

# GERMANY THE NEXT REPUBLIC?

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**An Efficient and Prolific Government Publicity Bureau, Presided Over by the Military, Has Been Kept Busy Ever Since the Reverse on the Marne Feeding Inspired Articles of Victory and Conquest to the Sorely Tried and Discontented German People**

**At One Crisis Philip Scheidemann Threatened Von Bethmann-Hollweg With a Revolution if He Did Not Make Peace Immediately, but Renewed Tales of "Glorious Successes" Enabled the Military Caste to Weather This Storm as It Had the Others**

**DISTURBED** by internal political dissension and tormented by lack of food, the German ship of state was sailing troubled waters by November, 1916. Chancellor von Bethmann-Hollweg's speech to the Reichstag on September 23 satisfied no one. After he had spoken the only thing people could recall were his words:

The mighty tasks which await us in all the domains of public, social, economic and political life need all the strength of the people for their fulfillment. It is a necessity of state which will triumph over all obstacles to utilize to the utmost those forces which have been forged in the fire and which clamor for work and creation. A free path for all who are capable—that must be our watchword. If we carry it out freely, without prejudice, then our empire goes to a healthy future.

### Literary "Gum Drops" for the German People

The press interpreted this as meaning that the Chancellor might some day change his mind about the advisability of a ruthless submarine warfare. Early in November, when it appeared that the Allies would not succeed in breaking through at the Somme, peace forces were again mobilized. But when various neutral countries sounded Germany as to possible terms they discovered that Germany was the self-appointed "victor" and would consider only a peace which recognized Germany as the dominant Power in Europe. The confidence of the army in the victory was so great that the following article was printed in all the German newspapers:

### "FAITH IN VICTORY"

"Great headquarters sends us the following:

"Since the beginning of the war, when enemies arose on all sides and millions of troops proceeded from all directions—since then more than two long years have brought no more eventful days than those of the present. The unity of the front—our enemies have prepared it for a long time past with great care and proclaimed it in loud tones. Again and again our unexpected attacks have disturbed this boldly thought out plan in its development, destroying its force, but now at last something has been accomplished that realizes at least part of the intentions of our enemies, and all their strength is being concentrated for a simultaneous attack. The victory which was withheld from them on all the theatres of war is to be accomplished by an elaborate attack against the defensive walls of our best blood. The masses of iron supplied them by half the world are poured on our gallant troops day and night with the object of weakening their will and then the mass attacks of white, yellow, brown and black come on.



"Unless you try to make peace at once," Scheidemann told the Chancellor, "the people will revolt and I shall lead the revolution."

"The world never experienced anything so monstrous and never have armies kept up a resistance such as ours.

"Our enemies combine the hunger-and-lie campaign with that of arms, both aimed at the head and heart of our home. The hunger campaign they will lose, as the troublesome work of just and equal administration and distribution of the necessities of life is almost complete. And a promising harvest has ripened on our broad fields. From the first day of the war we alone of all the belligerent nations published the army reports of all our enemies in full, as our confidence in the constancy of those at home is unlimited. But our enemies have taken advantage of this confidence and several times a day they send out war reports to the world. The English since the beginning of their offensive send a dispatch every two hours. Each of these publications is two or three times as long as our daily report and all written in a style which has nothing in common with military brevity and simplicity. This is no longer the language of a soldier. They are mere fantastic hymns of victory, and their parade of names and of conquered villages and woods and stormed positions and the

number of captured guns and tens of thousand of prisoners is a mockery of the truth.

"Why is all this done? Is it only intended to restore the wearying confidence of their own armies and people and the tottering faith of their allies? Is it only intended to blind the eagerly observing eye of the neutrals? No; this flood of telegrams is intended to pass through the channels which we ourselves have opened to our enemy and to dash against the heart of the German people, undermining and washing away our steadfastness.

"But this despicable game will not succeed. In the same manner as our gallant troops in the field defy superior numbers, so the German people at home will defy the enemies' legion of lies, and remember that the German army reports cannot tell them and the world at large everything at present, but they never publish a word the truth of which could not be minutely sifted. With proud confidence in the concise but absolutely reliable publications of our own army administration, Germany will accept these legions of enemy reports at their own value, as wicked concoctions, attempting to rob them of calm and confidence which the soldier must feel supporting him if he joyfully risks his all for the pro-

tection of those at home. Thus our enemies' legions of lies will break against the wall of our iron faith. Our warriors defy the iron and fire—those at home will also defy the floods of printed paper and remain unflinching. The nation and army alike are one in their will and faith in victory."

