

# FASCIST NATIONS IMPROVE THEIR POSITION IN SPAIN AT THE EXPENSE OF FRANCE, ENGLAND IN ANALYSIS

This article is written by H. M. Paint of The Daily Mail staff.

The fall of Bilbao is a major victory for the Insurgent cause which has definitely postponed any hope of the Spanish civil war finishing within the next twelve months. But it has greatly increased the chances of the civil war being relegated to a position of a mere side show in a world war of truly colossal proportions.

Up to the present the Spanish War had provided ideal chance for war manoeuvres under active service conditions. It had given Germany and Italy opportunity to test war equipment. But whatever its strategic advantages, it had proved a costly experiment. Until the fall of Bilbao there was a strong chance that Germany would withdraw from the Spanish adventure in disgust. It had seemed that after all international crime did not pay.

The fall of Bilbao has placed Spanish intervention on a paying basis as far as Germany is concerned.

Last year 5,000,000 tons of iron ore were shipped from the mines in the Basque country. If Franco is now able to buy his war materials from Germany in exchange for cargoes of iron ore, intervention becomes good business in German eyes.

The importance of possessing naval and submarine bases in the Bay of Biscay to mask the French Biscayan ports in the event of war is obvious. Good strategy has now become good business.

It is impossible that even the present most accommodating British administration can regard this new development with pleasure. As far as France is concerned the present situation both in the Bay of Biscay and the Mediterranean cause her the greatest disquiet.

British mining interests, British mining concessions in Spain and the pockets of the British shareholders in Anglo-Spanish mining companies have now only Insurgent promises to rely on for their dividend cheques, and continuance of British operation of Spanish mineral concessions. Nothing in the past performance of the Insurgents and their backers has led the world to regard this as gilt-edged security.

It should now be quite obvious that Germany, Italy and Japan have a definite understanding to use the dread of war among the more peacefully inclined world powers as a powerful weapon for their own aggrandizement. The view of the writer is that not only are they quite willing to risk a war by daring bluffing, but that they have weighed their own chances and are quite ready to fight.

If their bluff is called on any vital matter. However, this has not happened and does not seem likely to happen. As long as they can advance first in one direction then another with alternate gains to each in rotation, nothing will happen. This beautifully simple policy for which we have an analogy in nature in the bees' sting will be continued until the pain becomes past bearing.

It is the opinion of the writer that a still bolder policy would have already made itself apparent before now had not this vast plan received several serious setbacks this spring, such as:—

A bad harvest in Germany; a crushing defeat at the polls for the military party in Japan; the surprising defeat of Italian troops by Spanish militia in Spain; British rearmament; the determined resistance of Madrid, and the equally obstinate though unsuccessful defense of Bilbao have delayed the co-ordination of a vast scheme of world domination. Germany wants no more long dreary wars of arbitration and will not risk moving against France until the latter is weakened by a hostile Spain on her flank, submarine bases masking France's Biscayan ports and the line of communication in the Mediterranean cut between France and her African colonies.

Nevertheless the Fascist nations have made great strategic gains in the last few months and their affairs assume constantly a more favorable position.

It is true that the unmasking of internal mutiny in the Russian army has been disappointing. But there still remains an alternate plan to immobilize the Russian colossus.

The Russian efficiency depends solely on their oil supply. Without the oilfields at Baku in the Black Sea, all Russia's admirable mechanized transport, tanks, armoured cars and planes would be useless.

Turkey controls the Dardanelles. Could she be persuaded to permit the passage of German and Italian warships into the Black Sea? Could Baku be defended successfully? Would England and France permit this? If not, could the Baku oilfields be effectively destroyed by bombing? Such are the questions which today trouble the German higher command.

It would seem from this that the best place for the German fleet might be the Mediterranean and not the North Sea? If so, how get it down there without an open breach with France and Britain.

Reprisals for attacks on German shipping might be as good an excuse as any and better than most.

## MSGR. J. NICHOLSON ON COMMUNISM

Essentially Atheistic, He Tells Catholic Women's League of Canada

KINGSTON, June 23—Unfortunately there is such a thing as professional skepticism which acts as a dissolvent of human rights, perhaps unwittingly on the part of its exponents, declared Mgr. James Nicholson, of Belleville, speaking recently at the luncheon of the national convention of the Catholic Women's League of Canada.

Communism, said the speaker, was essentially atheistic. Referring to Hitler and persecution of the Catholic Church in Germany, he stated the German leader would go to Conso as other have done before him. He referred to democracy as the hope of Canada, the palladium of our liberties, religious and civil.

## TO SEARCH FOR PAUL REDFERN

GEORGETOWN, British Guiana, June 18—Theodore J. Waldeck, American explorer, would head an expedition leaving New York this week in an attempt to find Paul Redfern in the British Guiana jungle where he was lost nine years ago it was announced here today.

