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Economic life in Poland
(Report covering period from January 1st
to April 30th, 1942)



Provisioning situation:

The quota allotments of food in the Reich have been materially reduced beginning with April 6th, 1942. The weekly bread ration was reduced by 250 grammes, the weekly ration of meat and meat products by 100 grammes, whereas the monthly ration of fats was reduced by 50 grammes. Furthermore, only bread (but not wheat bread) can be obtained against the bread ration cards. Supplementary bread ration cards entitle their holders to food articles made from flour, except wheat flour and food articles made therefrom.

A comparative table of food allotments both hitherto in force and those now introduced, arranged according to the several population groups, presents itself as follows:

	Meat weekly		Bread weekly		Fats for 4 weeks	
People under 20 years	400 g.	350 g.	2,600 g.	2,600 g.	301 g.	269g.
Normal adults over 20 years	400	300	2,250	2,000	269	206
Workers engaged in hard labor	800	600	3,650	3,400	394	306
Workers engaged in hardest type labor	1,000	850	4,660	4,400	738	525

Note: The first figures under each heading show allotments hitherto in force, whereas the second figures represent allotments now introduced.

In Pomerania (Pomorzé) the allotments of fats to Poles have lately been reduced by 50%. Insofar as meat allotments to Poles are concerned, only beef or horse meat are issued whereas the German population can obtain pork or veal.

The discrimination between the Poles and the Germans in connection with provisioning constitutes a flagrant illustration of the exterminatory anti-Polish policy which is being applied in every direction. Hereinafter follows a characteristic comparison of food allotments in areas incorporated into the Reich. Eliminated from the comparison are the permanent allotments of bread and meat. The quotas allowed to the Poles are 25% lower than those allowed to the Germans.

	Łódź-City, November 18-25, 1941		Łask-County, December 1-7, 1941	
	Germans	Poles	Germans	Poles
Butter or margarine	350 g.	-	125 g.	125 g.
Sugar	500 "	250 g.	500 g.	250. "
Noodles	100 "	-	-	-
Marmalade	100 "	-	-	-
Maggi cubes	5 cubes	-	2 cubes	-
Sugar - additional allotment	500 g.	-	100 g.	-
Potato flour	50 "	-	-	-
Synthetic honey	-	-	100 "	-

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Special notices issued at frequent intervals announce additional allotments for the German population.

For "German and non-Polish" children the following food articles are being issued by way of illustration:

for children up to 18 months - 1,500 grammes of nutritive foods;
for children up to 6 years - 500 grammes of body-building starches.

Hereinafter are listed examples of outside of quota allotments for "the German and non-Polish population":

Poznań (March 3-19, 1942): 4 lemons, 125 grammes of candies, 260 grammes of bee honey (for children); 60 1/2 grammes of powdered chocolate; 250 grammes of onions; 25 grammes of pastry; 25 grammes of alimentary paste; 170 grammes of condensed milk; 1,000 grammes of apples (for children & patients);
Gniezno (March 25-28, 1942): 250 grammes of bee honey; 750 grammes of apples; 150 grammes of pralines; 2 lemons.

Spring agricultural labor in the "Warta country" has been considerably delayed this year. This was due not only to atmospheric conditions, but to an order issued by the Regional Provisioning Bureau. Said order constitutes a telling illustration of the German reconstruction work.

Because of the shortage of potatoes in the warehouses from which the population is being provisioned, the Regional Provisioning Bureau issued in mid-December of 1941 a confidential circular addressed to the County Potato Production Associations directing them forthwith to dig up, before starting any other seasonal agricultural labor, the potato caches and to make deliveries of potatoes to the various towns. The circular contained at the same time a severe censure of the subordinate agencies, because the deliveries of potatoes to the various towns during the autumn season failed to reach even 50% of the planned volume. The County Potato Production Bureaus proceeding to execute the order received caused the immediate opening up of the potato caches and compulsory delivery of potatoes to the warehouses, regardless of the atmospheric conditions. The order was carried out while the thermometer showed on the average a temperature of 20 degrees centigrade below zero. The results were disastrous. Immense quantities of potatoes froze while being transported and rotted in the warehouses so thoroughly, that it was necessary in a number of instances to pump out the putrified filth from the bins, said operation necessitating gas masks to be worn by the workmen.

