

POLISH NEWS



Vol. II.

Bombay, 15th January 1943

No. 1.

403653 II
2, (1943) 1, 5-6

"Although three hard years of war have not sufficed to bring complete and final victory, the ever growing strength of the United Nations is a sure guarantee that the day of liberty will dawn for the oppressed people of Poland who continue to resist the enemy with such courage and devotion. In this confidence I and my people go forward with our valiant Allies into another year, more than ever resolved that liberty shall be restored to all the enslaved peoples of the world."

KING GEORGE VI
1942

THE PROBLEM OF EAST PRUSSIA

At the beginning of 1939, Eastern Prussia had an area of 37,000 square kilometres, being 7.6 per cent of the total territory of Germany. In the census of June 16, 1933, Eastern Prussia

had 2,333,301 inhabitants, this being 3.6 per cent of the population of Germany and averaging out at 63 inhabitants to the square kilometre. For all Germany the average density of population is 134 persons to the sq. kilometre. So Eastern Prussia has not even half the average density of population of Germany as a whole, and is comparable only with Slovakia (61 to the sq. km.), or the thinly populated Soviet Ukraine (63).

Thus the demographic structure of Eastern Prussia is totally different from that of Germany, and obviously it is a typical agricultural province.

The three decisive factors influencing the deve-

lopments and changes in the state of the population are the natural increase or decrease, emigration or immigration. According to the 1928 census the birthrate in East Prussia was 23.2 per thousand, and the mortality rate 12.9 per thousand, the net increase thus being 10.3 per thousand. In the same year the figures for Germany were 18.6 births and 11.6 deaths per thousand, the net increase being seven per thousand. In Poland the birthrate was



30.5 per thousand, the mortality 14.2 per thousand, and the net increase 16.3 per thousand. Thus Eastern Prussia's population statistics are better than those of Germany generally, but worse than those for Poland. Moreover, during the period 1850 to 1871 a further 230,000 persons emigrated out of the province, so that over some eighty years Eastern Prussia lost over a million inhabitants, most of them going to other parts of Germany.

The Germans have exploited this fact as a political argument, declaring that the cause of this great drain of population was the separation of Eastern Prussia from the rest of Germany after the last war. However, figures taken from German sources show that the emigration from Eastern Prussia to the rest of Germany was greatest during the period when this province was territorially united with Germany owing to the Partitions of Poland, and that only after the war of 1914-1918 did a decline in emigration set in.

The low density of population, and the absence of large towns to stimulate a demand for agricultural produce, render Eastern Prussia's agriculture almost completely dependent upon the distant markets in Germany (Berlin, the nearest market, is 375 miles away).

Germany regularly treated the province as a colony, and as the most advanced bastion of Germanism in the East, preparing it to play a political and military, rather than an economic role. The results of this policy were seen in 1939, when one of the biggest of the German army's drives into Poland started from Eastern Prussia.

It might seem that the comparatively low density of population (37.1 per cent.) per square kilometre of cultivated land, and the particularly high proportion of large landed estates (39.3 per cent of the total agricultural land) would have created favourable conditions for colonization in Eastern Prussia. As a matter of fact the number of people living by agriculture is steadily decreasing. By 1907 the figure had fallen to 1,092,578, and by 1925 to 1,036,800.

But is Germany able to colonize Eastern Prussia and thus put a stop to the depopulation of the province?

To achieve this task settlers are needed who can adapt themselves to the worst conditions prevailing in the East. Such settlers would have to be so devoted to agricultural labour that in order to own their own piece of land they would be willing to be content with the simplest necessities of life for a certain period. And Germany does not possess labourers ready to make such sacrifices.

This is to some extent confirmed by the fact that after the German occupation of Poland and the in-

corporation of Polish territory with the Reich, German colonists were brought in, not from Germany itself, but from Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia, Bessarabia, and the Polish Eastern Marshes.

Industry in Eastern Prussia is rather of local significance, though the demographic situation creates the most favourable opportunities for industrial development. But within the frontiers of the Reich this fundamentally favourable situation tends rather to the disadvantage of the province. According to the census of 1933, 42.2 per cent of the population was engaged in agriculture, whereas the corresponding figure for Germany was only 21 per cent. 21.6 per cent of the population was engaged in industry, 12.9 per cent in commerce.

The development of an industry serving only the two million inhabitants of the province would meet with great difficulties, and a large hinterland for the disposal of commodities would be needed. Industry situated in Eastern Prussia would be unable to find such a hinterland in the highly industrialized Reich, and in fact at present the province is a purchaser of German industrial production. Eastern Prussia's natural hinterland is the comparatively poorly industrialized area lying to the east, especially Poland, whose direct trade routes to the Baltic pass through the province.

In economic and customs union with Germany Eastern Prussia has experienced a continual serious economic crisis. It has become one of the most poverty-stricken areas of Europe, and is purely a German colony, subject to colonial exploitation. It is noteworthy that when the Germans occupied Poland in 1939 they hastened to incorporate extensive Polish adjacent territories with Eastern Prussia. The object of this was to give Prussia the natural hinterland she needs and so raise it out of the economic impotence which it has suffered chronically ever since its separation from Poland.

