

A Big Fire in Europe. Keep It Away From Here. Autocracy's Eggs Scrambled. German Civil War.

By ARTHUR BRISBANE. The latest is that Lenine is arrested by order of Trotzky, and the latter is sole dictator in Russia.

It is the usual story of a revolution which runs like a fever. It starts, has its high point, dies down. It is the high point of the fever in Russia now, and the usual thing is happening. You read it in Carlyle's history of the revolution in France.

Danton and Robespierre worked together. On a day fatal for him, Danton protested to Robespierre against executions that confounded the innocent and the guilty.

"And who told you," Robespierre replied, with a poisonous look, "that one innocent person had perished?"

That settled Danton's fate. Robespierre soon had him arrested and soon after beheaded. And not much later Robespierre was guillotined in his turn. Danton knew his danger. He said: "As long as they talk of Robespierre and Danton, very well; beware when they talk about Danton and Robespierre."

Later we shall know what kind of talk it was that made Trotzky lock up Lenine. Lenine as he retires from the scene may say of Trotzky what Danton said of Robespierre, quoting Carlyle again: "I leave the whole business in a faithful welter: not one of them understands anything of government. Robespierre will follow me; I drag down Robespierre. Oh, it were better to be a poor fisherman than to meddle with the government of men."

It is difficult for those in America not fully understanding Russian conditions to form any accurate judgment concerning the revolutionary movement there.

Lenine is not, as has been falsely asserted, a Jew who changed his name from Braunstein. He is a Slav, a fanatic, representing the extreme of radicalism. And Lenine is his name. He would call himself a Marxist Socialist. He wrote two fat volumes on Karl Marx. But it is Russian Marxism, attempting to adapt the theories of Karl Marx, written in the highly developed German industrial nation, to Russia, which is still in a state of feudalism, about where France was in the time of Louis XV.

There is no capitalism, except in Petrograd and some Polish cities.

As to what has really happened there, we know little. The present condition is not known, and the future cannot be guessed. The only certainty is that the eggs of autocracy have been thoroughly scrambled and will never be unscrambled—not those same eggs.

A new egg of autocracy may be laid, a new Czar hatched out, rising to power as Napoleon rose from the ashes of the French Revolution. But the Romanoffs and the "little father" business are dead.

Germany also has her civil war, with fighting and killing in the streets of Berlin. The Kaiser did not realize how much inflammable stuff there was around when he struck that match in 1911.

The hope for peace and some form of stable government in Germany seems to rest with Ebert and Haase, the former a workman that used to make harness before he started making a republic, the latter a small Prussian land owner.

Their opponent Liebknecht, representing those that demand the impossible, is the exact antithesis of his father. If he wins and his "Spartacus Party" gets power, you may pity Germany, what there is left of her.

Even from England come murmurs of discontent. The crews of mine sweepers decline to risk their lives, now that war is over. England, always wise in compromise, will release from the service all except those that volunteered. No man will be compelled to remain in it. You read in Associated Press dispatches: "Further demonstrations by the soldiers took place today in London and other centers."

It would be enlightening to know what the demonstrations are, and what the complaints.

President Wilson will soon begin his conversations with Lloyd George, Clemenceau, and Orlando. A complicated situation faces them, complicated in ten thousand different ways. The wise thing would seem to be for the United States to listen politely, acquiesce in such plans as do not really concern us, and come home as rapidly as possible to build a big navy here, organize a fair-sized, contented army of citizens, and prepare to protect this country in case of need and prevent the reckless scrambling of eggs on this continent.

While Chicago was burning, towns in the neighborhood concentrated their attention on preventing the spread of the fire to those towns. There is a big fire raging in Europe. We should help them put it out. We did try, sending over two million men and many billions of dollars. We should think now about keeping the fire from spreading here.

WEATHER: Snow flurries this afternoon; fair tonight and tomorrow. Lowest temperature tonight, 18 to 20 degrees. Temperature at 8 a. m., 27 degrees. Normal temperature for January 9 for last thirty years, 32 degrees.

