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2157/1470

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2159/1685

Region 7 Monthly Report
July Aug. Aug. 1944

File 2159.....

CIRCULATION SLIP
 (Please circulate quickly) 12 AUG
 Date.....

From: INFORMATION DIVISION
 H. A.C.C.

To:	Seen & Initialed by
Acting Chief Commissioner	
V. Pres. Admin. Section	
V. Pres. Economic Section	
V. Pres. Political Section	
Executive Commissioner	Seen
Deputy Executive Commissioner	2
Chief Liaison Officer	
Liaison Officer to Foreign Reps	
Public Relations Officer	
Director of Sub-Commission:	
Displaced Persons	
Italian Refugee Br.	
Security Br.	
News	
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Telephone & Post	
War Dept. Disposal	
Regional Commissioners:	
Region	
<i>Handwritten notes:</i> in the slip from the S.C.C.O. ALF	1701

See: 2 A

for information and return

RECEIVED.....

3A

HEADQUARTERS
ARMED CONTROL COMMISSION
A.C. & A.C. SECTION
AR 324

2431 August 1944

SUBJECT: Monthly Report - Region VII

TO : Executive Commissioner

2A

1. This is a very good report and interesting reading. The main points are:

- a) The opening covers with regard to the political situation.
- b) The local government is stated to be very backward.
- c) The harvest is going fairly well but it is too early to say. At present there is about 50% collected.
- d) The refugee problem (page 4). The refugees are straining at the bit to get back to their homes.

W. S. Lipp 1561

C. W. I. SHER
Lt. Colonel

(2 Dist B + Group 2.)

6710

M. L. Lipp

HEADQUARTERS REGION VII 2A

ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION

File Ref

EVTI/R/74/54

Date 9 Aug 44.

SUBJECT:

Monthly Report, Region VII, July 44.

TO:

Headquarters,
Allied Control Commission,
R.C. & M.G. Section (Civil Affairs Branch).

July 44.

Herewith monthly report, in quintuplicate, for the month of

A. Political Reactions and Popular Opinion.

1. The political situation is complex and there is considerable activity which extends to the smallest communes; but it is not considered that there is any cause for great anxiety on this account. Even in the event of a withdrawal of A.C.C. personnel from the Region leading to an outbreak of strife among the various parties it is considered that the U.C.R., existing police agencies and the Italian Army would be adequate to deal with it. The old principle of safety in numbers - in this case of the number of political parties - would seem to apply here. The increased bread ration should also be a stabilizing factor.

2. No importance is attributed to fascism as a political factor. The fact that here and there arrests have been made, or are under consideration, of people working for fascist ends does not invalidate this statement. Many old fascists have transferred their allegiance to the Communist and Christian Democratic parties, and there is no evidence that their membership of these parties is being used as a cloak for fascist activity, or is in fact dictated by any motive other than opportunism and self interest.

3. The following political parties are now established and operating in this Region. All leaders are known to, and recorded at this H.Q. -

Communist Party, Christian Democratic Party, Socialist Party, Action Party, Democratic Labour Party, Democratic Liberal Party, Independent Democratic Party, Free Italy Movement, Italian Republican Party.

B. Local Government - Provincial.

4. Reggio is still the only Province which ~~has~~ a Deputazione Provinciale. In Catanzaro it is in process of formation and members are expected to be nominated shortly. Nothing has been done in this direction at Cosenza.

NPS

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July 14.

A. Political Reactions and Popular Opinion.

1. The political situation in Catania and there is considerable activity which extends to the excellent sources; but it is not considered that there is any cause for great anxiety on this account. Even in the event of a withdrawal of A.C.C. personnel from the Region leading to an outbreak of strife among the various factions it is considered that the U.C.M., existing police agencies and the Italian Army would be adequate to deal with it. The old principle of unity in numbers - in this case of the number of political parties - would seem to apply here. The increased bread ration should also be a stabilizing factor.

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B. Local Government - Provincial.