All this merely confirms that Eastern Prussia forms a single historical and economic unity with the Polish lands.

Throughout Mazovia and Warmia, almost to the coast of the Baltic, numerous valuable memorials of Polish culture are found, the work of Polish sculptors, painters, and architects. A great number of the names of rivers, localities, lakes and other place names are purely Polish, a sure proof of the ascendancy of the Poles in Eastern Prussia.

Using the statistics of the German population census of 1910 as our basis, adding Poles, Mazurs and bilingual persons together, and taking the 1911 German census of school children also into account, we get the following table, showing the percentage of Poles living in the various rural districts of Eastern Prussia :—

<i>Allenstein (Olsztyn) County.</i>	Per cent.	<i>West-Prussen County.</i>	Per cent.
Szczytno	92'7	Kwidzyn	49'4
Nibork	89'4	Malbork	6'4
Jansbork	91'6	Susz	20'7
Elk	85'0	Sztum	50'3
Zadbork	78'0		
Lec	76'0		
Allenstein (with the town)	64'2	<i>Gabin County</i>	
Ostroda	71'2	Olecko	66'3
Reszel	24'6	Goldapia	22'2

In addition to Poles, there are a large number of Lithuanians in Gabin and Krolewiec counties.

On July 11, 1920, a plebiscite was held in the Polish ethnographical area of Eastern Prussia, to determine whether the people wished to belong to Poland or to remain with Germany. The plebiscite was marked by fierce terror and oppression on the part of the German administration. Polish meetings were broken up, Polish leaders were murdered, houses were demolished and Polish property destroyed. In such circumstances, it can hardly be maintained that the people were

free to express their opinion, or that the result of the plebiscite was a fair reflection of the position.

German teaching has always taken the line that the legal is illegal and the illegal legal and that as higher beings they are not bound by generally accepted principles of ethics and morals. They have destroyed Polish life and culture, denationalized Poles, and stolen Polish property, in Eastern Prussia as elsewhere. And this accomplishment of barbarism they call Germany's cultural mission in the East.

Such was the view of Germany's mission taken by Frederick II, by Bismarck, by Wilhelm II, by Hindenburg, and to-day more than ever by Hitler.

The Poles in Eastern Prussia have suffered much and terribly at the hands of the Germans, they have survived many storms in their history, and to-day the Nazi attempt to continue the Germanization of Eastern Prussia is coming up against the age-old determination of the Poles to remain Polish, to resist the encroachments of German barbarism, and sooner or later to return Eastern Prussia to Poland.

NEWS FROM AND ABOUT POLAND

GEN. SIKORSKI IN U. S.

General Sikorski visited President Roosevelt in Washington in January for the last time before returning to Britain. He said that he was "most satisfied" with the conversations during recent weeks on what he called "important matters pertaining to the war and other subjects."

GENERAL SIKORSKI IN MEXICO

General Sikorski has left Mexico City by air for the United States after concluding arrangements with the Mexican Foreign Minister, Senor Padilla, under which 3,000 Poles, mostly women and children, are to be accommodated in Mexico at the cost of the Polish Government.

POLISH PREMIER TO VISIT MOSCOW

The Polish Prime Minister, General Sikorski, will go to Moscow early in the New Year, it is officially stated in Washington. He is going to continue conversations he had at the Kremlin last December concerning mutual post-war help between Poland and Russia.

GENERAL SIKORSKI'S SPEECH ON THE STRATEGICAL SITUATION

The Polish Prime Minister, Gen. Sikorski, was made an Honorary Doctor of Laws by the University of Liverpool on November 7th, 1942. On that occasion, he delivered a speech on the strategical situation which we quote here *in extenso* :

"As I am above all a soldier it will be only natural if I discuss the present war situation, and analyse the principal elements of that superiority which the Germans enjoyed until a short time ago. This superiority of theirs was based mainly upon four factors.

The first of them is time. Hitler began to arm on a gigantic scale at least five years before the great democracies started their armaments. By then applying his "blitzkrieg" method, he hoped to gain a decisive victory. To-day, however, after three years of war, this factor has ceased to be effective, because Germany's former superiority in armaments has vanished. The German people are tired of the war, and Germany's economic system has been almost exhausted by the continuous strain.

The second factor is Germany's central position in Europe, which still gives Hitler certain advantages. But to-day the German front-line stretches from the Volga to the Bay of Biscay, and from the North Cape to Tunisia. Within this huge space, Hitler's armies are beginning to lose their former coherence. The problem of communications has become a most vulnerable spot in Germany's armour. Moreover, those huge spaces swallow up more and more soldiers, thus putting a severe strain on Germany's manpower. For the same reason, the German generals are now prevented from concentrating considerable forces at a given

point—which has always been a favourite trick of their strategy.

