



The VOLUNTEER FOR LIBERTY

Organ of the international brigades



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THE POLICY OF BRITISH IMPERIALISM

During the whole course of the Civil War and invasion of Spain no question has been put more frequently than the following: What is the basis of the British Government's policy towards Spain? Again and again the attention has been drawn to the apparently glaring paradox that an imperialist power whose most vital interest demands the keeping of control over the Mediterranean should permit Italy and Germany to threaten of take that control from it. And with Italy installed in the Balearic Islands and Germany with powerful interests in Spain and the North Coast of Africa opposite Gibraltar (Ceuta) the threat would become an accomplished fact. Or again, since it is evident that the fascist dictators are attempting to surround France with a ring of anti-

democratic powers (a fascist Spain, Germany and Italy), why does not the British Government safe-guard its old and possibly future ally? To answer this question we must begin by asking two more. What is the British policy? and what is the National Government doing at home?

TWO TYPES OF POLICY

The first is a policy of so-called Non-Intervention which in effect has been connivance at Italo-German intervention.

The second has been Mediation. The half-hearted and soon abandoned attempt to dissolve the whole struggle between foreign fascism and democracy in Spain. In this type of policy can be included the attempt to withdraw "non-Spanish combatants".

Non-Intervention was undoubtedly a British invention, forced upon France, whose Popular Front Government in July 1936 asked London whether it would support France in the event of war breaking out as a result of the Blum Government aiding Spain. The answer was that the French Government should expect no aid from the British Government.

It must be noticed that the British Government has persistently striven to include the violating powers, Italy and Germany, within the machinery of Non-Intervention, knowing perfectly well that they would break their word. Today, after the bombardment of Almeria, the British Government is still negotiation with Hitler and Mussolini to bring them back into the Control Committee which they have left in an effort

to provoke war. In other words, the British Government is prepared to tolerate any criminal hypocrisy provided no public declaration of war is made.

At a certain stage mediation between Franco and the Spanish Government is proposed. This fantastic idea must have some significance: what is it? Is it the desire to put off a decisive event and by causing a state of stagnation and indecision to gain time or to shelve the whole issue? Does it represent a desire to avoid a world out-break by persuading Hitler and Mussolini to withdraw? If so, then it is pouring a spoonful of oil on a raging ocean. Nevertheless, though its policy is actually ADVANCING the out-break of war, it appears that the British Government is PLAYING FOR TIME.

(Continued on page 6)



Once a Spanish city, PALMA DE MALLORCA is now Italian. Fascists have used the Cathedral as an ammunition dump. In this harbor Italian ships are now illegally moored.

Pension law for defenders of democracy enforced by New Government

The "GACETA DE LA REPUBLICA" for May 21, 1937, No. 141 publishes the following decree:

"Because the emergency becomes more pressing daily and because the legal decrees concerning the rights of those who are fighting for the People and for the Republic's cause have not been enforced and because the rules of procedure for obtaining pensions have not been made public, the following has been decreed:

Following an agreement arrived at in the Council of Ministers, and after a motion by the President, the following has been decreed:

Article 1.—All personnel within the cadres of the armed unities of the Defense of the Republic against military rebellion, as well as the civilian functionaries which, within the same conditions have or will be rendered invalid after July 17th, 1936, within the terms and circumstances specified by articles 62, 63, and 64 of the Statute of Pensions in force, shall have the right to receive a pension, the amounts specified by the mentioned articles and by Art. 60 and 61 of the same Statute in relation to the one which stipulates the salary of 10 pesetas pay for soldiers and corporals, volunteers and militias not included in the regular army payroll.

Article 2.—The corps, units or dependents within which they shall have rendered their services, those afflicted by invalidity or disabled, shall be careful to continue to keep on their respective payrolls the names of the above mentioned cases until those interested shall have presented the legal papers of procedure here in described:

a) Request to the Director of the Public Debt and of Pensions to solicit the pension.

b) A certificate made by the chief of the Corps or Unit in which the interested person was serving or in the supplementary case mentioned in article 2 of the War Ministry Circular of October 4, 1936. In this certificate there shall be described the war event in which the wound was received and also the salary re-

ceived by the presumptive invalid.

c) A medical certificate accrediting the invalid with the injuries claimed.

Article 4.—The presentation of the above described file shall be sufficient for the Finance Treasury to include him in the payrolls of the Pension Funds with the same pay they received when in active service, and starting with the date of exclusion from the original army unity.

Article 5.—The Direction of the Pension Fund shall take cognizance of the files as described in article 4 and shall act according to the rule established by the Pensions Laws of September, 15, 1932.

