

GERMANS' WAR GAIN TO BE DEMOCRACY

Masses Declared in Favor of Reform, as They Think This Is Means to Bring Peace.

LOCAL RULE SATISFACTORY

Dissatisfaction Toward Government Is Limited to Relations of Nation With Other Powers and Change Is Advocated.

(This is the sixth and last of a series of articles in which the people of Germany are at work in Germany to democracy. The nation meets the views of President Wilson that a government be established whose leaders will be accepted as "of the people.")

By GEORGE T. ODELL.

It has been stated repeatedly that Bavaria stands in the way of political reform of the national government of Germany.

It has been urged as an excuse for not establishing responsible parliamentary government in place of the present autocracy, that the Bavarians did not want it and were powerful enough to block it.

I have made diligent inquiry of those who made these assertions, as to the reasons why a national government responsible to the Reichstag instead of to the Emperor, would be distasteful to the Bavarians, and have never received anything but vague rejoinders.

By some men in the government, to whom I put this question, I was told that the Bavarians, being content with their own form of government, feared the example of national political reform. Others answered that the Bavarians were afraid of losing some of the autonomy which they now have if the German federal constitution is revised, as they say it would have to be in order to change the federal governmental system.

Extending my inquiries outside the government and conservative circles to the liberal leaders and political students, and even among Bavarians, I do not find that there is any more objection in Bavaria to the system of the German federal government than there is in Prussia and the other German states.

Peace Is Main Object.

As near as I can find, the people of Bavaria are just as anxious as the people of Prussia, Saxony, Württemberg or any of the other German states, for a parliamentary form of the federal government. If democracy means peace, and nine-tenths of the people believe it does, they are for it, no matter what state issues may be affected thereby.

There is, however, no discoverable difference of opinion among the German people, from the least intelligent among the masses to the highest political leadership, regarding local government. No one wants to change the efficient, orderly and systematic government which the people have in their states, districts, cities, towns and villages.

Wherever government touches the domestic life of the people, wherever it functions to assist the people in the actual living conditions of their families, wherever it serves to ameliorate suffering either through eleemosynary institutions or through the administration of various pension and relief systems, these local governments leave practically nothing to be desired by the people.

The local government of Germany gives to the people freedom of action without license, it encourages industry and thrift and affords to the masses the means to pleasure which individuals they could not hope to attain. The scandal of dishonesty is practically unknown in German government.

Administration Is Honest.

Impeachable honesty seems to be the keynote of German bureaucracy. The young man enters a certain branch of the government service intending to make that his life's career. Salaries are not large, according to American standards—or according to German standards of a few years ago, when such huge fortunes have been made in commerce, and the standard of living throughout the nation has improved. But the young man knows that his job is not the toy of other men's power, his job is not for his declining years, and he is assured a pension and a respected place in society.

Meanwhile in recent years there has been a well-defined policy on the part of the German government to foster the idea among the people that they have practically unlimited control over their own affairs through the Reichstag. They point to the freedom of debate in that body and emphasize the fact that the Reichstag at all times has the right to interpellate the government on matters of policy or administration. They declare that the supreme control over the government must rest with the Reichstag so long as that body of the people's representatives controls the purse strings, for no government can succeed without money to carry on its affairs.

Politicians have told me repeatedly that if it had not been for the war this polemical discussion of political reforms in Germany might have continued for years without bringing results. Even in the beginning and during the first two years of the war, neither the people for the political leaders of Germany weighed so heavily against the world. It is only within the last year that the thing has come concretely to their attention, and it is the statements from America, more than from any other nation, which have brought the truth home to them.

The people of Germany call it mediation.

While in Paris I had the great good fortune to be acquainted with a Lieutenant-Colonel of the British Expeditionary Force. He went to the front 22 months ago. At the time I met him he said that 154 officers and 420 men had been recruited into a battalion and that it still numbered 800 men and 42 officers. Of all the men that he had seen in the last year, he said, he was the only one who had not been killed.

He is the sole survivor of that original force. He said to me: "I never shall cease this fight until Germany is brought to her knees and humbled in the dust. That same feeling pervades all the fighting forces at the front and should an attempt be made by the powers at home to bring about a disgraceful peace, the army would mutiny, cut loose from these legislators and continue the fight to the end."

Of course, that we know, would be an impossible thing to do, but I mention it to show the spirit which prevails.

I do not think any man could go

dilling, and as such they resent outside interference. They want no government imported from America, England or France. They want nothing that will interfere with their own domestic development or in any way change the conditions of life as they were before the war.

But the German masses want peace and the German business men want commerce restored. They do not believe that a German military victory is possible, neither do they think that Germany can be defeated. Unless politics and diplomacy can intervene to end the war, they see no prospect of a finish until all nations have reached the point of utter exhaustion. Having lost faith in German diplomacy, the people turned to the liberal political leaders to pull them out of the hole, and those leaders, under the spur of the urgent necessity of getting a peace of understanding and reconciliation while there is still some spark of vitality left among the European peoples, have buried their differences and accommodated their various political theories to the common purpose of procuring the fullest measure of responsible parliamentary government that can be obtained.

Will Be Democratized.

