

Adolf Hitler's Youth Movement Places Prime Emphasis On Physical Education

(Continued From Front Page)

and physical education groups, nineteen special interest groups, thirty-seven religious organizations of which twenty were protestant and seventeen Catholic, along with nine other youth trends. Each group had its special interests and loyalties.

Birth of Hitler Youth Movement

It was at this time that the present united youth movement had its birth. In 1922 Adolf Hitler, leader of the National Socialist group, organized the "National Socialistic Jugendbund." It was organized without consideration to class, standing or religious belief. In the general struggle for recognition and power the National Socialist group had its ups and downs. Its youth group suffered accordingly and went through many severe tests and trials. More than twenty Hitler youths lost their lives in political conflicts of these early days.

When the National Socialist Party came into power in 1933 one of its first important steps was to organize the youth of the land into one concerted and unified group. Naturally such a gigantic program demanded some time and effective drives at solidarity in organization. Gradually, but forcefully, the past few years have witnessed a unification of German Youth. In 1934, with the complete elimination of Communist groups, Jewish organizations, and monarchistic youth associations, there remained only the problem regarding the Church groups, especially those within the

Catholic faith. A former Concordat with the Holy See at Rome indicated that the Catholic Church would retain its own separate youth organization. This was abandoned last year, and the church can only guide and teach its youth along religious lines.

Hence there is in Germany today but one Youth Organization—the Hitler Youth. Today the German boy or girl has but one choice as to membership in a youth group. While this membership is not compulsory, social pressure and community of interest practically demand participation—there can be no other alternative.

Objectives of Movement

On the surface this appears very difficult for those of us brought up in a democratic atmosphere to properly understand. We are accustomed to variety of choice. Our boys and girls can belong to one, two or many groups according to their interests, time, ability to pay and desire. Our youth know no youth movement as such. In fact, if one wishes one does not have to belong to any group at any time. The situation in Germany is so different. There can be no basis of a comparison and contrast study.

We are in one situation and Germany is in another. We have one form of government and Germany has another. We are primarily interested in the individual as an individual while in Germany the first thought is for the people as a whole and the rights of the individual become of secondary consideration. Location and history have had much to do in determining these attitudes and forces. Therefore we will attempt to set forth some of the principal objectives governing the philosophy of the Hitler Youth from the German point of view.

It is absolutely necessary for us to try to understand and appreciate the geographic, historical, social and economic forces at work in Europe generally to fully know present Germany and the thinking therein.

The geographic closeness of neighbors with different racial, social, political, and religious interests, the movements of population with problems of density, declining birth rates, nationality and the like, the economic forces as to raw materials, monetary systems, tariff walls and related complexities, the political forces of old treaties, colonial desires, historical

conflicts,—all create difficult barriers to proper reconciliation and unity of action for common good. While youth everywhere is important for future growth and action its influence is intensified in Germany due to the many and varied vicissitudes of time and the exigencies of the situation. Let us note some of these forces and objectives.

Solidarity and Totality

Standing out most prominent is the factor of solidarity and totality—the totalitarian state is accepted as the basis of the totalitarian youth movement. A unified youth with a specific purpose and solidarity of interests is the one permeating force that governs the entire movement. One program for all and all for one program is the chief aim—and this goal is well achieved at this time.

It is in fact overpowering to us and we see it all with amazement. How, in so short a time the political leadership of the nation could so completely win the confidence and loyalty of all youth is practically without parallel anywhere. Within a period of less than five years we see the unity of action growing out of hundreds of different movements. This no doubt indicates the seriousness of the hour in Germany and the pressure of community life.

Another objective is found in the emphasis on the physical. While the Pestalozzi School of thought emphasized Head, Heart and Hand, the present program would conform to the order of Hand, Heart and Head—physical education, character building and intellectual training come in order. The state is assuming that a sound body is pre requisite to the operation and final turning out of the citizen in the new state. A physically sound nation is the foundation principal of the National Socialist idea. Unusual emphasis along all phases of German life are being given to physical education.

Comradeship Another Objective

A third essential objective is expressed in the words "comradeship". Much stress is given to thought of a community of interest. Throughout the entire youth program, from the home evenings of the smaller unit to the large mass celebrations, one will find togetherness emphasized. Through study and sport the youth learn a unity of racial background, a knowledge of oneness in purpose, the value of sportsmanship and the basis of ones social responsibility to his fellowman. They meet together, hike together, and sing together. In unity they collect for the Winter Aid Organization and in oneness they succor those in need.

