

Judging from recent reports of German morale in Norway, this seems a promising policy. It appears to be confirmed that Terboven's visit to Narvik in May was concerned with the problem of repeated desertions by German soldiers into Sweden; no less than thirty are reported to have been executed for making such attempts. A Norwegian underground newspaper has now published a contribution from a German soldier, which is probably genuine, even if not typical. This article, while warning against the expectation of an internal revolt in Germany, for which, the author says, the people lack the moral strength, asserts that "many Germans look on an Allied victory as liberation"; and continues: "We are weary of everything and want the end to come; the sooner the better."

Work on fortifications is being intensively carried on, a large proportion of the conscript Norwegian labour having been concentrated at Bardufoss, between Narvik and Tromsø, where the principal supply base for the Arctic front is said to be situated. The results of the call-up are, however, disappointing to the occupying Power, which has complained that early information about persons contemplating escape from the country is not provided by the Norwegian authorities. In spite of threats, it appears, too, that no energetic steps have at present been taken against persons who disregard the call-up. The appeal to refugees to return from Sweden seems to be proving ineffective, and the threat of extreme measures against fugitives has not prevented the almost total evacuation of two districts in Trøndelag, near the Swedish frontier.

Meantime, Quisling seems more concerned to enrol a fighting force which may act as a protection to him and his followers in the event of invasion. It is now claimed that the Hird totals as much as nine regiments comprising 10,000 men. Speaking on the 7th June, Quisling dwelt mainly on the terrible consequences which would fall on Norway as a theatre of war in the event of invasion, "even if the Allies are successful." The stock of the Norwegian Führer appears to be slumping; his Minister of the Interior, Hagelin, perhaps the ablest brain of the party, is reported to be intriguing for his own promotion by private negotiations with the German authorities, and Hundseid, a convert from the Agrarian Party, shows signs of an endeavour to detach himself again from the Nasjonal Samling.

In Denmark, sabotage continues in spite of the recent condemnation of such acts by the King. The Swedish paper *Nordens Frihet* attributes this intervention to an interview with Dr. Best, which confronted the King, whose return to power had not been expected so early, with the alternatives of making such representations himself or leaving them to the Regent, Crown Prince Frederik, whose position might have been irretrievably compromised by such an official *début*. There have been a number of recent prosecutions of persons who have refused to serve as anti-sabotage guards.

The Danish financial paper *Børsen* has devoted three issues to critical comment on an article by Dr. Peters on the *Berliner Börsen-Zeitung*, in which he attacked Danish pre-war economic policy for one-sidedness. The Danish paper pointedly suggests that the present situation, with Germany as the sole export market, is equally open to such criticism.

The Moscow radio has fallen upon an admission by the Finnish paper *Aamulehti*, to the effect that the Finnish battalion, which has recently returned from the southern Russian front, was organised before the outbreak of the present hostilities between Germany and the Soviet Union, the inference being that the Finns were privy to the German plan, and deliberately associated themselves with it. Statements by other Finnish papers confirm the fact that this volunteer battalion dates from a period immediately after the "Winter War," though the action of the volunteers is ascribed to a desire to complete their military training.

The Swedish police have been engaged in investigating a scheme for recruitment to the German Waffen S.S., in the course of which enquiries several persons have been detained. The Swedish paper *Nya Dagligt Allehanda* asserts that this step has been unduly postponed, and that the movement has been going on for a long time, to the knowledge of the authorities. The paper alleges that use was made of the German "leave trains" for the transport of the recruits to Germany. The chief of police has indicated that the arrest of the leaders of the organisation is probable. The police superintendent in Helsingborg has disclosed that two of the men now detained were temporarily held before, in December 1942, but were released after a few days, apparently on instructions from Stockholm. He also confirmed the use of leave trains by Swedes joining the German forces, and mentioned six cases in which the men had escaped during their passage through Sweden.

THE LOW COUNTRIES.

The Germans used strong repressive measures to quell the disorders that broke out in the Netherlands at the beginning of May (see *Summary* No. 190). The Dutch press reported that there had been 65 executions. This may well be an underestimate, but a report in a Swedish paper that there were about 1,000 executions should be treated with great reserve. But, though the disorders were soon quelled, the situation remained tense. The Christian Churches publicly protested on the 16th May at the deportation of labour to Germany and were denounced by Seyss-Inquart in a speech delivered on the 19th, which revealed great anxiety at the strength of anti-German feeling in the Netherlands. The part played by the Churches in maintaining the morale of patriots cannot be too strongly stressed.

There were two other significant indications of the trend of opinion. Posthuma, a pro-German of some prominence, was killed by patriots. He was the third member of Mussert's State Secretariat to meet with this fate. Again, when the first contingent of the recently formed Dutch Home Guard (*Landwacht*) took the oath to Hitler at the end of May, it was officially stated that it was hoped that they would not be used against their fellow-countrymen. Yet the Guard had ostensibly been created to combat sabotage. Now they were urged to volunteer for service in a Netherlands Division, which it was hoped to form. Such a Division would be used by the German High Command wherever it thought fit. Meanwhile, there is evidence that service in the Guard is unpopular, even among members of the N.S.B. In that body, indeed, there appears to have been of late much alarm, despondency, and dissatisfaction with the leadership of Mussert. In this connexion it is worth noting that—contrary to an earlier statement by Seyss-Inquart (see *Summary* No. 190)—members of the N.S.B. have not been permitted to retain their wireless sets unless they have secured a special permit.

The Belgian traitors also have their troubles. The *Soir* has actually dared to hint that Germany may not win the war and has criticised the methods employed in the requisitioning of labour. The *Nouveau Journal* has shown that it dislikes the recent decree which gives German courts the right to try Belgian citizens for a large number of offences. Considering the record of these papers such boldness can only be taken as indicating that the traitors who write for them are trying to ensure themselves against the consequences of a German defeat. The Germans, on their part, have endeavoured to make the Belgians accept exploitation by their usual methods. The above-mentioned decree was intended to crush opposition. Reeder made a speech in which he tried to persuade the Belgians to accept labour conscription. Recruiting propaganda for the pro-German military formations has been intensified, and it has been announced that the Walloon legion is to be renamed the Walloon Volunteer S.S. Brigade, which is to be taken as implying both that its strength has increased and that the Germans wish to honour it.

In a recent speech to the Royal African Society the Belgian Colonial Minister praised the great work done by Belgium in the Congo, drew attention to the Colony's contribution to the war effort and made it plain that, in his opinion, there were no grounds for criticising Belgian colonial policy.

FRANCE.

Since the 9th June the French Committee for National Liberation, meeting in Algiers, has been concerned with the question of the command and control of the French Fighting Forces. On that day General de Gaulle indicated to the committee that he would be prepared for General Giraud to retain the post of Commander-in-chief, but demanded for himself the Commissariat for National Defence with the three Chiefs of Staff under him. General Giraud was incensed at this suggestion and talked of resignation. Instead, he himself the next day received a letter of resignation from General de Gaulle, who gave as his principal reason that his experience of the committee had convinced him that the rejuvenation of French forces and administration would never be achieved by it, especially in view of the extent of foreign interference in French affairs in this area. He asked for the command of a division. General Giraud's first impulse was to accept the resignation, but other members dissuaded him from this course; and, though there have been no further meetings of the committee, various formulæ to bridge the gap have been under discussion.