

ESPIONAGE IN THE BALEARICS

BY THEODORE PRATT

THE spy-scare of Europe, with the arrest and trial in France of several Americans said to be members of an international spy-ring, has reached pre-war proportions and gone even beyond them. It has been pointed out that the size of a war may be prophesied by the measurements of the spy-scare preceding it. Let us hope not, for even a casual traveler is often looked upon askance nowadays by poor old suspicious, bewildered Europe.

Nowhere has this boil on the neck of the old girl reached such heights of festering as in Spain's Balearic Islands in the Mediterranean. There, it is passionately and fearfully believed that half a dozen nations are laying plans to seize the islands. Plots and counter-plots are bruited about recklessly, arrests made by the dozen, deportations ordered, and decrees laid down.

The tourist business, which brought tens of thousands to Majorca, the chief island, is looked upon gravely as the source of more than it appears to be on the surface. A tourist recently leaving Majorca with a Picasso drawing in his possession was held on the accusation of trying to get away with a map of the fortifications. A painter leaving with his own canvases must deposit with the authorities five photographs of each picture in case the profile in a portrait is a reproduction of the coastline.

If a German builds a swimming pool, he is accused of constructing a depository for gasoline in case of war. If a French-

man purchases a chalet near the shore, it is supposed to be a submarine base for war-time use. When British capital buys a hotel, it is expectedly planned as a future stronghold. If an Italian geologist studies the rock formation, he is jotting down nefarious information. If an American cruises about the islands in his sailboat, it is for no good purpose. Customary visits to the islands by ships of the French Navy are called off because of the strained feeling. Maneuvers of the British fleet off Gibraltar raise a hue and cry of alarm in the Spanish press.

To counteract this wholesale espionage, real or fancied, curiously strict measures have been provided. They are all meant to discourage the tourist trade and are aimed at the Balearic Islands alone, whereas the rest of Spain is free from them. Tourists are no longer very welcome in Majorca. Literal interpretation of the rules makes it plain that every difficulty is being put in their way to discourage them.

For most of the past year foreigners in Majorca were lined up, sometimes being made to stand in the rain, to meet the first regulation, which provided that an alien must, within twenty-four hours after arrival, personally register his passport at the Government Palace. This was in addition to having his passport stamped and his pedigree taken by the police the minute he stepped off the boat. He could then stay thirty days without further official procedure.

Recently this regulation was tenderly modified, as a partial sop to the caterwauling of the merchants who have invested heavily in the tourist trade. The alien can now have his passport registered by his hotel or other agency, and he can remain several months instead of only the single month.

But if he wants to stay more than the set length of time indicated that he is to be tolerated, he must go through a lengthy abracadabra. He must prove that he has a very special reason for staying. He must prove that he is of good character. His income and morals are thoroughly investigated.

When all this has been established, he obtains, if he can, two Spaniards to vouch for his innocent intentions, and he applies for a *certificado de residencia*. These certificates of residence aren't being handed out right and left. The authorities make it just about as tough as possible to get them.

On top of that the foreigner is discouraged from leasing or purchasing property within a military zone extending back five miles from the entire coastline of the islands. This zone is under the dictatorial jurisdiction of army authority. Under its regulations many foreigners who have built homes within this extensive area are subject to having their property confiscated at a moment's notice. The right to search any dwelling at any time is invested in the military authority. The demolition of a house, without compensation and at the owner's expense, may be ordered.

To erect a new house, permission must be obtained from the military authority. Foreigners are no longer allowed to purchase property in the islands, anyway, so any idea they have of settling there is pretty well covered by restrictions.

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Two separate and various motives are put forward for the taking of all these precautions in the world's hot-bed of alleged espionage. The first is historically and geographically reasonable, though not to the extent nor the manner in which the precautions have been taken. Before submarines and airplanes proved themselves such powerful weapons of war, Gibraltar, held by the British, was looked upon as controlling the Mediterranean with its long-range guns. With air and underwater warfare, however, that is no longer true. The Balearic Islands, situated in the middle of the Western Mediterranean, have assumed the geographic importance they once had when Phoenicians, Romans, Carthaginians, Vandals, and Moors fought over them.

Spain's inability in the Nineteenth Century to hold Menorca, the northern island, against successive occupation by the French and the British, is now sharply remembered. In case of present-day warfare the islands would be perhaps the most strategic naval and air base in all of Europe. Certainly it would hold the Mediterranean.

The islands would be especially valuable to France in transporting troops from her African possessions. It was whispered behind diplomatic doors several years ago that France, in return for pegging the Spanish peseta with gold loans, tried to make a deal with Spain to use the islands for this purpose in case of war. At any rate, the deal didn't go through, largely because the youth of Spain suspected it and demonstrated hotly against it. But the fact that German submarines surreptitiously obtained supplies in the World War from private individuals in the Balearic Islands is no comfortable recollection for naval offices. No European power

could afford to let the islands be used again in this manner, or seized, by its opponents.

