

Tourist Writes Impressions of Nazis When All the Country Hoped for Peace

Paris, July 11, 1939. This article telling of my impressions during a week in Germany is, of necessity, written after my return to Paris, because all mail from Germany is censored. Personally, I feel like one just out of a concentration camp, for in fact all Germany appears like a forced labor camp under the rule of the Nazi Party. There is no personal liberty, no right of free expression, no opposition to the regime is permitted but every one is working overtime under extreme pressure.

For an American visitor the food seems ample, but we were informed there were shortages of butter, coffee, luxuries, etc., for the ordinary household. The people on the street seem poorly clothed, especially the women—a striking contrast with the army officials one sees everywhere with their gilded braid and trappings.

Great Public Works All Germany is in process of reconstruction. The great system of auto-roads is about completed. In Berlin, whole blocks of buildings are being torn down to make way for the great North-South and East-West boulevards through the city. One wonders whether all this reconstruction with its gigantic monuments and amphitheatres can produce a better civilization. For instance, Munich is to have a new opera house, the largest in the world. The music may not be louder, but the soul of music cannot thrive under a totalitarian regime. Art springs from freedom of expression, not from edicts. The German people seem far from happy. Industrially, Germany is occupied to more than capacity; men

Safe From War Once Again



U. S. is peaceful haven to 2-Judith Ann Acker, brought from warring France on liner President Roosevelt. Despite her age, Judith is a veteran refugee. Daughter of a U. S. navy officer, she was born in China during the Chinese-Japanese war.

and machines are overloaded. There is no unemployment, in fact there is an acute shortage of labor, which is increased as more men are called to military service. The total of all German Jews whom they have so cruelly persecuted and driven out of their country.

Extravagant Wastage Apparently there would be very little shortage of materials were it not for the extravagant wastage in public construction and armaments. To mention only one item, it is said that over seven million tons of iron have been used in building the Siegfried frontier on their western frontier.

The outstanding impression is that everything is done under high pressure. Men may be called from their work in a barber-shop, office or store and forced to work on building roads, or any project that may be classified as "public interest." It is reminiscent of an old steam locomotive, but with a boiler for 200 pounds steam pressure, to run 40 miles an hour and to carry a load of 1,000 tons. Like a swarm of madmen, they have raised the steam pressure to 400 pounds and are trying to travel 100 miles an hour and pull a load of 4,000 tons. Some day the engine will explode or run off the track. In the same way the people will break down under the strains and pressures and the system will collapse. Their financial system is equally fantastic. There are a dozen kinds of Reichsmarks, each with its own set of restrictions. To the foreigner it seems like a whole series of "Question Marks" temporarily used in currency.

British Hatred We were strongly advised not to go to Germany because on Sunday, July 2, there would be a military move on Danzig. Yet nothing happened. Berlin was calm and deserted when we arrived on Sunday morning. The hatred of England is acute. One hears fantastic tales about Chamberlain and the British policy of encirclement. But while the press and all the propaganda bureaus build up hatred and envy, the party uses each crisis to spur their people to continued overwork without complaining.

During our stay in Berlin the government was entertaining the Prime Minister of Bulgaria. The streets were bedecked with enormous swastikas and Bulgarian flags; everywhere pomp and ceremony, gilded uniforms and super decorations, all to impress the foreign visitor. On days when celebrated visitors arrive, the factories are closed so the employees can line the streets and shout a Nazi welcome. It is all rather artificial and hollow, especially when you discover that the employees are forced to pay their workmen while they are cheering. They find this a new and unwelcome form of tax burden. I am informed that the Bulgarian Prime Minister ate their food, enjoyed their show, and then went home disgusted rather than impressed; that was also my reaction.

Beginning to Wonder One hears less talk of war in Germany than when outside her borders first because no one has a right to an opinion, and, second, because only one man, Hitler, knows what he will do from day

to day with his millions of soldiers and the balance of the population. The people all hope for peace, yet willingly accept all he can secure for the Reich without war. Hitler must know that he is upsetting the world by keeping it in a state of nervous tension. The recent blunt warnings of the democracies are, however, having their effect within Germany. They are feeling the strain and beginning to wonder. One is told everywhere "neither the people nor Der Fuehrer want war—we can wait."

Clark H. Minor. (Editor's Note: Proceeding in an interesting observation of conditions in Germany as of the middle of the summer. They were written by Clark H. Minor, and published in The Depositary, Courser, of Deposit, N. Y. The story was sent to The Eccentric by a former local resident, Louis Hoffman, brother-in-law of A. Shanley and J. H. Rosso, well known Birmingham citizens.)

It seems evident that after hav-

Here's Resolution On Loyalty Day

Here, Citizens of Birmingham, is the official resolution passed by your City Commission July 24, setting forth their reasons for getting behind the idea of Civic Loyalty Day.

"WHEREAS, in these moving days of so-called '20th CENTURY STREAM-LINED LIVING', there has been a tendency on the part of many citizens to fail to understand the problems of and co-operate fully with local units of government, to the end that the greatest efficiency in the operation of government can be maintained, and

world, the attention of the average citizen has been diverted from his local affairs to those of the larger world, and

"WHEREAS, movies, the radio, base ball, bridge, golf and other forms of recreation, and amusement have taken the place of much of the old fashioned 'town meeting' and neighborhood exchange of thoughts on local questions, and

"WHEREAS, the City of Birmingham has within its boundaries many very real assets in the way of utility services, recreational activities, beautiful scenery, lovely residences and many other physical properties providing community comfort and safety which go to make up the ideal residential suburban community, and which are the property of the community as a whole, and represent an investment and a tangible asset to each taxpayer.

