

Germany's Jobless Ranks Melt As Hitler Attacks Unemployment With Vengeance



By CHARLES L. FLICK
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BERLIN—Germany has embarked upon a gigantic program to conquer unemployment.

The demon of industrial idleness which, only a short time ago appeared to be slowly strangling the Reich, is being gradually subdued. With amazing energy and tenacity, Germany has tackled the portentous problem which if official statistics are to be trusted, is meeting with success that can hardly be termed other than miraculous.

East Prussia is entirely without unemployment!

Sixteen Pomeranian communities report that their last jobless have been put to work.

City after city almost daily reports its liberation from the grip of unemployment.

Great Onslaught

Like the latest dispatches from the firing line of a great battle, Germany is being kept in a state of breathless suspense from day to day, following the progress of what may well be termed the greatest onslaught against a crisis ever organized by any nation.

"Work and Bread" has been the main point in the program of every German government since the founding of the Weimar Republic. It has also been the hard granite rock against which every one of these governments before Hitler was shipwrecked. No single German problem was so dominating as the one of unemployment. The failure of its solution meant the certain downfall of every government, regardless of what party it represented.

Hitler when he became chancellor of Germany, was quick to realize this. His first move, after consolidating power, was the organization of a mighty campaign against the national scourge which has moved Germany dangerously near the brink of disaster.

But Hitler's methods differed widely from those of his predecessors. He obviously realized the utter futility of trying to bring about any kind of foreign co-operation. Ex-Chancellor Heinrich Brüning's efforts in that direction undoubtedly proved a lesson to him.

Hitler immediately concentrated on the domestic market, leaving foreign trade to take its natural course. "The home market is the backbone of the nation," was his opening slogan.

Hitler's Attack

Unemployment was stamped as the common enemy of every German. A plan of attack was worked out, leaving all the elements of a military offensive. Germany was divided into sectors. Each sector was placed under the control of a special command.

Simultaneously a tremendous campaign of propaganda crashed down upon the German people. Day after day the radio and the newspapers continued their "thunder"

with undiminished relentlessness, crushing all opposition or resistance existent among political opponents.

When Hitler came into power, the tide of unemployment had reached the amazing figure of roughly 6,500,000. Today the jobless number slightly over 4,000,000 and there is every indication that the number will continue to drop during the coming months.

Having aroused the nation, Hitler followed up this campaign with a vast public works program, the greatest in the history of the Reich. It includes enormous projects which will give hundreds of thousands of unemployed work.

The main points of his labor plan are:

The construction of two gigantic canals that will cut Germany in four.

A vast network of automobile roads, which will be "the finest in the world."

Colonization of uninhabited areas.

Compulsory labor service for all able-bodied unemployed between the ages of 18 and 25.

Vertical Trimming

The North-South Canal is another great project. It will connect the Rhur district with the Balkans. Starting at Mainz, the new canal which already has been begun, will cut through the Rhenish, Kehlheim and Passau, where it will enter the Danube.

More than 60,000,000 cubic yards of earth will be excavated in its construction. A sum of 70,000,000 marks annually will be required to finance its building. In fifteen years originally planned, thought necessary to build it. Now Chancellor Hitler has ordered it to be finished within five years—and engineers declared it would be.

"The North-South canal will enable the cheap transportation of German goods to the Balkans," declares Max Schemm, Bavarian minister of culture.

Pictures Fine Roads

"When the road building program has been completed, Germany will have the finest automobile roads of any country in the world," the government announces. This project is a particular favorite with Chancellor Hitler. He has probably traveled more by automobile than any other governmental leader in the world. During his 14 years of campaigning, he covered 1,300,000 kilometers in his high-powered car. More than 600,000 unemployed will be given work by the road building project. It will be financed by credits imposed on the budget and spread over a number of years. Besides the military value of such highways, they should give the automobile business an impetus.

An interesting feature of this new road system will be its interlinking with the German railways. Competition between both has been avoided wherever possible. Curiously enough, the German Railway Company is even participating in the financing of the roads.

All engineers employed by the "Haftra"—as the road-construction organization is called—have offered their services to the government gratis, as have a number of large industrial concerns which will deliver materials without profit.

15,000 New Farms

The colonization plan inaugurated by Chancellor Hitler provides for 15,000 new farms by 1934. Hundreds of new towns and villages already have sprung up in East Prussia and Pomerania. Vast areas of swamps and waste land have been transformed with astonishing rapidity into wheat and barley fields. Here, too, besides giving a new livelihood to many unemployed, the government is keeping the military angle in view by doing everything to increase the nation's food supply in case of war.

Wilhelm Kabe, in an address on the colonization plan, has indicated in no uncertain terms that if there was not enough waste land to provide farms, the big landowners or Junkers would have to part with some of their land. And as a beginning—and to make it more convenient for the landowners—he has issued an appeal, urging them to turn over their land voluntarily. Newspapers, printing the appeal, added that if the plan does not meet with the desired success, the land in all probability would be expropriated by law.

The labor army, another important factor totals 250,000 men and several thousand women. It will be increased to over a million next year when compulsory labor service is inaugurated.



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Bits 'O' Birmingham

By THE WANDERER

Six Baldwin High School boys decided to waive Christmas presents this year, in favor of dollars and cents with which they planned to finance a holiday trip to Florida.

With gifts of money received from their parents, combined with their collective savings, the six left Monday, southward bound. They will return for the re-opening of school after the holidays. In the party are Jack Mills, Maxwell Mathews, Bob Carsen, Ian Ellis, Bob Camp, and Jack Coons.

Proceeds of a feather party to be held at the Masonic Temple tonight by the Masonic Temple Association will be used to help pay off the indebtedness on the Temple. Kenneth Bingham is general chairman of the event.

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