

# GERMANY THE NEXT REPUBLIC?

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**There Was Little Love Lost Between Von Falkenhayn and Von Hindenburg, and When the Former Turned Over the Command to the Present Leader He Was Bitterly Sarcastic in His Comments**

**A National Liberal Leader in the Reichstag Told Ackerman That With an Unlimited U-Boat Campaign Germany Could Sink 600,000 Tons of Allied Shipping Monthly and Thus Gain the Upper Hand**

### The Period of New Orientation

It was very difficult for the German public to accept the German reply to President Wilson's Sussex note. The people were bitter against the United States. They hated Wilson. They feared him. And the idea of the German Government bending its knee to a man they hated was enough cause for loud protests. This feeling among the people found plenty of outlets. The submarine advocates, who always had their ears to the ground, saw that they could take advantage of this public feeling at the expense of the Chancellor and the Foreign Office. Prince von Buelow, the former Chancellor, who had been spending most of his time in Switzerland after his failure to keep Italy out of the war, had written a book entitled "Deutsche Politik," which was intended to be an indictment of Von Bethmann-Hollweg's international policies. Von Buelow returned to Berlin at the psychological moment and began to mobilize the forces against the Chancellor.

After the Sussex dispute was ended the Socialist organ Vorwaerts, supported by Philip Scheidemann, leader of the majority of the Socialists, demanded that the Government take some steps toward peace. But the General Staff was so busy preparing for the expected Allied offensive that it had no time to think about peace or about internal questions. When Von Falkenhayn resigned and Von Hindenburg arrived at great headquarters to succeed him the two generals met for the first time in many months. (There was bitter feeling between the two.) Von Falkenhayn, as he turned the office over to his successor, said:

"Has your Excellency the courage to take over this position now?"

"I have always had the courage, your Excellency," replied Von Hindenburg, "but not the soldiers."

In the Reichstag there has been only one real democratic party. That is the Socialist. The National Liberal party, which has posed as a reform organization, is in reality nothing more than the party controlled by the ammunition and war industries. When these interests heard that submarine warfare was to be so restricted as to be virtually negligible, they began to sow seeds of discontent among the ammunition makers. These interests began to plan for the time when the submarine warfare would again be discussed. Their first scheme was to try to overthrow the Chancellor. If they were not successful, then they intended to take advantage of the democratic movement which was spreading in Germany to compel the Government to consent to the creation of a Reichstag Committee on Foreign Affairs to consult with the Foreign Office when all questions of international policy, including submarine war-

