

CRIES FOR DICTATORSHIP

By JOHN PEPPER.

THE complicated game of cabinet building continues in Germany. They are juggling with the possibilities of a "small coalition," a "big coalition," a "government of the centre," a "minority government of the right parties," and even of a "government of officials." The social-democracy takes part in this miserable indoor sport and thus helps to obscure the real situation in the eyes of the working masses.

It is but natural that this unworthy parliamentary game, these underhanded dealings behind the scenes, these intrigues for cabinet posts, call forth an everbroadening disillusionment and embitterment among the masses.

The economic crisis becomes more and more serious. The situation is best characterised in the statement by General Director, D. Reuch, one of the chief representatives of the German iron and steel industry: "Economic death has begun and will probably continue in increased extent in the coming months."

INDUSTRY in Germany is dying; the number of unemployed is rapidly growing. The socio-political achievements of the workers have long since vanished—the bourgeoisie is firmly determined to make no concessions to the proletariat. Let the unemployed starve. The lower strata of the state employes can continue their already long drawn out fasting-cure. Petty bourgeois existences are being ruined by the hundreds of thousands. The crisis grips also agriculture. Symptoms of discontent are already appearing among the peasantry.

The entire people looks to the government and the parliament and demands help and the solution of the crisis. The government however considers itself only provisional and parliament proves itself incapable to find any sort of way out. Parliament is in no position to form an actual majority government. The only possibility would be the dissolution of parliament. But only one single party dares to make this demand—the Communist. The other parties view the situation with chattering teeth and are seized with terror whenever the possibility of dissolving parliament is

even mentioned. The official organ of the centre party, "Germania," expressed the feelings of all bourgeois parties (the social democracy included) on this question when it said: "Has the social democracy, has anybody at all any interest in holding elections during this miserable winter? This could only bring a rich harvest to the Communists."

THE impotence of the bourgeois parliament on the one hand leads ever greater masses toward the Communists, toward the side of the dictatorship of the proletariat, but on the other hand voices are beginning to be raised for the open non-parliamentary dictatorship of the bourgeoisie. A meeting of Pomeranian junkers demands: "Without the most ruthless intervention no thrift program can be carried out. Without this the complete collapse of economy is inevitable. We demand the institution of an economic dictator who, without consideration for parliament will carry out the measures incumbent upon a receivership over German economy." An organization of the German people's party, which is in the hands of basic industrialists, in a telegram addressed to Hindenburg demands the elimination of parliament: "The German people demand from this government that it immediately, if necessary under application of article 48 of the federal constitution, take all measures adapted to the safeguarding of state functions, of combatting the further fateful growth of unemployment and of checking the collapse of the industries."

IN the present parliament no forcible majority government of the bourgeoisie is possible—the dissolution of parliament is dangerous because it would usher in the victory of the Communists, therefore the bourgeoisie begins to cry for naked dictatorship, for an "economic dictator," for the elimination of parliament, for the state of seige—for the bayonets. The bourgeoisie now formally begins to organize a campaign for its open dictatorship. The gentlemen forget only one thing: that the cry for the bourgeois dictatorship will also arouse the desperate and enraged cry of the working class for the dictatorship of the proletariat.