RESOLVED, that the City, in co-operation with other groups and organizations in the community, designate Saturday, September 16th, 1939 as Birmingham 'CIVIC LOYALTY DAY' and that on this day the community provide a program which will revive and re-ignite interest in local affairs by local people, thus providing the foundation of good government and the basic requirement for maintenance of self government, which is an informed and alert electorate, understanding the problems of, and working in co-operation with the local units of government."

Behind the Times Bertie (beaming): "Oh, I have the most glorious news! Peggy has promised to be my wife!" Gertrude: "So that's what you call news! A month ago she asked me to be her bridesmaid."

City Officials Plan 'Flying' Trips to Municipal Parley

Despite the fact that city officials are very busy attending to details for Civic Loyalty Day on Saturday, several of them plan to attend a few of the seasons of the annual meeting of the Michigan Municipal League at Kalamazoo, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. Assessor, Elmer W. Hanks, Treasurer-Engineer H. H. Corson, and City Clerk Irene Hanley planned to leave Wednesday and return late Thursday. Mayor John E. Martz, Commissioners Luther Heacock and Ray A. Palmer may also attend the conference for several meetings. The meetings are given over to discussion of important current municipal problems.

AN IMPORTANT STATEMENT FROM A&P ABOUT WAR DAYS AND FOOD PRICES

A&P's policy will remain unchanged—that policy is simply this: A&P will provide good food at the lowest prices possible. As always, we will operate our stores and markets with the interest of our customers constantly in mind. We know the hardships that increased food prices can bring to countless families, therefore, our prices will be adjusted only to the extent that it is absolutely necessary. If owing to the laws of supply and demand the prices for food we purchase move upward, obviously, we will have to pay the higher cost and change retail prices accordingly. You have our assurance, however, that A&P's margin of profit will continue to be very small and normal in every respect. Thus—we pledge to our six million loyal customers the best efforts of our wide-spread organization to keep our prices as low as sound business judgement will permit. We repeat—A&P's policy will be unchanged . . . Good Foods at the Lowest Prices Possible!

Table listing various food items and prices: TOMATO SOUP (3 cans 20c), FRUIT COCKTAIL (1 can 10c), SOAP CHIPS (5 lb. 24c), SCOT TISSUE (4 rolls 25c), IONA TOMATOES (2 cans 5 for 29c), OLEOMARGARINE (1 lb. 9c), SWEETHEART SOAP (4 cakes 21c), etc.

TOMATO JUICE IONA 50-OZ. CAN 2 for 29c

Table listing various food items and prices: CORN FLAKES (2 lg. 15c), SWISS CHEESE (1 lb. 25c), BEVERAGES (4 bts. 29c), WHEAT PUFFS (1 pk. 5c), BRICK CHEESE (1 lb. 25c), A & P GRAPPE JUICE (1 qt. 25c), etc.

Table listing various food items and prices: DEL MAIZ NIBLETS (2 for 19c), ANN PAGE SALAD DRESSING (1 qt. 25c), OUR OWN TEA (1 1/2 lb. 19c), IONA PEAS (4 for 29c), KETCHUP (14 oz. bot. 2 for 15c), RAISINS (4 lbs. 23c), WAX PAPER (1 lg. 15c), etc.

WHITEHOUSE MILK ACCEPTED BY THE COMMITTEE ON FOODS OF THE AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION 4 tall cans 22c

Table listing various household items and prices: CLEANSWEEP BROOMS (ea. 23c), DAILY DOG FOOD (6 cans 25c), KITCHEN MATCHES (6 boxes 19c), KEN-L-RATION (3 cans 25c), CLOTHES LINES (ea. 15c), DOG FOOD—Strongheart (can 5c), etc.

Table listing various produce items and prices: TOKAY GRAPES (Lb. 5c), GOLDEN-RIPE BANANAS (Lb. 5c), GENUINE YAMS (5 LBS. 19c), CELERY—Michigan (2 stalks 9c), CARROTS (2 bchs. 9c), APPLES—Wolf River (10 lbs. 19c), FRESH PRUNES (4 lbs. 19c), CABBAGE—Home Grown (lb. 3c), CAULIFLOWER (2 heads 25c)

Advertisement for SUPER A&P MARKETS, 210 S. WOODWARD. Features 'Truly fine Bread' and 'Soft Twist' rolls. Includes address, hours (MON. TUES. WED. THURS. 8 a.m. to 6 p.m., FRI. AND SAT. 8 a.m. to 9 p.m.), and 'EVERYDAY LOW PRICES' slogan.

Greetings and Felicitations We wish to endorse the celebration of "Civic Loyalty Day" and voice our best wishes for a very successful accomplishment to those who have made it possible. Good Government will be a better one if it has the interest and support of those to whom it is dedicated—"The People."

Advertisement for SUPER A&P MARKETS, SELF-SERVICE. Includes logo and text: 'EVERYDAY LOW PRICES' and 'OPEN EVENINGS EVERY FRIDAY AND SATURDAY'.