4. Reggio is still the only Province which ~~has~~ a *Repubblica Provinciale*. In Catanzaro it is in process of formation and members are expected to be nominated shortly. Nothing has been done in this direction at Cosenza.

5. Reggio now joins with Catanzaro in voting a Giunta Provinciale, the members of this body being elected at a meeting of the *Repubbliche Provinciali* on 13 July. Giunta Municipalities have been formed so far only for the municipalities of Reggio and Catanzaro. The work of forming the Giunte in the communes is however proceeding apace.

There is nothing to report from Cosenza where progress in local government is held up pending the appointment of a new Prefect.

6. The Prefect of Catanzaro continues to be dilatory in enforcing defascistisation, raising first one pretext and then another.

Handwritten notes:
 1. 12/15
 2. 12/15
 3. 12/15

- 2 -

C. Economic Resources and Supply.

7. Grain/flour supplies: As a result of the cessation of sea borne supplies the stock position has deteriorated to a low level and the Region is at present being maintained from the local harvest and imports from Regions II and V. However so long as imports on present scale continue, no difficulties are anticipated in maintaining existing ration until end of Sept. Owing to difficult supply position in July it was not possible to distribute the increase of 550 grams per week. However as from 1 Aug. 350 grams of pasta or flour per week will be distributed to those communes which have made a satisfactory return of ration cards withdrawn. It is hoped that by Aug. 15 stock position will be such as to permit the introduction of the full scale of 550 grams flour or pasta per week.

8. Ration Cards: These are being withdrawn as fast as possible as the harvest progresses, and so far 100,000 have been withdrawn. This progress is not however considered satisfactory and a blitz is being carried out which will it is hoped produce improved results. It is not however expected to arrive at the total of 500,000 ration cards withdrawn which would represent the 30% of the population assessed previously to have pretensions and therefore not entitled to ration cards. This assessment was made rather hurriedly and it is now considered that 17% would be a considered assessment.

9. Transportation: This region is now maintained entirely by rail borne supplies, and this has proved reasonably satisfactory although there have been anxious moments. The withdrawal from this Region of 34 load carrying vehicles during July coming together with the increased grain to be transported to implement the increased ration led to a situation which at one time appeared critical and the fact that there was no breakdown in the bread ration now seems miraculous.

10. Dehydrated soup, meats, and stews: Partly because of the price being too high, and partly because of differences in national diet, these do not go well, and the Consorzio Agrario are left holding large stocks. The black market price of tinned meat is lower than the official one! It is recommended that these items be not sent in future. Credit notes totalling 25,000,000 lire being difference between old and new prices have been issued to Consorzio to enable them to liquidate their stocks bought in June without heavy losses.

11. Olive Oil: The collection of olive oil has been proceeding slowly under the direction of Major Dusean detached from the Food Sub-Commission. Up to 31 July 23,600 quintals of oil had been shipped to Naples from Reggio and Catanzaro provinces. There is still considerable traffic in black market oil to Naples by various means, particularly by train, and occasional raids carried out on trains by Police have yielded rich hauls of oil.

12. Local Resources: Tanning Extract has now entered the list of commodities produced in this Region with the starting up of two factories, one at Cosenza, the other at Cavazzaro Marina. All production will be at the disposal of the Special Commissioner for Hides.

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Production of charcoal has been actively carried on in all three provinces and it is estimated that at present 18,000 tons are available for export. Stocks continue to accumulate owing to lack of transport. Timber, silk, Bergamot Oil, and Briarwood continue to be produced and call for no particular comment here.

13. Price tendencies: There has been a gradual decline in black market prices which after all are the only satisfactory barometer of economic conditions. The reasons are several; first the increased price to grain growers and the consequent greater attraction of the granai del popolo scheme; secondly the increased ration scale, and thirdly the greater availability of seasonal vegetables and fruits in the market. At one time bread fell as low as Lire 30 per kilo, but rose again to Lire 50 when the increased ration was not forthcoming on 1 July.

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D. Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries.

