

broadcasts of the 24th and 31st May, which explained that the Germans stood to gain more than the Russians from the present lull in the fighting. There is much scepticism regarding any successful German offensive this summer. The military correspondent of *D.N.B.* is the only voice suggesting that all is ready: "In the question of offensive or defensive the die has not yet been cast, but on the German side preparations for either eventuality are complete, so that only a button need be pressed to bring the German military plans for 1943 into operation." This view is supported by the General of the Blue Division who is reported from Spain as having no doubts that offensive action is being planned.

Much publicity is given to explaining the diminishing returns of what was until recently the most successful German arm, the U-boat. Present low figures of sinkings are variously excused as being due to the constant increase in Allied protective measures and to reduction in the numbers of convoys. U-boat commanders apparently report that "the Atlantic is empty." U-boats are now spoken of as "a front," defending the Atlantic wall.

There is daily evidence, now even in the German press, of the increasing havoc caused by the raids on German cities. This seems to have reached such proportions that propaganda is of little avail. Not much is now heard of the official arguments that people in raided areas must try to see the war as a whole, that the cost of raids to the Allies in men and machines will soon be prohibitive. Reprisals are still promised as "certain" and it is said that "limits to the air war" are now beginning to appear. But the dislocation and fatigue are all the time taking toll of nerves and energies. Drinking water is now available again in Essen, though not in Dortmund. Part of the Essen tramway service has been restored; no schools are yet open in the city. "Precautionary" evacuation on a larger scale is urged. The damage due to the broken dams has been, as forecast in last week's *Summary*, moral no less than material: rumours apparently spread more widely than the floods.

23rd May was the opening date of a three-weeks' collection throughout the Reich (except in Duisburg where "for special reasons" it has been postponed) of textiles and shoes. This is the third war-time collection of old clothes, the first of shoes, and according to the official appeal is intended to provide shoddy for the making of clothes for the Armed Forces and the workers. Housewives are reminded that they must give not only what they do not need but anything of greater value to the community than to themselves. They need not keep material for their own repairs, as during the war they are not likely to have time for sewing of this kind.

A curious announcement was made in April, to the effect that officials of the Party and members of the Reichstag must not hold business appointments. It is now reported that some of the large German banks have taken on to their boards of directors men "who specially represent the point of view of the Party" and who "have been its economic advisers for a long time." It is difficult in the light of this to see how the former instruction can have had any more than paper value, or how, indeed, it could possibly have been put into practice in the most outstanding cases, such as that of Göring.

Another of the periodic calls for a purge of the Party has been made this week (*cf. Summary* No. 183). Gauleiter Wagner, in a speech at Mannheim, said that, in these days of trial, the burden fell more heavily on Party members, and those who were too weak to bear it must either leave its ranks or be turned out. This consciousness of disagreement or lack of co-operation which might turn into opposition has been expressed in other places. Sauckel said to workers in Bremen that the war is not waged in the interests of the Führer, and Gauleiter Hildebrand said in Rostock that it was not the fault of National Socialism. One of Ley's editorials recently asked the question as to who could organise opposition in Germany: "Such movements would be instantly nipped in the bud by our extremely efficient organisation."

The *Reichsgesetzblatt* has this week published a decree of the Führer bestowing German citizenship on all foreign nationals of German origin serving in the German Armed Forces, the Waffen-SS, the Police and the Todt organisation. The step is in harmony with National Socialist theories, according to which fitness for membership of the German political community is judged by a combination of blood and behaviour. All persons of German origin (*Deutschstämmig*) are not necessarily regarded as members of the German people (*Volksdeutsche*), but service in any of the organisations specified in the decree is a clear indication of loyalty. In effect the decree will draw a dividing line

between two classes of foreigners who have enlisted for Germany. Until recently, at least in the case of the SS, nationality has been rated as of little account compared to the blood brotherhood uniting not merely all Germans but all Nordics.

CZECHOSLOVAKIA.

A report which has reached Stockholm from a Sudeten-German source describes the present transport situation in the Protectorate as acute. In particular, there is a serious shortage of locomotives and practically all traffic not immediately serving war purposes is at a standstill. Sabotage and attacks on trains are still frequent, and the Germans have found it necessary to arm all German railway workers as well as the railway police. All goods trains now carry at least one light machine gun, and all workers are being trained in the use of this weapon. The same report states that large bodies of German troops have recently been drafted into former Czechoslovak garrison towns. Many of these troops are 17 year-old boys whose morale is affected by experience of bombing in the Rhineland and uncertainty as to the whereabouts of their families.

A recent magazine article by a leading Czech publicist in the Protectorate gives a clear pointer to the present attitude of mind among the general public. According to this article, the most discussed topic at present is *when* the war will end, and no longer *how* it will end. After arguing at length that only a German victory could benefit the Czechs, he proceeds to condemn the existing spirit of resignation and to urge a positive and active way of thinking. Anticipating queries as to why he believes the Germans are willing to improve the national position of the Czechs, he can only reply that it is because of the Führer's determination to build up a strong Europe where the Czechs will be neither the most important nor the smallest cog, but where they will not be superfluous. This reasoning is hardly likely to carry conviction in the Protectorate.

Details are now available of the extra war tax on all non-German citizens of the Protectorate which was decreed on the 28th April. The first 6,000 crowns of annual income are not affected by this tax, but on the second 6,000 crowns it amounts to $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. and thereafter increases by 1 per cent. on each additional 12,000 crowns of annual income up to 72,000 crowns. On incomes exceeding this last figure the tax payable is 6 per cent. A further tax described as a "social equalisation tax" has been imposed on Poles, Jews and Gypsies in the Protectorate, regardless of citizenship. This tax, which is additional to income tax, amounts to 15 per cent. of income and its yield goes to the Protectorate Treasury.

A decree of the Ministry of Economics lays down fourteen working days as the maximum to be granted as holidays during 1943 except to persons over 49, who may be allowed twenty days. Special overtime rates of pay are offered to those who give up their holidays.

Interesting details of the effects of German control on the Protectorate educational system have been supplied by a person who recently arrived in America from Prague. The process of Nazification is most marked in the secondary schools, the numbers of which had been reduced by two-thirds by May 1942. All references to Czechoslovakia in text-books have been pasted over and the weekly curriculum includes eight hours of German instruction. Czech history lessons have been replaced by courses in Nazi ideology and there is a marked tendency to limit the education of women. Text-books are extremely scarce and mimeographed sheets have to be used instead.

President Beneš's further speeches in the United States have for the most part merely reiterated the views he expressed earlier (*see Summary* No. 190). His remarks on the subject of minorities are, perhaps, worth quoting: "Czechoslovakia will face the question of minorities squarely and accept the international solution which will be agreed upon by all other nations. If a solution of the problem is impossible, I am prepared for the grim necessity of population transfer. This can create many hardships and even injustices, but I am bound to say that they may be worth while if they help to establish a more permanent equilibrium and a lasting peace."

A start is about to be made with the pre-military training programme in Slovakia. All Slovaks liable for this training—*i.e.*, all males between 6 and 50 and all females between 6 and 30—are required to register by the 2nd June.

During the past week Baldur von Schirach spent some days visiting child evacuation camps in Slovakia. He also attended the general meeting of the