

How Hitler Has Enslaved Europe's Labor

Conquest, Bribery, Kidnaping and Now Laval's Gift Have Provided His Helot Workers

Pierre Laval, in his efforts to collaborate with the New Order in Europe, has given Adolf Hitler a supply of slave labor as great or greater than that for which Hitler has had to fight in the other countries of Europe and for which he still is fighting.

Even in beaten, starving, and helpless Poland, Hitler had to resort to the dragnet and the press gang to get slaves for his industrial machine.

At no other time or place in his steady enslavement of Europe has he been handed voluntarily an army of helots.

Now in Europe there are more slaves than ever existed on any continent at any time. Hitler had to fight for every one of them—except those Laval has given him.

Hitler's Slave Market

The Hitler philosophy of industry is based on the work of the slave. In his long-ago jail cell he explained it all—how the Germans would be the *Herren-volk* and the other citizens of Europe their slaves. He envisaged millions of them and said brutally that other millions would have to be destroyed.

How well that philosophy has been applied is shown by his unceasing demands on France, the last source of manpower in Europe, for more and more workers.

Millions of Germans are dead or fighting. They had to be replaced. An estimated million and a half of Poles were hauled into the Reich to fill their places. They lagged, they stalled and thousands, in the stubborn resistance of an "inferior race," just died.

Thus hundreds of thousands more were dragooned from Denmark, from Belgium, from Italy and even from little Luxemburg, which, the Royal Institute of National Affairs reported, had supplied 2500 in September, 1940.

French People Balked

But the French people were immune to the blandishments of Hitler. He held their sons and brothers and fathers as prisoners of war and even his offer to exchange prisoners for workers on a basis of one for three caused no rush to the Reich-bound trains.

Enslaved Europe

And then Pierre Laval yesterday met the Hitler demand for more slaves, slaves for which Hitler didn't have to fight, to beg or to kidnap. He had only to ask.

Figures on the number of persons held in bondage in the Reich and its occupied satellites are obviously hard to get. Yet these helpless workers number in the millions.

It has been estimated that more than 1,500,000 men, women and children, exclusive of war prisoners, of which there are thousands, have gone from Poland alone into German factories and fields.

Even Hitler's allies, the hapless Italians and Hungarians and the Rumanians, have had to send their labor armies into Germany.

6,000,000 Slaves

The *New York Times* on Aug. 9 last, estimate that there were 6,000,000 such alien workers in the Reich, of whom 3,000,000 were "prisoners of war."

In every case, the Germans have tried, after capture, the same methods or impressment.

Then, in co-operation with various Quisling governments, establishment of labor recruiting systems.

It was at this point that Pierre Laval fell into line. It is notable that he has delivered into the hands of the enemy a far greater proportion of his fellow-citizens than Vidkun Quisling, frankly a traitor to Norway from the start, was able to deliver.

The Royal Institute of International Affairs, in its latest compilation, said Norway had sent only 500 workers to Germany. France, in the same report, had sent only 15,000.

Then, these methods failing, the Germans resort to intimidation, shortening of rations, and other such means.

And finally, they have used gangs, particularly in Poland, to round up workers from the streets, to drag them from churches and theaters and even from homes to go to work in Germany.

The lot of these people is unbelievably miserable.

The work-week runs upward from 60 hours. Workers are herded together in sub-standard dwellings and camps and their food is far less than the Germans.

Wherever there is danger, there is where the helot works. Factories likely to be bombed by the RAF are manned with aliens. Physical punishment is frequent and executions for sabotage and slowdowns are frequent.

The workers must be marked as are the Jews. They may not have social contact with their German masters. Their isolation is complete and thorough.

PM

Monday, September 14, 1942

OldMagazineArticles.com