

# EUROPE WATCHES SPANISH WAR

## Anxiously Await Outcome of Struggle Between Right and Left Factions; May Change World History.

By WILLIAM C. UTLEY

ORDINARILY you can take a Spanish revolution as a Greek revolution, or you can let it alone. The general custom among the laity of observers in America in the past has been to let 'em alone.

In Greek revolutions the government changes hands between matinee and evening performances and, although whole navies are captured, no one ever gets hurt. The ordinary Spanish revolution is much the same, the one distinguishing factor being that murder and mayhem are present, but nobody gets hurt except Spaniards.

Ever since Spain lost her last American colonies some 30-odd years ago, riot, revolution and rebellion have been rife in the sunny land. But because, in the past, these revolutions have been of little consequence outside the borders of Spain itself, other nations, even those on the European continent, have been justified in merely remaining aloof and letting matters take their course until once more a Spanish government of one kind or another is answering the 'phones. Aloofness often is only official as it is possible to do a neat little business in arms with both warring sides, unofficially.

But with this newest and most serious of Spanish revolutions the customary policy of laissez-faire among her neighbors is one difficult, if not impossible, to maintain. For here in Spain is now the ultimate expression of a struggle that is now going on among the peoples of nearly every nation in Europe.

### See Death Struggle

This is not a civil war to determine whether republic or monarchy shall be the form of government. Actually it does not involve the question of how the nation shall be governed so much as who shall govern it.

There is a death battle between what have come to be called in Europe, and are more and more frequently mentioned here in the United States, the Right and the



Gen. Emilio Mola, Rebel Leader.

Left. On the Right is Fascism; on the left is Socialism. On the one side are the monopolies, the bureaucrats and the big land owners; on the other are the peasant farmers, the small business men, union labor and the proletariat.

It may be truthfully said that practically all Europe today is divided into Rightest and Leftist factions. The sharp line of demarcation becomes more apparent with each new heated political debate, with each new spirited election. For that reason every European eye is directly focused upon Spain. Deeply concerned are France, whose new Leftist government has not yet proved the panacea it was heralded to be; Germany, which will find new cause to arm against "the Reds"; if the Left wins and a new victory over communism if the Right wins; Italy would welcome a strong Fascist neighbor, and exclusive of her subtler political interests, Great Britain must protect Gibraltar.

While former revolutions in Spain have resulted in only qualified victories or defeats, it is generally conceded that this one will be decisive. It may string along for many months, even years, but it will be a fight to a finish.

### Europe Watches Struggle

Yet what is important about this civil war is not which government, Right or Left, emerges victorious, the choice of the majority of people. It is the fact that there is a serious fight. This is a bloody and cruel war. Homes, theaters, hospitals have become ammunition centers and barracks. Snipers spit death out of store windows, cannon wheels scar the surfaces of plains, the drone of bombers disturbs the calm of fabled Spanish skies.

Right and Left have taken arms against each other. All Europe watches. For years the continent has been a tinder box, awaiting a match to set it off. Crisis after crisis has been passed and another great war has been averted or postponed, sometimes ever so narrowly. May not this develop into the next of these great crises? What will France do if Italy sends aid to the Fascists? What will Germany do if Red Russia interferes on the other side?

The Spanish-American war may be arbitrarily taken as the real beginning of the political disintegra-

tion of Spain. It was less than a decade after that when she lost her last American colony. Four years later came the first of a series of uprisings among the people; it was quelled. That was in 1909; in 1917 there was another unsuccessful revolt.

When the crisis after the World war came, the Spanish monarchy found itself unable to look after the welfare of its 23,000,000 subjects, who were finding it next to impossible to make a living. An attempt was made to right conditions in 1921 when Primo de Rivera was set up by the Rightist factions as dictator. It didn't work.

### New Regime Fails

Ten years later the republic was voted in and King Alfonso XIII was on his sudden way out. Spanish citizens were free men. All the ills of the old times were to be forgotten. Their troubles were over.

But, alas, it didn't work out that way. Actually, the new government had been heralded a few months before its inception by a serious general strike and an uprising among the military forces. There was the world-wide depression to be reckoned with, and the fact that in Spain the currency was deflated, industry frozen and foreign markets for Spanish farmers hopelessly lost. Primo de Rivera had been driven into exile by rising governmental debts and deficits. Political liberty was supposed to rectify all of these things. Of course it didn't.

When the republic was born 75 per cent of the population was dependent, directly or indirectly, upon agriculture, yet so evilly was it distributed that only one-tenth of the farm population could make a fair living from it. Immense estates, relics of feudal days, held the really fertile land; the poor peasant was doomed to watch thousands upon thousands of acres of rich land carelessly, wastefully cultivated, or even thrown open to pasture, while he, burdened with heavy debts, had to work a tiny patch of poor land. The great hordes of landless farm-hands, working only half the year, and then at meager wages, were steadily growing.

Small private industries wallowed hopelessly in debt, while great monopolies were so entwined into the government that when there were losses, the taxpayers made them good, but when there were profits the stockholders got them all.

