"More Babies!" Europe's Dictators Cry

Soviet Russia, Germany and Italy Embark on Programs Designed to Increase Marriages and Step Up Birth Rate.

By WILLIAM C. UTLEY

MORE marriages! More babies! More people!

That is the formula of the three great European dictatorships for more power in the future. Drastic laws have been ordered to check declines in birth rates, as well as to whittle down the death rates in Russia, Germany and Italy.

In Germany and Italy, the measures taken produced a brief flurry of success, but this success appears now to be on the wane; indeed, present indications are that the birth rates in these two nations are fast slipping back to levels as low as before the program began.

Only in Russia is the program succeeding, and there it is going over with a bang. But the Soviet measures are those of a completely communistic society, and most of them would be direct offenses to the morals of a Christian country with the type of society that we know. Further, the Russians are of a stock more suited to increasing the population than the other two nations.

Multiple Marriage at Berlin in 1933.

The Soviet Russians are multiplying more rapidly today than any other people of the world. By the time the eighth Five-Year Plan ends in 1967, it is expected the nation's population will reach 300,000,000. It is 173,000,000 now, including a net increase of births over deaths equalling 4,000,000 in 1935.

Room for Expansion.

Sociological experts believe that the Soviet birth rate will continue to increase. Taken by and large, the Reds are just coming out of a primitive period and are naturally prolific.

There is plenty of space in Russian territory for any populate expansion of which the Reds are capable, and there will be plenty of food for everybody. Famines in past days destroyed millions of Russians in a year, but there will be no more of those. Irrigation projects are quenching the thirst of the drouth regions. Collective farming has been stabilized. Most important of all, agriculture has been spread over many areas, far apart, so that a drouth in one area would affect only a comparatively small portion of the crop.

Soviet laws encourage the marriage of persons we would hardly consider of the marrying age. They also permit relations between men and women which allow women to have children under conditions which would bring them shame in western countries. It is not considered a disgrace for a single woman to have a child. An unmarried father who disappears is disgraced, though. Many unmarried girls in Russia have children just because they want them.

Care of Expectant Mothers.

A state of legal marriage exists in Soviet Russia simply if a man and woman are living together. Civil registration offices—the ZAGS—will perform a simple ceremony for those of formal preferences, although there is no sentiment connected with it. The registration gives the girl some added protection and increases her chances for alimony if her husband leaves her.

Communistic nurseries aid working women to care for their children. When they are with child they are permitted to leave their positions for awhile, but their pay goes on.

As a result of these policies the U. S. S. R. in five years showed an increase of 11,500,000 persons, as compared with 850,000 for England, 1,300,000 for Germany and 650,000 for France. While the death rate is declining the birth rate is estimated at between 35 and 50 per thousand.

The program undertaken by the Hitler government in Germany is intended to control marriages and births. Definitely fixed classes suffering from hereditary diseases are sterilized. To insure the quality of its population, Germany requires persons intending to marry to go to the bureau for heredity and race supervision for a marriage-health certificate. They are forbidden to marry Jews.

Tough on Bachelors.

Every encouragement is offered to stimulate marriages. Couples are given government certificates, called "marriage aid" loans, with which they may buy household goods. These are repaid in small installments, but each of the first four children born reduces the loan by 25 per cent.

If the government is easy on married couples, it strikes a balance in its attitude toward bachelors. Their taxes were boosted 100 to 150 per cent.

Some cities (and occasionally the Reich, if the case is very urgent) pay premiums in the form of merchandise certificates for children. They amount to 100 marks for each child, with a maximum of 1,000 marks for one family. Some municipalities give financial aid amounting to 20 or 30 marks a month for a child until it reaches fourteen. Families with children are given preference in the distribution of jobs and in housing.

The Nazi Mother and Child organization gives advice and money and provides recreation and vacations for poor mothers.

Vast Propaganda Mill.

While the married couples are given every advantage, the government deliberately attempts to make life more or less difficult for the unmarried. Married men get the jobs first. And often an unmarried man under 25 years of age is forced to "exchange jobs" with a married man. This simply means that the married man gets the job and the bachelor is sent into the labor service or "Land Help." Large families get first call on homes and benefit from greatly reduced railroad fares.