The third factor is the new fighting methods introduced by Hitler, which are adapted both to the new weapons and the peculiar morality of the Germans whose slogan is "might before right." These new methods of warfare—from the so-called "war of nerves" and a corruptive propaganda to the "blitzkrieg" with a view to annihilate the enemy in the most cruel and ruthless fashion—were undoubtedly a surprise to Hitler's adversaries, and gave him the desired superiority—at the beginning. To-day, however, these methods have also ceased to be effective. The "blitzkrieg" has been counteracted by reaching parity of the air-force and armoured strength. The German propaganda is on the defensive, and acts "like a boomerang," to use President Roosevelt's words. The method of enlisting "Quislings" and collaborationists has now failed, too, because the whole of Europe has painfully learnt what the "New Order" is like. The more tortured the subjugated peoples of Europe are, the more they are entitled to their revenge which will hit the Germans with full force.

The fourth factor is the unity of command, which Hitler possesses in full measure. Hitler's strategic efforts are not arrived at by any agreements or compromise—they are dictated by one centralized body. I have always maintained that the Allies' War must be a coalition war, governed by uniform planning. My name has been coupled with the idea of attaining the greatest possible unity—strategical, ideological and economical—among the Allies. I have always stood for the conception of creating a unified High Command which would treat the struggle of the Allies on all fronts as a whole. I have likewise advocated the idea of creating a Supreme Council which would co-ordinate the political and ideological actions of the Allies, and establish the framework of a future Europe.

One might almost say to-day that Hitler is now in the same position as the democracies in 1939. His strategic conceptions, therefore, move now in the same circles as ours at that time. This accounts for his idea of a new Maginot line—the "West Wall" and "East Rampart"—, and also explains why the German propaganda has begun to speak of a long war, and of "blood and sweat," using Churchill's motto. Nevertheless, it would be foolish to nourish exaggerated hopes at the present juncture. The way to victory is still steep and difficult. We shall need huge efforts, great sacrifices, and enormous courage. Above all, we shall have to wrest the initiative from the pnyemy, and strike at him boldly, as we have just done in Africa.

It would be a blunder to believe that a new Maginot line would be useless because the Germans themselves so easily overran the Maginot line in France. It would be equally erroneous to suppose that the Germans, once they are put on the defensive and locked in their European fortress, will break down quickly. Military science has made great progress within the last few years, and has restored the former value of the defence. New conceptions are therefore necessary to make an attack as effective as it was two years ago, when the Germans smashed the defences of Europe. Besides, we must bear in mind that the German fortress can be attacked not only from the Atlantic, the Mediterranean, the Volga and Don, the Baltic and the Arctic Seas—but also from within. There, in that fortress which is Europe, hundreds of millions of freedom-loving people are only waiting for the yearned-for moment when they will receive arms, and then rise up against their torturers and tyrants, thus contributing their important share to our common victory."

POLISH PREMIER'S SPEECH ON THE WAR SITUATION

General Sikorski in a speech delivered in New York, December 15th, said that the German army situation would probably become even worse than in last winter.

The third purge of experienced German military leaders and substitution of Himmler's henchmen point to difficulties Hitler has been having in trying to maintain his hold on the army.

After saying that Allied victory in the realm of war production was certain, General Sikorski added: "I consider we are entitled to foresee that Germany will pass to the defensive and in time will hold on in Europe as in a fortress. If and when this happens, Germany will play for time, endeavouring to persuade the Allies that further bloodshed would be hopeless and war should end with a negotiated peace."

Such a compromise peace, said General Sikorski, would be equal to the greatest defeat for the Allies and would at best be another precarious and dangerous armistice.

NEW POLISH MINISTER OF MILITARY AFFAIRS

Under pressure of work General Sikorski, the Polish Prime Minister and Commander-in-Chief of the Polish Forces, has decided to relinquish the post of Minister of Military Affairs which he has hitherto combined with his other duties. To relieve him a separate Minister of Military Affairs has been appointed. He is Lieutenant-General Dr. Marjan Kukiel, K.C.B.



Two mural paintings by the famous Polish painter Mr. S. Norblin which were exhibited on the Polish stall at the United Nations' Fete (Bombay, December 1942)



Ladies who took part in the March Past, at the United Nations' Fete (Bombay, December 1942). On the left a group of Polish Ladies.



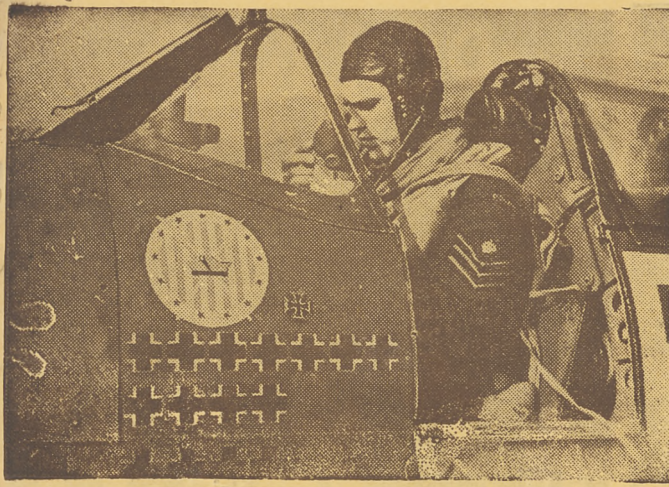
Polish Ladies in National Costumes inside the Polish stall at the United Nations' Fete (Bombay, December 1942).



