

German Government Disintegrating Under Strain of Trying to Steer Middle Course

GERMAN POLITICAL WORLD IN TUMULT BACK OF SCENES

Failure to Take Firm Stand Has Cost Regime, Already Much Opposed, Conservative Support

MIDDLE COURSE DISASTROUS

Ebert, Scheidemann, et al Find Themselves Stranded Between Two Main Currents of Feeling

By Ben Hecht
Special Cable to The Journal and The Chicago Daily News.
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Berlin, Germany, June 10.—The German political back stage today is in a tumult. Under the slow administration by the peace terms the existing government has been slowly but surely disintegrating for the last two weeks. From the beginning the communist and independent socialist parties have taken a firm opposition stand. Their opposition has consisted of espousing all the ideas and plans for action which were diametrically opposite to those adopted by the Ebert-Scheidemann government. Now the government finds itself deserted by the conservative parties. The former Prussian minister of finance, Hergt, and Von Kardorff, leaders of the conservative parties in the national assembly, have declared open war upon Scheidemann. The conservative parties are non-socialist. They have been waiting since the founding of the national assembly for their chance.

SUPPORT OF KOLCHAK HELPS

The allied support of Admiral Kolchak in Russia has strengthened the capitalist and imperialist sentiment in Germany. "The government has outraged the feelings of a great part of the German nation by its stupid counter proposals on the peace terms," said Hergt in an interview I obtained from him today. "Our parties—conservative, nationalist and people's—have warned the government. The entente's peace terms cannot be signed and the German counter proposals are equally impossible for us to accept. Concerning territorial questions my party agrees with the government, though we think it has offered too much. A plebiscite in regions undoubtedly German is not to be heard of, and the question of giving Posen away is sheer folly to discuss."

INDEMNITY TOO LARGE

"Then there is the indemnity question. I know it is absolutely impossible for us to pay 100,000,000 marks (\$25,000,000,000) in gold. The entente has already stripped us. Germany is removed from the world's commercial competition, especially from competition in the far east. It is our honor the world doubts, it holds us in contempt. We must recapture our reputation. We cannot do so by signing a treaty which will force us to break and which on the face of it is impossible for us. My party denies that Germany caused the war or was dishonest, but we see that the general opinion is against us and we desire to change it."

REPARATIONS AGREED TO

"Since the armistice we have thought of nothing but doing all we could in making reparations to France and Belgium. No other people has been so objective or impartial in thinking as we have. We have tried to think with the enemies' point of view. Because we wish to be honest now we cannot offer to pay any such indemnity as is asked. The question of our culpability we cannot recognize. It is impossible for us to permit German subjects to

ENGLISH BEAUTY ENGAGED



New and exclusive photograph of Lady Diana Manners, England's greatest beauty, who has just become engaged to Captain Duff Cooper of the Grenadier Guards, son of a well known physician of London. Lady Diana is daughter of the Duke of Rutland. She has time and again been pursued by scores of men of title and wealth. She is said to be the most photographed woman in the world, but during the war she devoted to army charities the proceeds of sales of her portraits. She has been an indefatigable worker in the interests of the wounded, giving up all social attractions to work in a hospital. Here she met her future husband, Lady Diana was the youngest of three very beautiful and picturesque sisters. The other two, Lady Marjorie and Lady Violet Manners, are now married to noblemen of high rank. It is interesting to note that Lady Diana is a direct descendant of Dorothy Vernon of Haddon Hall, one of the most picturesque heroines of Elizabethan days.

be tried by a foreign court. Our whole nation is against it. I do not know what course this government of socialists will take. If it signs this peace or its counter proposal we part company with it."

SOCIALISTS LOSE STRENGTH

"There is no strong swing to the left, but a strong swing to the right in German feeling. The majority socialists have lost more than one half of their strength. The government knows its danger. We are working hard to influence Scheidemann and Ebert not to sign. If peace is not signed Germany, even with an army of occupation and a renewal of the blockade, would be better off than Germany forced into endless slavery to fulfill the entente's rapacious terms."

The above is one side of the situation. Nationalistic feelings have been increasing rapidly throughout the country. In Pflieger a regiment is being organized by the 6th German army

not of the constructive, but the destructive type. Unhappily he is not giving the people any new possibilities of reconstruction, but is simply keeping order by turning machine guns on them. This does not make for lasting order, but for lasting revolt.

ADVOCATES SIGNING PEACE

"I think it will be a crime if the government does not sign peace. Refusal to sign would mean general chaos."

I asked if signing the peace would deprive the government of its army, which is obviously monarchistic and conservative in feeling.

