

FRANCE FIXED ON ENFORCING TREATY

Socialists in Parliament Insist Germany Must Pay All She Can

T. H. Thomas in N.Y. "Evening Post" All the party groups in France, and practically all sections of political opinion, have now made clear their position in regard to full execution of the Versailles Treaty, and the result justifies the exceptional statement that there is a point upon which all French parties are in agreement. It is clear even that the reason for the striking absence of factious opposition to Millerand is that, face to face with the one overwhelming issue of the treaty, there are no factions.

The out and out partisans of the Right—Conservative and Action Libérale—are those from which the nature of things are most intransigent in regard to Germany and the most exposed to the charge of nationalistic aims and militaristic conceptions. It would be superfluous to cite proof of their attitude. The Conservative Republicans and Moderates—Progressives and certain of the *Radicaux de Gauche*—who gained the crest of the wave in the recent elections, and who undoubtedly represent best the present temper of the country, owe their present strength in Parliament to their vigorous stand on war issues in general. In every way and on every occasion they have called for the rigorous execution of the treaty. It is they who have exerted the strongest and most consistent pressure upon Millerand.

The most active and spirited among them form a sort of opposition among his supporters; although they eventually line up inside of his majority, their attitude there is that of an exacting and never satisfied minority. They have continually put Millerand on the defensive and forced him to take a fairly clearly defined attitude of resisting their demands for an unvarying "more." It was they, for instance, who endeavored to force Millerand to make an issue of the attacks on French officers in Germany—to make an example of it and "teach them a lesson." He refused flatly, but on this occasion they carried their insistence so far as to cast a considerable vote against him. It is fair to say that in doing so they evidently lost credit rather than gained, but their action at any rate indicates clearly the attitude of the most active and ambitious element in the Chamber.

We turn, therefore, in searching for an "anti-militarist" or revisionist minority, to the traditional opponents of the groups mentioned; to the parties of the old Radical Left (Radicals, Radical-Socialists and Republican-Socialists). We turn to them all the more confidently because ever since the *affaire Dreyfus* their guiding principle (in addition to anti-clericalism) had been a determined opposition to nationalist adventures and to military domination; indeed, they had been jealous of even the slightest military interference in political policy. But we are disappointed in our expectations and find among them no trace of a dissentient minority.

To begin with, these groups are not out of control in the councils of France, but very decidedly in power. They are in a decided majority in the Ministry (among the appointments from Parliament) and form what is in a sense a political inner Cabinet, holding the posts in which questions of political policy or orientation have to be determined. Millerand himself, Andre Lefevre (the Minister of War) and three others are Republican-Socialists (i. e., five out of a party of only thirty), and there are seven Radical-Socialists among their colleagues.

It is true that appointments to office of certain members do not commit the parties, and a French party rarely sees things *en bloc*. But in this case they do. In a recent party convulsion the Radicals and Radical-Socialists of the Chamber voted a formal party declaration calling for the application of the treaty. It is worth noting that the few men among them who are dissenters as regards Millerand himself are only the more orthodox in regard to the dogma of the execution of the treaty, and make a point in debates of taunting Millerand with his failure to "produce the coal."

Even the United Socialists, although they vote against the government on general principles, do not provide a nucleus of opposition to the enforcement of the financial and economic clauses. They are occupied for the time being with the mixed-up and confused and contradictory state of affairs within the party. Their party declarations turn upon Lenin, the Third Internationale and the approaching downfall of capitalism; but awaiting this denouement the Socialist voter is as set as any other Frenchman on making the German pay. The United Socialists as a matter of fact are still in a mood of convalescence after their defeat in the elections, and in the Chamber they

are very much on their good behavior. How far they are willing to go in this direction was shown in the debate raised by Barthou's interpellation of March 26. Marcel Cachin, who spoke on behalf of the Socialists, said: "It is necessary to insist to the fullest possible extent upon the reparations due us from Germany." At this outspoken statement the Chamber, remembering the old-time temper of the Socialists, broke out in murmurs of astonishment, so much so that Cachin had to cry out in protest: "You have given us credit for so many absurd opinions," adding in explanation that the present difficult circumstances should be taken into account, and that "we must make it possible for Germany to pay us." He reiterated his point still more explicitly: "We must obtain from Germany the maximum of what can be got out of her." Il faut obtenir de l'Allemagne le maximum de ce qu'on peut en tirer.

U. S. LARGEST SINGLE EMPLOYER OF WOMEN

N. Y. Evening Post. Opportunities for women in the government service have been extended during the past year commensurate with the recognition of their abilities along many new lines. Previous to November, 1919, women were excluded from 99 per cent of the Civil Service examinations held, and this with frequent inconsistencies. Women, for instance, were considered competent to experiment with potato growing, but not with the cultivation of the tobacco plant; they were permitted to study human diseases and plant diseases, but were not eligible for investigation of animal life; they acted as assistant weather observers and assistant horticulturists, and yet were excluded from the study of climatology in its relation to agriculture. They were allowed to test foods and drugs, but not dyes; to classify and catalogue reptiles, but not cotton or corn. Women have acted and are acting as aids in restoring disabled soldiers to a normal frame of mind and in reeducating them to perform mechanical tasks; but the work of the Federal Board for Vocational Education has been reserved for men. In certain instances women were permitted to do work for one department which they might not do for another. The Navy Department has recognized the value of women as draughtsmen, and all its examinations, whether for general engineering work or for specific lines of draughting, have been open to them for some time. This was not, however, true of the War Department, the National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics and the Bureau of Public Roads. These facts were revealed in Part I of a report made by the Women's Bureau of the United States Department of Labor, submitted to the Civil Service Commission on October 27, 1919. On November 5, ten days after receiving the report, the commission passed a ruling opening all examinations to both women and men, leaving it to the

discretion of the appointing officers to specify the sex desired when requesting certification of eligibles. On November 19 a bill was introduced in the Senate by Senator McLean of Connecticut, amending an old statute which places at the discretion of department heads the appointment of women to any clerkship in the Government service. The amendment provides that in requesting a register of eligibles appointing officials shall not specify sex unless sex is a physical barrier to the proper performance of the duties to be fulfilled. The facts having been assembled, the remedy was quickly supplied, with benefit already to thousands of women. For the United States government is the largest single employer of men and women in the country. Prior to our declaration of war it gave employment in civil positions to over 530,000 persons. During the war its ranks swelled to almost a million, and the number of those who will be affected by the new regulation is still very high. Part II of the report deals with the discrimination between men and women in the matter of salaries. Of 8,000 appointments made in the first two months of 1919, 4,689 were women, and 51.3 per cent of them were given probational appointments. Only 49.4 per cent of 3,270 men received such appointments. Over 86 per cent of the women were appointed at salaries ranging from \$900 to \$1,250 a year, and only

36 per cent of the men were given positions at these salaries. A table compiled indicates clearly that as the salary advances the number of women appointees decreases very rapidly. Positions carrying from \$1,500 to \$2,400 went to less than one-half of 1 per cent of the women and to nearly 8 per cent of the men. Salaries between \$2,500 and \$3,500 went to less than one-third of 1 per cent of the women and to 8.5 per cent of the men. The report gives evidence that the discrimination in the matter of salaries is as serious as that in appointments, and it is hoped that the remedies for

this condition will be equally prompt and effective. A maximum allowance of \$75 is given for each person. William Heddia of Allentown, Pa., has the distinction of being the tallest doughboy in the A. E. F., He is 6 feet 8 inches high.

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\$8.00 and \$10.00

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