



Women in Galicia (N. W. Spain) carry burdens on their heads

wear in times of fiesta. The costume of Andalusia has become the type that is usually featured by tourist agencies.

In comparison with the cost of living, the Spanish wage-scale is extremely low. A workingman may receive anywhere from the equivalent of fifty cents to a dollar or two for an eight or ten-hour day. This, of course, presupposes the existence of blocks and blocks of tenements in the cities and myriads of tiny although well-kept houses that dot the Spanish countryside. In some instances, there are even caves that have been converted into living quarters for poorer families. However, there is also a large and growing middle class. For the most part, the wealthy Spaniards are extremely well-to-do.

Although primary education is compulsory and mostly gratis, the law is poorly enforced. Twelve state universities have a total enrollment of 60,000. The University of Salamanca dates from A.D. 1230.

Spanish (originally the dialect peculiar to the region known as Castile) has become the official language of the country. However, other regional dialects are still in existence. The Catalans, who live on the east coast near the French border, resemble the French both in customs and in dialect. Throughout Galicia, the people speak the Gallego dialect, which resembles Portuguese. The Basques, who live

Grain will be carried by the donkey to the threshing floor



along the north Atlantic coast, speak a language which resembles none of these dialects, since it is a tongue of primitive and unknown origin. Many Spaniards are bilingual, speaking Spanish in addition to their regional dialect.

INDUSTRIES AND RESOURCES

Although there are extensive non-arable areas, Spain is predominantly agricultural. However, due to primitive methods of cultivation, the inability of the small farmer to buy modern mechanization and the constant danger of drought, during some years the agricultural production of the country falls below its actual needs.

As a producer of oranges, Spain ranks next to the United States. Olives and olive products are leading exports. Other important crops are wheat, barley, rye, oats, almonds and rice.

There are large deposits of coal, iron, copper, zinc and silver, and Spain is the world's second largest producer of mercury. Spanish forests yield lumber and pine resins. Together, Spain and Portugal provide three-fourths of the world's supply of cork. Fishing, although of lesser importance than in some of the other European countries, engages more than 130,000 persons in its related industries.

HISTORY

The earliest inhabitants of this peninsula were Iberians and Celts, whose history can be traced back to before the time of the Conquest of Canaan. In turn, the country has been invaded by Phoenicians, Greeks, Carthaginians, Romans and Visigoths. Moslem invaders from Africa entered in A.D. 711 and remained for eight centuries. Their power was broken when Ferdinand and Isabella, called "Los Reyes Católicos" (the Catholic kings) were married, uniting the kingdoms of Aragon and Castile. Earlier, in the same year that America was discovered, these monarchs were able to reconquer Granada, the last Moorish stronghold. Since it was the Catholic religion that helped consolidate the empire, there are many who affirm that any attempt to introduce other religions into Spain is merely an effort to destroy the unity of the nation.

Ferdinand and Isabella sent Columbus sailing westward in 1492 to find a new route to India, opening Spain's "Golden Age of Colonization" which lasted for 200 years. Although Spain's mandate of these conquered lands has long since come to an end, marks of her civilization, her language, and also her religion are still deeply imbedded in the nations she ruled.

During the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, the Austrian House of Hapsburg reigned in Spain. In 1713, the French Bourbons took over the throne, ruling until the year 1931, when a duly-elected republican government was instituted, with full democratic rights, including religious liberty. In 1936, an insurrection led by Generalissimo Franco started the Civil War which ravaged the country and is said to have caused the death of a million people. When Madrid fell in 1939, the Generalissimo was named Chief of State, a position which he still holds. For purposes of administration, the nation is divided into fifty provinces.