



FIVE YEARS HITLER OVER AUSTRIA

SPECIAL EDITION of "AUSTRIAN NEWS"

Free Austrian Movement in Great Britain

ONE SHILLING

I AM happy to contribute a message to Austrians who will be gathered together to mark the sad occasion of the fifth anniversary of the violation of their country by the Third Reich.

There are those who do not realise the fatal consequences which followed upon the suppression of the independence of Austria.

To-day Austria stands at the head of the list of those countries whose liberties and independence the United Nations are committed to restore and Austrians in exile do well to keep alive the spirit of their country in anticipation of the day of Austria's final liberation.

SIR WALFORD SELBY.

(Former British Minister in Vienna)

"BEWARE THE IDES OF MARCH"

Dr. E. MULLER-STURMHEIM

THIS warning was given in March, 1938, not by a soothsayer to a dictator—as it did two thousand years ago—but by a number of clear-headed people to a number of statesmen occupying positions of the highest responsibility.

Disregard of this warning in 1938 brought as a consequence not the death of a dictator—as it did two thousand years ago—but the violation and enslavement of a whole country—Austria—and subsequently enslavement and death to a whole continent.

The first foreign frontier to be crossed by the Nazi barbarians, armed to the teeth, was that of Austria. Austria was chosen because of its strategic importance and military weakness.



"All Vienna full of joy . . ." wrote "Völkischer Beobachter" on 12th March, 1938.

The theatrically boosted popular rejoicing at the entry of the Germans into Austria, and the subsequent fraudulent plebiscite on April 10th, 1938, were the camouflage for the campaign of robbery and plunder long-planned by the Nazi regime. Austria was the first booty. The Austrian people's voices were silenced, their sons conscripted into the German army and war industry, their Quislings raised to sinecures and their patriots to the gallows, the gold treasure of the National Bank stolen, stocks of goods of every kind were plundered, and finally Austria was robbed of her very name.

All this the German lie machine euphemistically termed, "voluntary union and return home to the Reich."

And in fact the Nazis did succeed in befogging the minds of many people and sowing widespread confusion with regard to the question of Austria. Only a few—and among the first Winston Churchill—realised the deception and the tragedy; that Austria was not sacrificing herself, but was being sacrificed. The first victim, as Churchill said.

As a result of long and patient explanation, in which the Free Austrian Movement has played a leading part, it has been possible gradually to bring light into the artificial darkness of the Austrian problem. People are beginning to see that Austria is not an enemy country but an enemy occupied country. The liberation of Austria has become a declared British war aim.

On November 9th, 1940, Prime Minister Churchill described Austria as one of the countries "for whom we have drawn the sword and for whom our victory will supply liberation."

In the eyes of far-seeing statesmen and politicians the creation of an independent Austria means the guarantee of a lasting peace. This conviction was clearly expressed by Lord Sempill in his memorable speech on February 2nd, 1943, in the House of Lords, when he declared:—

" . . . It is upon the re-establishment on solid foundations of Austria's independence that the duration of the peace settlement which we aim eventually to achieve may well depend."

Lord Perth, too, expressed similar sentiments:—

"that Austria should be, and should remain, liberated from German domination."

It is of the utmost importance to insist that the Austrian people are thinking and feeling in the same way. It may be that hatred against the brutal foreign rule of the Nazis has not yet found expression in the forms expected and desired. But the Austrian people—exactly like every other nation oppressed by the Nazis—are ruthlessly exposed to the terrorism of the Germans. Every word spoken openly against the Nazis means imprisonment, every act of sabotage death. Yet in spite of everything resistance is growing daily.

The Nazis are sensitive as regards Austria. Resistance by the Czechs or Poles is something natural, but resistance by the Austrians they have "liberated" is a deadly thrust at their prestige. Hence we do not hear so much about acts of sabotage in Austria.

But the resistance is growing. In spite of all terror, the Ostmark, province of the Nazis, is again turning into the Austria of the Austrians.

