

reticence was shown as to the damage inflicted by our bombardments, the Italian press is now being filled with reports and photographs from bombed towns showing what a Scandinavian correspondent calls "enormous devastation." This new policy seems to have been adopted with a twofold purpose. In the first place it has now been decided, after considerable initial hesitation, to attempt to arouse a "Piave spirit" in the nation, and to this end that eloquent and severely wounded veteran of the Great War, Carlo Delcroix, has been holding up before the eyes of his compatriots the example of the indomitable courage which saved Great Britain in 1940. In the second place, it is probably hoped in this way to strengthen the urgent demands made upon Germany for more assistance. According to one report Mussolini recently sent a S.O.S. message to Hitler asking for five divisions, 80 batteries of heavy anti-aircraft artillery and 40 squadrons of aircraft. Hitler is alleged to have offered half the number of batteries and aircraft and to have referred to the presence already in Southern Italy and Sicily of three German divisions. Whether these figures are accurate or not the general truth of the report seems to be borne out by a previous report from an excellent source, according to which Hitler promised Mussolini at their meeting between the 7th and 10th April to send him troops, war material and anti-aircraft equipment. This equipment does not appear to have arrived, at least in sufficient quantities, since many of the descriptions in the press stress the deficiency in anti-aircraft guns and fighter aircraft.

Another token of desperation is the growing frequency and increasingly sombre colours of the pictures representing the fate that awaits a defeated Italy. *Vae victis!* was the burthen of an article in the *Gazzetta del Popolo* which alleged that lists of Italians to be outlawed had already been prepared. Calculations had been made how much cannon-fodder Italy could supply to the British for the prosecution of the war in Europe and Asia. Estimates had been drawn up of the quantities of agricultural produce that could be made speedily available for the masses of the British population. While most accounts have spoken of the popular rage being chiefly directed against American airmen, we are singled out for gloating more openly over the destruction done. President Roosevelt, it is said, still has some "electoral shame," because he has to consider the votes of the Roman Catholics and of the Italo-Americans, whereas in Great Britain there are "no veins of racial or religious sympathy among the masses" but only a "profound antipathy for the poor, Popish, Fascist and tiresome Italian." The direst threats are also being uttered with growing savagery. If total war has to be, said the *Tevere* in an unsigned leading article, then let it be total war. The parachute descends slowly and makes an excellent target for machine-guns and artillerymen. That man there, whom the parachute offers us as a target, is the assassin who has just slaughtered unarmed citizens in an open town. He deserves to be shot as much as a vulture or a hawk. The Rome correspondent of *Dagens Nyheter* declares that the vendetta spirit is still alive in Sardinia and would become acute in case of invasion. British and American pilots who bale out and fall into the hands of the Sardinians would be immediately executed without legal proceedings.

It can be imagined, then, with what alacrity the Italians, like the Germans, have seized upon one passage in an address delivered by the Pope to the Cardinals on his "Name Day." "The increased harshness of war technique," the Pope is quoted as saying, "and the growing use of methods which make no discrimination between so-called military and non-military objectives, lead to an inexorable race between action and reprisal, to the detriment no less of individual peoples than to the whole community of nations. Since the beginning We have done everything possible to induce the belligerents to respect the laws of humanity in air warfare; now We feel that it is incumbent on Us, for the advantage of everyone, that We should again urge their observance." By calmly assuming that air bombardments of towns were started by us the Italians have interpreted these words as intended primarily for British ears. The disingenuousness of this arbitrary assumption is only equalled by the discreet lack of comment upon that passage in the same address where the Pope condemned persecution on account of nationality or descent. This condemnation must have stung the Italians all the more sharply because anti-Semitism was virtually unknown in Italy until Mussolini sold himself and his country to Hitler. It has been reported within the last few days that a stronger control over the Jews is contemplated. For some time an "Aryan certificate" has been required from new subscribers to the telephone system, and now Jews already possessing telephones are being deprived of them. Applications to the Law Courts by Jews for the maintenance of legal rights have, it is said, been refused.