GERMAN TROOPS FIGHT IN BERLIN

CHEAPER FARE FOR STANDING ROOM ON CARS IS SUGGESTED

By BILL PRICE.

The Public Utilities Commission had a two-ringed circus going today. Commissioner Brownlow conducted one ring in a hearing over gas charges to people at Tacoma Park, while General Kutz and Commissioner Gardner kept busy in the main board room listening to further testimony in connection with the free transfer hearing.

In spite of General Kutz's efforts to limit the testimony and questioning of witnesses to details concerning free transfers and the effects of these transfers upon the revenues of the company, many other things crept in.

Beeler On Stand. John A. Beeler, the traffic expert, was upon the stand most of the morning, and representatives of citizens' associations quizzed him on many subjects.

William Henry White, who represents the Mt. Pleasant Citizens' Association, and who referred the other day to the Washington Railway and Electric Company as "when the devil is sick a saint he would be," asked Mr. Beeler concerning the amounts of money paid him for his services in Washington. Mr. Beeler said he had not totaled the amount, but the cost of his investigations and reports had been somewhere around \$20,000.

Mr. White then wanted to know whether it was true that he had also received money from the Capital Traction and Washington Railway and Electric companies at the same time. Mr. Beeler denied this, but the situation became somewhat tense and "30 per cent" was mentioned.

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CAMP MEADE, Md., Jan. 9.—Orders went out today that will mean the discharge of 50 percent of the men in the Eleventh Division, as indicated by the rolls of November 30. There are about 20,000 men who will have a fifty-fifty chance of getting out of the army. Those who will go first will be those who have dependents. Men needed in industries will be next to go.

Applications must be made by the men themselves to their company commanders. Vacancies caused by this 50 per cent discharge plan may be filled by transfer from other units of regular army men.

The discharges will be made in such a way that no single unit will be eliminated.

HELP WANTED—MALE STABLE M A N—Colored. Call 919 11th St. N. W. 4 Mr. A. L. Saunders secured help from this ad in The Times two hours after the paper was on the street. Phone your ads to The Times, Main 5260.

Plain Facts About the Street Car Situation

The Public Utilities Commission and the street car companies will if they give any ear to public opinion understand plainly two things:

That the people of Washington are ready to revolt against the totally inefficient and often dangerous transportation service that is being furnished.

That the people of Washington, voteless as they are, will resist to the limit any attempt to increase street car fares above five cents in order to pay dividends on the water-soaked securities of the W. R. & E.

It might as well be understood that the Washington Railway and Electric Company is in a bad way. With millions of capital stock that represents nothing but clear blue sky; with the necessity of large expenditures for the replacement of equipment that is on the point of falling apart and with a generous part of its income in jeopardy as the result of the cutting of electric light and power rates to a figure fair to the public, this company is grasping at the straw of increased car fares to save its financial life.

There is in the attitude of this company no promise of better service. There is in its financial prospects no prophecy of improved conditions.

There is but one remedy for what the people have patiently put up with already too long.

That remedy is Government ownership.

The Government itself is the largest loser from present conditions. Its employes are habitually late and, if not late, arrive at their work nervously and physically worn from riding on overcrowded, worn-out cars.

There should be immediate steps by the Government for the acquisition at their real value of the street car lines of this city and they should be equipped and operated in such a manner as to make them fit for use by human beings.

To propose that the public shall longer endure the disgrace, discomforts, and dangers of the present methods of operation is outside the bounds of both reason and decency.

Federal Heads Meet To End Strike At N. Y. Port

NEW YORK, Jan. 9.—With the port of New York tied up by the strike of 15,000 members of the marine workers' affiliation, which threatens to seriously hamper transportation of troops and army supplies and to extend to a complete paralysis of all transportation within this city, Government officials at Washington are planning to take immediate steps to end the trouble.