Germany is in the throes of a mild "back to the land" movement at present. Thousands of persons are being removed from "white collar" jobs and placed in manual labor. Manual laborers generally have larger families.

More Youngsters Like These Is Mussolini's Aim.

By no means least important of all the measures Hitler is using to build up Germany's population is the vast propaganda mill of the Nazi government. It is at work night and day to shape the public mind toward the favor of large families.

Hitler's program started well, but shows definite indications of failing to attain its goal. Germany had 516,973 marriages, or 7.9 per thousand population in 1932; these figures grew to 739,449 or 11.1 per thousand in two years.

There were 971,174 births, or 14.7 per thousand in 1933. These were increased to 1,261,273 or 18.9 per thousand in 1935. The growth of population in 1933 was 233,297, or 3.5 per thousand, and in 1934 was 472,074, or 7 per thousand.

Italy's Program.

And then something began to slip. There were only 650,851 marriages or 9.7 per thousand in 1935. According to estimates of conditions in the larger cities, the marriage rate has slipped back to below the 1932 level this year.

The birth rate, which rose .9 per thousand last year, is running below the levels of 1933 and 1934. The death rate is on the increase, and the growth of population, computed by subtracting the number of deaths from the number of births, has slowed up to below the 1934 point.

For nine years now, Italy has pursued a program which it hopes will make the nation's population 60,000,000 by 1950, with questionable success, at least.

For a short while in 1930, signs were encouraging to Mussolini, but with the exception of that period, the birth rate has been steadily falling for fourteen years.

Death Rate Well Reduced.

The marriage rate also is believed to be declining. The growth of population is proceeding at a slower pace than at any time within the last fifty years, with the exception of the years between 1916 and 1920 when it was affected by the World war. Yet the Fascist dicatorship is trying steadily to improve the situation, chiefly by using methods similar to those of Germany

While the campaign to increase the birth rate has fallen far short of its mark, Mussolini's efforts to cut down the death rate have been better rewarded. The death rate stands now at the lowest point within the scope of Italian historians. This is so far offset by the falling birth rate, however, that the population of the country has remained about the same for some years.

Vast propaganda measures have been supplemented by measures of reward for the prolific and penalty for the unprolific, much as they have in Germany. There is a tax on bachelors, who can never say in Italy that "they know when they are well off." This not only makes marrying more attractive to them, but the revenue from the tax is used to give assistance to poor mothers.

Prizes for Triplets.

Parents of children are everywhere given privileges. Honeymoons to Rome are paid for by the government. Persons of small means contemplating matrimony are offered "nuptial prizes" which range from $125 to $400. Birth prizes are given on a scale which increases with the number of children—from $30 for the first child to $250 for the sixth and each succeeding one. There are special prizes for twins and triplets. An Italian Papa Dionne would be as lucky as a winner of the Irish sweepstakes.

Married men, of course, always get the best government jobs first, and single men have little license to expect promotion.

The decline in the death rate, which might ordinarily have been expected to occur with the strides made in medical science during the last few years, has been expedited by government measures.

Much credit is due the National Institution for the Protection of Motherhood and Infanthood, which is endowed and operated by the government. Its recently - built maternity hospitals, expertly staffed and equipped with the most modern devices, are to be found throughout the nation. In them, expectant mothers receive the utmost in medical service. This organization has been responsible for a sharp drop in Italy's infant mortality rate in late years.

