

22nd February. No further prisoners among the 250,000 due to become "free workers" by the subsequent agreement appear to have had leave since the first 1,000 returned to Germany. (See these *Summaries* Nos. 187 and 189.)

SPAIN AND PORTUGAL.

The general opinion in Madrid seems to be that we are in for a quiet summer. The sun is beginning to blaze intolerably on Alcalá, and before long will have driven the panting Madrileños to seek the cooler delights of the Cantabrian coast. All along these lovely beaches the well-to-do Spaniards, for a couple of months, will lie in the sun, exposing as much of their limbs as Falange "austerity" permits (it is not much), and encouraging the war to recede even further from their daily consciousness. General Franco will soon leave for his Galician retreat, doubtless hoping to be left in peace alike from the pressure of the belligerents and the importuning of the Monarchists, with whom his relations are slowly deteriorating.

The Monarchists during the spring and early summer had shown a good deal of activity. There was correspondence between Don Juan and General Franco which came to nothing, and the sending of a memorial to the Caudillo by various members of the cortes who appealed to him to bring about a speedy return of the Monarchy. According to a German wireless report, the only effect of the Cortes letter seems to have been the dismissal of five of those who signed the memorial. They are Gamero del Castillo, the ambitious erstwhile friend of Serrano Suñer, by whom he was made the youngest Cabinet Minister in Spain and who, since his fall in May 1941, has been reinsuring with the Monarchists; Jaime Foxá, poetaster and Party leader; Manuel Halcón, the Chancellor of the Council of "Hispanidad"; Manuel Fanjul, another Party man and a close friend of Fernández Cuesta, an early Party Secretary who is now Ambassador in Rome; and García Valdecasas, one of the last surviving collaborators of José Antonio Primo de Rivera, the founder of the Falange, who is, nevertheless, a strong critic of the present régime. All these men are National Councillors as well as members of the Cortes, and there is some evidence of haste in their dismissal, for three of them, Gamero, Valdecasas and Fanjul, were appointed only on the 18th June to sit on a committee to study "disciplinary procedure" inside the Party. Incidentally, neither Gamero nor Valdecasas knew anything about this committee until they saw their names in the paper. Many other Monarchists have been arrested, and the breach between the Pretender and the Caudillo has certainly widened. Coupled with this action against the signatories of the Cortes memorial an anti-Monarchist article in the current issue of *Español*, a comparatively new weekly, makes it quite clear that the Spanish Government are not going to be hustled by any Royalist agitation. "Aristocracy, monarchical politicians, financiers, regionalists, Freemasons and Reds" are all lumped together as being responsible for the collapse of the Monarchy which led to revolution and the Civil War. The Duke of Alba, Count Romanones and Señor Cambó are among others pilloried in the article which is not likely, however, to succeed in discrediting in the public mind those who support the claims of Don Juan to-day. After this knock at the Monarchists, General Franco, if true to form, will probably lie low and say nuffin, and there is little likelihood of the Monarchists forcing the issue before the next phase of the war. The Caudillo may, therefore, find that his desire to be left alone will be satisfied, but it must not be forgotten that it is precisely at the top of the summer, "cuando las pasiones se calientan," when the blood is warmed up, that great acts of public violence are apt to take place in Spain.

His Majesty's Government and the United States Government have been considering for some time the supply of aviation spirit to Spain (see *Summary* No. 187). The Spanish civil air line "Iberia" has been out of action for some months, and both Sir S. Hoare and Dr. Hayes have pointed out the danger of the Germans stepping in to take over "Iberia" themselves. The British and United States Governments have now decided that a limited amount of low octane spirit shall be made available for shipment in Spanish bottoms, subject to certain conditions which safeguard against misuse or advantage to the Axis Powers.