Von Kuehlmann, Germany's Foreign Minister, who succeeded the discredited Zimmermann, is the hope of a good many of the German liberal leaders. He is 43 years old, he has had a wide experience as a diplomat in foreign countries, he has been an aviator, and in London when he was counselor of the German Embassy there just before the war and he is a liberal leader.

Other men in political life are spoken well of by the liberal leaders, but one does not find them tied to any one man—it is the principle of democracy which unites them.

Germany will emerge from this war a democratized nation—morally defeated for a certainty, but not militarily—and it will be in the benefits which they will gain through a realized government and in the respect that they will gain from other nations that the German people must find consolation for the tremendous sacrifices which they have had to make.

WAR MAY END IN 2 YEARS

(Continued From First Page.)

obtain first-hand information regarding the war, and I may say that the information which they gained has been most useful since their return for the encouragement and information of the people at home, some of whom it is hard to realize that the United States is in a state of war. Mr. Johnson is proving exceedingly valuable in this regard, as he now is making nightly speeches in the East at points near Washington City to large and enthusiastic audiences.

It was his intention to return to his district and make a number of speeches during this Red Cross drive, but owing to the fact that several important measures, such as the woman's suffrage amendment and the prohibition amendment, were pending in Congress, it was necessary for him to remain in the vicinity of the Capitol that he might cast his vote upon these questions. This prevented him from taking part in the Red Cross drive, but it is expected that he will be enabled to come to his district and deliver a certain number of addresses the first of the year.

The immediate party consisted of Congressman Albert Johnson, John F. Miller and C. C. Dill, of Washington; E. T. Taylor and C. B. Timberlake, of Colorado; Richard Vary, of New Jersey; Dan W. Stevens, of Nebraska; F. C. Hicks, of New York; P. E. Dale of Vermont, and the immortal William Sassenach Goodwin, of the state of Arkansas, who, in addition, as superintendents or camp followers, were Hon. Tom Sully, former member of Congress from Montana, his friend and everybody else's, John B. Ritch, of Wisconsin; Ross L. Hammond, a newspaper man of Fremont, Neb., who is, and the writer, who went in a purely secretarial capacity.

Many Questions Asked.

Since my return to New York and during my trip across the continent to Houlihan I have talked with a great many citizens, all of whom displayed the greatest interest in the progress of events at the front. Invariably I have been asked three questions:

First, How long will the war last? Second, How many American soldiers have we in France at the present time? and third, Where are they? I will say that it is impossible for me to give answers to the second and third questions. I know how many men we have in France and I know where they are, but for obvious reasons the Government does not desire this information to become public.

As for the first question—When will the war end—I will state that in conversation with British and French officers, soldiers and civilians, I found a great consensus of opinion to the effect that the end of the war will come within the next two years. The reason for this belief upon the part of our allies is, they say, it will take the United States at least a year to get a sufficient number of men, arms, munitions and supplies to Europe. It is estimated that it will take 15 tons of such freight for each soldier we send to France. In other words, to have 1,000,000 men in France, it will require 15,000,000 tons of shipping to supply their wants. Our European friends say that in only one year after the United States gets thoroughly into this war German soil will be invaded and the Kaiser will have no troops left.

Morale of Troops Fine.

I am free to confess that from what I saw of the morale of the troops and the conduct of the war, I heartily agree with our friends in Europe and feel satisfied that the end of the war will not be longer than two years from now and that it will result in a clean-cut victory for the enemies of Germany.

The fact of Russia having given up is a triumph for the Allies in England and France. The drive which the Germans are making in Italy was met by an exodus of vast numbers of French and English soldiers, and it is now certain that the drive has been stopped.

There are those who may talk of a separate peace by France and some that a reasonable peace will be accorded by England. There is no basis for such belief. France and England have suffered the loss of many men and those who are left are sworn to avenge their brothers. The belief which exists over the world is that the war will not be longer than two years from now and that it will result in a clean-cut victory for the enemies of Germany.

Flight Ceases on Victory.

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DEACONS OUST WOMEN

MABEL RED CROSS DEPRIVED OF QUARTERS IN CHURCH.

Organization Said to Have Rolled Methodist Church Board by Supporting Benefit Dance.

EUGENE, Or., Dec. 25.—(Special.)—Because the Red Cross organization in the little lumbering town of Mabel refuses to give up its sanction of dancing as a means of raising funds, it must find a new home, according to J. R. Stephens, who is visiting in Eugene.

The deacons of the Methodist Church at Mabel have closed the church, which had been used as a workroom by the organization for making hospital garments and bandages, because the women sanctioned a dance which resulted in raising \$135 for the Red Cross and refused to place a ban on similar dances in the future.

"The Red Cross at Mabel, as a result of the action of the church, will soon have a new home," Mr. Stephens said. The Coast Range Lumber Company is erecting a hall for use of the organization.

Tiny Infant Joins Red Cross.

CANYON CITY, Or., Dec. 25.—(Special.)—The Canyon City Red Cross membership drive committee claims the distinction of having the youngest member of that organization. Earl Tracey, Jr., one-day-old son of Mr. and Mrs. Earl Tracey, of this city, became a member of the Red Cross a few hours after birth.

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