Article 6.—The Decree of August 11, and the supplementary orders shall be considered supplementary of this law with the exception of the food pension noted in article 4 of the order previously mentioned.

Article 7.—The President of the Minister's Council and the Ministers of National Defense, Interior, Finances and Economy shall establish the rules for its enactment.

Valencia on May 19, 1937.—*Máximo Azaña*, President of the Republic.—*Juan Negrín*, President of the Council of Ministers."

GENERAL MOLA



He's prettier now that he's got wings.

ALL INTERNATIONAL RIGHTS MUST BE RETURNED TO SPAIN

A group of European working class leaders have written a manifesto asking the end of fascist aggression.

A group of personalities well known in the International Labor Movement now in Spain, and among whom are: Julius Deutsch, Austrian; Luigi Gallo, and Pietro Nenni, Italians; Jean Delavigne, Belge; Francois Billous, French and Franz Dahlem and Einarich Kuttner, Germans, have issued a manifesto which we publish here and which was the result of the dangerous situation provoked by the bombardment of Almeria.

"The bombardment of the open city of Almeria by the German warships, has proved that International Control is only a fraud on the part of the Fascist Governments. The International situation has reached a dangerous point of tension. The fact that the fascist states have decided to no longer participate in the Control proves that, after veiled intervention they are getting ready to carry out open war actions on Republican Spain, provoking thereby a serious war danger for all Europe.

In face of this, we feel obliged to declare that we are in every way on the side of the Spanish workers, which in their last appeals have demonstrated that they will remain united in the future, as they have in the past, in their fight against the fascist rebels, for the defense of liberty and for the independence of Spain.

These parties and organisations have asked the international workers movement to strengthen their solidarity towards Republican Spain with vigilant actions. These actions, if properly carried out can be as profitable on the political arena as they have been on the humanitarian field.

We hope that workers organizations and all other anti-fascist forces of the world will give evidence of the same cohesion and of the same indestructible unity in the fight against fascism, and we remind the workers that their goals have never been reached except thru their own efforts.

The realization of this unity can

end the vacillations and the equivocal moves of the governments which are in contact with the Popular Front Government of Spain. We ask them to concentrate all their forces towards obtaining the following:

1. The withdrawal of German and Italian warships from Spanish waters.

2. The end of all blockade against Republican Spain.

3. To end the foreign intervention in Spain and to strongly oppose fascist governments from increasing their intervention.

4. To return to Spain all its International Rights."



A peaceful little street in Almeria, now a shambles.

U. S. OPINION STILL GROWING

The Spanish Ambassador in Washington, Señor De Los Ríos, states that in North America, especially in the United States, public opinion in support of the Spanish Republic is growing stronger day by day.

SPANISH SHIP RELEASED

The Washington Court of Appeals has judged that the Spanish Merchant Ship "Novemar" is the property of the legitimate Spanish Government and has ordered the Brooklyn authorities to immediately set it free.

THE GOVERNMENT TAKES ACTION IN CATALONIA

As one of the measures taken to prevent a repetition of the recent disgraceful events in Catalonia, the Government on June 4th dissolved the Patrullas de Control (The Control Patrols). Some explanation of this may be useful.

After the July days street vigilance and the control of communications were necessarily in the hands of the Popular Front organisations. While effective, there was naturally little organization of the work, with the result that far too much man and rifle power was used. Barcelona, long after all danger had passed, appeared full



LUIS COMPANYS, President of the Generalitat of Catalonia, a staunch friend on the Popular Front.

of an armed population. Rifles nevertheless were lacking at the front! Finally, in order to regularize this work, in October the Generalitat created the Patrullas in which were representatives of all parties. On the whole this was a distinct improvement.

Unfortunately, many elements were admitted who bore no loyalty to the Popular Front Government; Trotskyites, incontrollable, and other disrupters. The result was that there were grave abuses in certain districts. As a result of these and of the diminished utility of the Patrols masses of people began to demand their suppression. Some of these patrols even played an active part in the fascist and counter-revolutionary rising of May 6.

THE PARTIES REACT AGAINST PATROLS

On May 15, therefore, the Plenum of the United Socialist Party demanded their suppression. Previously, that party's delegates had been withdrawn; the U. G. T. had already done the same. Then the Esquerra (Catalan Left Republican Party) ordered its representatives to withdraw because on the morning of the rising "the patrols received orders frankly hostile to the Government". (Who gave these orders?)