The numerous Austrians who have been executed were the active fighters who have given up their lives for the cause of the United Nations.

The nearer the armies of the Allies draw to the heart of the enemy the more important, indeed decisive, becomes Austria for the conduct of the war. The Austrian question directly affects the war. The military significance of Austria was underlined most impressively and urgently by Lord Strabolgi in his speech in the House of Lords (February 2nd, 1943) in which he said:—

"If the Mediterranean coast of Europe is the soft under-belly of the Axis, then Austria is the soft under-belly of Germany; it is the way into Germany through the Balkans. Therefore any popular movement in Austria to support an invading army moving up through the Balkans can be of the greatest service to the cause of the United Nations. For that reason alone I consider that we should make every endeavour to encourage all those in Austria who are discontented with the Nazi tyranny and who are prepared to assist our case."

So far, however, little has been done to encourage the Austrian people. How can our fellow-countrymen in the homeland expect to be treated as friends when we Austrians here in exile are still considered as enemy aliens?

Austria was the bridge over which the triumphal train of the Nazis passed. It can be the bridge over which the triumphal train of the Allies will cross. The Austrian people are waiting to hear from the Allies words of support in their struggle.

Just as five years ago, to-day voices are again raised in warning and admonition, pointing to the decisive role of Austria in the struggle against the German foe. This time the voices should not go unheeded.

"Beware the Ides of March!"

GERMANISATION BY FORCE

JENÖ KOSTMANN, Editor of "Zeitspiegel"

THE occasion of the fifth anniversary of the annexation of Austria (probably the last one which Hitler will celebrate in possession of his first conquest by force) makes it appropriate to describe in broad outline the forms and methods the German overlords employ to hold Austria down. At the same time this brief study may serve to illustrate the fact, now widely recognised, that Austria is not a part of Hitler Germany but an occupied and oppressed country.

German Rule in Austria.

Unlike the other European countries oppressed by Germany, in Austria the very appearance of a separate national existence has been eliminated in the political forms of the regime. After a transitional period of one year, during which Austria was permitted to exist as a unit within the Greater German Reich under the false name of the "Ostmark,"¹ the country was split up into seven "Gaus" (districts). These are completely separated from one another, and each one is ruled by its "Gauleiter", Hitler's personal representative, acting directly on instructions from Berlin. In an effort to expunge every trace of Austria's existence, even the ancient names of the provinces Upper and Lower Austria were changed to "Upper and Lower Danube." In this way the Germans created the "Gaus" of Vienna, Lower Danube, Upper Danube, Styria, Carinthia, Tyrol and Salzburg. The ancient historical boundaries of the Austrian provinces were arbitrarily altered. Vorarlberg was divided between Tyrol and Bavaria (in Southern Germany). Eastern Tyrol was incorporated in Carinthia; while annexed Slovene territories (actually part of Yugoslavia) were added to the Gaus of Styria and Carinthia, under the names of "Lower Styria," "Lower Carinthia" and "Upper Krain." Burgenland was incorporated in the Gau Lower Danube, which was artificially enlarged further by the addition of a part of southern Moravia (actually part of Czechoslovakia). All this was evidently intended to reconcile the Austrians to the fact of their own slavery by giving them the impression of an increase in territory.

The Gauleiters are at the same time "Reichsstatthalter,"² and by virtue of their combined offices exercise unlimited powers. All Austrian representative bodies, right down to the parish councils, were dissolved and abolished.

The position in Vienna is typical. The District Leader and Governor of Vienna is the German, Baldur von Schirach, who has set up his residence in the former Austrian House of Parliament, now turned into the "Gau-house." The Vienna municipal administration is merely a part of the government, and the Mayor of Vienna, a German of the name of Philip Jung, is a subordinate official of the Governor. The administration is carried on by the "District Office leaders," who are nearly all Germans. The official in charge of personnel for the municipality of Vienna is the Prussian Junker,³ Bodo von Dennenitz. Similarly, the other large towns mostly have German mayors from the Reich, e.g., Geiger in Salzburg, Kaspar in Graz, etc. Most of the offices concerned with labour and food, important for the exploitation of Austria, are also in the hands of Germans. The Austrian Nazi Quislings are to be found in the German administrative departments (5 of the 7 Gauleiters are Austrian Quislings, viz., Rainer, Uiberreither, Eigruher, Hofer and Dr. Jury), but they have not been allowed to set up even a puppet Austrian Quisling administration, as has been the case in Norway, Holland, etc.

