

# GERMANY THE NEXT REPUBLIC?

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**When Von Falkenhayn Impatiently Cried "Damn the Neutrals!" He Merely Stated the Attitude of the Prussian Junkers, Who Have Held the German Empire Helpless in Their Grasp**

**However, the Kaiser Sacrificed the Great General in Response to the Insistent Representations of the Foreign Office That the Neutrals of the World Would Refuse to Be "Damned"**

### How the Junkers Felt Toward Neutrals

WHEN the Ministers arrived at the Kaiser's headquarters his Majesty asked each one to make a complete report on the submarine war as it affected his department.

Doctor Helfferich was asked to go into the question of German finance and the relation of America to it. Doctor Solf, the Colonial Minister, who had been a very good friend of Ambassador Gerard, discussed the question of the submarine warfare from the standpoint of its relation to Germany's position as a world power. Admiral von Capelle placed before the Kaiser the figures of the number of ships sunk, their tonnage, the number of submarines operating, the number under construction and the number lost. General von Falkenhayn reported on the military situation and discussed the hypothetical question as to what effect American intervention would have upon the European war theatres.

While the conferences were going on Doctor Heckscher and Under Secretary Zimmermann, who at that time were anxious to avoid a break with the United States, sounded Ambassador Gerard as to whether he would be willing to go to great headquarters to confer with the Kaiser. The Foreign Office at the same time suggested the matter to the General Staff, and within a few hours Mr. Gerard was invited to go to Charleville. Before the Ambassador arrived the Kaiser called all of his Ministers together for a joint session and asked them to make a brief summary of their arguments. This was not a peace meeting. Not only opponents of submarine warfare, but its advocates, mobilized all their forces in a final attempt to win the Kaiser's approval. His Majesty, at this time, was inclined toward peace with America and was very much impressed by the arguments which the Chancellor and Doctor Helfferich presented. But at this meeting, while Helfferich was talking and pointing to the moral effect which the ruthless torpedoing of ships was having upon neutral countries, Von Falkenhayn interrupted with the succinct statement:

"Neutrals? Damn the neutrals! Win the war! Our task is to win. If we win we will have the neutrals with us; if we lose we lose."

"Falkenhayn, when you are versed in foreign affairs I'll ask you to speak," interrupted the Kaiser. "Proceed, Doctor Helfferich."

Gentleman that he is, Von Falkenhayn accepted the imperial rebuke, but not long afterward his resignation was submitted.

As a result of these conferences and the arguments advanced by Ambassador Gerard, Secretary von Jagow, on May 4, handed the Ambassador the German note in reply to President Wilson's Sussex ultimatum. In this communication Germany said:

Fully conscious of its strength, the German Government has twice in the course of the last few months expressed itself before all the world as prepared to conclude a peace safeguarding the vital interests of Germany. In doing so, it gave expression to the fact that it was not its fault if peace was further withheld from the peoples of Europe.



"Neutrals? Damn the neutrals!" Von Falkenhayn interrupted. "Win the war! If we win, we will have the neutrals with us; if we lose, we lose."

With a correspondingly greater claim of justification the German Government may proclaim its unwillingness before mankind and history to undertake the responsibility, after twenty-one months of war, to allow the controversy that has arisen over the submarine question to take a turn which might seriously affect the maintenance of peace between these two nations.

The German Government, guided by this idea, notifies the Government of the United States that instructions have been issued to German naval commanders that the precepts of the general international fundamental principles be observed as regards stopping, searching and destruction of merchant vessels within the war zone and that such vessels shall not be sunk

without warning and without saving human life unless the ship attempts to escape or offers resistance.

At the beginning of the war it was a group of military leaders, consisting of General von Moltke, General von Falkenhayn, General von Mackensen, General von Herringen, Grand Admiral von Tirpitz and a few of the Prussian military clique, which prevailed upon the Kaiser to go to war after the assassination of the heir to the Austrian throne and his wife. The Allies proclaimed in their publications, in the press and in parliaments that they were fighting to destroy and overthrow the military party in Germany, which could make war without public consent. Millions of Allied soldiers were mobilized and fighting in almost a complete ring surrounding Germany, Austria-Hungary, Bulgaria and Turkey.

