

Railway Strikes Are Symptomatic of Generally Chaotic Mental Attitude in Germany

STRIKES REFLECT MENTAL ATTITUDE OF GERMAN PEOPLE

They Are Really Going Round in Circles Without Any Definite Idea of Just What They Want.

EVERY MOVE CAUSES ALARM

Danger Is That Almost Anything May Touch Off Spark and Result in Big Mass Movement.

By Michael Farbrman

Special Cable to The Journal and The Chicago Daily News.

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Berlin, Germany, Aug. 1.—The strike fever on the German railways that has been shaking the whole German organism has almost spent itself.

Public feeling has gone through a period of severe tension. It had caused enough for uneasiness before in food riots, sporadic plunderings of shops and the like, but this trouble among the railway men caused genuine and undisguised fright.

First of all a railway strike is a new phenomenon in Prussia, where it was understood that the railway men should stand at their posts, so strong is German public opinion against a railway strike.

A special circumstance of the moment is that apart from the general dislocation caused by a railway strike it would mean cutting off food supplies from the big towns already on the verge of famine, and a few days' stoppage might cause disaster.

POLITICAL EFFECT FEARED

Besides this dislike and fear of a railway strike there is now an even deeper apprehension that it would at this moment be a political factor of decisive importance.

In fact for the last few months the idea has been widely canvassed and spread that a railway strike would be a far easier and better way of achieving what the discarded methods of the Spartacists failed to achieve—the overthrow of a regime that has not yet been overthrown.

