

# FALANGE FAILS TO END SPAIN'S WOES

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MADRID, March 29—Next Tuesday Nationalist Spain will celebrate the second anniversary of the end of the civil war, which, as its spokesmen have emphasized repeatedly in recent months, was the first campaign in the present struggle between the Axis powers and the democracies.

After two years of uneasy peace, the fundamental problems of Spain remain unsolved. There has been one central tendency—a steady growth in the power of the Falange Española.

This party, like its models in Germany and Italy, is the sole political and economic organization permitted in totalitarian Spain. It now controls all important civil ministries of the government with the exception of the Treasury. Its directing head, Ramon Serrano Suñer, last Fall became Minister of Foreign Affairs while receiving the reins of the extremely powerful "Ministry of Government" [Interior.]

## Quest for Supremacy

Despite internal division, the Falange is pressing on with a program intended to give it mastery over the two supreme forces in Spain for the last hundred years—the army and the church. And although the death of former King

## Basic Problems Remain Despite Two Years Of Franco Rule

Alfonso has simplified the problem of restoration of the monarchy, that also is not within the intention of the Falange.

Unfortunately for the war-exhausted country, the program of the Falange, because of its very insistence on an imperial Spain of tomorrow, has postponed immediate recovery. In most things, in fact, Spain is worse off today than a year ago.

The shortage of coal, gasoline, cotton and other basic raw materials is aggravated by the number of skilled workmen in exile or imprisoned. This has held up industrial production and contributed to the serious rise in the cost of living. A succession of railway wrecks and national disasters—floods, freezing storms and the disastrous fires at Santander—has disorganized the already overburdened transportation system.

Above all, while food was scarce in the country a year ago, those days of abundance now seem too good to be true. The shortage of some foods such as olive oil, cheese and potatoes is partly due to export. But there is no evidence to

show that this is true of the wheat crop which was 1,000,000 tons short last year.

Distribution of what there is has been complicated by inadequate transport and administrative red tape. It was doubted up to a few weeks ago that the government felt itself free to accept credits for Argentine wheat under American and British auspices.

For, in addition to the Falange's attraction to similar ideology in Nazi Germany, the presence of German troops on the frontier has a tremendous effect on a matter that might seem to be the concern of Spain alone.

## Pro-Axis Non-Belligerent

It must be remembered that Spain's non-belligerency is explicitly pro-Axis non-belligerency, like that maintained by Italy until her entry into the war. Good-will gestures of the United States and Great Britain cannot alter the circumstances that Spain's ambitions in Africa and Latin America run counter to the democracies.

As General Franco reviews his troops and his Falangist militia at the victory parade on Tuesday, the question uppermost in all minds will be whether he will make Spain hold out long enough for a seat at the victorious council table. Thus there is a grave question mark over Spain's destiny this Spring.



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"WHY FRANCO IS NERVOUS"



A Welsh tale of the Axis pressure on Spain.

Walker in The South Wales Echo

*A. E. S.*