

A STRIKING AND IRONICAL SIMILARITY is to be found between the Hitlerite German Government and the Bolshevik Government of Soviet Russia.

First of all, appears the concentration of all power in the hands of a single party.

Secondly, the Soviet and German dictatorships are said to be

not mere one-man shows of Stalin and of Hitler. Rather they are systems of thought which have won the allegiance of considerable numbers of Russians and Germans, and have compelled the acquiescence of the remainder.

This is the contention of a correspondent of the *London Observer*, who notes further that both systems are dominated by fanatical and absolute convictions, and he reminds us:

“Everywhere in Germany to-day one encounters the belief in the supreme cultural, moral, and civilizing mission of the Aryan race. And all articulate Russia has been

taught for the last decade and a half that the proletariat has the high destiny of remolding civilization on a higher plane.

“If one mentally substitutes a race complex for a class complex, or vice versa, an extraordinary number of Russian and German manifestations seem very similar.

“This is, perhaps, even more true in the cultural than in the political field. For years the Soviet stage and the Soviet cinema have been filled with productions showing the proletarians triumphantly building new factories, electrical power plants, State and collective farms, and what not, crushing the bourgeois saboteur, sweeping forward to a new social order.

“And Germany to-day is experiencing an extraordinary flood of plays and cinema performances, extolling the past and present glories of the Teutonic race.

“Absolute ideas invariably demand victims; and the ruthless treatment which is deliberately meted out to Jews in Germany is closely paralleled by the creation in the Soviet Union of a sort of pariah caste of ‘Lishentsi’ or disfranchised persons.

“Under this classification fall former aristocrats and merchants, priests and ministers of religion, kulaks, or former well-to-do peasants, etc.; and the ‘Lishenetz’ in Russia leads a miserable existence, unable to receive a food card, liable to expulsion from the larger cities, disqualified for State employment.”

THE dismissal of hundreds of German professors on grounds of racial origin or the holding of views distasteful to the present régime, we are told, finds a close parallel in the purging of Russian universities, where the suspicion of “anti-Marxism” is as dangerous to the harassed savant as the suspicion of “Marxism” is to his German colleague. So it is argued:

“The difference in doctrine and ideals between National Socialism and Russian Communism only serves, in some ways, to bring out more strongly some similarities of method and psychology. Both dictatorships, in contrast to the old-fashioned type of hereditary autocracy or military dictatorship, enjoy the organized support of considerable masses of the population, so that even foreign observers who are most skeptical about the high claims put forward for the Aryan race in Germany and for the proletariat in Russia are generally inclined to concede the long-term stability of the Hitlerite and the Soviet régimes.”