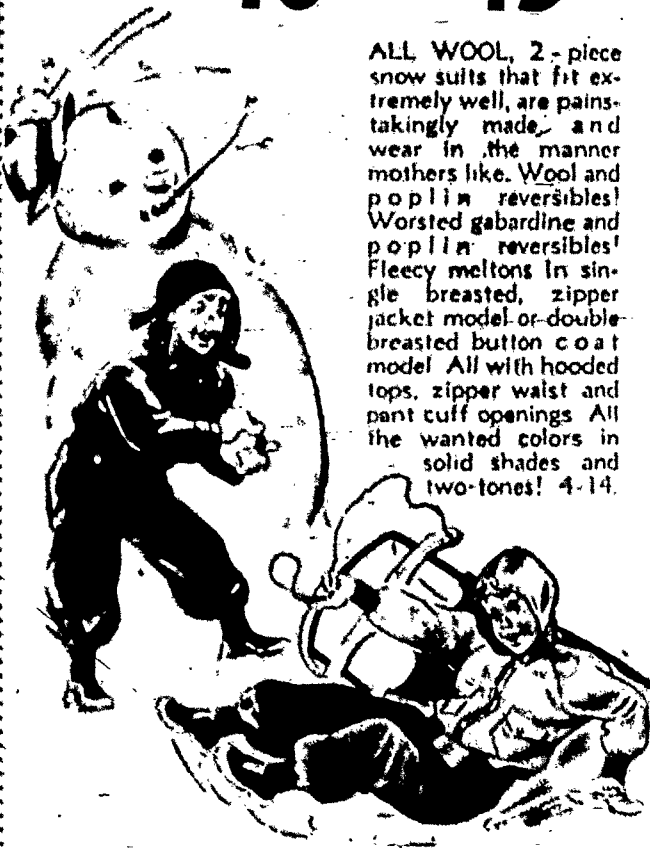


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Nazis Grab 74 Abbeys, Seminaries

Seventy-five abbeys, seminaries, convents, houses of study and other establishments have been wrenched from the possession of Catholic religious by the Nazis in Germany and in former Austria. It is revealed by documentary evidence that has reached the United States.

About a third of the confiscations listed in these documents took place in Germany proper, and the remainder in what formerly was Austria. In not a single instance was any legal proceeding initiated against the religious.

In the 20 instances in which the date of expropriation is given, 18 properties are shown to have been seized since January of this year. Maria-Laach Seizure

(Although this list is of recent compilation, still later information adds the name of famed Maria-Laach to the properties sequestered by the Nazis.

It is reported that this Rhineland center of the Liturgical movement in Germany, which once had a religious community of over 100 members now is left with only the Abbot and five elderly priests and Brothers to care for the spiritual needs of the people living in that county. Maria-Laach Abbey was founded on Lake Laach, near Andernach, Germany, in 1003, by the Palgrave Henry II of Lorraine. It was a center of religious and literary activity until its dissolution in the great secularizing movement of 1802. In 1863 it became the property of the Society of Jesus and became a center of learning. The Jesuits were banished from Maria-Laach during the Kulturkampf in 1873. The Benedictines of the Beuron Congregation moved into Maria-Laach in 1892, and the following year it was canonically raised to an abbey. In the intervening years Maria-Laach has become world famous as a center of liturgical and liturgical movement.

The pretexts given for the seizure of the various religious properties were varied and flimsy. They embrace such hollow-sounding charges as these:

That the religious community was lacking in proper provisions, that the members of the community had shown hostility to the State, that the community had withdrawn large sums of national wealth and applied them to its own use, that the community had shown treachery against the Fatherland, or hostility through "pulpit offenses," that the community had "an immoral influence over the people."

In some instances the Nazis did not bother to give any excuse at all.

Expulsion of Religious

The universal result of the confiscation of the properties seems to have been the expulsion of the priests, Brothers and Sisters from the particular locality in which their abbeys or convents were located and where they had earned on their religious charitable and educational labors.

Where churches were connected with the religious institutions they were closed. Schools attached to the institutions seized were taken over for operation under the State.

In at least some instances the confiscation of religious property was accompanied by violence on the part of the Nazi invaders. In the seizure of the Jesuit novitiate at Mittelsteine, two lay Brothers were knocked down and a third Brother was sent to a concentration camp for three months. Following the seizure of the Salvatorian House of Studies at Heilandsriede the Superior died in the concentration camp at Oranienburg. Sisters also were subjected to rough treatment. In the seizure of a convent of the Sisters of Perpetual Adoration in Austria each nun was forcibly brought forth from the cloister.

Plan Bake Sale For Mt. Morris Church

Mrs. J. Aiden Coultry is chairman of a group of ladies who are planning a bake sale for the benefit of St. Patrick's parish at Mt. Morris. The date set for the sale is Tuesday afternoon, Nov. 18.

Act on Impulse

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