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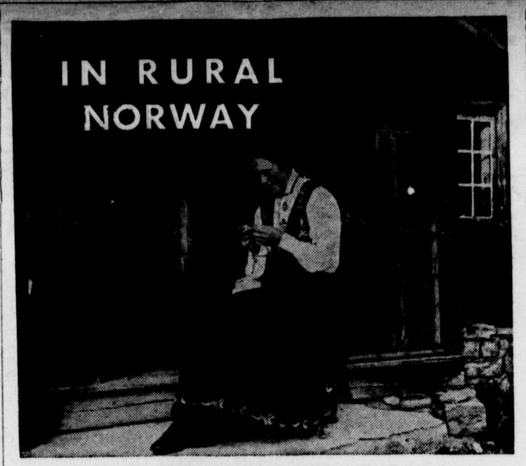
Different Forms of Lightning

The world has been slow in learning that lightning assumes a large number of different forms. As recently as the middle of the Nineteenth century the leading scientific authority on lightning—the French physicist Arago — recognized only three varieties of lightning, and his list found its way into textbooks in all countries. Strange to say, of the three kinds enumerated by this authority, one — zigzag lightning—certainly does not exist, and the existence of the other two—sheet lightning and ball lightning — is somewhat doubtful.

Some of the Procession of 700 Men and Women Who Responded to Italy's Cry for More Marriages in 1933



Spare Moments in Norway Are Spent on the Trousseau.

Prepared by the National Geographic Society, Washington, D. C.—WNU Service.

AUGUST is harvest time in Norway. Since most rural families are mainly dependent for their winter's food on what they themselves prepare, it is therefore a particularly busy time.

A visit to a typical Norwegian farm at this season would imply your sharing their whole-hearted work as well as their equally whole-hearted jollity afterwards. The activities of harvesting and merry-making would keep you busy on any of the thousands of small farms which skirt the long twisting fjords or utilize what level land there is along the rushing rivers in mountain valleys.

Glance for a moment at Hallingdal, a long valley which winds through the central section of Norway. For most of its length it is only one or two farms wide, for the mountainsides rise steeply from the river bottom. This valley is familiar to those who have traveled by rail from Oslo to Bergen.

By the daily train it is possible to reach Hallingdal's villages around which cluster farms of typical rural Norwegian families. If you should visit such a family, you could participate in their harvesting—but only after being welcomed by sharing their food, even though it be just a nibble of fruit, fresh leaf lettuce, little curled anchovies, and sheets of crisp flatbread.

Clouds sweeping over the mountains and across the valley serve warning that it may rain before dusk. The hay from the high meadow should be in the barn before then. All hands must seize rakes and hurry to the meadow for a race with the weather.

Haying in Hallingdal

The Halling farmer still uses a hand scythe and never misses a tuft hidden away in the fence corner or along the river bank. Every spear of grass is valuable. The youngest child follows the workers to glean the wisps that the others have missed. They all help load the sweet dry hay into a little hayrack made of unstripped birch saplings.

This is hauled to the barn by hand, for the little pony has been sent to the mountain meadow for the summer along with the cattle, so that every bit of grass on the home farm could be made into hay for the long winter. The hayrack is not a heavy load to push except for the last little way up the log runway into the mow, which can be taken with a rush and a whoop.

Before long all the hay is stowed from that meadow, from the edge of the dark spruces on the mountainside to the dusty bank of wild strawberries by the roadside. Then everyone can hang the wooden rakes along the log wall of the woodshed and enjoy an out of doors "coffee" picnic of coffee, little cakes, and wild berries strung on grass stems. The coffee cloth has been spread out on the grass under a wild cherry tree.

While the young women of the family are busy in the fields, the grandmother who is too old to help spins wool for the winter supply of gaily patterned socks and mittens. On lonely farms, housewives eagerly watch the road and discuss the probable errand of every passer-by.

Down by the river there is a field of "green," barley to be cut while there is still sap in the stalk and the grain has just reached the milk stage. This is dried over racks in the field. Then it is very prickly to load.

Then Barley and Rye

When the hay is all in, the barley and rye grow ripe. The farmer cuts through the shimmering golden fields with great swings of his scythe. At each stroke the grain falls in a neat semicircle on the ground. Then it is bound into bundles to be shocked spirally around tall saplings stuck in the ground. There is a little red ladder to climb up with the top bundles. In this section of Norway the grain is not threshed at harvest time, but later on during the winter, when the horse is home from the mountain pastures and can be hitched to the crude treadmill in the barn.