Military Forces.

The territory of Austria forms the 17th and 18th military regions of Germany. The entire military forces of, for example, Vienna, Lower and Upper Austria, are in the hands of three German generals, Stampfl, Streccius and Bogatsch. (It is characteristic that not a single name of any member of the former Austrian general staff or the Austrian high command appears among the German officers of high rank, with the exception of the traitor Loehr). From the point of view of repression, Austrian territory is covered by the S.S. and S.A. sectors of Donau (Danube) and Alpenland (under the command of Germans such as von Schorlemer and Wilhelm Dittler). Vienna is garrisoned by at least one, but probably two, Divisions of the Armed S.S. composed of "Volksdeutsche"⁴ from the Balkans.

A completely new S.S. barracks has been built in Schönbrunn, and the Marrokaner Barracks (formerly used by the police) has been turned into an S.S. barracks, and this is also used as the headquarters of the Armed S.S. Command. The entire S.S. of

Vienna is under the command of the German Lieutenant-General von Behr of the Armed S.S. "Shock troops" have been organised to supervise the workers in the factories.

The Penetration of German Capital.

The penetration of Austria by German capital is complete. One can say that, industrially, Austria has become a province of the Hermann Goering concern. Among the important production plants in Austria which now belong to this concern are:

The Simmering and Graz Wagenwerke (these also belong to the Union of German Carriage Works).
Pauker Maschinenwerke.
Alpine-Montan, with all its plants and subsidiaries.
Steel Construction Works in Linz (newly built after the annexation).
Steirische Gusstahlwerke (Styrian Cast Steel Works).
Eisen- und Stahlwerke in Ferlach (iron and steel works).
Graz-Koeflacher Railway, with its big lignite mines.
Obersteirische Eisenwerke.
Steyr-Daimler-Puch Works.
Danube Steamship Company.
Linz Shipyards,
and many others.

The Goering concern alone controls:—

% of output for whole of Austria.	
95 iron ore.	100 lead and zinc.
90 magnesite.	90 lignite.

100% of the entire cellulose production, and much else.

The *Vereinigte Stahlwerke*, of Essen, control among other undertakings, the Wagner & Biro Works (bridge-building) and the Enzesfelder Munition Works.

The *I. G. Farbenindustrie* has taken over the entire chemical production.

The electric power stations, which are so vitally important for Austria, are controlled by the German holding company *VIAG* through the "Alpen-Elektro-AG."

The former chief Austrian Bank, the *Centralanstalt-Wiener Bank Verein*, is now a branch of the Deutsche Bank.

The above survey, brief as it is shows how completely all Austrian capital assets have been taken over by German capital.

Germanisation.

From the very first the forcible Germanisation of Austria was carried on at full pressure. One of the methods employed was the forcible transfer of population on a large scale and another was propaganda. At least 500,000 Austrians are estimated to have been sent out of the country (not including either the men conscripted into the German army, or the Jews deported or driven out). During the past year, mass deportations of small and mountain farmers in particular took place. There is a "secret plan," elaborated by State Secretary Backe, according to which in the event of a German victory, the problem of the small and mountain farmers is to be "solved" by enforced mass re-settlement in the East and mass expropriation. The expelled Austrian population would be replaced by Germans and "Volksdeutsche," who would be settled with the assistance of the German Settlement Company.⁵ In this way Austria's existence as a nation would be destroyed.

In the field of propaganda and education, it is forbidden even to mention the name "Austria." The teaching of Austrian history is also forbidden. Austrian artistic and cultural works, the creations of Austrian genius, are offered to the youth as "German works of culture and genius," and their effect thus neutralised.

