

ERZBERGER NOW IS OPTIMISTIC ON GERMAN FUTURE

Finance Minister Tells of Tax Reforms That Will Help Restoration.

WORK NEARLY ENDED

Chief Task Is to Create New Demand for Teuton Cash in Foreign Countries.

HUGE LEVIES ON WEALTH

Most Unpopular Official in Nation Goes on Bravely With Drastic Plans.

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Berlin, Dec. 12.—An optimistic view of the German financial problem is held by Matthias Erzberger, the Finance Minister, who points out in an interview with the correspondent of The Sun the need for consolidating foreign demands upon Germany and for the extension of long term credits. He said:

"Once our tax reforms are established other financial questions can be more easily answered; naturally, therefore, we are working with the greatest energy upon this problem. With the floating debt materially cut down by direct taxes inflation will be appreciably reduced.

"The exchange rate on marks places us in a grave situation, but this is not so much a financial as an industrial question. Germany had been so long isolated and in such need of foodstuffs and raw materials that it is small wonder the lifting of the blockade resulted in heavy imports, which naturally led to a tumbling exchange rate.

Reform Work Partly Finished.

"The chief task now is to create a great demand for German money in foreign countries and to receive credits with which to make imports. Our tax reforms are making rapid progress, although our financial needs are very great. A satisfactory part of the reform work already has been finished. Under the two great tax laws now before the National Assembly, a tax on turnover and a one time national emergency tax, we shall have, with the tax adopted at Weimar, a new annual income of 7,500,000,000 marks; to this must be added 12,000,000,000 from the one time war taxes passed in July. These two one time taxes will help to cover the deficit of 19,000,000,000 marks in the current year.

"The income, rental and interest tax now before the National Assembly is expected to yield more than 10,000,000,000 marks. This will meet our needs and only a few billions more will be necessary, which can be raised by indirect taxation through the tariff. All old direct taxes will produce 15,000,000,000 and indirect taxes 11,000,000,000.

"The tax question and organization are the principal domestic problems before the German Government. Herr Erzberger, who generally is considered the most powerful man in the cabinet, has been since the formation of the coalition of accepting peace on whatever terms so as to bring back relatively normal times and give the nation work.

"His tax reforms have made him generally unpopular, because of his insistence that the burden of the restoration of the normal order shall fall not on the workers, but on the well to do and on property. He has been subjected to venomous attacks, more so than any other person in public life in Germany, but despite this the former Catholic school teacher not only holds his office but has dominated the provision of the new tax laws that his heavily formed a 'bloc' with the Socialists and forced through his no annexation and no indemnity resolutions in the Reichstag in the summer of 1917.

Summary of Tax Plans.

Following is a brief review of the existing and projected tax laws of the government:

A one time tax upon the increase in property during the war, which is expected to yield 10,000,000,000 marks.

A special tax on war profits, which is calculated to raise 2,000,000,000 marks.

A 10 per cent. population income tax, including new provisions to raise from 4,000,000,000 to 8,000,000,000 marks, that being impossible at this time to estimate what German incomes will yield when exchange has been stabilized.

The tax begins with an income of 2,000 marks, allowing certain exemptions for dependents, with a rate of 5 per cent. on 2,000 marks the rate is 7 per cent. 5,000 marks about 9 per cent. 10,000 marks 12 per cent. 20,000 marks nearly 18 per cent. 50,000 marks more than 28 per cent. and so on up to an income of 1,000,000 marks will pay 55 per cent. This is the only one of the new tax laws that hits heavily the workers, who now are paid from 2,000 to 9,000 marks.

The one time emergency property tax amounts 5,000 marks and is payable in thirty years. It begins with 10 per cent. on all amounts up to 50,000 marks. The owner of 100,000 marks must pay 10,000, 500,000 marks pays 50,000, on 1,000,000 marks 100,000, the owner of 2,000,000 marks must pay nearly 200,000 and the owner of 10,000,000 more than half.

