

DAILY MAIL'S GERMAN WRITER DISCUSSES AFFAIRS IN THAT COUNTRY

Deals With Hitler, The Army and With Political Affairs in That Country.

BERLIN, Germany, March 4—When the "Reichswehr" Minister, General von Blomberg, sometime ago went to stay at the Sanatorium "Weisser Hirsch" near Dresden in order to undergo some treatment, rumor would have it that he had quarrelled with Hitler and had resigned. This version of the facts was followed by a floor of rumours concerning the alleged political motives for this step undertaken by the German Army Minister and the Reichswehr in general. Meanwhile, General von Blomberg, has resumed his duties, but nevertheless the sensational rumours concerning the Reichswehr and its position with regard to Hitler could not be silenced. What are the real facts that foreign countries have to reckon with?

The position of the German Reichswehr after June 30th, 1934 underwent a great change. Until that day it looked as if the more and more important S. A. were about to push it into the background, and growing discontent prevailed among the superior officers regarding these conditions, as they were convinced that the Reichswehr should be the one and only authorized bearer of arms for the Nation. For Blomberg had defined the S. A. as a body which "played at soldiers" and which only did Germany harm from the point of view of military policy. Reichskanzler Hitler approved the attitude of the Reichswehr and various consultations with General von Blomberg, who had always enjoyed the trust and confidence of Hitler, led to a result which was evinced publicly when the Reichswehr Minister on June 29th, that is a day before the great "Elimination", which also included the supreme head of the S. A. Roehm, published a declaration in which he exactly outlined the attitude of the Reichswehr towards National Socialism and towards Hitler. The extraordinary significance of this document was not immediately recognized by the general public in the hour in which it appeared. General von Blomberg 24 hours before the 30th June, clearly proclaimed that the Reichswehr was backing Hitler and was one with the State. The Reichswehr Minister in important passages of this proclama-

tion said: "The army (Wehrmacht) is essentially united with the German state in this re-birth, in the "Reich" of Adolf Hitler. The German soldier always from his innermost soul has refused to be the subject of any barter in the struggle of political parties for supremacy, it goes against his grain to go in for any kind of pretorianism. He is not a mercenary who sells his blood and his life to the highest bidder. He serves his fatherland and the great ideals of his nation. This finally puts an end to the times in which members of the various camps discussed the "Reichswehr Sphinx". The role of the army is plain and clear. It serves this state the trends and aims of which it affirms with the deepest conviction and it adheres to the leadership of the state which again, gave to it the noble right not only to bear arms, but also to be the bearer of the unlimited confidence of the state and nation. Pacifism has been overcome. Army and state have been joined into one. Today the soldier, conscious of his duty stands in the centre of political life of a people welded in unity. He takes active part in all the events which everywhere are struggling to reach new forms and standards of life, not with particular aims, but as a collaborating member of the totality, borne by the spirit of true community which nowadays has penetrated the whole of Germany. While clearly defining its task the "Fuehrer" has allotted to the army its share in the reconstruction of the new Germany. We are called upon to collaborate at a decisive and important position in the great work of Germany's future, not as the bearers of aggressive intentions, which threaten other states but as protector of a nation which has taken its fate into its own hands and only wants to be master in its own house. Closely linked to the whole of the nation the army stands behind Adolf Hitler who once issued from our ranks and will always remain one of us.

These statements by Blomberg left no room for doubt. They exclude all the versions of differences of opinion between Hitler and the head of the Army, nor do they allow of any further

doubts concerning the position of the Reichswehr. Today the German army as a matter of fact is the only bearer of arms of the German nation. If the S. A. and the S. S. are gradually disbanded and divested of the whole of their military attributes, this is being done in pursuance of the decision of Hitler to give the Reichswehr a unique position as bearer of arms. If there is talk of a "victory of the Reichswehr leadership", this no doubt means that Hitler prefers to dispose of a comparatively smaller body (with regard to numbers) but a powerful and well-trained military force, instead of depending in the hour of need on a useless million of uniformed men who abroad are nevertheless being counted as full members of the armed corps. From a point of view of military policy the decision of Hitler signifies a settlement of the much contested question of armaments in a sense which is in favour of Germany.

