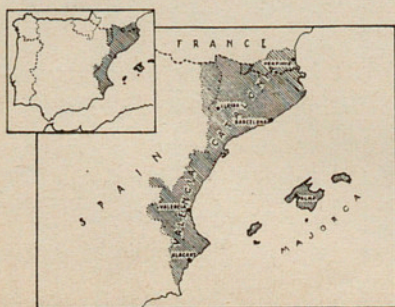




# FREE CATALONIA

No. 8

February-March, 1943



*CATALONIA* is situated on the northeastern side of the Iberian Peninsula, as shown in the above map. Catalan territories include all the shaded areas, which together form Greater Catalonia, with a population of over 6,000,000 people.

*CATALONIA* existed as a free Nation until 1714, when she was incorporated by force into the Spanish unitarian State.

*CATALONIA* has a language of its own—Catalan—belonging to the Romance group or neo-Latin languages and as independent from Spanish as French is from Portuguese or Italian.

*CATALONIA* aims to be again a Free Nation and to freely govern herself. After regaining her national independence, she will be in a position to consider a Confederacy of Iberian Free States, on the basis of a voluntary association of free peoples of the Iberian Peninsula, which would include Catalans, Basques, Galicians, Spaniards, and Portuguese, if they so desire. Catalonia identifies herself with the cause of the United Nations.



## OPEN LETTER TO MR. HULL

Dear Mr. Hull:

We are not addressing the Secretary of State but the man who has gained the respect of his fellow citizens and of all the liberals here and abroad. We are writing you because we are convinced, beyond doubt, of the sincerity of your acts and that your convictions are sternly held according to the lights of your heart and conscience in carrying out the trust of the high office deposited upon you.

It is not for us to question therefore your policies but as true admirers of your political life it may not be beyond our prerogative to point with certain dismay to the effect on the 5500 anti-Franco exile prisoners in North Africa when they will have learned that they are not to be released unless Franco approves of such a move. Perhaps those 5500 are already hardened to hard knocks and suffering, having been the first to feel the Axis and to fight it unaided, but it may be worthwhile to remember the 400,000 descendants of Catalans and Spaniards who are living in North Africa and to whom today America represents the hope for a better tomorrow.

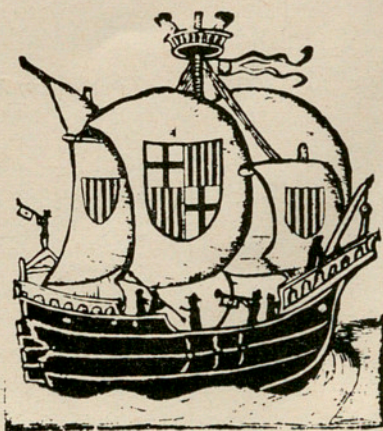
We realize of course that there must be high questions of expediency, both military and political, to which we are neophytes, but as simple liberals it is hard to understand some of the recent declarations and interpret them as contributing factors to a world with freedom and liberty for the peoples of the earth and dignity to man. We want to believe, of course, that you, Mr. Hull, probably have been forced to make some of these declarations to the point of even being embarrassed by them because of your truly liberal spirit.

Last but certainly not the least consideration is the effect that such puzzling statements and declarations must have on many of the true liberals in Latin America, and it will be a little hard to understand how in the middle of a war to reassert the liberties you can deny your intercession to those who were the first to suffer from our common enemy.

Respectfully yours,

CASAL CATALA

## FACTS ABOUT CATALONIA — V



From the "Libre del Consulat de Mar" (Book of Maritime Laws) compiled in Catalonia in the IX Century.

**ECONOMIC** — *Commercial Tradition of Catalonia*—Catalonia has been known through history as a commercial and industrial country. By the IX century the Catalans were already engaged in trade in the Mediterranean. Barcelona was easily the greatest mercantile and industrial center of the Iberian Peninsula. The most important source of Catalan wealth was manufacturing, especially of cloth and fabrics, a great variety of which were made in Barcelona.

(continued on page 2)