A group of Polish Ladies taking part in the March Past at the United Nations' Fete (Bombay, December 1942).

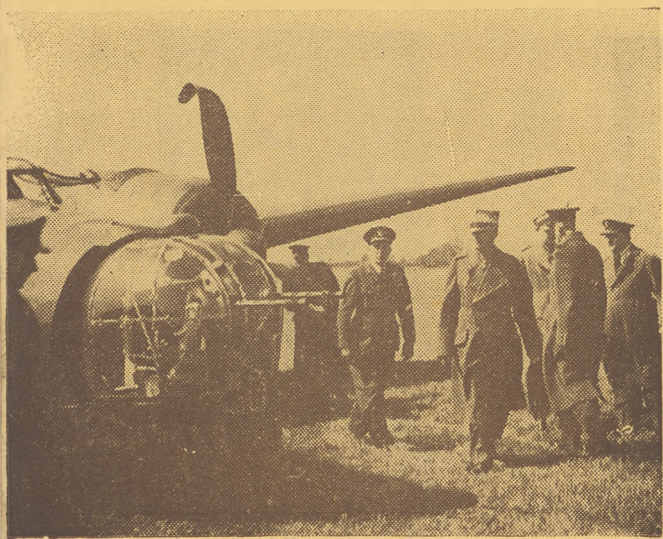


Mrs. Hanka Ordonowna, a well-known Polish "dancer," in the National costume from the Cracow-region. She took part in the United Nations' Fete (Bombay, December 1942).



The Polish Fighter Squadron No. 303, named "Tadeusz Kosciuszko Squadron," has to its credit the greatest number of enemy planes destroyed. A German "Iron Cross" seen on the plane above the 11 crosses—marking the German aircraft destroyed by the pilot—was retaken from the German pilot who gained it for the bombardment of Warsaw.

"The 178th German aircraft destroyed by 303 Polish Squadron." This inscription appears on a part of a destroyed German plane. The Commander of this Polish Squadron alone has to his credit 17 enemy aircraft destroyed.



General Sikorski visiting Polish airmen after their return from a raid on Rostok.

General Kukiel is one of the most distinguished Polish historians. He commanded a division in the Polish Army before 1925, when he became head of the Polish Historical Military Research Bureau. In 1927 General Kukiel, a man of outspoken democratic convictions, retired from the army, being, like his friend General Sikorski, strongly opposed to Pilsudski's "authoritarian" regime. From 1927 until the outbreak of war he was Professor of Modern History in Cracow University. He is an authority on the Napoleonic wars, and wrote a standard book on 1812. He rejoined the army when war broke out, and after the collapse of the Polish resistance went to France to assist General Sikorski in the formation of a new Polish army. He has been bound to General Sikorski by ties of the closest friendship since the days of their common struggle for Poland's independence before the last war and in the days of the fights of the Polish Legion in 1914-18. General Kukiel is 58.

Until now General Kukiel was G.O.C. of the Polish Army Corps in Scotland. His successor is General Mieczyslaw Boruta-Spiechowicz.

POLISH ARMY IN MIDDLE EAST

Of the various Allied contingents which the armies in the Middle East now comprise, the Poles are by far the biggest. The large draft which arrived some months ago from Russia raised them at once to the rank of a small army, complete with all arms and auxiliary services, including a useful women's corps. Before that there had been but one Polish unit in the Middle East—the brigade which took such a gallant part in the defence of Tobruk. Now that brigade is only one of many. The Polish troops are quartered in a series of camps which spread themselves over 50 miles of open Palestinian country, where the sea breezes temper the summer heat.

"This is going to be an army to be reckoned with," writes the *Times* Special Correspondent. "One of the first things I was shown was an O.C.T.U. where groups of cadets are being trained as officers for all branches of the service. They are keen, smart young fellows, obviously working hard and living hard. There are 160 gunner cadets alone. Many instructors of the O.C.T.U., like the general himself, come from Polish brigades in Scotland and are thus thoroughly familiar with British weapons and material."

POLISH SOLDIERS EAGER TO FIGHT IN MIDDLE EAST

The arrival in Persia of Polish troops from Russia is one of the finest chapters in the colourful history of the Poles. The 1,400-mile journey through

mountains and desert, past snow covered crags and the sun scorched sands, was an amazing piece of transport work, for there are no railways and only a few signs on the virgin sand mark the "roads." Through Persia and Mesopotamia over the route followed by the armies of Cyrus, of Cambyses, of Darius, of Alexander, of the Parthians, of Haroun Al Rashid, of Genghis Khan and of Tamerlain, endless columns of trucks filled with men in khaki uniforms, with the white eagle of Poland on their caps, wended their way westward day after day.

A new word "Polonia" was on the lips of Kurds and Arabs—The nation that never gives up. The Poles are popular in these countries, where they were unknown a few months ago. At halts on the long road performances were given by Polish artists from Warsaw Music Halls, now in battle dress, to British and Polish soldiers.

