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CONTENTS.

Page	Page
Europe—	Europe (contd.)—
Germany 1	Italy 11
Czechoslovakia 3	South-Eastern Europe 13
Poland... .. 3	Middle East 16
Soviet Union... .. 4	Far East... .. 18
Scandinavia 7	United States 19
The Low Countries 8	Latin America 21
France 8	
Spain and Portugal 10	

EUROPE.

GERMANY.

IN the second half of June the Germans are finding it increasingly difficult to explain away their apparent adoption of defensive strategy. Every week reinforces in the public mind the contrast between German passivity on all fronts (save the least obvious one of submarine warfare) and the growing Allied threat to the European mainland. The fall of Pantelleria could be minimised as a "very limited gain" or explained away as inevitable, Pantelleria being within the Tunis orbit as much as the Channel Islands were within the French. But the resumption of heavy raids on the Ruhr reinforced the general impression of an invasion prelude and occasioned a personal visit by Goebbels to the scenes of the worst damage.

As to likely moves in Russia, the German High Command is of course silent, and official comment still very reserved: "a surprise on the Eastern front is possible at any moment and the watchword is 'Wait'"—such was the tenor of military opinion gathered by a Swedish journalist. Yet other Berlin discussions seem to have admitted an equilibrium on the Russian front comparable to that reached after Verdun in the last war, adding that the reinforcements of American troops which turned the scale then cannot be expected to recur in Russia. According to Swiss correspondents, military circles in Berlin now speak of the possibility of a German Western offensive, in the form of an invasion of Britain, even of Spain, since the reports speak of commandos and motorised reserves not only near the Channel but north of the Pyrenees. There is no further evidence that such moves are seriously contemplated or have occasioned considerable movements of troops or barges. At such a moment the German people are urged not to speculate about the next move. It is pointless, said the *Kölnische Zeitung*, to ask "how, when and where the curtain will rise." Repeating this phrase, the *Frankfurter Zeitung* enforces the necessity of keeping cool during a critical period and quotes Ranke on Frederick the Great, who "in defending himself became