

conducted on the basis of providing service at the lowest cost to the people. Lotteries and theatres, however, are conducted on a profit making basis to help maintain welfare departments. Recently many German cities have built vast numbers of Subsistence Homesteads for the benefit of the unemployed. These homesteads are usually three room houses, with a plot of ground for gardening purposes. Those assigned to these dwelling places are given a long term lease with option of ultimate purchase.

"Public Utility rates do not vary much from those prevailing in American cities. In this connection I might add that I found no city in Germany that was able to supply its inhabitants electric current at a rate as low as that supplied in my own city of Jamestown, where the municipal plant has not only paid for itself, but is able to sell current to 20,000 consumers at a price ranging from cts. to at a price ranging from 3 cts. to a profit for further development of its present \$4,000,000 steam generating system.

Examination for Public Service.

"The German cities have a better method of ascertaining the qualification of applicants for office than we have under the American Civil Service plan. We submit an applicant to a questionnaire test in school boy fashion, giving the applicant a rating on the percentage of correct answers and then designating the three highest in percentage as the only eligible ones from whom the appointive head of a department must select regardless of the fact that often many of those who have not been successful in the required percentage test have been found to be better qualified in point of character, temperament, personality and past record, than those who happened to answer correctly most of the catch questions.

"In German cities an applicant for an appointive office is permitted to present his claim of merit in his own way before a commission of high class professional men, who subsequently make inquiry as to the character, personality, temperament and past record of the applicant and if the results of such inquiries are satisfactory, he is certified as being one who is qualified to fill the particular position to which he aspires. He is accordingly placed on the eligible list without any percentage rating.

"Civil Service in America has of course proved successful in some branches, such as clerical service. We get, for instance, good mail deliveries from Civil Service mail carriers, but we do not as a rule get desired results in crime prevention from civil service policemen.

Public Service.

"The Police Chief of a German city is empowered to select any person for policeman who is on the list among those certified as qualified, and in order to maintain perfect discipline he is authorized to dismiss at any time any subordinate whom he regards as untrustworthy, regardless of his previous examination, just as any successful private business manager can do. In the city of Hannover, the Chief of Police told us that notwithstanding a population of 450,000 only three murders had been committed in five years.

"Of course the small percentage of crime in Germany is due not entirely to the vigilance of the police but partly to the homogeneous character of the population and a thorough system of registration. A contributing factor to excellent police results is the fact that police control is centralized in the national government. In America we are handicapped by the fact that the jurisdiction of police

trolled by the government and all excess profit is turned over to the state.

"This I also found to be the situation in the cities of Leningrad and Moscow with the exception that in Russia all proceeds from the sale of liquor goes to the state so that there is no incentive for anyone to seek an increase in the sale and consumption of liquor in order to make a private profit. And in this connection I venture the assertion that the drink problem will never be settled in America until the element of private profit is taken out of the liquor traffic.

The Hitler Regime.

"Before concluding my comments on the German cities I wish to make clear that all the laudatory achievements to which reference has been made were the results of broad and traditional home rule powers exercised ever since the days when these cities were kingdoms within themselves. But the Hitler regime has not only abolished all home rule and proportional representation but all elections. Hereafter all mayors and other city officials will be the appointees of the Adolph Hitler and will be composed of the military drill master class instead of the high minded intellectuals who in the past held these administrative positions.

"Not only will all municipal administrators be required to conform in all measures of local policy to the dictation of the National Government at Berlin, but all newspapers, all schools, all theatres, all radio broadcasting, all universities, all police and army branches, and every possible avenue of publicity is now under the complete control of one of the most powerful military autocracies that ever gained control in any country. Thousands of upstanding German citizens have been sent to concentration camps without any opportunity to be heard and tried before impartial tribunals, simply because they voiced honest opinions in opposition to the Hitler movement.

How Democracy Can Be Improved.

"But there is one thing we can learn from the present governmental set-up in Germany and that is the advantage of the abolition of all state and county governments.

"In our present social, commercial and industrial development all our important interests transcend state boundaries. Our cities on the other hand are now fully equipped to perform for themselves and adjacent communities all the services for which taxes are paid to county governments. City and county government as now constituted means in a large degree, duplication and overlapping administrative expenditures. One single municipal or regional local government for each large center of community, interests and population is all that is necessary in this day and age.

"We do not need in America any brand of European dictatorship that destroys liberty. All we need is more intelligent results at the ballot box and a simplification of the machinery of our government.

"We have in this country 38 state and national legislative bodies composed of some 10,000 elective representatives. Our democracy would function more efficiently if we centered all law making required by the American people in one central legislative body on whom all responsibility could be placed subject to Executive veto power with one set of laws, one set of courts, one centralized constabulary, leaving all purely local matters to municipal or regional administration.

"Our elections which are frequently determined by the mass of unintelligent, uninformed and in-