Hall.

— Without changing its program, the American League Against War and Fascism has enlarged its popular appeal by altering its name to the American League For Peace and Democracy.

MOSCOW.—A trade treaty has been signed between the Soviet Union and Lithuania, establishing mutual import and export quotas for 1938.

— Final returns on the elections in the U. S. S. R. have put 1,114 members into the Supreme Soviet. Of these, many are women. Total votes cast were 90,319,346, showing that 96.5 % of citizens eligible to vote actually used the ballot. It was the largest election the world ever saw.

YPRES, BELGIUM.—Setting a new world's record for its class, a Belgian biplane sped 2000 kilometers in 8 hours and 8 seconds. The average velocity was just a shade less than 250 kilometers an hour.

PARIS.—Minister of Foreign Affairs Delbos rendered a report to the French Senate on his conversations in London and the re-



WASHING-UP during off-moments behind the lines.

sults of his recent trip through Central Europe. The report has not yet been made public.

LONDON.—Another British delegation will visit Loyalist Spain. They will come after the New Year holidays. The group will consist of about twenty members, representing various political opinions, including laborites, liberals, members of the House of Lords and perhaps conservatives as well.

— The "Times" publishes the statement forced from Foreign Secretary Anthony Eden as a reply to a parliamentary inquiry concerning the damage inflicted on British vessels in Spanish waters. According to these figures, twenty-five ships have been attacked in the period from the beginning of the war until August 1937. Eight of them were Royal Navy, while the others belonged to merchant marine. Damage was caused, the statement admits, by bombs, cannon-fire, torpedoes from submarines, aerial machine-gunning, and floating mines, but "in some cases it has not been possible to determine with certainty who was responsible for the incidents."

— The "Daily Herald" announces that the British Army will shortly begin using a new type of rifle. It will be much heavier than the present one and will have double the caliber. It will use bullets that are not only tank-piercing but explosive as well. Prep-

arations are also being made for a new and more effective model of anti-tank gun.

VATICAN CITY.—Almost the whole of the Pope's Christmas message, usually devoted to an annual survey of the world scene, is concerned with Nazi Germany's policy on religion. "We have to pronounce solemnly and concretely", the message stated, "that in Germany there exists a true system of religious persecution, despite all affirmations to the contrary". Making the demand that "Germany become again the Germany that we used to love", the message says further "So grave is the religious persecution that we find it carried out with measures including brutality, violence, falsity, fraud and lies".

MEXICO CITY.—The Confederation of Mexican Workers is summoning a continental congress of democratic forces to initiate common international action against the spread of fascism on the American continents. Among the political organizations who will attend are the Uruguay Socialist Party, the Argentine Socialist Party, the Argentine Radical Party, the Argentine Socialist Labor Party, all the parties of the Popular Front of Chile, all the parties supporting the present government of Colombia, the A. P. R. A. Party of Peru, and the Democratic and Socialist Parties of Cuba and Central America.

Australian C. P. Greets Volunteers, Nurses in Spain

"The Australian labor movement and all friends and supporters of democracy and peace are filled with pride and joy at the heroic endeavors of the sons and daughters of the Australian and New Zealand toiling people now assisting the valorous Spanish people defend its liberty against the fascist hordes of Hitler, Mussolini and Franco."

With these words the Communist Party of Australia sends a letter of greetings to the Australian nurses and fighters with the International Brigades. Grieving for Jack Barry and E. Dickenson, who were killed in action, the letter says, "Workers will always cherish their names and those with them, the living symbols of international fraternity."

The letter points out that thousands of Australian people are responding to the appeals of Comrade Lowson, recently returned from service in Spain, and that the organization of material aid to the anti-fascist struggle is steadily reaching higher levels. The letter concludes:

"All this guarantees that the final victory will rest with the cause served so nobly by the sons and daughters of Australian democracy, the truest representatives of the great tradition of Australian freedom, won in the struggle against convictism, at the Eureka Stockade, in the anti-conscription victories, in the struggle of the labor movement. The victory will be ours, the victory of peace, of democracy, of internationalism, over the enemies of humanity, civilization and culture—Hitler, Mussolini and Franco."

Poumists Kicked Out of Valencia Council

The two P. O. U. M. members of the Valencia City Council have been deposed by order of the Civil Governor of Valencia. This action follows the withdrawal of several other party groups from the Council as a protest against the presence of the P. O. U. M.

The P. O. U. M. is accused by the Civil Governor of attacking the Government as well as the other political and trade-union organisations and of carrying out a policy of disruption.



Italian "Volunteers" Get Poor Treatment

The treatment received by Mussolini's "volunteers" when they return disabled is the subject of a report from reliable sources. Hundreds of Italians, wounded in Spain, have been landing for the past few weeks at Naples, Gaeta and Spezia. Their families are not notified, and the soldiers are placed in special hospitals from which all visitors are excluded. They are isolated to prevent any news of their activities or present condition becoming known to the public.

When discharged from the hospital these soldiers make contact with their families for the first time and then discover that the fascist authorities have not kept the promise to support their dependents, a promise given to all these "volunteers".

One of these Italian soldiers, badly wounded in the Asturias battles, found his family close to starvation. He applied to the government for pay which he had

not received in Spain, and also demanded the bonus guaranteed at the time he enlisted. After many delays his claim was at last refused on the ground that no appropriation had yet been made for such purposes.

Harry Pollitt Pays Christmas Visit

Welcome visitor to Spain this Christmastide was Harry Pollitt, British working-class leader. Harry's visits—this is his third in 1937—are welcome not only because of his cheery personality and the personal interest he takes in every comrade but also because it is now an established custom that when Harry comes he literally brings good cheer. This time it took the shape of a Christmas present and a personal greeting to every man. Not content with visiting the XV Brigade, Harry toured every hospital and even found time to pay the Anglo-American delegation at Madrid a visit. His coming here, as everywhere else, was the occasion of an impromptu and enjoyable celebration.

London Labor Rallies To Aid Spain. Attlee Speaks

Ten thousand people packed the London Albert Hall and an overflow had to be brought to Hammersmith Town Hall when Major Attlee and Labour Party colleagues held a meeting in support of the democratic Government of Spain on Dec. 19. The meeting was a warning to the British Government, declared Chairman George Dallas. Dealing with the reactionary proposal to grant belligerent rights to Franco, Sir Stafford Cripps, M. P., emphasised "they shall not get away with it". Major Attlee, detailing his experiences in Spain, pointed out that those who argued religion is at stake are "using the religious issue for their own material interests."

An appeal for 1,000 pounds for Spain realised subscriptions totalling 3,300 pounds. Mr. Lloyd George subscribed 10 pounds.

Irish Labor Opposes De Valera Constitution

IRELAND.—Mr. de Valera's new Constitution which came into force recently replaces but does not materially alter Mr. Cosgrave's Constitution of 1923. Highlights of the new Constitution are: substitution of the name Eire (Ireland) for the name Irish Free State; a claim (which will not be enforced) of jurisdiction over the partitioned North-East; provision for the Uachtarán (President) of Eire. In effect, the Constitution declares—but will not enforce—a free united Ireland. It is opposed by Republican and Labour Parties.

In Parliament last week, Labour leaders bitterly assailed Mr. de Valera's virtual recognition of the fascist conquest of Ethiopia. Occasion was the announcement that the Irish Free State was accrediting a Minister to "the King of Italy and Emperor of Abyssinia." Mr. de Valera, backed by his political opponents of the Cosgrave party, pleaded that he was not recognising the annexation of Ethiopia, but merely "recognising the name taken by the Italian sovereign."