Scorza is continuing his endeavours to purge the Fascist Party of lukewarm or doubtful members. His latest notion is to make membership dependent upon the wearing of the badge, which, he said, required "political courage." This admission is, without question, a proof of the growing unpopularity of the Party. So long, however, as the régime remains in power it will require even more courage for a member voluntarily and ostentatiously to deprive himself of the security and privileges that go with the badge. Very many thousands are known only to wear the badge for reasons of self-interest, and this is so generally recognised that these persons may be expected to continue the practice.

SOUTH-EASTERN EUROPE.

Only official press comment has yet been received on Kállay's speech, reported last week. The *Pester Lloyd*, which interprets the words and actions of the Hungarian Government to the outer world, achieved a remarkable feat of selection, which made the speech appear as a profession of unwavering loyalty to Germany; the comment in Magyar emphasised particularly Kállay's insistence on the rights of small nations, and on the need for Hungary to stand together behind the Regent.

In reply to rumours in the foreign press that Hungarians were being recruited for S.S. formations, an official statement issued that this recruiting only affected members of the German "Volksgruppe," and that persons joining S.S. organisations automatically acquired German and forfeited Hungarian citizenship.

Heroes' Day in Roumania (3rd June) brought renewed pledges of loyalty to the Axis and German press and wireless salutes to Roumania as "the first and foremost sentinel against bolshevism." Marshal Antonescu said the dead had helped to build "the Roumania of our righteous hopes and of the true Roumanian frontiers." He appealed to all Roumanian families to adopt war orphans.

The pro-Axis *Curentul* says that the statement in a Swiss paper that "Stalin considers the recognition of an independent Roumania," will arouse no emotions in Roumania. For the U.S.S.R. will not rest content with annexing Bessarabia, but will demand control of the Danube mouths and the foundation of a Bulgaro-Serb federation as a Soviet protectorate. The "independent Roumania" would thus be a Roumania dwarfed and encircled.

Two more well-known Roumanians have been arrested: T. Arghezi, a leading Roumanian poet, for publicly praising the Jewish leader, Fieldermann, who was arrested last week; and C. Barsan, a prominent industrialist, for making contact with Roumania's enemies, ostensibly to secure in Istanbul visas for Roumanian Jews wishing to go to Palestine, but actually to conduct negotiations inimical to the interests of Roumania.

The German minority in Roumania has supplied its first contingent to the Armed S.S.; previously its members had served in the Roumanian Army. It has been given complete control over its own schools. There are signs that its Roumanian neighbours resent its attitude and privileges, and also that the German authorities are putting pressure on it to enlist all its available manpower in the forces.

The Danube has been much in the news. Plans are reported to keep its level constant by dams on its tributaries and to dredge its mouths. The bridge from Giurgiu to Rustchuk, agreed on last October by Roumania and Bulgaria, but held up by lack of materials, is the subject of further negotiations. It is reported that Krupps are to get the contract. Traffic here was previously by ferry. The bridge will be one of the biggest in Europe and will carry a motor-road and a railway.

Argus warns Roumanians that the economic future of the country must not be based on oil. Wells are few and cannot be exploited over a long period. The great hope must lie in food industries.

The Axis claimed on the 22nd May that their swift moving mountain troops had captured the partisans' staff in Montenegro; and on the 4th June that partisan resistance in Hercegovina had ended. The partisans have evidently no expectation of help from Mihaylovitch, for Radio "Free Yugoslavia" again attacked him, and broadcast the contents of an alleged agreement between the Italian General Roatta and Jevchevitch, "Mihaylovitch's right-hand man," of September 1942. The partisans claimed to have found the document when they captured Nevesinje in March. It provided for the Italian supply of arms and food for stipulated numbers of chetniks, and that the chetniks should control the area east of Kalinovik-Ulog-Nevesinje.