

of neutral papers have emphasised these facts and the conclusion to be drawn from them, that "every attempt to invade Sicily will be met by the full strength of the Axis." Air Marshal Galland, the Inspector of Fighter Pilots, was said on the 7th July to have joined Kesselring and Richthofen at the Headquarters of the Luftwaffe in Southern Sicily. A Berlin paper of the 9th printed a summary of Sir Roger Keyes's "Reflections on Dieppe" in view of the topical interest of invasion, but on the following day two German papers stated that invasion was not immediately expected. The High Command communiqué of the 10th, published in the press of the 11th, merely said that the enemy had started his attack on Sicily and that fighting was in progress. A *Transocean* statement of the 10th to the effect that the main weight of Allied attack was directed against Western Sicily was corrected by the High Command communiqué of the 11th, which specified that heavy fighting was going on in the south-east. Agencies admitted in messages to Europe that the Allies had succeeded in establishing bridgeheads, but this was denied in transmissions to the Far East.

Comment was naturally scanty, the Wilhelmstrasse pointed out that, since Italian soil had been invaded, it was from Italians that comment should be expected. The German papers of Sunday last did, however, give such news as the agencies had made available, accompanied by maps and pictures of Sicily and a certain amount of discussion. The three points stressed were, first, that the attack had been expected and could not be said to have caught the Axis forces or Governments off their guard—the frequency with which this argument had been used suggests some sensitiveness to the criticism of having accepted heavy Russian fighting at this moment in the belief that no Western offensive was likely just yet. Secondly, that the Sicilian attack introduced a new and very difficult phase of the war, "clarifying," as the *D.N.B.* termed it, the entire situation, in which bitter fighting is to be expected and operations unlike any others of this war. A final point was the connexion between events in Sicily and in Russia. It was claimed that the "German initiative at Kursk" had upset Allied plans, since the Soviet and Anglo-American offensives were obviously meant to take place simultaneously. In most of these comments the German press has not minimised the possibilities of Allied attack at other points of the Mediterranean. The Berlin correspondent of *Social Demokraten* wrote on Friday that the West coast of Greece allowed more chances to the invader than did Southern France, but that defence preparations were now complete on the Southern front, and that the neutrality of both Turkey and Spain was assured.

This remark allows a glimpse of the intense diplomatic activity which, since the Hitler-Mussolini conversations in April, has been a main feature of Germany's war effort. The frequent German claim to dispose of the entire resources of Europe has the corollary of ceaseless effort to improve German authority and to obtain increased military or commercial advantage. In the case of the two countries mentioned, the primary question no doubt is the preservation of neutrality, but the struggle appears more frequently as one of commercial preferences. It would appear that the Germans have not had things all their own way in either country, although the report that a leading member of the German Government has visited Turkey seems to be unfounded. In Sweden, too, there are signs that present German commitments have led to an increase of commercial pressure: the dwindling credit balance of German exports to Sweden does not allow of much expansion in the volume of imports desired from Scandinavia. In South-Eastern Europe the most urgent problems are military rather than commercial. The Germans are not easy in mind about the present activities of Mihai Antonescu (see under "Roumania" later in this *Summary*) and have recently contemplated disbanding the Croatian army in favour of a local military régime of their own.

The dislocation of industry in the West still dominates Germany's domestic problems. It is now clear that dispersal is taking place on a large scale, not only of people, but of machinery and equipment of all kinds. It may be imagined how many different powers and agencies are affected by the reconstruction and restaffing of such a concern as the Hoesch-Benzin synthetic plant at Dortmund, the original site of which was reported four weeks after the raid of the 23rd May to be a deserted ruin. At the end of June the Gauleiter of Linz told his people to expect "in the near future" 10,000 homeless people from the west. It is not clear whether these were merely refugees or workers for transferred factories. After such raids as those of June, the restiveness of a working population is bound to be great, but public order has so far, by all accounts, been successfully maintained. Reports of strikes and outbreaks in factories are increasing, but so far they are either unconfirmed or apply to demonstrations of minor local importance.

In accordance with the new policy of giving publicity to the present difficulties in the raided areas, that of rehousing is prominent in the press. Ley's recent housing order (see *Summary* No. 194) was due to come into force on the 1st July, and to implement its provisions he has declared six towns in Eastern and Southern Germany to be "closed" areas, closed in the sense that people may not take up residence in them without permission, presumably because all available space is kept for emergency parties from the west. Discontent with present shelter accommodation is given frank expression in a recent issue of the *Essen National-Zeitung*. More and bigger shelters are asked for, the ventilation system is in urgent need of improvement, and casualties are said to be much greater than they need be in built-up areas because people refuse (the suggestion is, with good reason) to enter shelters until the danger is upon them.

With the approach of harvest and the continued good weather, the German leaders have risked more encouraging forecasts regarding the food supply. Backe presided last week as Minister of Agriculture and Reich Farmers' leader over a two-day conference of local organisers, at which the balance of supplies from the chief food-producing districts were worked out. Backe's speech included a rather cryptic reference to the food situation in the occupied territories, of which very little has been said lately, and claimed that the Reich preference for the encouragement rather than the compulsion of farmers had been justified by results.

#### CZECHOSLOVAKIA.

On the 2nd July the Protectorate Education Minister, Moravec, delivered a somewhat sententious broadcast speech to the Czech people. He condemned the "mischievous rogues" who invent and spread rumours circulated to cause unrest. In particular he referred to the extension of a training area in Bohemia which had necessitated the evacuation of several Czech parishes. The whisperers had seized upon this to frighten the Czech population of other districts with tales of similar resettlement. There was no truth in any such reports, and Moravec asked the public to report any person making similar allegations. The Minister then proceeded to enunciate once more the standpoint of the collaborationist Protectorate Government that there can be no future for the Czechs unless Germany wins the war. Europe must be saved from Bolshevik barbarism; in the event of an Allied victory Anglo-United States reparations would be imposed on the whole of Europe so that "for whole generations Europeans would be slaves and Europe one single huge United States plantation." He foretold that greater sacrifices would become necessary for the victory of the Reich, and declared that he and his colleagues were "trying to convert every sacrifice for the Reich and Europe into a brick for the future edifice of the Czechs which they will enter in close and loyal brotherhood with the mighty German nation."

*Der Neue Tag* of the 2nd July reports the execution of twenty-one Czechs for assisting two Czech parachutists who had been sent to the Protectorate by the enemy.

An order published on the 5th July has the effect of making the cement works in the Protectorate members of the German Cement Association and thus subject to the regulations on sales and supplies to be executed by the German Cement Association.

An account of conditions in the Protectorate has been received from a person, described as trustworthy, who left Prague as recently as mid-June. According to this report Czech morale is still good and about 85 per cent. of the population is pro-Allied. The following are other items of interest taken from the report: the idea of a Czechoslovak-Polish Federation is very unpopular and the Poles are much disliked; apart from the necessities of life, trade in Prague is almost at a standstill; most of the large departmental stores, practically all bars and about 60 per cent. of the cafés are closed; the only jewellers' shops still open are those which repair watches; it is practically impossible to obtain electric lamps; the majority of employees of concerns which have been closed down, together with most agents and middlemen, are now working in factories; the black market is flourishing.

The 7th July, the feast of St. Cyril and St. Methodius was commemorated by Bratislava Radio as the "Day of Slovaks Abroad," and a special broadcast to Slovaks in other countries was of interest. The Slovaks in America were addressed with marked affection as "our dear countrymen in America," and

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