

Verbundkatalog Kalliope

Munich Schools.

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One week ago today the first schools ~~hphh~~ re-opened in Munich. According to an official list compiled by the educational department of the local Military Government, forty elementary schools (Volksschulen) started to operate last Monday. Among the 52 500 children between the ages of 6 and 14 who had registered, there were two Jewish boys. 40 000 youngsters actually turned up and were received by 500 teachers. 25 000 "purified" text books were distributed. They dealt with reading and arithmetic only and covered the curricula of the four lower grades.

The children of this city have been school-less for more than a year. Those who stayed at home learned nothing and forgot much. Those who were sent to safety by the K.L.V. - "Kinder-Land-Verschickung" (Committee for the evacuation of children to the country), were allegedly given a minimum of instruction. But ~~hphh~~ long before the actual closing of all Munich schools the educational system had been thoroughly shaken. A severe shortage of teachers, the destruction of many school houses and the ever increasing demands of the Hitler Youth had done away with all "normality" - even with what the Nazis considered "normal". Thus the first school days were bound to be chaotic, all the more so since barely 50% of the teachers had managed to survive the political thunderstorm known as "De-Nazification".

This in mind I let five days pass before embarking on my inspection tour.

The first school on my approved list had failed to open. The second had closed at 10 a.m. Its one inhabitable room was small and ill-equipped. An additional class room was being cleared of debris and would be ready some time next week. In the third - the suburban Ridler School - conditions proved somewhat complicated.

I told its principal that I should like to attend a number of classes and was advised to return next Tuesday.

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glorified many a nazi "ideal". Although the youngsters to whom he was talking now, were not the same who had listened to him then, he could hardly help feeling embarrassed by the discrepancy between his old ~~teachings~~ teachings and his new stand. Perhaps it was for this reason that in his inaugural address he never once mentioned "National Socialism" by name. He would speak of "conditions which prevailed only too long and which some of us never liked". He would say that a "new, clean start" was called for and that "Germany must re-gain the respect of the world". Without referring directly to the "Hitler Youth", he would ~~blatantly~~ ridicule its institutions. Why should any boy have to obey a "Fuehrer" who himself was nothing but a boy? The youngsters, many of whom may not have caught the meaning of his will-intentioned generalities, looked stubborn. One - he might have been a Hitler youth poster come to life - displayed an arrogant grin. For the rest Herr Zaune's remarks prompted no reaction.

With no books available and all branches of ~~learning~~ learning, except reading, elementary science, local geography (Heimatkunde) and arithmetics "verboten", the teacher then ^{resorted} ~~resorted~~ to testing the mathematical abilities of his class. While some seemed eager to answer every question and, if asked, answered correctly, others proved incapable of solving even the most primitive problem. For many months to come German school classes may have to be composed according to standards rather than to age. Fourteen years old children may have to be grouped with children of nine, so as not to hamper the progress of their less backwards contemporaries.

Asked, whether, to his mind, this particular class who knew nothing but Hitler's world and who, for four decisive years had been "Hitler boys" first and last, might yet be "cured", he answered swiftly in the affirmative. Their minds, he said, were flexible enough. But their faces, hard, locked and unapproachable, did little to justify his contention.

No secondary school has thus far been licensed. Despite much pressure on the part of the Catholic clergy who wish all confessional schools presently to resume operations, Military Government authorities seem unwilling to act prematurely. The priests, on the other hand, are not easily discouraged. Weeks before the official re-opening of any school in these parts, children have been observed, carrying school bags and travelling in various directions on street cars and railways. Questioned by M.G. personnel, they said that it was "religious classes" which they were about to attend. It was discovered, however, that a number of catholic schools had illegally re-opened and that their curricula were by no means limited to religious matters. Wherever a child did not live close enough to its school to get ~~hhhh~~ there ~~without a~~ ^{travel permit} ~~hhhhhhhhhh~~, such a permit had been issued by the fearless priests. end article.

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