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Five Years As President at 83

The World Pays Tribute to General Hindenburg, Germany's Great Statesman.

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His First Manifesto

"Every German felt called on to cooperate after Hindenburg's first published statement. The battle is over and I am ready to grasp the hand of every German, my previous opponents included, and work with them all for the good of this country. His actions harmonized with his Easter message given before the election:

"My life is an open book before all the world. I believe I did my duty during Germany's 'bitterest' period. If this duty calls me to act on constitutional grounds, without regard to party, person, origin, or calling, as President I shall not be found wanting. As a soldier, I had the entire nation in mind, not a party."

Parties are necessary in a State ruled by a parliament, but your highest executive must stand above parties and independent of them, and rule for every German alike."

Hindenburg, when he came into office, made no drastic changes in government appointments. In the office of Secretary of State—chief adviser to the President—a position of great influence and responsibility—he kept Dr. Otto Meissner, who had served under President Ebert for five years, and belonged to the Social-Democratic party. Remonstrances from his own party for reappointment received no response when a position had been served with efficiency and expediency.

"During the five years Reichs-president Hindenburg has been in office he has been behind every movement of constructive statemanship. He has held the plumbline in building and reconstructing operations, and has made the builders follow the architects' plans (i.e., the Weimar Constitution). He has kept the laborers from striking by subduing party divisions.

"Five months after his inauguration, in October, 1925, the Locarno pledges, immortalizing the names of Stresemann and Briand, were signed, although by supporting them Hindenburg resisted intense opposition from the party that brought him into power.

In September of the following year came the entry of Germany into the League of Nations, again in spite of opposition from the Nationalist party. Hindenburg clearly saw the advantage for his country, an end of ostracism and the regaining of a seat and a voice in the councils of the great nations.

"Still another positive achievement during Hindenburg's administration was the turning of the Dawes Plan, and its subsequent revision into the Young Plan, now finally drawn up.

"Hindenburg, although not an orator, has the gift of putting so much in one sentence that quotations from his utterances have the weight of noted sayings." He has said:

"I will not take orders from any party, and no one need think I will."

"Let us hope the German people

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will learn the lesson of unity, for in union there is strength.

"Addressing a body of young Germans: 'I have been called by age and office to live and work with an older generation, but I hope and believe with you young German people, who are the future and the strength of the German nation.'

"Whistle!"

"His native sense of humor may flash in a brief reply, such as:

"Interviewer: 'What do you do, sir, when you get nervous?'

"Hindenburg: 'I whistle.'

"Interviewer: 'But I never heard you whistle.'

"Hindenburg: 'Neither did I.'

"At the age of 73 he assumed the heavy responsibility of guiding the fortunes of his people through stormy seas.

"Those privileged to have come into the imposing presence of the German President know that those severe and stern features may light up with the smile of human kindness, that the countenance chiseled out of granite may fade into the friendliness of a fatherly friend."

"Whoever the visitor, high or low, the Hindenburg tranquillity prevails, and each is put at his ease and his best. Simplicity is the impressive feature. An appreciative or eulogistic utterance in Hindenburg's presence may relax to the likeness of a fatherly yet stern reply: 'I am simply doing my duty.'

"His duty is 'as natural to life as the forces of nature obeying natural law. Defying time—zealous—the majestic figure of Hindenburg holds securely in his grasp what has been saved from the wreck—German national unity, the heritage of Bismarck. With a nation newborn Hindenburg, at 83, looks courageously into the future."

New Angle
On Big Reef

No Breadfruit Trees or Blue Lagoons Found on the Great Barrier Reef.

Edinburgh—Miss Shelia Marshall, who was a member of the Great Barrier Reef Expedition in 1928-29 recently gave an interesting account of her experiences in the Coral Islands at a meeting of the Edinburgh Women's Luncheon Club.

Miss Marshall said that the island on which the members of the expedition settled for a year's work was not big like the coral islands read about in books. There was no mountain covered with breadfruit trees and with bayous. There was not even a blue lagoon. The Island lay about halfway between the mainland and the Great Barrier Reef, and was only about a third of a mile in circumference. At low tide a great expanse of reef was exposed and they could walk on that.

Huts were put up to the party by the Government. Theirs was living room laid out 212 sq. yards of apparatus in it so that did not look bare. Lighthouse keepers came to the island to bring a boat. All water had to be brought from the mainland and then carried, so they had to be careful with their laundry.

The scientific members were divided into three parties and with their own line of work. They did some work on coral and Miss Marshall gave some amusing descriptions of how they managed their rather primitive diving apparatus. Those diving were taken a dust bin with a window and the air supply was kept with a hose pipe and a motor tire pump. The divers were to go down in a boat and save things under natural conditions. They could stay under the water for an hour in warm weather. Tiny fish of brilliant blue would scatter over their heads like a flock of birds. The fish were not afraid and evidently thought the diver was just another sea beast like themselves.

The expedition had added a great deal to the knowledge of marine life in tropical seas and laid the foundation of future marine research in Australia. A marine station has now been founded by the Queensland Government to carry on their work.

TWILIGHT

One face was worn homewards, and our feet, a little weary, were treading the darkening way. The tranquility, the faint torch of sadness that entwined us. Our quips and salutes were less frequent; we were touched perhaps with the mystery of the hour, the beauty of the scene.—Winifred Gordon.

Hubby—"That girl over there shows distinction in her clothes." Wifey—"You mean distinctly, don't you?"

Minard's Checks Falling Hair.

Client—"You deceived me with that dwarf spaniel you sold me. It gets bigger every day." Salesman—"Yes, it is a skin dwarf spaniel."

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