The announcement was made by Dr. Frederick Redfern father of the missing man in a letter received here. He said evidence gathered in the country in which Redfern disappeared in 1928 while on a flight to Brazil had convinced him his son was still alive.

Strongest among the meagre clues was a piece of aluminum tubing apparently part of an airplane taken from an Indian tribe near the British Guiana border.

Waldeck was a member of the last African expedition made by Martin Johnson prominent American zoologist and explorer before his death last winter in an airplane crash in California. Several expeditions by Art Williams, American flier who now resides here, proved fruitless.

steadily been lowered, and is still going down.

**55 Cents a Day on Farms**  
The cost of living in America must be nearly twice as high as it is in Italy. With this difference in mind, it will be easy for an American workman to estimate the Italian workman's standard of life when supplied with actual wages being paid in various forms of labor.

In the province of Leghorn, for instance, agricultural male labor is paid from 55 to 69 cents per day for an eight hour day. Women workers in the hay fields are paid from 28 to 44 cents a day, with the men receiving from 58 to 94 cents a day.

In the marble quarries, the highest-paid stone cutter gets \$1.38 a day, the average quarryman \$1.16 a day, the ordinary laborer 58 cents a day, and the children only 24 cents a day. An underground coal miner is paid from 75 cents to \$1 per day with maximum wages for workers at the surface of 98 cents per day. Children employed in the mines get 41 cents per day.

In the cotton textile industry of the Province of Turin, the best-paid operators get \$1 per day, with the women paid less than half that much, and the children averaging 25 cents per day. In the highly prosperous rayon industry, specialists get \$1.60 per day, and ordinary labor much less.

**Living Cost Up 42.7 Per Cent.**  
These sample wage schedules are those in effect after a 10 per cent. wage increase was granted in 1936, and to these must be added another increase of 10 per cent. put into effect by 11 Duce two weeks ago.

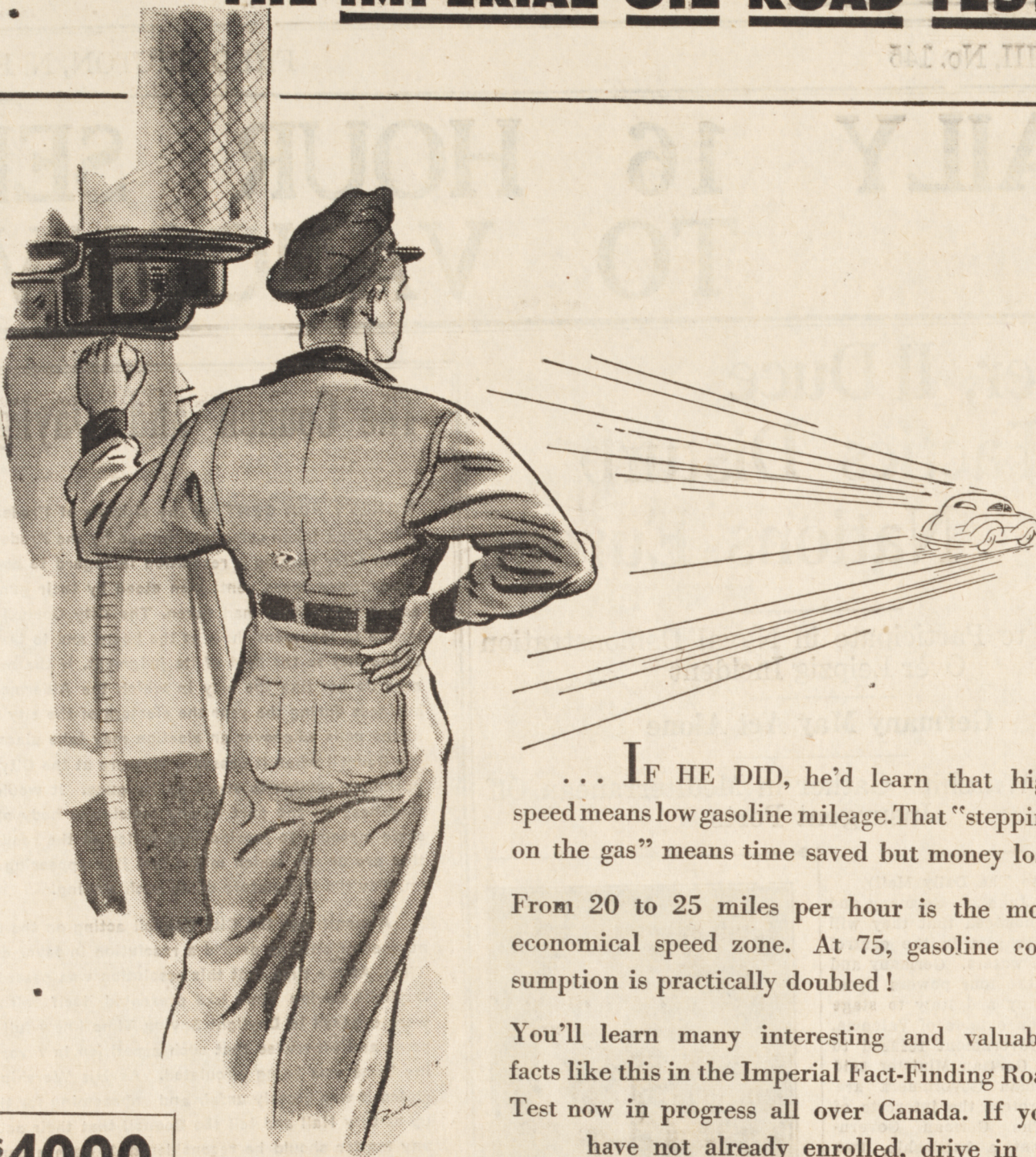
But in a period of two years, covering both these wage increases, the cost of living for the Italian worker has gone up 42.7 per cent! Consequently, the nominal wages have actually been lowered in buying power by about 20 per cent. with the inevitable effect of a further drop in living standards for the worker.