14. From a farmer's point of view the harvest is satisfactory both as to yield and quality, and harvesting is proceeding under ideal weather conditions. Collection, however, is another story. So far this Region has collected 37,000 quintals. The target figure is 250,000 quintals but it will not be possible to say whether this will be reached or not until the end of this month.

15. It is not considered that Black Market operations are at present very large, but it is feared that quite a considerable quantity of grain is being withheld by producers for sale at a later date. Weekly and semi-weekly auctions make this difficult to control, and it is probable that the only real cure will be a house to house search after sowing is completed. CC.M. have not been entirely inactive and in some cases have brought prosecutions and obtained convictions.

16. Provincial and Communal Agricultural Committees. The Provincial Committees are much improved both as to their methods and their activities, but the Communal Committees which are very much out of touch and lack supervision are in many cases far from what they should be. Closer liaison and intensive visiting is the remedy here.

17. Fertiliser Situation: Principal source of fertilisers for the Region is the Montecatini Factory at Grosseto. This is ready to start production as soon as supplies of phosphate, due from North Africa early August arrive. Stocks of raw pyrites (obtained within the Region) are at a satisfactory level despite transport difficulties.

18. Collection of Silk Cocoons: Owing to mortality among silk worms, and evasion on the part of producers and spinners, this has not been satisfactory, and is proceeding only with great difficulty.

19. Grape and wine production: Owing to lack of transport stocks of wine are already very high, and storage of the new vintage will be difficult unless these stocks can be moved. This is an important industry here and much economic hardship among the considerable proportion of the population connected with the industry is likely to result.

4887

E. Labour.

20. Unemployment is not a major problem. Owing to incomplete registration statistics are very approximate and difficult to obtain. Unemployment exists mainly in the Provincial Capitals amongst the construction and building trades.

21. Italian Labour Offices: The Italian Government has now established a Regional Labour Office which during the month of July was in charge of AVV. Alessandro Bruni, of Marete, and serves both Regions II and VII. This official is responsible for supervising the Provincial Labour Offices. The organisation suffers from absence of transport and is greatly handicapped thereby.

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22. Labour Disputes: During the month of July the Regional Labour Officer was able to settle 4 major disputes where the Provincial Labour Office had been unable to reach any agreement. There is only one now pending, that involving the Società Elettrica della Calabria, and the Regional Labour Officer has made appropriate recommendations in this case.

23. Labour Legislation: The Provincial Labour Office report a large number of labour controversies which do not involve wage increases, but rather violation of the provisions of existing collective labour contracts. The Directors have urged that legislation by the Italian Government is essential to clarify the judicial powers of their offices with respect to mediation, conciliation, and arbitration.

- 4 -

F. Public Works and Utilities.

24. Military Highways: There are no changes of program to record here and normal maintenance and reconstruction continues. Total value of work done on these at end of July amounted to L. 36,379,000 of which L. 9,373,000 has been expended.

Other Highways: Approval was recommended for L. 767,000 worth of work in this month, and for L. 2,055,000 worth of work to be carried out.

25. Public Works: Approval has been recommended for 16 projects amounting to L. 5,402,000.

26. Anti-malarial campaign: This is progressing with excellent results, and the supplies of Paris Green and Gas-oil are adequate for the next month. There is also being made in streams of larva eating minnows. 125 pairs of gloves for malarial workers have been distributed.

27. Electricity: Very drastic cuts have had to be made all round in order to stay within the reduced allotment.

G. Public Safety and Italian Courts.

28. Crime: The incident at S. Rufina d'Apronte was reported in my Confidential WII/90/4 of 11 July, and the two leaders not apprehended then have since been arrested. This is a part of Reggio Province which 15 years ago before the existing roads were built up into the Aspromonte, was completely dominated by bandits.

29. Allied Deserters: This is assuming serious proportions. Deserters are aware of the lack of military police in this Region - it is understood that there are only 7 MP's covering the whole of Southern Italy - and information is received daily as to the whereabouts and contact of deserters or suspected deserters, but with the limited personnel available very little can be done.