Meanwhile the special judge appointed to enquire into the events of May 6 had been compelled to dissolve individual patrols. For instance, on the 23rd of May the Junquera Patrol on the French border was abolished. In this region some of the Patrols were working in conjunction with terrorist bands, as at Orriol where the same judge arrested 4 men who had taken part in the murder of 17 innocent people, mostly peasants who had objected to such things as forced collectivization. This band had terrorized a whole region, the villages of Orriol, Vilahur, Calabuig and Bascara. At a house called Hostal de Dalt (The Upper Inn) a large store of modern arms was discovered.

At Puigcerda this judge also unearthed a whole arsenal of 21 rifles of unspecified type, 79 Remingtons, 26 Mausers, 20 Muskets, 26 Winchesters, 49 Carbines, 384 Shot-guns, 126 hand grenades, 11 boxes of rifle ammunition, 74 cases of dynamite, 4,000 percussion caps, a case of machine gun belts, two sub-machine guns and a mortar. The types indicate that this material had been stolen from the Aragon Front which the Trotskyites say has been starved of arms by the Valencia Government acting on the orders of Moscow!

THE LAST STRAW

Then, during the Government's search for arms in Barcelona the provocative role of the patrol was put beyond doubt. Assault guards, while searching a house for illegal arms, were shot at by members of a patrol. The National Guard who protested at an illegal house search by a patrol was murdered. Other crimes finally disgusted even their last supporters. With the people hating the incontrollable of the "control", with responsible organizations like the U. G. T., the Esquerra, and the United Socialist Party denouncing them, the Government dissolved the counter-revolutionary units on June 4th.



ANTONIO SESE, General Secretary of the U. G. T. of Catalonia, murdered by pre-fascist elements.

FASCIST CABINET PLOT SPOILED

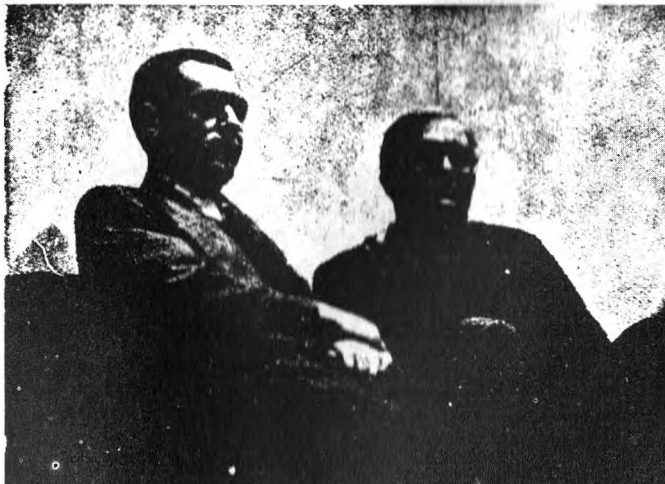
According to news from rebel Spain, June 7, was to be the day that a Government presided by General Mola was to be instituted. This government was to be formed under the oath of General Franco, chief of Nationalist Spain, without waiting for the fall of Bilbao.

The ex-Count De Rodezno, former leader of the Carlist Party, was to have the Portfolio of Administrator of Foreign Affairs.

The accomplishment of this scheme was prevented by the "unfortunate" death of the "beloved" General Mola, and now it appears that in view of indignant pressure by foreign countries toward the latest fascist atrocities the formation of this illegal cabinet will not take place, at least not at this time. The new chief of the fascist at Burgos is General Jordana, a fascist politician, bed-mate of Hitler and Mussolini.

COLLECTS COMMISSION

From reliable sources it is learned that the rich banker, Juan March, arrived at Gibraltar a few days ago after having raised 300,000,000 francs for Franco abroad. Collecting first his commission, he turned the balance over to his stooge, Franco.



VICENTE URIBE and **ALVAREZ DEL VAYO**, two strong guarantees of progress and democracy in the New Government.

THE ANTI-FASCIST FIGHT ON THE WHEAT FIELDS

The Spanish field workers and peasantry are on the eve of the climax of the agricultural year, the reaping, threshing and winnowing of the wheat crops. Upon the successful carrying out of this work, undertaken at the end of June and throughout July, not only the prosperity of the field workers depends but the welfare of the anti-fascist army and the future of Spain.

Before describing the measures taken by the Popular Front Government to assist this work it may be interesting to know how harvesting is done in Spain. Naturally there are many grades of technique in use from the most modern to the most primitive. As a general rule the methods will be quite different from those used in the States or in Great Britain.

