

PSYCHOLOGY

Austro-German Plebiscite "Loaded" Against Dissenters

Voting "Nein" Will Be Considered Risky by Many Citizens; No Way of Separating Consent and Reichstag List Possible

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CHANCELLOR Hitler's Austro-German plebiscite on April 10 will have two purposes—to convince foreign opinion of the solidarity of the Nazi regime and to convince the Austro-Germans themselves.

What success Hitler will have in convincing his countrymen, nobody can tell.

European observers agree that the plebiscite will result in a tremendous vote for Hitler, upholding the union of Austria and Germany and "electing" the Führer's list of candidates to the new Reichstag.

To assure this, the German propaganda machine is working day and night, keying German citizens to a fever of patriotic enthusiasm. Just as he did before the plebiscite of 1933, when he asked Germany to approve his withdrawal from the League of Nations, Hitler is campaigning personally in every corner of the Reich.

In 1933 these methods gave Hitler more than 40,000,000 "ja's," or about 93 per cent. of the total vote.

Did all these votes represent the

voters' convictions? Foreign observers still disagree as to whether they did. Will the plebiscite on April 10 represent the true opinions of the Austrians? It is likely that the observers will disagree on this point, too, for a long time to come.

Undoubtedly there was strong sentiment in Austria for "Anschluss" after the war. A manifesto affirming the desire for union with Germany at one time secured the signatures of a majority of members of the Austrian parliament. The world war Allies brought strong pressure against the move, but not before plebiscites overwhelmingly favoring "Anschluss" were held in two Austrian provinces.

Chancellor Hitler referred to these plebiscites in his speech to the Reichstag following his Austrian triumph.

But American observers recall that the Austrian drive for "Anschluss" took place when Germany was ruled by the mild government of the post-war Social Democratic party.

Americans are skeptical, too, when they remember that it was Austrian Chancellor Kurt Schuschnigg's proposal to hold a plebiscite on March 13 that

brought German troops rolling over the border and brought an end to independent Austria.

On March 9 Chancellor Schuschnigg was wildly hailed in Vienna after his speech announcing the plebiscite. Only five days later, on March 14, Vienna stood up and cheered Chancellor Hitler and Schuschnigg was under "protective custody."

Which demonstration represented the Austrian majority? Americans are not likely to accept the answer of the April 10 plebiscite as unconditional.

The manner in which the plebiscite will be conducted will not help to resolve the uncertainty.

Germans will be handed a simple ballot with the double question:

"Do you approve of the unification of Austria and Germany as accomplished on March 13, and do you vote for the list of our Führer Adolf Hitler?"

There follows a large circle with the word "ja" and a smaller circle with the word "nein."

In one question the German citizen is asked to approve the fait accompli in

BABOONS, JUST BABOONS

Seven species of baboon, representing all the principal lines of these interesting ground-dwelling apes, are shown in a new museum group which has just been opened to public view at the Field Museum of Natural History. The group includes one animal, the Celebes tailed ape, that is not strictly speaking a baboon, but represents a connecting link between the baboons and the Old-World tailed monkeys. True baboons are all natives of Africa. From left to right: young Guinea baboon, Celebes black ape, drill, mandrill, Gelada baboon, yellow baboon, and (behind the last) dog-faced baboon.

