

DICTATORSHIP

T.U.C. LEADERS' WARNING

DANGER FROM RIGHT OR LEFT

From Our Labour Correspondent

The General Council of the Trades Union Congress, which is meeting at Brighton, where the Congress will sit next week, yesterday passed for publication a report on "Dictatorships and the Trade Union Movement." It is an unequivocal and emphatic document, declaring that the principle of dictatorship is the same, whether it is the dictatorship of Communists or of Fascists, and that trade unionism must oppose all dictatorships, whether of the Right or the Left. The declaration has been prompted by the Hitler dictatorship, and the opening section of the report contains an account of the political events in Germany which preceded the Nazi control of the State. There is a much briefer reference to the origin of the Communist dictatorship in Russia, followed by criticism and censure of the principle of dictatorship of every kind and an affirmation that "we should resist any attempt to supersede Parliament or undermine its democratic working. It still remains true that efficient government is no substitute for self-government."

EVENTS IN GERMANY

Tracing the course of events in Germany, the report points out that Germany never had a democratic Constitution until the revolution of 1918, and that the Weimar Constitution encouraged the formation of a multiplicity of political parties, and made it difficult for any one party to obtain a decisive majority. The Socialist party was easily the largest in the early post-War period, but the situation was radically changed by the Communist attack on the Social-Democratic Party and the trade unions. Another important influence had been the growth of nationalism, coupled with resentment of the terms of the Versailles Treaty. Then came discontent consequent upon the deterioration of economic conditions. At the end of last year there were over 6,000,000 unemployed workers in Germany. Gradually a feeling of desperation developed. Hitler appealed to nationalist sentiment and promised economic regeneration. Another significant factor was that political parties had established their own trade union organizations, and had their own youth and sports associations—there was little intermingling—and this development was carried farther by the creation by political parties of defence organizations. These bodies represented an appeal to mass force.

Dealing with later events, the report mentions that the German trade union leaders twice—and the second time as late as April 9—asked the International Federation of Trade Unions not to pass a resolution of protest against the Hitler régime on the ground that such action

GERMAN EXILE MURDERED

JEWISH OPPONENT OF NAZIS

ARRESTS AT MARIENBAD

FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT

PRAGUE, AUG. 31

Herr Theodor Lessing, a former Professor of Philosophy at the Polytechnic in Hanover, was murdered last night at Villa Edelweiss, Lazne-Marianske (Marienbad). Several local Nazis have been arrested.

The murderers had placed a long ladder against the back of the villa, which is close to the woods, and fired two revolver shots through a window on the second floor. Professor Lessing, who was writing in the room, was hit in the head. He died early this morning. Herr Lessing had received several threatening letters, and it is alleged that a price had been put on his head. A search of the surrounding country is still in progress, but the assailants may have escaped across the German frontier, which can be reached from Marienbad in 30 minutes.

After the elections in Germany Herr Lessing and his wife, who is not Jewish, came to Marienbad, where they intended to open a girls' home at Villa Edelweiss. In his will Herr Lessing expressed a wish to be buried in Palestine.

HERR LESSING'S CAREER

NATIONALIST ANGER PROVOKED

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT

BERLIN, AUG. 31

The murder of Professor Lessing is prominently reported in the German Press.

Professor Lessing, a Socialist and a Jew, wisely left Germany early this year. When President von Hindenburg first stood for the Presidency Herr Lessing, then Professor of Philosophy at the Hanover Technical High School, published an article in the *Prager Tageblatt* in which he described the Field-Marshal as a "clear, true, upright, and reliable nature, without complexity or falsity," but questioned his fitness for the Presidency. He thought dangers might arise "if this most unpolitical of men should be mis-used for a political rôle."

This article led in 1926 to riots of the Nazi and Nationalist students. Their anger was fed by another article by Herr Lessing about Haarmann, the Hanover murderer, executed in 1915 after killing 24 persons, which they quoted in support of the anti-Jewish theory that the Jew habitually intercedes for the sexual criminal and the financial cheat. The Prussian Minister for Education reprimanded Herr Lessing, but supported him in the cause of freedom at the universities.

At the end of 1926 Herr Lessing had to suspend his lectures; not even the support of the Minister and the Rector and the sentences passed on the students could save him. Some years later he published his War reminiscences, in which he is said to have stated that he did all he could to avoid front line service. This increased the hatred felt for him.

THE ESCAPE FROM INNSBRUCK

FUGITIVES IN ITALY

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENTS