

Voices from Germany

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*Lidové noviny, July 30, 1932*

There are many voices from Germany: admonishing and zealous, voices for Hitler and voices for democracy. But there is also a voice which the unpolitical man occasionally intercepts and hears with his own ears, and this voice, too, is significant. It is the voice of the radio. Granted that you shun what General Schleicher says, via the official transmitter at Königswusterhausen, or what the government of Mr. von Papen is given to saying: but if you listen to the other German stations, it is impossible to escape the fact that, very often now, somehow more often than before, military marches are being played for the enjoyment of the German radio audience. The Germans, it seems, no longer swing to jazz tempo; rather, they stamp their feet to a Militärmarsch; tens, even hundreds of former Infantry-, Grenadier- and Jägerregiments pass before their eyes, all in goose step. The psychology of nations can be manipulated even by means of radio broadcasts. There are some nations given to speech-making, others whose character is mirrored in their operas, others who run cafés. Germans today make many speeches - and have a great nostalgia for their former military glory. With the disarmament conference now over, this "music" has become symptomatic.