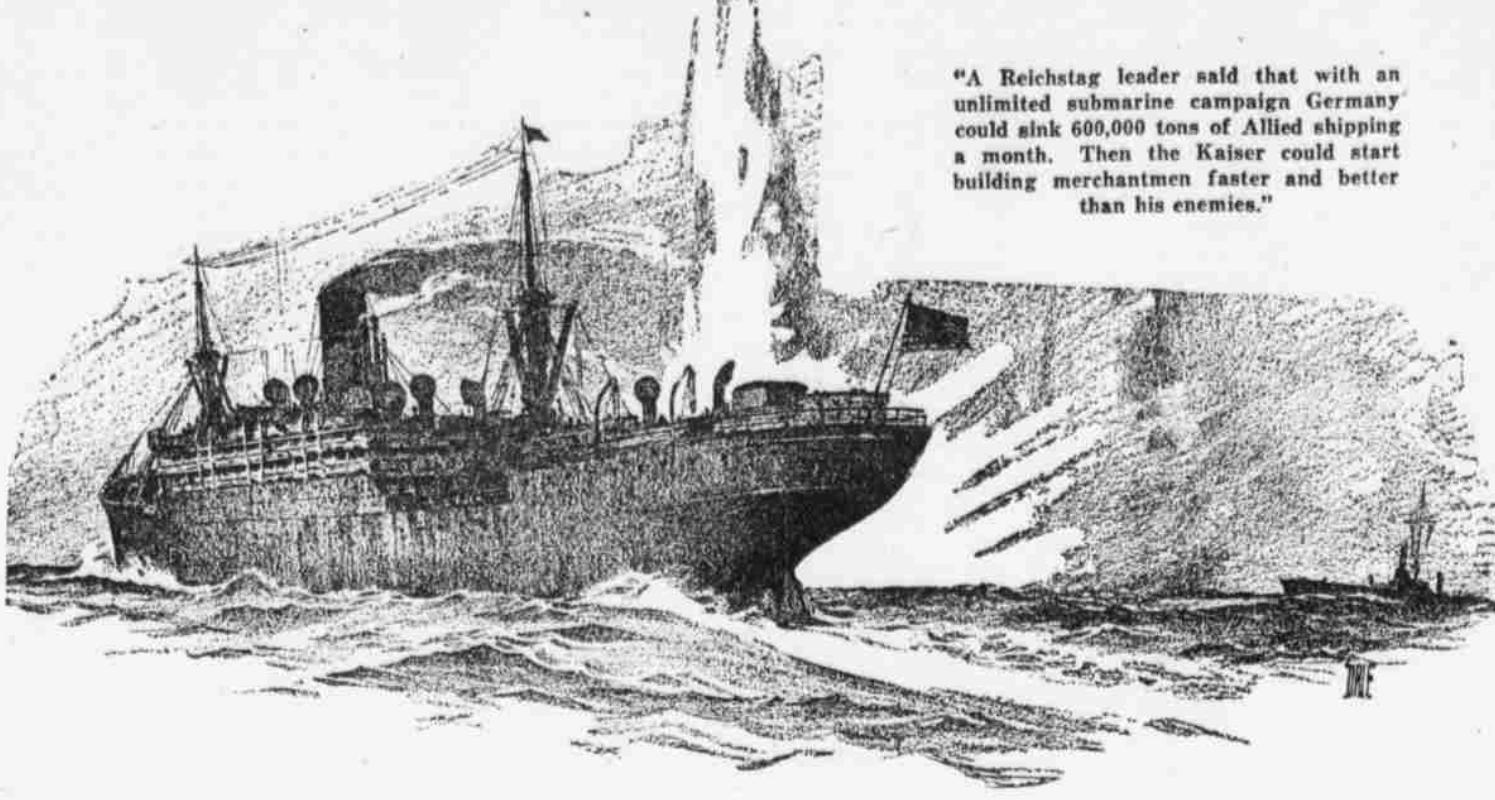
fare, were up for discussion. Seizing that clause in the German note which said that Germany would hold herself free to change her promises in the Sussex case if the United States was not successful against England, the navy began to threaten the United States with renewed submarine warfare unless President Wilson acted against Great Britain.

Reporting some of these events on June 12, the EVENING LEDGER, of Philadelphia, printed the following dispatch, which I sent:

BERLIN, July 12.—The overthrow of Chancellor von Bethmann-Hollweg, champion of a conciliatory policy toward the United States, and the unloosing of German submarines within three months, was predicted by Von Tirpitz supporters

The fight to oust the Chancellor has now grown to such proportions that it overshadows if interest the Allied offensive. The attacks on the Chancellor have gradually grown bolder since the appearance of Prince Buelow's book, "Deutsche Politik," because this book is believed to be the opening of Buelow's campaign to oust the Chancellor and step back into the position he occupied until succeeded by Bethmann-Hollweg in 1909.

The movement has grown more forceful since the German answer to President Wilson's ultimatum was sent. The Conservatives accepted the German note as containing a conditional clause, and they have been waiting to see what steps the United States would take against England.



"A Reichstag leader said that with an unlimited submarine campaign Germany could sink 600,000 tons of Allied shipping a month. Then the Kaiser could start building merchantmen faster and better than his enemies."

here today unless President Wilson acts against the British blockade.

Members of the Conservative party and those favoring annexation of territory conquered by Germany joined in the forecast. They said the opinion of America will be disregarded.

A private source, close to the Foreign Office, made this statement regarding the attempt to unseat Bethmann-Hollweg at a time when the war is approaching a crisis:

"Unless America does something against England within the next three months there will be a bitter fight against the Chancellor. One cannot tell whether he will be able to hold his own against such opposition. The future of German-American relations depends upon America."

Despite this political drive against the man who stood out against a break with the United States in the Lusitania crisis, Americans here believe Bethmann-Hollweg will again emerge triumphant. They feel certain that if the Chancellor appealed to the public for a decision he would be supported.