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They had been fighting since August, 1914, for twenty-one months and still their fighting had not shattered or weakened the military party which had upon the people and the Kaiser. Von Tirpitz and Von Falkenhayn, who, shortly after the war began, became the ringleaders of Germany's organized might, had prevailed not before the armed foes on the battlefield, but before an untried nation with a President whose only weapon was public opinion in the United States. Then came the downfall of Von Falkenhayn, because he was prepared to damn the United States and all neutrals. He was a nation and a Government after thirteen months of patience and hope had a right to believe that after all public opinion, was a weapon which was sometimes more effective than any other. Wilson and the State Department were justified in feeling that their policy toward Germany was after all successful, not alone because it had solved the vexing submarine issue, but because it had aided the forces of democracy in Germany. Because, with the downfall of Von Falkenhayn and Von Tirpitz, there was only one recognized authority in Germany. That was the Chancellor and the Foreign Office, supported almost unanimously by the Socialists and by the Liberty forces which were at work to reform the German Government.

But this was in May, 1916, scarcely eight months before the Kaiser changed his mind and again decided to support the people who were clamoring for a ruthless, murderous, defiant war against the whole world, if the world was "foolish" enough to join in.

### The Period of New Orientation

Dr. Karl Liebknecht, after he had challenged the Chancellor on the fourth of April, became the object of attack of the military authorities. The Chancellor, although he is the real Minister of Foreign Affairs, is also a major general in the army, and for a private like Liebknecht to talk to a major general as he did in the Reichstag was contrary to all rules and precedents in the Prussian army. The army was ready to send Liebknecht to the firing squad, and it was only a short time until they had an opportunity to arrest him. Liebknecht started riots in some of the ammunition factories, and one night at Potsdamer Platz, dressed in civilian clothes, shouted, "Down with the Government!" and started to address passers-by. He was seized immediately by Government detectives, who were always following him, and taken to the police station. His home was searched, and when the trial began the papers found there were placed before the military tribunal as evidence that he was plotting against the Government.

The trial was secret and police blockaded all streets a quarter of a mile away from the court where he was tried. Throughout the proceedings, which lasted a week, the newspapers were permitted to print only the information distributed by the Wolff Telegraph Bureau. But public sympathy for Liebknecht was so great that mounted police were kept in every part of the city day and night to break up crowds which might assemble. Behind closed doors, without an opportunity to consult his friends, with only an attorney appointed by the Government to defend him, Liebknecht was sentenced to two years' hard labor. His only crime was that he had dared to speak in the Reichstag the opinions of some of the more radical Socialists.

