

NAZI CHIEF SEES POLES AS 'HAPPIER'

Governor of Poznan Asserts They Can Stay 'If They Wish' on Farms

DENIES HARM TO PRIESTS

None Interfered With So Long as They Did Not Meddled in Politics, Greiser Insists

BERLIN, Jan. 29 (P)—The Nazi Governor of Poznan, Polish district annexed by Germany, asserted today that the Poles were "much happier under German rule than they ever were under the Polish regime."

Arthur Greiser, the Governor of the district now called Warthegau, said he had no intention of compelling Poles to move from the territory under his jurisdiction to make room for repatriated Germans. Herr Greiser formerly was president of the Danzig Senate.

"There are some 350,000 small farms within my area and 3,400 larger estates on all of which Poles can remain if they wish," Herr Greiser said.

"The 340,000 Germans from the Baltic States, plus 20,000 more to come, as well as some 70,000 Germans from Volhynia who have been assigned to my district, will settle chiefly on farms abandoned by Poles or those formerly belonging to the Polish State."

Prisoners Returned, He Says

Herr Greiser said that the Polish peasant was "an excellent worker, a decent fellow especially if well led."

He said Polish prisoners of war were being returned to his district in large numbers and were allowed to go back to their civilian callings unmolested.

Only those "several thousand" Poles who insisted on leaving for the Government General, the part of German-occupied Poland not annexed to the Reich, were getting facilities for departure as quickly as possible, he added.

When he first took charge, Herr Greiser said, he was compelled to rule with a heavy hand because the Poles had opened all prisons and lunatic asylums.

He asserted that about 13,000 Germans, of whom 5,600 had been identified, had been tortured and killed as the Polish armies withdrew. The bodies of 1,400 had been exhumed but not identified, he said, and no trace has been found of 6,000 others.

Comment on Charges Refused

Herr Greiser said the Polish priests had not been interfered with under the German occupation so long as they did not meddle in politics. Only one Catholic priest had been executed in his district, he said, and this only after a court



SAYS POLES ARE HAPPY

Arthur Greiser, German Governor of Poznan.

Times Wide World, 1935

that, "when arms are found in a Polish priest's home in violation of a stern decree ordering Poles to deliver up all weapons, such a clergyman is a plain sniper and must be treated accordingly."

Authorized sources said that some priests undoubtedly had been executed, but they denied there was any persecution of Catholics in Poland and said churches had been left open for worship.

VILNA DETERIORATION UNDER POLAND CITED

Lithuanian Says Much Will Have to Be Done to the City

Wireless to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

KAUNAS, Lithuania, Jan. 29.—Much must be changed in Vilna in the near future in order to make it a fitting capital for Lithuania for the city has deteriorated in twenty years under Polish rule.

Premier Antonas Merkys today told press representatives. At the same time he declared that drastic action must be taken against those Poles now in Lithuania as refugees who, as a recent exposé of a secret Polish organization demonstrated, are misusing the hospitality accorded to them.

The greatest trouble in Lithuania at the moment, Mr. Merkys declared, was the necessity of selling agricultural exports at low prices, because of the rise in transportation costs directly attributable to the war, while forced to pay the highest prices for necessary imports.

It is true that women and children are packed in freight trains, which are locked tight from the outside. They are literally herded into them like cattle, the doors are shut and for four or five days they are not opened. No food or water is passed in, nor are the wretched people permitted any sanitary facilities.

Germans Admit Adopting Firm Policy in Poland

Conditions Getting Worse, Cardinal Hlond Asserts

Prelate Gives Interview

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patriots feared it was only a question of time before matters got much worse.

The Russians, he said, were not executing many Poles, but were deporting thousands into Russia. However, there was no question of systematic extermination such as was taking place in the regions attached to Germany.

The vigorous, young-looking Cardinal (he is only 59) received the writer in his simple apartment in the huge, barrack-like structure of the Salesians, to which order he belongs. Conditions in the Archdioceses of Gniezno and Poznan are "almost unbelievable and worse than anything that happened in the Middle Ages," he said, speaking with deep emotion and with an obvious conviction that the Polish people cannot be destroyed.

"Mein Kampf" Carried Out

"Hitler is carrying out what he said about Poland in 'Mein Kampf' literally," Cardinal Hlond asserted. "It is a deliberate policy of extermination; an effort to root the 7,000,000 people out of their soil in Western Poland and to supplant them by Germans. Hitler wrote that the Poles cannot be Germanized; they must be wiped out in those regions and that is what he is doing.

"In my archdiocese there are about 2,000,000 Poles. We have always been Catholic there and there is no place in Europe where the faith had a deeper hold. Now it is being forcibly diminished for the population is being torn from the cities and the countryside. Only a part of the agricultural workers and skilled industrial laborers are left behind, because they are needed. The old and infirm are left, too, as not worth bothering about.

