

# How "Der Tag" at Last Comes to Germany

## America Demands End of Talk--- Praise for Clemenceau Note ---Germany and the League

WITH the publication of the revised peace terms of the Allies, American opinion has become practically a unit in demanding that concessions end and that action begin. Germany's last chance has arrived, it is declared. Premier Clemenceau's bitter indictment has received the widest praise as one of the most eloquent of Allied utterances.

As for the changes in the terms, they are generally considered unimportant, not seriously weakening the peace. The only criticism expressed is with regard to the early admission of Germany to the league of nations. Opinion varies widely on this point. In general, the radical papers and the papers which supported the league strongly feel that this change is a wise one. Papers opposed to the league consider the early admission of Germany either useless or worse. This last extreme view is expressed by "The Washington Post":

that the Allies will be too busy with home problems to maintain large armies, "The Ledger" says:

"Obviously, if we can depend neither upon the chastened submission of the German ruling class nor upon the Allied armies, we must find a cure not at present on the surface of our minds. That is undoubtedly what the Allied publicists are trying to find when they discuss the advisability of an early imprisonment of the German nation within the corral of the 'league.' Their idea is clearly to make it pay Germans to keep the peace.

**Allied Logic**

"It is the man who has nothing to lose and all to gain who is dangerous. 'Firebugs' do not come from the ranks of the householders. This is the Holy logic of the Allied leaders. They propose to set a German to watch a German, that is, to create a condition of affairs in which a large proportion of the German people will have so much more to lose by war than they are likely to gain that they will let no German government, pseudo-democratic, junker or jingo, plunge that nation into war."

A typical expression of praise for the Clemenceau note and of insistence that the last word has now been said is the following from "The Boston Transcript," entitled "The Prisoner at the Bar":

"Is the long trial virtually over at Paris? Has the accused nation at last received definite sentence to which it must bow? As a 'negotiation' it is surely over. That negotiation, if such it may be called, has evidently been exhausted with the masterly response signed by M. Clemenceau, on behalf of the Allied and associated governments, to the last German series of objections.

"Vary sharply indeed does this ultimate letter of M. Clemenceau's emphasize the extraordinary slowness of the German people in grasping an understanding of their responsibility before the Allies and before the world, and as our forefathers would have put it, their responsibility to the laws of nature and of nature's God. Never were the eyes of a people so blind to an act or to its consequences as the Germans have shown themselves to be since they came to this conference. . . . It is possible that these modifications, taken together with the aspect of sternest necessity which must be imparted to the German situation by a reading of this Allied ultimatum, will lead the German government to abandon its vast and most presumptuous recalcitrance. This we must see in the next seven days. In the mean time, and whatever the outcome, the pages of history have been distinguished, in this concluding Allied statement signed with the name of M. Clemenceau, with a document which will rank as one of the sternest pieces of retributory eloquence ever recorded."

### Allies Deceive Themselves

More moderate in its opposition is "The Kansas City Star," which argues thus against the theory that "Germany can be dealt with better inside than outside the league":

"Nothing has happened to weaken in Germany the Bismarck theory of diplomatic reinsurance and much has happened to strengthen reliance upon it. Germany must find new alliances, and she will make partners or victims of her allies as best suits her needs. Prince Lichnowsky, writing only the other day in 'Die Neue Rundschau' sets out to prove that an alliance with Russia must be the basis of Germany's future policy. But whether Germany looks to Russia or Japan, or whatever the policy she may adopt to win back the place she has lost, the Allies deceive themselves if they imagine she will be influenced in following it by reason of being inside or outside of the league."

The opinion of those who supported the early admission of Germany is well expressed by "The Philadelphia Public Ledger." After arguing that the present government in Germany appears to be merely an "adroit reshuffle of the face cards of the old régime," upon which no reliance can be placed, and

### Enemy Reactions



"If only the storm will soon blow over!"

—Die Muskete, Vienna.

The two figures are taken from mythology. Thor is the God of Thunder, who slays evil spirits with his hammer. Alberich is the wicked dwarf who stole the gold from the Rhine Maidens. The German title of the cartoon is "Kapitalberich," a pun on the name of the figure chosen to represent capital. Thor is apparently used to represent the popular uprising against capital.

## The German Orgy of Hate

### Hysterical Protest, but Little Talk of Rejection

COPIES of German newspapers from the days immediately following the publication of the peace treaty confirm the impression immediately gained from the cable dispatches as to the German attitude toward the terms of the Allies, an attitude best designated as an orgy of impotent rage. There is not the slightest indication of a consciousness of proportion between guilt and retribution, of a willingness to balance up what Germany deserves with what she gets, or of a determination to make the most of the actual situation.