A fourth objective may be stated in the unity and power of one group. Nine millions of youth banded together in a single organization. The very thought of numbers, physical strength, comradeship and absolute unity of action has had the psychological effect of somewhat erasing the inferiority complex which the nation had developed at the defeat following the World War and the consequent effects of the treaty of Versailles. The political leadership of Germany believes that it is absolutely necessary to build within the people a strong sense of self-respect. They desire to abandon the philosophy of defeat. This strong urge permeates the thinking regarding colonies, world relations and internal life. These ideas are being strongly implanted in the youth of the nation through their many study groups.

PIE EATING KING



Steven Busho, thirteen, displays the equipment which won the pie eating contest at the Associated Bakers of America convention in Chicago. Steven munched his mouth a little around the edges, but chomped and licked through to victory.

Defense Is Stressed

There is also the objective of defense. Against defeats of the past, forces of the present, and future outlook, emphasis is placed on preparedness. The whole program is essentially military in nature. Uniforms, activities, meetings and program all savor of the military. The emphasis is on defense, not aggression, for peace not war, for security not chaos. There is no blind idealism as to the meekness of man. Economic, social and military preparedness appear as essential realities of the time. It becomes a problem of self-existence and the pattern is determined by the leadership of the present.

Youth is vitally concerned with the trends of the near future. The National Socialist Party is saying to its youth that it believes it knows what is best at this time. National responsibility is the first and foremost thought. Hence there has been a concentration and simplification of youth activities under the present regime. This is the German way.

There has been no attempt in this article to evaluate the program at this time. The movement is young and the future will have to

determine its value to Germany and the world. It will be judged by its results — results that may create happy and healthy beings and develop a community of interest under which people dwell in harmony.

THE LAST PORT

Rosuth, Scotland — The once proud U. S. Liner Leviathan (before the war the German Vaterland) entered her last phase at a local salvage yard. Before being reduced to scrap metal, for ten days her luxurious decorations, panelling, paintings and furnishings will be auctioned off. The huge name on her prow and stern will be put up letter-by-letter as souvenirs.

CONFIDENTIAL DATA RE-LEASED

Washington, D. C. — President Roosevelt's "off-the-record" comment at his press conferences, covering especially the tense period of the bank holiday of 1933 following his inauguration, have been released for publication. They contain the most intimate comment on important events which at the time were given to newspaper correspondents under the pledge of confidence.

It's not too late to top-dress small grain with an application of soda to stimulate quick plant growth.

It Is Dangerous

"If all orchardists in North Carolina followed the good method used in the Leatherman and Sains' orchards of Lincoln Co., my work would be easy," commented H. R. Niswonger, extension horticulturist, recently. It is dangerous to sell a SUBSTITUTE for 666 just to make three or four cents more. Customers are your best assets; lose them and you lose your business. 666 is worth three or four times as much as a SUBSTITUTE.

REFLECTIONS

Personality And Profits

By R. M. SPENCER

If there were a choice between two men — a hypochondriac or one who is genial — which one would you choose? The one who is cheerful, of course: So would I.

The delivery boy, meter-man, salesman or merchant has free access to geniality; it has never been cornered and never will be. It is the biggest asset a man can acquire! It costs nothing but a little will-power and a different philosophy.



The records of our divorce courts are filled with sour dispositions; smiles, humor and geniality were forsaken, they were left at the altar. A lachrymose, bilious, melancholic frame of mind resulted in catastrophe.

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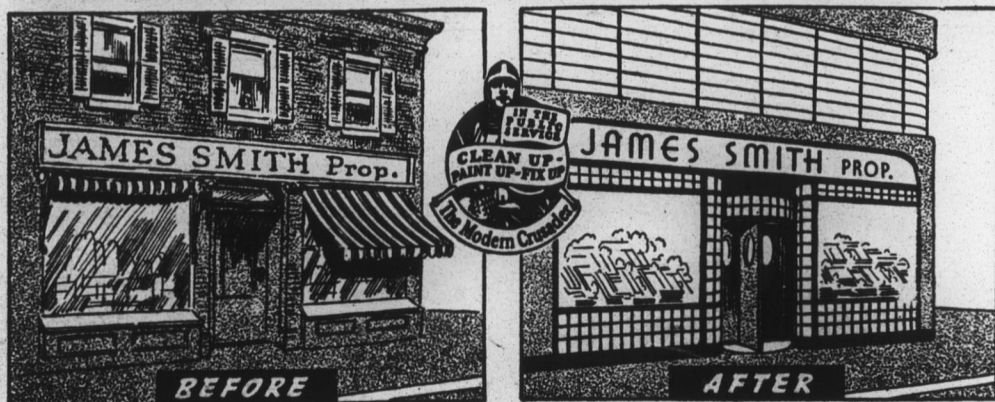
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