30. Italian Courts: Italian courts generally are operating satisfactorily but complaints have been received to the effect that in many cases of Black Market offences, and offences against the grain laws, the sentences have been much too lenient. This matter has been taken up with the legal division and proper approach has been made to the Italian legal authorities. 4836

H. Public Health.

31. There is now no Regional Public Health Officer at this H.Q. There have been 5 cases of small pox at Nicastro, limited to patients in the hospital there, where the original case contracted in Naples was treated. The Medico Provinciale has tightened quarantine measures.

I. Education.

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- G. Public Safety and Italian Courts.
28. Crimes: The incident at S. Bertonia d'Aspromonte was reported in my Confidential XVII/30/4 of 11 July, and the two leaders not apprehended then have since been arrested. This is a part of Reggio Province which 15 years ago before the existing roads were built up into the Aspromonte, was completely dominated by bandits.
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- I. Education.
32. Nothing to report.
- J. Refugees.
33. There has been no movement of refugees into the Region during the month. The lot of those already settled in communes in the Region remains unenviable, and many are trying to return to their homes despite instructions issued by Prefects to the Sindaco that they are not to move without permission of the Italian Government.
- K. Communications.
34. There is nothing to add to last month's report under this heading.

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L. Property Control.

35. As stated in last month's report, this officer has now left.

M. Finance.

36. Funds for the financing of provincial budgets are not forthcoming from the Ministry of Finance then due, and provinces are accordingly embarrassed and unable to meet their commitments for Provincial and central relief and other items. The same situation obtains with regard to the various ministries.

37. The Bank of Italy in Calabria is faced with a scarcity of loans. While continuing to increase their interest bearing deposits the banks are unable to employ this money advantageously in the form of loans and discounts which have reached a new low. This makes the refusal of the Bank of Naples to accommodate the Consorzio with seasonable loans at a lesser rate than 7½ all the more irrefragable in the light of limited earnings and excessive unemployed deposits. The Bank contends that it cannot deviate from published rates.

38. Migrants' remittances: The Bank of Naples in Calabria reports an appreciable increase in emigrants' remittances during July. Up to and including 25 July 6415 separate remittances had been received totalling lire 29,746,447 or 297,444 dollars.

R. C. Healey

G. C. FRASER,
Lt. Col. R.A.A.,
REGIONAL COMMISSIONER.

4695

164103

SECRET

HEADQUARTERS REGION VI

ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION

File Ref: RVII/R/71

Date: 8 July 1944.

SUBJECT: Monthly Report, Region VII, June 44.

TO: Headquarters,
Allied Control Commission. R.C. & M.G. Section.

(Civil Affairs Branch).

Herewith monthly report, in quintuplicate, for the month of June 1944.

1. (a) Political Reaction and Popular Opinion.
Political Situation. Another quiet month with no events of note to report except the formation of new branches of political parties in the communes. 4 Socialist, 2 Communist and 2 Christian Democrat in Catanzaro and 1 Socialist in Reggio. None reported from Cosenza.
2. Morale is high consequent upon the Normandy landing and the successes in and beyond Rome, plus the news of an increased bread ration. Fifteen of the more unsatisfactory Sindaci in Catanzaro Province have been removed as a result of enquiries made by the Prefect into complaints received by him from individuals, and from various organisations.
3. Considerable dissatisfaction is expressed at the failure of the governmental committee of Catanzaro to dismiss certain fascists from office in governmental departments. Efforts to strengthen this committee have not met with complete success, though one change has been made. In Cosenza earlier work was more thorough and the position there, as in Reggio, is much better.
4. Demonstrations in celebration of the liberation of Rome took place throughout the Region. There were a few small untoward incidents; but on the whole everything passed off peacefully.
5. (b) Local Government - Provincial. The Reggio Deputazione Provinciale is now functioning and has held two meetings. At Catanzaro only a president and vice-president have been appointed. Nothing further has been done at Cosenza because the order was suspended by the Ministry: the Commissario Extraordinario is continuing his duties.
6. The Vice-Prefect there, however, states that he has prepared lists of names for nomination to the deputazione as well as for every giunta, and declares that the work of installing members could be completed in a little over a week, once a Prefect is appointed.
7. The Giunta Provinciale Amministrativa has been working at Catanzaro since Nov. last; but giunta municipale have been formed in 12 communes

