

(Continued from previous page)

most notorious of them was publicly guillotined amid signs of national mourning in Bastia a few years ago.

In spite of this streak of violence and lawlessness in their nature the Corsicans are the kindest and most hospitable people. Travel about their country and you will invariably be received with marked courtesy and generosity. In every village through which we passed as soldiers on manoeuvres our drinking flasks would be filled with wine—the headiest wine, by the way, I have anywhere come across. And I have known a peasant couple to go out at night with their baby to a relative some distance away so that I, a complete stranger, might sleep in the only bed in the house.

Like all the Mediterranean islanders the Corsicans are an inextricable mixture of the many races who successively conquered them; Greeks, Romans, Carthaginians, Moors, Norsemen, Goths, and Vandals. In the Middle Ages, various city-states of the Italian mainland obtained suzerainty over them in turn. There were short periods during which they enjoyed independence. For a time they belonged to Spain and they even belonged for a while to a bank! France acquired the island in 1768 from Genoa and has held it ever since, except for a brief British occupation during the Napoleonic Wars. Since the French Revolution it has been a department (county) administered as an integral part of France.

They Speak Italian

But the language of the people is still Italian, or rather an Italian dialect closely akin to that spoken by the Tuscans, and it was this language tie that gave rise to Italian claims shortly before the present war and to Corsica's inclusion in the cry "Nice, Corsica, Tunis!" in which Fascist ambitions were expressed. It finds no echo in the island, however, perhaps because of the memory of centuries of oppression under various Italian tyrants. Besides, the French connection, as already mentioned, suits the Corsicans very well. In the vast French empire there are openings for their services far more plentiful than those that Italy could offer. Nor do Corsicans always play such a modest part in French affairs. Napoleon Bonaparte, who carried France to the very height of her power, was born at Ajaccio a few

months after the island passed under French rule. Many distinguished generals in his time and later were his compatriots, and Corsica has supplied France with statesmen, lawyers, police chiefs, and politicians.

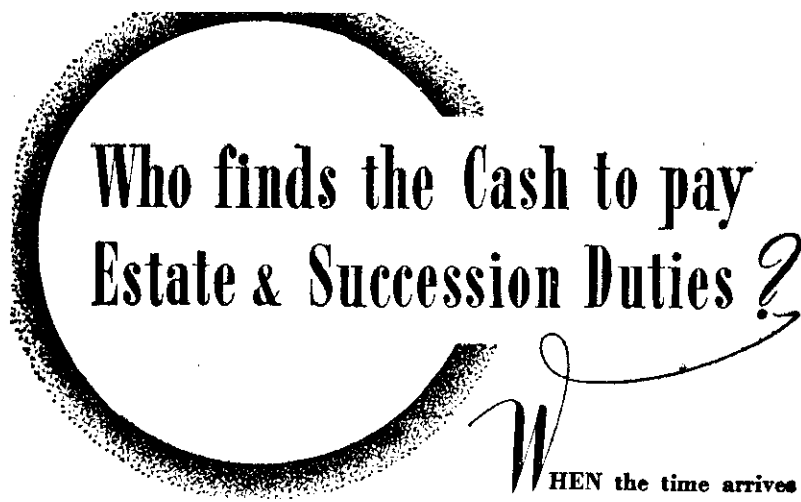
Their "Besetting Sin"

Politics indeed are the besetting sin of the Corsicans, who will sit at the café for hours on end engaged in interminable argument on the subject, while they sip their excellent but highly intoxicating Cap Corse or Patrimonia wines. Every appointment of a village school-teacher or postmaster is surrounded with intrigue and patronage. The twenty-odd parties in pre-war France gave them plenty of scope for wrangling. They did not envy the Italians their one-party state with its rigorous political censorship.

A handful of Corsican malcontents, it is true, kept up a "separatist" agitation from headquarters at Leghorn with the help of Italian subsidies. But the movement was far from popular. Indeed I witnessed an incident during my stay at Bastia which revealed the prevalent state of feeling towards Italy. A party given by the Italian Consul in honour of King Victor Emmanuel's birthday became over-exuberant and some coins were thrown out of the window to a crowd that had gathered outside, attracted by the sounds of merrymaking. This was taken as an insult, coming from where it did, perhaps as an attempt at bribery, and the angry Corsicans stormed the consulate, broke up the furniture, and left the consul himself with a black eye. The regiment to which I was attached had to provide the Italian representative and his premises with an armed guard for several weeks.

These people, then, will give every assistance to a landing force come to free them from the hated Italian occupation which they have had to endure since July, 1940. Many thousands of Corsicans have already joined Generals de Gaulle and Giraud.

The French constructed excellent air-fields, Corsica being the link in the air route from France to Tunis. A seaplane base on the Biguglia Lagoon, a few miles south of Bastia, was designed to play an important role between the naval bases of Toulon and Bizerta. These facilities will fall into the hands of General Eisenhower.



Who finds the Cash to pay Estate & Succession Duties?

WHEN the time arrives to administer *your* estate, will it be necessary to sell valuable property at short notice and perhaps on an unfavourable market to pay the Death Duties? . . . duties which must be paid in *cash* and in full. The Public Trustee can help in this matter, as he possesses special statutory powers enabling him to advance the required funds with no attendant legal expenses and to avoid the forced sale of assets of the estate. Consult your nearest Public Trust Office for further information.

The PUBLIC TRUSTEE

10/11

"Let the Scales tell the Story"



"Just LOOK how he's gaining!"

Don't worry if you cannot feed baby yourself. Fine, sturdy children can be reared from birth on Robinson's 'Patent' Barley and milk. Good milk, provided you mix it with Robinson's 'Patent' Barley, will make him just as strong and healthy. You can't go wrong if you follow the simple instructions on the tin.



ROBINSON'S 'PATENT' BARLEY

Reckitt & Colman (N.Z.), Ltd., Bond Street, Dunedin.

B.G.25

does you good!

right from the first



WINCARNIS

QUICK ACTION TONIC

Distributors: Fassett & Johnson Ltd., Levy Building, Manners St., WELLINGTON.