

the moment is, accordingly, Speer, the Minister for Armament and Munitions. The Council for the Defence of the Reich has given him, as Inspector-General for Water and Power, control of all important traffic waterways, with power to transfer to the Reich those now in the hands of regional or local authorities. He has made a special and much-publicised visit to Hitler to report progress over the whole field of war production, and has joined Goebbels on the platform of the Sportpalast in order to proclaim the increased output to the general public. After giving figures relating to production of munitions, guns, tanks and aircraft as compared with previous periods, he stated that German industry is comparatively insensitive to air attack, and did his best to counteract the impression which the devastation of industrial areas must have made on the people. It is unlikely that any figures can avail to persuade inhabitants of western Germany that production there has not seriously fallen. A Swedish traveller speaks of a pall of yellowish smoke stretching almost from Cologne to Hanover, of flooded coal mines, blocked tunnels, broken sluices, of the centre of Dortmund "practically a heap of ruins" with both the city's main railway stations out of action.

Against such tales of material damage in the west, which, even though sometimes exaggerated, are founded on undeniable fact, the Germans have now advanced claims that a large-scale shift of production to safe areas in central and eastern Germany has already taken place and is still in progress. Funk said recently in Lower Silesia that "the shifting of German key industries to the eastern provinces is growing more and more noticeable." Fischer, of *Transocean*, asserted that "Germany can shift her production over the whole Continent, but Britain must remain on her island." A Swedish source (the same which reported the Berlin formula of Europe's need for a quiet year) went so far as to say that a war industry has been established between Upper Silesia and Danzig, and that "the main production centres are already installed in hidden valleys in the Wienerwald, the eastern Alps, and elsewhere." There is no doubt that the German authorities have been seeking alternative places of production in the eastern parts of the Reich to replace destroyed capacity in the west, though there is not the same evidence to show that they are closing down concerns in the west that are still working in order to transfer them to the east. There are, however, recent reports of a movement of equipment from the Ruhr, especially from Krupps, to Alsace, Posen and Vienna, and of a transfer of machinery and 20,000 Essen workers to the neighbourhood of Breslau.

At the same time General Unruh has been vigorously recruiting men from industry for the Armed forces, though the report that he has obtained as many as three million should hardly be taken seriously. Such men have been replaced mainly by women and foreign workers. The latter are now present in the Reich in such numbers that Sauckel, speaking recently at Bremen, referred to their incorporation into German industry as causing a problem of real anxiety. He urged his audience to keep their distance from foreigners who had been brought up to hate Germany, but he claimed that decent treatment and good food had reconciled the majority of them to their lot. "It is immaterial whether they like us or not," said an article in a local paper. Evidence accumulates that in many quarters morale is lower than it was three months ago, especially in the areas which have to endure the air-raids. Goebbels devoted a long passage of his speech last Saturday to the sufferings of Germans in the West, sufferings which could be neither understood nor imagined by those who had no experience of raids. Among such sufferings a form of nerve-strain and physical disorder, which Germans call *Luftminen Psychose*, is causing serious concern. But there is no evidence of panic, and the control by Party and Police is still firm. Army morale on the whole is reported to be good. Prisoners taken in Africa were for the most part wholly, or at least unquestioningly, in agreement with the Nazi régime and often indifferent to conditions in Western Germany. The section of the nation from which the most striking beginnings of unrest are reported, is the students. The executions in Munich have not prevented the widespread distribution of student leaflets, and more trouble was expected. The text now to hand of a manifesto issued by the Munich students is very violent; it urges revolt against the present wasteful and amateur direction of the war and against conditions in Germany which it describes as a disgrace to German youth. It calls upon students to act, and to be conscious of the fact that they are the only class of the nation with vision to see how bad things really are. From universities in different parts of Germany official complaints are reported that students, if not hostile, are indifferent, and that they refuse to be "political"—a curious charge in view of Nazi policy over the last ten years. While this unrest among the

students is obviously important, it is not unique. Strikes and treason trials in which other classes have been concerned have been of fairly common occurrence for nearly a year.

The Pope's speech to the College of Cardinals was broadcast in German from the Vatican, and its references to the air war and to the growing use of methods which do not discriminate between military and non-military objectives might have been expected to provoke a vigorous response from German propaganda. This has not been the case. Dr. Schmidt refused to comment at the Wilhelmstrasse press conference, although he hinted that this was a case where the Pope's statements might be used as arguments against enemy propaganda. German agency comments applied the reference directly to Britain, but this line does not seem to have been followed in the daily press. The Pope's reply of last October to the German bishops assembled at the last Fulda Conference, which is now available in full, is outspoken as to the serious nature of German attacks on Christianity. A sermon preached in May by the Archbishop of Cologne was this week also broadcast in German from the Vatican. It referred to "the horrible air attacks," but insisted that the real question for Christians in Cologne was that of whether the whole spiritual life of Germany was to be built on secular foundations.

CZECHOSLOVAKIA.

Among those executed in the Protectorate during May was a Czech convicted of contacting and aiding enemy parachutists, and there is reasonable evidence that the German authorities are sensitive to the danger from parachuted agents. In an address to the Protectorate Cabinet in commemoration of Heydrich's death a year ago, Daluge claimed that it had been definitely established that the former's killers had been dropped from the air.

The tomb of the Unknown Warrior has now been removed from the Old Town Hall in Prague. The Czechs had adopted the custom of laying wreaths on the tomb daily with the names of the patriots executed on the previous day, and attempts to prevent these silent demonstrations had led to clashes between the Gestapo and civilians.

The *Courier de Genève* of the 30th May published the text of a pastoral letter signed by seven Catholic bishops in Slovakia which was read in all Slovak churches on 21st March. The letter was a strong protest against the anti-Jewish measures in Slovakia. It insisted on the right of the Church to baptise Jews who were sincerely converted, and demanded "that equal civil rights and State protection should be accorded to every member of the State without distinction of origin or nationality."

According to the *Sudost Economist*, the black market in Slovakia has now almost superseded the regular market, and transactions are carried on in full view of the authorities. Various reasons are given for this. The present abundance of money in the country has resulted in a disproportion between supply and demand, and there has been a panic rush to purchase. Farmers have taken advantage of this to fix their own prices, and resist attempt at control by complete sabotage. At the same time, the real value of wages declined between 1939 and the end of 1942 by at least 30 per cent., and the standard of living of the lowest classes has dropped to an intolerable level. *Sudost Economist* draws attention to the obvious dangers of this state of affairs.

POLAND.

The German authorities in Galicia, that is to say, in the three south-eastern voivodeships of Poland which used to be generally known as Eastern Galicia, have created a special division of the S.S., called "S.S. Schützen-Division Galicien," to be manned with local Ukrainians. In doing so they have the support of M. Kubijowicz, who has declared the creation of the division not only to be an honour to the Ukrainians, but also to impose on them a duty. According to reports from German sources, the number of volunteers after three days was 62,000, with the result that four divisions have been formed instead of one. The volunteers in Lwów included 1,000 students.

The Polish underground organisations in the General Government continue to show considerable activity, partly in the way of general sabotage, and partly by carrying out sentences of death passed by secret Polish courts on prominent German officials. The latest news received from Warsaw goes to show that a good many of the Germans living there are doing their best to get back to the Reich.

[25557]

B 2