The provisioning of the population with potatoes is, accordingly, worse than inadequate and the lack of this commodity is felt particularly strongly by the Polish population.

In a number of counties in the areas incorporated into the Reich winter corn sowing was started over again because much of the corn sowed originally perished from the cold in the course of an abnormally long winter. Large areas in the counties of Kolsk and Kutno are inundated notwithstanding a drainage system or possibly because of a faulty construction thereof.

The disaster threatening German economy insofar as husbandry and slaughter of live-stock is concerned, is being counteracted by a special drive, started early in March, for deliveries of shoats. For the purpose of preventing the



slaughter of shoats, practised customarily in the harvest and post-harvest season, the County Provisioning Bureaus are entering into written agreements with farmers, by which the latter obligate themselves to deliver a stipulated number of shoats at high prices.

Liquidation of Polish holdings:

The German Journal of Laws published in March, 1942, an ordinance issued by Field Marshal Goering, in his capacity as coordinator of the four-year plan, by which ordinance any and all Polish and Jewish property holdings located in the areas incorporated into the Reich became confiscated for the benefit of a fund for front soldiers. The law in question constitutes no new hardship for the Polish population, because for practical purposes the entire Polish property holdings have long since become confiscated. While giving legal sanction to this condition of things, the law in question is most likely to serve as an important factor of German propaganda among the troops at the front.

By an ordinance issued at the end of March, the Reich Minister of Justice set March 31, 1943, as the final date for filing titles to and claims for land. Property rights and accounts receivable of Poles have been invalidated. The Germans are entitled to compensation for their amounts due, which provision, however, applies only to Germans from the III ethnic group on.

March 31, 1943, was also set as the final date for re-appraisal and for recording titles in the areas incorporated into the Reich. Only persons of other than Polish nationality may file the pertinent motions.

By an ordinance issued jointly by the Reich Minister of Justice and the Reich Minister of the Interior, any and all companies dealing in farming and building lots in all eastern districts of the German Reich have been dissolved as of March 14, 1942. The regulation in question stands probably in some connection with Governor Greiser's notice in re suspending further allotments of land for newly started settlements and aims at rendering possible a planned colonization and building activity after the war.

The Poznań Provincial Credit Institution at Poznań is at present being liquidated. The mortgage certificates are being converted by the German credit institution at their nominal value and a rate of 21. 2 for 1 RM and at a price of 103,5 per mortgage certificate of the German credit institution. The conversion, however, applies of course only to such mortgage certificates which on September 1, 1939, were held by Germans.

The estates of the Prince of Pless are still-just as they have been before September 1, 1939-under the management of a receiver, which function is being exercised for and on behalf of the Reich by one Ludwig, attorney of Breslau. Both heirs of the owner who died in 1939 have a share in the management of the property.

Building activity:

In connection with the ordinance issued by Goering in his capacity of coordinator of the four year plan and introducing not only a reduction of any and all building activity to a minimum, but also the use of the cheapest materials possible, Himmler, in his capacity as Reich Commissar, for the consolidation of Germanism issued an executive order applying to territories incorporated into the Reich. The executive order in question deals with the problem of so-called "mud building" and contains a number of directions which are important from the point of view of public security, etc.



The German press, published in the western sections of Poland, motivates the issuance of the executive order in point with the shortage of adequate raw materials and with insufficient transportation facilities. In furtherance of Himmler's action, a bureau of information on mud building (Lehmbaubereitungsstelle) has been set up at Poznań.

Once upon a time Poland had been built of wood, in later days of stone and now - by the grace of Himmler - she is about to become built of mud. These are indeed admirable methods as well as results of the grandiose workings of "German reconstruction work".

According to the "Cracow Gazette" (Krakauer Zeitung) there is being planned the construction of a motor highway Koenigsberg-Ciechanów-Warsaw, as well as of a motor highway running through the Vistula country, by way of Toruń-Plock-Medlin-Warsaw and possibly extending as far as Cracow.

