

Germans. But it is doubtful whether they can long keep up resistance. The latest news is that the Dutch have been ordered to surrender their radio sets, an order which is a tribute to the efficiency of the broadcasts from England. The Dutch Government have been stimulating non-violent resistance—evidently with some success. Unfortunately, many Dutch owners of radio sets have been honest enough to pay for a licence; hence it should be fairly easy to secure the remainder of their sets.

According to a Swedish paper the discipline and morale of the *N.S.B.* are crumbling. This may well be so. Mussert's failure to obtain any real power from the Germans must now have become obvious, and his followers may reasonably think that they stand to gain very little by sticking to him.

From Belgium has come fresh evidence of the Cardinal Primate's attitude to the War. In the message attached to his "Easter Candle" Cardinal von Roey pointed out that a mild winter had mitigated the sufferings caused by drastic coal rationing and that famine had been averted by abundant supplies of fish and potatoes; he added that the Belgians were rejoicing at the issue of the fighting in Africa and the mutual slaughter of the enemies of Christendom in the East; on the other hand, he said, their hearts were afflicted by the carrying off of young men and women into "odious servitude." It is no wonder that the German-controlled press has been roused to fury by this candid expression of opinion.

The *Rexist Pays Réel* has quoted at length from an article in a French paper which describes the widespread loyalty of the Belgians to King Leopold. This is significant; for during the last few months the Rexists have tended to ignore the King. Perhaps the Rexists are seeking to insure themselves against Germany's defeat, as other Belgian traitors are doing (see *Summary* No. 188).

## FRANCE.

That Laval is meeting with a considerable amount of at least passive opposition in seeking to meet German demands transpires from Swiss reports according to which already on the 1st May the Germans notified Pétain that they had proof that "certain circles" were preparing a new *coup* against Laval like that of the 12th December, 1940. Arrests by the Gestapo would seem to have immediately followed this intimation, 180 officials being arrested in Vichy alone, while several hundreds were arrested in Lyons, Arles, Nîmes, Marseilles and Toulon, many of those arrested being former army officers or reservists. Admiral Platon, the ex-Minister of Marine and Colonies, was one of those mentioned as concerned in the plot against Laval.

The effects of Allied air raids continue to be exploited over the Paris wireless, which has given the figure of those killed in raids over France between the 1st January and the 15th April as 2,914. Pétain has sent a special gift of 100,000 francs for the victims of a raid in a town in the Nord, to which he was "attached by a long past."

The great majority of the 1,000 prisoners released a month ago for leave at home have now, the Germans report, returned to work in Germany as civilians, in civilian dress. They hoped to get the services of 249,000 more prisoners of war by this same process. *Radio Révolution* now boasts that only 30 of the thousand failed to report, and much is made of the "solidarity of the Stalag."

Metropolitan French wireless stations continued in their comment on the Tunisian victories to reveal the widespread satisfaction they have aroused in France. Paris denounced the (seemingly popular) argument that the Anglo-Saxon's are France's liberators, and that, "even if they wage war for their own interests alone, they wage it against the Germans, and that is good enough for us." Philippe Henriot, from Vichy, emphasised that it was an Anglo-Saxon victory; "it is not ours"; and Frenchmen who strutted about boastfully or shared in the Allies' elation had to be reminded that Tunisia was not a German colony. The implication that not only the much-hated "Gaullist" dissidence but also that of General Giraud was in the service of a foreign, and even hostile, Power was occasionally qualified in Vichy propaganda by the recognition that "there are those who fought for their opinions. We can bow to the wounded and dead of Bir Hakeim." But there was nothing but abuse for "Gaullists" in France, whether of the extreme Left or others, including "rich *bourgeois*, industrialists, merchants and farmers," who attacked "the Marshal and his Government," while "they supply the authorities of occupation with everything they can."

Mr. Churchill sent a special message of congratulation to General Giraud on the fighting spirit of the French army under his command, "their tenacity in defence and aggression in assault . . . in spite of being at a disadvantage in equipment."

In Tunisia the Bey, Sidi Mohammed Moncef, has been deposed by General Giraud and has been succeeded by the "Bey du Camp," Sidi Mohammed Al Amin Pasha in accordance with the traditions of the Husseinite dynasty, by which the Beylicate goes to the eldest surviving member of the Husseinite family. The deposed Bey never answered the message of President Roosevelt of last November, whereas he received the Axis forces, and was subsequently reported to have expressed his "gratitude for the protection extended by Germany and Italy to the population of Tunisia against Anglo-American aggression," and declared that "our hearts, as well as the hearts of the entire Arab world," were with "your soldiers in this struggle." The leaders of the autonomist movements "Destour" and "neo-Destour" were brought back under Axis auspices and a show was made of restoring full Arab autonomy under the Bey.

The report that the Bey had fled to Italy after the Axis defeat was succeeded by the news that he was still in Tunis, and had even received high representatives of the victorious British forces. It is not known why General Giraud abandoned his intention of appointing a Council of Regency (as mentioned in this *Summary* last week) and leaving a decision regarding a new Bey in suspense. But the immediate appointment of a successor is fortunately in line with the opinion of His Majesty's Government, who consider that the filling of the throne at once is most desirable from the point of view of Moslem opinion throughout the world, even if the candidate should turn out not to be the best possible one. The new Bey was invested on the 15th May in the Bardo Palace by General Juin, Acting Resident-General, in the course of what was an entirely Franco-Tunisian ceremony. According to the Algiers wireless, the new Bey has hitherto kept "strictly aloof from all political activity." Axis propaganda has already sought to exploit the deposition; it is argued that Tunisia had "recovered full autonomy" under Sidi Moncef's "leadership," but that now the Allies had violated the Atlantic Charter.

Contradictory reports still appear regarding the conduct of the Vichy Resident-General, Admiral Esteva, but the *D.N.B.* reported that he reached Lyons on the 14th May along with the "French Military Mission to Tunisia." They had all been "sent back to France." According to Paris Radio, Admiral Esteva was received by Marshal Pétain and by Laval on the 18th May and "thanked for his loyalty." The head of this Mission, Colonel du Jonchay, is one of five persons who have been condemned to death, by default, by a French court-martial in Tunisia for collaborating with the enemy. It is further reported that many civilians known to have aided the Axis have been arrested by the French police in Tunisia.

A new factor in the Giraud-de Gaulle controversy arose when, on the 15th May, Fighting French Headquarters announced the formation and composition of a "Council of Resistance," set up in Metropolitan France to co-ordinate the movement of liberation on both the political and military sides. This council had been constituted through the efforts of Monsieur X., whom General de Gaulle now appointed a member of the French National Committee and Commissioner on mission in France. The council, which claims to represent not only the eight main underground organisations, but also the trade unions and six leading political parties ranging from the Communists to the *Fédération Républicaine*, in a declaration addressed to General de Gaulle urged the setting up of a Provisional Government at Algiers under the presidency of General de Gaulle, General Giraud's function being that of Military Commander. (These are also the essential points in the declaration of the French Communist Party of the 1st April, published in London on the 10th May.) They declare that General de Gaulle would "remain for all the only leader of French resistance whatever the result of the negotiations." They were convinced that the proposed meeting must take place at the seat of the Government General of Algeria (viz., Algiers) "in broad daylight and among Frenchmen."

The news of the message of the "Council of Resistance" was followed up by the publication on the 18th May of the full text of General de Gaulle's reply to General Giraud's letter and note of the 27th April. He considered that General Giraud's message marked real progress towards the point of view of Fighting France, though he did not include in his reply any reference to General Giraud's main proposal, viz., that the new joint authority should give a solemn pledge to

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