

POPULATION

Proposed Transfer of Czechs Has No Precedent in History

A MOVEMENT of German and Czech peoples such as that which has been the subject of negotiations in the present crisis has no precedent in the whole history of populations, in the opinion of American population experts.

Possibly involving 500,000 to 1,500,000 people, such a transfer of people for political reasons has never before been done.

Nearest to it was the transfer between Turkey and Greece following the World War. But then there was no question of divided loyalty; it was merely a question of sending Greeks to Greece and Turks to Turkey.

The Sudeten area is occupied by Czechs and by Germans, who although speaking different languages and inheriting different traditions, all know this area as home and are tied to it by bonds of affection and financial interest.

These people are not driven out of the country by economic conditions as Americans were recently driven out of the dust-bowl area by intolerable drought. Their homes are in the Sudeten; their businesses are there. They have no plac

to go. It would be the responsibility of those superintending the movement to provide somehow for them.

How to make such provisions for perhaps a million souls is a stupendous task. How to accomplish it in a matter of days is a greater problem.

Complicating the picture is the presence in the area of a large number of Jews. This number is larger than the figure shown by the census of nationalities. This is due to the fact that the German Jews are registered in the Czechoslovakia census as Germans; the Czech Jews as Czechs. Only with the aid of the religious census can this figure be determined.

It is only reasonable to assume that not all of the Germans now living in the area which it is proposed to transfer to Germany will want to live under the rule of Hitler. Similarly it might be that not all of the Czechs would want to take their cows and leave their homes in order to avoid the Hitler regime. How many would be included in either of these groups, or whether they would balance each other in numbers, cannot be estimated.

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perilous to their own and other nations' safety."

No one can measure the psychological consequences of unbridling the forces of hate in man, it was emphasized by Dr. William Alanson White, pioneer in psychiatry who, as Superintendent of St. Elizabeth's Hospital, Washington, D. C., nursed sick minds for many years prior to his recent death. Crime and insanity follow in the wake of war, he said.

"Nothing activates the aggressive instinct more seriously than does war," Dr. White dictated almost as a dying statement in 1937, just one month before he died.

"An orgy of killing lets it loose and it is a good many years before it is ever chained up again. We are having that experience, I am afraid, now."

Killed By Own Weapons

War is self-destruction, says Dr. Karl A. Menninger, chief of staff of the Menninger Clinic, Topeka, Kansas.

"It surely is no longer doubted by any thinking person that there is no such thing as victory in war, that the conqueror like the conquered suffers irreparable loss," he said in a recent book. "In this sense, war, contrary to appearances, is virtually self-destruction.

"It has been pointed out that in the World War, Germans were butchered with hand grenades fired by German-made fuses, that British battleships were sunk with British mines which had been sold to the Turks. In the battle of Jutland, the German sailors hurled their missiles against defensive armor-plate which had been manufactured in their own country, by the same company that manufactured the guns which they were firing.

"Throughout the war, men of all countries were slaughtered by weapons invented, developed, and distributed to the foe by their own countrymen.

"The shadow of a universal war looms before us, threatening to substitute for all petty individualistic and nationalistic self-destruction another convulsive effort at world suicide more violent even than that represented by the war of 1914 to 1918.

"The spectacle of such almost joyous preparation for mass suicide as is even now in progress cannot but fill the reflective observer with awe, and cost the stoutest heart some qualms."

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Flood control is a problem in dry Death Valley—when it does rain, there may be a cloudburst.

PSYCHIATRY

War Viewed By Psychiatrists As Suicide Pact of Nations

WAR is a gigantic suicide pact. In it nations join in an insane mass movement for the destruction of each other and themselves. That is the diagnosis by psychiatrists and biologists of the ill that afflicts a warring world.

People marching into war are blindly driven by biological forces they do not understand. Like the infrahuman lemmings who are roused by overpopulation to join in a mass migration that carries them to self-destruction in the sea, humans, too, may be driven to annihilate themselves in war. That is the view of a biologist, Dr. Raymond Pearl, of the Johns Hopkins University.

War is a mental disease, a psychosis, in which whole peoples go mad, in the opinion of the 339 psychiatrist signers of a document which recently warned

all nations of their impending peril. This historic statement was subscribed to by an Italian army physician, by French, British, German and Austrian psychiatrists, as well as representatives of such habitually neutral nations as Holland, Belgium, Denmark and the United States.

"The suggestive force of speeches made by leading statesmen is enormous and may be dangerous," these experts declared. "The wartime spirit, so easily aroused by the cry that the country is in danger, is not to be bridled, as was evident in 1914."

"Peoples, as well as individuals, under the influence of suggestions like these may be neurotic. They may be carried away by hallucinations and delusions, thus involving themselves in adventures