

their great neighbours to west or east. Nearly all are undeveloped industrially, but possess great agricultural and timber or mineral resources. They presented, as such, an opportunity for a Germany in need of materials for industry, and feeling the urge to extend her power and prestige. Still further eastward lie the rich fields of the Ukraine. It seemed quite possible that an eastward drive would be made toward one or other of the many possible objectives. There remained also of course the demand for colonies, as a real aim or a bargaining factor.

The other uncertainty was as to the extent to which the southern member of the Berlin-Rome axis planned to press its Mediterranean ambitions. The relations between Great Britain and Italy, ancient friends, improved, only to be offset by increasingly sharp press and personal demands directed against France. Much seemed to depend on the developments in Spain, following the overthrow of the republican forces.

The actual thrust came in perhaps the least expected quarter, once more in Czechoslovakia. That hapless country was striving in its tenacious way to make the best of its fate, while realistically accepting the fact that with allies and border defences gone, it had no option but to keep in line with its powerful neighbour. It came more and more within the German orbit. Its foreign policy, its political organization, its economic relations, its railway and road system, were increasingly controlled from Berlin.

There was no possibility of Czechoslovakia constituting a threat to Germany. But apparently it still constituted a temptation. The new familiar technique was followed; local grievances developed suddenly, appeals for protection were made to Germany, the head of the government was summoned to the presence of the Fuehrer, troops crossed the border, meeting no resistance, and a triumphal entry was made into the capital. Slovakia was made a protectorate of Germany, Bohemia and Moravia were given a somewhat similar but not yet definitely determined status, while the easternmost province, Carpatho-Ruthenia, was quickly overrun by Hungary, which had controlled it as well as what is now termed Slovakia, before the war. All this has come about within the present month.

Rumour marked Rumania as the next objective, and circumstantial reports were circulated that an ultimatum had been served demanding a transformation of her political and economic structure and a monopoly position for Germany in her trade. These reports were con-

firmed by the Rumanian Minister in London, but emphatically denied by both the German and the Rumanian governments. The Rumanian minister has now returned to Bucharest to report, and this minor mystery may eventually be cleared up. Since then, a commercial agreement far-reaching in its terms but with no explicit political provisions, has been concluded between Germany and Rumania. It provides for large German purchases of agricultural products in exchange for machinery, war materials, and technical assistance, and German activity in developing oilfields and building roads and power plants. It is declared that similar opportunities are available to other countries.

The sequel of Czechoslovakia came in the north, not the south, with the not unexpected cession by Lithuania of the valuable port of Memel and the surrounding Memel territory. This was a week ago yesterday. Memel, which formed part of Germany before the war, had been ceded to the allies by the treaty of Versailles in 1919. It was seized by a Lithuanian revolutionary group in 1923, and formally awarded to Lithuania in 1924 under a convention assuring it a wide measure of local autonomy.

The occupation of Czechoslovakia, contrary to firm pledges and contrary to assertions that it was only men of German blood in the neighbouring countries whom it was sought to incorporate in the German Reich, inevitably brought shock and alarm in its train. The western powers, now convinced that unilateral concessions would not aid peace, have begun consultations as to means of averting further seizures. The eastern border and Balkan states have found it equally necessary to take stock of their individual situation, and to seek to prevent a conflict between Hungary and Rumania over the once Hungarian territory the latter received as part of the peace settlement. The Soviet Union keeps watch on both its western and its far-eastern borders.

These general consultations and local activities are not yet concluded, and it is too early to surmise with any certainty what proposals or procedure will evolve.

I come now to matters which are at the moment and which for some time to come are likely to be of deepest concern to us all. Fortunately neither the September crisis nor the crisis of the present month resulted in war. But there may be occasions when war will not be averted, when a great conflict may break out in Europe. It is asked, what will be Canada's attitude in that case?

So far as the present government is concerned, the position has been made clear repeatedly, and there is no change in that