"It is possible," said Herr Bernhard. "The government is frightened by the count of this possibility. It wishes to sign, but fears that it will lose its job if it does. With the signing of peace reconstruction could begin in Germany. If time proved that the conditions were too hard they could adjust themselves. Europe and especially France needs Germany able to pay its debts and would see to it that our reconstruction progressed. The socialistic organization of industry is necessary to Germany. Our government has made its greatest blunder by not seeking socialistic steps, and by contenting itself with making speeches, promises and marking time."

STRONGER MEN NEEDED

"It has also shown its weakness by taking no measure against the disintegration of Germany as the threat of the Rhineland to declare its independence indicates. Other men are needed in our government, and the sooner these get out the better for everybody."

From numerous other conversations with leading Germans it becomes daily more obvious that the Germans are now here from hour to hour with no plan for the next. The most notable development of the last week has been the strong stand taken by the conservative parties who now see a chance to undo the work of the German revolution. In opposition to this growing tendency is the increasing power of the radical elements.

TROUBLE BREWING IN MUNICH

From Bavaria comes word that trouble is again brewing in Munich and that the next few weeks may see the return on a larger scale of the Bavarian soviets. The failure of the government to grant labor reforms has augmented the ranks of the radicals, while Herr Noske's tactics of meeting all opposition with firing squads and machine guns has served to inflame the minds of ordinarily peaceful and thinking workers.

On the other hand the government's refusal to take on a more nationalistic tone has lost it the support of the conservatives. Its middle course, one lacking in inspiration of any sort, has gradually stranded it beyond the two main currents in German life—radical socialistic and conservative nationalism. So far the tumults have not reached beyond the political back stage, but the final crisis in the German situation is fast approaching.

Hundred Killed in Street Fighting in North Mexican City

Nuevo Laredo, Mexico, June 12.—(U. P.)—Juan M. Garcia, apparently elected governor of the Mexican state of Nuevo Leon by an overwhelming majority in last Sunday's election, has been arrested on charges preferred by Carranza followers and is held in jail at Monterrey, according to friends arriving here from Monterrey today. Street fighting has been general in Monterrey and in other parts of the state since the election was staged, and from 50 to 100 persons are known to have been killed.

Kolchak's Premier Is Famous Lawyer

Omsk, Siberia.—P. Vologodsky, prime minister and leader under Admiral Kolchak of the All-Russian government, which has its seat at Omsk on the Siberian Steppes, is a lawyer who has had a distinguished career in which he has saved many revolutionists from the death penalty. He was a member of the directorate at Omsk, and when Admiral Kolchak proclaimed himself supreme ruler or "constitutional dictator," as the Admiral's friends put it, Vologodsky was named president of the cabinet.

Drys Not Allowed To Enter England

London, June 12.—A number of American temperance lecturers who were preparing to come here for an "international dry campaign," were refused passports at the request of the British government. It was reported here today. Nevertheless, the Anti-Saloon League of America has started work in Great Britain.

Vienna Crowds Hiss World Peace Pact

Vienna via London, June 12.—More than 100,000 persons packed the streets for three hours Wednesday carrying banners wrapped with crepe. Some carried flags inscribed "Death to Peace," and others declaring for a union of Germany and Austria. The Italian mission was hissed.

Morris' Departure For Omsk Halted

Tokio, June 12.—The departure of American Admiral Morris for Omsk was cancelled at the last moment. It was announced Wednesday. Omsk is the seat of Admiral Kolchak's anti-Bolshevik government in Siberia.

Railroad Bill Is Reported Favorably

Washington, June 12.—(U. P.)—The senate appropriations committee today favorably reported the \$750,000,000 railroad deficiency bill in the same form as passed by the house. Errors will be made to get the bill passed at once.

AMERICAN-BRITISH UNION TO ASSIST HUMANITY URGED

English Bishop Believes That Together They Would Be All-Powerful Agency for Good.

WORLD DEMOCRACY OBJECT

'Partners in Crusade for Mankind and Sponsors for High Ideals of World,' Is His Idea.

By Delt Edwards
London, June 1.—(I. N. S.)—(By Mail).—Bishop James Wellton, dean of Manchester and often affectionately referred to as "the peoples' bishop," believes the two great democracies of the United States and Great Britain should become partners in a crusade for mankind and sponsors for the high destiny of the world.

He is known from one end of the British Isles to the other better, probably, than any other high church man, and among his greatest treasures are the compliments of the children along the streets. It is said that in a day's walk in Manchester he bows to more friends than any other man there.