To begin with reaping. Large collectives and cooperatives will

possess reaping and binding machinery, mostly imported from abroad, but a very large part of this work will be done by sickle and scythes. The comrades of the transport service may see the scythe and cradle in use; with this tool a deft movement of the wrist leaves the wheat in a neat pile ready to be gathered into sheaves.

THE THRESHING FLOOR SURVIVES

It is in the threshing that the greatest difference is to be seen. To begin with the most primitive tool, the flail. All comrades will know what this is, in principle two sticks of wood with a flexible joint of leather or chain with which the wheat is beaten. This however is not much in use in Spain. Almost as primitive is the "trillo", the oldest from of which is still widely in use, particularly

in the great mountain chains which are the feature of the Spanish landscape. The trillo is a kind of sledge on the underside of which, instead of runners, are rows of sharp flints embedded in the wood. (The artist has had a shot at drawing a trillo and a scythe and cradle.) More modern examples have blades of metal, while trillos of industrial manufacture are fairly common. These are in principle the same but have ranks of sharp edge steel discs or wheels instead of flints or blades. Threshing machinery also exists.

THE MEANING OF A PHRASE

The manner of using the trillo is simple. Wheat is thrown on to the era or threshing floor and the trillo is drawn round and round by an ox, horse or a mule (or yokes of them) thus cutting up the whole stalk and head into a

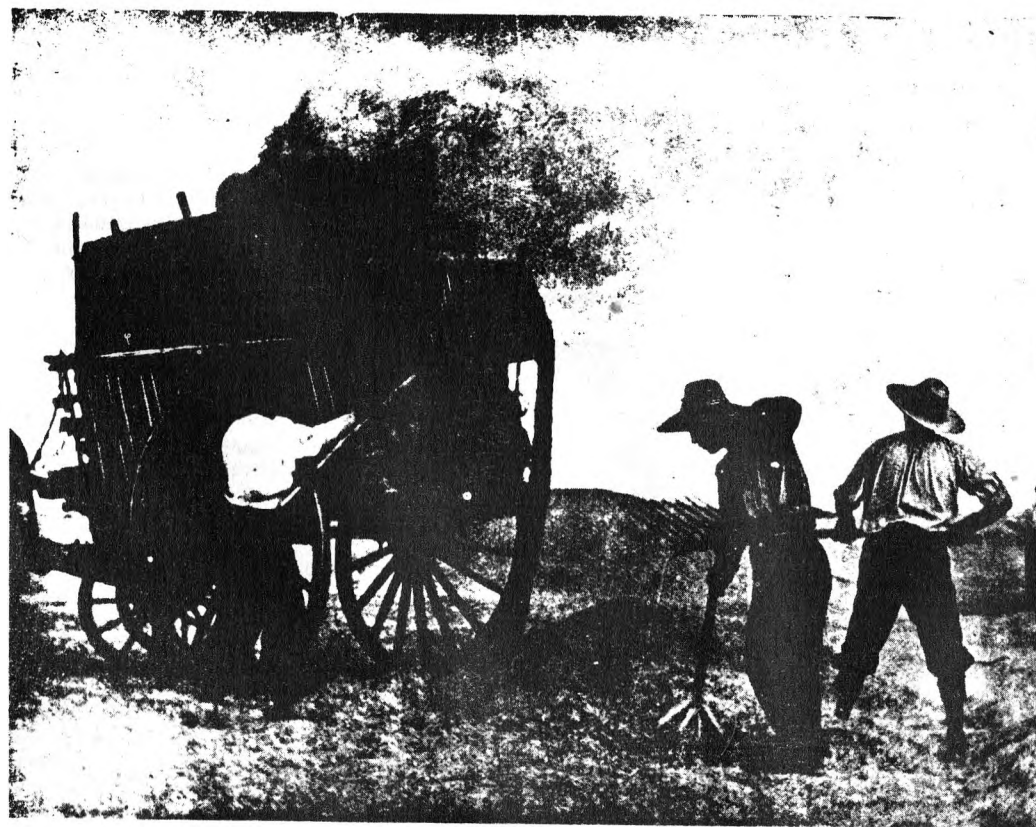


A "trillo" and cradle scythe.

mixture of chaff and grain. The biblical phrase "Thou shalt not muzzle the ox that treadeth the corn" refers to just this operation. It is possible that comrades will already have noticed the "eras" or threshing floors. They look like small dancing floors and in fact during village feasts are often used for this purpose. Usually circular, they may have a floor of beaten earth or of brick paving or fine cobbles and very often are surrounded by a low wall, to prevent the wind blowing directly onto the floor and about the right height for taking a breather.