The herds of cattle, goats, and horses during the summer grazing in the mountains are tended by either a young unmarried daughter or an old woman. The life of a summer dairy maid has been celebrated in song and saga for hundreds of years. She lives in a small log hut with turf roof, passing her days milking cows and goats, making butter and tending the huge iron caldrons in which milk is slowly simmered to make rich cheese. She sets off to the upland pastures riding a pony which is loaded with empty tubs as well as with her few belongings. Later, when a brother visits her hut to bring supplies, he will collect the tubs filled with butter and cheeses and carry them back to the homestead.

The cattle are small brindly beasts with spreading brass-tipped horns. They have not been bred for quantity milk production. Little attention seems to be paid to breeding. Often a cow will give only a quart or so at milking. If you wonder why such a cow is tolerated, you may receive such an explanation as this: "Ja, but she is small, and does not eat much, either, that cow." In a land where every spear of hay has value, this is an argument of great weight.

Food Mostly Home-Grown

Aside from the fine white cake flour, which is imported from America, most of the family food is procuced at home. Barley, rye, and oats are milled locally, the miller getting a share of the meal and flour for his work. The garden yields stores of cabbages, potatoes, and root vegetables for the winter. Potatoes, too, are an important crop for they are on the family's daily menu and, along with birch twigs, form a staple item in the winter diet of the cattle.

Nature is lavish here with a large number of berries, both wild and tame. Masses of wild strawberries grow along the roadsides. There are currants from which to make sweet wine; wild cherries, the juice of which is bottled to make soup and puddings; the little wild "mountain cranberries," which make delicious jam to serve with pork or roast ptarmigan; and, best of all, the arctic cloudberry, growing in the mountain - top sloughs. This last, when stored in great crocks, keeps through the winter, without cooking or other preservation.

Only with such a variety of provisions can the Norwegian family continue the alternation of work, rest, and eating which is farm routine. First thing in the morning, coffee and cakes are brought to the family in bed. As soon as they are dressed, there is a large breakfast with more coffee, bread and butter, and all sorts of pickled fish and sausage and goat's-milk cheese to put on it. At 11 o'clock work pauses for another snack, which is breakfast all over again.

There is a heavy dinner about one-thirty and then a siesta. Yes, you may be surprised, but this "old Spanish custom" is firmly entrenched in the rural sections of this energetic northern climate. After the nap there are more coffee and cakes before the work of the afternoon is begun.

The last real meal of the day is the evening porridge, at about 8 or 9 o'clock. This meal is unvarying except just after a slaughtering, when a blood pudding is substituted for the usual dish. This porridge is a thick, leathery gruel made of parched barley meal.

All Put in the Stabbur

The yearly harvests of cereals, the cheeses, cured meats, bread, and cakes are stored in the stabbur. The stabbur, or storehouse, is a typical feature of the Norwegian landscape. It is built of logs on high mushroom-shaped stilts as a protection against marauding insects and rats. Elaborately carved, it is guarded against the weather by a coat of wood tar. The front porch of the structure is reached by a flight of plank steps separated from the building by a sort of moat of air across which thieving animals would find it difficult to leap.

The wrought-iron key, which fits a wooden lock in the heavy carved door, takes two hands to turn. The door opens into a small dark room with heavy log walls unbroken by windows. There are large bins of various kinds of meal and flour, each with a brightly painted wooden scoop hanging above it. On shelves are stacked cheeses of many kinds. There are gay wooden boxes full of cakes which had been baked in the spring when the cream was rich. In one corner on a low platform, sheets of rye and barley flatbread with crinkly edges, temptingly brown, are piled almost to the ceiling. It has been made of stiff unleavened dough rolled into round paper-thin sheets and browned on the bakehouse stove.

In another corner is a pile of decorated tubs in which butter is stored, and a special sort of little wooden box with dragon handles. These are filled with dainties—cakes, butter, and fruit—when one goes calling on a neighbor who has had a baby.

From the beams hang hams, sides of bacon, smoked joints of lamb and veal, and many kinds of sausages. Festooned in between are wooden household implements, made by the men during their long winter evenings indoors. There are spoons with long curved handles, birchwood cups for the foresters to carry to the mountains with them, whisks of peeled birch twigs for beating gravy, twirlers made of the tops of young birch trees for beating the evening porridge while it simmers in the pot.