Heavy Taxes on Companies.

In view of their working capital, taxed at 40 per cent. on all sales and paying 10 per cent. tax, the companies are charged 10 per cent. on all reserves, payable in war bonds.

The turnover tax, originally intended to be about 5 per cent. on all goods sold to consumers, now has been changed and probably will be 1 1/2 or 2 per cent. on each turnover from the end of the month.

Bourgeoisie's End on Earth Near, Say Soviets

LONDON, Dec. 12.—"The third year of the Soviet Government begins under very good omens," says a Bolshevik communication received here from Moscow to-day.

"This year will be the last year of the bourgeoisie's rule on earth," the despatch adds.

IRKUTSK, Dec. 10.—An engineer named Tcherniakoff, just from Omsk, where he spent a week, says the Bolsheviks shot all captive officers of the Siberian army who refused to join the Red army, besides citizens who protested against night raids and other Bolshevik excesses. The prices of commodities, the engineer adds, increased from 100 to 200 per cent. immediately after Bolshevik occupation of Omsk.

HEIRS REJECT WORK'S NAME

Trustees Report Burke Roche Twins Failed to Obey Will.

PREFER OWN SURNAME

Family Agreement Saves Legacy Reported Technically Forfeited.

William H. Truesdale and Frank K. Sturgis, as trustees of the estate of Frank Work, who left a net estate of more than \$13,000,000, reported yesterday to the Surrogate's Court that Francis G. and Edmund M. Burke Roche, twin grandsons of Mr. Work, never have complied with his request that they change their last name to Work, avoid visiting England and become naturalized citizens of the United States on reaching their majority.

As a result of this violation of his grandfather's will, the report indicates, they technically forfeited their shares of the estate, but under a family agreement the two boys will each receive \$2,716,917, and their sister, Cynthia Burden, wife of Arthur Scott Burden, will receive \$2,482,202. This disposition of the estate was made public in 1912.

Mr. Work divided the residue of his estate into two parts and left these public on trust to his two daughters, Lucy Work Hewitt, wife of Peter Cooper Hewitt, and Mrs. Frances Burke Roche-Batonyi. He executed several codicils to his will in which he left the amount of income to be paid to his daughter, Mrs. Batonyi, to the discretion of his trustees. Under the family agreement Mrs. Batonyi received \$1,317,873. Since then Peter Cooper Hewitt has been divorced by his wife and has resigned as a trustee of the estate.

A Much Changed Will.

Mr. Work died on March 14, 1911. He was 52 years old. His will was made public on April 10 following. The sons of Mrs. Burke Roche-Batonyi have had since then to comply with the terms imposed by their eccentric grandfather, who accumulated his great wealth in Wall Street and lived to be many years after his associates of the Jay Gould era had died.

The will had fifteen codicils, the last of which was added to the instrument from time to time as the conditions of Mrs. Burke Roche-Batonyi changed. In the thirteenth codicil Mrs. Burke Roche was cut off absolutely, but in the fourteenth, which was executed after the death of her husband, she was restored to the income of her share of the estate. It was provided that the executors should make suitable provision for her if she remained apart from Batonyi.

The will was executed in 1901 after Mrs. Burke Roche had separated from James Jeffrey Burke Roche. The original document gave her an income of \$70,000 a year, provided she had separated from her husband and did not visit England during his lifetime.

Preferred Own Names.

Burke Roche aroused the anger of his father-in-law by putting an advertisement in Paris newspapers to the effect that he would not be responsible for his father's name as he had brought the twins to New York after the separation and left them at the door of his father-in-law's home.

When Frank Work died Edmund and Frances Burke Roche, who were not long out of Harvard University as graduates, were working in downtown offices for insignificant salaries and living with their grandfather in his home in East Twenty-sixth street.

