

Germany Will Resist Forced Demobilization

Foreign Secretary Resents Allied Attempts to Disband and Disarm Soldiers

Protests Labor "Slavery"

Brookdorff-Rantau Dislikes French Attitude Toward Alsace and Lorraine

BASEL, Feb. 15.—Count von Brookdorff-Rantau, German Foreign Secretary, in discussing Germany's foreign policy in the new National Assembly at Weimar yesterday, declared he had resisted and would continue to resist Allied attempts to make Germany demobilize all her military forces.

The task of the German nation as regarded foreign affairs might be summed up under two heads, said the Foreign Secretary, of which the first was the ending of the state of war and the second the establishment of normal relations with other peoples.

"Unfortunately," he continued, "Germany's voluntary disarmament has not softened our enemies, who recently attempted to settle, on the basis of disarmament, questions undoubtedly appertaining to the peace conference. I have repulsed and will continue to repulse these attempts looking to the dissolution of all our old military forces and the substitution of new Republican troops for our old peace army, which could be used in the East."

Has Shouldered Defeat

Germany has shouldered the consequences of defeat and is determined to observe the conditions agreed upon with her adversaries. These conditions imply the complete renunciation of the political aims of the old Germany. We are ready to accept restrictions upon our sovereignty, the compulsory submission of our differences with other states to an international court of arbitration, and the renunciation of our armament, if our old adversaries and future neighbors submit to the same restrictions."

The Foreign Minister acknowledged that the stand taken by Germany at the conferences at The Hague regarding these two fundamental questions had constituted a grievous mistake which the entire German nation would have to expiate today. He added that this admission in no way implied an avowal that Germany had caused the world war. He urged in strong terms that no war

indemnity should be paid and that no territory should be ceded to the victors.

Protests Against "Slavery"

He continued: "If we rebuild what has been destroyed by us in territories we occupied we will do so by our free labor. We protest against the slavery now being imposed on German prisoners of war.

"Our adversaries owe their victory in large measure to a war, not military, but economic. It follows, therefore, that the final peace must not only be a political peace, but in a large measure an economic peace. We hope, therefore, that the decision of the Paris economic conference will be abandoned. Any differential treatment, even of a temporary nature, of Germany in the domain of commerce and transport would not be acceptable to us."

The Foreign Minister said that the Germans needed to revise their notions regarding German commercial policy, which, he declared, had been associated with narrow and bureaucratic views in the Foreign Ministry. He said it was his intention to introduce experienced business men into the ministry. Freedom of trade, the minister said, had freedom of the seas as its essential condition, and as far as Germany was concerned this point in the programme of President Wilson was of the highest importance.

Wants Colonies or No League

"Moreover," the Foreign Minister continued, "Germany cannot enter a league of nations without colonies. We approve the plan of international control over tropical colonies on the condition that all the colonial powers also submit to this proposal and that Germany receive her approximate portion of colonial products."

"On the other hand, we must expect to lose some valuable portions of our national territory. I refer to Alsace-Lorraine. We are now being done to the rights of the present population of Alsace-Lorraine. The French troops of occupation regard the country as definitely conquered and are driving out or arresting all those elements in whom they see an obstacle to their imperialistic designs. They are also suppressing the rights of the people to use their own language by forcing them to adopt the French tongue."

"From the fact that the peace conference has come to no definite conclusion regarding the fate of Alsace-Lorraine, we draw the conclusion that we are competent to intervene in favor of its rights, so that its voice may be heard in the determination of its destiny."

Condemns French Plan

Count von Brookdorff-Rantau condemned the alleged French plan to join the Saar territory to Alsace-Lorraine and compared it "to the old German expansionist aims upon Longwy and Briey basins." He considered it undesirable that Germany and France should continue to regard themselves as hereditary enemies, adding: "The peace conference will have the task of creating guarantees which will have the effect of making such a state of things appear reasonable, but let no one try to snatch from us portions of our national territory which we regard as of vital importance."