Terror.

The number of victims of the German overlords can only be estimated. One can safely estimate the number of Austrians at present in concentration camps at about 200,000 (including most of the members of the last Austrian Government). The number

¹ Ostmark means literally "Eastern March," i.e., eastern border province.

² Reich governors on behalf of Germany.

³ Big landowners of Prussia, generally belonging to the aristocracy.

⁴ "Volksdeutscher" is the Nazi term used to describe (a) a member of one of the German-speaking minorities living in various European countries, e.g., Roumania, Yugoslavia, Czechoslovakia, Poland, who are descended from German emigrants of several hundred years ago. (b) a non-German speaking person whom the Nazis consider as of German descent. It is interesting to note that this category also includes the German settlers of South America, many of whom do not speak German.

⁵ German enterprise which has already appropriated nearly two million acres of Austria's best farmland, which are now administered by "trustees" of the Company.

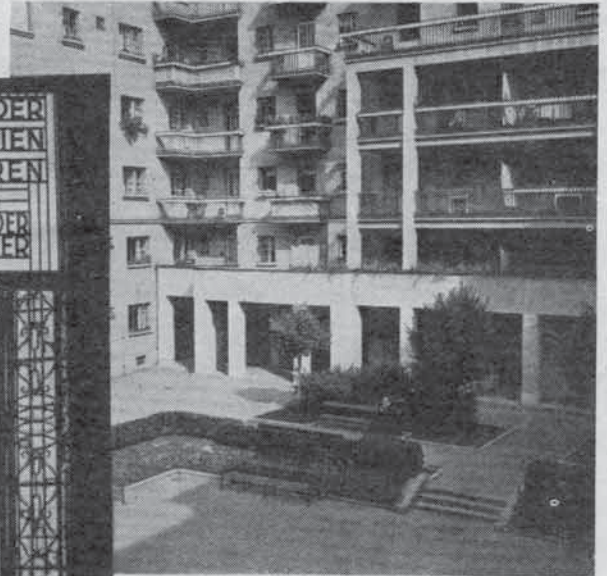
of victims of the Hitler terror who have suffered death is estimated to be about 120,000. After Heydrich was murdered in Prague, many thousands of Austrian patriots were sent to forced labour companies and camps as "anti-social elements." During the period from September, 1942, to January, 1943, 86 death sentences and executions for "high treason" alone have been announced by

the People's Courts. This means almost one execution for high treason per day.

The above study can only give a general idea. It cannot describe the innumerable crimes committed by the German occupation authorities and their Austrian Quislings. But the time is ripe for a full description, to support the demand for just retribution.



Workers' Dwellings in Vienna.



Photos: Casparius

AUSTRIA'S INTERNATIONAL VOCATION

Dr. OTTO HARPNER

I shall determine whether a few nations shall dominate over enslaved mankind, or whether all nations shall work together in the service of free mankind. Internationalism versus the nationalism of the master-race! Internationalism does not mean a denial of the right to national independence, but sees in the latter a way to serve humanity.

Austria, situated where three great national groups came together and mingled—Slavonic, Roman and Germanic—has always had the task of bringing to full flower the plant produced by the crossing of these three great mainstocks of European culture. Sometimes failure threatened owing to national intransigence, sometimes owing to a desire among certain sections to incline towards Germany on the basis of the common language, sometimes through an attempt to use the role of connecting link between the peoples in order to dominate instead of to serve.

It would, I think, be wrong to conclude from such episodes, which occur in the history of nearly every nation, that Austria would not be worthy of being again entrusted with her historic task, as a nation enjoying full freedom.

But the world of the future must learn that it is not enough to restore the small states for their great tasks; it is essential to secure steadfastness from within. This applies to Austria perhaps more than any other country, since it must be perforce a link in the international chain, for geographical, strategic, political, economic and cultural reasons. Care will have to be taken that this obvious breaking-point is not overstrained, as in the past. For the world disintegration that began in Vienna in March, 1938, was closely connected with the fact that it was the enemy of cultural progress who perceived the weaknesses of the world more quickly and clearly than the defenders.

