

## Dean Allen Finds European Nations Not Trained to Handle Democracies

(Editor's Note: This is one of several articles written for this newspaper by Eric W. Allen, dean of the University of Oregon school of journalism who traveled in Europe on a fellowship granted by the Oberlander Trust of the Karl Shurz memorial foundation.)

By ERIC W. ALLEN,  
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NYBORG, Denmark.—The Danes with their hard heads and soft hearts are, according to all reports, proving to be very unappreciative of the charms of Nazi propaganda. To turn their affairs over to a dictator to manage for them is about the last idea that would occur to a Dane. They are altogether too good at managing their own business themselves. And, like most people with long experience in democracy, they find actual enjoyment in the responsibilities of self-government. The Germans, during their short experience with a republic, apparently did not.

The German republic both began and ended with the Harding-Coolidge-Hoover dynasty in America. When the hard years came in 1932 and 1933, and the winds of unrest began to blow, the young and recently transplanted German republic was uprooted, while the old, gnarled oak of American democracy simply changed its shape a little, losing a few limbs here but sending out new branches there. It can be noticed that, the world over, the little new democracies were overturned, while the old, experienced, deeply rooted ones kept their old institutions with only minor changes.

The Scandinavian countries, like the Anglo-Saxon nations, have a long history of self-government. Their kings are pleasant gentlemen of the leading citizen type while the real power resides in their parliaments and their public opinion. A dramatic picture of how very old Scandinavian political freedom is can be found in the fact that the Parliament of Iceland recently celebrated its thousandth anniversary—the oldest national deliberative assembly on earth.

The Germans, on the other hand, had for centuries looked to their emperors, kings, grand dukes, and aristocracies for guidance in matters of major policy. Except for the handful of free cities (which conducted foreign relations) German experience in self government was confined to the municipal plane. Right in the midst of the post-war confusion, under the most unfavorable conditions possible, they were suddenly confronted with uncongenial and unfamiliar job of governing themselves. I have talked with hundreds of Germans of all sorts and of every possible kind of political belief, and am forced to the conclusion that they did not enjoy the experience. It is possible that even the Americans did not acutely enjoy the last three years of the Hoover administration (the time the German republic was tottering to its fall) but we have learned to take the bitter with the sweet, and are too experienced politically to hope for anything much better from any miracle-man.

In Germany things were much worse than in America. Furthermore—and here is the fact that shows how closely all the world is interwoven today—America made its own contribution to the rise of Hitler. The German papers carried much news of lynchings in America, of the exploits of the Capones and the Dillingers, of graft in municipal administration, of Teapot Dome and similar scandals, and—what is peculiarly shocking to the European peasant—of our failure to conserve our rich resources in forest timber and agricultural soil, and also—a similar shock to the European laborers—our failure to remedy joblessness in a land of great natural wealth, or to insure any real social security for the small man. And this, of course, was only one element in an enormously complicated situation, but it was critical. Many a German came to doubt whether the new and unfamiliar democratic institutions which had been imposed upon him after the war did not really constitute a gold brick—whether the democratic system was any good even under the most favorable cir-

cumstances in rich and politically experienced America.

In this sense, every failure of good and orderly government in any city or county in Oregon and in the thousands of other cities and counties in America, must bear its share of blame for Europe's tragedies of today. The world is small in these days and closely knit together.

Another factor. If the allies really wanted Germany to remain democratic and turn down Hitler and his leaders, they might have had the foresight to encourage the struggling young republic a little. They might have let the well-meaning Stresemann and Brüning bring home to Berlin a few little diplomatic triumphs once in a while to fortify their own popularity and the confidence of the Germans in them. Instead the victor nations, particularly the French, made the young republic's life as difficult as possible at every step—which possibly they might not have done had American public opinion in Medford and Baker and Klamath Falls and a thousand other such cities vigorously disapproved. Instead, it rather approved.

As it was, Germany turned to the individual who shouted loudest that he had a remedy and freedom has disappeared from much of the earth and the world's leading industry is the preparation of war materials. The tragedy of all this for Germany can only be appreciated by one who has lingered there and realizes how many thousands of kindly, fine people the country contains, how really rich is its ancient culture, and how much Germany could offer to civilization if it could—as it may—recover its sense of humor, forget all this nonsense about "race" and national glory and settle down to work like the Danes to make every citizen happy and contented and secure and intelligent in the light of God's truth as it appears to the free and unregimented but educationally self-disciplined human mind.

