

What Hitler Rule Means to Europe

WHETHER OR NOT HITLER turns out to be a clown or a faker, those by his side now, and those who may replace him later, are not figures to be joked with."

With this grim thought the semiofficial Paris *Temps* greets the accession of "handsome Adolf" Hitler to the Chancellorship in Germany. The event, it adds, is "of greater importance than any event since the fall of the Hohenzollerns."

In England the Laborite *Daily Herald* declares solemnly that "with Hitler's appointment the way is prepared for the return of the ex-Kaiser." But in sharp contrast the London *Daily Mail* remarks "it looks as if Germany has a stable Government at last."

Hitler's first official act on February 1 was to dissolve the Reichstag, under authority of a decree signed by President Paul von Hindenburg, and to set a new general election for March 5.

Thus in the seats of the mighty now flourishes the forty-four-year-old Austrian-born agitator of dark and flaming eyes. Of medium height, rather slender, with black hair, and a pale, sallow complexion, the press remind us again, he wears a toothbrush mustache, lets his hair fall over one brow, and affects a uniform on most occasions. He is "a natural orator who knows how to move the inarticulate mass and play upon popular resentments."

"THE legacy which we take over is a fearful one," Hitler said on February 1 in his radio manifesto, signed by every member of his Cabinet and appealing to the German nation for support in the balloting on March 5 for a new Reichstag. "The task which we are called upon to solve is the most difficult ever put before German statesmen within the memory of man." But the confidence of himself and of his Cabinet is "boundless," for "we believe in our people and its imperishable worth." As quoted in the press, he went on:

"The National President, Field Marshal von Hindenburg, has summoned us with the command to bring to the nation the possibility of reconstruction by our unanimity. We appeal, therefore, to the German people to sign with us this deed of reconciliation.

"The government of national resurrection wants to work, and it will work. It has not brought low the German nation in fourteen years, but it will lead it upward again. It is determined in four years to make good the wrongs of fourteen years.

"But it can not submit the work of reconstruction to the approval of those who are to blame for the crash. The parties of Marxism and its abettors have had fourteen years in which to show their ability. The result is a field of ruins. Now, German people, give us a period of four years, and then judge us and give us your verdict. . . .

"As regards foreign policy, the national government sees its highest mission in the maintenance of the vital rights and therewith restoration of the liberty of our people. While it is deter-



"The Legacy Is a Fearful One"

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mined to put an end to the chaotic conditions in Germany, it will help to add a state of equal worth and, of course, equal rights to the community of nations. It is thereby filled with a sense of the greatness of its duty to stand up with this free and equal people for the preservation and strengthening of peace which the world needs to-day more than ever before. May the good-will of others aid us, in order that our most sincere wish for the welfare of Europe and, indeed, the world, be brought to fulfillment.

"Great as is our love for our Army as the bearer of our arms and the symbol of our great past, yet we would be happy if the world, through limitation of armaments, would render increase of our own weapons nevermore necessary."

WHAT happened in Berlin on that night of portent, January 30, when a public celebration of a change of Chancellors was held for the first time in the history of the Republic, is dramatically portrayed in a Berlin copyrighted cable to the New York Sun, in which we read:

"At a lighted window in Bismarck's old room in the German chancellery, looking out on the Wilhelmstrasse, an old man, 220 pounds in weight, white-haired, and monumental, stood for four hours while between 30,000 and 40,000 yellow-clad members of the Nazi storm battalions and 2,000 Steel Helmet adherents, and a great number of common citizens filed by with torches in their hands.

"Nearly all the marchers saluted the old man, who sometimes raised his hand or nodded in answer, occasionally wincing as a pitiless search-light fell full upon his serious face.

"Once more Paul von Hindenburg, directing genius of the German armies in the World War, and now President of the Republic, was accepting the homage of his people at the cost of his slumber.

"Meanwhile, a hundred yards farther on the south wing of the building, against the background of a lighted room with pale blue walls, was a second figure—that of the new Chancellor, Adolf Hitler, leader of the victorious National Socialists.

"Drest in a frock coat and silhouetted against the light, he raised his hand a thousand times in the ancient Roman greeting which he has taken for his party salute.

"Below, the streets were thronged with people cheering. Thus the man, who in the last fifteen years has never held a real job, and who a year ago was virtually without a country, was welcomed to the seat of Bismarck."

How gravely affected the French and British are by Hitler's rise to power appears in additional cabled editorials to those cited above received from the European press by THE LITERARY DIGEST. Dictatorship in Germany looms on the view of the Paris *Figaro*, which declares:

"The Weimar Constitution and parliamentarism has received a mortal blow. Participation of the Catholic party being withheld, handsome Adolf will undoubtedly make a play for dictatorial power, representing the gravest danger for France."

Redoubled vigilance on the part of France, says the *Ere Nouvelle*, "must now be the order with this new muddle entering into the already scrambled international situation." The *Echo de Paris* also sees storm-signals set for the Franco-German political area, and it points out:

"Hitler comes to power at last just as our Socialists for the first time agree to cooperate in the Government. Manifestly things are moving in opposite directions in the two countries.

"He, too, warns that Germany is

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headed straight for ultra-nationalism, perhaps even monarchy—and France for trouble.”

A TONE of dismay is heard in the comment of the *Paris Quotidien*, which marvels at the lightning change in the political front of Germany, as it observes:

“The inevitable has arrived. It seemed impossible that monarchical Germany, for a few years in the ranks of the democratic nations, has for its head this hysterical confused demagog who succeeded in crystallizing the moral derangements of the German populace into a veritable Prussian discipline.”