At that time it was said that they were unwilling to comply with the provisions of the will because a decision never to go to England, where they had friends, would be a hardship. They were represented also as preferring the double surname by which they had always been known to the suspicious names of their grandfather.

Mrs. Burden, who inherited the right to prefix the English title Honorable to her name, renounced it after the separation of her parents and took the name of her parents and took the name of naturalization as a citizen of the United States.

PREMIERS SEE SOLIDARITY AS EUROPE'S NEED

Clemenceau and Lloyd George in Cordial Conference.

SITUATION SURVEYED

Effect of U. S. Stand on the Treaty Gone Over in Detail.

AGREEMENT IS PROBABLE

Convinced Fate of War Torn Nations Depends on Anglo-French Unity.

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LONDON, Dec. 12.—It is understood that the conversations in London between Premier Lloyd George and Clemenceau have ranged over a large number of subjects and have been marked by the utmost cordiality. The situation as a whole was surveyed from the point of view accepted by both Governments that the fate of Europe probably depends upon Anglo-French solidarity and active cooperation.

Among the problems demanding attention and solution, at least in principle, are those relating to economic cooperation between England and France, peace with Turkey, including the future of Constantinople; an Adriatic settlement, the Anglo-French policy with regard to Russia, and the position in which the non-ratification of the peace treaty by the United States has placed the European Allies. The attitude of Germany was naturally considered both in this connection and by itself.

Though no formal statement of the progress made or of the decisions reached is likely to be published for the present, there is reason to believe that a large measure of agreement already exists and that the course of the further conversations that will take place will be satisfactory.

SNUBBED AGAIN, SWANN ATTACKS ALMIRALLURY

Offer of Republican Aids for Inquiry Is Turned Down.

TALK OF COMPROMISE

But Investigators Still Want Governor to Name Attorney-General.

SPYING CHARGE DENIED

District Attorney Says He's Willing to Have All Records Made Public.

The assistance of two other lawyers, Republican members of District Attorney Swann's staff, was curtly rejected yesterday by Raymond F. Almirall, foreman, and his associates of the Extraordinary Grand Jury which is investigating the "overhauling crime" and matters connected with Mr. Swann's office. The Grand Jury has also rejected the services of Mr. Swann and George Gordon Battle. The two men whose help is not desired are Nelson Olcott and George N. Brothers, who have been Assistant District Attorneys continuously since their appointment by Mr. Whitman when he was District Attorney.

As matters now stand the Grand Jury is going ahead in its inquiry into various phases frequently guessed at but little known entirely undismayed by lack of legal talent to direct it. Its attitude is that it will have the assistance of the other lawyers. Mr. Almirall is not to designate the Attorney-General on the ground that the Grand Jury has presented to him no evidence of any specific crime. He may suggest the name of the other lawyer, Mr. Swann, if it is understood, it is willing to appoint this compromise candidate as the Grand Jury's aid.

Judge Swann yesterday did not attempt to conceal his opinion of the rejection of his offer of his two assistants as counsel.

"The Grand Jury's attitude indicates that they put personal antagonism above the public interest," he declared.

"Invites" Publicity.

At the same time Mr. Swann took up the challenge of the Grand Jury concerning the records of the proceedings which have been going on behind closed doors for so long. On Thursday the Grand Jury attempted to prevent the disclosure of the records of the proceedings concerning the prosecution of Gaston B. Means, who was charged with the murder of Mrs. Howard A. R. King, but was acquitted. Yesterday a spokesman of the Grand Jury charged that Mr. Swann did not dare permit to be made public the records of the proceedings unless he could guarantee that the information concerning the prosecution of Gaston B. Means, who was charged with the murder of Mrs. Howard A. R. King, but was acquitted. Yesterday a spokesman of the Grand Jury charged that Mr. Swann did not dare permit to be made public the records of the proceedings unless he could guarantee that the information concerning the prosecution of Gaston B. Means, who was charged with the murder of Mrs. Howard A. R. King, but was acquitted. 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