It therefore follows that, unless the islands are held by a neutral power strong enough to retain them, a race for their possession would almost inevitably follow the outbreak of another general war. Spain is rather determined to be that power. She is fortifying the islands strongly at all points. That is one reason for her rules and regulations against possible espionage on them, all of which emanate from Madrid.

The other motive for the discouragement of tourists on such a wide scale is more obscure, and once again has to do with Spain's powerful neighbor, France. The tourist business of France, one of the leading industries of the country, lost heavily when Majorca became the place to go. Paris felt it keenly, and many places on the lucrative Riviera were appreciably depleted in favor of the cheaper island. Shortly after this occurred France tightened up on the amount of Spanish wines allowed importation into France. This trade is extremely important to Spain, and much more important to influential mainland vintners than the Majorca tourist trade.

Another deal between the two countries was whispered. If Spain discouraged tourism in the Balearics, sending travelers back to France, France would loosen up on Spanish wine quotas. This time the deal was supposed to have gone through, for a new and generous commercial agreement was recently signed by both countries.

That, at least, is what Majorcan business

men believe. They point out the absurdity of the tourist regulations, saying that foreigners from many nations have been permitted to live and settle in the islands for the past twenty years without molestation, and that if they don't know all about them by now, they never will. They indicate with scorn the detention of a man with a Picasso drawing suspected of being a map, when a complete military map of the islands may be purchased at any sidewalk kiosk for less than a dollar.

They deride the general espionage charges, admitting that any sightseer could obtain the essential details of the archipelago within a few days' time. They even go so far as to admit that several major powers could seize the islands, at no great trouble, whenever they felt so inclined. They point out additionally that even if every foreigner was driven off the islands, there would always be Spaniards whose services could be purchased to do any spy work there happened to be around. That is an unenviable fact true of any country.

The situation complicates itself. It is difficult for anyone to determine, if these charges are true, where legitimate precautions end and where commercial agreements begin. One aggravates the other, until a fantastic condition of affairs arises. Spain's desire to keep the Balearic Islands neutral in case of another war is only to be commended. The more she can assert herself on this stand the greater will be her service toward world peace. But her method of preparing to carry out the plan can be regarded as being quizzical, and accepted as a commentary on the possibility that her efforts may prove futile.

THE DILEMMA OF AUSTRIA

BY M. W. FODOR

SEVERN nations divided among themselves the heritage of the collapsed Empire of the Hapsburgs. And where seven heirs quarrel, one or two at least must fare badly. Austria and Hungary had to pay the piper, and while Hungary was left in possession of rich lowlands which at least could produce food for the impoverished population, Austria inherited only what was left by the others: magnificent mountains with snow-covered peaks, but no tangible resources. The Austrian parts were the kernel of the old Empire, and the smaller nations blamed Vienna for all their misfortunes during the past centuries. Meanwhile Vienna, possibly because she was tired of her ten centuries' rôle as a shaper of the fate of the neighboring nations, made no attempt to elbow herself out of the mess into which she had been pushed. She accepted melancholically and silently the sentence of Versailles.

This silence, however, did not mean approval. The peacemakers soon had to realize that they had created a new question which wanted urgent solution and which was unsolvable because of the jealousy of the various Powers—the Austrian question. The makers of the Versailles Treaties knew nothing, or very little, about Austria. When Czechs and Poles quarreled vituperatively about the spoils left over by ramshackle Austria, and each wanted the best coal deposits of Silesia for herself, Lloyd George is sup-

posed to have asked with an innocent face: "And where is Teschen?" (Teschen being the center of those coal deposits in the Ostrava-Dombrava coal district.) Clemenceau knew very little more about Austria, though he had visited Vienna while he was still an active journalist. But he certainly knew that Vienna was Potsdam's ally in the war, and this was enough to make Vienna an eye-sore for him.

Those who rose to power, dictatorial or otherwise, after the war, knew much more about Austria. Some of them knew too much. This was and remains both good and bad for Austria at the same time. Thus Adolf Hitler, the German Chancellor, knows much more about Austria than Bethmann-Hollweg, Germany's war-time Chancellor, ever did. Hitler is a native of Austria and left Vienna only in 1912. His knowledge about Austria, however, does not benefit the present possessors of power in Vienna.

Compared with Mussolini, what did Orlando know about Austria? Only what he could learn in books or what he read in the reports of the Foreign Office in Rome. But Mussolini can boast of more than two years' experience in Austria. He was from 1908 onward editor of a Socialist paper in Trento, then Austria; and he was able to collect a great deal of inside knowledge about the Hapsburgs, even at the price of spending some time in the prisons of old Austria. When he came to the conclusion, and he openly dared to express it