In appealing for a United Germany and the reuniting of Germany and Austria the Foreign Minister said: "If we now find each other again we shall only be correcting the mistakes made at the time the empire was founded. The peace conference will assuredly not refuse its sanction to the rectification of this mistake of the

past. Henceforth we must protest against any violence being done to Germans and to Austrians, who are, so to speak, our fellow countrymen."

Berlin "Reds" Threaten Reprisals by Russia If Radek Is Executed

BERLIN, Feb. 14 (By The Associated Press).—Seigfried Weinberg, attorney for Karl Radek, the Bolshevik propagandist who was arrested several days ago, has been denied admission to the cell occupied by his client. Weinberg, who has been prominently identified with the Spartacan movement in Berlin, obtained permission of the courts to communicate with Radek, but an interview was denied at the last moment by a lieutenant of the Reinhardt regiment which arrested Radek.

Radek, according to a statement made by Weinberg, is in the Moabit jail, and also is heavily handcuffed. The "Red Star," the Spartacan organ, in discussing the arrest of Radek, says: "We make no secret of our regrets that one of the best of our international comrades and a leader in the Russian revolution, who has set himself an enduring monument in Russian history, has fallen a victim to the spies of the 'socialistic' German government."

The Spartacan organ says that two systems of justice prevail in Germany, and adds: "The first was applied in the instance of Liebknecht and Luxemburg. It was assassination. The second is military, and evidence is accumulating in the present case that the military authorities are not relinquishing their prerogatives.

"It may be said, however, that if Radek is to become a similar sort of victim the Russian government would not satisfy itself with mere moral protests, just as the moral protest of the German proletariat against the murder of Liebknecht and Luxemburg is not the final word that the proletariat will have to say in this matter."

Junker Plan Seen To Recast Germany's Army in Old Mould

New York Tribune Foreign Press Bureau

A concealed attempt to reestablish the old German army, despite the insistence of the new German statesmen that the junker spirit has passed forever from Germany, is seen in many reports and articles appearing in the German press.

The reports and articles deal with the organization of "the new German people's army," but behind this democratic title may be detected an effort to reconstitute the old Teuton military machine. Issues of the German papers for the week of January 15, just received here, contain appeals to the "workers, soldiers, citizens and students" to join various alleged defence organizations, such as the "Volunteer Regiment" of Colonel Reinhardt in Berlin.

The purposes of these organizations, as given in the German press, are the suppression of the Spartacides and the protection of the government and

Weimar Assembly. In addition, there is a recruiting campaign under way for the formation of a "Frontier Guard of the East" to repel the Poles and Bolsheviks.

Insists on Defence Army A writer in the "Vossische Zeitung" says:

"So long as we are unable to reshape the surface of the earth, so long will Prussia, and with her Germany, remain a Continental state surrounded by countries more or less hostile, with her door to the ocean controlled by England. This geographical fact will compel us, our inclination for friendly intercourse with all the nations of the earth notwithstanding, to maintain an armed power."

"What we need is a factor removed from the turmoil of party politics on which the government may rely absolutely in any emergency whatever. A gendarmerie or constabulary does not satisfy the demand on account of its necessarily limited numerical strength. A militia or citizen's guard, however excellent its spirit, never would be able to hold aloof from partisan excitement in case of internal troubles."

In another issue of the paper a

speech of its chief political writer, the well known George Bernhard, is reported at length. In an address on January 16 before an audience of 10,000 this leader of pan-German thought said:

"Our government cherished the idealistic belief that it could exercise power through sheer persuasion. The events in the interior and on the Eastern frontier, however, have taught us that we cannot continue without the reconstruction of military power.

"We went to war as a rich people; to-day we stand as a people of beggars. If the coal mines on the left bank of the Rhine and upper Silesia and the grain and potato fields of Posen are taken away from us that will mean that not only the German Empire, but also the German people, has ceased to exist. . . . If armed power has ever protected the peace it did do it now."