While Austria was left without help from outside during the period between the last war and the present one, it would be inconsistent with everything for which democrats are fighting and in which they believe, if the future should be built up on a foundation of force from without. Other small states, in particular Austria's neighbour Switzerland, may be entrusted with tasks of international politics. But the world will hardly find a more suitable community to undertake cultural tasks than that of Vienna and Austria, with its great traditions.

The Austrians in exile are fighting on behalf of the world, Austria and themselves, for the right to link up the story of Austria's service to mankind at the point where it was brutally cut five

years ago. They feel called upon to do so, on behalf of their fellow-countrymen in the homeland holding the same opinion whose mouths are gagged, as the group of Austrians who were driven out of their country by German nationalist terrorism. They were driven out because the idea of the master-nation cannot tolerate the conception of an international outlook. The majority, though by no means all, are Jewish. But this will not make them inferior citizens in a future Austria faithful to its international tasks. It was precisely the Austrian Jews who always remained true to Austria's international mission. Names such as Mahler, Schnitzler, Hofmannsthal, Freud, are a symbol of the fact that Austria, Jewry and world citizenship are more than merely compatible.

When one mentions international Austria, people think at once of the laughter of women, of fiddles playing in waltz-time, of mountain lakes, festival plays at Salzburg, and Sachertorte! And they are right. For these things too serve humanity in helping to increase the joy of life. Certainly we must not forget that behind them lies the Austria of work and worry. The programme of "Freedom from fear and want" must be made a reality.



Bregenzerwald (Vorarlberg).

MESSAGE FROM A U.S.A. CITIZEN

As an American citizen, and as a free human being, I am interested in seeing a government established in Austria, and among all other peoples everywhere, which will guarantee to each individual the maximum of liberty compatible with the general welfare as determined by the whole. All democratic



Motive from the Tyrolese Alps

governments are coming to realize, some more rapidly than others that political liberty and a desirable social equality cannot be permanently maintained unless based on reasonable economic opportunity for all. It would seem that this factor of economic opportunity should be carefully considered by those who have the responsibility of restoring peace and order in Europe and elsewhere. My own state of Texas, which is the largest and probably by far the most nearly self-sufficient, voluntarily gave up an independent existence in 1845 to join itself with the United States. This union has proved to be an act of wisdom in that it contributed to the broad economic base upon which the American republic now rests. Had Texas gone its separate way, its existence would always have been precarious and its anxieties much greater than they now are. By an act of voluntary federation with its neighbouring states it has gained strength and security and a greater guarantee of human and political rights.

If in the final settlement, Austria and its equally decent neighbours could agree among themselves to federate, it should be advantageous to all the component parts and to the world as well. Thus, I think, Texas would speak out of her own experience to Austria and also to some of Austria's neighbours.

WALTER PRESCOTT WEBB,

Harmsworth Professor of American History, Oxford.



The Grossglockner Highway.



AUSTRIA'S CULTURE—A EUROPEAN NECESSITY

Dr. H. ULLRICH

WE will not discuss whether there is a typically Austrian culture, having its roots in the peculiarities of our country, its people, and its spiritual and material conditioning factors. This "whether" is to-day no longer in doubt; for us Austrians and for those who looked at our country with open eyes it never was. But to-day we may assume, with justification, that our British friends and their Allies also share our opinion, which is a confession of faith.

The myth of "total German culture" has long been recognised as one of the innumerable propaganda lies with which the Third Reich was able to deceive the world for so long. It seems hardly open to dispute any longer that a culture which was able to develop "the precious flower of the baroque style out of a mutual happy penetration of southern and native architecture" (A. Wildgans); which could look back upon a splendid literary tradition, and upon the oldest and most varied dramatic tradition, a culture which over a century and a half concentrated the musical genius of the continent on Vienna as in a reflector, is of vital importance and originality; and that its peculiarity should be preserved and protected from losing its identity in a mixture of elements foreign to its character. And yet it is necessary to give proof once more of the outstanding importance of an independent Austrian culture as the corner-stone of a future Europe—not to our enemies, who seek to extinguish it because it forms an obstacle to their "Greater German" barbarian state, but to those of our friends to whom the significance of the question is not yet clear.