### Renewed Demands for Peace

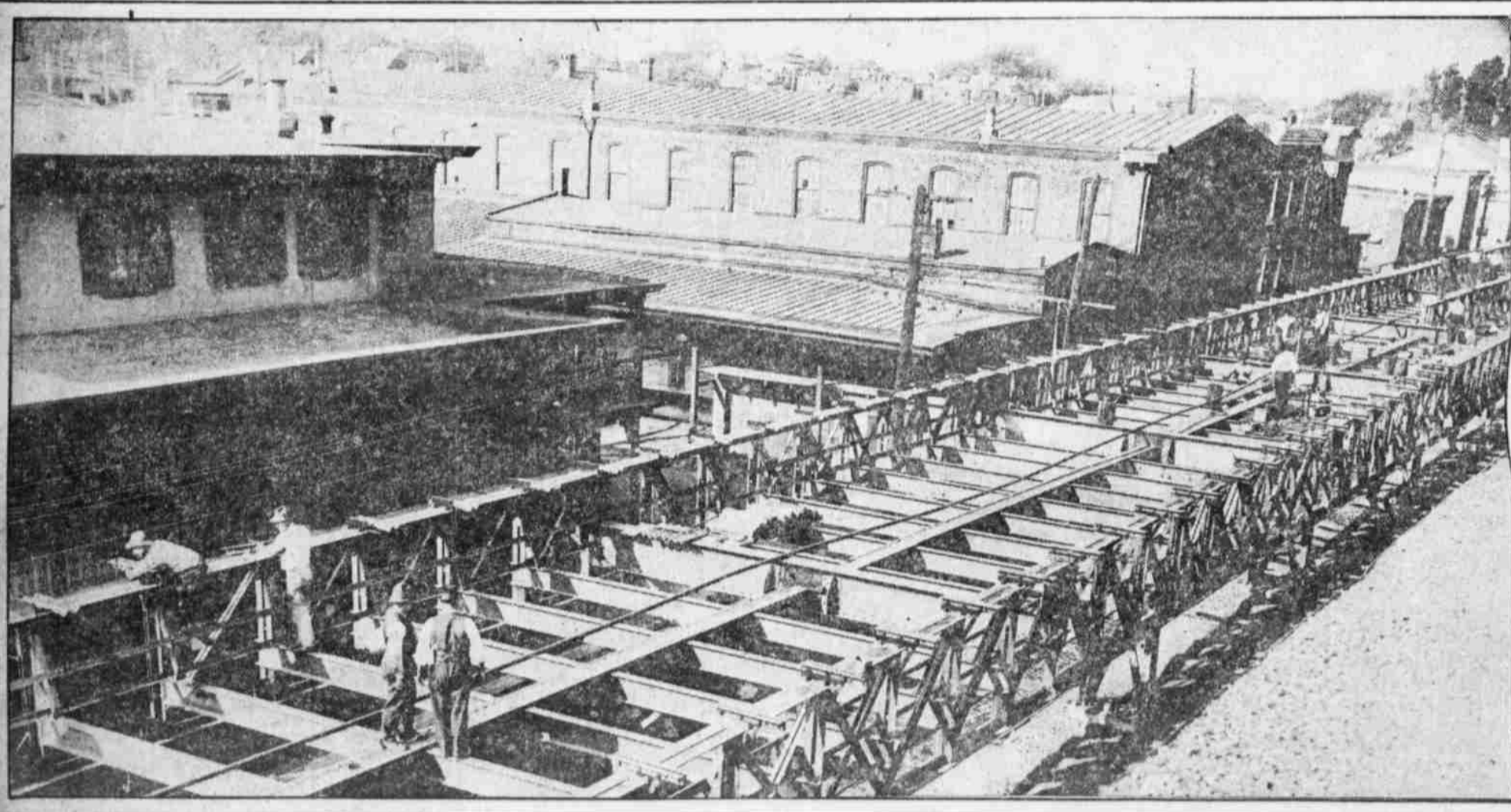
This is a typical example of the kind of inspired stories which are printed in the German newspapers from time to time to keep up the confidence of the people. This was particularly needed last fall, because the people were depressed and melancholy over the losses at the Somme and because there was so much criticism and dissatisfaction over the Chancellor's attitude toward the submarine warfare and peace. People, too, were suffering agonies in their homes because of the inferior quality of the food—the lack of necessary fats and sugar which normal people need for regular nourishment. The Socialists, who are in closer touch with the people than any others, increased their demands for peace, while the National Liberals and the Conservatives, who wanted a war of exhaustion against Great Britain, increased their agitation for the submarine warfare. The Chancellor was between two temptations. Either he had to attempt to make peace to satisfy the Socialists and the people or he had to give in to the demands for submarine warfare as outlined by the National Liberals. One day

OFFICIAL GERMAN MEAT CARD

Scheidemann went to the Chancellor's palace, after he had visited all the big centers of Germany, and said to von Bethmann-Hollweg: "Unless you try to make peace at once the people will revolt and I shall lead the revolution!"

