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"DEMOCRACY MARCHES" BY DOROTHY MACARDLE
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From Dorothy Macardle, for Thursday, Oct. 16, 1941, at 10:15 a.m. at Bristol

DEMOCRACY MARCHES

19/10/41

by DOROTHY MACARDLE:

'Live' from Bristol.

Wednesday/Thursday: October 15th/16th 0045 GMT: 0145 BST.

In Berlin, in 1913, an Irish-woman was talking to a German officer. She speaks about small nations and their rights. The officer laughed: "My dear lady, wait thirty years! There will be no small nations left!"

In the 28 years that have past since then, she has not forgotten the fierce anger that she felt. In spite of what our own little nation has suffered - in spite of the partition and divisions that keep Eire weak and neutral, my compatriot is anti-Nazi today.

roadcast in Overseas

Trans. I

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for he with the little nations!
It is only from Prussians that arguments against the existence of small nations, or of all nations, have been heard. I have known very rational people, between the wars, maintain that nations were artificial units and that patriotism was out of date. They contended that insularity, small-scale production self-centred economics, disputed frontiers and discontented minorities were the fruits of nationalism; that the clash of sovereignties produced international anarchy and must lead to war. I have heard it maintained that only some new form of the Pax Romana, the domination of some one mighty Power, could keep the world at peace.

They were wrong; they were as mistaken as that Prussian officer was and as Hitler is, for they left human nature out of account.

We have realized in these two years that patriotism is not an induced emotion and a nation is not an artificial concept. It is real, even if the factors which go to make it are ^{so} subtle and various that it is difficult to define. At the simplest it is an aggregate of people who are content to share territory, culture and government; and for that good and natural concord men and women are willing to die.

Intercontinental per. is being too slow

It is interesting, the peculiar affection which small countries inspire. It is an irritable, intimate, perdurable feeling, similar to family love. Such a country ^{for its citizens of this} has the charm ^{of its} of one's native village. In a small State laws and customs can be closely adapted to physical conditions and national temperament. Special characteristics are developed, with art and literature rooted in the soil and informed by the genius of place. Little nations are, as a rule, easily and openly administered. Each citizen has the sense of being, no infinitesimal, helpless fraction, but a responsible part of the whole. The feeling of possession is common ^{is strong}; compatriots are "members of one another" and true democracy can grow up.

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The defects and difficulties of nationalism are evident but are not irremediable. There was immense promise in Europe before the war. Denmark, for instance, had ^{attained} ~~achieved~~

~~for its people~~ a fine standard of living, high education and an unsurpassed honesty and confidence. All the Scandinavian countries gave an example of what co-operation can achieve. The Poles were restoring their lacerated nation. There were no more ardent nationalists, sounder economists, or better Europeans than the Czechs. In Belgium, King Leopold and van Zeeland were at work on proposals for international co-operation which might have averted war.

The dangers inherent in excessive and selfish nationalism had been recognised. The League of Nations was reforming its Covenant. In America and Europe the idea of Federal Union was being discussed. Slowly, we were all realising that political democracy was not enough: that economic democracy must follow and, then, democratic relations between the States. There might have to be sacrifices of sovereignty. To unite against aggressors was imperative.....

Slowly the governments were learning all this. Too slowly: the Nazis struck.

Under Hitler's New Order for Europe no nations great or small, except one, are to exist, unless as puppet States. The Master-race is to govern and plan for all. Industries will be concentrated in German hands, while the subject peoples labour in fields and mines. They will be trained, like Robots, each for his or her own task; their marriages

will be subject to restriction and their children's training taken out of their hands. The supposition is that, within a generation or two, populations ignorant of their own history will be submissive to the Nazi Yoke. With a thoroughness no previous aggressor has practised, Hitler has harnessed science and psychology to the completion of his scheme.

A different technique is employed for the reduction of each nation - conciliatory methods in the West, terrorism in the East, and every grade and combination between. Denmark, designed to shine as an example to Bire and other neutrals of the advantages of Nazi rule, is being exploited courteously. In Luxembourg, while Gauleiter Simon rules absolutely and adults are imprisoned for listening to British broadcasts, the children are forced to join the Hitler Youth and seduced with sports and games. For Poland, national obliteration is decreed. Its people are suffering ^{a very} the most efficient ^{decimation} persecution in history; the Nazis call it "biological war".

News comes in fragments. Gradually we are enabled to imagine what life in the victim countries has become. Ruin lies about the people and homelessness is the fate of millions. The dread of further evictions, of deportation, of prison, of the concentration camp, hangs over each and

all. Families are broken, for members have been killed or imprisoned or have disappeared. Gestapo spies are everywhere and armed enemy forces patrol the streets. Early curfew drives the people indoors. They dare not hold meetings, or speak or write their thoughts, read or listen to their Allies' news. Their religious organisations are brought under national-socialist control. Their children are schooled under Nazi supervision and taught distorted history. High schools and universities, laboratories and libraries are plundered and shut up. Newspapers and publishers are controlled. Currency, industry and agriculture, are reorganized in the interests of the Reich; food is exported to Germany and the people have not enough to eat. Hundred of thousands of men and women are forced, by one means or another, to go to labour in their enemy's country as servants or factory hands. Prisoners are losing their health; some, their reason; many, their lives.

Before every able-bodied man and woman lies the choice between miserable submission and resistance at the risk of inhuman punishment. And before patriots is the tormenting question, pregnant with mischief and dissension of when and how ~~it is best~~ to strike.

Russia's tremendous stand has lighted the beacon. Now, with the British commonwealth as an ally and the United States of America helping - now, some have decided, is the

time. News comes from all quarters of the vast European front. The Serbs are fighting, and dive-bombers are smashing their towns again. The Greeks are making guerilla war and suffering massacres. In Poland, sudden uprisings break out. In country after country, the submissive collaboration which Hitler hoped for has been refused him and the Nazis face subtle, infuriating frustration and revolt. Secret radios, secret newspapers spread the truth. In Denmark, cool methods of boycott and sarcasm and, ~~sometimes, cruder insult,~~ are used. Long prison sentences are the penalty. Heydrich has been forced to establish a reign of terror in Norway and Czechoslovakia. We hear of executions with and without trial - Belgians shot for distributing literature, Dutchmen for sabotage; hostages shot in Brussels and Paris; the guillotine at work in polish villages where, if a Nazi is killed, many Poles, taken at random, are executed and their bodies exposed.

in Norway, the
The Norwegian labour leaders, Hansteen and Vickstroom are dead; in Czechoslovakia, Dr. Kapka, ⁹General Vatek, and, ~~recently~~ nearly seventy more. "They shall be remembered for ever."

This must be the beginning of the end. No people, hearing day after day, of the cold-blooded execution of its loved leaders, its unknown patriots, ever forgets. The memory

becomes an hereditary wound. Mr. Churchill wrote once: "The grass grows over a battlefield, never over a scaffold." It is true. Hitler will not built his New Order where his scaffolds now stand.

But a New Order is being built. On September 24th, in London, representatives of ten invaded nations met: Belgium, Czechoslovakia, France, Greece, Yugoslavia, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland and the ^{Soviet Union} USSR. Mr. Eden and Commonwealth representatives consulted with them. Together, they endorsed the "Atlantic Charter." They formed an organisation, counting on American collaboration, for the economic restoration of their countries after the war. Old quarrels were put aside, Czechoslovakia co-operating with Poland, Poland with Russia. What an augury for the future was this!

The unity which all warning failed to create, common danger and suffering have achieved.

The foundation of the New Order in Europe being laid: ~~not a totalitarian State~~ it is and it is an international democracy.

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