

# THE SOCIAL REVOLUTION IN GERMANY.

By Linn A. E. Gale.

The New York World on January 1, 1919, declared editorially that "a Bolshevik Germany means a Bolshevik Europe."

At that time German soldiers returning from the eastern front were bringing copies of the proclamation issued by the Soviet government of Russia that said: "The Socialist union of Russia, Austria and Germany must be established on the ruins of militarism, imperialism and economic slavery."

Commenting on the situation Louis C. Fraina, then editor of the **Revolutionary Age**, and now international secretary of the American Communist Party, wrote: "The general European, the World Revolution, depends upon the completion of the Proletarian Revolution in Germany; but equally the Proletarian Revolution in Germany depends upon the General Revolution."

Nobody appreciates these facts and fears a Soviet Republic in Germany more than the great capitalist nations of the world. Constantly they have shuddered at the thought of a Bolshevik regime in Berlin and yet they have hesitated to do the very things that might have delayed Bolshevism there for considerable time. They have stood between the devil and the deep sea—between their fears, on the one hand, of a Bolshevik Germany, and their fears, on the other hand, of a reaction to kaiserism and the return to power of the junkers. Seesawing back and forth, afraid of both contingents, they have concluded that it was better to frankly support or at least tolerate the old military party than to do anything which hastens Soviet rule. So in the recent coup when the Hindenburg gang was in the ascendancy and the restoration of monarchy was not unlikely, the Allies kept hands off and promised not to interfere unless the situation could not be controlled within the country. It was plain where their sympathies were. In spite of their hatred for the kaiser and his party—a hatred not based on principle, but based on commercial rivalry and jealousy—they preferred a resumption of kaiserism to the adoption of Communism.

This very treachery and stupidity on the part of Allied capitalism, will produce the precise consummation that it so fears and shrinks from.

Repression and tyranny in Germany practiced by the fake Socialist government of Ebert, Scheidemann and approved and even urged by the Allied governments, are driving Germany direct to Soviets. Moderation and prudence would have delayed the Social Revolution in Germany. But blind rage and terrorism have hastened it as nothing else could. This present revolution may or may not be successful. But the masses of Germany have been convinced by bitter experience and brutal oppression that Soviets are their salvation and that a capitalist republic is as bad as or worse than the old regime of the kaiser. And if this revolution does not succeed, there will be another one that will succeed.

"Democracy has had its chance in Germany and lost it", says Maximilian Harden, and he is right. Capitalistic diplomacy made a mess of the situation and only stirred the German proletariat to deeper depths of revolutionary feeling. The people, disillusioned and awakened, will now have Communism or nothing. They want no more either of monarchism or of capitalist "democracy."

Harden well says, "The outside world must prepare itself to deal with a modified Soviet government in Germany. Factory Soviets are going to dictate the policy of the government thru their central committee... For a year this so-called democratic government had its own way but did not know how to satisfy the people.... The government had the task of removing every sign of the old autocratic rule which had become detestable to the German people and to make them realize a new era. What did it do? It maintained the country in a state of armed siege on the one side, flattering the bourgeoisie that the old capitalism would continue, deceiving the workmen with the idea that the socialization of industries was a mere matter of time... Then came the affair of January 13, when the government shot up the demonstration before the Reichstag. Since then the workmen have been restive..."

The present revolution soon followed. Whatever may be the immediate outcome it is a well-planned, wisely-directed revolution. The workers know what they are doing. The Spartacans of Germany have learned by experience, also not a little by observing that master mind, Lenin, whose cool-headedness and far vision have baffled and beaten the imperialists of the whole world. The German revolutionists, 100,000 in numbers, seized Essen, the home of the mammoth Krupp arms plant, and the very heart of Prussian militarism. Next they took possession of the cities of Dusseldorf where food and

clothing are produced, and Kiel, where ships are manufactured. Unless there is a sudden reaction, it will not be many days, judging from conditions at this writing, before all Germany will be under the red flag of International Communism.

A loan of money to the Ebert government to enable it to buy sufficient supplies from other countries, would have tided it over a little longer, although it could not have prevented the eventual uprising that was certain. But the Allies were too vacillating in their policy and too fearful of helping the defeated foe, to extend the needed help. They could not see that the German people, lacking raw materials, could not barter goods for goods and must either get a loan with which to buy those goods or else go to pieces. They were too short-sighted to realize that the more they "punished" Germany by withholding help and keeping her in a state of paralysis and privation, the more fuel they were adding to the flames of Bolshevism within her borders.

It is so thruout the world. It is characteristic of a privileged class that when it gains a certain modicum of power, it begins to lose all sense of reason and to imagine that it can, in street vernacular, "get away with anything." Judgment no longer restrains it. Yielding to unlimited greed and avarice, it spoils its own game and deprives itself of even what it already possesses. Like the dog in Aesop's fables, who dropped the piece of meat from his mouth to grab for the reflected piece in the water, plutocracy loses what it now has in a foolish effort to snatch still more from the masses.

American capitalism is playing with matches and dynamite when it denies radicals the use of constitutional methods and will not even seat Socialist officials who have been legally elected. The inevitable result will be resort to direct action and possibly to bloody revolution.

Even as America will be by the White Terror, so Germany is already being scourged into unadulterated Bolshevism by the unmitigated severity of its peace terms and the unbridled ferocity of its general policy. Whether the Spartacans come into power right now or a little later is not the question. The big fact is that they are going to rule Germany and that it is now too late to stem the tide of public sentiment. The masses are aroused. Soviet Germany is a certainty.

Calmly and complacently, we Communists watch the suicidal folly of the capitalist class of all countries.

We need only prepare to establish the New Order. The capitalists themselves are tearing down the old one as rapidly as we could wish. Three little stingy hours.

THEY WERE "WILLING" (?)  
By Linn A. E. Gale.

Paul Wallace Hanna, writing for the Federated Press, calls attention to the famous remark of President Wilson in June 1917 of the Selective Draft Law: "This is in no sense a conscription of the unwilling". Mr. Hanna adds, "And now comes Senator Fall and the Associated Press declaring 'Thirty thousand Americans crossed into Mexico to evade the Draft Law'."

Oh, yes, they were willing. So "willing" that 30,000 of them left the country and that many of those who remained in the country went to jail and suffered the horrors of the inquisition rather than go to Europe and cut out the guts of their fellow men. So "willing" that all thru the west and southwest of the U. S. thousands of bands of "slackers" organized to resist being dragged into camp, establishing retreats in caves, forests and various isolated places. So "willing" that many of them had to be beaten, bayoneted and even shot before they would consent to participation in the boasted war for democracy. And so "willing" that thousands of those who took their medicine and went to Flanders and were lucky enough to come back alive, declare that all hell could not drive them into another such bloody farce.

Senator Fall has been making some interesting "discoveries" lately, among them being this fact that so many conscientious objectors went to Mexico and another being the fact that the Communist Party of Mexico believes in Communism and is therefore opposed to any more capitalist wars.

If Senator Fall continues to manifest the same superior intelligence, he will probably "discover" some of these days that it wouldn't be a very healthy thing for him and his co-agents of Wall Street to try to send the boys of the U. S. out on another such errand of suffering and slaughter.