"The 'Gouvernement General Poland,' where they are sent, is now a vision of famine and death. The poor deported people already total a million and by April the numbers may well reach three or four million, for the rate is steadily increasing.

It is a tragedy without compare, a transmigration such as never before occurred, a dark apocalyptic disaster in the light of twentieth century progress.

Mr. Merkys finally urged the press to be particularly careful about the publication of news which could arouse the ire of any of the warring countries.

100 Die of Hardships

"Since the reports were written, I have heard from an unimpeachable source of one train that reached its destination with more than 100 persons dead of cold, hunger and weakness. Another train that I know of had about forty dead bodies.

Queens Jail Keeper Reinstated

James Rooney, keeper in the Queens County Jail, who was sus-

pected of being a Nazi spy, has been reinstated in his position. He was dismissed last month by the Board of Commissioners of Corrections.

"I know that in many prisons and concentration camps they are placed with the Jews and treated just like them—that is to say, even worse than the Polish civilians. It is also intended to humiliate them by this process. In one concentration camp, for instance, where every one sleeps on the ground on piles of straw, they put a Jew and a priest, a Jew and a priest, and so on down the line, just to show that they classed both together.

"Some of the things that are happening are almost unbelievable. Everything points to the fact that in trampling upon Polish rights to life, property and liberty, and destroying the Polish family and violating in the grossest manner their liberty of conscience and religious practices, Germany is proceeding barbarously toward a genuine extermination.

"In the regions incorporated into Germany they want to kill our race. But the people have faith and they are bearing their trial with real spirit. They are not yielding and they can never be destroyed."

Poles to Make Representations

Wireless to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

PARIS, Jan. 29—Diplomatic representations on the alleged horrors in German-occupied Poland will be made by the Polish Government in neutral capitals similar to those August Cardinal Hlond, Primate of Poland and Ambassador to the Vatican, made on the persecution and murder of priests.

It is expected the representations will be made next month following the publication of the Polish Green Book on the war devastation and atrocities in occupied Poland. The first volume on Nazi rule in Poland will be ready in a few weeks. Cardinal Hlond's report will form an essential part of the volume. The book will contain verified reports of eyewitnesses, mostly neutral observers, German documents and photographs.

The French version will appear in Paris immediately, followed by an English version in London and New York.

The Polish Foreign Ministry is also preparing a White Book on Polish diplomatic activities of the last five years since the Polish-German non-aggression declaration of January, 1934. The book will contain documents concerning relations with both Berlin and Moscow.

The Polish Information Ministry here received news of another intended act of vandalism by the Nazis in Warsaw. They want to destroy the royal castle of the sixteenth century, seat of the Polish kings. The castle was slightly damaged during the siege of Warsaw, but it could be repaired at comparatively low cost. Yet the Nazis have decided to blow it up, pretending it has been damaged beyond repair. All its treasures have been removed to the Reich.

The Polish Ambassador in Rome already in November asked the Italian Foreign Minister, Count

Even Nazi General Is Said to Balk at Tactics Used

Reports Heard in Berlin

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rate in what is termed here as the reorganization of the German "east room," conquered by German arms in line with Chancellor Hitler's book and Germany's "manifest destiny."

In point of fact reports about the severity of German measures in both Poland and the Czech Protectorate have been much more copious and far more alarming in Germany than anything heard in the outside world. They are brought back or sent back by German officials and members of the German police who either boast or deplore the methods adopted but who agree that what is happening is little less than a process of national racial extermination.

"Master Race" Stressed

And they feed on the constantly repeated pronouncements of the new German rulers in Poland about the rights of the "German master race," the "hard but just" treatment of Poles and the necessity of providing room for German colonization.

"You must remain hard," Dr. Robert Ley, Labor Front leader, admonished Germans in a mass meeting at Lodz recently. "Then the wish of the Fuehrer will be fulfilled, that millions of young Germans will grow up here, that in fifty years this will be a flourishing German farmland in which there will be not a single Pole or

Jew. We shall keep this land for all time. It will nourish Germans and, believe me, even England will not be able to prevent that."

The Schwarze Korps, organ of the Elite Guards, which provides both the police for Poland and Czechoslovakia and the "Commissariat for the Solidification of Germanism in the East," writes:

"We do not dream, according to the members of hostile nations, any 'human rights' that go beyond mutually applied principles of international law."

And Rudolf Weisner, German member of the former Polish Senate, told a mass meeting at Stuttgart:

"What weighs more, 10,000 murdered German national comrades or the hard but just treatment of Poles? The whole Polish nation bears the responsibility for the atrocities committed, especially in the first August days, and must now atone for these crimes."