During the operation of threshing the long stalks are raked out by women or children and from time to time the short chaff and grain are swept aside. This mixture is then flung into the air for the wind to separate, this operation being usually done by women. Motor-driven winnowing plant was gradually coming in, but was usually too expensive for the peasantry.

It is to this back-ground then, that the effort of the government and the Popular Front Parties must be related.



Summer work on wheat fields, no longer under the lash of the landlords and for their profit.

BEHIND THE LINES

THE COMMUNIST PARTY MAKES A CALL

On the 8th of June the National Agrarian Commission of the Communist Party issued a stirring appeal to the Popular Front masses, from which we take the following: "Comrades, we are on the eve of the gathering of the wheat harvest. In conjunction with this there goes a whole series of concrete measures to assure the people bread. The preparation of the machinery, cleaning of the grain stores, the creating of shock brigades to work all necessary hours in competition, the opening of trenches or plowed areas to prevent spreading of fires on the larger sown expanses, and this in order to foil the incendiary activities of the enemy aviation; the helping of towns by other towns, etc., in order that not a single grain remain ungathered



Typical Castilian peasant.

to elaborate plans to guarantee the gathering in of the wheat crop. In all important towns Assistance Brigades must be formed to go into the countryside..."

In Madrid these shock brigades have already begun to be organized. Groups of mechanics in particular are being collected to tend the agricultural machinery. To bring all these operations into an orderly plan, to insure the peasants and field workers receiving justice and a fair price, as well as to conserve the grain in the most efficient way, the Minister of Agriculture has issued a decree signed by President Azana and dated June the 7th. Summarized it is as follows:

Article 1. The Minister is authorized to take over wheat crops on a basis of payment. The proportion necessary for seed will be reserved, as also that required for the collective or individual consumption of the owners of the crop.

Article 2. Enacts that the local authorities shall furnish lists of crops and storage places and other necessary information to the agricultural authority of the region.

Article 3. Chiefs of agricultural departments will exercise inspection in order that Article 2 shall be observed.

Article 4. All operations in wheat shall be authorized by permits taken out from the agricul-

tural authorities in purchasing regions and presented for indorsement to authorities in selling regions. Applications from Basque and Catalan areas must be made direct to the Minister of Agriculture. No wheat may be moved without permit.

Article 5. Permits will be granted to municipal supply committees and official organisms. All other bodies requiring special concessions must apply to the Minister.

Article 6. Neither provincial nor municipal councils shall place taxes on wheat. Regulation of wheat commerce is entirely in the hands of the Minister.

Article 7. All other regulation are annulled. The present law shall be presented to Cortes (Parliament or Congress).

The Minister of Agriculture recently declared that it was necessary, in order to encourage production, to guarantee to the growers that they should not be despoiled by "incontrollables", and that a fair price should be given for produce. In this decree we see that he has kept his word. No more chaos in agriculture! No more so called "socialization" against the will of the peasants! In this way the civilian popula-



The editor does this sometimes for swank.

tion and the army will be guaranteed their bread without which the Spanish people cannot defeat the fascist invaders. All success to the Minister of Agriculture!

NOTE

The printer of last week's edition robbed 5,400 of the meals. In the article "The Development of the People's Army", subchapter "The beginnings of a Central Intendencia" we intended to say that the Vilcas unit of the Communist Party supplied 6,000 meals a day not 600. We ask readers to excuse spelling mistakes as the Spanish comrades who set up the "Volunteer" find the English language more troublesome than the readers find the Spanish.

JEAN HARLOWE DIES IN HOLLYWOOD

Jean Harlowe, well known motion picture actress, died in Hollywood a few days ago.

Although she was often compelled to act in insipid or even reactionary roles, she always succeeded in relieving the boredom or vileness of the plot by superb acting. Jean Harlowe was one of that little bunch of actors, who for years worked towards the unionization of the motion picture industry. Before her death she saw the craft organized, and in militant action.

BELGIUM GOVERNMENT GIVES

The Van Zeeland Government of Belgium has just contributed 250,000 francs to the International Committee of the Cruz Roja for the aid of Loyal Spain. In the past week more than 100 mass meetings were held to express the solidarity of the Belgian workers for the Spanish people.

THE POLICY OF BRITISH IMPERIALISM

(Continued from page 6)

WHAT IS IT DOING AT HOME?