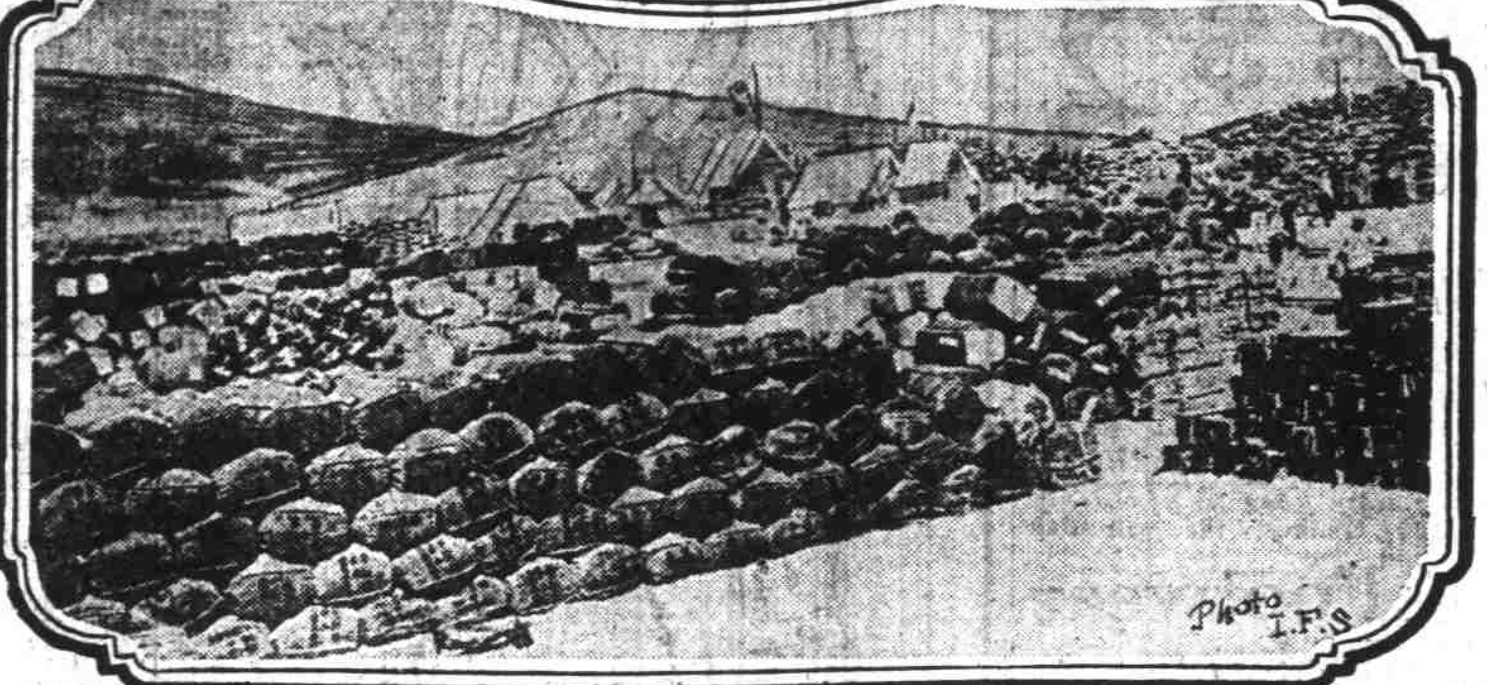
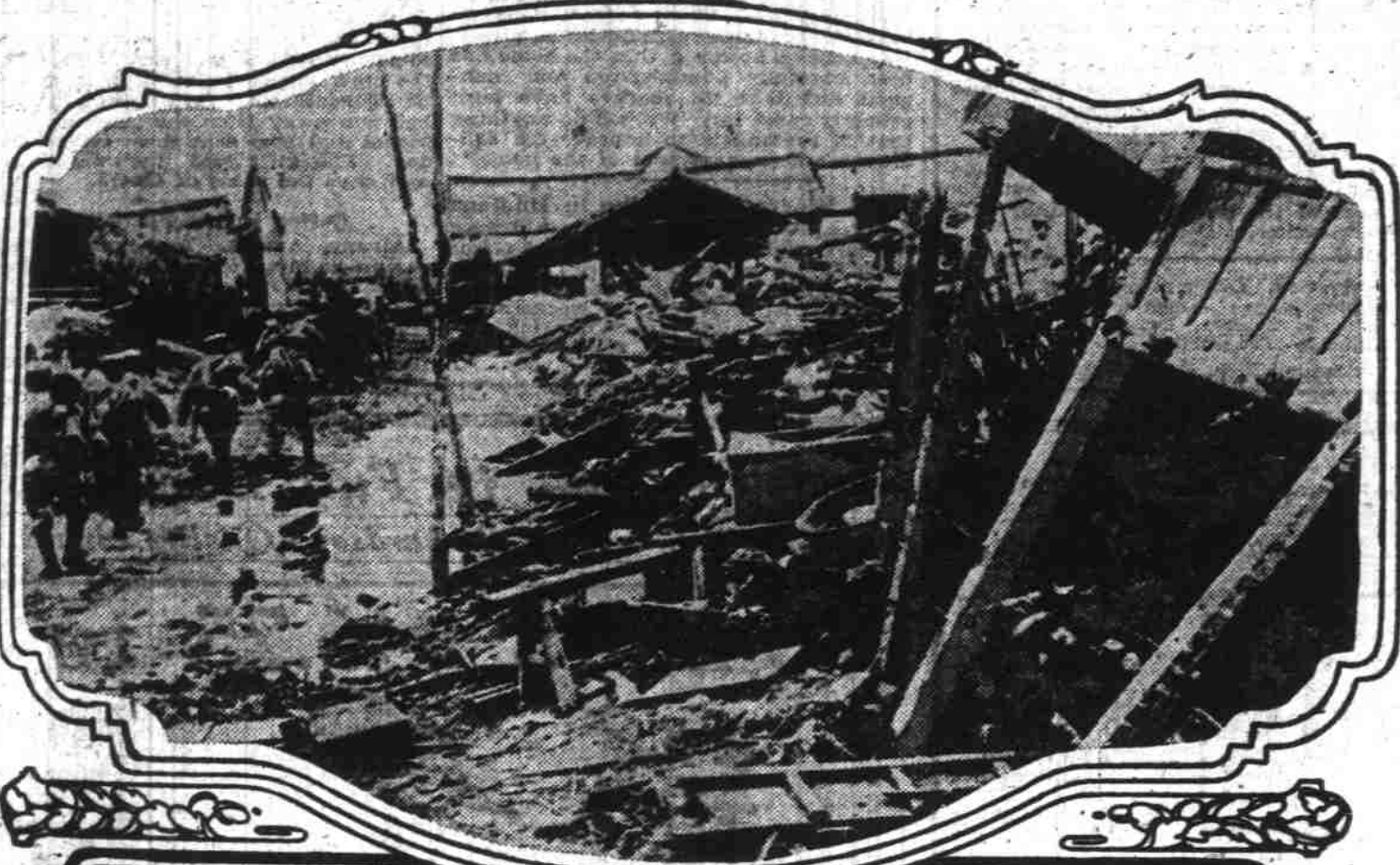
Therefore even the starting of a partial strike at a couple of railway stations in Berlin aroused quite special alarm. It was thought that it was the heralding symptom of a great general strike on the railways. The alarm was all the greater because of the character of the strike, which had two disquieting features.

