

LNRW

CONFIDENTIAL

BRITISH RESIDENT'S OFFICE

LÜBBECKE

B.A.O.R. 1

MONTHLY REPORT FOR DECEMBER

GENERAL

Like in most towns, the Hauptstrasse in Lübecke is festooned with garlands and electric lights and the streets are crowded with people. There seems to be a general air of festive gaiety about the place, but it is somewhat artificial. The unemployment situation remains unchanged and interspersed among the crowds are a great many poor refugees.

Prices generally are too high for the average purse, and most of the people have to content themselves by purchasing only essentials, or low priced goods of indifferent quality.

There is however in most quarters a greater spirit of optimism compared with a year ago. People are gratified to hear rumours of the run down of the Control Commission, and they look forward to the release of requisitioned properties to help solve the housing problem. There is general satisfaction at the progress being made by the Federal Government.

The usual German Welfare activities of C.C.G. personnel, and also German organisations will take place during the next few weeks and arrangements for holding Xmas parties for refugees and poor children are well in hand.

GOVERNMENTAL

Political

According to Dr. Bleiss, the local member of the Bundestag, sections of the CDU and FDP recently set themselves out to create incidents in the Bundestag by provoking the SPD. During one debate several CDU members appeared to be under the influence of drink when Dr. Schumacher began his speech.

It appears that at a meeting of the SPD faction, Dr. Schumacher was criticised for losing his nerve in the recent debates. It was felt by many that he should retire as speaker of the SPD faction in the Bundestag.

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SPD

Two meetings were held at Nettelstedt and Levern on December 4th, the speaker being Dr. Bleiss. He confined himself to making the usual attack on Dr. Adnauer and criticising the Federal Government, which he blamed for the current high prices.

It is perhaps of interest to note that Schumacher's speech in Bielefeld on December 12th has impressed local members of the CDU. The chairman (Herr Gerlach) states he is in full agreement with Schumacher's attitude on the Saar question and the Ruhr Statute. 24th
to Italy, Belgium and Holland.

KPD

cattle dealers declare they have no knowledge of exports, and blame the retailers. There have been no public meetings during the past month, and as far as can be ascertained, the KPD is making little headway in this Kreis.

The price of cattle and pigs is high and local sausage factories have recently curtailed their purchases.

Election of Bürgermeister

In several Ämter and Gemeinden, the election of Bürgermeister has taken place, and with the exception of Pr.-Oldendorf, all the former Bürgermeister and deputies have been re-elected. The cigar factories are working overtime, and furniture factories are again fully

At Pr.-Oldendorf the SPD councillors disagreed and this resulted in Herr Dieckmeyer (CDU) being elected in place of Herr Hilling (SPD).

The elections are usually held without incident and party politics are forgotten on this occasion.

Refugees

At the last Kreis meeting of the local Refugee Association, Dr. Schubert, the chairman, was criticised by a number of members for favouring the SPD. In reply, Dr. Schubert denied this, and said he had no intention of furthering the aims of any particular political party. He pointed out, however, that in Kreis Lübbecke it was a fact that the SPD was the only party that had shown any real interest in the refugee problem, and the Espelkamp project. He regretted that he could not pay the same tribute to the other political parties.

He also pointed out that the "Interessengemeinschaft der Ostvertriebenen" was non political, but that the refugees themselves should take more interest in political affairs if they wished to further their own interests.

At a meeting of refugees in the Stadt on December 9th, there were complaints that there was considerable delay in the issuing of credits, building permits etc. and the administration authorities were severely criticised.

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It was decided to send a protest to the Minister of Economics at the high price of food and fruit imported from abroad, especially figs, dates and nuts. The general opinion was that the prices were fixed by import firms in Hamburg and Bremen.

H.A.S.R. 1

ECONOMIC

Food

The Fleischer-Verbands-Zeitung reported on November 24th that the high meat prices were due to the export of cattle to Italy, Belgium and Holland.

a) Local cattle dealers declare they have no knowledge of such exports, and blame the retailers, whom they say could afford to reduce prices by 20 - 30 Pfennig per pound.

The price of cattle and pigs is high and local sausage factories have recently curtailed their purchases.

Employment

The mild open weather has permitted building activities to carry on at full time. The cigar factories are working overtime, and furniture factories are again fully employed. Unemployment figures have remained stationary.

As the rationing are infringed to Health Authorities are vetting all meat supplies irrespective of whether the beasts were slaughtered legally or otherwise. The authorities are being a blind eye to avoid the possibility of an epidemic disease transmitted illegal meat reaching the market.

D. R. Cannon
A/British Resident
Lübbecke
(D.R. Cannon)

13th December 1949.

A German film entitled "Das Mädchen Christine" produced by the German "NSDA" organization in the Russian zone of Germany was recently shown in Lübbecke. This film depicts the atrocities of the Third Reich.