

for some time to come to maintain the levels of river and canal waterways, and, even more important in the area affected, to meet the demands of industry on the general water supply. If this is so, the Möhne damage may prove of greater importance than that to the larger dam, since the latter had no indispensable water-supply function, whereas the Möhne dam supplies localities with drinking water and Ruhr industries with their essential requirements. Unless the damage to this dam can be repaired before next winter, flooding may occur.

All this damage has been done in an area already seriously affected by air bombardment, and in which, of course, the first buildings to be affected by flooding would be air-raid shelters. Reports from Duisburg after the Royal Air Force raid on the 13th speak of drastic measures, particularly in order to prevent a stoppage of food distribution and to rehouse the homeless. There is some reason to believe that martial law is still in force in Essen, and labour troubles were reported there and in Dortmund at the end of April. People were warned that the possibilities of supplying special rations were not great, but that efforts would be made to effect extra deliveries of fish and poultry. Evacuation from such cities continues under difficulties and on a large scale, especially of school-children, who are apparently still not compelled to leave. All the schools in Duisburg have been closed, and the local paper asked parents to allow their children to be evacuated and not to ask for them to be sent back too early.

News from the other war fronts is scanty this week. The subdued tone of the communiqués concerning the fighting in Russia contrasts significantly with reports that the Eastern Front is being more actively discussed than usual in Berlin. Fierce fighting is expected, either in the Kuban or on the middle front, but there is no definite forecast of a major German offensive. The public anxiety caused by the Tunisian campaign has not yet subsided, but can hardly be allayed by the face-saving post-mortems which appear in the press. The general lines of these can be judged from a phrase in the *Kölnische Zeitung*: "We have lost ground but gained glory." The most extreme of such attempts to reassure the public comes from Dr. Goebbels himself, in *Das Reich*, on the theme of "setbacks that do not matter." He stated that the Axis had only "insignificantly small forces" in Africa, and that the outcome had depended entirely on the problem of supplies: "Europe is the centre of our strategy, Africa is only a fringe."

German interest in the war is now focused chiefly on Italy, and official propaganda is busy dispersing doubts as to the power of Italian resistance and the extent to which Germany intends to fight for Italy. Mr. Churchill's references to Japan enabled a German agency to state that the Tripartite Powers would not be defeated on the defection of any one of them; they resemble powerful and independent fortresses which are capable of carrying on the war even without mutual support. At the same time, Sardinia and Sicily were referred to in Berlin as "German bastions" and the *Berliner Börsen-Zeitung* repeated that the defence of Italy is as much Germany's affair as Italy's.

The press conferences in the Wilhelmstrasse have turned principally upon Mr. Churchill's speech to Congress. Dr. Schmidt gave it as his opinion that the only interesting passage in the speech was the praise given to Giraud and the omission of reference to de Gaulle, which he called "a British Fashoda" under American pressure. But the Prime Minister's reference to Japan, to the intensification of the war in the air and to the difficulties of invasion have all evoked comment. The phrase about German cities being laid "in dust and ashes" has been quoted in Berlin, and the *Transocean* commentator, Sertorius, admitted that it was clear that no immediate general attack on Japan was likely. Berlin still speaks of Germany's share in forthcoming campaigns as defensive: as long as Germany's enemies are not strong enough to occupy the European continent, victory is with Germany.

On the 10th of this month the legislative powers of the Reich Government under the Enabling Act of the 24th March, 1933, lapsed and were extended by order of the Führer, pending confirmation by the Reichstag. In the past this Act has been renewed by the Reichstag some time before it expired, but it is not certain that any immediate assembly of that body is now intended, or that any public interest is shown in the matter.

The food situation, on the other hand, is a general topic of discussion. Riecke's broadcast of the 18th was an official attempt to answer some of the questions that are being asked, and to explain that the recent reduction in the meat ration was no sudden measure, but in accord with a long-term policy of progressive reduction of livestock. Now that what he called "equilibrium" between supplies of fodder and quantity of livestock had been attained, no further inroads could or should be made on that quantity. The speaker promised

expansion of vegetable and potato supplies and gave a vague assurance that the varied character of the German agricultural area was a protection against possible harvest failure.

Unrest among students in Germany came to a head some months ago in Munich University, and three students were shot for distributing leaflets and inciting to disaffection. It is now reported in the neutral press that a professor was also shot. The Reich Student Leader, Scheel, in a broadcast on the 19th, has announced a general purge of the present student body, so that all those unable to pass the severest test will be removed. He later explained that the test would be one of political reliability and not of intellectual attainment. Student-leaders in the universities would allow only such students (women no less than men) to continue their studies who could be "standard-bearers of faith in the Führer."

Pronouncements continue to come from the Roman Catholic bishops of Germany. A recent Vatican broadcast in German gave the text of a diocesan appeal by the Archbishop of Freiburg regarding pastoral care for evacuated people, especially for those who had suffered through raids. Cases should be personally visited and funds from monastery treasuries would be made available to help hard cases. A recent Pastoral of the Archbishop of Cologne was also broadcast to Germany from the Vatican. Christians were urged to remember the Gospel precept to love one's neighbour especially at a time when so many voices urged them to hate; enemies as well as friends should be included in their prayers. This Archbishop is said to be one of the few prelates who has dared to write to those of his clergy who are in concentration camps, where it appears that during the last eighteen months priests have been subjected to very bad handling. Another Vatican broadcast in German was interesting as refuting reproaches levelled against the Pope for inactivity; the speaker pointed out that the Pope does what he can, for prisoners, for peace and for other objects, but that his power to act is not as great as his will. The implication was that the Pope has been urged from within Germany to pass from spiritual exhortations (which have recently touched on political issues) to action of a more definitely political nature.

#### CZECHOSLOVAKIA.

There has been no noteworthy change in the situation in either the Protectorate or Slovakia during the past week, and the most important development was a statement on Czechoslovak foreign policy made at a meeting of the State Council in London by Dr. Ripka, Minister of State, in which he revealed that the Czechoslovak-Polish negotiations initiated in November 1940 had been suspended. Dr. Ripka explained that it had always been made clear by the Czechoslovak Government that a confederation or alliance between Czechoslovakia and Poland was feasible only if both States had equally cordial relations with the Soviet Union. He added, however, that the present tension between Russia and Poland was not the only reason for his Government's decision. The Polish Government had not so far undone the act of annexation committed by Poland in 1938, but had in fact taken steps with a view to perpetuating it. Similarly, it had not been possible to achieve identity of views about Hungary, with whom Czechoslovakia, unlike Poland, is at war.

This step emphasises once more the very friendly relations existing between Czechoslovakia and the Soviet Union and underlines the views on post-war Europe expressed by Dr. Beneš in his New York address to the Council on Foreign Relations on the 19th May. In this speech the President prophesied that the Soviet Union would not again be isolated from Europe, and repeated his view that the Anglo-Soviet Pact of a year ago was a great diplomatic act which guaranteed future collaboration between Western Europe and the U.S.S.R. He reaffirmed his personal acceptance of the principle of federation or confederation, and his belief that only by genuine, friendly and loyal collaboration between the three Slavonic nations—Poland, Czechoslovakia and the Soviet Union—could the German Drang nach Osten be permanently liquidated.

#### POLAND.

When in the summer and early autumn of last year the German authorities reduced the population of the Warsaw ghetto from about 350,000 to less than 40,000, it was only known for certain that most of the unfortunate victims had been deported to three camps in Eastern Poland. The Polish Government has recently received a report, which at any rate merits very serious consideration,

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