

GERMAN WORKERS' STRIKE ATTEMPT TO FORCE PEACE

Letters Taken From German Prisoners Reveal Magnitude of February Labor Disputes.

RICH FEAR GENERAL STRIKE

Socialists Were Insistent Against Sacrifice of Another Million Men That Could Not End War.

The following articles describing conditions in Germany a few weeks ago, as revealed by the German themselves, show some of the reasons why the German high command was willing to risk everything to force an early decision on the west front. It needs explanation with the general strikes in Germany during February.)

By Henry Wood
With the French armies in the field, March 15.—(U. P.)—(By Mail.)—This is the real story of the strikes which took place in Germany during February as told by the Germans themselves.

Although the German censorship suppressed at the time all but the most perfunctory news concerning the strikes it did not succeed in keeping the German people from writing to their fathers, sons and brothers at the front, telling them what had happened. Hundreds of these letters were later taken from German prisoners captured by the French in scores of raids during February and March.

While the admission is made in these letters that the strikes failed to attain their end, open declaration is made that they are only the forerunner of more serious demonstrations. Extracts from these letters follow:

Tramways Demolished at Berlin
Wannsee (Suburb of Berlin), Feb. 7.—The workmen did not gain anything from their strike at Berlin, and, unfortunately, two policemen were killed and several wounded. Several electric tramways were demolished, but order has been restored now and the factories are working as usual. The leader of the strike, Deputy Detman, received five years' imprisonment as punishment.

Gotha, Feb. 14.—You have undoubtedly already learned that strikes took place in all the cities and villages, and it was the same here. We had six days of alarm, but nothing happened.

Socialists Oppose Further Sacrifice
Dollstein, Feb. 15.—The postman in here on leave of absence. He told me

NOYON CATHEDRAL IS BURNING



Airplane view of Noyon, with its famous eleventh century cathedral showing in the upper center of the picture. Noyon is now within the German lines and the Germans claim French shells set fire to the cathedral.

today that where he comes from, Munich, we cannot make another offensive, and that, even if we arrive at Paris, our enemies still would not make peace, and then all the workmen in the German empire would go on strike, for the last strike was merely a test to see if everyone was agreed. The Socialists insist they will not allow another million men to be sacrificed, because it still would not end the war.

Coblenz, Feb. 8.—A big strike has broken at Berlin, Hamburg and Dusseldorf and in the other large cities. You are not allowed to say what has taken place. But we have not succeeded. The strike was suppressed early and the consequences naturally are that those who participated are incorporated now and obliged to serve the empire. My brother Frederick writes that the situation in Berlin was very grave. The soldiers

were not allowed to go out of their barracks. Insist on Making Peace
Lanwege, Feb. 2.—At Berlin the workmen have gone on strike. It seems that it was rather serious, for the strikers went so far as to parade in the streets, carrying the red flag. At Berlin alone, between 150,000 and 190,000 workmen participated in the strike. There was trouble in the other cities and villages as well. The workmen insist on making peace.

Apoidea, Feb. 2.—The situation is very critical in Germany for at Berlin, Leipzig and Jena a great many workmen have gone on strike.
Gunterhausen, Feb. 6.—Thursday and Friday there was a grand demonstration. The workmen from the factories went on strike and, marching to the

city hall, demanded a more abundant food ration.

Rick Araid of General Strike
Buremberg, Feb. 1.—The rich are afraid of a general strike on massed. People have been heard to say "Liberty for Liebknecht" (the Socialist leader).

Plattling, Feb. 5.—The situation was critical here. The rich are afraid of a general strike on massed. People have been heard to say "Liberty for Liebknecht" (the Socialist leader).

Nuremberg, Feb. 11.—I know nothing specially about the strike. I know that the workmen went on strike at the same time and the workmen and working-women paraded in the streets with banners which read, "Peace and liberty."

Alsenau, Feb. 10.—I am told that Louis must leave for the front. He had quit the service of equipment. They are incorporating the men here on account of the strike.

HUNS SEND WAR CHIEF OF EAST TO WEST LINE

(Continued from Page One)

Picardy drive, allied diplomats said today.

Von Mackensen is considered as the ablest of the Kaiser's generals, but for some time has been in bad favor at court. His presence on the west front would indicate, diplomats say, that Germany is about to play her last card in France.

Paris, April 4.—(U. N. S.)—Germany is expected to renew her offensive today or tomorrow. Military critics today see in the heavy artillery firing reported along the Picardy front the Kaiser's preliminary move in another effort to smash forward to Amiens.

British and French headquarters officials are supremely confident. The bulk of the past few days has permitted the allies to bring their reserves up and place them where desired without interference. The enemy will find his attempts to smash forward strongly opposed at every point, critics declared today, and belief was confidently expressed that at no place would the Germans make any material gain.

General Foch's content statement to Rene Renout, president of the army committee, who accompanied Premier Clemenceau to the front, cheered the country today.

"We can henceforth regard the future with tranquility," Renout quoted the French generalissimo as telling him. He also said that General Foch went stronger and pictured the situation as being better than it has at any time since the Germans started their big drive.

It is agreed on every side that the Germans will launch another attack on a great scale. Critics assert that it cannot be as heavy as the original effort because of their depleted reserves of men. They say it is this, coupled with the fact that the French and British have got their reserves into line, which will make it impossible for the Germans to make further headway.

Abel Ferry, former under secretary for foreign affairs, makes the flat statement in an article in today's Petit Journal that the Germans lost the battle of Verdun on Monday and Tuesday of this week, just as they lost the battle of Verdun on February 24, 1916, immediately after capturing Fort Douaumont. The enemy, he declared, did not follow up his success at Verdun when the French reserves were not on the scene. It was a race to bring up reserves there, he declared, and the French won it, just as they have done in the present struggle.

