

RHETORICAL DUEL
STIRS SOCIALISTS

French and German Delegates at Berne Reproach Each Other

DISAGREE ON WAR GUILT

Teuton Declares Britain's "Hunger Blockade" Caused Death of 700,000 Teutons

By the Associated Press
Berne, Feb. 4.—A violent rhetorical duel between the French and German Socialists, with many reciprocal reproaches and accusations marked the second sitting last night of the international labor and socialist conference. The French side of the debate was in the hands of Pierre Renaudel, Albert Thomas and M. Mistrail.

Otto Wels, the former military commander of Berlin, defended the German position and said that the German Socialists already had settled the question of responsibility for the war in having taken all power from the princes and kings. Wels accused Great Britain of having killed 700,000 German women, children and old men by the "hunger blockade." He said that the exclusion of the German Socialists would impede the reconstruction of the internationalism.

Kurt Eisner, the Bavarian Premier, was the first speaker on the program for today.

Asks Guilty Be Punished
Albert Thomas, who was formerly a French member of the Allied War Council, prior to the French and German verbal clash offered a motion placing at the head of the program questions of responsibility for the war and the future of Socialism. The motion follows:

"The Berne Socialist conference, considering that a catastrophe deliberately imposed by a few men has inflicted upon the world nameless calamities and threatens to harrow up civilization itself, and considering, on the other hand, that all hopes of a just and lasting peace depend upon the possibility of founding a society of nations; that there can be no society of nations without trust, and that international public faith would remain forever compromised if the governments which have violated it could escape punishment for their crimes and if Socialist chiefs who made themselves accomplices of these governments were not branded outcasts by the internationalists, has decided to inscribe at the head of the agenda the question of international responsibilities in the causes of the war, that of violation of neutralities which had been placed under the guarantee of Europe and that of the responsibility of Socialists involved.

Calls Bolshevism Menace
"On the other hand the conference, considering that the future of Socialism in the world is threatened with greatest dangers by new tendencies called Bolshevism, decides to place in the second position on its agenda the role of democracy in the establishment of Socialist order."

Arthur Henderson, the British labor leader, opened the conference yesterday afternoon with a brief address showing the difficulties he, Samuel Gompers, president of the American Federation of Labor; Albert Thomas, the French labor leader, and Emile Vandervelde, the Belgian socialist chief, experienced in arranging the conference at all. He proposed the name of Hjalmar Branting, the Swedish Socialist leader, for president. He was elected unanimously.

It was officially announced that eighty delegates representing twenty-one different countries, were present and that more were expected soon, including seventeen Americans.

There was applause when Hjalmar Branting remarked that if the Peace Conference at Paris "represented the ruling classes he hoped Berne would represent the working classes." There was general approval and some cheering when Branting declared:

"President Wilson is the great protector of workers and the founder of the league of nations." Branting also praised Mr. Wilson's "fourteen points."

SEE BERNE MEETING AS GERMAN SCHEME
Paris, Feb. 4.—(By A. P.)—The Berne Socialist conference, to which many Socialist bodies in Europe have allied to send representatives, is the outcome of a German plan to help Germany retrieve her military defeat and escape the payment of just indemnities. It is the belief of Charles Edward Russell and William English Walling, speaking in behalf of the Socialist Democracy League of the United States, Messrs. Russell and Walling gave out the following statement on the subject in the name of the league:

"An delegate of our organization we decline to go to Berne because, despite the pretension that the world's laboring classes are represented there, its principal movers are those in all countries who tried to cause peace when it would have meant the triumph of imperialism and the ruin of the working class democracy.

"We note that the general federation of trades unions of Great Britain has no representation there, nor the Italian Socialist party, representing the majority of the Socialists; nor the Belgian Socialist party, nor the American Federation of Labor, and that the French Socialists in the French Chamber of Deputies allowed their delegates to go only under protest and under the threat that their action would be repudiated unless the Scheidemann group was excluded.

"We also note that one-third of the delegates are recognized by the Bolsheviks as sympathetic with their doctrines.