The outstanding, mountainous fact is that the British Government is conducting a terrific rearmament. In the course of the next 5 years it proposes to spend at least 10,500 million pounds or 42,000 million dollars! It will spend 88 million pounds in 1937 on the Air Force alone, while 148 warships are at present in construction, 5 of them giant battle-ships and 20 the most modern type of cruiser. British industry is thus being converted in a startling manner a war basis, with a consequent boom in engineering stocks.

AGAINST WHOM IS THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT ARMING?

It is the British Empire which the Government seeks to defend, naturally, and principally what may be called the Great Line to the Far East; that line of exploitation which leads through the Mediterranean Colonies and areas of influence, Palestine, Arabia, Egypt and the Sudan, and onward Past Kenya to the center point of India, thence to East Indies, Borneo, New Guinea, the British interests in Malaya and finally Singapore and Hong-Kong and the huge capital investments in Southern and Central China.

The three danger points are obviously the Far East, the Mediterranean, and the English Channel. The first no doubt has hitherto been the most likely spot for an outbreak of war, the English Channel has certainly been the most vital strategically. It becomes more vital to control it now that the war peril has so dramatically shifted to Europe. The question, therefore, is who might gain control of the Channel and the Mediterranean and how can that be avoided, according to the British Government, until such time as its rearmament is complete?

BRITISH FOREIGN POLICY IN POST WAR PERIOD

A brief analysis of this will help us to answer the question against whom is Britain arming. It would have seemed most reasonable for Great Britain to have

firmly supported a general policy of International Disarmament and collective security (but without a great army and navy, how could India and the Eastern possessions be forced to remain in the Empire?) This the British Government has not done. It has done the contrary. Failing to strengthen the League of Nations and failing

TOWARDS THE U. S. S. R. BORDER.

Yet another paradox presents itself, the fact that the British Government and the British financial oligarchy has aided German rearmament and has pursued a policy toward the Hitler Government which has undoubtedly increased its arrogance. Not only did Hitler find financial help in the city, but the master trust Im-

foreign policy of the reactionary British bourgeoisie. Whatsoever problem emerges in the world it is Communism which is at the bottom of it. If the masses of India demand their liberty, it is Communism. If there is trouble in the Far East, then the Communists are about to drench China in blood. The French Popular Front Government is Communist, the Spanish Government, above all when it defends itself, is yet another mask for the Communist Peril. And above all, seeing and hating the tremendous successes of the Soviet Union, the British Government turns toward Hitler as a dam to the Red Flood.

And yet there can be no doubt that it was primarily the fear of German rearmament which prompted the British Government to its present colossal arms drive. Especially when Hitler and Goering demand the restoration of former German Colonies and begin to entertain speculations such as "if we had only a tiny fraction of the British Empire." But there was another outlet for German Imperialism, mentioned by Hitler at the Nuremberg Congress of the Nazi Party. The Ukraine.

And that provides the solution. "Why not remove the peril of Communism and the danger of German Imperialism by encouraging Hitler to attack the U.S.S.R.?" This was the brilliant idea which the British bourgeoisie conceived. Meanwhile, playing always for time, the British Government piles up a crushing mountain of armament (crushing to those who will have to provide the profits and the interests). The armaments may be necessary. If Germany attacks the U. S. S. R. and is beaten? Or if in the last resort the British Government decides to go to the aid of Hitler against the Moscow terror?... Or if Hitler strikes at a spread-eagled and shaky Empire? In any case 10,500 million pounds invested and yielding profits will provide some comfort. Therefore, for the present play for time. Even if Spain be martyred because of a sightless and blundering policy which actually brings war nearer by strengthening fascism.

IS THERE ALTERNATIVE POLICY?

Perhaps it was not simple confusion that prompted the British Government's Non-Intervention policy. Aware of the canker at the heart of British Capitalism,

LITVINOV



Champion of a regenerated and effective League of Nations. Feared by Hitler and Mussolini.

elsewhere to pursue peace policies. In 1931, for instance, the United States Government twice vainly approached the British Government to get it to issue a joint protest against Japanese aggression in Manchuria. The British Government preferred to shift the Far Eastern war danger northwards, away from Hong-Kong, and

perial Chemical Industry has supplied Germany with the vital war necessity nickel. Why has the British Government taken this line?

THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT'S FEAR OF COMMUNISM

Here lies the key to the confusion and contradiction in the

THE INDUSTRIAL MOVEMENT IN BRITAIN

The advancing movement of the industrial workers in Britain has suffered a severe blow as a result of the settlement in the London Busmen's strike and the proposed Miners' General strike.