Few of the editorials from the English press cabled to **THE LITERARY DIGEST** show the indignation of the *London Daily Telegraph*, which has little patience for the new German régime, as it asserts:

“The Chancellorship is filled by one whose astonishing mastery of the arts of demagog has been devoted to organizing all of the contempt, disgust, sense of helplessness and humiliation with which millions regard the failure of parliamentary democracy.

“Not from this Government will come the vaguely Socialistic, semi-Fascist dictatorship, the attack on banks and houses, and the anti-Jewish pogroms, which are the nearest approach to anything definite in the Nazi outlook.”

Nor does the *London Morning Post* see tranquillity ahead for Germany and the outside world, because Hitler’s—

“Is not a Government which augurs well for internal peace. It is, unfortunately, the kind which is apt to seek solution of its difficulties at home in adventures abroad.”

BUT the *London News-Chronicle* foresees an alteration in the Hitler method, when it says:

“The Government’s policy assuredly will not be the mixed grill of hatreds and prejudices which Hitler has been in the habit of serving to his admiring followers.”

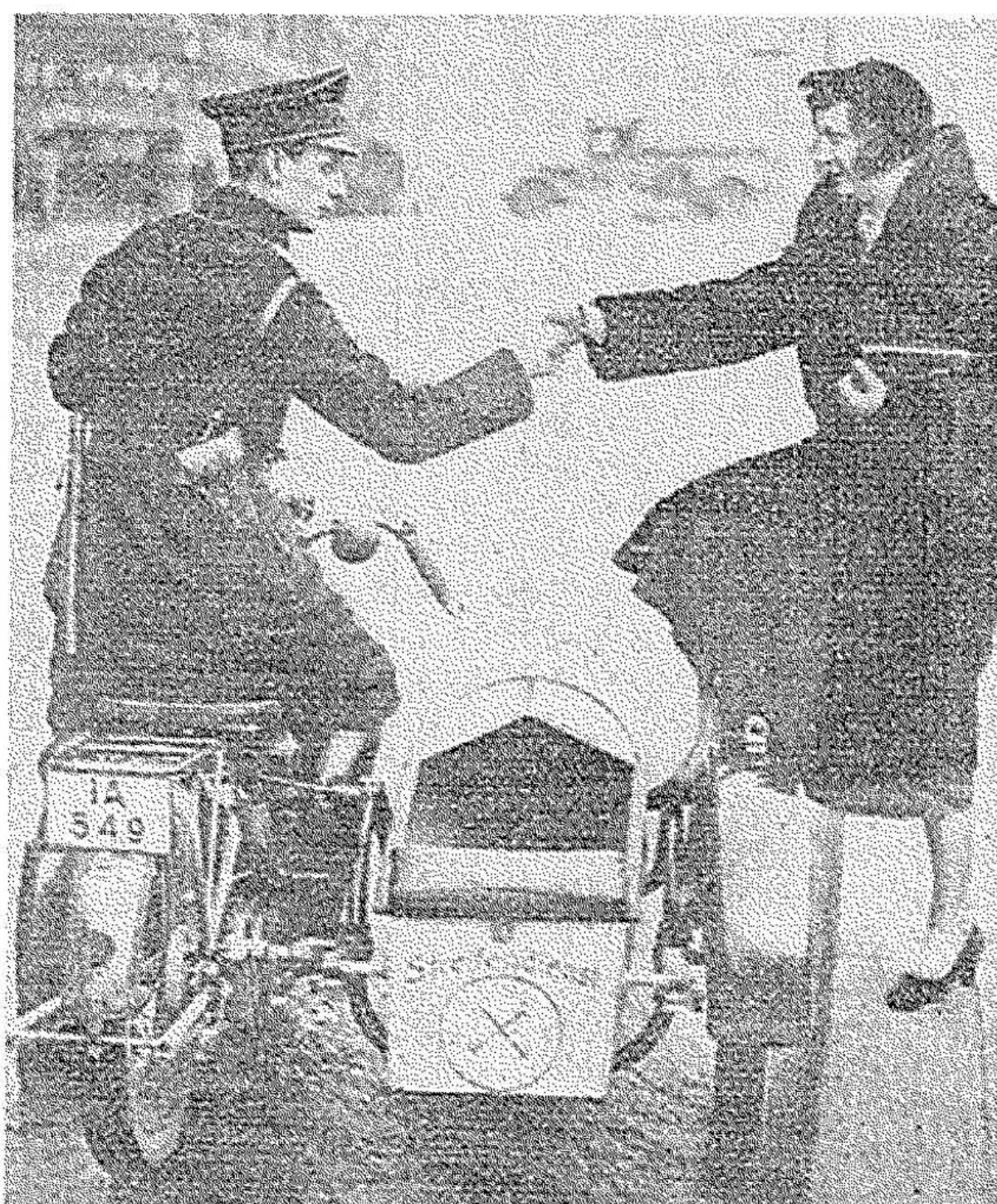
Among editorials cabled to **THE LITERARY DIGEST** from the German press we find the Socialist *Vorwaerts*, one of Hitler’s bitter opponents, girding its loins for future action, when it declares:

“Hitler’s appointment initiates a new phase of the battle between democracy and Fascism, but by no means decides this struggle.”

Outspoken concern is expressed by the extremely Nationalistic *Deutsche Zeitung*, which fears disaster unless the new Government succeeds, and it goes on:

“The road is now clear. The Hitler-Papen-Hugenberg Cabinet represents Germany’s last reserve. If it fails, a catastrophe of gigantic dimensions is inevitable.”

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All's Not so Quiet in Berlin

Any one in the German capital returning home at a late hour has only to notify the "Black Hussars," as they are called, from their uniform, and thus be assured of safe escort. The "Black Hussars" is a private company whose employees are equipped with motor-cycles and are armed.