

825

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(TRANSLATION)

EDITORIAL FROM THE NEUCHÂTELTS-VELTBLATT,
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NEW ASSOCIATIONS.

Discussions regarding possibilities and methods for the internal pacification of Austria are again in full swing, but are devoid - this must be considered a favorable symptom - of polemic sharpness and aggressiveness. Merely a statement in principle was repeated at the meeting of the provincial leaders of the Patriotic Front on Saturday with all emphasis and in almost the same words used by us last week: a partition of the Patriotic Front according to political, "weltanschaulich" or corporative shades, as before, cannot be taken into consideration. Whoever wishes to influence the political development of Austria can do this not from outside but only from within the Front according to its statutes.

By this manifestation of the Front Management a stop is put to any relapse to the time of the party-state and to any division of the Patriotic Front. The law of political action remains with the Patriotic Front. If despite this principle and, of course, outside the Patriotic Front resumption of activity based on the law governing associations can be permitted to certain cultural institutions, there is merely question, as we have already once declared, of the restoration of full cultural freedom to all citizens, which is subject to restriction in Austria only in exceptional times - such as the past years - and then only towards groups which did not deserve different treatment. Today Austria knows that it is so strengthened internally, and its political régime is recognized from outside as well, that it can think of reducing extraordinary measures. Austria has the pride to show to the world that authoritarian state leadership is completely compatible with the cultural freedom of citizens.

The foundation of several new associations is to be viewed from this angle. As was reported, an "Österröcher Volksverein" was founded in Graz under the auspices of Minister Glaise-Horstenau, which set itself the task without reference to politics "to fill the Austrian national body with sound German-national spirit". This objective reminds one strongly of those former organizations which thought that they must

discover anew the naturally German character of Austria and as a result that they must announce it as their monopoly. A lawyer by the name of Dr. Heinrich Stöger figures as chairman. The association extends over the whole of Austria and intends to establish 990 local branches. How far the so-called national opposition has an interest in this foundation will, of course, be shown by the further development of the association.

Further foundations of associations are taking place on the basis of the former Heimatschutz. It is said that Major Fey is closely connected with an "Unterstützungsverein ehemaliger Schutzkorpsleiter" (Charitable Relief Association of Former Protective Corps Leaders). An "Unterstützungsverein ehemaliger Heimatschützer" (Relief Association of Former Heimatschutz members) founded in Linz favors the Starhemberg tendency. This association has taken over the colors, badges and hat of the former Heimatschutz. Finally a third strongly nationalistic and anti-Semitic Heimatschutz group has been formed by Minister Neustädter-Stürmer. The formation of the groups alone proves that in these associations the animosities which were the cause of the dissolution of the former Heimwehr play a larger role than any cultural objective.

A Berlin paper characterizes these new associations under the heading "Heimatschutz in another form". What one wishes to infer by this, and what one wishes to make objectionable, should likewise cause proposers of other associations to reflect that with the same right as Nationalist and Heimatschutz members, other, perhaps even more spiritually homogeneous groups might feel the wish to found associations. However, Berlin will probably agree with Vienna that all associations founded are to be nothing but institutions to be treated according to the law governing associations, for, of course, the authoritarian course does not suffer prejudice.