Regarding the affair of the Reichswehr there also exists another version. The head of the Department, "domestic affairs" of the Army Ministry, Major Foertsch, has made some very exact statements on the position of the Reichswehr. Foertsch is of opinion that when the Reichswehr had to create for itself in the Weimar Republic, after 1918, a position placing it above the political parties, this, this was done in a spirit of self-preservation, in view of the prevailing party system. As the Weimar State had not given the Reichswehr its intrinsic basis the army was obliged to form its own idea of the state which did not agree with the Weimar constitution. While the Weimar Republic defined the soldier as a "servant of the state" and the Army as an "instrument of state authority", the Reichswehr under Hitler again become a national army. It is now the sole bearer of arms of the German people whose duty it is to protect the German realm and fatherland and the people united in National Socialism. There is no more talk of using the Reichswehr domestically. These principles are laid down in the "Duties of a Soldier, 1934". Hitler, as Major Foertsch emphasizes, has lifted the army out of its partial isolation and has again placed in the midst of the people. The "Fuehrer" had decreed that besides the Party bearer of the political will and intentions of Germany, the Reichswehr, as the sole bearer of arms of the nation, should support the state. Army Minister von Blomberg on his part had left no doubt regarding the fact that National Socialism, as a basis of the new state, must also remain inviolable

for the army. The Reichswehr took its oath on Hitler in the most direct way possible, while in the Weimar Republic the oath was taken on the constitution and simultaneously a vow was made to obey superiors. As the Reichswehr after the death of Hindenburg took its oath on the person of Hitler it is under obligation to obey the orders of this one person. All discussions and considerations on the interpretation of the constitution, which were possible under the Weimar Republic, are now excluded, as well as any kind of political activity on the part of soldiers.

According to all this no further doubt regarding the relationship of Hitler to the Reichswehr can persist; the rumours about Blomberg are refuted by facts. And on the grounds of reliable information it can be stated that a recently published memorandum which Generals of Reichswehr are supposed to have a dressed to Hindenburg because of the death of General von Schleicher and which demanded changes of the Hitler Government, never existed. It is true that Hindenburg can no longer speak, but the man through whose hands a document of this kind would have had to pass, State Secretary Meissner, lives. But no document, nor anything similar to it, ever passed through his office. There was no other way to reach Hindenburg. Finally, as concerns the details published in newspaper articles, pamphlets and books, regarding the status of armament of the German army, Reichswehr Minister von Blomberg contradicts most of these statements, and also the rumours concerning the invention of a new poison gas for the Reichswehr. In this connection Blomberg repeats, what Hitler and Rudolf Hess have stressed again and again recently, and that is that that the new Germany does not want war and that it does not consider its army as an instrument of aggression or of conquests. The Reichswehr Minister defines his army as a school for the formation of character and wishes that every general conscription, a step which Germany is sure take one of these days. Blomberg considers the S. A., the S. S. and the "Work Service" (Arbeitsdienst) as the reservoirs from which the Reichswehr now draws its actual forces.

WHAT GIRLS AND BOYS CARRY IN THEIR POCKETS

ST. LOUIS, March 4—The St. Louis University News—student publication, garnered the following results from a "What do students carry in their pockets?" survey.

Thirty-three percent of women students carried cigarettes, and 28 percent of the men, pipes. The average man student carried \$2.69 in cash and street-car tokens. The average women student carried \$3.77. Cams were carried by 57 percent of the men and by 66 percent of the women. Nail files were carried by 35 percent of the men, while not one woman was found with one. The publication was pleased to note that "handkerchiefs were found upon the persons of almost all the students."

PRAHA, Czechoslovakia, March 2—Ten high officials of Czechoslovakia, including three personages of the Ministry of War, have been arrested for investigation on espionage charges, it was revealed yesterday.

Authorities divulged no names but indicated a thorough investigation would be made at what may be a widespread espionage syndicate.

They declared they had captured 10 officers and three students spying for Germany and Hungary. Previously only the three students were known to be under arrest. No further information was permitted.

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SWEETHEARTS LEAPED FROM AN AIRPLANE

ZURICH, Switzerland, March 2 — Charles Grieder, and Antoinette Joery, sweethearts, committed suicide yesterday by leaping from an airplane.

Emulating Jane and Elizabeth du Bois, the heartbroken American sisters who jumped from a plane over England last week, Grieder and Miss Joery jumped out of a plane near Basle and were crushed to death.

Their motive was not immediately known. They lived near Basle.

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Thumbnail biography of Mario Cozzi, operatic baritone heard on the NBC networks: Was born in Florence, Italy spent his childhood in South America and has been a resident of the United States since 1919, becoming a naturalized citizen . . . His operatic debut was made in his native Italy at La Scala in Milan in 1932 . . . First singing engagement in America after a career as private secretary to Gatti-Casazza, director of the Metropolitan Opera, was in the movies.

Morton Downey, the Wallingford, Connecticut, boy who made good in the big city, filled many jobs before he found his niche as a radio singer. He was a factory hand, a truck driver, a photograph salesman, an insurance solicitor and a railroad candy "butcher", among other things. He was singing at club smokers when discovered by Paul Whiteman and engaged for the S. S. Leviathan orchestra which started him on his way to fame.



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