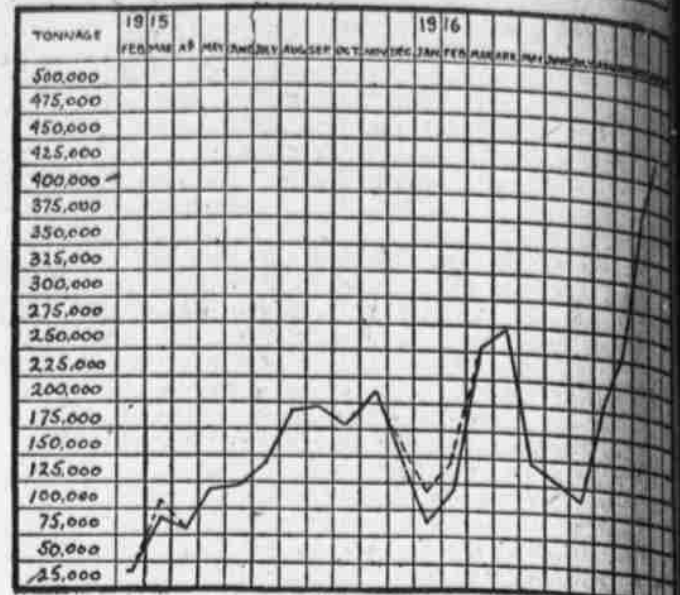
Within the last few days I have discussed the situation with leaders of several parties in the Reichstag. A National Liberal member of the Reichstag, who was formerly a supporter of Von Tirpitz and the Von Tirpitz submarine policies, said he thought Buelow's success showed that opposition to America was now dead.

"Who is going to be your next President—Wilson or Hughes?" he asked, and then, without waiting for an answer, continued:

"If it is Hughes, he can be no worse than Wilson. The worst he can do is to declare war on Germany, and certainly that would be preferable to the present American neutrality."

"If this should happen every one in our navy would shout and throw up his hat, for it would mean unlimited sea war against England. Our present navy is held in a net of notes."

"What do you think the United States could do? You could not raise an army to help the Allies. You could confiscate



SUNK BY SUBMARINES — SUNK BY RAIDERS  
Chart showing tonnage of ships sunk by German submarines from Rear Admiral Hollweg's book.

our ships in American ports, but if you tried to use them to carry supplies and munitions to the Allies we would sink them. "Carrying on an unlimited submarine war, we could sink 600,000 tons of shipping monthly, destroy the entire merchant fleets of the leading Powers, paralyze England and win the war. Then we would start all over, build merchantmen faster than any nation and regain our position as a leading commercial Power."

Friends of the Chancellor still hope that President Wilson will take a strong stand against England, thereby greatly strengthening Bethmann-Hollweg's position. At present the campaign against the Chancellor is closely connected with internal policies of the Conservatives and the big land owners. The latter are fighting Bethmann-Hollweg because he promised the people, on behalf of the Kaiser, the enactment of franchise reform after the war.

Commenting on this dispatch, the New York-World said: Not long ago it was the fashion among the opponents of the Administration to jeer loudly at the impotent writing of notes. And even among the supporters of the Administration there grew an uneasy feeling that we had had notes ad nauseam.

Yet these plodding and undramatic notes arouse in Germany a feeling very different from one of ridicule. The respectful respect for our notes is there admirably summed up by a member of the Reichstag, who to the correspondent of the United Press exclaimed bitterly, "Our present navy is held in a net of notes."

Nets may not be so spectacular as knuckledusters, but they are slightly more civilized and generally more efficient.

The National Liberal Reichstag member who was quoted as Dr. Gustav Stressemann. Stressemann is one of the worst reactionaries in Germany, but he likes to pose as a progressive. He was one of the first men to suggest that the Reichstag form a committee on foreign relations to consult with and have equal power of decision with the Foreign Office.

