

statement—ranking almost with Mr. Churchill's use of the word "molested"—appears to have been thought expedient in the light of the withholding from foreign correspondents by the Italian censorship of all particulars of our raids. According, however, to the journalist in question, escaping eye-witnesses have been bringing with them lurid tales of their experiences. Most of these refugees are going up into the mountains, where they are being given precedence in the hotels and boarding houses. Thus, people who had reserved rooms for the holidays there have no guarantee that they can be taken in on their arrival, and further problems are being created for the harassed authorities. The atrocities campaign against the Allied airmen continues to be waged in the Press. It would seem, however, not to have cut much ice, since another Scandinavian correspondent, in accounting for the atmosphere being markedly "less oppressive" in Italy than in Germany, declares that, while the Germans are convinced that a Russian victory would mean their obliteration from the earth, the Italians "realise that their chief enemies, the Anglo-Saxons, are still Western Europeans, who are scrupulously observing the same rules as themselves, e.g., about the treatment of prisoners of war, and who would not annihilate Italy if they were victorious."

Italian "sorrow" has also taken the form of trying to saddle Great Britain with the responsibility of having started air raids upon cities. The contrite Italians are, moreover, now disowning the formerly much-praised General Douhet to the extent of saying that after all he only embodied his theory of modern aerial warfare in books, that doctrine is not identical with practice, and that his doctrine remained in archives, unapplied by Italy. This, of course, is nothing but a red herring. Mussolini boasted that he had begged for and obtained from Hitler permission for Italy to participate directly in the Battle for Britain and saw his aeroplanes shot ignominiously out of our skies. Furthermore, on the eve of the war in 1939 General Valle, then Under-Secretary for Air, published in the *Rassegna Italiana* an article in which he specifically gave priority to the breaking down by air bombardment of enemy morale and declared that Italian aircraft would, to that end, bombard even those objectives which had no purely military character.

Consolations to the sorrowing Italians are being administered in various forms. With the aim of counteracting rumours that Italy was being left to stew in her own juice, German newspapers have been circulated which contain photographs of motorised units of German artillery of different calibres and of other German soldiers charged with the defence of Sardinia. Attempts are also being made to give a new definition to the expression "fortress Europe" by arguing that such an enormous fortress does not imply that the Axis has been driven back on to the defensive. The "fortress Europe" has offensive as well as defensive functions, and, thanks to the huge territories and vast resources contained within it as well as to the interior lines held by the Axis, is more capable than the United Nations of carrying out offensive thrusts.

The bare fact of all these stimulants being applied is in itself eloquent of a profound disarray. The vigour with which the Fascist Party is being purged and reorganised by Mussolini and Scorza is another sure pointer. They have got rid not only of what is classified as the careerist and parasitic element, but also of the more extremist and turbulent section of the Youth, which has, it appears, been doubting Mussolini's capabilities, demanding the abolition of the Monarchy, and, generally, advocating a more terroristic, revolutionary and socialistic programme. It has been found advisable to send these youthful Hotspurs into the armed forces or war industries, and at the same time to rally the middle and lower middle classes to the common cause. This policy is said to have met with some success, though the transfer from the Party leaders to the military and civilian authorities and to the Carabinieri of responsibility for controlling the due surrender of the harvest indicates clearly that the farmers, as usual, are showing themselves cantankerous.

