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CONTENTS.

	Page		Page
Europe—		Europe (contd.)—	
Germany	1	Italy	12
Czechoslovakia	3	South-Eastern Europe	13
Soviet Union... ..	4	Middle East	16
Scandinavia	6	Far East... ..	17
The Low Countries	7	United States	19
France	8	Latin America	20
Switzerland	10	United Nations	21
Spain	10		

EUROPE.

GERMANY.

FOR the first time in twenty-one years Hitler has failed to make his November speech on the anniversary of the Munich Putsch. Last year, despite many rumours, intensified by the increasing rarity of his appearances, he did appear and gave a vigorous performance (*cf. Summary No. 214*). Since then, he has avoided the lime-light even more; it has been suggested that the conferring of a decoration on General Blaskovitz on the 28th October was announced on the 6th November in order to reassure an anxious public that he was still alive. Public attention has thus been focussed on the Munich ceremony, which was cancelled without explanation, save the rather lame excuse, in a message to the Far East, that the total war decrees had prohibited political meetings. (As a matter of fact Goebbels had exempted from restriction gatherings of political importance.) Four days later, on Sunday the 12th, a mass rally was held in Munich, in a place not indicated but, to judge from certain allusions in the Gauleiter's opening speech, probably the famous Bierhalle, at which Himmler read a long harangue from the Führer.

The fact that nothing happened on the 8th, when all Germany was waiting to hear if Hitler would speak or not, suggests that the Putsch anniversary was grafted on to a Volkssturm meeting; in order that a speech from Hitler might perhaps counter the unfavourable impression produced by his failure to give any sign of life on the 8th. The announcer, describing the scene on Sunday evening, emphasised that it was a triple celebration, in the first place commemorating the martyrs of 1923, secondly those of this and the last war, and finally as the occasion of the swearing-in of the Volkssturm. On the other hand, so long and detailed a speech could not have been prepared in a moment. Whether the Sunday meeting was an attempt to retrieve the mistake of Thursday's cancellation it is not possible at present to say; the background of these events is enveloped in mystery. Nothing reliable is known of Hitler's condition, not

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