

The much revered poet E.J. Pratt was equally forthright. Asked to make a statement about the Spanish situation he wrote that his sympathies were wholly with the Popular Front ..determined by the following reasons:

1. The government was placed in power by approximately seventy per cent of the population .
2. The rebellion, now unfortunately successful, was instigated and maintained by reactionary agencies seeking to preserve the remnants of a grandee feudalism with all its caste and privilege and priestcraft.
3. The loyalist regime was attacked and broken by militarists, who, failing to get command of the national army, employed foreign mercenaries for that purpose.
4. A genuine and heroic effort to establish a democracy has been smashed by a minority used as the spearhead of a Fascist invasion.
5. A hundred other unprintable reasons. "

Pratt's poem called "Dictator" in which he compares a Hitler, a Mussolini or a Franco to a Baritone is typical of ^{the way he organized these feelings} ~~into satirical books~~. He begins:

He ascended the rostrum after the fashion of the Caesars:
 His arm, a baton raised, oblique,
 Answering the salute of the thunder,
 Imposed a silence on the Square.
 For three hours
 A wind-theme swept his laryngeal reeds ,
 Pounded on the diaphragm of the microphone,
 Entered, veered, ran round a coil,
 Emerged, to storm the passes of the ether,

Until, impinging on a hundred million ear-drums,
 It grew into the fugue of Europe.

The third theme which runs through Canadian poetry at this time is that expressed in prose by the ~~Toronto~~ ^{who was also a poet!} artists Charles Comfort. The war in Spain is seen to be a struggle for all the finest achievements of man, now threatened to destruction not only in Spain, but throughout Europe as well as here at home.

For anyone trained in the practice and appreciation of the more pacific activities of democratic existence; for anyone who believes that sociology, art and science can only make ultimate progress in a world adjusted and peaceful; for anyone who abhors war as a barbarism civilization should long have outgrown, the appalling spectacle of the Spanish Civil War is like a horrible nightmare from which there is no sudden release or awakening...
 ...If the gangster methods being employed to subjugate the Spanish people are successful, does it not follow that the successful technique will be applied elsewhere?