POLITICS

The German Crisis

By Karl Radek

In spite of its many threats against the Rights elements, the German Government has not the courage to act against them. But it is now the time for the Social Democrats to speak out against the German Government...
to the monarchists. And this blow should be delivered in such a manner as to divide German nationalism from which the democratic petty bourgeois masses should be torn away, for it is

It is true that they do not represent any revolutionary elements. But they are in a revolutionary mood against capitalism that seems to threaten all the social structure of the nation. A Workers’ Government that would take over the landlords and arm the workers. In this manner it would attract to itself those elements that are now in the camp of Ludendorff’s powerful nationalist movement.

Will the German Social Democracy have the courage to do this? If it were left to its leaders all that they would do would be to increase the atmosphere of fear and to render all the measures taken in this crisis as ineffective and futile as those that preceded them. But the followers of Scheidemann would receive a new lesson which would not be lost on them.

There are two ways out of the situation in which the German Government now finds itself. The first one is the energetic struggle against the Right, a struggle which if developed would inevitably result in a Workers’ Government. The second way out is that the German heavy industries, scared by this threat, would rise against the leaders and to render all the measures taken in this crisis as ineffective and futile as those that preceded them. But the hangmen are on the threshold, both in the growing pressure of the nationalist Right, and in the demands of the Allies. For this reason everything seems to point to the fact that the period of stagnation in Germany is nearing its end and that the period of action is setting in. For this decisive period the Communists have raised its banner, and on this banner there is written: "The Front of the Working Class and the Workers’ Government."

American Imperialism and the Negro.

By D. Ivo Jones.

In March of last year, The Philippines Review reported the farewell address of Governor General Francis Burton Harrison, after eight years of office in the Philippines, "carrying out the policy of the best President of the present generation", as he himself said in his address the day before. Wilson’s objective to grant independence to the Philippines was solely on the alimony of wealth. But the sorrowful Harrison had to confess his great disappointment that he was not the last Governor General. He had on a previous occasion gallantly offered the last Filipino Governor General. "I am convinced that you are ready to take your place among the independent nations of the world", he said. But he hoped to return again to pay his official visit to the First President of the Philippine Republic at Malacanay Palace.

However, that was not to be. The best thing made way for Harding. And instead of the Jeffersonian Harrison came Major General Wood, and a large contingent of American Jesuits to take the place of the Spanish Catholic Missionaries fihloro established in the islands. And so the Filipinos were taught the elementary lesson that.gmail was not the last, but onl the first stage of Imperialist occupation.

And Wilson himself knew that; for even while he was drawing up the notorious Fourteen Points, he was not his troops and made a treaty with the Negro Republic of Haiti. Six times did the Wilson Government made overtures to this Island Republic for the control of its customs during the imperialist war.

The need was urgent. The Island of Haiti with its 2,000,000 Negroes was in a strategic position in the Caribbean Sea. It was a paper in the hands of the German Empire. But the disturbances of July 27, of 1915, afforded the pretext for securing control of the island. We know very well that the United States is never at a loss for "disturbances", whenever it finds it necessary to intervene in any territory covered by the Monroe Doctrine.

Since then the island of Haiti (sketched in the May number of the "Labour Monthly") makes a long and gruesome story, in which the browbeating of the Negro islanders, putting them to forced labor, tortures and persecution by negro-hung Southern officials (see "Negro World", May 6th), in the approved style of King Lynch, are the dominant features. The description given in "The Negro World" of the "free elections to the legislature is a typical example of the fact to which Imperialist violation is prepared to go in keeping up the appearance of democratic forms for purposes of home consumption. The anti-American votes were indicated by pink papers, and the pro-American by yellow papers. American marines, fully armed, stood on guard to see that fair play was observed, and that the ballot boxes were not tampered with. There were piles of pink papers neatly tied up in bundles for any one who might have the temerity to trouble the registration officer to unite them, while the yellow papers lay ready to hand for all who came to vote. The result of course was an overwhelming majority in favor of the nominees of the glorious Democracy of the West.

It is now announced that the United States Government is trying to force a loan of 14,000,000,000 dollars in order to liquidate certain European creditors. The loan is issued under such ruinous terms that even the puppet President himself is kicking against it. It will involve the Haitian budget in an annual deficit of 1,000,000 dollars. The scandal of the occupation is arousing the liberal elements of the States into vigorous protest. But the Government sits unmoved.

