

'The Will to Action' and 'The Will to Poverty'

By JOHN PEPPER.

THE organ of the German basic industry, *Bergwerkszeitung*, headlines its programme article: "The Will to Action"—meaning thereby the will for the erection of the open dictatorship of the bourgeoisie.

One of the most important features of the entire German situation is this constantly strengthening tendency towards the establishment of the bourgeoisie's confessed rule by force. The cabinet building is proceeding very laboriously. The bourgeois parties dare not form a government within the present parliamentary system without the Social-Democrats, because they fear the crisis-inspired embitterment of the proletariat. But the Social Democracy, for the same reason, dare not enter the big coalition with the bourgeoisie. It realizes full well that its entrance into a bourgeois government at this time would alienate from it the great masses of workers.

INDICATIONS are multiplying that the bourgeoisie are seeking to force the Social Democracy into the coalition government, that they are ever more frequently threatening that unless the bourgeois-Social Democratic coalition is effected they will destroy all remnants of parliamentarism. The chairman of the Democratic Party, Dr. Koch, directs a public appeal to the Social Democracy: "In this hour we address the final appeal to the big Social Democratic Party not to desert us, and if, despite this, it refuses to co-operate, a deep wound will be delivered to parliamentarism."

The clerical "Germania" declares that now "parliamentarism's decisive hour" has struck, and that the present parliamentary combination will forfeit its right to existence if, in the present critical situation, it shows itself incapable of serving the interests of the people.

Even the otherwise so strictly re-

publican "Berliner Tageblatt" terrorizes that "a renewed refusal of the Social Democracy would mean in fact a severe blow for German parliamentarism and, after everything that has gone before, it would represent the final attempt of the new government to form a parliamentary regime."

WILDER and wilder rings the chorus of the bourgeois parties: unless the Social Democracy enters the bourgeois government that will be the open dictatorship of the bourgeoisie! The clerical "Germania" puts the question with cynical frankness: "The Social Democracy is compelled to choose between two evils: between the (crassly expressed) temporary discrediting of its own party in the eyes of its followers and the dangerous discrediting of the republic, democracy and parliament, the results of which are difficult to predict."

Hence the bourgeoisie demands that the Social Democracy sacrifice itself for the preservation of bourgeois society, that even though it must alienate its mass support it shall come to the salvation of the rule of the bourgeoisie. The Social Democracy remains reluctant—but sooner or later it will form the coalition government with the bourgeoisie and seek to beat down every advance of the proletariat." The programme article in the "Bergwerkszeitung" recommends a "Will of Poverty" to the German people, in other words, the quiet resignation to misery, to mass unemployment, to pauperisation. And if the people become discontented, if the workers demand a reckoning, the bourgeoisie threatens with the "Will to Action." The honorable capitalists forget only one thing—that there exists a Communist Party, that in place of a "Will to Poverty" there will arise in the proletariat a "Will to Power," and that not only in the bourgeoisie but in the working class as well there will arise a "will to action."