

WHERE DANES AND GERMANS LIVE TOGETHER

THE southern boundary of Denmark marches with Germany, so the visit of the Danish Foreign Minister, Gustav Rasmussen, to London the other day may prove vital in helping to clear up the tangled question of South Schleswig, the northern-most area in the British-occupied zone of Germany.

A few facts of recent history may help to explain Danish interest in what is going on in the border area just south of the Danish frontier on the Jutland peninsula.

About 80 years ago Schleswig and the neighbouring Duchy of Holstein still belonged to Denmark. However, at that time—in 1864 to be exact—Prussia, which had just been embarking on the road to world dominion, attacked weak Denmark and, after a brief campaign, wrested from her the two provinces Schleswig and Holstein. After Germany's defeat in the First World War a plebiscite decided the partition of the country. The northern part of Schleswig went to Denmark, the rest, together with the whole of Holstein, remained in Germany. Some thirty thousand Danes were thus left under foreign rule.

Germany's defeat in the Second World War again roused great interest in the position of the German Schleswig—South Schleswig as the Danes call it. The Danes of South Schleswig as citizens of a defeated country know it is no fun to be German today. In recent months the Danish South Schleswigers have begun a campaign to link their country again with Denmark.

At the same time the number of people who considered themselves to be Danish began to swell rapidly. Some of them hardly spoke any Danish but claimed Danish parentage. Unkind people accused those "new" Danes, rightly or wrongly, of having only material advantages in view. Members of pro-Danish organisations in South Schleswig are, in fact, entitled to receive food parcels from Denmark.

This idea failed, on the whole, to make an impression at Copenhagen. Not only the Danish Government, but also ordinary people in Denmark, are against the annexation of South Schleswig into Denmark. The reason given is unwillingness to cause trouble between Denmark and Germany in the future, and hesitation to accept the large number of Germans into the Kingdom of Denmark. The memories of illegal activities of the German minorities in Poland and Czechoslovakia before the outbreak of the 1939 war are still fresh in the minds of the Danes.

The German Refugees

However, the Danes—the Government and the people alike—are very much concerned about the welfare of their kinsfolk across the southern border. They are troubled by the fact that great masses of German refugees escaping from provinces invaded by the Soviet armies early in 1945 came to stay in Schleswig and Holstein.

The Danish minority suddenly found itself outnumbered even more heavily than before. Where there used to be ten Germans to one Dane there are now almost twenty to one. The Danish

people are, therefore, much concerned about the preservation of the rights and privileges of the Danish minority in South Schleswig.

Prolonged negotiations took place with the British Military Government, and there is no question that very substantial concessions were given to the Danes by this country. Many Danish schools, for example, were permitted. These schools receive their teachers, books, and even prefabricated schoolrooms, furniture, and writing materials from across the border. Lectures, gymnastic teams, choirs, YMCA and YWCA teams, not to speak of numerous clergy, come from Denmark to minister and teach their kinsmen. Recently the Royal Theatre of Copenhagen has paid a visit to South Schleswig and the principal Danish-language newspaper in Flensburg (Germany) is receiving all its newsprint from Copenhagen.

Still Dissatisfied

Yet the Danes are still dissatisfied, mainly because no measures have, so far, been taken to reduce the number of German refugees in the two ancient Duchies, and also because the South Schleswig Association (the principal organisation of the Danish minority) has not been given the status of a political party equal to other German parties in the province.

Although Mr Rasmussen's visit to London may not have finally solved all the outstanding questions regarding South Schleswig, these talks are significant because they concern one of the many problems connected with Germany which must be solved before Europe can settle down to peaceful work of reconstruction.

Schools Can See It

PEOPLE are still flocking in thousands to the Britain Can Make It exhibition at the Victoria and Albert Museum in London. The millionth visitor passed through the turnstiles in the third week in November.

As already mentioned in the C.N., Tuesday mornings are reserved for schools; and on the first three mornings of this privilege more than 200 schools visited the exhibition, the parties averaging 50 pupils. School parties came from as far afield as Tavistock, Bristol, Sheffield, and Chesterfield.

Flying Taxis

DOOR-TO-DOOR air-taxi services, operated at a cost no greater per mile than motor taxis, are planned by a Stockport firm. The services are intended to take a client to any part of Great Britain as quickly, comfortably, and cheaply as possible. In addition, the service will link up with world air services.

"We shall pick up a client at his home, take him by road to the airport, fly him to his destination, and be ready to bring him back when he desires," states the manager of the firm.

Negotiations are in progress to obtain 50 acres of land at Hazel Grove, only ten miles from the centre of Manchester, for use as an airport. In the meantime, a few planes are being operated from Derby.

ROAD-SAFETY EXPERT

THE death of Major C. V. Godfrey, Chief Constable of Salford for 38 years, has robbed this country of one of its foremost authorities on road safety.

Major Godfrey, who was 70, went to Salford after serving in the Railway Police.

He introduced the system of "play-streets"—now in extensive use throughout the North—which, free of traffic during the daytime, gave children safe and quiet places of recreation; and among his other ideas were white coats for policemen on traffic duty; traffic control by police officers with illuminated helmets and red-and-green coloured torches during foggy weather; and free testing of private cars.