Representatives of the War and Navy Departments and Shipping Board met at noon in Washington to discuss the situation.

General Hines, chief of embarkation, said the strike had not injured the army transport service thus far. However, no troop transports were due in New York today, but some cargo carriers were expected.

The war labor board today announced that its powers are exhausted in the matter unless a favorable opportunity again to intervene appears.

Conciliators At Work. Benjamin M. Squires, New York representative of the conciliation board, of the Department of Labor, together with other conciliators, is endeavoring to bring about an agreement. A report is expected from him late today.

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HERE'S WHAT RAILWAYS ASK INSTEAD OF 5 YEAR CONTROL

By RAYMOND CLAPPER.

Railroad interests today proposed that a secretary of transportation be added to the President's Cabinet.

He would be in charge of a department of transportation with powers to enforce unified operation of railroads, according to the plan outlined by T. DeWitt Cuyler, spokesman for railroad interests before the Senate Interstate Commerce Committee.

The Recommendations. Here are some of the things recommended:

Private ownership, management, and operation of the railroads should continue, but Federal incorporation should be compulsory.

Functions of the secretary of transportation to include: Recommendations as to rates. Determination of policies for improved transportation service.

Power to reroute traffic over various lines to relieve congestion.

Unification of terminals. Direction, during war or "serious emergency" of all railroads as one national unit.

Control over all extensions and new construction of lines and terminal facilities.

Executive and administrative powers of the Interstate Commerce Commission would be given over to the transportation secretary. The commission would continue to act as a quasi-judicial body and would be in charge of valuation and accounting.

Wants U. S. Jurisdiction. Federal jurisdiction must be complete over both State and interstate rates, Cuyler stated. But he proposed a group of regional commissions, consisting of one member from each State in the various regions, these commissions to have primary jurisdiction and act as representatives of the I. C. C. in hearing all complaints. The railroad executives presented

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What's Happening in Riot Swept Germany

SPARTACIDES DRIVEN BACK.

BERLIN, Jan. 8 (via Copenhagen, Jan. 9).—German troops, supporting the Ebert government, entered Berlin today and drove back the Spartacides. The troops came from Potsdam. There was a struggle at the offices of the Wolff Bureau, where four loyal soldiers were killed.

GENERAL STRIKE IS ORDERED.

COPENHAGEN, Jan. 9.—Spartacans have proclaimed a general strike throughout Germany for January 19 in order to prevent elections to the national assembly, scheduled for that day, it was reported in dispatches received here.

NEW ARMY CLASSES JOIN REDS.

LONDON, Jan. 9.—The army classes of 1919 and 1920 have joined the Spartacans, according to a Berlin dispatch received by the Express today.

REDS DRIVEN FROM TIERGARTEN.

BERLIN, Jan. 9.—The Spartacus troops have been driven from Tiergarten and adjacent streets, and from the state printing offices after a sharp fight. The firing is constant.

GOVERNMENT CONTROLS ROADS.

BERLIN, Jan. 8 (Delayed).—Street fighting continued throughout today, but on a smaller scale than the two previous days. The government has again obtained control of the railways.

REVOLUTION IS SPREADING.

AMSTERDAM, Jan. 9.—The Spartacus movement is spreading from Berlin, and the Spartacans are now in control of Mulheim and Oberhausen.

STATE OF SIEGE IN BERLIN.

COPENHAGEN, Jan. 9.—The government will declare a state of siege in Berlin, it was reported in dispatches filed in that city last night and received here today. Government troops have been ordered from many garrisons to rush to Berlin in automobiles.

CAVALRY PROTECTS ASSEMBLY.

LONDON, Jan. 9.—General Ludendorff was reported in Berlin dispatches today to have arrived in Leipzig. A division of cavalry is reported to be massed outside Berlin with the object of protecting the national assembly.

EBERT APPEALS FOR HELP.