One was a lack of any precision or definiteness in the workers' demands, and the other was that the leadership of the strike was not acquired by the trade union but by a strike committee which was suspected of being in direct connection with the railway men's workers' councils—a new revolutionary organization of the working class. The strike was denounced as "wild" and arbitrary and rumors ran of secret wire pulling.

CONTROVERSY OVER AIMS

For the last two weeks a curious controversy has gone on in the press and among the people over the question: Are the railway strikes political or not political? Is the ultimate aim of the strikes to improve the condition of the railway men or to overthrow the government? The government organs have asserted that the railway men were being exploited by the communist wire pullers. Independent Socialist papers have hotly denied this, declaring that there was not the slightest trace of any

SHANTUNG, SUBJECT OF WILSON-SENATE DISPUTE



The Shantung clause in the peace treaty, giving that province in China to Japan, has started a great stir in the United States senate. These photos show scenes in the province of Shantung allotted to the Japs. The upper photo shows Japanese troops marching through a Chinese town wrecked and ruined by flood. The lower photograph shows piles of ammunition and supplies stored by Jap troops in a town in the province.

political aim and that the railway men were not being exploited by any political group. Both sides are right and both sides are wrong. The government press is wrong in supposing that the men are self-consciously aiming at any political objective or are out for anything but to better their conditions. The independent press is even further wrong in denying that the strikes have no political character. Not that there is any political wire pulling or intrigue behind the strikes, but because anything that happens in Germany now must necessarily and inevitably acquire political significance.

MASS GETTING DESPERATE

The dominating fact is that the masses are becoming desperate so that any symptom of mass movement must be taken seriously. The mass mind in Germany is so unstable that the slightest disturbance may upset the whole balance and start a mass movement. Certainly there are many economic hardships that the people have the right

to seek to remove, but never before have they been prone to act so precipitately. It is a matter of mood created very largely by a sense of political helplessness. They feel that the revolution achieved nothing and that all their great exaggerated hopes they had entertained some months ago have fallen to the ground. More than that, they see, as everyone can see, that the reaction is growing stronger every day and that instead of gaining power, as they thought, the workmen are losing power day by day.

REASON FOR RADICALISM

It is an ancient political axiom in this old and highly experienced Europe that the more the working masses feel themselves politically powerless the more inclined they are to political radicalism. This is no paradox, but a grim reality. Its truth is to be corroborated today in Germany. The masses of Germany are coming nearer to that perilous boundary, the crossing of which leads to the opening of the floodgates of revolution

SIR EDWARD'S SPEECH LAUDED BY SINN FEIN, OTHERS INDIGNANT

Leader Says: Address Teachers' People Parliament Has No Right to Impose Laws.

By William H. Brayden

Special Cable to The Journal and The Chicago Daily News.

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Dublin, Ireland, Aug. 1.—Sir Edward Carson's Belfast speech is discussed with great indignation everywhere except among the Sinn Feiners. They rather admire the directness of the Ulster leader for they are always able to use his utterances to strengthen their position. Arthur Griffith, who next to De Valera is the most prominent Sinn Fein leader, says he welcomes Sir Edward's propaganda for it is teaching the people of northern Ulster that the British parliament has no right to impose upon them any law they dislike. This, he says, is good Sinn Fein doctrine. The more Sir Edward teaches it in Ulster the more he is preparing the ground for the Sinn Feiners to teach them to resist all British law. "Personally," says Mr. Griffith, "I prefer a man like Carson to any English politician. He is a straighter and abler man. But they will sell him as they have sold other men who stood in their way."

