

These conditions are the direct responsibility of General Franco himself; he has his own ideas of the "purest Christian tenets," and is quite impervious to appeals for clemency. The latest move, taken on the advice of the Nuncio, is a petition for an amnesty signed by all the Spanish bishops, which will be presented to Franco by the Minister of Justice.

As to the future, the Caudillo made a glancing reference to the Monarchy. After saying that the question of the restoration was not an actual one, Franco affirmed that should the Monarchy be re-established after the war "it must constitute an eminently social reformist monarchy, very different from that which recently presided over our decadence." These are not words to encourage Don Juan in any lakeside dreams of a reconciliation with the self-opinionated and stubborn little Leader of the *Falange Española y Tradicionalista*.

There is no news of political interest from Lisbon, where negotiations for the new Supply-Purchase agreement are continuing between His Majesty's Government and the Portuguese Government.

#### ITALY.

Although there appears to be some division of opinion amongst the inhabitants of the Val d'Aosta as to the desirability of annexation to France, the Italian Minister at Berne has reported to his Government that a number of prominent persons in the valley have issued a declaration expressing their sincere loyalty to Italy and their hostility to annexation to France. At the same time, they insist that some autonomy as regards language and culture be granted to the valley.

The Committee of National Liberation of Piedmont is making representations to the Italian Government regarding its financial situation, suggesting that the Government should give secret guarantees to certain banks in the area which are apparently ready to advance funds to patriot forces in the Alpine valleys to the number of about 45,000. These same forces have also complained that the French do not seem to recognise their status since units which have been forced across the frontier were disarmed.

The Northern Italy Liberation Committee fear that a grave situation may arise when the Germans evacuate Venezia Giulia, in spite of the agreement already made between the Committee and Marshal Tito for the preservation of public order. A direct agreement between the Italian and Yugoslav Governments is advocated. The Allied plan is to keep Venezia Giulia under A.M.G. control until the peace conference, making use of all administration, whether Italian or Yugoslav, which is found to be functioning when the Allies arrive. But the ethnical distribution of the population will make the situation an extremely delicate one.

Owing to some employers not paying the wages increase ratified by the Council of Ministers on the 19th October, a half-an-hour sit-down strike was organised in Rome by the local workers' committees. This strike, however, was called off at a meeting between the secretaries of the Italian General Confederation of Labour and Signor Bonomi, at which the Ministers of Agriculture and Industry were also present. The Government announced that the employers had no justification for not paying the increased wages since this measure already had the Cabinet's approval. Besides the increase of wages, the workers had demanded supplementary rations and the creation of workers' canteens. According to a press report, at a further meeting under the presidency of Signor Bonomi, attended by three Allied representatives, it was decided to grant these demands, and that the Allies should supply macaroni and flour to these canteens beginning on the 8th November.

Reactions to Mr. Eden's visit to Rome were, on the whole, very favourable. The Italians in general see in Mr. Eden's visit a gesture of goodwill towards the present-day Italy which has rid itself of Fascism, so consistently opposed by the Secretary of State.

Signor Aldisio, the High Commissioner for Sicily, has received the Trapani Liberation Committee, and has assured them that reconstruction of the harbours of Trapani and Marsala will soon begin, and that the municipal and provincial administration would also soon be reconstituted with elements chosen from the Liberation Committees.

Citizenship of Rome has been conferred on President Roosevelt. The Mayor, Prince Doria-Pamphili, and the Council of the capital came to this decision in order to mark Italy's gratitude to the President for his firm friendship which has led him to discriminate between the Italian people and the Fascist régime.

There is little definite news to report from the North this week. According to *Transocean*, some partisans have given themselves up as a result of the amnesty decree announced on the 28th October; the amnesty expires on the 10th November. Fascist propaganda speaks of extensive "mopping-up operations" against partisans. Reliable information from Milan suggests that captured partisans are being treated with increasing cruelty by the Germans and neo-Fascists, and in many cases are summarily hanged.

According to Swiss reports, unrest in the main industrial centres of the North has reached such a pitch that the Fascists fear a repetition of the general strike of last March. Pavolini's speech, reported last week, which would seem to have been aimed directly at this situation, is said to have been inspired by Kesselring and the German military authorities, who, in view of their apparent intention to carry on the defence of Italy throughout the winter, have obviously everything to gain by averting disturbances in the big northern industrial centres.

The Italo-German Cultural Association held its 22nd annual meeting in Venice in the presence of many prominent Italian and German personalities, including Dr. Rudolf Rahn, the German Ambassador to the Italian Social Republic. Dr. Rahn made a speech in which, after the usual glorification of the ties between Italy and Germany, he spoke of the "terrible fate" of Finland, Roumania and Bulgaria, who had "handed themselves over to certain and systematic destruction," and also warned his Italian hearers against putting their faith in "miraculous weapons"—though ultimate victory was assured because "the moral crisis which has stricken down Europe like an epidemic has been surmounted."

#### THE VATICAN.

On the 30th and 31st October and the 2nd November the Vatican Wireless gave broadcasts in German which must have astounded many German listeners. The first praised a recent "social speech" of Archbishop Saliège of Toulouse at a "thanksgiving service in Toulouse Cathedral." The thanksgiving was obviously for the liberation of France from the Germans. The whole speech was a plea for the Catholic as opposed to the totalitarian conception of man. "The purpose of social life is not slavery but the free unfolding of the human personality." "The proletariat must go. All must have the right to a due amount of property. The worker does not want to be kept under the protection of fascism or the corporative system." Finally, "love and justice are the soul of France, who will never die." The speaker went on to recall similar pronouncements of the Swiss Episcopate in September last, of the English Bishops, and the pastoral letter of the German Bishops of March 1942, itself a reproduction of the German Bishops' memorandum on the "Dignity and Rights of Man" sent to the Reich Government in December 1941. All these episcopal utterances were then shown to be local manifestations of the social policy of the Popes, which Pius XII went out of his way to emphasise on the 1st September this year.

The second talk was a reflection on All Saints' Day, that it is not Caesars, generals or demagogues who build empires, but Saints. "Ring out, bells, the peace of the ages, the peace of Eternity!"

The third talk, by Dr. Bruno Hiltenberg, took for a text the inscription over the German cemetery in Rome, "Teutones in Pace," and recalled that Germans in Rome find their last resting place in the shadow of St. Peter's, as they did centuries ago. It ends with the sad question: "Is there any one among us who has not lost a dear one in this war?"

#### SOUTH-EASTERN EUROPE.

##### Hungary.

In Hungary, a group of members of the Upper House willing to support the Szálasi régime, corresponding to the existing "National Association" of Deputies of the Lower House, was formed under the Archduke Joseph. On the 4th November both Houses passed legislation dealing with the situation created by Horthy's "resignation"; and thereafter Szálasi took an oath before the Holy Crown in the capacity (unknown to the Hungarian Constitution) of "Leader of the Nation," exercising the functions and enjoying the rights of the Hungarian Regent. The Regency is, however, not to be filled for the moment.