

The Truth About Nazi Germany!

The New Life Under the Lash of a Dictator

● Last Sunday John Dickson told in the Graphic Section how National Socialism had changed the standards of civil liberty in Germany, comparing the present civil rights, or lack of them, under Hitler with America's constitution-guaranteed liberties. Today Mr. Dickson presents a picture of life in Germany.

By JOHN DICKSON

Copenhagen. ON THE BASIS of Nazi racial theories, life in Germany is undergoing great changes. The Nuremberg ghetto laws prohibited marriages between gentiles and German Jews. On the strength of these and similar laws, regulations, and "discreet warnings," Germans are no longer expected to associate or deal with German Jews. Systematically Jews are being frozen out of economic and professional life. Their Nazi competitors are profiting thereby. Their friends and clients are not allowed to stand by them unless they are willing to incur Nazi disfavor.

For the sake of the "race" the good German is expected to produce a big family. In quite a number of cases he must show cause why he does not. I've met young wives who were deeply perturbed because elderly women officials of the Nazi Welfare association had called on them to warn them they must see to it that babies arrive promptly, otherwise they would be branded as shirking their national duty. In quite a number of provinces and towns officials were ordered to marry and have children if they wanted to retain their jobs.

Once the German has his child, he can't do what he pleases with it. The Nazis expect a loyal German to send his youngsters into the Nazi youth organizations whether he distrusts them or not. The religious youth organizations have been smashed. Parents must allow their children to serve in the *Landjahr*, or "rural year," helping on a farm. Only children who have done their "rural duty" may become apprentices.

If a wife can get a job in a foreign country she must apply for official permission to do so. As a rule authorities refuse this permission, because "the young couples must remain together."

● ● ● The social and economic problems in Germany are so closely intertwined with the government agencies that it is hard to keep them apart.

The "labor front," which unites 23 million German workers, employees, and employers in a compulsory union, deals mostly with social and labor problems. Through its cells, its labor trustees, labor courts, schools, and labor chambers, "strength through joy" and "beauty in working plants" movements it directs the lives of the workers in working hours and in their leisure time.

The real chief of German economic life is Hermann Goering, field marshal, minister of aviation, and chief of the four-year plan to achieve self-sufficiency. He is empowered by Hitler to issue decrees and to issue orders to all Nazi bodies.

Everything in Germany is mobilized under the four-year plan. Goering may draft every German and compel him to work where he sees fit and at whatever labor he deems suitable. Thus in recent months 500,000 men had to help build Germany's new fortifications. They included 20,000 men with university training who had never done any physical work in their lives.

The "free professions," united in the National Chamber of Culture, together with the Nazi medical and scientific associations, see to it that artists, doctors, and scientists obey Nazi rules. Doctors and professors, for instance, according to an order issued recently, are not allowed to read medical or scientific magazines that contain articles by Jews. Prominent doctors have been summoned by the medical chamber requesting them to explain why they had used methods in treating their patients which did not figure in the officially allowed medical literature.

The lengthy discussions on the practical value of a new medicine which filled the old German medical journals have been curtailed, if not banned. Whereas in America a doctor can get a picture of the experiences of his colleagues with a new medicine, the German doctor must take the word of the leaders without seeing the full evidence.

Only persons who belong to the professional chambers may try to earn their living as actors, or painters, or musicians. They must beware of political pitfalls.

Musicians are not allowed to play music composed by Jews or Marxists or having texts translated or written by Jews or Marxists.

When German opera groups travel in the countries surrounding Germany their pay is drawn by the Nazi chief, who foots their hotel bills and gives them a small amount of pocket money. What happens to the balance is a matter of conjecture.

The Nazi Women's organization, the National Welfare, and Winter Relief organization supervise the "national welfare." They collect "voluntary" donations which the state uses as it sees fit for the 9,000,000 official poor. A German cannot manage his charity donations according to his own wishes. The state does that for him. Special offices cross-examine persons who fail to give to Nazi charity.

Let us take a concrete example to get an idea of what the restrictions mean. A business man, for instance:

He cannot move, enlarge, or reduce the size of his business without official permission.

He cannot start a new business or close an enterprise without official permission.

He cannot hire or fire a worker without official sanction.

He must pay wages and prices dictated by the government agencies.

He must sell at government-fixed prices.

He cannot alter the rules prevailing in his plant or enterprise without official sanction.