"We believe that the Berne conference is designed by Germany to redeem her from military defeat and avoid the payment of a just indemnity by intrigue and secret diplomacy.

FOUGHT 27 DAYS: NO PAUSE
Lieutenant Dalis Recounts Experience in Argonne Battle

Twenty-seven consecutive days' fighting in the Argonne Forest was the experience of Lieutenant D. Dalis, 25th Machine Gun Battalion.

Lieutenant Dalis is one of the Philadelphia men who participated in the fiercest engagement of the war. His home is at 1523 North Franklin street.

In a letter to his brother, Private H. L. Dalis who is stationed at Newport News, he said:

New British Parliament Has Coalition Majority

COALITION
Unionists 338
Liberals 136
National Democratic party 10
Total 484
NON-COALITION
Labor party 59
Unionists 48
Liberals 36
National party 2
Independents 7
Sinn Feiners 7
Irish Nationalists 7
Total 222
Coalition majority 262

NEW PARLIAMENT MEETS IN CRISIS

Britain's Legislators Today Begin Task of Composing Labor

HAS PLEDGED REFORMS

London, Feb. 4.—The "reconstruction" Parliament convenes today with a large part of the country's workers attempting to take reconstruction into their own hands.

As an organization of the newly elected legislative body gets under way, Great Britain and Ireland face the constantly growing menace of a general strike, which is admitted frankly by many of its legislators to be the first step toward attempted socialization of the nation's industries under a Bolshevistic regime.

Added to this situation was the embarrassing presence of the new "Irish Republic," which was declared formally in the recent Sinn Fein "parliament" in Dublin. That the British Government had not evinced in any way its intentions toward this new neighbor only added to the responsibility of the new "reconstruction" Parliament.

For a week Parliament will devote itself to organization work, including the swearing in of members, hearing of contests, etc. It will be opened formally February 11 by King George.

Lloyd George Will Return
So important are the problems immediately confronting Parliament that Premier Lloyd George, despite the necessity of his presence at the Peace Conference, will return to London the last of this week to confer with parliamentary leaders and direct formulation of a legislative program. The vital questions this Parliament must pass on are:

1. Ratification of the peace treaty.
2. Settlement of general strikes.
3. Definition of its attitude toward the "Irish Republic."
4. Adoption of a general reconstruction program.

Under the last division is included the problem of import restrictions, with probable departure from the free trade policy; free land for soldiers; better housing and working conditions, and extension and maintenance of the merchant marine.

Both Factions Pledged to Social Reforms
Both the coalition and minority parties are pledged to put through sociological reforms "that will make the country worthy of the heroism of the men who have fought for her since 1914."

The housing problem will be one of the first things to be considered. Parliament will be asked to authorize the building of thousands of cottages within easy access to the industrial regions. These cottages will be sold to workmen on easy payments.

A ministry of health is to be created to supervise sanitary conditions in industrial quarters and see that the workers' environment is made more pleasant. The wage scale, it is hoped, will not be allowed to drop back to its ante-war level, hand-to-mouth level. Although there probably will be some difficulty in fixing a minimum wage, it seems virtually certain some figures will be agreed on that will enable all workmen to maintain a much higher standard of living than hitherto has been possible. Regulation of working hours will be debated and some maximum working day will be fixed.

Labor Program Likely to Be First
The Labor Ministry in helping demobilized soldiers to find jobs. Whether such assistance will develop into a regular free labor agency, with branches throughout the country, or whether the bulk of this work will be done by the trades unions, is still uncertain. Both schemes have their advocates.

Quick formation and passage of the industrial part of the reconstruction program, it is believed, will tend toward amicable adjustment of the labor crisis. There was some conjecture as to whether the Sinn Feiners elected to Parliament would attend in its formative stages. It seemed to be a foregone conclusion that, if they did, they would withdraw before the formal convening of the body next week compelled them to swear allegiance to the King. The few Irish Nationalists elected will be present, according to T. E. O'Connor, their leader.