Dr. Burghardt Du Bois, the leader of the Negro intellectuals, announces in his paper, "The Crisis", that the Republican and Democratic Parties have come to pact not to compete for the Negro vote. And Du Bois has not been idle either. His New York Times has "ass if we ever support these parties again". The reason for this conspiracy of silence is obvious. Harding in his election addresses, denounced the employment of American marines to do the work of the negroes. And proclaimed that he would never, no, never be a party to such an act that his coming to office the American Government is digging itself in upon the island with a vengeance. The Senate Commission on which has reported that things are very much better there now, thank you! And there the matter of America’s little Ireland now rests.

Meanwhile, the distressed Negroes have been buoyed up with hope by the passage of the Dyer Anti-Lynching Bill through the Lower House of Legislature. But great difficulties are being experienced in its further progress through the Senate, in spite of the fact that the lynching horrible Negroes have again broken out at the rate of eight in two weeks in the Southern States.

But the American Senators are not altogether blind to the positive advantages to be derived from the Negro Movement, especially from the "Back to Africa" cry of these persecuted and harrassed people who are looking for any way of escape. Senator McCullum of Mississippi, and Senator Frane of Maryland have both expressed their sympathy with the "Back to Africa" Movement. The former has introduced a resolution in the State Legislature to be used for the good influence in securing from the Allies sufficient territory in Africa in liquidation of the war debt, "which territory should be used for the establishment of an independent nation for American Negroes".

Senator Frane on his part put the matter in the following noble terms: "We owe a big duty to Africa and one which we have too long ignored. I need not enlarge upon our peculiar interest in the obligation to the people of Africa. Thousands of American Presidents have for years been contributing to the missionary work which has been carried on by the noble men and women who have been sent out to that field by the churches of America".

This was spoken in the Senate. Translated into plain English, Senator Frane wished to say it was about time that American business followed up the labours of its own missionary agents in advance in Africa.

This proposal was immediately followed by a timely interview with Dr. Heinrich Schuee, a former governor of German East Africa, in which it was suggested that America should take over the mandates of Great Britain and France in Africa for colonization of American Negroes. Marcus Garvey’s paper, "The Emancipation Proclamation", was jubilant, and headed the announcement with big block letters, "Africa’s Redemption Draws Near".

Secretary Hughes, no doubt, will keep that pot simmering for a suitable occasion. Meanwhile, he is taking practical steps. The United States Government has at one and the same time across the Atlantic and planted its foot in the Little African Republic of Liberia. Liberia was founded a century ago as a refuge for American slaves in West Africa. Within the last few years its narrow confines have been very much encroached upon by French and English expansion in the neighbouring colonies.
Liberia has a foreign debt of 1,650,000 dollars owing to J. Pierpont Morgan and Co. and his financial conferences in New York, acting for themselves and for European banks. The United States has undertaken to pay up an eligible agreement with the Negro government for the granting of a loan of 5,000,000 dollars to the Negro Republic. Detailed stipulations are made regarding the spending of the money. One clause provides for the immediate repayment of 500,000 dollars owing to J. Pierpont Morgan and Co., with the result that the market price of that loan has already jumped up from 75 to 98, putting over 300,000 dollars in the pockets of Morgan and Co. at one stroke of the pen.

But that is only a little side-pocket money. The most important clauses in the loan agreement refer to the establishment of a Financial Commissioner with 21 other American officials under him. This official will control the finances and customs of Liberia. Certain provisions are also made for the control of the Legislature. The financial commissioner will determine the size of the Liberian police and the military frontier force, which will be commanded by American army officers. He will have the power of veto over the Liberian budget, and the right to order the passing of any financial legislation which he may desire. He is empowered to limit the annual expenditure of Liberia to a total of 650,000 dollars, of which 100,700 dollars will go to pay the salaries of the American officials. In short, he will be dictator of Liberia, with an armed force of American paid police to do his bidding.

This control is to last for the lifetime of the new loan; and a special clause prohibits the contracting of other loans without the sanction of the financial commissioner, so that there is no chance of Liberia trying to buy itself out of Uncle Sam's clutches. This, therefore, promises to have a long lease, long enough, in fact, to enable American Imperialism to get a foothold on the African continent, and to follow its religious agents further afield into the interior as opportunities arise.

In 1909, says the New York "Nation," (which gives the text of a speech delivered by Mr. D. C. Shriver at a South Dakota convention of the American Federation of Labor, on May 31st), we sent a commission to Liberia, which was much impressed by the highanded methods of the British in assuming control of the Liberian customs and frontier force. This commission reported that "It is supposed that the Liberian government is inclined to the British system." 7 that the West African interest in Liberia is apparently that of an heir expectant, and that Germany has lent her at least a sympathetic understanding," and that since Germany had "ambitious designs in Africa," Liberia naturally turned to the United States for disinterested help.