Beginning with April 1, 1942, ten rural municipalities (six of them in toto) of the Poznań County and four rural municipalities (one of them in toto) of the County of Śrem were incorporated into the City of Poznań. Said incorporation carried out pursuant to an ordinance issued under date of January 7th, 1942, by the district governor, is being motivated by the necessity of extending the City of Poznań area to the eastern bank of the Warta river, because the present topography of the city showed an excessive growth on the western bank of the above mentioned river. The shifting of the city's boundary lines - which by the way had already been contemplated by the Polish Government - will have a material influence on the city's further development and will link it closer with the river. A new bridge connecting the two sections of the city is being planned, also the construction of an airfield for passenger air-traffic, of an extensive trans-shipping railway yard, etc., all these improvements to be built on the areas now incorporated into the city, to which a surface of 6,310.6 hectares (15,593.49 acres) is thus to be added, with an increase in population by 4,164 inhabitants. The incorporated rural municipalities are to acquire the full legal status applying to the City of Poznań, beginning with the date of their incorporation.

Ration cards for wearing apparel issued to Germans in Pomerania (and all through the Reich as well) specify 120 different items, while those issued to Poles specify 70 different items for men and 60 for women and children. The ration cards issued to Poles bear a conspicuous stamp imprint "P". In addition to the smaller number of items the ration cards for wearing apparel issued to Poles have a considerably lesser purchasing power. While the Germans may with their ration cards purchase clothing materials containing some admixture of wool, the Poles can secure only ready-made garments manufactured from shoddy materials and linen-cloth in quantities up to 2 meters in length.

Foreign labor:

The official monthly published by Field Marshal Goering, in his capacity as coordinator of the "four year plan" states figures showing the number of foreign workers employed in the Reich and gives details concerning the social welfare institutions operating for their benefit. The majority of these workers live in special "camps", of which there were 4,560 in the entire Reich at the close of 1941.

The number of Poles working in the Reich amounts to 1,100,000 heads including the war prisoners and constitutes 55% of foreign workers employed in the Reich (out of a total of 2,140,000). According to the "Warsaw Gazette"



(Warschauer Zeitung), issue No. 93, out of a total of Polish workmen in the Reich, 655,000 have either volunteered for work or were forcibly drafted, while the remaining 435,000 were war prisoners, employed on various kinds of labor.

According to the "Warsaw Gazette" (Warschauer Zeitung), issue No. 77, it is being planned to "recruit" in 1942 from the territory of the so-called "General Gouvernement" 120,000 farm laborers and 30,000 artisans for work in the Reich.

New credits:

The Journal of Laws, issue No. 11, of the Reich Minister of Agriculture contained an ordinance in re granting credits and loans for newly established or reconstructed farms to the extent of 7,000 Rm. to any one such establishment. Such service applies only to farming establishments of over 25 hectares (61.77 acres).

Shortage of skilled labor:

The imposing figure of 650 farm schools operating in the "Warta country" alone is proof positive of the immense stress being put by the leaders of the Reich's economic life on the task of increasing the supply of skilled labor for agricultural and affiliated pursuits. Of these 650 farm schools there are located in the several administrative districts: 275 in the district of Inowrocław; 250 in the district of Poznań; and 125 in the district of Łódź. According to statements made by the German press, the students number 11,000. There is no doubt that three-fourths of the 650 farm schools consist of one week instruction courses. That conclusion must perforce be reached on the basis of experience gathered to date. Big words, but negligible results.

Industry:

According to statements made in the German press 132 new industrial establishments came into being in the district "Gdańsk-West Prussia". Of this number 76 are establishments of the building industry, 13 of the machine industry and 11 of the textile industry. Furthermore 249 industrial establishments, mostly small plants, are operating under receivership management, 263 plants are inactive and 91 have been liquidated.

Elasticity:

The considerable degree of the elasticity of the German nationalistic policy in the territories incorporated into the Reich is best evidenced by the fact - unthinkable by the way in other parts of Western Poland - that in the district of Ciechanów, which was incorporated into East Prussia, a farmers' magazine published in the Polish language, under the caption "Farmer's Weekly" (Tygodnik Rolniczy) had been started of late.