Labor Party Assumes Opposition
One of the notable features of the new Parliament will be the appearance of the Labor party as "His Majesty's opposition." The Labor party, on its position in the last elections by polling a plurality over the other non-coalition parties, with the exception of the Sinn Feiners. The latter, however, are expected to relinquish their chance to lead the opposition by refusing to sit.

Among the noted statesmen who were defeated for re-election in the recent elections are Herbert Asquith, one-time Premier, and Arthur Henderson, Labor leader.

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REDS WIN AGAIN ON NORTH FRONT

Russians Operating With Americans Driven Back by Bolsheviks

BIG GUN ACTION LIVELY

Patrols Also Engaged Along Every Sector and U. S. Flyer Bombs Terrorists

By the Associated Press
Archangel, Feb. 4.—The Russian detachment operating with the Americans on the Pinega front retreated Sunday several versts (a verst is about three-fifths of a mile), after having unsuccessfully attempted an attack in which it encountered superior numbers of the Bolshevik forces.

Artillery and patrol actions continue on all sectors of the front.

An American airplane Sunday bombed Bolshevik positions on the Vaga River. Advice to the Allied intelligence reveal some of the methods by which the Bolsheviks have been able to organize their army in such a way as to make possible the carrying on of a strong campaign in northern Russia.

Hold Families as Hostages
The principle of these methods, according to information received from the interior, lies in compelling the generals and staff officers in the old Russian army to serve the Bolsheviks by holding their families as hostages for the officers' conduct. Cases have occurred of officers' families being placed under close arrest, the women being treated as badly as the men.

The position of these Russian officers in the ranks of the Soviet army is extremely difficult. They serve as commanding officers and are trusted in all technical matters, but in regard to everything else are under constant suspicion and are controlled by Bolshevik commissars, who are permanently attached to the army and even control the carrying out of operations.

Fretful Threatens Prosecution
Leor Troitzky, the Bolshevik minister of war and marine, has issued an order that families of officers who desert to the Allies are to be held responsible and will be prosecuted in some cases. Military experts who have been forced to serve the Bolsheviks include some of the best men in field tactics, engineering and ordnance to be found in central Russia.

General mobilization of soldiers in all districts is being carried out vigorously, and all attempts to avoid service are being dealt with severely. The training of the Bolshevik army is being assisted by special schools of instruction at Petrograd and Moscow for all non-commissioned officers and men belonging to the Bolshevik party.

Red Army Grows Stronger

Generally, the army is growing stronger, and, although the new troops are far from being reliable, the severe methods that have been adopted have proved adequate to train these men so that they are the main strength of the Bolshevik party.

It is stated that this apparent increase in military strength has been taken by many to indicate Bolshevik ideas are gaining favor with the population, but this is by no means true. The majority of the people are anti-Bolshevistic, but are afraid to express their opinions. The entire strength of the Bolsheviks, it is averred, rests on their institution of red terror.

ERZBERGER TALKS OF RIGHTS

Treat Colonies of All Powers Alike, He Insists
Basel, Feb. 4.—Speaking before the Colonial Society in Berlin Mathias Erzberger, one of the German armistice commissioners, protested yesterday against Germany's being deprived of her colonies, according to a dispatch received here from the German capital. He is reported to have said:

"If we no longer have troops or arms, we leave our rights to the victors. We understand it has been proposed to internationalize German colonies under the administration of the league of nations. We ought to repel categorically such a proposition, or claim the same treatment for the colonies of all other powers. President Wilson's program gives Germany an inviolable right to her colonial territories."

BOLSHEVIKI RAGE IN CHILE

Planned Destruction of Business Houses in Antofagasta
Buenos Aires, Feb. 4.—(By A. P.)—Dispatches from Chile last night report an alarming situation at Antofagasta, where it is said that disorders, which have been prevailing for some time, have taken an admittedly Bolshevistic turn.

It is said the agitators are demanding the establishment of a new government there. The police are said to have captured documents showing a long list of business houses which are to be sacked and destroyed by mobs.



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