

kingdom on the ground that the capital was necessary to the State, which would in future pay interest upon it. Perhaps it was necessary. Let that question pass. What the Catalans object to is that the capital has vanished no man knows whither, while the obligation to pay the interest remains, and the Government is at its wits' ends to find the means of discharging that obligation.

The Trouble in Catalonia.

From The Contemporary Review.

Not only are the traditions and customs of Catalonia (and what is true of one province is true of the others) different from those of Castile, but the economic interests of each of these units which compose the Spanish State are occasionally opposed to each other. It is a mistake, therefore, to suppose that the abrogation of our special laws is a sentimental grievance. It is also a material loss which may be estimated in pesetas and centimos. Administrative centralization means economic centralization which in the case of Catalonia is tantamount to ruin. The few dozen greedy stump orators who compose the central Government garner in all the riches of the country for the purpose of "administrating" it. And they do; but it never gets much beyond the point at which charity begins.

Millions upon millions are collected for the army and navy; but are they spent on these defenses? Ask Toral in Santiago de Cuba, Admiral Cervera, or Gen. Augustin. Yet the money has gone somewhere. Politicians who came to Madrid with a carpet-bag full of impedimenta a year or two ago possess palaces and country villas and extravagant mistresses to-day. But the soldiers have not leather boots that will keep out the water! And Catalans pay more, far more, of that maladministered money than any other province of Spain. The Government appropriated the funds belonging to the churches, universities, hospitals, savings banks, and pawnbrokers of the