

England's Sinking Morals

Once again the "Catholic Times" sounds a warning note, though rather late in the day. War, the paper writes, has never served to improve the morals of individuals and nations. In precipitating a war one must above all be sure that the nation can stand up to it morally. In this respect British policy had gone about things with an unconcern and carelessness without precedent.

"To-day a sinking of morals in England is beyond all question. All papers tell the same story, whether of the war abroad or of the life of the nation at home. They are full of accounts of murder, larceny, robbery, outrages and disloyalty."

Inexorably it all boiled down to the same thing. It was not possible to draw a line of distinction between the daily handicraft of the soldier and that of everyday life in England. Events at home in the ultimate consequence were invariably a reflection of the greater happenings of the war.

"If someone is murdered or a woman is raped, if a youth becomes a criminal or a footpad, or a young girl of good family turns prostitute, one is tempted to put it down to the war, making the latter responsible for the decline in morals. However, it is more likely that the war is robbing England finally and irrevocably of the vestiges of respectability which, so long as peace reigns, she manages to keep up at least a semblance of."

Deportees' Sufferings

A member of the American Red Cross describes in the "Manchester Guardian" the result of personal conversations with witnesses coming from the distant regions of the U.S.S.R., the suffering of over 500,000 Poles and 150,000 Baltic deportees.

The article stresses that at Tehran there are means available for distributing food and clothing to these people, but that at present there is no organisation for distribution in existence in the U.S.S.R.

Rockets and Air Mines

Commenting on the battle of Brunswick, Major Oliver Stewart said, with reference to the Germans' use of rockets and trailing bombs, or air mines, that the defensive methods here revealed excellent in complexity and ingenuity anything seen before.

"This may be taken as an admission that the British and Americans consider themselves confronted by new problems; and they have not experienced the limits of the inventive ability of the German experts."

In the course of time further new weapons and methods will be introduced.

The turning down of the Hollywood "war films" by the Argentine people means a yearly loss of two million dollars for the U.S.A. film industry.

The Argentine government has broken off diplomatic relations with the governments of France, Bulgaria, Roumania and Hungary.

It is reported from Lisbon that Portuguese soldiers who desert on the front will from now on be punished by death, a law which was not before included in Portuguese military punishment praxis.

German Economic and Finance Policy

The Vice-President of the Reichsbank, Lange, according to the "Berliner Boersen-Zeitung," spoke in Pressburg on the subject of economic and finance policy.

He said with regard to German foreign trade policy which sometimes was being looked upon falsely as being hostile to any foreign trade, that Germany on the contrary regarded an active exchange of goods and services, adapted to the national characteristics of her trade partners, as constituting the best foundation for an organically built up foreign trade that was free of any crisis.

The aimed-at new European economic order would not be completed according to the principle of subjugation but by a reasonable co-ordination of the nations. This, at the same time, was the best guarantee for a lasting peace. That Germany was able to maintain the volume of her foreign trade at nearly stable prices in spite of the burdens of total war.

Production caused thereby, it was a remarkable achievement for the benefit of her trade partners which could not be too highly estimated. The increased German clearing debt which arose in spite of this, was for the greatest part caused by services rendered (millions of foreign workers engaged in Germany) and also by the more or less great increase in prices of our foreign trade partners.

Lastly, must be taken into account that whereas to-day's liabilities,

Stalin's Latest Trick

Stalin has started a new bluff in order to throw dust in the eyes of the democratic world. In a speech Molotov proposed that all the different Soviet Republics should get their military organisation and their own foreign representatives. It is reported that these proposals of Molotov have been unanimously accepted by the Supreme Soviet Council.

This so-called reformation of the Soviet constitution is another trick of Stalin in a series of bluffs which were recently launched in order to make the democratic world believe that Bolshevism is becoming a democracy and a national state.

The dissolution of the Comintern, the abolition of the International Hymn, the installation of a Holy Synod and of a Patriarch in Moscow all serve the same purpose of misleading a stupid world. Stalin knows very well that he will find in England and America many advocates of his tricks. He knows that even British statesmen and clergymen have praised his "reforms" as important steps on Russia's way to democracy.

What the Kremlin wants to reach by the so-called independence of the 16 Soviet Republics, concerning foreign representations, is easily recognised. In future Stalin can declare that no country takes a risk to join the Soviet Union, as the Soviet Union consists of a number of independent Republics with its own military organisation and own representatives in foreign countries.

It is obvious that Stalin is preparing the incorporation of Poland and of the Baltic States and finally the Bolshevisation of Europe in case of an Allied victory. He gives his friend, Mr. Eden, a chance to withdraw his signature from the Pact of Guarantee with Poland and to justify this treachery.

