

day of the 533rd anniversary of the battle of Grünwald, when the Slav peoples routed the Teutonic Knights and put an end to German expansion and robbery in the east of Europe. The dangers inherent in the existence of two Polish armies possessing such opposite ideological backgrounds are sufficiently obvious to make comment unnecessary, but still worse trouble for the future lurks in the apparently altruistic desire evinced lately in the U.S.S.R. to care for Polish children there. A committee has been established at the People's Commissariat for Education of the R.S.F.S.R., under the chairmanship of the Vice-Commissar, M. Ivanenko, consisting of representatives of the Commissariats for Health and Industry, and of the chief departments of the Commissariat for Labour Reserves, the Union of Polish Patriots collaborating with the object of organising the education and the technical and professional training of the children, and of caring for their health and physical development. The work, too, of organising crèches, kindergartens and orphanages for Polish children is to have its scope widened. The snag lies, needless to say, in the fact that text-books for the purpose and general literature will have to be produced, and almost certainly these will bear a pronouncedly leftist political flavour. Moreover, teachers and directors for schools will almost certainly be chosen largely for their political suitability for the purposes which the Union of Polish Patriots have in mind. It is to be feared, therefore, that this activity may form yet another obstacle to a Soviet-Polish rapprochement.

On the 5th July a joint meeting took place in Moscow of members of the Soviet Faculty of Law and of the Union of Polish Patriots, which seems to have been devoted to a lecture on German misdoings in Poland, followed by a discussion, in the course of which an "eminent Polish scientist," Professor Jacob Parnas, a member of the Academy of Science of the U.S.S.R., spoke of the history of Polish culture and science in Lvov in 1939-41, during the period of Soviet rule. Whatever may have been the facts, it goes without saying that a picture of cultural advance during the period was painted in glowing colours, and the claim was made in a broadcast in Polish that "the great results achieved by Polish cultural institutions in 1939-41 were due, to a large extent, to the Soviet authorities."

Just as the first report (see *Summary* No. 184) of the Soviet Extraordinary State Commission on German atrocities in the occupied zone of the U.S.S.R. was immediately followed by the "discovery" of the Katyn graves, so the second report (see *Summary* No. 195) has had a prompt sequel in the "discovery" of mass graves at the western approaches to the town of Vinnitsa, full of corpses of Ukrainians alleged by the Germans to have been massacred by the G.P.U. between the years 1938 and 1941. Emboldened, no doubt, by the propaganda success achieved by the picture painted in regard to Katyn of the young conifers planted by the G.P.U. over the graves there to cover up the traces of their work, *D.N.B.* this time is eloquent on the subject of "tall fruit trees of a large garden, beneath which no less than thirty mass graves have been found." Soviet reactions to this newest "discovery" has so far not been reported.

In the last few months the general situation in the Baltic territories has deteriorated from the German point of view. There is evidence of an increased hostility to the latest invader, which should not, however, be taken as implying that more than a small section of the population would welcome a returning Red Army. The Russians are still feared and hated. The German recruiting campaign for the new Baltic Legions, whereby it was hoped to raise half a million "volunteers" for service of the eastern front, seems to have evoked a state of tension and unrest for which its meagre results in no way compensate. Conscription has been openly applied to officers and n.c.os. of the former armies of the Baltic States, and they form the cord of resistance. They are reinforced by the more numerous students, peasants and workers affected by the concurrent mobilisation for compulsory labour service, which the Germans have used as cover for the exertion of pressure, amounting to general military conscription. Thousands of such persons are reported to have fled to the forests to join the partisans, while a few are contriving to escape to Finland or Sweden. In Estonia the *intelligentsia* have for the most part withstood efforts to coax or bully them into supporting the recruitment. In Lithuania the native Administration, under pressure of popular discontent focussed by the illegal "National Lithuanian Committee," being fortified by the knowledge of Germany's deteriorating military fortunes, has had the temerity to withhold its collective support from the recruiting campaign, and even to demand immediate political and cultural autonomy, with permission to form a national army for service.

exclusively within the territory. For the moment, however, the German authorities do not appear to consider the military situation sufficiently serious to necessitate such concessions, although decrees embodying something of the kind are said to have been drafted in Berlin last winter, in readiness for an emergency. According to the latest reports, the aspirations of the Lithuanian native Administration have been rewarded by the arrest of four of its members, the closing of all higher educational institutions, and the imprisonment of large numbers of "intellectuals." The project of a Lithuanian S.S. Legion has been abandoned, and Lithuanians are being recruited instead for auxiliary engineer battalions attached to the Wehrmacht.

SCANDINAVIA.

Whatever may be the condition of Norwegian morale generally, there is no weakness to be found in the "paroler" or instructions issued in the illegal press and otherwise. These not only insist on strenuous efforts to avoid labour mobilisation, but point out the importance of boycotting all posts left vacant by the calling-up of their occupants. No loyal Norwegian, it is urged, should apply for these. In contrast to earlier instructions, even participation in compulsory work for purely Norwegian purposes—such as farming and woodcutting—is deprecated, as it may facilitate the release of other workers for conscription on behalf of the German war effort. Stern warnings are issued that any failure to comply with such home front instructions will be remembered later on, to the detriment of the culprit's prospects.

Some underground agencies have gone further, and are reported to have threatened representatives of the Reichskommissariat with reprisals on a scale of ten to one for any Norwegians executed. There is reason to believe that in some cases loyal Norwegians have proceeded from threats to action. According to *Nya Dagligt Allehanda*, a number of notorious informers have recently disappeared mysteriously, and are being sought in vain by the security police, while the body of one was recently found in the Akers river, which flows through the capital.

A lighter touch is provided by the appearance in German military camps of an appeal, ostensibly from General Falkenhorst, calling on officers and men to refrain from deserting to Sweden, while at the same time pointing out that the Swedish Government would not agree to hand back those who did so. There is reason to believe that this is an ingenious fabrication by the home front, which, whether repudiated—as it has been—in German quarters or allowed to pass, would equally serve to advertise the recent decline in German military morale and to call attention to the possibilities of desertion. The genuineness of the document is, however, still widely maintained in Oslo.

The Germans state officially that they have now abandoned the objectionable method of utilising the labour conscription for recruitment to the Speer Legion. This has now been placed, it is said, on a purely voluntary basis. The terms of the contract have also been modified, and the oath of loyalty to the Führer has been omitted. The volunteers are stated, as is inherently probable, to be inferior in quality to those previously obtained by conscription, though the conscripts are also reported to have been efficient in damaging the trucks which they drove. But the present mood of the occupying Power seems to be conciliatory, as in Denmark.

The substitution of Colonel Marthinsen for Major-General Möystad as head of the Norwegian Security Police, from the 10th July, is probably an indication of the same kind. It seems to mean that the Germans prefer to work through the Germanske S.S. Norge, with which Marthinsen is connected, rather than permit the continuance of the irresponsible brutalities of the Hird, of which Möystad was commander.

The Quisling Church Department has now announced, contrary to the original declaration, that clergy no longer in office may be conscripted for the labour service, and it is feared that this decision will be put into effect against the loyal clergy.

There have been no important developments from other Scandinavian countries. Sabotage continues in Denmark, and Dr. Best is reported to cover his inactivity in the matter by ascribing the majority of these acts to parachutists dropped by British planes.

The Danish Gallup Institute has recently been investigating public opinion on the question of post-war Nordic co-operation. Fifty-seven per cent. of those