Mr. Griffith's solution of the Ulster difficulty is to say to the Ulstermen what George Washington said to the British loyalists in America: "Any one of you who regards the interests of England above the freedom and happiness of your country can pass over to the enemy's lines and settle on English territory."

Suggestions made in some quarters that legal proceedings may be taken against Sir Edward Carson for defiance of law are regarded as absurd. There would have to be a complete change in the administration of Ireland before it would be possible. The chief administrators of the law, the attorney general and the solicitor general are both members of his party. It is stated that they accepted their high offices after obtaining his assent

as loyal members of his party to do so. The threat of Sir Edward to call out the Ulster volunteers has provoked an inquiry as to what has become of the military equipment of that force. The government was supposed to have obtained possession of the volunteers' rifles and machine guns at the same time that it took over the rifles of

the Redmond nationalist volunteers, but it is now charged that all it did was to come to a friendly arrangement with the Ulster men as to the custody of the arms which are said to be still at the disposal of Carson's Ulster army. There is sure to be some searching cross-examination in the house of commons on this point.

Department of Aeronautics Asked Washington, Aug. 1.—Creation of an executive department of aeronautics, headed by a cabinet member, is proposed in a bill introduced today by Senator New of Indiana.

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Why You Are Paying High Prices for Meat

The comment of the American press on the Federal Trade Commission's report on the packing industry would tend to show that the people do not seem to be worrying over the precise percentage of profits made by Mr. Armour and Mr. Swift and Mr. Wilson and the rest, nor are they so deeply concerned lest these gentlemen branch out too widely into the grocery business. What they do ask is: Are the packers profiteering; are they keeping up the price of meat and other products they handle; are they one of the props of the High Cost of Living? While the packers have their defenders among the newspapers, there is a widespread belief that the "Big Five" can not be held guiltless of all blame for the continuance of high food prices, as is shown in the leading article in THE LITERARY DIGEST for August 2.

Other features of more than ordinary interest in this number of "The Digest" are:

Peace Can Only Come When Everybody Goes to Work Again

And when "the healing processes of trade" have a chance to make themselves felt. So we hear on every hand. Here's a common-sense prediction of the future of America and the rest of the world, and a discussion of "the great volume of reconstruction business which Europe is expected to send here."

Austria Paying the Fiddler

She writhes and kicks against the terrible punishment, but will submit. While the American dollar, quoted before the war at five crowns, is now worth thirty-two, "the future is not so black, even for Austria." A map accompanying this article shows proud Austria before the war and the shred of territory that now remains.

Japan Rattles the Saber in Korea

Japanese journals are publishing articles in which the failure of that country's authorities to administer affairs in Korea is pointed out in harsh terms. Korea, through the Korean National Association, appeals to the world for freedom and makes charges against Japan that are startling, to say the least. Be sure to read this "close-up" account, which includes translations direct from the Japanese press.

A Race Riot At President Wilson's Door

strikes some observers as a touch of irony, inasmuch as he had just returned from looking after the needs of suppressed nationalities and subject races in Europe. In this article the opinions of various editors, including representatives of the colored race, are given as to the causes and tendencies of the race riots in Washington.

Does Germany Consider the Treaty A "Scrap of Paper"?

The Brussels "Nation" remarks cynically that the Germans have signed the treaty, but they "will never execute it," as they consider it "a peace of dopes." Read this series of translations from the German, Austrian and Italian press, and you will get an answer to a question that affects the future safety of the world.

"Dry" America As an Example to England

The Manchester "Guardian" says American prohibition is the "biggest blow at the use of alcohol that has been struck since Mohammed banned liquor among his followers," but other English papers are not so sure. It may be all right for America, but for England—perish the thought!

The Up roar Over Shantung

"The blackest page in all our history," cries Senator Hiram Johnson of California, "was written when our name was signed to the treaty delivering Shantung to Japan." Many newspapers agree and run such headlines as "Japan the Possessor of Stolen Goods," "Far Eastern Alsace-Lorraine." Others defend the Shantung treaty. This article will give you the basic facts of the dispute and the leading opinions on both sides.

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