Polish soldiers from Russia, mostly strong fellows seasoned by hardships, with unbounded faith, asked, "Where are the Germans?" "When do we go to the front?" Their arrival in the Middle East opposes a new and formidable enemy to the Germans.

* * *

General Sikorski was the guest of the Prime Minister on August 30. In a conversation which lasted several hours, Mr. Churchill and General Sikorski discussed the war situation and problems resulting from the Prime Minister's visit to Moscow. One of the items discussed was no doubt the large increase of the Polish Forces in the Middle East. These Polish divisions were transferred to this theatre of war from Soviet Russia at the end of August. They have joined the Polish Army Corps already there, under the command of General Zajac, formed from the Polish Carpathian Brigade and the thousands of Polish troops who arrived there from Soviet Russia last March. Mr. Churchill's talks with General Anders in Cairo were probably concerned with questions of equipment and organisation created by the arrival of new Polish units in the Middle East.

POLISH COMMANDOS FOR U. S. ARMY

Special fighting units composed exclusively of Poles born in America or in Poland are being formed within the framework of the United State Army. They will have special duties of a combined operations character assigned to them. Volunteers for these units must have already served either in the American or the Polish Army. The men will be commanded by officers of Polish nationality, and the official language of these units will be Polish.

General Sikorski is being kept informed of the course of the initial work connected with the formation of the units. Discussions are going on between Washington and the Polish authorities in London on the possibility of Polish officers with technical and organising experience being sent to take part in this work across the ocean.

"FREEDOM OF THE CITY OF BREMEN"

The "Freedom of the City of Bremen" was conferred on a Polish bomber pilot of the Pilsudski squadron after the latest Royal Air Force raid on Bremen. According to a Polish custom a man is entitled to the "Freedom" of a German city after visiting it three times.

HALF OF CREW DEAD. POLISH BOMBER WINS

A Wellington bomber manned by Poles was attacked by two Messerschmitts in a recent raid over Bremen. The Wellington was seriously damaged and set on fire. Half its crew was wounded and the situation grew worse as the pilot was so seriously injured that he could not fly the plane. There were only 160 gallons of gasoline in the tank when the Wellington was over Holland. Although himself wounded, one of the navigators took over the controls. By supreme efforts he reached the shores of England safely but he landed with half of the crew dead and the others had to be taken to the hospital. But the Poles had unloaded all their bombs right on the target in Bremen.

A SOCIALIST MESSAGE TO POLAND

The following message from Socialists of many countries was broadcast over the B.B.C. to the people of Poland on September 29, the third anniversary of the occupation of Warsaw by the German Army:—

"We have learnt from reliable sources that the Nazis have again intensified their activities in your country, and that they pursue the one purpose, now avowed, of exterminating all who live upon your soil—the Jews to begin with, and then, to complete the crime, the Poles themselves. This is no longer a racial matter only. It is also bound up with *Lebensraum*. In Poland the theory of extermination wears a double mask—but the acts of barbarism, and the purpose, are the same. Coolly and systematically, by mass execution, the Germans are to secure possession of your property and of your territory, and to occupy it indefinitely.

"Must one be surprised at this criminal policy of theft and brigandage? We do not think so. It was so in the past, when the German barons settled among you and around you. Moreover, the Norwegians, the Greeks, the Jugoslavs and the Czecho-

slovaks also know to-day what it costs to resist oppression, and the misery which reigns in Holland, Belgium and France, as everywhere else—the organised misery—provides a foretaste of the happiness which the regime of the 'new order' has in store for Europe should Germany be victorious. In Holland the deportation of the Jews to the East has begun. Moreover Hitler-Germany is wrong in imagining that the people in the occupied countries will ever give way to despair and renunciation. We know that violence has an end. We know that friends are watching, and that they have the power of destroying the evil things being done by the Nazi hordes.

"Great Britain will never yield. Russia is fighting heroically for her existence. The United States have thrown the weight of their armaments into the balance. And, were it necessary to quote an example of endurance, we would invoke that of eternal China. Under the ægis of the fighting forces the people in the occupied countries are doing their duty, and in the foremost ranks stands indomitable Poland, who has never bowed the knee. In your distress we send you this testimony of our solidarity and of our admiration for your courage."

(Signed):—
Belgium, Czechoslovakia, France, Holland, Italy, Luxembourg, Norway, Palestine, Spain.

POLAND SUFFERS MOST IN GERMAN RAPE OF EUROPE

The Foreign Policy Association has just published a report on "Nazi Exploitation of Occupied Europe" by Ernest S. Hediger, who says:

"The rules adopted differ widely according to the racial or political condition of the dispossessed. Poles, Jews, political refugees and other 'enemies of the German State' have been deprived of practically everything of value, while the private property of other groups has been left untouched.

"In Poland, which received the worst treatment of all, practically every item of private property belonging to non-Germans has been confiscated. This is fully consistent with the policy outlined by Walter Darré, former German Minister of Agriculture, when he declared that 'all Polish soil and industrial property will be confiscated without exception and will be distributed primarily among worthy members of the Party and soldiers accorded honours for bravery in the war.'"