Apart from that isolated bourgeois freelance, Maximilien Harden, and the Independent Socialists, it would appear, there was not one voice raised in Germany in recognition of even the inevitability, not to say substantial justice, of the peace terms. From extreme Conservatives to government Socialists, from Prussian jingoes to Bavarian particularists, from the pro-English group led by Theodor Wolff, of the "Berliner Tageblatt," and Prince Lichnowsky to the pro-French clique of Georg Bernhard, of the "Vossische Zeitung," the comment is one of unreserved, unqualified condemnation.

### League of Nations Ignored

In the beginning the rage of the German press was directed mainly against the territorial and economic clauses of the treaty. The issue of membership in the league of nations seems to have been altogether neglected. The loudest shots were fired against the "betrayal" of Germany by President Wilson, whose fourteen points had furnished the basis for Germany's surrender. The following comment by Dr. Ludwig Haas, member of the Baden ministry, published in the "Berliner Tageblatt," is typical. Herr Haas (not to be confused with Hugo Haase, leader of the Independent Socialists) quotes President Wilson's utterances on the self-determination of peoples, and continues:

"Should Wilson have made the mental reservation that it (the principle of self-determination) did not apply to the Germans of the Saar district and to those Germans who are now to be made Poles without any plebiscite? If Wilson subscribes to this peace

it would be much better for his reputation to declare cynically that all his words were empty phrases, not seriously meant, calculated to deceive the world.

"We cannot believe that the President of a great and honorable people should in this manner gamble with his reputation and the good name of his nation. We still hope that he will in the course of further negotiations take a stand for Germany's rights and his own honor. . . .

"German indignation is not aroused by the fact that the Allies want to coerce us in the most brutal manner. We are vanquished, and it would not be the first time in the world's history that a vanquished people is made to pay. The mood of boundless bitterness is caused by the fact that faith and loyalty have no validity in the world any more.

"There is only one way out for Germany—to reject the peace unless it is altered in its very foundations. And this regardless of consequences."

### Refusal Not Stressed

This demand for unqualified rejection, although at the start encouraged by the highest government officials, was within a few days slightly modified. The stress was laid, not on ultimate refusal, but on immediate protest.

Perhaps even more than the territorial settlement, the economic clauses of the treaty are denounced as impossible both of acceptance and fulfillment. The "Frankfurter Zeitung" declares that the peace treaty achieves the strangulation of German economic life. It points out that the Allies demand first mortgage on Germany's full resources until all Allied claims are paid. Such first mortgage, the paper believes, would mean inevitably the cancellation of German internal debt, including pre-war government bonds held in the country; and this, again, would lead to the collapse of the total economic structure of Germany.

The "Berliner Tageblatt" declares the economic conditions are wholly intolerable and asks the German people to realize that the Allies are imposing on them a new and autocratic sovereign in the form of the reparation commission, which shall be in control of German life and property for years to come.

### Doubt



Is it a moving picture scene or an attempted revolution?

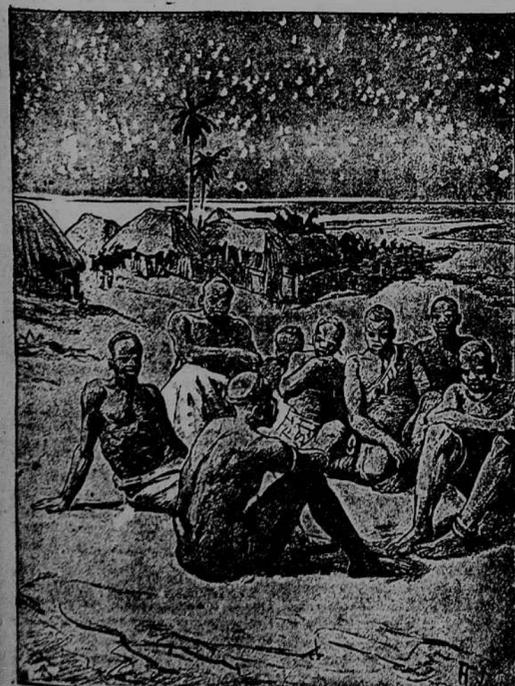
—Lustige Blätter, Berlin.

### After Rembrandt



"Whatever you take from me you take from yourselves." —From Kladderadatsch, Berlin.

### African Politics



"The colonies will come under the league of nations. That will be a better time for us."  
 "Fool! Now only one nation kicks us round—then all of them will."  
 —Wahre Jakob, Stuttgart.



### Entente Capitalism

"Voilà! The Boche is getting sentimental, and just at the time I am about to give him twenty-five years' hard labor."  
 —Die Muskete, Vienna.