To-day the opinion prevails that post-war Austria should participate in a federation of neighbouring states and collaborate with them in the rebuilding of Central Europe. Nevertheless, there are still heard voices which express doubt in the right to existence of so small a state. They are wrong. A country's military strength and economic power may be in proportion to its size and the number of its inhabitants, not so its culture. History

teaches us that precisely in small states culture flourished and reached the highest level, and was spread over wide areas through peaceful influence or colonial development. It was Athens, small and weak, not spacious Boeotia, not the rigid military state of Sparta, which raised Greek culture to its highest level. When the Macedonian military monarchy, the Prussia of the antique world, united the Greek Mediterranean territory under its rule—who shall say that history does not for ever repeat itself?—the last hour of Greek culture struck. In the gigantic "total Greek empire" of Alexander and his successors it degenerated into the decaying culture of Hellenism, affected by oriental influences, from which the greatness and originality of the antique culture quickly disappeared.

It was in the small city-republics of Florence, Pisa, Bologna, whose territory was smaller than Greater London, not in the centres of political power, Naples and Piedmont, that there arose the modern, objective scientific spirit which overcame mediaeval dogmatism and gothic narrowness and created the Renaissance and with it modern culture.

How important was the contribution of the small Netherlands to science, painting and etching during the seventeenth century; how considerable was the share of even smaller Denmark in the great literary and artistic developments of the nineteenth century! And does this not apply also to Switzerland, whose cultural achievements are no whit inferior to those of the greater nations?

The only real danger for small nations lies in self-sufficiency, in the tendency towards isolation. But this was never so with Austria, whose culture has always borne a European character. Arising from the crossing of the most diverse influences—Roman, Slavonic, Magyar and Germanic—in the heart of Europe and at the junction of the great European highways—it was necessarily universal in character. This tendency was also helped by Austria's Catholic outlook, for the Church is based upon the idea, expressed in its structure, of the subjection of extreme nationalism, and is essentially a universal institution.

It was no mere chance that precisely in Austria, which again and again protected with its own body western civilisation against the barbarian menace, (which at that time came from the East), there came about that mighty concentration of productive forces, whose results we see before us in that culture which the old Austria created and the young Republic took over as a beloved heritage bringing with it obligations. The impoverished small state which arose from the ruins of the world war, did not merely carefully tend this heritage as Europe's trustee; by making the greatest exertions it succeeded in developing and extending it and adapting it to the conditions of a new period.

This small country, mutilated and economically distressed, made the greatest sacrifices in order to preserve the precious possession of the former Court Theatres—not for the Viennese

or the Austrians alone, but for the whole world. The dissolution of the old society of aristocrats and upper middle class after the war had changed the social and economic structure of the theatre-going public and robbed the stage of its financial substructure. The new Austria understood how to interest the middle and working classes in these world-famous art institutions, and by intelligent planning of repertoires and price policy recruited them as new theatre-goers.

The same thing was repeated in the case of the Philharmonic concerts, and indeed in musical life altogether, in which ever wider sections of the music-loving population were won over to serious art by the high standard of popular performances, workers' symphony concerts, etc.

Literary creativeness was fostered by the awarding of prizes for writing and splendid scenic productions. Writers like Wildgans, Stefan Zweig Hofmannsthal Schönherr exerted an influence far beyond the frontiers of Austria. From the works of Karl Kraus, Austria's greatest satirist since Nestroy, speaks the spirit of unsparring frankness and severe self-criticism which has been distinctive of Austrians at all times. Fostered by understanding authorities, Austria's ancient theatrical culture survived the crises, and in the Salzburg Festivals attracted the attention and admiration of the world and drew the elite of music and drama-loving Europe for four weeks every year. Here the most brilliant artists in the country delighted listeners from all over the world with their performances of Hofmannsthal's profound mystery play, Reinhardt's remarkable production of "Faust," the perfect interpretations of Austrian music given by the Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra under Toscanini or Walter.