He is told where to buy and to sell.

Besides paying the official taxes, which are more numerous



(Photo from Tribune Berlin Bureau.) Members of the voluntary labor corps "present shovels" for Hitler.

and higher than in America, the German employer must provide funds for the social welfare of his workers by donating to the "strength through joy" movement, beautify his plant for the sake of the beautification of plants movement, and he must donate to the winter relief. According to official statistics, 590 German concerns spent \$87,000,000 on voluntary social improvements in the year 1936-37, on top of the compulsory payments. This represented 6.8 per cent of their pay roll and 61.5 per cent of the dividends paid to the shareholders.

Most plants must make donations to the "Adolf Hitler Spende" to "show their gratitude to the Fuehrer," and they must contribute to the subsidy on exports. The latter changes according to the branch of industry. Sawmills, for instance, need pay only 2 per cent of their gross profits to this fund, while



(Associated Press photo.) Hitler waves to celebrating laborers at ceremonies marking completion of a road project. At Der Fuehrer's left is Propaganda Minister Goebbels; at his right, Fritz Todt.

the chemical industry must pay 8 per cent.

In view of the vast sums Germany is spending on research work and to "create new raw materials," firms which receive government orders are expected to make big investments in new experimental plants. Should they have money left after paying all their sundry dues they may pay 6 per cent dividends—no more. If they earn more the difference is to be invested in government bonds. Only companies that can prove that they always paid higher dividends may be allowed to pay more—provided they "fulfilled all their social obligations." Authorities see to it that the employer does not pay himself "more than is justifiable" out of his earnings.

Banking secrecy no longer exists in Germany. The authorities may investigate your bank account. If a person has a big cash sum on hand he seems suspicious. Many business men who kept more than the normal amount of cash on hand received notices from their bank reminding them of their duty to donate more for "winter relief."

The newest development that is causing German employers a great deal of worry is that they have been instructed to help build homes for their workers. The money they invest in these plants may earn at the maximum 1 per cent a year.

The seventeen national labor trustees, the local labor office working with the labor ministry, the price commissar, the "expert groups" working in Goering's four-year plan offices and the ministry of economics, the factory or enterprise council working with the labor front, all collaborate to see that the employer fulfills all the demands of the Nazi organizations. "We are mere puppets nowadays," a prominent industrialist whom I have known for years told me recently. "We cooperate and work ourselves close to nervous prostration because there is nothing else to do." I asked him why he had not told of his experiences to American business men visiting him. "Most of our American visitors," he replied, "cannot understand that they must not mention names. They leave us, and in some party they repeat things we told them and mention our names. Many of my friends have been called to the Gestapo for cross-examination after such visits. We cannot take such risks."

● ● ● It is humanly comprehensible that with such an intricate organization, and the countless rules and regulations issued daily, contractors and employers live in constant fear of denunciation for violating some law or ruling they may have overlooked or underestimated in its importance. They must be on friendly terms with the men of the different Nazi organizations, between whom there frequently is friction.

The employers who are more Nazi-minded accept the restrictions with a great amount of equanimity. "In our day and age," they say, "it is impossible to carry on the traditions of the

capitalistic era. The worker must be given a square deal. The social obligations may be expensive, but they are our best safeguards against communism. One should not speak of regimentation in Germany, but of 'directed economy'—which is the only possible method in our times."

If the employer has had a successful year, and would like to go traveling abroad to get a change of atmosphere, he will have to prove to the authorities that his trip is of value to the state. Otherwise he can take along only the \$4 which every German and foreigner may carry in his pocketbook when he leaves Germany. He may travel on German steamers, but the pocket money he is allowed to take on land is so small that it cripples his freedom of action. Only if his trip is deemed useful by the state may a German of military age leave the country.

Though he is under constant, strictest control, the employer is severely criticized by Nazi authorities if he fails "to show the proper spirit of enterprise and vision," because the Nazis insist that while they find it necessary to "direct all activities from a central point to achieve self-sufficiency," they want "the employer to remain a creative factor."

The worker and employee, though he can help supervise the activities of his employer through the labor council, has his little niche carved out for himself, and he must stick to it. The farm hand is not allowed to leave the farm where he is working without special official permission. The workers, em-

ITALY is the other major Fascist power, and next Sunday in the Graphic Section Edmond Taylor will present the first of two articles revealing what has happened to personal liberty in the revived Roman empire.

ployés, engineers, and directors in many industries are not allowed to change jobs even if they could improve their lot. If they try to they are traduced before a labor court, where they can be fined and compelled to continue to work on the job they dropped.

