Inside Germany

By Dorothy Thompson

It will be a great mistake to regard what is happening in Germany as primarily a Jewish matter. A relentless gangster, Bolshevism, which for five years has been held somewhat in check by the more conservative elements, has broken out. The leading officials in Germany today are Stach- le, the madman of Nuremberg and Goebbels, the "minister of enlightenment," who is totally ruthless, totally cynical, a careerist revolutionist of the Marx type.

Germany, a great, industrious, civilized people, is in the hands of a gang, and the German government is a superstructure. The foreign correspondents have been trying for five years to tell the world that this was the condition of affairs.

The representatives of the British, American and French press stationed in Berlin have, with negligible exceptions, been unanimous on this from the start.

Robert Dall, the veteran correspondent of The Manchester Guardian, wrote a book in the Spring of 1934, "Germany Unmasked," which opens with a quotation from a diplomatist at that time stationed in Berlin. "The conditions here are not those of a normal civilized country, and the German government is not a normal civilized government and cannot be dealt with as such."

Unfortunately the conservative government of Great Britain and since Mr. Bonnet because foreign minister, the government of France did not listen to their own experts. Mr. Chamberlain's advisors have not been his foreign office's advisors; his advisors have been a personal clique.

The action precedent to Munich was not taken on the advice of the Quai d'Orsay or of the French general staff.

The anarchy in Europe is a direct result of personal government, of the abysmal inability of the old conservatives to believe anything as utterly fantastic as the truth about what was going on, the inability of the British conservatives to abandon a policy when that policy had been outdated by new events, the fear of people like M. Bonnet of the radicalism of the French workers, and the absolutely false idea that Nazism was a threat, a threat to the rigid property rights of capitalism.

Since the Conservative government came into power in England in 1931 its policy has been to give Germany a free hand in the east against Russia. It has never abandoned that policy and it has been terrorized by Bolshevism, and has thought that it would be a very good thing to let Germany clean up the Russian experiment.

So emasculated has it been of this idea that it has never taken a really good look at the sort of experiment that was going on in Germany. If it had, it would have seen that, except for words and slogans, two experiments were rapidly approaching each other.

The real nature of Nazism has been concealed behind the front of the German diplomacy and the German bureaucracy as a whole, which the Nazi regime took over intact.

This bureaucracy and diplomacy is loyal to Germany to Germany, as such, matter what regime may be directing them. The bureaucracy is extremely efficient, patriotic, Royal, confident of its own abilities and politically stupid.

The same can be said of the German Army, whose spirit de corps is superb but who have always constituted a sort of state within a state, with a motto to let politics alone as long as politics let it alone.

The bureaucracy, the army and the foreign office have had their positions furnished a respectable front. Before Germany, no doubt that they were much more powerful than they are now, and that they could influence events while, step by step, the Nazi party, which is nothing more or less than a gang, destroyed every vestige of legitimate government in Germany.

The bureaucracy and the diplomacy, as well as every instrument of public opinion, now work with pride at their backs.

Every kind of political, economic or social organization which might have restored order has been demolished.