

EXILES' UNIVERSITY RANKED WITH BEST

A 'Scholastic Experiment' in 1933, It Is Now 'Established Fact,' Dr. Johnson Reports.

ITS FACULTY ILLUSTRIOUS

Ousted From Reich for Academic Freedom—Funds Sought for Permanent Basis.

The story of the "University in Exile" from "scholastic experiment to established fact" was told yesterday in a report by Dr. Alvin Johnson, director of the New School for Social Research.

The report reveals that the "university," which is officially termed The Graduate Faculty of Political and Social Science in the New School, 66 West Twelfth Street, is now an organization functioning "actively and energetically." It is staffed by exiled scholars, driven from Germany after Hitler's rise to power, and it has, according to Dr. Johnson's report, a "German faculty equal to the best Germany ever boasted."

Standards of Pre-Nazi Germany.

Its standards and scholastic attainments are those of pre-Nazi Germany, Dr. Johnson says, and despite its hurried establishment here in 1933, immediately after the "academic purge" by the present German Government, it has thrived. There is no longer "any question of the educational success of the institution." Financial arrangements are being made to insure its permanence.

The advisory committee set up to assist in the government of the "University in Exile," and to which Dr. Johnson made his report yesterday, consists of Charles C. Burdick, Wilbur L. Cross, John Dewey, Felix Frankfurter, Ernest Gruening, Oliver Wendell Holmes, Robert M. Hutchins, Robert M. MacIver, William Allen Neilson, George A. Plimpton, Edwin R. A. Seligman and Herbert Bayard Swope. In his foreword Dr. Johnson says:

"The following report presents in bald outline the facts bearing upon one of the most remarkable educational adventures of our time. A group of distinguished scholars, ousted from their posts in their own country, have been enabled without loss of a semester's instruction to set themselves up as a functioning faculty in a foreign land and swiftly to develop a place for this faculty as a useful addition to the American educational system.

"The German university in its prime had been a highly international institution. It had long been customary for professors in the social sciences to advise their students to spend at least one year under a German faculty. The 'University in Exile' has literally brought the German faculty to our own doors. The American student can now have his year under a German faculty here in New York.

"The men who compose this German faculty were expelled from their posts essentially for one reason only. They chose to be free. In the majority of cases the official ground for dismissal was 'political unreliability.'

Worshippers of Truth.

"They could not consent to stultify themselves by accepting the official political and social doctrines and thereby forfeiting their scholarly right to follow the truth wherever it might lead. They regarded liberty as worth whatever sacrifices it might entail.

"It is therefore natural that the 'University in Exile' should have worked out for itself a constitution which deserves a place as a landmark in educational history. It is the first constitution which grants to a graduate faculty complete powers of self-government. With these powers a paramount duty is imposed upon the faculty, the duty to be free. Every member is bound to follow the truth wherever it may lead, and to hold himself free from the control of any party or group which might presume to dictate to him in matters of science or scientific opinion.

"The right of the institution to permanence rests upon a solid foundation of usefulness. We should always maintain an institution manned by scholars of wide European experience, as an instrument for making accessible to the American student the methods developed in other countries."

Dr. Johnson's report shows that a five-year provisional charter has been granted to the institution as a graduate school, and that upon recommendation of the Graduate Faculty the University of the State of New York will confer the degree of Master and Doctor of Social Science. There are at present 140 post-graduate students from various sections of the country and from foreign nations. The faculty of eighteen members was selected because of "scholarly eminence, practical experience in administration, and editorial experience."

"Two members have held high administrative posts; five have been drawn upon for important expert service; three have been offered high administrative posts by foreign governments since joining the 'University in Exile'; three have been members of the Reichstag; ten have been editors of important scientific journals," the report points out.

Members of the Faculty.

The faculty, as given in the report, follows:

EMIL LEDERER, formerly professor at the Universities of Heidelberg and Berlin and editor of the Archiv für Sozialwissenschaft und Sozialpolitik.

EDUARD HEIMANN, formerly professor at the University of Hamburg and editor of the Neue Blätter für den Sozialismus.

