

Bavaria Potash King Talks Big ... How Come?

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Arnold Rechberg, the old notorious "potash king" of Hitler Germany, was living in perfect freedom in his Wengwiese castle on a Bavarian lake as recently as six weeks ago, telling American reporters that "confidential sources in Washington" had asked him to prepare a plan for the economic salvation of Germany.

This sensational story of a man who should be tried as a war criminal, and yet parades scot-free with alleged Washington contacts, was exposed last week in the reliable anti-Nazi newsletter, Germany Today, edited by Albert Norden.

This is the same newsletter which first disclosed the activities of the Nazi cartelist, Dr. Gerhard Westrick, brought to public attention by the Daily Worker.

BOASTS OF 'CONTACTS'

Westrick was arrested shortly after. But, so far as is known, Arnold Rechberg is still serving "liebfrauenmilch" wine to American newspapermen enticed by his press-agent, the notorious Berlin journalist, Dr. Felix Buttersack.

As recently as Aug. 29, he was interviewed by American newspapermen and he boasted that "con-

fidential circles in Washington" had asked him to help in the rebuilding of Germany.

This interview, the copy of which I have seen, did not appear in the American newspapers for Aug. 29 or Aug. 30. It is still not clear whether the news services exercised self-censorship over it, or whether the commercial press itself suppressed the story.

At any rate, no Washington authorities have denied Rechberg's boast, although it was exposed in the Oct. 7 issue of Germany Today. And, so far as is known, Rechberg is still at his castle on Starnberger Lake in southern Bavaria.

OWNED \$200,000,000

The six-foot, 66-year-old magnate, whose prewar fortune was estimated at \$200,000,000, was the leading producer of potash in Germany, an essential chemical for fer-

tilizers and munitions.

His plan for Germany is quite simple: he would have German industrialists retain their holdings, but let the American, British, and French governments take a 30 per cent interest in these firms. And he proposes a political alliance of these three nations with the Germany that he expects to revive.

Though it may all sound like madness at first glance, it is known that American businessmen are buying into German industry in a big way. Many authoritative voices have been raised in favor of some percentage basis for reparations.

If I am not mistaken, Eugene P. Thomas of the National Foreign Trade Council, recently returned from Germany with the same idea of letting German industry operate and giving the United States a per-

centage of the profits.

So Rechberg isn't talking out of his hat.

ANTI-SOVIET PURPOSE

In fact, shortly after the first World War, Rechberg published a book entitled, "What Is the Price of the Entente Peace Treaty," in which the same proposal for profit-sharing was made to the British and French governments.

The entire scheme, of course, has a fundamental anti-Soviet purpose. For Rechberg never concealed in his book that the Soviet Union was to be overthrown by a French-German-British alliance, and a government installed in Moscow that would turn all of Russia's wealth over to private western corporations.

Rechberg had the support at that time, says Albert Norden in his newsletter, of the Kaiser's son, Gen. Eric Ludendorff, and Gen. Hoffman (of Brest Litovsk ill-fame). High Catholic dignitaries were his warm friends.

The Rechberg family owns a con-

trolling share of the Burbach concern which operated 30 potash deposits, with 36 shafts and numerous plants in central Germany, now occupied mostly by the Red Army.

He and his brother Fritz were among the most powerful textile magnates as well. Under Hitler, Fritz Rechberg became chairman of the Association of German Uniform Manufacturers. Hitler supplied the cannon-fodder and the Rechbergs made the uniforms.

Rechberg was a key figure in the French-German cartels of the middle twenties and was bitterly anti-Soviet. He was tied up with the right wing of the Catholic Center Party in the Franz von Papen group. One of his closest friends was the archbishop of Cologne, Cardinal Schulte.

Yet this man is free, today, still peddling the old tale. The American public has neither heard the story, nor has any Washington source denied his boast of confidential contacts in the American capital.