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6. The Vice-Prefect there, however, states that he has prepared lists of names for nomination to the deputazione as well as for every Giunta, and declares that the work of installing members could be completed in a little over a week, once a Prefect is appointed.
7. The Giunta Provinciale Amministrativa has been working at Catanzaro since Nov. last; but giunta municipale have been formed in 12 communes only. Reggio has no Giunta Provinciale Amministrativa as yet, and only one Giunta municipale, that for Reggio itself, is operating though others are in course of formation.
8. To sum up. While progress made does not call for congratulation, the field has got away at last to a very slow start, and there are hopeful signs that Catanzaro may yet beat the favourite Reggio with Cosenza finishing strongly, if the expected new order from the Ministry arrives reasonably soon. The course is heavy and the going up-hill all the way.
9. (c) Economics and Supply.
Food Supplies. Adequate stocks of rationed food were received with the exception of grain. The 15 day grain reserve built up in May was expended to meet the import shortage. A reserve for approximately 60 days of dehydrated vegetables, soup and canned meat was established 7/13 The 1/40 balance of cheese, 180 tons, allocated in Apr, was not delivered. *TH*

Continuation:-

- 2 -

Reduction in number of ration cards is continuing.

10. Olive Oil. Shipment of lampante started: quantity moved not yet known.

11. Distribution of Food Supplies. The various consorzii agrario handled distribution of all food supplies from arrival at port or railroad at a total cost of 100 lire per quintal.

12. Salt. Investigation was made into the distribution of salt. Conferences were held with the Salt Monopoly, and arrangements have now been completed to facilitate movement of salt to the warehouses by rail. Catanzaro and Cosenza were the provinces chiefly affected.

13. Transport. The railways were able to handle almost the entire quantity of Allied food supplies. Road transport was adequate to meet needs, which were, however, unusually light.

14. General price trend shows a very slight rise except in the Black market, where bread has fallen 30 points, and there has been a very sharp drop in the price of grain. The general position may be described as reasonably satisfactory.

15. The shipment of briarwood blocks mentioned at para (4) of c in the May report has not yet been made.

16. (d) Agriculture and Fisheries.
Grain Harvest. The harvest itself is extremely good; but the critical period for collection is not until July. The Provincial Committees in Catanzaro and Reggio have co-operated well with the Inspectors, UPSMA and Consorzii and commendable energy has been shown; but the Comunale ones have been a failure in the majority of places, despite efforts of Allied and Italian officials. In Cosenza, unfortunately the lack of ACC officers caused a set-back which the posting of Lieut. Morton there checked to some extent. Results to date Catanzaro 2240 quintals, Reggio 1181 quintals.

The Minister of Agriculture visited Cosenza and his rousing speech to all the Sindaci made a big impression, and was a most valuable contribution to the campaign. (He also addressed meetings at Catanzaro and Crotone on the 2nd and 3rd of July respectively.)

17. The larger producers on the whole do seem to be making an effort to make this "Grain del Popolo" a success; but the smaller ones find black market temptations hard to resist.

18. Cocoons. Considerable difficulty has been met in the collection of cocoons, and a number of black market sales have taken place, and some local spinning which produces a coarse silk, quite unfitted for the U.K. market, has been carried on.

19. Fertiliser situation. 613 tons of copper sulphate have been distributed. The presence of a French firm at Crotone has been reported to the Agriculture Sub-Commission and is dealt with in para. 42 of this report.

