

# Spanish War Is A Menace To Peace

The average citizen has heard relatively little of foreign affairs lately. Events at home—the election, the convening of Congress, the strikes, the unprecedented floods in the Middle West and South—have taken all his attention.

Yet the foreign situation has grown steadily more menacing.

In Spain, for example, a civil war is going on. Everyone knows that. What everyone doesn't know is that a general European war, on a small scale, is likewise going on in Spain. All the major nations have paid lip service to the cause of neutrality in Spanish affairs—but the fact remains, according to every fact-finding newspaperman who has returned from the Spanish battlefronts, that several European nations have troops actively engaged in Spanish battles, are supplying one side or the other with airplanes, rifles, cannon, ammunition and food. For instance, when the rebellion began, a rebel leader Franco had almost no tanks—now he has great numbers of the most up-to-date type. And the loyalists had no air force worthy of the name—now they have a considerable number of fairly modern, well-armed ships.

Principal participating nations are Russia, Germany, Italy and France. Germany and Italy side with the rebels, are Fascistic in tendency and purpose. Russia and France side with the loyalists, who include Communists, Socialists, Syndicalists and Republicans.

To what extent are these foreign nations taking an active interest in Spain? Vivid answer is supplied by Major Al Williams, famous racing pilot, who recently made a European tour for the purpose of evaluating Europe's air armadas. According to Major Williams, "One pilot, who had served in the rebel army, told me it was getting tough for a native to find something to do in that civil war. Russia, Germany, Italy and France had all but taken over for a warming-up session of their new war machines."

Finally, why are these nations mixing in a civil war that, theoretically, is none of their business? The answer to that is two-fold.

First, there is a good chance that a loyalist victory would result in the establishment of a communist regime in Spain. Italy and Germany, leading fascist powers, are determined to do everything possible to prevent that—it would threaten their hopes for the gradual extension of fascism through all Europe. By the same token, a rebel victory would be followed by a fascist Spanish government, as General Franco has said. And France and Russia feel that if it happened, they would be put in great danger, inasmuch as they would be surrounded by unfriendly nations.

The second phase of the answer is given by intimation in the quotation from Major Williams. The chatter of diplomats to the contrary, it is a reasonable assumption that Europe would be at war now if the antagonistic powers were not held back by fear of other's possible strength. It is no secret that Germany would attack France tomorrow, if she were confident she could win—and that France would do the same thing, given the same assurance. Civil War in Spain is providing these powers with a chance to try out their fighting equipment—and the General Staffs are watching with unabated interest.

This "international civil war" has killed thousands of Spaniards. It has laid Spain waste. And it is, perhaps, preparing the way toward the most sanguinary general conflict in world history. Today all Europe is an armed camp—and its weapons are infinitely greater both in number and potential destructiveness than before the World War. It is very possible that if one of the powers becomes satisfied that the "tests" made in Spain show it to be superior to a neigh-

off will come with breath-taking suddenness.

So far as America is concerned, the State Department obviously realizes the dangers in Europe—is seeking to formulate an equitable and workable neutrality policy. There is a great deal of debate going on among those with different views. It seems certain that the President will be given wide discretionary powers in dealing with foreign crises. It also seems certain that the old doctrine, dramatized by Wilson, of "freedom of the seas" will be dropped, in the hope of keeping us out of conflict.

Alamance County farmers are pruning their masculine type of grapes before spring growth begins.

Johnny, I was glad to see you playing marbles with Billy.

We wasn't playing marbles, Ma. We had just had a fight and I was helping him pick up his teeth.

be having an awful time writing her telegram.

Yes. She's trying to tell her husband what she thinks of him in ten words.

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