## THE Hehisch

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### Basketball Prospects Good

The Heppner basketball squad has been training diligently for the opening game of the season, December 4 with Echo on the local courts.

Four returning lettermen make the Fighting Irish's prospects exceptionally bright. Van Marter, center; Gilman, guard; Turner, forward, and Munkers, forward, are the lettermen. Turner, however, is eligible for competition only during the first semester. For the past week, fundamentals have been the main issue with the squad. With plenty of support, Heppner should have a team of championship caliber.

### Assembly

D. Poling was a welcome visitor of the high school Wednesday. He gave an interesting talk entitled "All Beings are Immortal," and followed it by leading the assembly in a few of the old favorite songs. It is hoped that he will continue visiting our school annually to present his interesting educational talks.

### Agriculture Class News

The Agriculture class I is preparing to start the main projects of the year. Some of the projects are the raising of sheep, hogs, cattle, chick-

ens and turkeys. Each member of the class will keep a budget of his project to find the operating cost and the profit. At the end of the year the students are going to check with each other to see which was the most successful project.

—H.H.S.—

### Eighth Grade News

James Gemmell, member of the eighth grade, has moved to Salem with his parents, as they are taking up their residence there. James will enter the Parrish junior high school there.

Six weeks' tests will be given this week.

The eighth grade will elect new class officers Wednesday for the following six weeks.

—H.H.S.—

### Humor

Did you ever:

Wonder who Andy Davidson rides around with after programs?

See Bill Browning testing milk?

Wonder why there isn't any larger turnout for basketball?

Wonder how some girls got their football letters?

Wonder why times "ain't what they used to be"?

Wonder how Munkers got to be assistant editor?

Wonder why Mr. Tetz brags on the Republicans all the time?

Wonder what Mr. Peavy thinks of his jokes?

Wonder whom the waltz was requested for at the last Parish house dance?

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We heard some of the alumni asking if Heppner high was going to have a good basketball team this year or follow the tradition of other years.

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Betty Bergevin: "That's a very queer pair of socks you have on, Vernon—one red and one green."

Vernon Knowles: "Yes, and I have another pair like it at home."

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Miss Peterson: "What does HO signify?"

Harriet Hager: "Well, ah, e-er—I've got it on the end of my tongue."

Miss Peterson: "Well, you had better spit it out. It's mercuric oxide."

### "H" Club

In the near future, probably the second week of December, the "H" club is sponsoring a show at the local theater. The name of the show has not been announced as yet, but it is expected to be a football picture. Any member of the student body will be able to sell tickets, and the one selling the largest number is entitled to a free pass to the show. The money the "H" club receives from this will go to pay for sweaters and letters that will be earned this year. The "H" club is hoping for your loyal support.

—H.H.S.—

### Hot Lunch Benefit

Last Friday night at the Heppner school gymnasium a program was given for the purpose of raising funds to provide hot lunches this winter for the students who live in the country. The program consisted of several selections by the school band, under the direction of Mr. Buhman, two one-act plays by the junior and senior English classes of the high school, two songs by the boys' trio of the high school glee club, and a piano duet by Marjorie Parker and Mr. Peavy.

Although there was not a large audience, the program was enjoyed tremendously by those who attended, due to the fine music provided by the band, the boys' trio, and the comedy from the two plays.

—H.H.S.—

### Club News

The clubs have held no meetings the past week, but intend to have meetings after the Thanksgiving vacation. Perhaps there will be more enthusiasm after the time of turkey, cranberry sauce, and the like.

T. H. Nichols, pioneer of the Lexington section, was a visitor here Tuesday. Mr. Nichols could not recall a drier fall than that just experienced, though he had seen some years in the past when snow fell on the dust.

Julian and Henry Rauch were among farmers of the north Lexington district transacting business in the city Tuesday.



SALT LAKE CITY, Utah . . . "King Norbest I" (above) won great honor. But it was costly. He was adjudged the finest of 1,000,000 turkeys, raised by members of the Northwestern Turkey Growers Ass'n. He was from the farm of Ed Spaulding of Provo. So he was crated and sent to the White House . . . for the President's Thanksgiving day dinner.

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