

Germany to Stage Big Exhibition Opening May 8 to Rival Paris Fair

By FREDERICK T. BIRCHALL.

(Wireless to The New York Times and The Gazette.)

Berlin, April 25.—With a secrecy possible only in a country where all publicity is co-ordinated and controlled, Germany has for some time been organizing her own international exposition for this summer. Its site is Duesseldorf on the Rhine and it will be opened by Col. Gen. Herman Goering, commissar for the four-year plan, on May 8.

The show will be called the "Schaffendes Volk" (creative people) exposition and will be devoted to demonstrating the aims and accomplishments of the four-year plan for economic self-sufficiency. Only now are the facts regarding it being revealed and it is frankly represented as a rival to the "oft delayed" Paris Exposition. The opening it was noted will take place before the Paris Exposition gets fairly under way.

This will be the biggest exposition ever attempted in Germany. Its grounds will stretch more than a mile along the bank of the Rhine. There will be 42 exhibition halls, 30 pavillions, 20 restaurants and cafes and a huge amusement park with everything else that normally goes with a great international exposition. It will cover altogether an area of 780,000 square meters.

Dr. Ernst Poensgen, director of the exhibition, says that the pro-

gramme in view is greater than the "Hindenburg programme" under which all German military resources were co-ordinated for military purposes during the World War.

As nearly as can be gathered, the idea behind the effort, apart from the intention of demonstrating to the French that they have no monopoly of showmanship, is to display to the world what Germany has done and proposes to do in producing synthetic raw materials domestically. Especially there seems to be a desire to prove that these synthetic products are not "ersatz"—in the sense that gave the German wartime substitutes so bad a name—but that they are just as good as, if not better, than natural products.

Says Dr. Poensgen:

"Duesseldorf will show the German people in their peaceful work. It will win understanding for the new German spirit in the world at large. It will show both the products and the processes of production for innumerable things that can be made from the few raw materials Germany already has."

Chief among these raw materials, it is well known, are coal and lumber. There will be exhibits of textiles made from wood, of gasoline extracted from coal, of ante buna (a German substitute for rubber) taken from coke and from calcium. How these things are being used and how well they stand up under usage will be not the least interesting part of the exhibits. Whether tables of cost will be supplied is not so certain.

It is understood the exhibition will comprise four main divisions. The largest will be devoted to a survey of raw materials progress under the four-year plan. In the other divisions will be demonstrated the achievements of German industry and economics; the "room economy," meaning land utilization and settlement, city building and home construction; and German garden culture and art. This garden show alone will display more than a million different varieties of plants and flowers.

Five thousand workers are speeding the exhibition to completion. Work is proceeding night and day. Construction cost is estimated between 13,000,000 and 13,500,000 marks. Word has gone out that whereas other international exhibitions are held to demonstrate "see how rich we are" the Duesseldorf slogan is to be "look how resourceful we are—Germany is achieving all this!"

That the four-year plan as thus glorified is not intended by any means to sidetrack the German demand for colonies is being simultaneously emphasized by preparations for a "colonial congress" in connection with the exhibition. It will be held May 14 and 15 and be under the guidance of Ritter von Epp, president of the German Colonial League.

Thus, in the economic field, the Nazi steam-roller takes its allotted course, flattening out apparent obstacles. Let no still small voice ask whence the money comes to meet the cost; for there will stand the exhibition with its buildings, its gardens, its sideshows and its crowds filling them to prove that the new Reich can always provide means for fulfillment of its wishes. Besides, inquiry would be useless; these things are not deemed of public interest.