

the other hand, the success which could be expected once a landing had been achieved is not so great as that which the enemy could expect from a successful landing at another point." The fortifications on the Italian coasts and islands, ran another observation, "cannot be mentioned in one and the same breath as the Atlantic Wall, but the determination behind them is none the less great."

The Provinces of Foggia, Bari, Brindisi, Lecce, Toranto, Potenza, Matera and the portion of Reggio (Calabria) not included in the proclamation of the 21st May are declared zones of operations. Some of the precautions recently taken are chiefly significant because they are so elementary. It was only last week, for example, that a decree was published threatening with varying terms of imprisonment such persons as failed to report the landing of enemy forces or enemy agents, saboteurs or suspects, or who gave information, lodgings or food to the enemy or his agents. That it should have been found necessary to issue such a decree goes far towards confirming the many reports that the Italians are heartily sick of the war and do not feel that hatred of the enemy which their propagandists have tried so hard to instil. But this should not be taken as indicating that invaders would not be resisted, since further reports have come to hand which draw a sharp distinction between the morale of the armed forces and of the civilian population. Even highly-placed officials in the Palazzo Chigi are, it seems, convinced that, if our bombing on the present scale continues, any prolonged resistance is impossible, and that Italy would readily withdraw if she could get tolerable terms. But this, some think, would not necessarily mean that the Germans would abandon the country before they were driven out of it by force of our arms.

It is this apathy and flabbiness of the civilian morale which Scorza, Secretary of the Fascist Party, and the members of the National Directorate sought to dispel by the stern measures proposed in their memorial to Mussolini (see *Summary* No. 193). Further examination of the measures proposed shows that for the most part they contain nothing new, and this fact is in itself interesting as demonstrating either laxity and inefficiency or the inability of the régime to enforce its own legislation and regulations. There is no evidence to support the theory that Scorza is seeking to supplant an effete Mussolini. For him to harbour any such ambition would be to contravene the very first plank in the platform of the Directorate—the "repression of all attempts to cause a rift in the moral and material solidarity of the people." Moreover, unpopular as Mussolini doubtless has become with large sections of the people, his prestige is higher than that of any of his collaborators, and if the nation plucked up courage to get rid of him it would scarcely accept in his place somebody still more vigorous and ruthless. Scorza has a truly unenviable task. The Minister of Corporations, Cianetti, has announced that as from the 1st July citizens of both sexes, of the classes 1919-25 for women and 1907-25 for men, will be called up for the Labour Service. The calling up of the men is, of course, limited to those not liable to military service or affected by other commitments of work or mission. To prevent evasion of the Labour Service, especially by the non-Aryan citizens, who are not liable to military service, the Ministry of the Interior has ordered the total mobilisation of Jews of the classes 1907-25. On the other side of the ledger is the decision taken by the Cabinet on the 19th June to increase allowances of various kinds payable to civil servants during the war. The yearly State expenditure, owing to this measure, is said to amount to 1,840 million lire gross, in addition to some 285 million lire for the estimates of the State Railways. For the Auxiliary State Departments the expenditure is estimated at 240 million lire.

One rather curious step taken by Scorza has been the dissolution of the various Irredentist groups on the score that their activities fall within the province of the Party. At first sight this decision seems to be on a par with Scorza's sweeping away of Fascist top-hamper, which meant duplication of work already done by the State. It should, however, be noted that both the *Messaggero* and the *Giornale d'Italia* have just published articles materially reducing Italy's war aims. The wording of the articles as reported is obscure, but the claims against France put forward in the *Messaggero* have been widely interpreted as showing that Italy now claims only Tunisia as part of a "pacification" (whatever that may mean) of the Adriatic, Malta and East Africa; friendship with Egypt; free access to the Oceans and to raw materials. Gayda was even more vague, though he wrote about "the full political reinstatement of all Italian territories." On the other hand *Transocean* has stated that Italian claims to Nice, Corsica, Malta and Dalmatia, have not changed, so that for the moment no definite judgment can be pronounced.

