

as in maintaining their language; and that there is no intrinsic objection to the interruption of direct geographical continuity between East Prussia and Germany of which East Prussia is primarily a colony. The Poles add that geographically, as well as on strategic and economic grounds, Pomorze has been incomplete and inadequate, owing to the whittling-off of Danzig and other areas which would naturally form part of it (paras. 22-24).

6. *The Events of 1939-42.*—Hitler, after professing sympathy with Poland's need for access to the sea as late as 1938, demanded first, a route through the Corridor (28th April, 1939), then its return to Germany (28th August, 1939). A proposal made by him for a plebiscite was a pure manoeuvre. Since the occupation of Pomorze by the German armies it has been re-annexed to the Reich; and the Polish inhabitants have been expropriated, largely evicted, and threatened with annihilation (paras. 25-28).

POLISH POMERANIA (POMORZE) (THE CORRIDOR).

Introductory.

1. Pomorze (known in recent years as the Polish Corridor) may be said to have constituted a problem since the Teutonic Knights occupied part of East Prussia in the thirteenth century. Until that time Pomorze, which included Danzig, had been inhabited by Polish tribes for many centuries. After being conquered by the Teutonic Order in the fourteenth century, Pomorze was united with the Kingdom of Poland in the following century; but the Order retained East Prussia. In the First Partition (1772) Frederick II of Prussia annexed both Pomorze and the Netec (Netze) district to the south-west of it. At the same time he also seized Marienburg (Malborg), Stuhm (Sztum), Elbing (Elblag), and Ermeland (Warmia), which had been Polish since 1466 but were situated east of the Vistula. In 1807, after the Treaty of Tilsit, Napoleon took the Netec district and the south-eastern part of Pomorze, *i.e.*, the Torun-Grudziadz region, and incorporated them in the Duchy of Warsaw. In 1815 these areas returned to Prussia, together with Danzig, which had been Prussian from 1795 to 1807 only. After forming part of the province of Prussia from 1824 to 1878, Pomorze, together with the former Prussian districts of Marienwerder and Rosenberg, and the ancient Polish districts of Marienburg and Stuhm, was formed into the province of West Prussia.

The Problem at the Peace Conference of Paris.

2. At the Peace Conference of Paris the experts of the Principal Allied and Associated Powers were unanimous in their view that not only Pomorze but Danzig, Marienburg, and Marienwerder should be assigned to Poland. The report, presented by the Commission on Polish Affairs to the Supreme Council on the 12th March, 1919, put forward suggestions on these lines which it defended on the following grounds:—

3.—(a) "The so-called Polish Corridor to the sea should become a part of the Polish State, because the interests of 1,600,000 Germans in East Prussia can be adequately protected by securing for them freedom of transit across the Corridor, whereas it would be impossible to give an adequate outlet to the inhabitants of the new Polish State (numbering some 25 million) if this outlet had to be guaranteed across the territory of an alien and probably hostile Power. Finally, the fact must be recognised that 600,000 Poles in West Prussia would by any alternative plan remain under German rule."

4.—(b) "With the exception of the neighbourhood of Danzig itself, every district (*i.e.*, west of the Vistula) in the proposed Polish Corridor contains a Polish majority." (For arguments used in favour of the cession of Danzig to Poland, see *The Polish-German and Polish-Czechoslovak Frontiers: Annex II: Danzig* (*).)

5.—(c) "The Commission consider it necessary that the Danzig-Dirschau-Mlawa-Warsaw railway should be in Polish hands. This involves the annexation to Poland of a certain number of Germans in the northern part of West Prussia east of the Vistula, although even in this region there are considerable areas, notably in a portion of the *Kreis* of Stuhm (Sztum), where the Poles are in a majority. Incidentally it will enable the Poles to control both banks of the Vistula, thus avoiding the complications of dual control."

(*) Foreign Office Print : "Poland," February 12, Section 9."