It would not be surprising if Mr. Eden will call one day the incorporation of Poland by the Soviet Union a legal democratic act, pointing to the latest reform of the Soviet constitution.

Stalin, however, wants to kill two birds with one stone. If, in future, each Soviet Republic has its own diplomatic representative he would have the possibility of swaying all political measures in favour of Moscow merely by the majority of Soviet votes in Allied Committees and Councils.

To a certain degree the Kremlin is practising this example already at present in the Algiers Committee and in Southern Italy. It will increase these means as soon as each Soviet Republic has got its own voice.

It is remarkable that some English newspapers have already recognised this development. The "Times" criticises the independence of the Soviet Republics and rejects the comparison with the Dominions within the British Empire.

ties, which nearly all are of a short-term nature, there are large credits from German export deliveries on long term payments. The clearing debt was entirely due to the war and there was no doubt that German productive capacity would solve this problem without difficulty after the war. Vice-President Lange then repudiated some slogans of enemy propaganda and stressed that Germany was leading a sincere and peaceable foreign trade policy and would continue to do so in the future.

Germany had further endeavoured to find ways already now during the war on the basis of friendly collaboration which would render a re-payment of the clearing debt possible. Germany, therefore, greatly valued stable economic and financial conditions in those countries of which she was a trade partner and would do everything in her power to give support to the respective governments in these endeavours.

The speaker then dealt extensively with National Socialist financial policy and stressed that the stability of German currency was based on measures of economic policy, on a wage- and price limit—the drawing-off of purchase power by means of taxes and savings, and the fact that the authoritarian state provided for a just distribution of available goods for consumption. Furthermore, German currency was guaranteed, because it was based on the work of the entire nation.

German Craft Active in North Sea

Big Fires Raging at Nettuno and Anzio

From the Fuehrer's Headquarters, February 15th, 1944.

The German Supreme Command announces:—

On the Eastern Front the gallant German troops yesterday again repulsed strong Soviet attacks in the course of heavy fighting in the area to the south-east of Kirovograd, west of Tsherkassy, east of Zhashkov, at Vitebsk, between Lake Ilmen and Lake Peipus, as well as in the Narva area. In several sectors German attacks resulted in the annihilation of major enemy combat groups.

To the west of Narva an enemy attempted landing was frustrated, the enemy suffering heavy losses. Thereby two gun-boats, several cutters and landing craft were sunk.

In the extreme North of the front fast German bomber squadrons continued their attacks against transport traffic on the Murmansk railway, heavily damaging three trains.

In the defensive fighting on the Lower Dnieper the Pommerian/Mecklenburg 258th Infantry Division, together with the troops under its command, under the command of Major-General Bleyer, particularly distinguished itself by its exemplary conduct.

In the period from February 8th to February 14th 206 enemy aircraft were destroyed on the Eastern Front, as against 27 German losses.

In Italy no fighting of note occurred in the beach head of Nettuno again yesterday, apart from patrol and assault party activity on both sides.

WILLIAM JOYCE SAYS

Italian Campaign Static Not Dynamic

Britain a "Crumb-Seeker" After the War

William Joyce was on the air from Germany at 1.30 yesterday afternoon, giving a 12-minute speech on his "Views on the News" to all the world of English listeners who elected to follow his bracing discourse.

He had much to say that gave one to think. He reiterated how there was the most remarkable contrast in the battle-fronts of the East compared with those in Italy. In the East tremendous issues are at stake; in the South there was no indication of any decisive element. In the East there was a difference not only in degree but in kind: there was no difficulty in discerning what the Soviets desired to gain. If any difficulty did exist in that respect, reading "Pravda" and "Izvestia" would soon be a guide to the fact that they wished to stride through Europe like a Colossus. So Germany was standing to save Europe from destruction.

On the other hand, what was the object of the Anglo-American strategy in Italy? This was what the man-in-the-street in Britain wanted to know. Joyce here remarked that he doubted if Churchill or Eisenhower could say at the present time what it was Churchill had referred to the "soft under-belly" of the Germans' some time ago, but he did not indulge in that remark now, for he had discovered that that "belly" had a "steel-lining"! The unexpected by Churchill and the Yankees had, in fact, come to pass. And not by any means a maximum German effort had been made in Italy; no effort to place the enormous mass of reserves at the disposal of the German Supreme Command. Naturally, said Joyce, he did not want to convey an idea or paint a picture of the Italian Campaign as being in a state of stagnation, but it could be described truly as being of a static character generally where the Allies wanted it to be dynamic. It was not at all turning out as the Allies had desired and not as the people there had been led to expect after being told by propaganda that the issue would be speedily fought out to a finish! Such a slow pace in Italy made the British to give pause to reflect what might happen when the more ambitious enterprise of the Second Front was launched. No-one appeared to be able fully to realise the strength of the German resources, the power of weapons or the scheme of total strategy available to the German Supreme Command.