Architecture, too, successfully carried out the tasks set by the new conditions; proof of this was given by the imposing blocks of flats built by the municipality of Vienna, the houses of the garden suburbs, Holzmeister's festival playhouse. A time of promise opened out for sculpture and painting, arts which thrive ill in the rough winds of economic and political crisis. It was a general cultural development, full of strong impulses. The troubled years of the 'thirties, produced by the seizure of power and the aggression of National-Socialism in neighbouring Germany, and finally the loss of independence as a state, brought this development to a sudden end. Only the roots survive, are sound and virile. They will produce new blossoms, as soon as Austria is able to lead its own national life again. A free, independent Austria, conscious of its great traditions, will be able to carry out mighty cultural tasks, not only within its own frontiers but also in close collaboration with the federated neighbouring states. Whoever frees Austria from foreign domination and gives it the opportunity for peaceful construction and its own national life, serves Europe and thus the cause of mankind.

SOME REFLECTIONS ON AUSTRIAN ECONOMY

DR. VIKTOR BLOCH

THERE can be no thought of placing the economic devastation that has been wrought in Austria on the same level as the losses in human life, shattered family life, and destruction of moral and spiritual values. Yet one must realise that these frightful phenomena have been possible only because social and economic forms of organisation which were to some extent backward and degenerate created a fertile soil for their development. It was the realisation of this fundamental connection that led to the Atlantic Charter, which opens up to the world the prospect of a better future.

This problem concerns all countries and will everywhere be difficult to solve; but the difficulties will be greatest where economic distress and the economic struggle have become acute. Among these countries is Austria.

Trying to form a picture of what a future Austria, suitably organised, correctly managed and happy, ought to look like, is a task which is more difficult perhaps than in the case of any other country. For there no longer exist even separate statistics for Austria, split up as it is into various "Gaus." Hence anybody who desires to get an idea of the technical and economic

basis upon which the new structure is to be built, is obliged to rely for the most part upon logical deductions and assumptions.

From this point of view it must be assumed that when the moment arrives for the Austrian people, liberated from the yoke of Nazi Germany, to take their future into their own hands, the country will be for all practical purposes completely stripped of consumption goods. Supplies of foodstuffs, most raw materials, semi- and finished manufactured goods, such as textiles, will have been used up. The season's crops will reflect in quality and quantity the shortage of labour, fertilizers, etc.

Productive machinery will probably be completely disorganised, as the Germans and their Quislings, who will have been occupying key positions, will have disappeared, while the actual productive sections of the population will be for some time so unsettled that productivity will suffer greatly. The numerous foreign workers will leave the country, while the Austrians returning from abroad or from the army will not be incorporated without some friction. The huge masses of people travelling will greatly impede the transport of goods, and the railway rolling stock and road transport vehicles, overstrained and neglected for years, will not be capable of a quick turn-round.

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What will be the probable position regarding the technical equipment of the production machinery?

It is known that when large-scale R.A.F. bombings of objectives in Germany started, a considerable transfer of industrial undertakings from Western Germany to Austria (and Czechoslovakia) took place. The complete change-over of German industry to a war economy must show itself clearly in this field. It can be expected that heavy industry, especially ore-mining, will have made considerable progress in volume and technique during the period of Nazi rule. Similarly, the manufacture of machinery will probably have been expanded, modernised and differentiated