(CONTINUED TOMORROW)

## THE DAY'S NEWS HAPPENINGS GRAPHICALLY PORTRAYED BY INTERESTING PHOTOGRAPHS



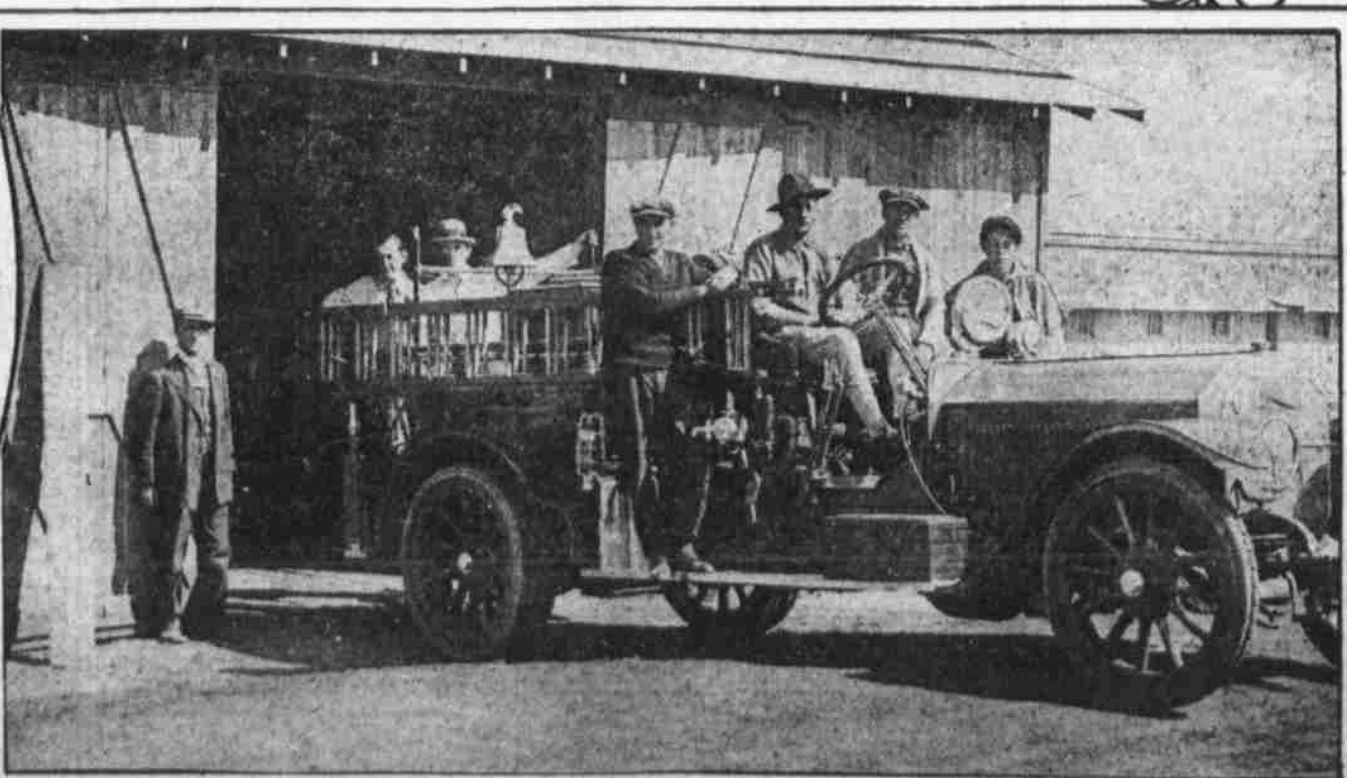
CANDIDATES FOR "CHOW" AT CAMP DIX  
No mournfulness is discernible on the faces of these draftees, who have found the first result of their military training to be a voracious appetite.



J. C. RODGERS  
General superintendent of the northern division of the Pennsylvania Railroad, who has been appointed assistant to President Rea.



BOUND FOR FRANCE ON SECRET MISSION  
Representative C. B. Miller, of Minnesota, a member of the House Foreign Relations Committee, is on an errand for the War Department and the American Red Cross.



CAMP DIX, AT WRIGHTSTOWN, BOASTS OF A FIRE DEPARTMENT POSSESSING THE MOST MODERN MOTOR APPARATUS



FOR A NEW BOARDWALK PET TRY THE FOX  
Miss Nora Shackleton, of Philadelphia, and her cunning little friend Mital, who were Atlantic City visitors this week.