Total Figures Unknown

What the total toll inflicted on Poles and Jews in Poland since Sept. 1 is can only be guessed at.

The figures circulating in Germany and the description of the methods employed are so appalling that only an impartial investigation can ever establish the truth. But there are few in Germany who doubt the accuracy of what they hear, especially since it became known that even Colonel General Johannes Blaskowitz, military commander-in-chief in the East, took exception to the methods employed.

The one absolution that the Germans claim for themselves as a nation is that it is even worse across the border in the Russian share of Poland where the process is not national or racial but class extermination, which is now reported under way according to the old Bolshevik method of shooting hands. Only calloused hands survive; soft hands are considered proof of bourgeois membership entailing in most cases physical liquidation.



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long as they did not meddle in politics. Only one Catholic priest had been executed in his district, he said, and this only after a court martial.

German authorities declined to comment on a specific charge that fourteen Polish priests had been shot by the Gestapo, as reported, according to the world received here, in a memorandum issued by the Polish Embassy to the Holy See.

One spokesman asserted, however,

CARDINAL'S REPORT ON POLISH TERROR

Continued From Preceding Page
tration camps. The number of priests who are exiled to Central Poland becomes more numerous daily.

Property Taken Away

The Conventional Fathers, the Minor Brothers, the Jesuits, the Fathers of the Holy Spirit and the Lazarists have lost their homes. A considerable number of houses has been taken from the Vincentine Sisters, from the nuns of the Immaculate Conception and from the nuns of St. Elizabeth.

The Polish population is barbarously persecuted. The executions amount to many thousands. Those in prison amount to tens of thousands.

In the prisons horrible things happen. At Bydgoszcz, the prisoners had to lie down on their faces on a frozen pavement of cement. They were beaten until they lost their senses and continually threatened with execution. Attempts to take the youth into Germany are made on a large scale.

Deportations en masse of the Poles to the Gouvernement General of Poland are taking place. On such occasions the Poles lose all they have—their lands, their homes, their furniture, shoes, clothes, linen and their money. These people suddenly become beggars in one moment.

Losing all their property, they go toward Wojewodice, where there is already a scarcity of everything and there is danger that many will die of hunger. This is the system followed by the police: The police invade the homes and the people must leave within a few minutes for a concentration camp. From there they are then transported in cattle trains toward the east.

I have seen 450 families of Gniezno transported in this way, while from Inowroclaw I saw more than 1,000 families thus treated. At the same time there have been exiled thousands of families from Bydgoszcz, Poznan, Znin, Janowice, Witkow, Powidz and Mogilno. Those exiled are shaken by desperation, as though they were going to meet their death.

Revolvers Left as Ruse

The Gestapo, upon entry into private homes, sometimes leave their revolvers, with a view to making a subsequent arrest of the inhabitants. An example of this took place on Nov. 11 in the parochial house of Lopieno and a priest was arrested.

In the city of Znin on Dec. 5,

Queens Jail Keeper Reinstated

James Rooney, keeper in the Queens County Jail, who was suspended after the escape of four prisoners on Jan. 17, was restored to duty with a severe reprimand yesterday after he had recaptured one of the fugitives. Rooney was found guilty of neglect of duty by Acting Correction Commissioner David Marcus, but his good work on the recapture stood to his credit.

source of one train that reached its destination with more than 100 persons dead of cold, hunger and weakness. Another train that I know of had about forty dead bodies when it arrived.

"In my archdiocese, alone, I have verified the fact that eighteen priests were shot, but I fear the number is really much higher, without counting those who died in prison. The priests are being treated worse than the civilians and with deliberate intent.

"In Poland, you know, our par-

removed to the Reich.

The Polish Ambassador in Rome already in November asked the Italian Foreign Minister, Count Ciano, to use his influence in defense of the castle. Last week, however, The Warschauer, German language Nazi paper, Warsaw, published a statement signed by German architects that they had reached the conclusion that the castle was a "victim of the senseless resistance of the Warsaw population" and could not be saved.

does not include all of those who had left voluntarily, people of means who had rented apartments houses far away from the exposed areas.

"Some 500,000 refugees were sent to the country from the congested industrial suburbs of Paris and other large cities. Another half million came from Alsace Lorraine, including 200,000 from Strasbourg alone. This huge migration of civilians was made more difficult by the simultaneous mobilization of 5,000 airplanes and 400 submarines.

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SCENE OF ATROCITIES ALLEGED IN PRELATE'S REPORT TO VATICAN

In German-occupied Poland priests of various parishes in the northwestern section around Poznan were said by Cardinal Hlond to have been put to death. In this region likewise, the Cardinal declared, Poles were driven out under brutal circumstances.

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