He Joyce examined the facts surrounding the aerial attack on London

on Sunday, following the ones on the Friday and Saturday nights. All Joyce wished to ask the British here was not to think for a moment that the raids so far were in the scheme as retaliations for the air attacks on Germany. Sir Hugh Dalton, observed Joyce, had warned the British that they were destined to tread a "steep and bloody path", before they reached their goal. But, explained Joyce, they would never reach it; they would never win the war, for they had lost it already!

Thus that critic should not be so sure on the point, but, perhaps, rather find his agreement tally with that of Smuts—that England would emerge from the war a poor country. Japan had to be considered as well as Germany in the issues of the war, and when the war was over it would be Britain that would be found seeking to maintain relations with Soviet Russia and the U.S.A.—in other words, begging them for such crumbs as would fall from their tables for her.

Joyce concluded: "Small wonder is it then if the British soldier or sailor wonders on what is the lot which is to befall him when he becomes an Ex-Service man—if he ever does do so!"

Polish People Ready to Fight Bolshevism

In his Christmas message to the Polish population Dr Frank, Head of the Gouvernement General, had stressed the necessity for every European to make, in face of the Bolshevik danger, the decision which the circumstances demand.

Following this appeal Dr. Frank has received countless letters from all classes of the Polish population and from the contents of these is evident that the majority of Poles do not intend, in any way, to give the Poles of Moscow or the London emigres the right to decide their fate.

If we do not support Germany with all our strength in her fight against Bolshevism, states one of

Favourable to the Japanese

The former Japanese Ambassador to the United States, Admiral Nomura, declared in an interview on the American attack against the Marshall Isles that this attack was no surprise to Japan.

The favourable opportunities to launch a decisive blow against the Americans in the Pacific are increasing, but Japan cannot constantly attack. We are prepared to wait for the most suitable moment.

Admiral Nomura continued that the North Americans have been forced, after the failure of the jumping tactics from island to island, to look for a direct and shorter way. This turning-point and the removal of the offensive towards the Middle Pacific, has been expected by Japan.

It is easily to be understood that the Americans will engage all possible forces in the course of the present year in order to force a decision. Apparently the North Americans at the moment are throwing their main forces into the battle.

An Australian Opinion

The Australian editor, Sir Keith Murdoch, deals in a special article in the "Manchester Guardian," with the future role of Australia in the British Empire.

The huge changes which will be caused in the world picture by the war, will essentially alter the future position of Australia. Though Australia is aware of the blood relations with England there is no future of Australia if she is only protected and developed by the British people.

With the support of the United States the British Army must be reinforced with regard to Australia. This has been proved in the course of this war when the British Empire has shown herself unable to defend the wall of Asia and British possessions off Australia against the Japanese conquests.

Therefore Australia must by no means lose the friendship of the United States. She has to maintain the alliance with the U.S. and to strengthen the interests of the North Americans in the Pacific world.

A People Dies Out

The "Star," a London evening paper, calls the English a dying people.

Without quarter the paper reports that in 1901 for every person in England of a pensionable age, there were five children under 15 years; in 1941 on the other hand, there were not even two. By 1961 this would have dropped to but one child. By 1971 one would have to count three pensioners to every one—two children.

The disastrous war was hastening the fatal development. It was bad enough to go under honourably in war, but to be condemned to death voluntarily and to have to waste away slowly, was too ghastly.

Addressing Irish farmers last week, Mr. de Valera announced that Eire would suffer from a very serious shortage of foodstuffs. Instead of 400,000 tons of wheat needed for the country's consumption, Eire can only depend on 60,000 tons.

These letters, the Polish people will cease to exist.

There are, moreover, other proofs of the anti-Bolshevik sentiment of the population of the Gouvernement General. There is, for instance, the demand for the creation of a Polish league to fight Bolshevism, or when an engineer submits a proposal which might be useful to many factories in the Gouvernement General, or, finally, when an important sum of money is placed at the disposal of the services for the wounded German soldiers on the Eastern Front.

All these letters are unanimous in severely criticising London, and rejecting London quite as much as Moscow.

Local News

TO-DAY'S STATES MEETING

The States of Deliberation met at the Court House at 10.30 this morning, convened to approve of the Budget for this year, and vote the credits; to approve of the rates of Income Tax; the raising of Impôts; the increasing of the Entertainments Tax; to approve of the principle of Death Duties, the rates thereof; and appoint a Committee to consider details and report; also to approve of an amendment to the Income Tax, as published in the "Press" of Monday.