A LETTER FROM THE WARSAW GHETTO

A letter from the Warsaw Ghetto which came illegally through a neutral country:

... bread, it is the most important thing. The rations have been diminished again. From now

on we shall receive only 80 gr. daily. Shall we be able to live on it? Goods on the black market have increased in price terribly.

For more than a year we have not seen meat, potatoes are not to be found either. As soon as the Lithuanian and Ukrainian police came domiciliary visits and raids again started during the night. Many persons have been arrested. The most alarming news is that the inhabitants of the Ghetto will be deported to another place.

The Jews who came to Warsaw from provincial towns after the outbreak of war are the first to be threatened by this order. The greater part was transported to other places during the winter 1940. These poor people are living in very restricted conditions and the new threat of deportation keeps them from sleeping. And now a new misfortune—they have begun to catch children. Yesterday [this letter was sent from Warsaw in the middle of June 1942] two motorcars of the Gestapo stopped before a big orphanage conducted by the "Council of Old Men." All the children over 14 years of age were deported. Besides this they caught children of 13—16 years of age in the streets. They were deported. Nobody knows where. To-day the Council was informed that 600 children have been sent to agricultural work for the summer months. The Gestapo required the Municipal Authorities to supply a further 5,400 children for agricultural work. If the authorities do not comply, the Gestapo will arrange raids and will take children from their homes without making any choice. I must not write you of the terrible atmosphere now raging amongst the parents. The Gestapo has promised that the children will return home after the harvest, that is in three months.

By an order of the Authorities two new offices for recruiting Jewish workers were opened in the Ghetto this week. In the same way, if they will not go voluntarily, they will be compelled to go.

A week ago some thousands of workers left the Ghetto by trains going towards the West. They say that they have been sent to Germany where there is a great need of workers. We are waiting for better news from abroad. It is our only hope.

UNDERGROUND

WARSAW FIGHTS

One of the mightiest weapons in the hands of Poles in their fight against the invader is passive resistance. The slow-down is among the most important forms of such resistance. Workers

POST-WAR SHORTAGE IN EUROPE

The Archbishop of York supporting a demand in the House of Lords for the preparation of immediate plans to relieve post-war shortage in Europe, said that one of the most appalling outrages that the history of the world has ever known is taking place in Poland now.

"We are watching a deliberate, cold-blooded massacre. The extermination of all Jews in that country has been decided upon and will be carried out ruthlessly. Men, women and children are being ruthlessly killed by poison gas and electrocution. I urge Government to state repeatedly and solemnly that retribution will be dealt out not only on cold-blooded cowardly brutes ordering these massacres but also on thousands of underlings who appear to be joyfully and gladly carrying out these orders."

Lord Cranborne, replying for Government, said: "There is no real sign of any crack in the enemy's morale yet, and there is every indication that the war will continue for a considerable time. Yet wars have a way of collapsing quite suddenly, and it is important that we should be ready to relieve the sufferings of occupied countries. Government feel as strongly as anybody over the shocking events in Poland, and if there is any helpful action they can take they are ever ready to take it. The Allied Committee which is preparing estimates of post-war requirements of the European Allies has received provisional estimates from all Allied Governments of foodstuffs, medical and raw materials and industrial requirements.

"The Allied Committee is now engaged in co-ordinating these estimates. For this work a number of Allied technical sub-committees have been constituted. One has considered the organisation of inland transport in Europe to take food and raw materials where they are needed. The United States has official representatives on the Allied Committee in London and on the various sub-committees. We shall do all we can, but supplies will be mainly in the hands of the United States, the Dominions and other overseas countries. Informal consultations are now taking place with the United States on the preparation of such a plan.

employed in plants which are now under German supervision sabotage production not by destroying raw materials or damaging the products, but by slowing down the rate of work, so that tasks which ordinarily require one hour take five or more.

On walls, on fences, on sidewalks and pavements, "unknown" hands paint large turtles in chalk, coal, or even tar. Below each turtle are the words: "Work slowly." Sometimes only a turtle may be seen painted on a wall, but further on, on the same wall, the inscription, "Work slowly," will invariably be found.

The workers do not have to convince each other of the necessity of this method of struggle against the invader. Nevertheless, the following words are frequently spoken in shops and factories:

"Before the war we worked to build Poland, but to-day we are forced to work for the Germans. Why hurry?"

Travelling in street-cars without tickets has become quite prevalent in Warsaw, both as a form of help to the conductors, and as a way of sabotaging Nazi regulations.

The passenger pays the conductor, but does not take his ticket, or else takes it, but returns it on getting off, thus helping to supplement the conductor's meagre earnings, which are usually too low to provide him and his family with even a bare subsistence.

The income from the city's street-cars has dwindled to such an extent that the occupation authorities have begun to make appeals to the public. They especially attempt to exploit the feelings of pity and national loyalty, reminding the population that every year nine million out of the annual income from street-cars is used for purposes of social welfare for benefit of the Poles.