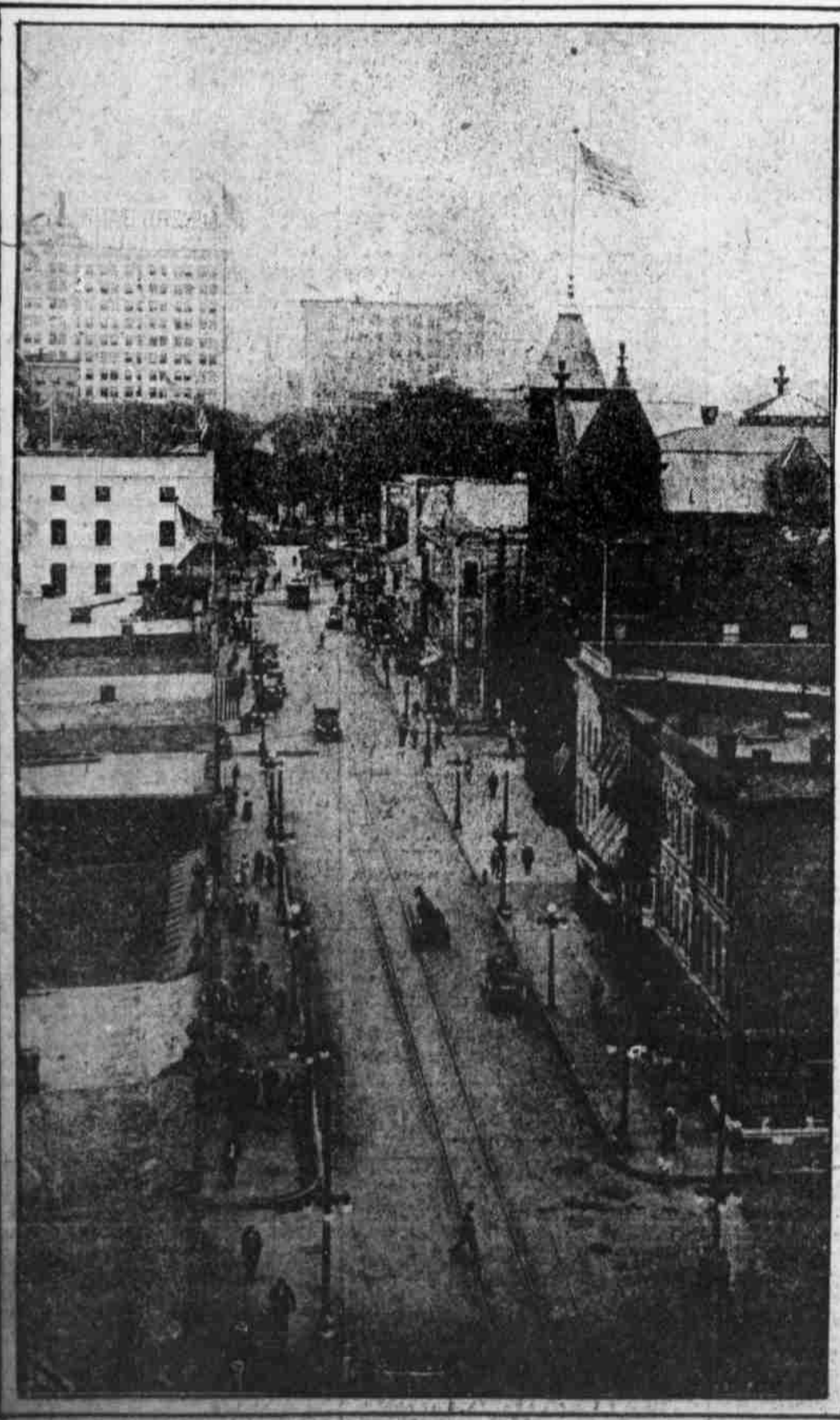
Liebknecht's imprisonment was a lesson to other Socialist agitators. The day after his sentencing was announced there were strikes in nearly every ammunition factory in and around Berlin. Even at Spandau, next to Essen the largest ammunition manufacturing city in Germany, several thousand workmen left their benches as a protest, but the German people have such terrible fear of the police and of their own military organization that they strike only a day and return the next to forget about previous events.

If there were no other instances in Germany to indicate that there was the nucleus for a democracy, this would seem to be one. One might say, too, that if such leaders as Liebknecht could be assisted, the movement for more freedom might have more success.

(CONTINUED TOMORROW)

