

SOCIAL DEMOCRATS FORCE BERLIN CRISIS

Break With Center Over Tax Plans Threatened.

HERR WIRTH YET ON TOP

Necessity of Forming Balanced Budget Plan for Reparations Keeps Parties in Line.

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BERLIN, Jan. 23 (Special Cable).—The social democrats, who form the largest party behind the Wirth government, threaten to bolt and break the coalition if the center party refuses to accept their taxation plans. The center is torn both ways, pulled toward conservatism by the fact that it is really bourgeois, but forced to try to come into accord with the social democrats, who insist on pushing through high direct taxation while business considers nothing less than confiscation of capital. The industrialists are trying to use the country's need to get the taxation system fixed and force acceptance of their 1,500,000,000 gold marks loan on their own terms. The social democrats, however, because Chancellor Wirth is going the limit to meet the reparations commission's demands, E. H. Yornauers has said that if the socialists do not have their way they will bolt and bring on an internal crisis. The paper said the center is so far unwilling to meet the socialists' demands.

High Tax Wanted.
The latter want either to collect another 40 per cent on the Reichssteuer, Mathias Erzberger's radical confederate tax, of which 25 per cent already has been collected, or restore the old gold value tax, now called the "real tax." This is being discussed in the cabinet, but has not been drawn in a bill as yet.

The socialists insisted that the state participate to some extent in private industry, or that the government be given a big share in the proceeds. The difference between this and Hugo Stinnes' ideas to denationalize even the railroads and power, is so great it can hardly be threshed out in the short time before it is necessary to present a balanced budget plan to the reparations commission.

The conflict of principles in regard to taxation are real enough in themselves, but the parties are using them to gain small party advantages. Therefore, Herr Wirth standing above them and insisting on fulfillment of reparations obligations to the very end, still dominates the situation.

French Break Expected.
The chancellor believes he is serving his country best by this policy, even at the risk of complete breakdown of the government and civil war. He thinks that before the risk becomes a reality Premier Poincaré's policy will break down, if only because of the impotence of German collapse.

RAIL CHARGE REPEATED

LA FOLLETTE CITES MINUTES OF SECRET MEETING.

Farm Organizations, Business Men and Roads Said to Have Got Behind Esch-Cummins Law.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Jan. 22.—In reply to an open letter from J. R. Howard, president of the American farm bureau federation, denying that representatives of the Esch-Cummins law had entered into agreements with railroad and other interests regarding the repeal of the "guaranty section" of the Esch-Cummins law, Senator La Follette of Wisconsin, tonight made public what he described as "minutes of the secret conference at which the agreement was reached."

The conference was held at the Racquet club here December 9, he asserted, and, according to the minutes, was attended by a special committee of railroad executives, including W. W. Atterbury, Howard Elliott and W. B. Storer. Officers of farm organizations listed by the senator as present included President Howard of the American Farm Bureau Federation, T. C. Hanks, secretary of the National Farmers' Union, and W. I. Drummond, chairman international farm conference.

Senator La Follette quoted from the minutes of the conference excerpts which he insisted showed an agreement between the agricultural representatives, railway executives and business interests to work in cooperation to perpetuate the guaranty provision of the Esch-Cummins law and in effect to continue permanently, the present impotence of the state railroad commissions.

PAUPER, 102, IN CITY JAIL

'UMBRELLA JIMMY' SHERIDAN LEAVES POOR FARM.

Aged Portlander Starts Out to Find Wife, but Police Lock Him Up for Night.

"Umbrella Jimmy" Sheridan, 102 years old, ran away from the poor farm yesterday afternoon in search of his wife, from whom he was separated when he was sent to the farm April 1. He failed to find her but, instead, fell into the hands of Patrolman Meekhof, who picked him up at First and Columbia streets and gave him his first ride in the police wagon. He protested against spending the night in a jail cell.

Jimmy has lived in Portland so long that he has forgotten when he arrived. He married Mrs. Sheridan, said, 40 years ago. Many adult Portlanders remember teasing him when they were children, and apparently he has not changed much in appearance with the years. He is a bristly little American of Scotch ancestry, five feet tall, apple cheeks, snow-white hair, bright, intelligent eyes. His memory plays odd tricks upon him, though, for the years have merged youth and manhood to such an extent that he frequently confuses events.

"This is a fine way to treat a volunteer," he scornfully ejaculated as the jailer escorted him to his bunk.

"When did you volunteer?" he was asked.

"When did I volunteer?" he repeated.

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