However, neither threats nor posters appealing to the emotions have been of any avail. This form of sabotage continues, with the tacit agreement of the Polish passengers and the Polish conductors.

At the beginning of 1942 measures were introduced to combat it. The conductors were warned that the income from the tickets sold was insufficient, and that they would be closely watched and supervised. Later many conductors were fined and dismissed.

Since the beginning of 1942 the walls of Warsaw buildings have frequently been covered with large yellow Nazi propaganda posters, written in Polish. The posters, headed in heavy black type, "The Führer Said," consist of quotations from Hitler's latest speeches, boasting about the triumphant march of the German army eastwards, about the heroic flight of German pilots over Russia and England, and so on. The Polish underground movement was quick to answer these posters. One day "unknown" hands pasted small cards

over all the posters, on which the following mocking verse was printed:

"The Führer bragged with insolence

That in February the Russian winter would be over,

But he did not know that even if he could shorten the winter

No German would come back alive from Russia."

The Germans removed these cards, but they invariably reappeared on the following day.

Soon a more ambitious plan was undertaken. One lovely spring day the walls of Warsaw were covered with new "yellow Nazi posters." The first words read as usual: "The Führer Said." Below followed quotations from Hitler's speeches, but selected so cleverly that all the nonsense and inconsistencies of his boasts and claims stood glaringly emphasized. There, for all to read, were the promises that Hitler made and never fulfilled—the boast that England and Russia would be conquered before the winter of 1941, that the war would end before Christmas, 1941, and so on.

Crowds gathered before the posters, amid confusion, consternation, and laughter. Poles laughed openly; Germans scanned the "official," though incomprehensible, propaganda with sullen expressions.

The German police became alarmed on seeing the large crowds and posted guards lest some "unknown" hand dare damage or tear down the posters. All day long the Poles smilingly read what "The Führer Said." It was not until late in the evening that the Nazi authorities understood that they had been duped by the Polish Underground. Gestapo agents in uniform dispersed the crowds and hurried through the streets, feverishly tearing down the compromising "official" posters.

Living as it does under constant Nazi terror, the occupied capital of Poland has not lost its sense of humour, but employs its wit to uphold the morale of the Poles and to ceaselessly sting the invader.

News about the battles against the "Axis" is circulated from mouth to mouth. Biting sayings and stories of political character are similarly spread, and ultimately reach the occupant. Below is an example of the political anecdotes which have wide circulation in Poland to-day:

It is told that Hitler arrived in heaven and introduced himself to Saint Peter, whereupon Saint Peter went to God and said: "There is a person at the gate who calls himself Hitler."

"Where is he," cried God in consternation, "Where did you leave him?"

"There he is, waiting at the door," was the answer.

"What?" cried God, "You left him alone? Quick, run and fetch him."

Saint Peter ran to the gate, but soon came back alone, saying—"It is too late. He has done it."

"What?" asked God anxiously.

"While I was speaking to you, he attached a cream separator to the Milky Way, skinned the Great Bear, stole the Small Cart, sheared the Lamb, and cooped up all the Prophets in a Ghetto."

The growing poverty in the ghetto and the shortage of food supplies have made it necessary to increase the number of Jewish soup kitchens in

Warsaw. In the summer of 1941 there were eighty-eight soup kitchens in the Warsaw ghetto. To-day their number has risen to 145, as ever more people come to depend on the community for their food. The number of soup kitchens for children has risen from thirty-five to forty-five. Two special kitchens have been opened for the Jewish policemen, and three kitchens for those drafted for forced labour.

The number of meals distributed by the ghetto soup kitchens has now reached 135000 daily. This means that one out of every three people in the Warsaw ghetto is dependent on free meals for his existence.

In addition to the meals served at the soup kitchens, over 60,000 meals are sent out daily to various hospitals, homes for children and old people, and to the community offices.

POLISH—CZECHOSLOVAK COLLABORATION

MR. WL. BANACZYK'S SPEECH ON THE OCCASION OF THE NATIONAL DAY OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA

On the 28th of October, the National Holiday of Czechoslovakia, the vice-chairman of the Polish National Council, Mr. Wl. Banaczyk, delivered the following speech in Jerusalem.

"I am very glad indeed to address some words to our brethren, the Czechs and Slovaks, on the occasion of their National Holiday, which was established to commemorate the day when they regained their independence 24 years ago.

This year that Holiday occurs in a period of grief and sorrow, at a moment when both our countries, occupied by the same enemy, are suffering the worst persecutions ever known in the history of mankind.

But this sad moment is, on the other hand, also a symbol which reminds our people and yours that the existence of that common foe necessitates the application of such means as will, henceforth, secure our freedom from any attack in the future.

We must forget any possible blunders which may have occurred in the past; we must understand that the very existence of our nations is at stake. It is, therefore, imperative that we should find such forms of sincere co-operation as will exclude the possibility of our repeating those blunders.

While giving up certain ambitions for the benefit of our collaboration, we must take care lest the common foe succeed in sowing the seeds of discord between us.

