

The Next Crisis in Germany

By LUDWIG LORE,
Editor, N. Y. Volkszeitung.

Motto:—Society has but one alternative: Either forward into Socialism, or reaction into barbarism.—Frederick Engels.

To that part of the international labor movement that took its revolutionary ideals seriously Germany has been a series of heart-rending disappointments. It is the great tragedy of the modern working class movement that its German leaders, after an era of peaceful adjustment to the capitalist world, broke under the strain and were carried along in

The German Proletariat

By SIMON FELSHIN.

We will strike at your audacity.
We will know you by your spiked helmets.

Your gold braid will not save you.
We will drag you from your horses.
On that day there will be no pity.
We will trample upon you.
We will throw you into the canals
As you did with Rosa Luxemburg.

We are hungry,
But we are still strong.
Look to your weapons,
For we have need of them.
For our children,
For ourselves,
For a piece of bread
We will strike at your audacity.

Enough of war,
Enough of suffering,
We fight for freedom,
And you fight for gold braid.

The rich, the nobles and the generals
have leagued
To put their heels on our necks.
Because you had your heels on our necks,
And because you took our bread,
We will drag you from your horses,
And we will stamp on your faces
with our heavy boots.

Your audacity does not frighten us.
We have a greater audacity.
We will know you by your shining boots.

Your regalia will not save you.
We will pursue you into your mountain fastness.

We will strike at your audacity.
What can you do against the millions?

From the factories and the farms,
Against your Iron Brigades
March the hosts of the proletariat
Which are legion.

a whirling current of national hatreds. The German Social-Democracy deserted the working class in its hour of greatest need, to stand behind the bourgeoisie at the moment when world capitalism stood at the zenith of power.

1918, discouragement, defeat, and revolution in Germany. Once more a desperate working class stood at the parting of the ways, and again the leaders, instead of taking a potent step to wrest the workers of Germany out of the power of a weakened and shattered bourgeoisie, chose the path that led to capitalist reconstruction against proletarian revolution.

Five years have passed since the founding of the German republic, and the German working class is staggering on the downward path to ruin. Its political influence, in spite of a Socialist president, is dead. Its social institutions have long since succumbed to financial ruin that has emptied the nation's coffers. Its labor unions, in the face of an era of unemployment, have lost all possibility of aggressive action.

In this tragedy of annihilation there is only one hope, the growing power and strength of the German Communist movement. From the outset it has struggled hard, sometimes in open rebellion, for the most part patiently, in a determined effort to educate the working class to an understanding of its mission. More bitter than its capitalist opponents have been the leaders of the Social-Democracy on the political field as well as in the trade union movement. Yet Communism grows apace. Even stronger than the words of Communist agitators, recent events have opened the eyes of the workers. They see capitalism once more in undisputed power. They are starving and suffering in the face of ravishing luxury. They are tiring of leaders who have no hope, dread the victory of the Communist movement, and make a last, desperate effort, by suppressing it and forcing it underground. But just as the Social-Democracy grew in the Bismarck era of exception laws, so the revolution will grow now despite persecution. In 1918, the German working class could be hoodwinked. The next revolutionary crisis will find a sadder but wiser working class.

Watch the "Daily Worker" for the first instalment of "A Week", the great epic of the Russian revolution, by the brilliant young Russian writer, Iury Libedinsky. It will start soon.

The Industries for the workers!