

to leave the country by the 1st August, 1925, while 7,000 others, who possessed some property, were to leave by the 1st July, 1926. A large number of these optants were resident in Pomorze. The German Government was extremely reluctant to facilitate their repatriation to Germany, and the arrangements made for the reception of those who arrived in July 1925 were such as to give rise to scandal. The Polish Government made concessions with regard to the group of property owners, and these were in the sequel not compelled to leave Poland wholesale.

16. By one means or other, however, Pomorze and Poznania were depleted of four-fifths of their German population. The process operated most rapidly in the towns, only gradually in the rural areas. It had mostly been accomplished by 1926, by which date it was calculated by Rauschnig that in the whole of Pomorze 303,782, or 72·2 per cent. of the German population, had removed into Danzig or the Reich, leaving behind them, unless they left before the territory was transferred, the bulk of their wealth, and taking with them memories of a bitter struggle to keep farm or business or family property together in the face of pressure which in the end became irresistible. Those that left quickest were felt in Germany to have betrayed their country's interests; those that remained longest lost most of their property and suffered most acutely. In any case their interests had been subordinated to the policy of the German Government, which hoped that they would remain as a basis of German claims to recover the territory; and to the policy of the Polish Government, which for that very reason desired that they should leave.

*Economic Conditions.*

17. Pomorze consists almost entirely of agricultural or forest land. The only considerable centres are the two garrison towns of Grudziadz (Graudenz) and Torun (Thorn) both in the south-east and on the right bank of the Vistula. The only large industrial town of West Prussia, Danzig, lies outside, as does the port of Elbing, which was joined to East Prussia, and also Bydgoszcz (Bromberg), which lies just inside the northern border of Poznania. Marienwerder, Marienburg, and Schneidemühl, which also previously served as local centres, all lie just outside the Polish frontier. Thus, as the German traders and officials left, Polish business and administrative services rapidly filled up available space in Torun and Grudziadz, worked to some extent from Poznania, and welcomed the possibilities of expansion in the town of Gdynia after its foundation. The main area of Pomorze, situated west of the Vistula, had been one of the least fertile parts of Germany, and includes a large uncultivated tract, the Tuchola Heath. On the other hand the Torun-Grudziadz area in the south-east, which is good farming land, had been an area of intensive State colonisation with a view to Germanisation. Here, as in certain parts of Poznania, the former German colonists were replaced by Polish settlers; for whom further land was found under the agrarian law of 1925, as well as by expropriation of landowners who had opted for Germany or had been hostile to the Poles.

18. *East-west Traffic.*—Before 1914, the goods traffic between East Prussia and the rest of Germany, *via* West Prussia, *i.e.*, across the Corridor, was less in volume than that which went by sea, chiefly from Königsberg and Memel to Stettin and Hamburg; an insignificant quantity also went by the Bydgoszcz (Bromberg) canal, which links the Vistula and the Oder, via the latter's tributaries, the Notec and Warta (Warthe). Owing to the heavy and non-perishable nature of the bulk of the goods concerned, the saving in cost of transport was such as to outweigh the disadvantage of delay and additional handling.

19. After the transfer of Pomorze to Poland, traffic between East Prussia and Germany was regulated by Article 89 of the Treaty of Versailles; by a Polish-German Convention of April 1921, which came into force on the 1st June, 1922; and by supplementary Polish-German agreements, notably that of March 1927. Some difficulties were experienced during the preliminary period between the transfer of territory in January 1920 and the coming into force of the Convention of 1921. In particular in 1920, at the time of the plebiscites in East Prussia, when the Soviet armies were moving on Warsaw, German voters found difficulty in crossing from west to east. Further the mere fact of a passport being required was naturally irritating for those who did not travel by the privileged trains. The difficulties affected most of all the Germans who were resident in Pomorze and wished to pay a visit to Germany or Danzig. For