A mutual respect for our national interests, which ought, moreover, to lead us to understand the necessity of abandoning certain sympathies or tendencies, will surely contribute to safeguarding the highest national interest of both our nations, i.e. the freedom and security of our respective countries.

It is a real pleasure to state that *no* serious differences divide us. On the contrary, both the economical and geographical position of our countries and the fact that, when speaking our respective languages, we understand each other perfectly, impose upon us the sacred duty of uniting our efforts and developing both our countries together.

Fortunately both our peoples have already understood for a considerable time that it is absolutely necessary to combine our forces as far as possible. This tendency is clearly visible from all the information which reaches us from our countries, now subjugated by the same enemy. It is the will of our nations that, following the motto: "Free with the free, and equal to our equals," we should build our common future together within the framework of a federation.

Our Governments have understood these tendencies, and have thus already begun to give formal shape to our future co-operation. They have expressed their intentions by signing the "Polish—Czechoslovak Declaration about the confederation of Poland and Czechoslovakia." Our Governments have, furthermore, created political organs whose task consists in preparing concrete schemes which—together with the principle of con-

federation itself—will be approved by our national representations after the victorious conclusion of war. By thus constructing a strong block in Central Europe, we aim at safeguarding our own peace and security; but we are also laying the foundation of peace and security for the entire European Continent.

I earnestly believe in the success of our efforts to build up a common future for both our nations, and, strengthened by this faith, I salute your tortured country on this Holiday.

“CESKOSLOVENSKE REPUBLICHE ZDAR !”

POLES IN INDIA

Polish Children in India

London, 12th of January 1943.

Jam Saheb, the Maharaja of Nawanagar enjoys the greatest popularity among the Poles because of the great kindness he has shown to the Polish children, giving in his State in Jamnagar asylum to 5000 of them, mostly orphans. 630 have already come from Russia to live at the Maharaja's State until their return to Poland.

The Maharaja, who is now in London on the Empire War Council, after his first meeting with the Polish Government on the invitation of the Polish Prime Minister, General Sikowski, broadcast on Poland on the 26th of October 1942. The Maharaja spent Christmas Eve at the “Polish Hearth” amidst the Poles among whom there were many children whose parents are now refugees in Great Britain. He arrived together with Mr. Racziewicz, President of Poland, and other members of the Polish Government and was greeted in the name of the Polish children by the Ambassador Raczynski's daughter. This small girl, aged only nine, thanked the Maharaja in his mother-tongue for the great kindness he is showing to Polish children. After that all the children rushed towards the Maharaja, surrounded him, talking to him and showing him their Christmas presents. One small boy who received a toy-gun explained to the Maharaja that he will use it against the Germans. It was evident that the Maharaja enjoyed the afternoon very much.

On the 2nd of January the Maharaja received the Polish Ambassador in Great Britain Count Raczynski, and the Polish Minister of Information Mr. S. Stronski, and handed over to Mr. Stronski the collection of photos just received showing the Polish children who are now living in his State. These photos are being sent to all the Polish posts all over the world and will be published in the newspapers.

The hospitality of the Maharaja has made him extremely popular among the Poles in Great Britain. One Polish soldier from Scotland after reading the report about the asylum offered to the Polish children has sent to the Maharaja on his own initiative as a Christmas present a model of a Spitfire with the Polish Air Force emblems which he had modelled himself.

POLISH SCIENTIST AT THE JUBILEE CELEBRATION OF THE BHANDARKAR ORIENTAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE

Dr. Ludwik Sternbach, as one of the Representatives of the Polish Learning in India, at the request of the Consulate General for Poland, took part in the Jubilee Celebration of the Bhandarkar Oriental Research Institute, held at Poona on the 4th and 5th January 1943.

Dr. L. Sternbach read an address at the opening of the Celebration and on the following day he delivered a short lecture on “Indology in Poland.”

In the “Silver Jubilee Volume of the Annals of the Bhandarkar Oriental Research Institute” a scientific paper entitled “The Harmonising of Law with the Requirements of Economic Conditions according to the Ancient Indian Dharmasāstras, Arthasāstras and Grhyasūtras,” has been published by Dr. Ludwik Sternbach.

NEW YEAR'S EVE

On the 31st of December 1942 the Poles and Czechoslovaks in Bombay celebrated New Year's Eve at their premises in Colaba Road. Both the Consul General for Poland and the Consul for Czechoslovakia were present.

At the reception given by the Consul General for Poland and Madame Banasinska on the occasion of the New Year there was a large gathering of the Polish and Czechoslovak Communities including the Consul for Czechoslovakia and Madame Urban. They called to express their New Year's greetings. The Chairman of the Polish Union in India in the name of the Polish Community in Bombay conveyed greetings to the Polish Government and the Polish National Council.

TWO WELL-KNOWN POLISH ARTISTS WITH THE “POLISH UNION IN INDIA”

On the 9th of January at the premises of the Polish Union in India and Czechoslovak Society in Bombay, Mrs. Hanka Ordonowna and Mrs. Lena Zelichowska, two well-known Polish Artists, gave a programme of Polish songs and Polish poetry. The Polish and Czechoslovak communities and guests were present.