

SWASTIKA MENACE.

From Cologne, third largest city of Western Germany, came news that shocked the Free World. Nazism, foulest creed of the 20th Century, had shown its blood-stained hands again. The swastika, symbol of Hitlerism, had been daubed on a synagogue. It made headline news in the German Press - every Press. The Jew-baiters were on the prowl. Would they soon be on the march? Not only in Germany. Even a few English synagogues bore the foul insult. Cologne has sparked off the anti-semitism, dormant in Britain in normal times. Thuggery was coming out, under cover of night. Denouncing it in forthright manner, spoke Dr. Donald Soper, a former President of the Methodist Conference:

"Even if these exhibitions of Nazism and Anti-Sematism are insignificant in the sense that there are only a few of them, comparatively speaking. Even if they are the results of Juvenile Delinquency rather than the organised renaissance of the evil thing, I find them most disturbing and I'm anxious that they should be opposed; that we should denounce them at once - because I remember what happened 25 years ago.

Whether I am a Christian or a Jew. Whether I am a westerner, whether I am black or white or yellow or brown, this is an expression of something which is animal-like, sub-human, and ought to be opposed in every form and at this moment so that it doesn't get a hold.

It is the plain duty of every human being worth the name, to oppose strenuously, consistently, and finally this evil thing, and eradicate it now, so that it doesn't take hold again as it did with all the attendant horrors some of us remember in the past" ..

West Berlin's new synagogue is under guard. For even in the capital of pre-war united Germany, anti-semitism is crawling out of its hiding places. Alfred Staats, 49-year-old municipal worker, was arrested for shouting Heil Hitler in a restaurant. Two youngsters, 17 and 18, were charged with him. A small thing in itself, but indicating that the fires of Hitlerism are not out. They smoulder, ready to burst into flames. Staats was sentenced to 17 months.

Prior to 1945, for more than a decade, the swastika met the eye everywhere in Hitler's Germany. When he came to power in 1933, Hitler declared that the Third Reich had two main enemies; outside the countries wishing to keep Germany down; inside, the Jews.

Most Germans swallowed the Hitler creed, lock, stock and barrel. On the night he became Chancellor they marched outside the Chancellery; ready for anything (in the nightmare years to come), that the mesmeric madman might order. If he cried "Persecute the Jews", then the Germans would persecute, on a scale beyond anything even the Children of Israel had ever known.

First sign of madness was the Burning of the Books. Into the flames went anything written by Jews, anything contrary to the Nazi doctrine. It was all terrifyingly pagan, yet this was the 20th Century. Goebbels was there. He said: The time of Jewish idealism is ended. Leave the ungodliness of the past to the flames.

Then came organised attack on Jewish shops and other property. In this the young Nazi thugs had Hitler's blessing.

All Jewish shops were clearly marked, and it was almost more than any German's life was worth to be seen buying in one. At first the aim was to make it impossible for Jews to earn a living. Intelligent observers knew it was only a matter of time - a short time - before economic persecution led to torture and killing. With all this wonderful authority, the young Nazis had never had such a life. Perhaps many still alive pine for the good old days.

Given licence to persecute, and decked out in fine uniforms, it was the German idea of heaven. The annual Nuremberg Rally was bigger and better every year.

Hitler and his gang were putting Germany on top of the world. What did a few million Jews matter? In fact, trampling them down was all part of the fun. And Hitler was nearly ready now for the war of vengeance on other countries.

Hitler got his war. It ended with Berlin and many other cities just heaps of rubble. So was the Chancellery where he had ruled and ranted against the Jews. But, at the end, six million Jews had been put to death. Belsen and Buchenwald were strewn with thousands of corpses, the German had left unburied. Survivors were unspeakably wretched.

This was the end of Hitler Jew-baiting.

Now, 50,000 West Berliners marched to the memorial, erected to the memory of Jews and Gentiles tortured and slain by the Nazis. Dr. Adenauer, Mayor Willy Brandt of Berlin, and all responsible Germans join in strenuous denunciation of the new Jew-baiters. But understandably, Jews again everywhere fear that the great evil will once again be abroad over the land. You can almost hear the beating of its drums. Anti-Semitism, says Dr. Soper, is ideologically absurd and morally rotten. It must be banished now, for all time....