Nevertheless, it took thirteen long years for that wave of disinterested emotion to flow eastward in the shape of a financial dictator and an American police force...

The American bourgeoisie finds itself obliged more and more to renounce the angelic role of "pure democracy," and to take the path of militarism and the disinterested leadership of Imperial expansion. The Negro question bids fair to become the moral issue of the day.

And soon we may have the whole history of England's criminality in starting the slave trade and the plantation system raked up and used as a preliminary to the reconsideration of the African mandates.

The Negroses themselves are being encouraged to look forward to a change of slave drivers for Africa. Marcus Garvey, the religio-racial charlatan who claims to voice the needs of the Negro masses, carries on a persistent campaign in his paper, which has a large circulation among the Negroes, for the liberation of Africa from the European Imperialists, and welcomes with joy the new loan to Liberia as a start, in this direction. He is assiduous in the sale of excursion tickets for Liberia to his Negro dupes, on "The Black Star Line," the steamships of which are not yet built! A short while ago he was arrested for obtaining money on false pretences in this manner. But nothing further has been heard of him, and it now seems to be as busy as ever denouncing the Bolsheviks of his race. But even the "Negro World" is compelled to expose the crimes of American Imperialism in Haiti. So that Garvey and his organization, the Universal Negro Improvement Association, typify the immature consciousness of the Negroes in the first stage of awakening.

But the growing band of young Negro radicals, who look to Soviet Russia for guidance and inspiration in the struggle,—they are the Orientals of the African Brotherhood, and in close touch with the class conscious white workers of America, they are pointing the way to proletarian emancipation as the only hope for their oppressed Negro brothers in Africa.

ECONOMICS

The Capitalist Wage Offensive in Belgium

By J. Jacquemotte (Brussels).

The Belgian proletariat is being drawn in turn into the battle front, into the fight which capitalism is forcing upon the workers in all countries. Here too, it is the industrial owner who is taking the offensive.

The Belgian capitalist has always been a patron of struggle.

Karl Marx already pointed out that Belgium was the paradise of capitalists and it is a well known fact that before the war, Belgium was the country of low wages and long working hours.

Now, after the period of great prosperity that immediately followed the war, a period during which the consequences of the workers did not meet with such bitter opposition on the part of the capitalists (as they were too busy with their work), we see the period of the seven lean cows setting in.

The industrial crisis has taken strong root there, and the year 1921 was marked by a very intense wave of unemployment. At one time, the army of unemployed numbered nearly 200,000 men and women! We must not forget that in round figures the Belgian population numbers about 7,000,000 people, and that the industrial proletariat is estimated at about 1,000,000 including men, women and children of both sexes.

Taking advantage of this crisis, the Belgian capitalist decided to launch a rapid campaign for the reduction of wages.

The Ultimatum of the Central Industrial Committee.

The General Commission of the Industrial Corporations (Central Industrial Committee), which includes all industrial associations and Chambers of Commerce, unanimously adopted a resolution in favor of a 10 % wage reduction in the mining industry, and a 20 % wage reduction in the metal industries and zincworks in the Liege basin.

The Central Industrial Committee based its ultimatum upon the claim that the competition of industries of foreign countries endangered Belgian export. It therefore intends on the one hand to force a considerable wage reduction, and on the other hand to encroach anew upon the eight-hour law, passed in 1921, and to introduce new modifications which would in practice mean its disappearance.

First of all we must point out that in spite of the open violence which characterizes the capitalist offensive to-day, this offensive was already in full swing last year. In February 1921, Wautier, the Social Democratic Minister of Industry and Labor, issued a statement in the name of the Government, this statement dealt with the then existing crisis, and the following excerpt betrays the spirit of the whole: "It is generally noted that the increase in the production of the mining industry is not followed by a corresponding reduction of the costs of production: raw materials, coal, wages."

The self-evident falsity of the capitalist claims are crystalized in an article published by the bourgeois sheet, Le Soir, on the 18th of March.

"We desired to get an exact idea of the Belgian industrial situation, compared against that of its competitors, particularly the situation in German industry. We wished to get an almost mathematical estimate, not of its chances of success, but of its actual success. We have made a study of all estimates which we were able to procure from official and authentic sources.

"For the beginning of 1922, we hereby reproduce the following estimate made by the Belgian metal industry. Taking the Belgian prices as unity, the figures on the right are here given as the German per cent prices."