In both instances the workers have failed to achieve their full demands, but in the case of the Haworth miners they have gained recognition of the M. F. G. B. and by the fusion with the Spencer Union the miners as a whole are in a stronger position to exercise control over the Spencer officials.

The fight of the Raworth miners was weakened due to the sectional character of the Miners' Federation of Gt. Britain, the Federation being composed of District unions, one of which was the Nottinghamshire Miners Union. The strike has shown the serious need for a single Union with central policy.

The Busmen's strike was hampered at the outset by the refusal of the E. C. of the Transport and General Workers Union, to allow the Tramwaymen to come out alongside the Busmen.

The decision of the E. C. in ordering the men back to work on the vague possibilities of a seven and a half hour day, has created great anger and disappointment among the men.

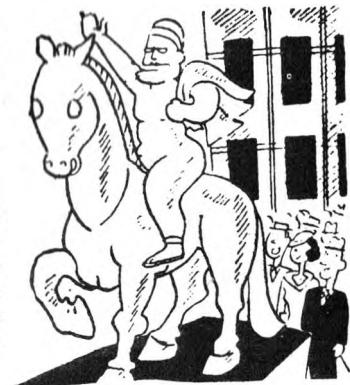
Despite these experiences the wave of unrest is rising. The Rail-

way Companies have rejected the men's demands for increased wages and improved conditions. There is a very strong feeling among the Railmen that the demands should be taken to the National Tribunal and if refused that strong action should be taken.

The Association of Postmasters, the National Union of Clerks, the International Textile Workers and the Co-operative Women's conference have all gone on record for the 40 hour week.

The Silversmiths have won all round wage increases whilst the engineers, dockers, aircraft workers, insurance officers and engineers in the chemical industry are all advancing wage claims.

The movement shows every sign of developing and has a real basis in the cost of living which has risen since 1933 by 2s 4d. in the pound and the terrific speed up in industries, which has been intensified in connection with the national government's rearmament programme.



Mister MUSSOLINI is absolutely shameless.

YUGOSLAV STUDENT PROTEST

Hundreds of Yugoslav students demonstrated recently before a Belgrade hotel occupied by the German Government official scheme, Von Neurath, protesting and shouting "Down with fascism" and "Down with Hitlerism".

The police dispersed the demonstrators and arrested a number of them.



North coast of Mallorca. Italians hope to fortify this and make a new Gibraltar.

confronted with "dissension" in the Empire the British Government began to look longingly at the apparent fascist solution and to think that Democracy was dangerous. Democracy began to look like Communism; especially Spanish democracy. The Spanish Popular Front Government of February 1936, liberal in program, and without a single Socialist or Communist among its ministers was yet another danger. Fearing a European war would break out before it was armed to the teeth, yet fearing the Popular Front democracies as well, the British Government adopted its present confused and disgraceful line towards Spain. A line which brings its own nemesis in the strengthening of German and Italian Imperialisms.

Yet had the Western Democracies taken a firm line and given



Almeria. The footmarks of fascism.

the Spanish Government its rights under the Covenant of the League of Nations there would have been no world war, and collective security would have received a mighty access of strength. Hitler and Mussolini would not have pitted themselves against a resolute world. There was another line, the line of the Soviet Union and Popular Front. The way of democracy and peace.

It is from this stand point that we must view the recent appeal of the Spanish, Socialist and Communist Party and the U. G. T. To their respective Internationals demanding unity of action in defence of Spanish democracy. It is not too late! If the world proletariat, and with it the progressive middle classes, begin a sweeping drive for a change of policy, above all if the Labor Party, and the English Trade Unions begin such a campaign the British Government may yet be forced to abide by the Covenant of the League of Nations and come to the aid of Spain. The British Government might even be driven out of office. What will the Second International and the I. F. T. U. do?

One thing is certain the Spanish people will fight on, and with them the true democrats of the International Brigades until the fascist invader is defeated. On Spanish soil the freedom of the world is being defended.

What do the Second International and the I. F. T. U. mean?

To the demands of Spanish democrats for united action among the three great Internationals De

CONGRESS OF THE BRITISH COMMUNIST PARTY

The Fourteenth Congress of the Communist Party of Gt. Britain, which was held recently, was one of the most important ever held in the history of the British working class movement. Five hundred delegates attended along with many visitors from other working class organisations.

The Congress was remarkable from the outset by its high note of enthusiasm, which was particularly demonstrated when comrade D. F. Springhall, who was wounded in the fighting on the Jarama front, rose to move an emergency resolution on the Spanish struggle.

