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Gamblers in Europe

DICTATOR DANGERS

(Continued from page 15.)

A GAIN in Spain, Britain's record makes deplorable reading. Mr. Garratt adds force to his claims by the very temperate manner in which he presents his case. Britain knew from the outset of Italy's and Germany's interest in Spain, and of their active participation in fomenting Franco's rebellion.

Instead of protesting, the Foreign Office—possibly, to put it charitably, because of their knowledge of Britain's unpreparedness for war—made no resistance against this aggression.

On the contrary, they took the view that an easy success was bound to fall to the Mediterranean brigand; that under those conditions it was better to play friends with him, and accordingly from the outset their policy was designed to help rather than to hinder Mussolini's campaign.

The British people, as a people, were deliberately misled through a long period of time by Anthony Eden and other Parliamentary spokesmen for the Foreign Office. The evidence on this point is overwhelmingly clear.

This book tears the veil from those misrepresentations, subterfuges and half-truths, and states quite clearly that Britain's policy has been based based upon a misconception of the true situation in Spain.

THE blame for this is placed upon the personnel of the Foreign Office and upon their status and mental outlook in life. The Foreign Office, it is claimed, is largely influenced by the religious outlook of some of its leading figures. Their whole training prevented the development of any sympathy for the revolt of the Spanish peasantry against recognised land evils, church domination and undue army exploitation. Such officials simply could not envisage sympathy with such a movement or picture a possibility of their successfully resisting the armed might of Italy.

Mussolini, whose skill as a diplomat is definitely clear, had put himself "on side" with the church by an earlier financial agreement with the Pope, so that his adventure, both in Abyssinia and Spain, had the quiet and effective support of that powerful organisation.

SINCE these books were penned and published—only a few weeks ago, for they have been rushed through the press—other important moves have taken place on the European draught board.

Hitler has swallowed Austria. His next move, the absorption of Czechoslovakia, or at least the German part of it, forecast in the book, "Blackmail or War," is now being played out before our eyes in the daily cable messages revealing the demand of the German minority for full autonomy in Czechoslovakia.

Unless the democracies take a definite stand and call the bluff of both Hitler and Mussolini, the future of the world will definitely be in peril. Mme. Tabouis, whose standing as a diplomatic writer is beyond question, takes

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