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19. Fertiliser situation. 613 tons of copper sulphate have been distributed. The presence of a French firm at Crotona has been reported to the Agriculture Sub-Commission and is dealt with in para. 42 of this report.

20. In general rain is needed and potatoes are not expected to be very successful. On the other hand tomatoes promise remarkably well, and prices have already fallen on account of the supplies already coming in.

21. Fisheries. This is rather a Cinderella industry in which the problem is to find transport and refrigeration for the very moderate catches from the port to the inland centres.

22. Labour. Unemployment is prominent in Reggio Province only, and chiefly among artisans and skilled men. Accurate figures are hard to get because registration of the unemployed is voluntary.

Continuation:-

23. Three disputes over wages are pending in CC Province: the Regional Labour Off. has full knowledge of all that is happening and does not fear trouble.

24. The Camera del Lavoro, Reggio, which was rapidly becoming a purely Socialist and Communist organisation has voluntarily agreed to conduct itself in future on a non-political basis. The posting of a Labour Officer to the Region has been great help.

25. (f) Public Works and Utilities.

Efforts to find Italian engineers to replace Allied Officers for work on Military Highways have been unsuccessful. The present engineering staff cannot possibly cope with the many projects which have accumulated, and have to be examined before approval to start on them can be given.

26. Electricity. Meetings were held with the rationing Commissions, and work is in progress to curtail the consumption of electricity. The canals to four hydro-electric plants have been damaged by flood. One is a total wreck, one is out of action but can be repaired easily, while the remaining two are still operating; but are in serious need of repairs.

27. Public Utilities. Two projects for the repair of sewers in the Province of Catanzaro have been approved. All tramways are in operation in this Region. The one gas plant is intact; but has been shut down for the lack of fuel. It is considered advisable that it should remain closed for there are no major industries dependent on gas supplies.

28. (c) Public Safety.

Good. Liaison with Military Police and Security Services has been excellent. More good results from the presence of the Mobile Military Police Detachment in Cosenza have been noticed.

An interesting feature has been the joint action taken by the CC. RR., CC. FF., and the Questura in searching for contraband, which has proved conclusively that all these agencies can work together successfully if they want to do so.

29. No Allied Courts were held.

Italian Courts inspite of a summer slow down continue to function satisfactorily, except the Courts of Assizes, Catanzaro and Reggio, which have not disposed of any cases at all.

30. (h) Public Health.

Communicable diseases. Nothing of importance. A suspected case of small pox at Reggio was not confirmed; but one at Nicastro, Catanzaro Province, was confirmed on 29 June.

31. No Rabies cases reported. Action has been taken to enforce observance of regulations.

engineering staff cannot possibly cope with the many projects which have accumulated, and have to be examined before approval to start on them can be given.

26. Electricity. Meetings were held with the rationing commissions, and work is in progress to curtail the consumption of electricity. The canals to four hydro-electric plants have been damaged by flood. One is a total wreck, one is out of action but can be repaired easily, while the remaining two are still operating; but are in serious need of repairs.

27. Public Utilities. Two projects for the repair of sewers in the Province of Catanzaro have been approved. All tramways are in operation in this region. The one gas plant is intact; but has been shut down for the lack of fuel. It is considered advisable that it should remain closed for there are no major industries dependent on gas supplies.

28. (g) Public Safety.
Good. Liaison with Military Police and Security Services has been excellent. More good results from the presence of the Mobile Military Police Detachment in Cosenza have been noticed.

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32. Anti-malarial work continues ponds are sprayed with gas oil or paris green and depressions filled in. Transport difficulties are the major problem in the distribution of larvicides for this work.

33. Drugs and Medical Supplies. Control is being exercised over the black market, and there has been welcome collaboration on the part of Italian officials. Public Welfare Committees have been set up to deal with public assistance, and Italian officials encouraged to deal with these matters. There is a great deal of squalor and want which is apt to be lost sight of, or never seen, by the 'tip-and-run-tourist' who remarks only on the comparatively sleek and well-dressed people in the main streets of the cities. It is hard to get any of the wealth-to-do to realise that they have any responsibilities in this respect.