For obvious reasons there has been no reaction in Spanish official circles to the statement of the new Argentine Minister for Foreign Affairs when he repeated the new Government's insistence that its policy would be based upon co-operation with the American nations and, by implication, pointedly excluded Spain from

Argentine affairs. But Admiral Storini's emphasis that all other nations, "without exception," must accept this fact will have been very sourly received in Madrid, for in the whole of America the Argentine was the only country in which the Falangists could hope to find a market for "Hispanidad."

During the last few weeks there have been rumours in Tangier that General Yagüe, commanding the 10th Army Corps at Melilla, was to be recalled. This has now happened, and the general has been placed on the active list unattached in the First Military Region. This is probably one of the results of the High Commissioner's recent visit to Madrid, for General Yagüe, who as Spanish generals go is something of a demagogue, was a thorn in the flesh of General Orgaz. Yagüe was always something of a firebrand, and his departure, so thinks General Orgaz, will help in the consolidation of the High Commissioner in his difficult task of improving Spanish prospects in North Africa.

Count Jordana's promise that the anti-bombing press campaign was definitely closed has already been broken in Morocco, for *Marruecos* of the 30th June carried a sentimental article bewailing the destruction in Naples and Cologne. His Majesty's Ambassador has been instructed to bring this article to the notice of the Spanish Government and to ask them to take steps to prevent a recurrence of such topics.

The difficulties of Dr. Salazar's strictly-interpreted and obstinately-followed policy of neutrality have been discussed on many occasions in this Summary. As the pressure of war increases, and the Allied victory becomes more and more certain, Portuguese neutrality—always assuming that it will be maintained—will enter, in fact is already entering on a new phase, not characterised, however, by signs of favour to Great Britain. We must not expect Dr. Salazar to soften the austerity of his scruples just because we are winning the war. Indeed, as the champion of the innocent and sorely-tried neutrals upon whom the Allies, on the strength of their claim to be fighting for right, are, so he thinks, imposing unjustified sacrifices, Dr. Salazar is likely to be even more intransigent in the defence of the interests of his small nation. This Dictator has made it quite clear that he does not intend to be dictated to.

Internally, the recent measures show that Dr. Salazar is determined to restrain his people from openly taking sides in the conflict. Instructions have been issued to the press to publish less war news and to avoid sensational headlines. The purpose was, of course, to damp down those who look to our victory to overthrow the régime, but, as we are now making the news, the effect from the Allied point of view has been to give the papers a rather less satisfactory appearance. The second step, taken with the same motive, has been the sealing of wireless sets in public places. As the war goes on these restrictions are likely to become more irksome, and the resulting effervescence will call forth more drastic repression. Stifle the "vox populi" and you run the risk of "gesta populi." And recent attempts to canalise popular feeling into national channels have not been entirely successful. The theme of the demonstrations celebrating the 17th anniversary of the revolution of 1926 was the colonization of Africa, and tribute was paid to the Portuguese conquerors of Guinea, Angola and Mozambique. The press gave great publicity to a parade of the "Heroes of the Occupation of Africa," and a number of grey-bearded veterans, in various stages of colonial decay, did file past in Black Horse Square. The enthusiasm of the crowd was not quite whole-hearted, however, for the less imperially-minded of the spectators went home unsatisfied, for they had turned out simply in the hope of seeing Generals Alexander and Montgomery in person.

ITALY.

Exposed to continual bombardments from the air and compelled passively to await the attack of an enemy with whom the initiative lies, the Italian propagandists are redoubling their efforts to prepare the nation for the expected invasion. It is still thought by most that Sicily will in any case be the first place to be attacked, but otherwise there is much diversity of opinion. Statements in certain British newspapers have revived the question of the bombing of Rome, and it is said that the city is prepared for all eventualities, since the Romans "know quite well the barbarity of enemy air terrorism" and will show the same courage that is being exhibited by the inhabitants of other Italian towns. There are rumours that an evacuation of part of the administration has already started, and that the printing offices of the National Bank of Italy were secretly removed to Aquila some three months or more ago. Mr. Eden has stated in the House

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