The "Berliner Neueste Nachrichten," an avowedly junker and monarchist newspaper, reports on January 17 that the organization of a volunteer army to defend the Eastern frontier has been decided upon.

German Socialists Would Seize Wealth To Meet State Debt

WEIMAR, Feb. 14 (By The Associated Press).—There will be a sharp seizure of the fortunes of the wealthy, according to a prediction made before the German National Assembly to-day by Dr. Heim, a Socialist, in discussing the Socialists' programme, especially concerning taxation. He did not believe, however, that the government would be able to get the great sums needed by seizing fortunes, and he thought that the balance necessary must be taken from the war profits.

The wealthy, Dr. Heim added, will be hit "at their most sensitive point—the pocketbook." Luxuries will not be permitted and inheritances will be taxed so that all over a certain moderate sum will be taken by the government. Dr. Heim said he feared that hundreds of millions of marks already had been squandered by the finance ministers of Saxony and Bavaria.

Count von Posadowsky-Wehmer, former Vice-Chancellor and a Conserva-

tive, devoted himself to praise of German qualities, except Germany's foreign policy, which he called "tactless and mistaken. Shouts of disapproval greeted him when he said:

Policy Toward U. S.

"It is a question whether it was wise to draw America into the war by unrestricted submarine warfare."

"It is a deliberate lie to say that Germany wanted war," he added. "Neither the German government nor the German people wanted it."

Philipp Scheidemann, Chancellor in the new German government, yesterday showed himself able to handle conflicting demonstrations with no sign of being intimidated by the most severe opposition or moved by the most severe jeering. No speaker since the meeting of the National Assembly was opened has been so outspoken toward his opponents.

One of the incidents of his speech was his reference to Austria's desire to join Germany. He said: "We desire no reluctant adherents, and by the same token, nobody wishing to join us should be prevented." There was all the more a threat in his warning: "The Entente is able to force any kind of peace on Germany, but if it is an un-

just peace 70,000,000 people in their hearts will never forgive or forget."

Protests Against Harshness

Adolf Groeber, Centrist, followed the Chancellor, as leader of the next strongest party, and, like Herr Scheidemann, emphasized "work" as the watchword of the new republic. He protested against the slowness in arranging for peace, the severity of the armistice conditions, the Polish demands for annexations, the Polish demands and plans to put former Emperor William on trial as being "all a part of a scheme to humiliate Germany." He declared the league of nations would "contain seeds of new wars unless constructed on principles of justice."

An urgent appeal to all Germans to unite to prevent former Emperor William from being delivered up for trial was published in the "Landeszeitung Deutschland," a new government organ being issued here. The appeal is headed, "League of German Men and Women for the Protection of the Person, Freedom and Life of William." Appended is a statement by Prince Henry of Prussia, who was asked to decline in favor of Field Marshal von Hindenburg.

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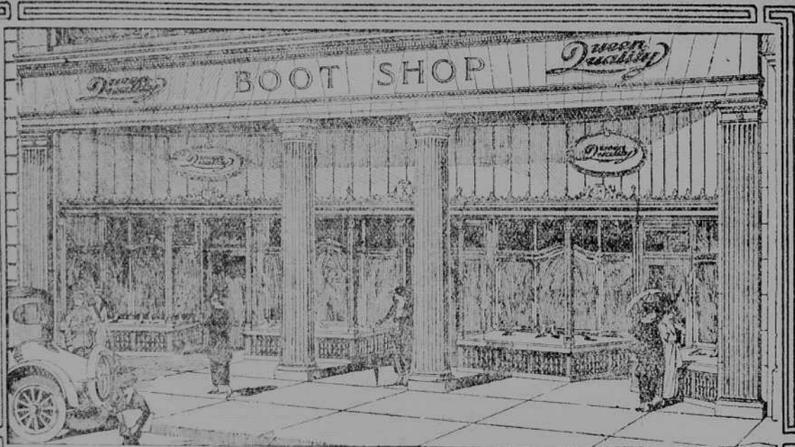
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