In spite of all these symptoms of unrest, the best available evidence goes to show that the Italians, stiffened by their German allies, would put up a stout resistance to any invasion of their native soil. General Ezio Rosi, Chief of Staff of the Army, has been replaced by General Mario Roatta, who has previously held this post. Rosi is said to be an expert on Sicily and Sardinia and has been put in command of an army group. An army has also been given to General Guzzoni, who was once Deputy Chief of the General Staff. Straws blown from more than one quarter suggest that the Casablanca policy of "unconditional surrender," unaccompanied by any bait, has not only taken the wind out of the sails of many malcontents, but has provided the régime with a useful rallying cry. This sounds quite possible at the moment, though it would not necessarily

remain true if the United Nations were to effect a successful invasion in strength. Meanwhile, an appreciable part of the army, comprising in particular, as it would seem, the lower ranks of officers, is believed to be faithful to the régime, which can also count upon the purged Party, the police and the German troops. It has, however, been thought worth while to devote several broadcasts to comments upon Mr. Churchill's references to Italy. There has always been and always will be an Italy has been the kernel of these comments. No trust can be placed in Mr. Churchill's assurances of a place being found for Italy in the life of the new Europe, and, in any case, if Italy's fate to-day were really in the hands of her adversaries they would not need to threaten and flatter her as much as they do.

There is to be a new issue of Five-Year 5 per cent. Treasury Bonds in instalments of 5 milliards of lire each. Subscriptions to the first two instalments, i.e., for 10 milliards of lire, will be payable from the 7th to the 21st June. It will be noted that the interest, which had been reduced to 4 per cent. for the bonds of September 1942 has been restored to 5 per cent. in spite of all the talk about the Government's desire to resist the danger of inflation.

SOUTH-EASTERN EUROPE.

The Hungarian Second Army has now returned from the front and is being demobilised. The demobilisation was announced by Kállay on the 29th May in a speech—his first for six months—in which he reviewed the whole field of Government policy. The speech was a remarkable one. It was almost openly addressed, in the first instance, to the Western Powers, to whom Kállay was putting Hungary's case; in the second instance, to pro-Allied opinion in Hungary. According to the wireless report, Germany was hardly mentioned; Italy not at all. Kállay even said that he had not been responsible for Hungary's entry into the war, although the decision was inevitable, and Hungary "had to follow her ally's call when it reached her." Sacrifice must not be an end in itself, but only a means to serve the nation's interests, and must not be disproportionate to the national strength. Hungary wanted peaceful collaboration with her neighbours, for which reason she had recognised Slovakia and Croatia, and wanted the question of minorities solved peacefully (a reference to Roumania). She upheld the inalienable right of small nations to live independently; a small nation could not live in the shadow of a Great Power. Hungary had always upheld this principle, which was the motive for her "fight to the end against the Bolshevik onslaught." He wanted social progress, but this was impossible in war time; but he proposed to hold conversations on economic questions and the problems of post-war economics. The final solution of the Jewish question lay in emigration; but, while this remained impossible, Hungary would act in accordance with the Christian spirit and her national tolerance. The dissolution of Parliament was a constitutional act. He did not propose to hold new elections, as the Government had an overwhelming majority in both Houses. Finally, the nation had never stood so solidly behind one man as it stood now behind Horthy.

Apart from this, the home front remained quiet after the recent excitements. More drastic censorship regulations were introduced, but not, so far, applied. Preliminary reports indicate that the harvest is likely to be early, but poor.

A list of Roumanian officers of high rank killed on the Eastern Front has been published. It includes three divisional generals, twenty-two brigadiers and forty-one colonels.

The stoppage of the exchange of Bulgarian and Roumanian minorities (reported in last week's *Summary*) was said to be due to the improvement in Bulgaro-Roumanian relations and the wish not to allow difficulties of resettlement to disturb them.

Dr. Filderman, who was president of the Union of Jewish Communities in Roumania until it was disbanded, has been arrested and is to be sent to a labour camp in Transdnistria. This arrest is said to be due to his incitement of the Jews to resist the special tax of 4 million lei recently levied upon them. Filderman had once before been arrested, as a hostage, and had also previously protested to Marshal Antonescu against anti-Semitic measures.

The agreement between Vichy and Roumania for the export of French war material to Roumania has been ratified.

Figures for the production of natural gas in 1942 are given. They show an increase of 17 per cent. on 1941. The Bucharest electric power station is to be converted to consume gas as fuel.