Much attention has continued to be given to the Pope's Whitsunday address to 20,000 workers from different parts of Italy. The *Tevere*, notoriously a newspaper written by gutter-snipes for gutter-snipes, declared that the workers had made an ill use of their spare time in listening to the Pope, since they were all incorporated in the Fascist organisations and therefore had no reason to listen to special exhortations. The reason for this unmannerly outburst apparently was that relations between the Vatican and Mussolini are distinctly bad and that the address developed into an anti-bureaucratic demonstration. Any phrase suggesting criticism of the Axis was, according to an eye-witness, received with loud cries of "Long live the Pope." Another cause of the coolness between the Italian Government and the Holy See is said to be that the Princess of Piedmont, a sister of the King of the Belgians and a devoted Roman Catholic, has come to be very popular and to be regarded by many as a leader in the opposition to Fascism. All other Italian commentators, however, claimed that the directives given by the Pope coincided with those of the Fascist Corporative régime and interpreted his words, as the Germans had been quick to do, as a warning against Communism. The Pope's address has conveyed the same impression to the Rome correspondents of the Swedish Press and, to some extent, to His Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires in the Vatican. The latter, referring to the Pope's vigorous denial of the calumnious charge of having desired and financed the war, is inclined to attribute the vehemence of the Holy Father's warnings against social revolution to anxiety lest reaction from Fascism may assume a Communist form. The speech, however, fully admitted the existence of workers' grievances and was in no sense an eulogy of Fascism. It was mainly a recommendation to the workers not to seek a cure for such grievances in so dangerous an expedient as revolution. Dr. Friedrich's recent anti-Vatican broadcast was doubtless in the Pope's mind, but his hot denial of the "monstrous calumny" mentioned above was due rather to reports of attacks on the Vatican by Communist agitators in Italy.

SOUTH-EASTERN EUROPE.

An official statement emphasised that the replacement of Nagy by Csataj as Minister of War meant no change in official policy. The excitement of previous weeks seems to have died down. Swedish reports said that the Government had the situation in hand, and that it could not be confirmed that recent arrests had included Imrédistis who had been planning a *coup d'Etat*. It is, however, certain that the number of arrests recently made exceeds the usual quota for profiteering, rumour-mongering, &c.

Although no official announcement was made, three Government organs—*Magyarország* of the 9th, *Esti Ujság* of the 12th and *Pest* of the 16th June—all reported that the bread ration was to be increased as from the 1st July. The amount of the increase was, however, not stated. A poor to medium harvest is expected.

The official *Pester Lloyd* on the 18th June issued a formal denial of the following reports: that part of the German war industry had been transferred to Hungary; that the Todt Organisation was constructing large transport installations in Hungary; and that there was a German General Staff headquarters in Pécs. Interestingly, these rumours were attributed to enemies of Hungary who "were trying at all costs to provoke an air war against Hungary." This was not the only case in which Hungary seemed more anxious to appeal to its enemies than its allies; there were quite a number of articles and a broadcast explaining the legitimacy of the First Vienna Award, which moved the Hungaro-Slovak frontier northward. There were even indications from trustworthy Hungarian sources that Hungary was endeavouring to arrange at least a temporary *modus vivendi* with Roumania in order that the two countries might present a common front of non-resistance in case of an Allied invasion of the Balkans.

A report from the Union of Hungarian Industrialists covering 1942, which, however, may be open to suspicion of propagandist motives, said that Hungary's production of coal and iron was considerably higher than in 1941. Steel output had reached "the peak of theoretical capacity as hitherto estimated." Crude oil output was continuing to increase and oil refineries were working at capacity. Imports in 1942 had totalled 923 million pengö and exports 1,143,600,000 pengö.

The beginning was made of an ambitious project: the making navigable of the River Sajó. The work is expected to take twelve years and to cost 40 million pengö.