That the Italian Government is aware of the implications of these figures seems plain from its prohibition against divulging economic information by Italian officials. The same rule is observed in Russia.

Summarized, what has happened to the labor movement in Italy since it became dependent on political and governmental alliances has been the complete loss of its independent status, the loss of the right to strike, an institution or arbitrary control by politicians of both wages and hours, and, finally, a steady drop in living standards which has gone on for years.

The creators of a sound and just American labor policy will find neither inspiration or guidance in the Fascist philosophy that now dominates Italian life.

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## SAYS FASCISM HAS SILENCED LABOR - EFFECT SEEN IN DECLINING STANDARDS

ROME, June 22 — With collective bargaining as an established constitutional fact, with rapid revival in the manufacture of durable goods bringing re-employment in its wake, with the CIO and AFL enrolling hundreds of thousands of new members of labor organizations, and with labor disputes filling the columns of the press, labor relations are certain to be one of the most acute and pressing political preoccupations in the United States in the months that precede the fall elections of 1938.

In the fact of such prospects, and with but trifling progress made toward a national labor policy, an intelligent approach to the solution of this problem should include a study of the experiences of the industrialized states of Europe in this field of labor relations.

Europe as a whole offers a chance for a survey of this subject under two utterly dissimilar schools of economics. In Great Britain and France one may observe the progress made toward co-operation between capital and labor under democratic political institutions which preserve the economic principle of private enterprise.

In Italy, Germany and Soviet Russia, an opportunity is afforded to study the effect upon labor relations under authoritarian political auspices where private ownership is abandoned, personal initiative largely suppressed, and individual liberty of action seriously impaired or utterly disregarded.

**Old Labor Unions Abolished**  
What has happened to the millions of Italian workmen who formerly comprised the membership of the great labor unions that grew up so swiftly

following the end of the World War? Does Italian labor have any significant voice in the economic or political life of Italy? Are the leaders of the labor organizations consulted in the matters of wages, hours of labor, or working conditions in industries where they toil?

What are the Italian workers' wages, what are their standards of living? These are questions in which the American workman and the American industrial employer have an acute interest.

One of the first acts of the Fascist party when it came into power was to abolish completely the labor unions as they existed and to create new unions in each trade or craft as part of the system of State corporations. Under the Italian corporative system, the labor union of employees and a trade association of employers are both politically controlled.

Those who are selected to represent labor are named, not by the workers, but by the politicians, and the same is true of the employers' representatives. The will of the Government is final and determinative with both. For the worker to strike is illegal, and the employer may not close, expand or contract his factory without Government, that is, political, approval.

Under the rigid subjection of workers to control by politicians, what has happened to the worker? Has his pay been raised, his work shortened, or his standard of living lifted? Quite the reverse. The living standards of the Italian worker under the Fascist economic regime, always very low according to American standards, has

## BURDEN NOTES

BURDEN, June 22—The weather for the past few days has been quite rainy.

Mrs. John Chase and two children of Devon is spending some time with Mrs. David Burden.

Mr. and Mrs. Elwood Allen, Mr. and Mrs. Clive Foster, Mrs. Jennie Hanson and two daughters and Miss Rosalie Allen of Marysville, were calling on relatives here, Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. Harry Wilson and family of Macnaquac spent Sunday with Mrs. Wilson's mother, Mrs. David Burden.

Mrs. John Kelly spent Sunday with Mrs. H. J. Smith.

Miss Espy Moore is spending a few days with Mrs. Gifford Lawrence.

Mr. and Mrs. George Gibson spent Sunday with Mrs. Gibson's parents Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Moore.

Rev. and Mrs. Killam, Mrs. W. A. MacKenzie, and Mrs. Luke Kelly left this afternoon for Hartland to attend the Western Baptist association. Lewis Jewett spent a day recently in Fredericton.

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