BERLIN, Jan. 9.—Chancellor Ebert has issued the following manifesto: "Liebknecht has declared war to the knife against the non-Socialist population. We have hesitated too long. Therefore, I appeal to you to form a volunteer republican defense guard."

SOCIALISTS ISSUE APPEAL.

BERNE, Jan. 9.—Independent Socialists and the Spartacus leaders have issued a proclamation appealing to workmen to gather on Wednesday morning at Siegesalle to complete the victory of the proletariat.

NEW GOVERNMENT PROCLAIMED.

BERNE, Jan. 9.—The insurgents at Berlin (the Bolsheviki) have proclaimed a new government, according to information received here today.

ALLIES MARCHING ON BERLIN.

AMSTERDAM, Jan. 9.—Allied troops are on their way to occupy Berlin at the request of Chancellor Ebert, according to a report in circulation in Berlin at noon today.

FORM NEW GOVERNMENT.

COPENHAGEN, Jan. 9.—Liebknecht, Ledebour and Scholtz have formed a new government and have established headquarters in the central police station, Berlin dispatches reported today.

SPARTACANS DRIVEN BACK WHEN RIOTING IS RESUMED

LONDON, Jan. 9.—Spartacans after accepting a truce with the government yesterday, resumed demonstrations in Berlin, official wireless dispatches from the German capital reported today.

It is reported in dispatches via Copenhagen that German troops have entered Berlin and that fighting is now going on.

The Spartacans have been driven from Tiergarten and adjacent streets.

Government Holds Roads. "Loyal" troops are now fighting to reoccupy the public buildings and government machinery that the Spartacans seized earlier in the week.

Twenty persons were killed when rioters attacked the American embassy. The dispatch does not say whether they were Americans, but it is assumed that Americans were in the building. The Spanish diplomatic agents are handling American affairs there. The embassy is located where the most violence has taken place. The government, it was learned on reliable authority today, is again in control of the railways.

A serious official dispatch and the attempt of both the revolutionaries and the Spartacans to censor press dispatches make news from the German capital meagre and unsatisfactory. What appears to be authentic reports of a truce having been made are denied later by dispatches telling of rioting and bloody street fighting.

One dispatch, which slipped by the strict German censorship, said that several shots had been fired at the Danish Red Cross buildings.

Loyal Troops Fear In. The government's position is hourly being strengthened by the arrival of loyal troops. All are well equipped.

The city of Berlin is described as being a veritable armed camp.

Due to Spartacan and Bolsheviki propaganda, opposition is visibly increasing in south Germany, and the movement to call a general strike in industrial districts throughout the empire is gaining momentum. The date for the strike is set for January 19, when the national elections are scheduled to be held.

A Rotterdam dispatch says that during the disorder Wednesday a hand grenade was thrown into a crowd of 10,000 persons in front of the chancellor's palace in Berlin and many were killed and wounded.

In the same report, it was stated that the German government had issued an ultimatum saying it would not treat with the Spartacides until all except actual soldiers were disarmed.

Dispatches Conflicting. Dispatches today from various sources are conflicting. On Wednesday advice said that the government had gained the upper hand and that a truce had been declared. Today they indicated that further fighting was in progress.

While the original German revolutionaries are at the helm of the old regime, the Socialists are now fighting each other. The Independent Socialists have joined the Spartacans in attempting to overthrow the government which is dominated by majority Socialists.

Karl Liebknecht, addressing a crowd of demonstrators in the Tiergarten, said: "Workers and Brothers: The moment has come for action. Don't return to the shops until the work is done. The Berlin garrison will join us. Ebert and Scheidemann must go. Your confidence and your actions will bring us success, and will prove that the Socialist republic is not a lie but a reality."

"Today the world knows the Socialist revolution has begun at last," he practically the same time. Scheidemann was addressing a throng in front of the Reichstag building. "This mess must end," he said. "We will not allow the minority to terrorize the majority any longer. The government will suppress the Spartacan movement with arms."