A great deal of ingenuity and knowledge goes into the fashioning of these wooden utensils. For brides they are elaborately carved or decorated with paint. The name and wedding date of the girl is often worked into the design.

Shirtwaister for School Girl

1959-B.

Here is the frock for juniors to make for school days. A combination of rhythm in its hemline, rhyme in its color scheme and racy in its style. For late summer wear, try tub silk, linen, cotton or shantung with long or short sleeves. For autumn and winter —"tweedy" silk crepe or broadcloth.

The waist, gathered slightly to the shoulder yoke front and back, has a center pleat and pockets for trimming. Buttons—a matter of choice. A small collar, tie, and belt complete this most effective frock. By way of suggestion, make the collar and cuffs in contrast, and detachable to be readily removed for laundering.

Barbara Bell Pattern No. 1959-B is available for sizes 8, 10, 12, 14 and 16. Size 12 requires two and three-eighths yards of 35-inch material with one-third yard of 35-inch contrasting material and one yard of ribbon for bow. With long sleeves it requires two and five-eighths yards.

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Household Questions

To clean glass in oven doors rub over with vinegar then wash with soap and water.

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If the soil in which bulbs are to be planted is acid, work hydrated lime into the top soil two weeks before planting.

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Never prune climbing roses in the fall. Cut out all dead canes but wait until next spring before cutting out dead shoots.

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A damp cloth dipped in baking soda will remove tea and coffee stains from china cups.

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Woodwork which has to be painted should be well smeared with lime water, which can be obtained at any druggist's. Let dry and then paint. The paint will dry in half the time. Put the brush in water when you have finished. It will be quite soft for next day.

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If you want your linen to wear well, try this plan: Instead of folding tablecloths and sheets lengthwise, as is usually done, fold them the other way occasionally. They last far longer if the folds are sometimes changed than if they are always folded in the same place.

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In pressing never put an iron on the right side of any goods except cotton. Always lay a cloth between the iron and the goods.

• • •

If a thick cloth is placed at the bottom of a pan or bowl in which delicate china or glass is being washed the danger of chipping will be lessened. This will also prevent silver from being scratched.

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The Mind Meter

By LOWELL HENDERSON

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The Famous Men Test

In the following test there are eight problems. In each one a man's name is given, followed by the names of four professions, vocations or avocations. Cross out the particular occupation or pursuit in which the man is or was most famous.

1. Cordell Hull—composer, inventor, statesman, golfer.
2. William Powell—lawyer, financier, composer, actor.
3. Robert E. Lee — football coach, inventor, dramatist, soldier.
4. John Masefield—lawyer, poet, pianist, actor.
5. John Marshall—jurist, inventor, soldier, physician.
6. Charles W. Eliot—lexicographer, actor, educator, pugilist.
7. Augustus St. Gaudens—inventor, composer, sculptor, actor.
8. John Hancock — statesman, physician, actor, pianist.

Answers

1. Statesman.	5. Jurist.
2. Actor.	6. Educator.
3. Soldier.	7. Sculptor.
4. Poet.	8. Statesman.

Supreme Court's Duty

There is no expressed provision in the Constitution of the United States that gives authority to the Supreme Court to pass on the constitutionality of acts of Congress.

That authority was assumed by the court in an opinion of Chief Justice John Marshall in the case of Marbury vs. Madison, in which he held that it is emphatically the province and duty of the judicial department to say what the law is; so if a law be in opposition to the Constitution, if the courts are to regard the Constitution, and the Constitution is superior to any ordinary act of the Legislature, the Constitution and not such ordinary act must govern the case.

Defects of Success

He that has never known Adversity is but half acquainted with others, or with himself. Constant success shows us but one side of the world. For, as it surrounds us with Friends, who will tell us only our merits, so it silences those Enemies from whom alone we can learn our defects.—Colton.

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5.25-18	9.75	9.00-20	60.75
5.50-17	10.70	30x5	21.30
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