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The Revolutionary Upsurge in Spain.

Michel Hollay.

In the middle of July a striker in Seville was killed by the police. On July 20th, 3,000 workers attended the funeral of the fallen worker. The police provoked and fired on the workers, who replied with revolver shots and a hail of stones. Two syndicalists and two police were killed and there were numerous wounded.

The workers of Seville and the neighbourhood called a general strike as a protest against this fresh murder. The general strike was complete; no newspaper appeared, all traffic was at a standstill. The hated civil guard intervened. The workers in the suburbs took up defensive positions in the houses, on the roofs and in the streets. Street fighting began.

The government proclaimed martial law. Military, police and civil guards swarmed the streets. Machine guns were placed at strategic points. Artillery was brought up. Squadrons of aeroplanes flew menacingly over the town. Pedestrians had to go through the streets with their hands held above their heads and were searched at almost every step.

The street fighting assumed the fiercest forms in the suburbs of Seville. Whole districts of the town were cordoned off, house searches and wholesale arrests took place. The rattle of the machine guns was heard continually.

The fighting raged for four days. On July 23rd demonstrators, headed by women, attempted to storm a prison, a barracks of the civil guard and a poison gas factory. There were continual fresh collisions, resulting in killed and wounded. The Communist Party premises were closed and the members of the district committee arrested. Comrade Valina, a doctor and active Communist, was arrested and conveyed to the fortress of Santa Catalina near Cadix. A number of prisoners were being conveyed to the prison. Strikers endeavoured to release them. The police fired, killing four workers, including the chairman of the Seville Trades Council and a Communist.

Three guns were placed in front of the "Taverne de Cornello", the meeting place of the local Communist Party, and the house was razed to the ground by artillery fire, because, it is alleged, the workers had converted their local premises into a redoubt.

In these days of civil war in Seville 22 killed and hundreds of wounded are among the victims of the new bourgeois-social democratic Republic. Five hundred arrests have taken place. The prisons are crowded; the strike is still general.

In Seville the 20th, 21st, 22nd and 23rd of July were days of real civil war. Both sides fought with exceeding bitterness and tenacity. The bourgeois-social democratic government pro-