When the republic came into being there were countless and needless bureaus eating the substance of the treasury. A costly and over-large army, with many needlessly high-salaried officers noted for blundering and extravagant "colonial" adventures, was being kept. Unemployment, starvation wages and continued repression from the Right had concentrated the mass of poor industrial workers into a few large cities and had greatly increased their numbers.

### Expected Drastic Changes

The people, rightly enough, expected drastic changes from the Men of the Republic. The economic theory of the Rightists, nominally



Scene in Toledo Showing Snipers Fighting Rebels.

second in power in the republic and today represented by the rebelling Fascist generals, was that of repression, wage-reduction breaking-up of labor unions, and concentration camps for forced labor—all the principles of Fascism. The republic was to substitute higher wages, new and fairer distribution of land, government control of industry, resettlement and rehabilitation projects and a security program.

But the early republican government found itself torn between two loyalties. It attempted to steer a middle course, providing legislation only upon pressure from Right or Left and, naturally, leaving only a

result of hopeless conflict of policy.

The Right, bewildered by conflicting policy, between socialism one minute and Fascism the next, froze credits, paralyzed industry and agriculture, and hired armed bands of men to annoy the Leftists and thus provoke the government. In the summer of 1932 it all came to a boil and the Right provoked a military revolt, but intervention of civilian troops on the part of the government quelled it.

Economic conditions failed to improve. There were strikes, riots and demonstrations. The Left was still in a bad way. The peasants led an uprising in 1933. So severely was it put down, the government began to lose the loyalty of the peasants and kindred classes. When later that year the Socialists were driven



Women Marksmen Take Part.

from the cabinet and the Right assumed what amounted to almost all the power, there were political scandals and months of continued unrest followed. In 1934 the Left revolted upon the calling of Gil Robles into the cabinet. This was nearly a successful revolution and was only quelled by the employment of the Spanish Foreign Legion and paid Moorish troops. Never before in Spanish history had such measures been necessary to protect the government. It was sufficient to instill more confidence and courage into the Left, and to incite the proletariat further against the government of the Right.

Accordingly the Left forced elections and swept the existing government from power. That was early this year. The same old struggle has been going on ever since—the power has not yet definitely come to one side or the other to permit a continuity of action.

But the new revolution, openly and unmistakably a civil war to the bitter end, will leave Spain at last completely Right or completely Left—completely Fascist or completely Socialist.

### Americans Leave Spain

The efficiency of the State department and the foreign service has been strikingly demonstrated in the emergency precipitated by the revolution in Spain, which required the government to conduct the first evacuation of Americans from a European country since the World war.

When the revolution broke, Ambassador Bowers was at his summer house at Fuenterrabia, on the coast, five miles from San Sebastian, the Summer capital, where were stationed Messrs. Johnson and Schoellkopf. Cut off from communication by telephone with his Summer embassy and prevented by barricades and fighting from going to San Sebastian, Mr. Bowers was taken off by the cutter Cayuga and subsequently established his em-

### Tell the Bees

In savage countries and in many country districts of England and the world over, the bees are held to be members of the household. A death in the family must always be "told to the Bees,"—otherwise they will be offended and desert their hives, taking away with them the luck of the house. When a wedding occurs the bees expect their hives to be decorated with white ribbon or rosettes. When treated with this consideration the bees are supposed never to sting members of the household. Other superstitions about bees are that one should never shout at them, but tell them important news in whispers; one should not quarrel near a hive, lest the bees fight, too, and destroy one another. Nor will bees sting half-wits, even when disturbed.—Tit-Bits Magazine.

### Yellow Fever Germs

In 1888, when people still thought that yellow fever germs flew or drifted about in the air, an epidemic of this disease took place in Jacksonville, Florida. In the belief that the microbes could be killed by concussion, writes M. B. Johnson, Jacksonville, Florida, in Collier's Weekly, cannons were fired for several days in the principal streets—to the delight and profit of the glaziers.

### Amount of Rainbow Seen

The amount of a rainbow seen at any time depends upon the height of the sun, being low when the sun is high and high when the sun is low. On high mountains or from balloons, when the sun is very low, completely circular rainbows are observed. Lunar rainbows, formed by the light of the moon and appearing as luminous arcs with very faint colors, are occasionally seen.

### "Coal Trees"

"Coal trees," trees that have remained complete through the ages which turned them into coal, are one of nature's strangest sights. They are found in mines, standing in their normal position and as perfectly formed as the day they reached maturity, except that their roots, trunks, branches and even their leaves have been converted into black, gleaming coal.—Collier's Weekly.

### "Patient as a Camel"

The popular idea that a camel is a surly and stupid beast is wrong. The Arabs have a motto "Patient as a camel," for they know from experience that this animal never forgets either a benefit or a wrong, according to a writer in Pearson's Weekly. A single act of unkindness or injury may be ignored, but if this is repeated, he will be revenged one day. A camel bides his time. He waits until his enemy is alone with him, when he makes a sudden snatch with his mouth, or kicks him over and tramples on him.

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