

Germany Is "The Sick Man of Europe"

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(Eighth Article.)

STRIPPED of all its technical verbiage and over-advertised "altruism," the Dawes' plan means that Germany is to be "the sick man of Europe" for an indefinite number of years.

The Bismarcks of German finance, in league with and under the guidance of the overlords of American and Entente imperialism, will bind the German working masses hand and foot. Unless the working class rises in revolt or presently unforeseen circumstances intervene, the dawn of the Dawes' day in Germany will mark the loss of the country's economic freedom for a least half a century.

Dawes' Plan Enslaves Germany.

The Dawes' plan is hailed by the American capitalist class as a program of liberation. In fact, it is the most gigantic program of enslavement that has yet been framed. Sixty million people have been sentenced to the fate of a vassal nation, a colony of international high finance.

When we say a colony we do not mean merely that the American or any other group of capitalists will have undisputed control of the German market or trade. When we speak of Germany becoming a colony of international capitalism under the leadership of American imperialism, we mean that the German industries, the German resources, the German customs, the German taxes, the German currency, the whole German economic life in its widest ramifications will be dominated by a foreign imperialist junta. When we speak of the aim of the Dawes' plan to turn Germany into a colony of international capitalism whose mainspring today is the American employing class, we speak of a program aiming to reduce Germany to the politico-economic status of Haiti, Santo Domingo, or any other crushed colonial peoples subject to the dictates of an American receivership.

Thus the railroads, the banks, the currency, the customs revenues, the taxes, will be controlled by and the basic industries mortgaged to a group of international financial pirates whose plunderous ventures will be piloted by the Wall Street band. Thirty per cent of Germany's national income is to be surrendered annually to bulge the coffers of the American and Allied capitalists,

This is the most notorious pawn-broking affair in the history of the world. Sixty million people have been condemned to be pawns. The very export surplus on which the whole vicious scheme rests translates itself, in practice, only into long hours, low wages and degrading standards of life and employment for the working masses of Germany. The only stability the American and other capitalist interests are seeking in Germany is the stability of harrowing poverty—the stability of fodder wages to perpetuate the rule of the employing class.

Workers to Pay for War.

The steel rod of the opposition by the German capitalists to the allied imperialists being paid for the costs of the last war has been the desire of the Stinneses, the Thyssens, and the Schachts to make the German working masses pay all of the money as well as all of the blood cost of the infernal carnage. Consequently, it is clear that the success of the Dawes program rests on the decisive defeat and subjugation of the German working class. In this light it is not difficult to understand why the German capitalist class has, on the whole, found the Dawes plan so acceptable.

We cite the fact that at the last joint session of the industrialists' and employers' federations of Germany, held in Berlin on March 27, 1924, two weeks before the details of the Dawes scheme were made public, the following opinion of its chairman, Dr. Kurt Sorge of the Krupp corporation, prevailed:

"In principle the fulfilment policy of Wirth was correct. But Wirth's home policy was wrong. We, too, must stand for the fulfilment policy, but only under certain conditions. These conditions are the following: The political influence of the workers' trade unions must disappear entirely. The federal government must under no condition deal henceforth with the unions. The eight-hour day must be struck off the statute books. Collective bargaining on the part of different unions must be prevented and the government's right to arbitrate in labor disputes diminished.

"All undertakings of the state, especially the federal railways, must be turned over to private capital. German industry is ready to make sacrifices only then, if these conditions are absolutely accepted. It can turn its attention to foreign questions

only if it is certain that the domestic policy is absolutely clear."

Certainly the Dawes plan suits the German employing class interests.

Intolerably Long Hours Planned.

Because of the close alliance between the saffron social democratic party and the Stinnes class in Germany, the eight-hour day which was won by the workers thru the blood of the first post-war revolutionary struggle is fast disappearing. According to a survey made by the German Federation of Trade Unions more than one-third of the undertakings in Germany are already working on a longer basis than the forty-eight hour week. More than eighty per cent of the textile workers, 63 per cent of the metal workers, and 44 per cent of the chemical workers are, as a result of this treachery, operating today more than forty-eight hours a week.

Let us call upon the National City Bank Bulletin of September, 1924 to tell us how the American capitalist receivers view the future of the German working day under the Dawes regime. We read:

"Considering first the ability of Germany to pay, it is evident that this will depend upon high production by the German industries coupled with low consumption by the German people, thus enabling a great industrial product to be exported. Following the analysis farther, it probably means long hours in the industries, or at least the working day which will yield the largest product. The late Hugo Stinnes insisted that Germany must go back to the ten-hour day in order to pay reparations. The ten-hour day was the rule in Germany before the war, and the country had no excess of merchandise exports over imports then. Its problem now is to create a very large excess, hence it must produce more and consume less. In order to produce more and begin at once, longer hours would seem to be the only sure resort."

Wages Slashed to Bone.

The well-known European correspondent, Robert Dell, has recently described the condition of the German working class in this fashion in one of his dispatches to the Baltimore Sun: "Meanwhile the conditions of the German workmen, when they have work, are little better, as a rule, than those of Chinese coolies."

But the Dawes plan will tend to lower even this despicable condition. Hugo Stinnes, Jr., the wealthiest man

in Germany, plainly told the Berlin Associated Press correspondent on August 31, 1924; in speaking of the Dawes plan: "Applied to the life of this nation, this means that the standard of living for every German must be lowered to a degree fixed by the assessment exacted from us under the treaty of peace." Let no one have any misgivings as to the democratic notions of Stinnes when he talks of the question of every German's standard of living. Herr Stinnes means every German workman's standard.

Standard of Living Lowered.

Turning once more to the frank view of the whole Dawes matter by the Rockefeller-Morgan National City Bank, America's biggest bank, we are treated to a more specific dose of the truth about the case. We are told: "In order to hold down consumption it will be necessary that wages shall be low as compared with the cost of living, which may be accomplished either by means of low money-wages or by taxation which raises the prices of everything the people have to buy. Taxation is the method by which the government takes over the share of production which must go for reparations."

Benjamin M. Anderson, economist of the Chase National Bank, also admits that "the standard of living in Germany during the earlier years, at least while reparations payments are being made, must necessarily be lower than it was before the war. . ."

"That this lowered standard of living will tend to drive the German workingman out of the country" is the opinion of Rufus S. Tucker of the United States department of commerce. Says Mr. Tucker: "The low wages and high costs of living that must result from the imposition of taxes high enough not only to run the government but also to pay reparations will make Germans all the more anxious to migrate, or at least to obtain temporary employment outside of Germany."

Worse Than Versailles.

Truly, then, who can question the estimate of the Dawes plan made by Comrade Karl Radek when he declared: "The experts' report is a more definite and a more correct instrument for crushing the German people than the Versailles treaty, because it subjugates the whole economic life of Germany to allied capital."