Victor G. Carey, Esq., Bailiff and President of the States, presided, and the roll was called by Mr. P. Mauger (Deputy Greffier).

Sonderfuehrer (Z) Kraft occupied a seat on the Jurats' Bench.

DEPUTY DEPOSED

The President stated that he had received instructions from the German Authorities that Mr. Hill-Cottingham was to be deposed of his position in the States.

This had been transmitted to Mr. Hill-Cottingham.

QUESTION TIME

Deputy C. W. ARNOLD questioned the President of the Controlling Committee regarding the Farm Produce Board as follows: "Will you kindly state the composition of the Farm Produce Board; the purpose for which it was constituted; whether any of its members are paid for their services and if so, how many and what proportion of the £2,638 asked for under Wages and Salaries will be absorbed by this remuneration?"

In reply Jurat JOHN LEALE stated:—(1) The Farm Produce Board is composed of a Chairman, Head Organiser, and ten District Organisers (one for each parish), each organiser having been elected at a meeting of farmers held in the parish.

(2) The Board acts in an advisory capacity and carries out the policy decided by the Controlling Committee and the Agricultural Officer. Its mandate is as follows: "To assume full responsibility for the fullest utilisation of all farm land, farm labour, etc., the growing of all the necessary crops to provide food for their cattle, poultry and pigs, the running of abandoned farms and to see that enough milk and butter is produced to provide for a subsistence ration for the population. The Board also assumes responsibility for all Alderley cattle, horses and pigs, and will deal with all poultry matter and the production of beef in the Island. The Board will be responsible to Mr. R. O. Falls of the Controlling Committee."

(3) The Head Organiser and the ten District Organisers are paid for their services, their wages having been fixed by the Agricultural Officer after reference to the Controlling Committee.

(4) The total amount to be paid under this heading during the current year is estimated at £1,434. "I ought to add that the subject of the reconstitution of the Farm Produce Board is at present under consideration," concluded Jurat Leale.

POINTS IN DISCUSSION

Deputy C. H. CROSS asked if anything could be done to improve the terrible state of the roads, and explanations were given.

Deputy ARNOLD asked if any portion of the item under Social Assistance in the budget for the Controlling Committee was given to the very deserving Aged Poor Fund. No, was the answer.

Jurat J. LEALE put an amendment before the States re Castel Farm.

The RECTOR OF ST. ANDREW'S hoped the suggestion of Mr. Leale's for a postponement until a report was presented would be accepted.

Deputy ARNOLD's amendment, seconded by Mr. C. H. Cross, to dispose of the Farm and sell the stock, was rejected, only two voting in favour; and Jurat Leale's amendment, to present a report, was accepted.

All the credits required in the Budget were voted.

Death Duties were postponed. (Proceeding).

PRESS PARS

Meat This Week

We have been informed that there will be a ration of meat this week-end.

Sudden Death.

Mrs. J. Chick, Camp Code, has received news that Miss Chick, of the Victoria Coffee Shop, St. Sampson's, passed away suddenly at Bath.

Cyclist Hurt.

Whilst cycling at Elm Grove cross roads yesterday afternoon, Mrs. M. Rivers, of "The Ramblers," Hubbs, collided with another cyclist and sustained a severely bruised left leg. First aid was rendered by members of the St. J.A.B., who conveyed her to Dr. Gibson's surgery, then home.

Valentine Dance

Upwards of 100 dancers attended the fancy dress Valentine dance at the Garage, Grande Rue, St. Martin's, last evening. Staged by Messrs. G. Le Gros and P. A. Renouf, Mr. P. A. Renouf and Tommy Russell's Band provided the music. The prize-winners in the fancy dress competition were Mrs. L. Molloy (Barter Mart), Mrs. Hutchesson (Superstition), and Mr. W. Le Poidevin (Sleepless Nights).

Saints Cause Minor Surprise

Two Reserve League fixtures were played at Beau-Séjour on Saturday. In the first of these, Grandes Rocques defeated the V.O.B.A. (who, as usual, were one man short) by one goal to nil. Their goal was scored by the right back with a grand drive from 25 yards range. Mr. E. J. Richard was the referee.

In the second fixture the Vale Recreation, who had hitherto been undefeated, lost to St. Martin's by two goals to one after leading by the solitary goal at half-time. Reuben Mayhew gave the Northern side an early lead, but playing strongly in the second half, St. Martin's scored twice through Jeffries and Lajoie, and ran out deserved victors of a good game. Mr. C. Wood controlled this match.