Continuation:-

24. (1) Education. There is no education officers and nothing of importance to report.
25. (1) Surveys. The treatment given to refugees in many parts still leaves a lot to be desired. There has been one interesting development, which shows that things could be worse for them. A number went off and returned to their homes only to come back when they found that conditions were impossible there. This should not be taken to imply that nothing further will be done for them. There has been no relaxation of the efforts being made on their behalf to arouse public opinion and to ameliorate their lot.
26. (1) Communications.
Roads. Repair and maintenance work goes on and the main roads for the most part are really surprisingly good.
27. Rail. Shortage of locomotives and rolling stock shows no improvement. Heavy military commitments have caused a famine in wagons.
28. Telecommunications. With the exception of nine important places direct telegraphic service is now available in Reggio to all points which had such facilities before the occupation. The telegraph service throughout the region is very, very slow.
29. Telephonic communications have been re-established between headquarter towns and various centres as follows:- Catanzaro to 16, Cosenza to 26 and Reggio to 17 centres. The lack of shoes among the employees of the Circolo and Telegraph companies is being remedied.
30. Posts. Improvement continues.
31. (1) Property Control. The Property Control Officer has now left. There is one item of interest and that is the discovery of the Mineral and Metallurgical Company of Pertusola at Crotone, a full report on which was written by the Regional Property Control Officer before he went away. The plant, which is under normal and competent management of an engineer employed by the company, produces copper sulphate, and if price agreement could be reached should be of great value.
32. (1) Finance.
The Bank of Italy is meeting all normal Italian Treasury demands without assistance. Borrowing by correspondent banks is negligible, e.g. in Catanzaro the Bank of Italy has approximately 70,000,000 lire of correspondent banks deposits against which it has loaned less than 3,000,000.
33. Payments to beneficiaries of the substantial sums received from American banks are made expeditiously. Where banking facilities do not exist payments are made by mayors and post offices ~~efficiently~~ by arrangements with the Bank of Naples.

Interest charged by the Bank of Naples to Consorzi for loans

arouse public opinion and to expeditiously their lot.

36. (c) Communications.

Roads. Repair and maintenance very good and the main roads for the most part are really surprisingly good.

37. Rail. Shortage of locomotives and rolling stock shows no improvement. Heavy military commitments have caused a famine in wagons.

38. Telecommunications. With the exception of nine important places direct telegraphic service is not available in Sicily to all points which had such facilities before the occupation. The telephone service throughout the region is very, very slow.

39. Telephonic communications have been re-established between headquarter towns and various centres as follows:- Catanzaro to 16, Cosenza to 36 and Reggio to 17 centres. The lack of shoes among the employees of the Circolo and Telegraph companies is being remedied.

40. Posts. Improvement continues.

41. (1) Property Control. The Property Control Officer has now left. There is one item of interest and that is the discovery of the Mineral and Metallurgical Company of Pertusola at Crotona. A full report on which was written by the Regional Property Control Officer before he went away. The plant, which is under normal and competent management of an engineer employed by the company, produces copper sulphate, and if price agreement could be reached should be of great value.

42. (2) Finance.

The Bank of Italy is meeting all normal Italian Treasury demands without assistance. Borrowing by correspondent banks is negligible. C.E. in Catanzaro the Bank of Italy has approximately 70,000,000 lire of correspondent banks deposits against which it has loaned less than 3,000,000.

43. Payments to beneficiaries of the substantial sums received from American banks are made expeditiously. Where banking facilities do not exist payments are made by moneys and post offices ~~officials~~ by arrangements with the Bank of Naples.

44. Interest charged by the Bank of Naples to Consorzio for loans in connection with grain collection is 7%, which is considered excessive particularly in view of the mounting bank deposits, and the limited scope for investment. The Consorzio Agrario is taking the matter up through Ministerial channels.

C. R. G. G. G.
Lt-Colonel R.A.S.,
Regional Commissioner.

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