The Congress adopted a strong note of condemnation of the British National Government, which in the terms of the resolution, was "attempting to reinforce Franco's efforts to carry through a blockade of Spanish ports"... has consistently helped Franco by its support of the policy of non-intervention and who together with Hitler and Mussolini is the main accomplice of Franco".

The Congress stated that the "mediation" proposals of the British Govt. were designed to save Franco from defeat and to deny the legal rights of the Spanish Democratic Government. The Congress stressed the heavy responsibility which lay upon the leadership of the Labour Party and Trade Union Congress for having weakened the fight of democracy against the fascist onslaught, by its support of the Government policy of "non-intervention" and refusal to undertake any campaign in support of the Spanish People.

A glowing tribute was paid by the Congress to the British Battalion which it declared "has saved the honour of the British working class movement".

The Congress emphasised its complete solidarity with the new Peoples Front Govt. in Spain and the policy which it has outlined and sharply condemned the Trotskyist P. O. U. M. for its attempt to provoke armed warfare in the rear "in the interests of Franco". J. R. Campbell sharply criticised the I. L. P. for its support of the P. O. U. M. exposing the I. L. P.'s false analogies between the situa-

tion in Barcelona and that of Russia in 1917 during the Kerensky period.

Campbell pointed out the historical and practical difference in the two situations; Kerensky represented the fundamental forces of Russian capitalism. Neither the Government of Catalonia or the Republic is Kerensky. They represent the Popular masses and the decisive influence is in the hands of the working class organisations.

The fundamental forces of Spanish capitalism are represented by General Franco!



After an aerial bombardment of Valencia.

Harry Pollitt stated that "we are seriously desirous of working with the I. L. P. and every other working class organisation but we cannot tolerate any longer a situation where unity is made the cover for disruption and disintegration".

The Congress demanded freedom of trade for the Spanish Government withdrawal of Italian and German ships and troops, the application of League Sanctions against the Fascists, material aid, refuge for the Spanish children and support for the British Battalion.

Greetings from the Congress were sent to the British and Irish comrades and to the American Battalion.

BRITISH ARMY RESERVISTS AND PALESTINE

The annual conference of the British Legion adopted a resolution expressing its dismay at the lack of provision for the return to regular employment of reservists who had recently been called to the colours for service in Palestine. The mover of the resolution Captain E. A. Jones stated that it made him wonder at the intelligence of the government departments concerned in expecting young men to join the colours when they would not look after the reservists after a special job of work.

RESULTS OF Mr. DUFF COOPER'S RECRUITING CAMPAIGN

The results of Mr. Duff Cooper's recruiting campaign as stated in the House of Commons by Mr. Hore Belisha, his successor are.

A deficiency in the regular army on May 1st this year of 24,670 as compared with 11,755 a year ago.

A deficiency in the territorial army on May 1st was 49,634 as compared with 49,184 in the previous year.

DAILY WORKER TIPS DERBY WINNER

Cayton of the Daily Worker scored a tremendous success by tipping Mid-Day to win the Derby. His selection was made in the same clear and unmistakable manner which is a feature of the advice given in the worker's paper. The Daily Worker was the only national daily newspaper to give Mid-Day Sun. To cap it all Cayton's nap Waterbird also won. This Double on the Tote was paid out at 44 pounds for a unit stake. Here's Health!

On receiving the news of the bombardment of Almeria, the London District of the C. P. immediately organised a mass lobbying of M. P.'s at the House of Commons and a great protest demonstration in Hyde Park to be followed by a march through Central London.

RICH DODGE TAXES

In a preliminary report of an investigation by the United States Treasury, President Roosevelt reveals to Congress, that a "minority of very rich individuals" are deliberately evading taxation. He asks that an end to this practice be immediately put into effect.



The latest world shaking invention. Butter from coal bricks (for proletarian consumption).

U. S. WAR SHIP IN FLAMES

The "Ludington", United States war transport ship, with a cargo of high explosives on the high seas, went up in flames. The steamship "Limonray" and others went to its aid upon receiving its S. O. S. call.

STEEL STRIKE STILL ON

The steel strikes including more than 150,000 workers in the states of Illinois, Iowa, Ohio and Pennsylvania, continues with increased violence in some quarters.

The strikers are displaying excellent solidarity and refuse to give in unless their chief objective is conceded to them by the steel employers, that is—the recognition of the C. I. O. as their collective bargaining agency.

On the outskirts of Chicago thousands of strikers picket around a steel mill which has collected 2,000 professional strike-breakers from the human garbage dumps of the city. Scores of well-armed police and deputized guards escort these "scraps" into the plant.