GERHARD COLM, formerly professor at the University of Kiel, authority on public finance and statistics.

KARL BRANDT, formerly Professor of Agricultural Economics at the Agricultural College of Berlin, director of the Institute for Agricultural Marketing, and editor of the Blätter für Landwirtschaftliche Marktforschung.

ARTHUR FEILER, formerly professor at the College of Commerce at Koenigsberg, writer on world affairs for the Frankfurter Zeitung; widely traveled and well known in America for his authoritative writings on international topics.

MAX WERTHEIMER, formerly Professor of Psychology at the Universities of Berlin and Frankfurt; founder of the Gestalt School of Psychology; editor of Psychologische Forschung.

FRIEDA WUNDERLICH, formerly professor at the Berlin Training College and editor of Soziale Praxis, the leading German journal of social work.

HANS SPEIER, formerly lecturer in the Hochschule für Politik in Berlin. One of the most brilliant of the younger German sociologists.

ARNOLD BRECHT, formerly lecturer in the Hochschule für Politik in Berlin, Director in the Prussian State Ministry and Finance Ministry, earlier Director for Constitution, Administration and Civil Service in the Imperial Ministry of the

Interior. Member of the German Senate and reporter on the budget.

MAX ASCOLI, formerly Professor of Jurisprudence in several Italian universities; for two years a Rockefeller Fellow in America.

WERNER HEGEMANN, leading German authority on town planning, formerly editor of the two most important architectural journals of Berlin, well known in America and throughout the world as an architectural authority and practitioner of town planning.

HANS STAUDINGER, formerly Ministerialdirektor to the Prussian Ministry of Trade and Industry, responsible for the administration of transport and electric power. Worked out the plan for the coordination of the state-owned power companies throughout the empire and the rationalization of power supply.

ALBERT SALOMON, formerly professor at the Pedagogical Institute of Cologne, one of the leading sociologists in Germany; editor of Die Gesellschaft.

ALFRED KÄHLER, formerly director of the People's College in Harrisleefeld, Schleswig-Holstein.

FRITZ LEHMANN, formerly assistant in banking in the University of Berlin, a brilliant writer on topics of finance.

CARL MAYER, formerly assistant in the Institute for Social and Political Science in Heidelberg, an outstanding research worker in the field of the sociology of religion.

RUDOLF LITTAUER, formerly counselor to the Dresdner Bank at Leipzig, a rising authority on comparative commercial law.

HANS SIMONS, formerly director of the Hochschule für Politik in Berlin, Ministerial Counselor in the Prussian Ministry of the Interior; member of the Government Committee for Imperial Reform; editor of Wiederaufbau.

Backed by H. J. Halle.

The graduate faculty was made financially possible by Hiram J. Halle, who volunteered to underwrite the whole amount of \$60,000 a year for two years, defraying all expenses beyond the total contributed by several score others.

Discussing the faculty and its activities, Dr. Johnson says that "there is a prevalent conception that the German professors expelled from their chairs were all either 'Marxians' or Jews. This conception is not valid so far as the graduate faculty is concerned," for in selecting scholars "no attention was given to such irrelevant matters as race or religion." Dr. Johnson continues that "no member of the graduate faculty is a Marxist as the term is understood in America.

"A number of them," he says, "were supporters of the Social-Democratic party, whose position was virtually that of the present-day American progressive, whether Democrat or Republican."

These men, he continued, have not been content with instruction alone, but have launched a quarterly journal, "Social Research," which "promptly took its place alongside of the more important scientific periodicals in the field." At least "half a dozen books are taking shape in the faculty and will appear in the next two or three years."

Though technically the graduate faculty is a part of the New School for Social Research, actually it is "completely independent," and Dr. Johnson declares that "it is imperative that the graduate faculty have at its command contributed income of \$75,000," rather than \$60,000 a year.

"It is also imperative that this income be assured for a period of not less than five years," the report concludes, adding that "neither a teaching program nor a research program will thrive in an atmosphere of uncertainty."