

Montgomery; the Order of Ushakov, 1st Class, to Admiral Sir Bertram Ramsay; the Order of Kutuzov, 1st Class, to Air Chief Marshal Sir Trafford Leigh-Mallory and Lieutenant-General Omar Bradley; and the Order of Suvorov, 2nd Class, to Lieutenant-General Leonard Townsend Jerow and Major-General Lawton Collins."

With the entry of the Red Army into Yugoslav territory, Yugoslav affairs have been coming into prominence in Moscow during the past week. The press has carried numerous reports of the enthusiastic welcome enjoyed by Soviet officers and men in Yugoslavia. An exhibition devoted to the national liberation struggle of the Yugoslav peoples was opened on the 5th October on the premises of the All Slav Committee in Moscow, the inaugural ceremony being attended by the Yugoslav and Czech Military Missions, as well as by representatives from those of Great Britain, France and the United States. On the opening day of the exhibition Lieut.-General Terzić, Chief of the Military Mission of the Yugoslav National Liberation Army, was awarded the Order of Suvorov (2nd Class) "for outstanding combat activities and for courage and gallantry displayed in fighting the common enemy of the U.S.S.R. and Yugoslavia, Hitlerite Germany."

For Soviet relations with the Levant States and with Persia, see under "Middle East."

Some changes among the officials of the Estonian S.S.R. were announced on the 3rd October, M. Arnold Weimer being appointed Chairman of the Council of People's Commissars and M. N. Karotamm being promoted from second to first secretary of the Estonian Communist Party. M. Weimer had been Commissar for Light Industry in the Estonian Soviet Government formed in August 1940, and was evacuated to the U.S.S.R. with most of the other members of that Government after the German occupation of Estonia in the summer of 1941. While in the Soviet Union he became for a time Acting Chairman of the Estonian Sovnarkom, the original Chairman, Lauristin, having lost his life during the evacuation. In March 1943 M. Weimer was superseded as Acting Chairman by Oscar Sepre, the original deputy chairman of the Estonian Sovnarkom. There is no evidence to explain why M. Weimer should have once more come to the fore. M. Karotamm succeeds the original first secretary of the Estonian Communist Party, M. K. Syare, who has apparently been deported to Germany. M. Weimer has recently given interviews to Mr. Magidoff, the N.B.C. commentator in Moscow, and to the *Daily Worker* correspondent, describing the plans of his Government for the rehabilitation of Estonia. He stressed the point that collectivisation would not be enforced, though an educational campaign was being launched pointing out its advantages. "A policy of collectivisation could only be successful when, as in other parts of the U.S.S.R., it was carried out in a voluntary manner." It sounds as though the Estonian agrarian plans would be carried through on the basis of the land laws of the Estonian S.S.R. of August 1940, which laid down 30 hectares as the maximum holding and promised minimum holdings of 10 hectares to landless peasants and dwarf holders. Only three small collective farms were, in fact, started in Estonia between July 1940 and June 1941. M. Weimer also stated that small commercial enterprises employing up to ten workers would not be nationalised again in accordance with the system in force in 1940-41.

The expansion of Soviet electric power in the Eastern regions, in response to war-time requirements, has been rapid and considerable. By the end of this year, for example, the Urals will have three new electric power stations producing as much power as the entire pre-war local electric power system. In Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan large new electric power stations are also being built. Apart from these expansionist measures, there are encouraging reports regarding the progress of electric power reconstruction in the liberated territories on which the revival of industry largely depends. The vital Zuyevov electric station in the Donbas is now partly functioning again and reports from Leningrad state that the local power output equals pre-war strength. This, however, can hardly mean that the major stations on the River Svir, which provided an important part of the Leningrad supply of electric power, are working at pre-war strength, as they still can only be in the process of restoration.

SCANDINAVIA.

