

BRITAIN AGAIN TO FACE ASSAULT OF LABOR ON EMPIRE

Socialist Leaders Take Advantage of Serious Unemployment and Trade Situations to Press Plans for Revolution—Railway Union Chief Warns of Big Fight Approaching—Seek to Rival Soviet of Moscow.

By Eugene J. Young.

NEW YORK, Jan. 15.—The darkest cloud on the horizon of Great Britain is the unemployment question. For this we have the official authority of the speech from the throne which, recently, dismissed the parliament. Premier Lloyd George a few days before had spoken in a tone that was called "realistic." He admitted the situation was "getting beyond control" and it might be necessary to organize a great emigration to the dominions.

British publicists of all shades of opinion have since been frantically expressing the alarm shown in the utterances of the government. The conservative editor of the London Economist, writing of the new year, thought, "Altogether, the outlook in January." The liberal ex-prophet Asquith, has seen "the beacon signal of the rocks toward which we are heading in the winter trade, short time and unemployment." The radical George Bernard Shaw has sincerely bewailed the mass of "unemployable material" being shown ready to be established.

These are conditions under which the British government again is facing the forces of revolutionary socialism. The issue is being drawn another contest, such as that of the coal strike of last autumn, and the coming three months are likely to see the fight to the finish which Premier Lloyd George has so often avoided by concessions to socialist ideas. The standard of British look forward.

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WARSHIPS END MUTINIES AT CHINESE PORT

Shanghai, China, Jan. 15.—After the landing and burning of the Imperial Yangtze river port of Ichang by mutinous Chinese soldiers, the arrival of British, American, French and Japanese warships has brought an end to the outbreak. The insubordinate soldiers held undisturbed possession of the city, which numbers upward of 40,000 people, for more than five days.

For three days after the outbreak telegraph service down the Yangtze was seriously interrupted. Messages that later found their way down the river carried the information that about 40 Chinese had been killed in the fighting and that it was under only when the Chinese chamber of commerce of Ichang had agreed to pay \$100,000 to a Chinese officer commanding the mutinous troops.

It was stated that the outbreak developed because the troops had not been paid for six months.

Reports are that Japanese were the principal sufferers among the foreign legations, which numbers upwards of 100 persons. Officers of the Robert Dollar company, which operates a line of river steamers up the Yangtze, were among the other foreign establishments looted, according to reports of the company's agent. The Standard Oil company's office in the same building was not damaged.

It is understood that, probably to avoid international complications, forces were not landed from the gunboats, when it was found that foreign lives were not in danger and no further damage to foreign property was imminent.

There is no chance of a general strike to take the revolutionary step. The employers pointed out that it would be an incentive to striking. The government offered a compromise of \$2 for each new member taken in to be put in the unemployment reserve of the unions, which was refused. When the premier threatened to put the nonunion men to work on building the railway, the "labor general staff," known as the "committee of action," quietly assembled in London and it is known that such an attack on the building unions would be taken as an attack on all the unions under its command with, of course, a threat of a general strike to meet such an attack.

The government refused a show-down and, as usual, backed away from the issue. It is evident, however, that the Socialists are not content to let matters rest there. The railwaymen are now preparing to force the struggle when they think the right moment has arrived.

Here is the scheme as outlined last month by J. E. Thomas, general secretary of the national union of railwaymen (also member of parliament):

"I believe that there will be a big fight in the railway in this country over a new stand that we, as railwaymen, are going to take. We have fought and have succeeded in reducing our hours and increasing our wages. But we still believe that the workers' part in the light of the war is not as heavy as it should be. We believe that we are entitled to something in the way of a railway management.

"Only a few months ago our railway companies said that our business was merely to do what we were told. We answered that by saying, when the government a few months ago indicated that they realized that the railwaymen ought to share in the management, that it was their intention to hold the government to that promise and to see that it was not broken. For the purpose of holding the public, I hope our government will understand clearly that on this matter the railwaymen of our country are absolutely united and determined.

"The railwaymen are an added significance when we remember that it was Mr. Thomas who prevented the railwaymen from striking last August in support of the miners. He did this in the face of a majority vote of the delegates of the local unions. He expressed himself by saying a railway strike would lead to a social upheaval, a 'bloody upheaval.' Now, however, he is ready to face that consequence.

"Great Labor Organization. When the railway chief speaks this plainly it can be taken for granted that he does so with the acquiescence of the other leaders of the 'people alliance' which also includes the great miners' federation and the transport workers. These, in turn, control the committee of action, in which are represented unions that number between 2,000,000 and 4,000,000 on their rolls.

"The miners are ostensibly bound not to strike by the agreement of the autumn, but that settlement is subject to resumption in the near future, and meanwhile the government has made a capital blunder. It gave to Mr. Evans and other leaders in the federate localities jobs which were designed to attach their influence to the conservative forces. The effect, however, was to bring to the front in the federation radical leaders who have made extreme promises in order to prove that they are not under government influence.

"Seek World Leadership. In effect, British labor is trying to take away from Moscow the leadership of the proletariat of the world; and the moment it is now making at home are dictated by sweeping ideas and ambitions that are not likely to be satisfied with the policy of unionism. Hence, the Premier Lloyd George has pursued.

"The chief of the attitude of these leaders has been even in the support of the Sinn Fein movement. In fact, it has not been far from the intention of British labor Lloyd George might have been able to carry out his pledge to crush by Christmas what he calls the 'Irish range' in Ireland. At every crisis, however, the labor council of action has interested

at itself in the course of the Sinn Fein. It has probably had a hand in seeing that the Irish fighters were supplied with food and arms and in certainly kept up the morale of this revolutionary force.

"More than one leader of the miners and other workers have secretly favored Soviets, which are the basis for action when the word comes. It should be remembered that in August 1920, the miners and other workers bound themselves to a rent strike, while during the coal strike the government was prepared to strike the miners. Glasgow were ready to seize the properties if settlement failed.

"The first of the year the labor unions reported more than 100,000 of their members idle. Outside their ranks were at least as many more without jobs. Of these some 200,000 were veterans of the war, many of them young men who had thus lost their opportunity to become apprentices in some trade and to join a union. There is a large association of former veterans which is frankly Bolshevistic.

"When the barricades were put up about the government offices in Downing street the halls of parliament closed to the public and guards thrown around the royal palaces and other public and aristocratic centers, we were told it was because of the discovery of widespread Sinn Fein plots. Those who know what were the conditions in London were perfectly aware that this was merely a diplomatic explanation.

"Red Flag Displayed. Whatever the Irish may be contemplating, they are not likely to do any rushing in crowds against the arms of the London police. But there are elements which might do so.

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