## GIANT ITALIAN AEROPLANE SEATS TWENTY-FIVE PASSENGERS—OTHER NEWS PHOTOGRAPHS

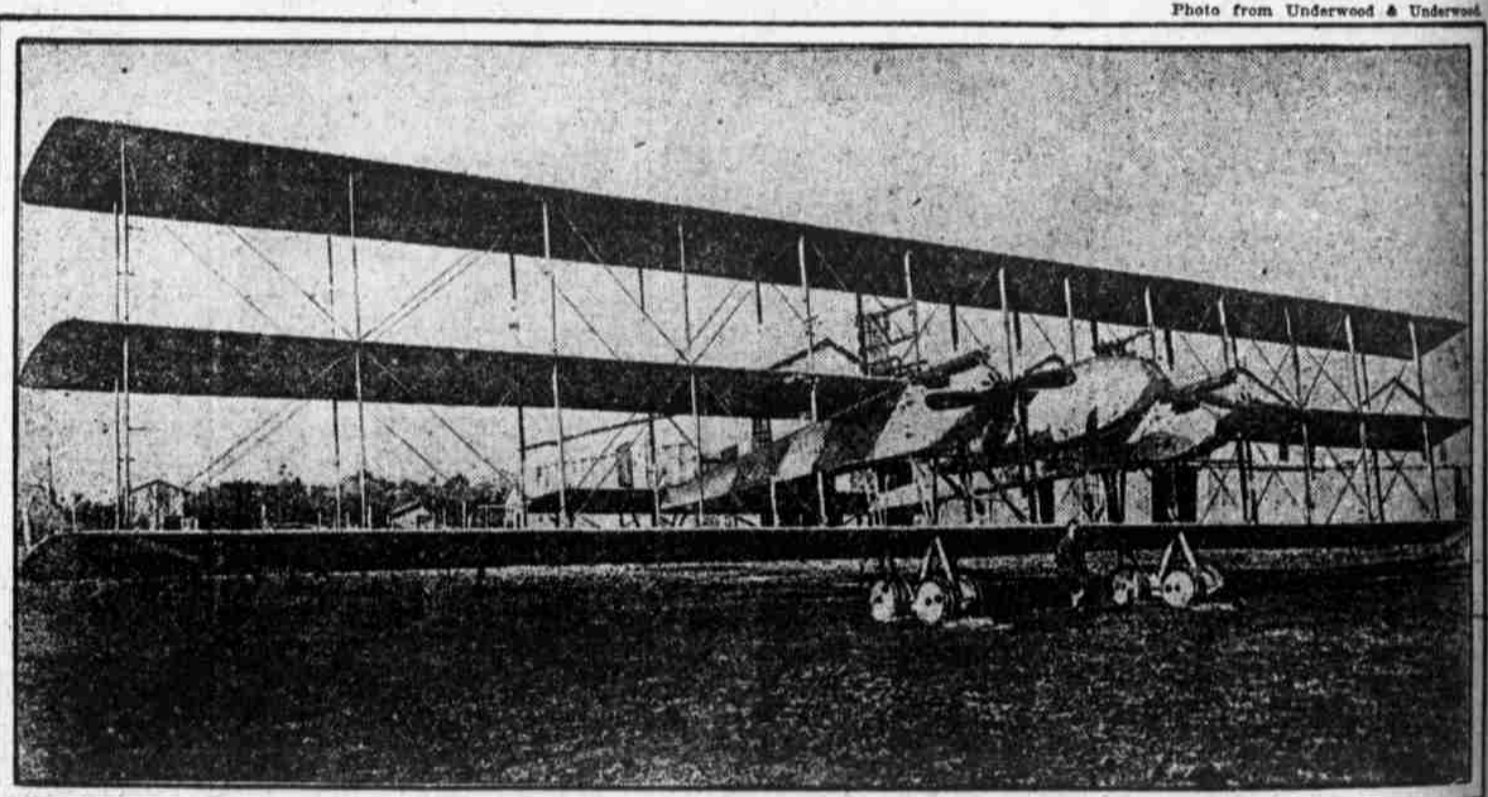
Photo from Underwood & Underwood.