Colonel-General Zhdanov, Chairman of the Allied Control Commission, finally arrived in Helsinki on the 5th October. The first detachment of the Commission, headed on the military side by the vice-chairman, Lieutenant-General Savonenkov, and on the civilian side by M. Orlov, the last Soviet Minister to

Finland, had preceded him by a fortnight. The choice of General Zhdanov as Chairman is evidence of the importance attached in Moscow to the Commission, as he is one of the most outstanding figures in the U.S.S.R., being a member of the Politburo and head of the Party in Leningrad. General Zhdanov had his first meeting with Marshal Mannerheim on the 8th October, General Savonenkov and the Finnish Minister of Defence, General Walden, being also present. The conversation lasted two and a half hours.

General Zhdanov's arrival at his post coincided with that of the Soviet delegation to the Mixed Soviet-Finnish Frontier Commission for the Porkkala-Udd area. This delegation is under the chairmanship of A. M. Alexandrov, about whom no further information is at present available.

Both the Finns and the Russians are trying to create more cordial relations between the two countries. Thus the Finnish Government has expressed to the Russian Government its sincere appreciation of the care shown to M. Hackzell, when he was taken ill in Moscow, while members of the Finnish Legation in Stockholm have been most amiably received by their Russian opposite numbers and Mme. Kolontay has given a dinner to the Finnish Legation. The members of the so-called "Six-Men Group," which, incidentally, consists of seven people, who in 1941 were imprisoned on a charge of treason, have now all been released. They have submitted an appeal to the Government asking to be reinstated in their previous posts, including their membership of the Diet.

There are conflicting reports concerning developments in the north of Finland. Some of them speak of steadily deteriorating relations between the Finns and the Germans and that German soldiers are deserting and trying to cross the Swedish frontier; others, as yet unconfirmed, state that two Finnish divisions have joined the Germans, that some Finnish generals have placed themselves at the Germans' disposal and that the Germans are consolidating their positions and receiving reinforcements from Southern Norway. Official reports describe the morale of the Finnish troops fighting in the north as very high. Fighting is particularly fierce at Kemi, where the Germans have taken 150 hostages, including municipal and police officials, threatening to shoot them unless the Finns abandon their attack; these threats have, however, merely stiffened the Finns' determination to fight. Public resentment against the Germans is growing, a development for which the press, in particular *Suomen Sosialidemokraatti*, seems largely responsible.

Up to the 4th October 27,522 refugees and 17,303 heads of livestock have crossed the Swedish frontier in the north; among the refugees were two high Finnish officials who said they were placed on the black list. *Dagens Nyheter* stated that the number of informers and collaborationists fleeing from Finland was on the increase.

In Sweden there have been some small changes in the Government; the most important is the appointment of Professor Bertil Ohlin, well-known economist and newly chosen leader of the People's Party, as Minister of Commerce.

A fresh wave of arrests all over Norway occurred at the end of September, while the Norwegians, on their part, executed some fifteen informers. Effective sabotage of German munition factories and other vital war supplies continues. It is said that a senior officer on Falkenhorst's staff has been showing a lively interest in the possible fate of German troops in Norway in the event of their capitulation, in particular as to whether their protection against reprisals by the Norwegian population would be guaranteed. Falkenhorst himself was not thought to be considering capitulation. German civilians are now evacuating their flats and offices in positions considered to be too exposed and are going into specially prepared villa areas. German women and children and Norwegian mothers of German children are being sent back to Germany, while Norwegian women working for the Germans in Norway have been asked to volunteer for work in Germany in the event of a German withdrawal from Norway.

The Danish police have announced that members of the force will not carry out police duties under present conditions and in no case have the municipal authorities availed themselves of the German "permission" to establish communal police. It has, however, been decided to man A.R.P. services as far as possible under municipal instead of police control. New measures have been taken against railway sabotage. A corps is being set up to "combat mischievous damage to railway property" (presumably on the initiative of the pro-German Director of State Railways), while the Germans have proclaimed that arrested Danish saboteurs will be carried on trains on which members of the German army are travelling. A proclamation from the Freedom Council on the 6th October condemned the decision of the State Prosecutors to deal with criminals