

Germany's Defense Against "Atrocities Propaganda"

As a matter of information and in its habitual non-partizan spirit "The Literary Digest" offers below official and editorial explanations of the government policy of the Dictator Chancellor Adolph Hitler, which have been obtained by cable at the particular request of "The Digest"

"I AM NOT FAMILIAR with any atrocities, either actual or alleged. How can I help it if you allege atrocities?"

With a flash of fire in his keen eyes, Dr. Hjalmar Schacht, President of the German Reichsbank, made this declaration in an interview, "varied by gay retorts to defiant rudeness," which the tall financial authority gave to ship news reporters at New York on his way to Washington to participate in a series of conferences with President Roosevelt on world affairs.



The German Eagle Treads Down Foreign Lies

—"Kladderadatsch" (Berlin).

Told that the German Government plans to send a committee to the United States to ascertain America's reaction to the Nazi program of the German Government, Dr. Schacht remarked acridly:

"Your papers should enlighten you as to what is happening. There is no need for sending committees to do this. If your papers gave the facts it would greatly help."

By way of following this suggestion of so distinguished a German official, THE LITERARY DIGEST asked Chancellor Hitler for a direct comment on his policy, especially in its effect on Jews in Germany. Chancellor Hitler referred the request to Dr. Paul Joseph Goebbels, Minister of Public Enlightenment and Propaganda in the Nazi Government, who specifically authorizes the following statement to be made in THE LITERARY DIGEST:

"No one in Germany combats the Jew because he is a Jew. No Jew in Germany is disturbed because he is a Jew. Germany defends herself exclusively against the Bolshevist elements, and in connection with this defense we can not discriminate whether a Bolshevist is a German or a Jew.

"Furthermore, the German people are attempting to reachieve German leadership for the country.

"For example, if 2,400 lawyers out of Berlin's total of 3,500 are Jewish, it is readily understandable to any one that the people must be opposed to such a situation."

FURTHER explanation of the Hitler policy appears in an editorial especially written for THE LITERARY DIGEST, and communicated by cable, by Director Fritz Klein, chief editor of the powerful *Deutsche Allgemeine Zeitung*. The transition to the present stage in Germany would not have been so brusque, he maintains, if two or three years ago the Hitler movement could have been incorporated into a government together with other parties. As things are, Dr. Klein points out:

"Germany at present is undergoing a political and spiritual revolution, the main reason for which is the protest of the German people against the Treaty of Versailles. With this is closely related the parliamentary system of government which has proved incompatible with the needs of the German peoples. In addition there is the tiredness of the masses because of the ever-more-frequent political elections, and the sympathy of the young generation for a strict régime based upon the nation's history, national pride, honor, and freedom.

"These reasons made the National Socialists grow under the lead of Adolf Hitler, who has a great talent for mass psychology, oratory, and propaganda."