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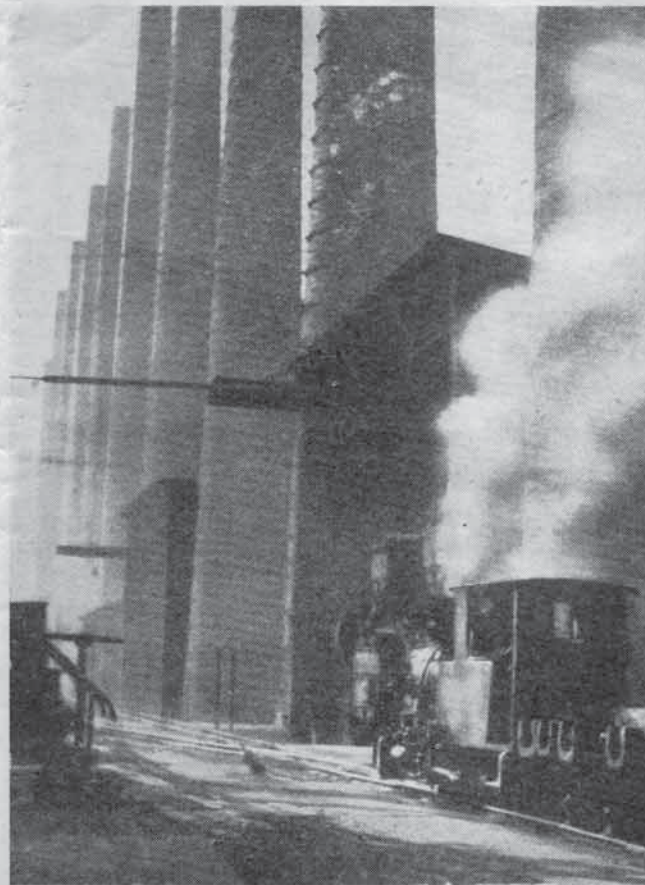
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—although with extensive specialisation for war requirements. Here the change-over to peace-time manufacture will probably not be too difficult.

On the other hand, all branches of consumption industry will most likely be in a catastrophic state—possibly with certain exceptions, where again the change-over to peace-time requirements will be simple.

It is clear that under these conditions the establishment of a functioning community will be exceedingly difficult. Moreover, the preliminary work is hindered by complete ignorance of the political framework in which the work of reconstruction is to be carried out.

In such an atmosphere of uncertainty about the situation in Austria to-day, and still more about the situation in the future, the Reconstruction Committee of the F.A.M. has to carry out its work; in addition it has the self-imposed limitation that no measures may be drafted or put forward which might encroach upon the rights of the Austrian people to set their own house in order.

Accordingly the Committee, in full agreement with the Executive Committee of the F.A.M., has decided to concentrate on an "emergency programme"; this, however, is to be worked out completely and in detail. This "emergency programme" comprises all the measures which will be necessary at the moment when Austria is severed from Germany to prevent the occurrence of further damage, the removal of Austrian goods out of the country—especially the booty collected by the Nazi criminals—and attempts at profiteering. This "emergency programme" also contains proposals for organising public life on a provisional basis.

Further tasks in the immediate programme are: the procuring of consumption goods, and, as far as possible, the cranking up of the productive machine again; sanitary and safety regulations will undoubtedly be necessary in view of the huge number of people who, it is expected, will be passing through and returning to Austria; care for the neglected youth; cleansing of the existing propaganda machinery and its transformation into a proper news and information service; and innumerable other tasks.

Whoever will be called upon to make the first spade-thrusts in constructing the foundations of the new, liberated Austria, will need extensive and thorough basic material to work on. And the more carefully and thoroughly this is prepared, the more smoothly and with the least loss will the transition be accomplished.

New Books on Austria:

"THE HOUSE OF LORDS on AUSTRIA" 1/6d.

Reprinted from the official protocol of the debates in the House of Lords, February 2nd, 1943.

"THIS IS AUSTRIA" 1/6d.

A short but comprehensive description of Austria, her history, art, science and beauty. Richly illustrated.

"RESTIVE AUSTRIA" 3d. "THE AUSTRIAN ALLY" 4d.

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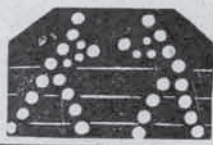


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