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For the year 1921, the same official study of 40 estimates from various countries is made: in Germany, Brazil, Chile, Cuba, the United States, the Netherlands, Russia, Roumania, and South Africa, shows that 37 contracts or 75.5 % fell to the Belgian industry. German industry participated in 30 of these contracts, and was assigned only 8 of them, the other 22, or 73 %, falling to Belgian industry.
THE LABOR MOVEMENT

The Leipzig Congress of the General German Trade Union Federation

By X.Y.Z.

After following for several years a policy of cooperation with
the employers, of collaborating with the A.D.O.G.B., the General German Trade Union Federation (A.D.O.G.B.) now finds itself in a difficult position and takes a decision on a new course of action.

This is the decision upon the report of the Federation Executive: the members of the A.D.O.B.G., who during a period of two years have been economically, as well as politically, continuously defeated, by the membership of the A.D.O.B.G. during the same period - as almost doubled. This contradiction is clear, if entirely, that the A.D.O.B.G. is not prepared to join the Federation members, who again in quite the words of our fractions - "said funda-
mentally the Federation failure in the respect of the capital-
ization of the German labor movement".

But this contradiction is not the only deep-rooted. The question of the "draughtsman" for the bourgeois solution, results, so correctly pointed out by the A.D.O.B.G. in the report, that the"draughtsman" for the"social revolution" in the General German Trade Union Federation.

Hence its contradictory resolutions: one for the "social revolution", which is a cry of revolt against capitalism and a blow in the face of the "bourgeois" policy of Dett, Schlesemann, Bauer and Leipart, then immediately after this the resolution in favor of the "social revolution" of the Socialist Federation of Labor, this wouldResourceId the international trade-union fellowship for the bourgeo-

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In the Soviet Union, by this attitude of the labor leaders, that the government be not only a guardian of the interests of the workers, but also a Party organization who everywhere partake of the daily life of the masses — the Party in the factories takes a leading role. In this are the two victories of the October Revolution: the colonization of the factory by the worker.
While the reformist leaders, united in the Amsterdam International, in the past looked upon the proletariat of the overseas countries as labor cattle on whose account some crumbs from the master's table fell to the labor bureaucracy of Europe, they are now striving to put the growing labor movement under their destructive influence. These attempts must be opposed by the revolutionary will of the masses, and first of all by the conscious workers who have passed the school of class struggle and who have had experience in the policy of allying with Capital. The decisions of your first National Congress in Melbourne in June 1921 showed that you have taken the right path, adopting the forms of your organization structure which correspond with the specific conditions of your country and placing on the order of the day your immediate task. Now the following step is to be made in the same direction. It is necessary that you elaborate consistent revolutionary tactics and establish close connections with the revolutionary labor organizations of other parts of the world.

We send you our heartfelt greetings from far-off Moscow, the new centre of the revolutionary will of millions of oppressed workers, and urge you to come out in joint action in the attack against the stronghold of capitalism. We propose that you send your delegates to the coming Second Congress of the Revolutionary Unions to take place in Moscow on November 20th, 1922 in order jointly to deal with the present task of the labor movement of the whole world.

Festively yours,

The Executive Bureau of the Red Trade Union International.

The Secohd International and Georgia.

by L. Satsinsky.

We read in the Berlin organ of the Right SR. (Vzduhi Russia),('Voice of Russia'), the following report: Epidemics in Georgia.

"Julian Brantl, who brought medicaments into Georgia, in the name of the Austrian Trade Federation, notifies us that Georgia is swept by a wave of malaria that is assuming unheard of proportions. 500,000 cases are reported for last year alone." We don't know how many patients were relieved by Mr. Brantl, who apparently came here not so much for the purpose of carrying on relief work, as in the capacity of agent to the world bourgeoisie as Georgia. Neither can we say how great Mr. Brantl's exaggeration of the actual number of malaria victims is, an exaggeration intended to emphasize the threats of Bolshevism.

But here is what we do know. In 1921, a little book on Georgia was published in Moscow. This book was an answer by Comrade N. Moschevsky to the Bulgarian".

in the Georgian "Menshevik" faction in Europe."

"They (the Mensheviks) pillaged Georgia very skillfully. They carried away with them large quantities of gold and roughly, they carried away with them large quantities of gold and gold. They will experience no need in exile; on the contrary, they will have sufficient means. And claims for the Georgian masses which liberated themselves from these masters.

But what is particularly revealing is the fact that the Georgian Mensheviks, who are professed "great friends," of the Georgian people, carried away with them large quantities of gold and gold.

That is what should have been told Mr. Julian Brantl, if his fellow-agents of the bourgeoisie could only get themselves to be fair and honest towards the Soviet Republic.

To derive one's people from its mistakes because it refused the chain of the Menshevik regime is an act worthy only of Menshevik democracy.

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