With the French reserves now available, he declared, each German division now faces an allied division equal to any effort the Germans may make.

Amiens Objective of Germans
By Henry Wood

Washington, April 4.—(U. N. S.)—While the Anglo-French forces are holding the Germans in Picardy, General Foch is reported in dispatches received here today to be preparing to strike, probably at another point of the line. All along the western front the big guns of the contending forces are reported in use. This bombardment presages another effort to break through by the Germans. It is believed by army officers here, but there is no apprehension as to the result. Rather, the interest here is in what the allied forces will do, now that they are under the supreme direction of one man.

It is believed here that, inasmuch as General Foch has not instituted a sustained counter-offensive along the Picardy front, he will not do so now. Army officers pointed out today that such a counter-offensive, to be most effective, must in its very nature be delivered while the opposing forces were completely exhausted by the violence of their own offensive and before they have had opportunity to dig in. As this was not done, it is assumed that General Foch believes that the entente should strike elsewhere, where the chances of gaining ground that would be of strategic value would be better than in driving the Germans back across the shell plowed hills of Picardy.

While watching the western front, army officers today were also deeply interested in the developments in Italy. It is believed here that the Austrians will initiate a new offensive directed against Venice within the next 10 days. Already the reports show they have massed some 50 divisions of reserves at strategic points and have brought up innumerable batteries of Skoda guns with which to support any operations attempted.

Huns Lose 1000 Yards of Trenches
London, April 4.—(U. N. S.)—The Germans are giving up ground. The big guns into place along the line of the Picardy battle, but their progress is not nearly so rapid as had been expected, and they are therefore having to rely to a remarkable extent on machine gun fire, according to reports from British headquarters today.

New Zealanders who went over the top and captured 1000 yards of German front trenches after they had been yielding doggedly for days, got 300 prisoners and more than a hundred machine guns. An unusual concentration of such guns, considering the length of the position taken.

Stories coming in from press headquarters revealed the falsity of the German claim of heavy losses of prisoners. The assault on Arras and Vimy Ridge, touted by the German wireless as a victory although the Germans failed to take the famous ridge, is generally recognized as quarters as one of the bloodiest and most disastrous defeats ever inflicted on the enemy by British troops.

The punishment which the Teuton masses have sustained is revealed in a startling way by the fact that one battalion near Vaux-Vraucourt used

JOHNSON OPPOSES BAN ON CRITICS

California Senator Insists Bill Aimed at Opponents of War Goes Too Far.

Washington, April 4.—(U. P.)—That an attempt is being made to suppress the freedom of the American press and to prevent any man "expressing legitimate criticism" of the government was the charge voiced in the senate today by Senator Johnson of California.

Johnson opposed the bill punishing by 20 years imprisonment and \$10,000 fine any utterance or public statement derogatory to this government or "calculated to inflame or incite resistance to federal or state authorities."

"The effect of this would be to prevent men thinking," declared Johnson. "It is an attempt to make the press subservient to those in power. This bill, we are told, is to prevent pro-German interference with the Liberty loan, but that is not its real purpose."

Filing Taken at Creel
"Under it, any word spoken or printed in criticism of activities of any government department would make a man guilty of a crime and send him to jail for 20 years."

"I yield to no man in my desire to see the most severe penalties visited upon the pro-Germans or on anyone who regards us in the great adventure on which we have embarked, and if this bill did that I would favor it. But it cannot and will not vote for the measure in its present form."

"And when those advocates refer to its opponents as they doubtless will, as men who are hampering the prosecution of the war, I beg they will give me this much praise—that though I oppose this bill, I am leaving the senate now to spend several days working on the Liberty loan."

"I want to know if George Creel wouldn't be subject to this law," inquired Senator Watson, Indiana.

Creel Editorials in News
Watson then read an editorial alleged to have been written by Creel when he was a newspaper editor in Colorado. The editorial was entitled "Ballots or Bullets" and contained a severe criticism of the United States senate.

"Do we really enjoy any greater liberty than the subjects of the czar?" Watson quoted Creel's editorial. "The United States senate is a body that sits in despotism in nowise responsive or responsible to the people," he continued.

"If such an editorial was written today the author would be sent to the penitentiary," asserted Watson. "Undoubtedly he should be and he ought to be," interrupted Senator Borah of Idaho.

Calling Creel "a sniveling sneerer," Watson demanded that the senate have him removed from office.

Creel's critics said that things which, under the pending bill, would land him in jail, is not the man to be the mouthpiece of the democracy he has so vilely condemned in his writings," said Watson.

Gang of Burglars Caught After Jobs

Chehalis, Wash., April 4.—Wednesday when Ted Behrend opened his clothing store he found that burglars had ransacked the place, taking a lot of overcoats and other goods and \$2.85 in cash. The burglars walked to Napavine and stole two automobiles and later were captured by Deputy Sheriff N. Winn of Chehalis. They admitted their guilt.

Shirley Eastham Is In Hospital Unit

Miss Shirley Eastham of Portland, the daughter of Mrs. Parker F. Morey, is with a New York unit of nurses in France, the Women's Overseas Hospital Unit which is financed by wealthy New Yorkers and is in the service of the French government. Miss Eastham has written of her trip across and later from Paris, where she was waiting orders to go to the front. They expected to see service in the German drive zone.

Cigar 67 Years Old

Zanesville, Ohio, April 4.—A cigar, said to have been made by hand in 1851, was among the curios left by the late General Robert Burns Brown of this city. The 67-year-old weed is claimed to be the oldest cigar in Ohio and is highly prized.

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FACTS NO. 252

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