All Salford children have learned to entrust their safety to the police without reservation, and it was largely through the efforts of Major Godfrey that Salford and its road safety became an inspiration to us all.

Encouraging British Composers

FORMED with the prime intention of rehearsing works by British composers, the new Sheffield Philharmonic Symphony Orchestra is a unique acquisition to British musical circles.

Composers will be afforded an opportunity of hearing their works performed by a full orchestra, and will thus be able to smooth out any flaws which become apparent before submitting them for concert performance. These "experimental rehearsals" will be open to members of the Society and of its Listeners' Club, as will be the "try-outs" for artistes. Mr Herman Lindars is the founder and conductor of the orchestra, which is giving its first public performance on December 8.

WORLD NEWS REEL

OPERATION SHAMROCK. From Germany recently 125 German children went to Eire for a holiday. The movement was called Operation Shamrock.

At Kalgoorlie, in Australia, eleven men, after digging a 120-foot shaft, have found gold quartz worth about £250,000. It is the richest gold "strike" for many years.

An appeal for £250,000 has been made by Professor Einstein and a group of scientists to form a fund to educate the community in the social implications of atomic energy and the steps necessary to avoid the destruction of civilisation.

BUSMAN'S HOLIDAY. A New York driver who went on board the U S liner America to say goodbye to friends was so interested in being shown over the ship that he did not notice she had left the port. He was set to work washing dishes on the voyage.

At Dar-es-Salaam in Tanganyika an Arab who claims to be 106 years old has stated that he was present at the meeting of Stanley and Livingstone at Ujiji in 1871. He had previously worked for Livingstone.

A Government food ship has been sent from Port Moresby to Bougainville in the Solomon Islands, where the natives face

hunger owing to their main food, taro, having become diseased, and also because wild pigs had damaged their sweet potato crops.

An Iowa farmer, Don Radda, has won the Washington Journal tallest maize contest for the last nine years. This year his maize was 31 feet high.

AIRBORNE BULBS. Over 3700 gladiolus bulbs were recently flown in a Pan-American Clipper from San Francisco to Auckland, New Zealand. They are to be grown for commercial purposes in the Dominion.

The people of the Embu tribe are keenly interested in the films now being shown by the Kenya Information Office. The Information Room, newly constructed in the Embu district, proving to be far too small, the people have decided to build a large open-air theatre.

A Norwegian film is to be released in London next spring. Called the Travellers to England, it is about the adventures of 18 Norwegian patriots who tried to escape to England to join the Free Norwegian forces.

U TIN TUT'S SALARY. A Finance Member of the Burmese Executive Council, named U Tin Tut, has announced that from December he will give his entire salary to the Burmese nation.

HOME NEWS REEL

NEW SCHOOLS. The cost of building new schools and colleges, reconstructing existing schools, and other building developments under the Education Act is likely to be £1000,000,000—about £70,000,000 a year over a period of 15 years.

Wax has been produced from peat by the British Department of Scientific Research.

A scheme to provide boarding-school education for children between 12 and 16 years of age, at a cost estimated at £100,000 a year, has been approved by the London Education Committee.

LOOKING AHEAD. The Royal Society of Arts, which initiated the Great Exhibition in Hyde Park in 1851, is to offer a prize of five hundred guineas for the best paper setting out the purposes which might be served by an international exhibition in 1951, and offering practical suggestions.

Exhibition galleries at the British Museum are now open on Sundays from 2.30 to 6 p.m. The entrance is the north door of the museum.

Earl Lloyd George has completed the script for a film of the life-story of his father, the famous Liberal statesman.

Mr Percy Armstrong, retired schoolmaster, left £200 in his will to Scarborough College to provide a cricket bat as a prize to be awarded every summer.

YOUTH NEWS REEL

BRAVE BROWNIE. The Badge of Fortitude has been awarded to Brownie June Johnson, of Louth, Lincolnshire, for her courage and patience in hospital after being severely burned.

Crosses for gallantry have been awarded to three Scouts of the 1st Reading (YMCA) Sea Scout Troop in recognition of a vain attempt to save their Scoutmaster from drowning when their boat capsized in the Solent.

The 1st South Shields Sea Scouts recently toured a coal mine extending some distance under the sea.

At a meeting of savings workers, the Chief Constable at Durham County Police presented the 2nd Chester-le-Street Scout Group with a certificate in recognition of their great assistance to the Savings Movement since 1939.

An evening's entertainment for twenty French children staying in the district was recently provided by the 8th and 9th Bingley Scout Troops, Yorkshire.

An Empire Training week has been held at Foxlease, the Girl Guide centre in the New Forest, to stimulate interest in matters affecting Guiding overseas.

THE £400 WRITING TEST

ARE YOU competing in the great C.N. Handwriting Test? If so, and you have not yet returned your Entry Form, please complete the Test Passage and post promptly. The address is: Handwriting Test, Children's Newspaper, Room 171, The Fleetway House, London, E.C.4 (Comp).

The last day for the C.N. to receive applications for Entry Forms was, of course, December 3, and no further requests can be entertained. Remember, however, that the final date for receiving entries from individual readers or schools is—

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 14