The workers and employees must belong to the Nazi associations and attend Nazi "schooling courses" and subscribe to Nazi magazines issued for their benefit. If a worker gets tired of paying his dues to the labor front he may quit, but he is warned that he'll never get another job. Despite the shortage of skilled labor, workers applying for jobs are turned down in most plants if they don't belong to the labor front.

The worker may go on "strength through joy" trips. Quite a number of workers say they want to spend their vacations as they please and not go on tours carried out under official supervision. The eight-hour day is becoming a thing of the past, with workers in many German plants working ten hours a day and more, owing to the absence of skilled labor and the great need of extra labor for the creation of new raw materials.

When their work is done German workers and employees are not through for the day. Most of them must attend Nazi schooling courses, or if they are Nazis they hold some kind of post in the party organization, for which they get no pay. They may be cell wardens, block wardens, labor front officials, "strength through joy" officials, factory councilmen, anti-air raid protection officials, welfare association "volunteers." Workers who refused to do this voluntary work were warned that their "Nazi reliability" would be investigated. ● ● ●

Nazi labor leaders proudly declare that in former years the workers were not paid on legal holidays, but now they are. You can find quite a number of workers who will say, "That is quite true, but on most of these legal holidays we must spend most of our time attending mass demonstrations."

In the old imperial days workers were fired if they attended May day celebrations. Now they are fired if they fail to listen to the May day speeches.

Wherever they go, worker, employee, and employer are warned against "trade espionage" and the "enemy lurking

just around the corner." German plants always had a "factory police." Now it is frequently affiliated with the Gestapo, which is always watching for the "possibility of the return of the Red fever." The German worker always enjoyed discussions over his glass of beer after working hours. Today the average citizen is scared that what ever he says may be misinterpreted by one of his colleagues or some listening outsider. He knows of too many men who were arrested by the Gestapo.

● ● ● When there are local protests because workers find their pay envelopes too small for their needs, nothing is printed about them in the German press. But the people hear about them. They tell you death sentences await those who attempt to organize a strike. As a consequence distrust, if not apprehension, seem lurking wherever you go.

If the German turns on his radio he must be careful that nobody hears him if he listens to foreign stations. Quite many Germans do. If a German writes a letter or makes a telephone call he reckons with the possibility that his letter is read or his telephone call tapped by the police authorities. One of the few amusing incidents about this supervision which I heard was from a good-looking Nazi girl who complained bitterly that every time she acquired a new beau her relatives in the G. S. P. found out about it and sat on her if they didn't like the swain.

If a German receives a few dollars in a letter from a friend or relative in America he must within three days offer these dollars to proper authorities and sell at the low official rate or risk being apprehended. Death is among the sentences threatening one who commits "economic sabotage," and he knows it. If he has a few foreign coins left in his desk from travels in the old days he may be caught whenever his home is raided.

If he goes to a theater or movie he can see only plays, movies, actors, actresses, and news reels sanctioned by the government.

If the German wants to belong to a club it must be a Nazi club. All clubs and associations have been either smashed or Nazified. A German cannot even swap stamps with a friend abroad without official permis-



(Acme photos.) Regimented Germans. At top, members of the Hitler Youth organization; below, Nazi girls salute Hitler.

sion. The export of old stamps is prohibited and can be carried out only with official approval. Stamp collectors have their berths reserved in the stamp club of the "strength through joy" movement. All sports activities are carried out under official supervision.

If the German is unemployed he cannot, as a rule, take a chance and try his luck in some other town. He must remain where he is inscribed until the labor office provides him with new orders. If his is a profession that is overcrowded the authorities can force him to acquire a new trade. They may also send him to the country to do farm work, whether he knows anything about it or not.

The farmer is angry when unskilled labor is sent to him, and the relations between the farmer and the unskilled farm hand call for quite a lot of straightening out. The farmer is ordered what to plant, where to plant, when to plant, and how much to plant. Though he has been given a certain amount of financial stability through the Nazi price control system, he complains

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TEETH GLEAM WITH AMAZING BRILLIANCE WHEN BRUSHED THIS NEW LIQUID WAY

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