Bishop Wellton, in an exclusive interview for the International News Service, said if the United States and Great Britain are united as brothers and allies the world will be safe for democracy and democracy will be safe for the world. For then democratic government all over the world will take its

IDEALS ARE AKIN

"It is important to consider what are the principles of the democratic ideal because it is upon the two great kindred peoples on both sides of the Atlantic ocean that the realization of those principles depends."

"If the United States and Great Britain are united, not only as allies but as brothers, the world will be safe for democracy and democracy will be safe for the world. From them democratic government in my opinion, will take its character all the world over. It will mean that they mean. It will stand for the ideals which they set before themselves."

"What, then are the principles of democracy?"
"Peace. It is impossible to mistake the lesson of history that upon the whole democracy, when truly democratic, fosters peace as a military monarchy fosters war. The military monarch, as his throne rests upon force, cannot, and does not, trust his people. He must hold them in constant restraint. He

breeds the breath of free inquiry. He seeks to avert their thoughts by vicious conquest. It was so that the Kaiser said, in fact, to the people of Germany and Prussia:

WAE REVEALS TRUTHS

"The war has revealed, as by the lightning's flash, certain great truths of human society," said Bishop Wellton. "It has illuminated the contrasts between two distinct ideals of national life—the autocratic and the democratic."

"Of the first among those ideals, Germany was the conspicuous embodiment. Of the second, the supreme representative is found in the United States of America and under the veil of monarchical government in Great Britain. Between these ideals, the world was called upon to choose at the outbreak of the war. All the enlightened nations arrayed themselves on the side of democracy and the democratic ideal won the day."

"Nobody doubts, whatever may be the faults or failings of democracy in countries so little insured to it as Germany and Russia, that the world cannot and will not revert to any other than a democratic system of government. Progress in the future, near or distant, will come more and more in the direction of democracy and democracy is the common property of the English-speaking race."

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MILITARISM MEANS WAR

"Make yourselves my slaves and I will make you masters of the world." "Militarism means war sooner or later. No false proverb was ever written than 'If you want peace prepare for war.' If you want peace, you must prepare for peace."

"The people want peace. They have nothing to gain by bloodshed. They do not feel the lust of conquest. They are not dazzled by military glory and upon their homes descends the last pain, suffering and agony of war. Therefore, democracy is the best guarantee of peace."

"Freedom. It is freedom that has been the watchword of the United States. The United States fought for freedom in the War of Independence, the Civil War and the war against Germany."

"But freedom has many enemies. The man are few who are such staunch friends of freedom that they would rather see the world free than see it what they wish it to be. But against free powers, political or spiritual, which would if they could impugn the sovereign principle of freedom in all its fullness of speech, of meetings, of life and worship, the democratic governments of mankind must fight and fight to the bitter end."

"It is to me an amazement that any society at the present day should give any sort of countenance to the enemies of human freedom. But if freedom is safe anywhere, it is safe in the great democracies of the United States and Great Britain."

EQUALITY OF OPPORTUNITY

"Equality. I do not, of course, mean the absolute equality. I mean the equality of opportunity. Democracy forbids the ultimate severance of man into classes. The United States set long ago the example of raising its humblest citizen to the highest dignity. In Great Britain today what more inspiring career is there than that of a man like the prime minister, who was born in a house little more than a cottage in the city of Manchester, and now guides the fortunes of the British Empire?"

"Wherever caste or class exists there is a barrier to human ambition. The principle of equality is not seen there. I believe that the origin of the feeling for human equality lies in the Christian doctrine of the equality of souls in the sight of God. I believe that it is not so signally vindicated as in the Reformation. It is essentially a democratic doctrine and I believe in the confident belief that the great English-speaking democracies will adhere to it and never depart from it."

PRESIDENT'S STAND UPHOLD

"A democracy, again, involves and implies public good faith. It sometimes occurs to me that President Wilson will have conferred no greater good to humanity by his League of Nations, if it comes into being, than by his insistence on the publicity of all treaties and contracts between nations. Secrecy breeds suspicion. It was once said of the old diplomatist that he was a man sent abroad to tell lies for the benefit of his own nation. The time is soon coming, I hope, when he will be more defined as a man sent abroad to speak the truth for all nations."

"Democracy entertains no tolerance for secret treaties of insurance or re-insurance. It demands that nations treat each other as gentlemen treat each other. It demands good faith, mutual regard for rights and the reference of disputes to judicial arbitration. Whereas democracy is in the interest of all the people, there is nothing it needs to hide from the people."

"Justice, the last principle of democracy. It is justice that has been the mainstay of the British in India. The people of India—whether they like or dislike the British government, and they certainly prefer it to the German government—unanimously admit that it is a just government."

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