At the same time the industrial leaders of the Rhine Valley and the army and navy were serving notice on the Government that there could not possibly be a German victory unless every weapon in Germany's possession, which included, of course, the submarine, was used against Germany's so-called chief foe—England. (CONTINUED MONDAY)

## PHILADELPHIA'S PORT THRIVES WITH WARTIME ACTIVITY—FRANKFORD "L" PUSHES ONWARD



SLOWLY BUT SURELY THE FRANKFORD ELEVATED NEARS ITS TERMINUS

While the fate of the rest of the city's new transit system hangs in the balance, the superstructure of the spur to the Northeast has been extended to Frankford avenue and Oxford pike, less than two miles from the Frankford car barns at Bridge street



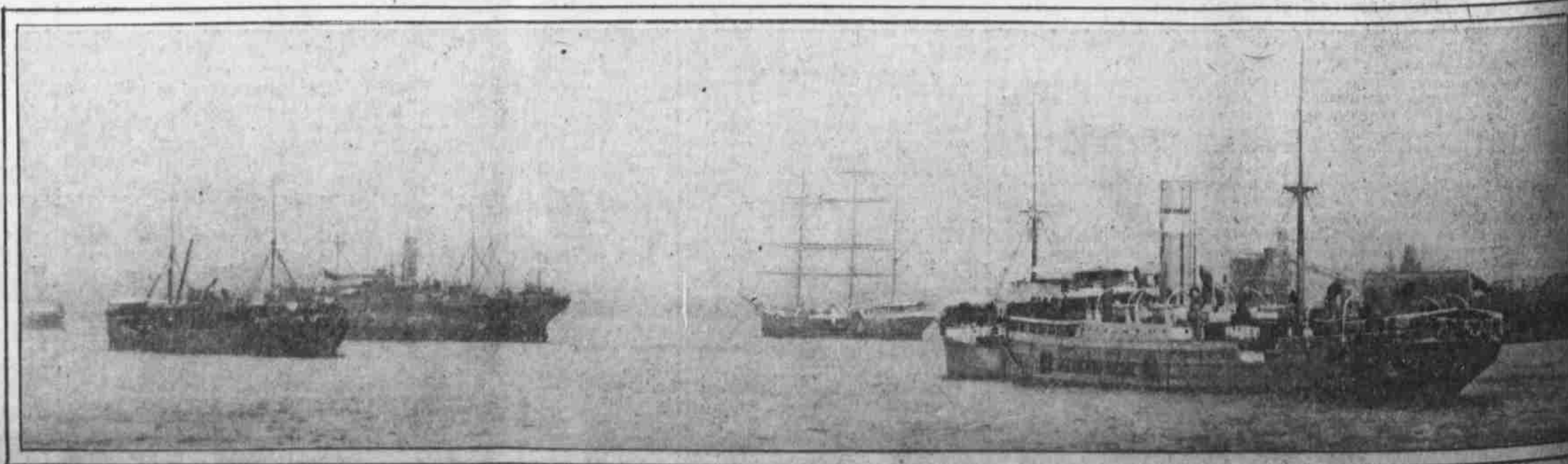
GERMAN GIRL WHO WED PHILADELPHIA DIPLOMAT

Mrs. Marie Baumann Roth, a native of Plauen, Saxony, became the bride of Arthur Curtis Roth, of this city, former United States vice consul at Plauen, just before diplomatic relations were broken off with Germany. She came to America with her husband, who is now seriously ill in New York.



WILL ADVISE SUGAR BOARD

George H. Harris, Jr., of Philadelphia, appointed a member of the committee of five sugar refiners who will aid the national board.



PHILADELPHIA'S CROWDED PORT SERVES AS A NEVER-FAILING BAROMETER OF THE RAPIDLY RISING INDUSTRIAL IMPORTANCE OF THE CITY AND ITS ENVIRONS