THE VIEW ALONG SOUTH MAIN STREET, IN WILKES-BARRE, AS DIVULGED BY THE CAMERA OF AN EVENING-LEDGER STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

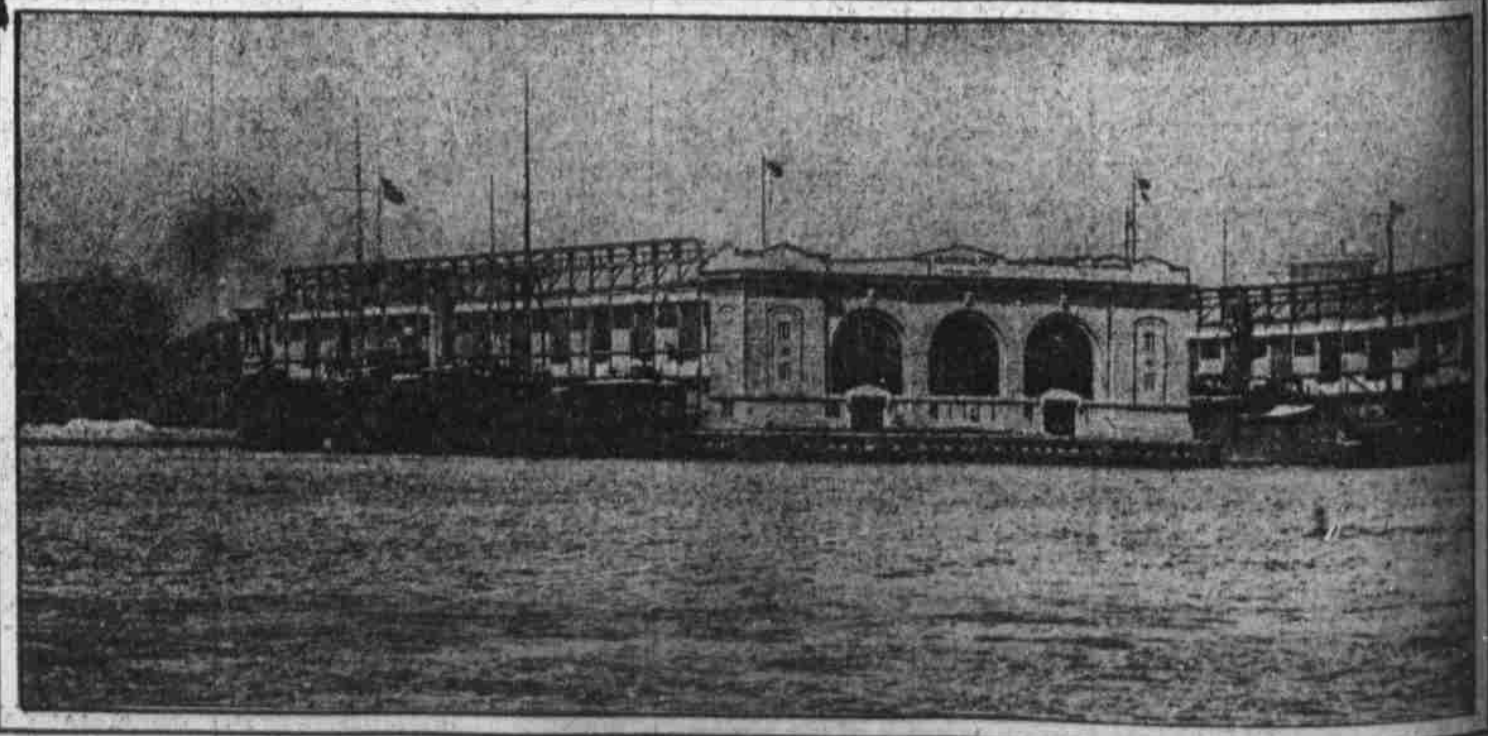


SECRETARY OF WAR BAKER A BOARDWALK FIGURE DURING BUSINESS CONFERENCE AT THE SHORE



### GREAT ITALIAN TRIPLANE MARVEL OF THE AIR

If all the expectations of its designers are fulfilled, this machine bids fair to revolutionize the war in the air. Its engines develop 700 horsepower and can drive the plane and its human cargo at the rate of ninety miles an hour.



THE NEW MUNICIPAL PIER AT THE FOOT OF CATHARINE STREET SYMBOLIZES AN ERA OF AWAKENING FOR THE PORT OF PHILADELPHIA