

Los Angeles Times

1940

'MEIN KAMPF' DISPLAYS

IGNORANT EMOTIONALISM

MEIN KAMPF. By Adolf Hitler. Complete and Unabridged: Fully Annotated. Reynal and Hitchcock.

MEIN KAMPF. By Adolf Hitler: Complete and unexpurgated. Stackpole.

On April Fool's Day of 1924 an inmate of the jail at the fortress of Landsberg began the writing of a book explaining his life-aims. That prisoner was Adolf Hitler, and now, for the first time, in English, we have the unexpurgated translation of the book in two American editions, one with and one without notes. So far as the translations are concerned one seems as fair and accurate as the other, but many students will prefer to have explanatory notes to a text so full of contradictions and obscurities.

It acquires importance because the former jail inmate is now leader of Central Europe, bent upon conquering the rest of the world by force. Because, from this book written 15 years ago, you can see that he was bent upon alliance with Japan, Italy and England. Because you can see that he has fixed purposes and has, one...by one, succeeded in carrying out his program. That program may not be summed up in this space, but the important thing is how it looks in essence to Americans. (Read Van Loon's "Our Battle.")

EMOTIONAL

In the first place, it addresses the emotions and not the reason. It is obviously the book of an ignorant man, unaccustomed to logic or literature. It is sincere, and done in the style of the soapboxer, the rabble-rouser. And it is Red; redder than any utterances of Emma Goldman or I.W.W. street speakers. What Hitler calls National Socialism seems to us, for all that the man denies it on page after page, merely another form of Stalinistic Communism, only this is the German variety.

In the second place it is as violent in objective as in manner. Hate dominates the book. Hate, in the order named: for Jews, for Communists and all things Russian; for all intellectuals; for the bourgeoisie (the middle classes to you; to which all of us belong here in America.) culture, education, Negroes, Catholics, France and all French institutions; for the Free Masons.

EVERYTHING PHYSICAL

For intellectual training he has contempt, and would substitute physical training. Women he would confine to kitchen and nursery.

His hatred of the Jews is open, obvious and evidently sincere. But the quarrel with the Communists seems more of a dust cloud behind which the redness of his own totalitarianism is supposed to look white and conservative. But his system blots out the businessman, banker, manufacturer, professional man, teacher, writer, artist as effectively as Stalin's; property goes to the state in both cases; and all freedom of press, church and person dies as wholly in Germany as in Russia. Both systems stem from the German Hegel. Finally, to an American, a lemon, by any other name, is just as sour.

P. J. S.