

Monarchists Have Succeeded In Scaring The Government

Murders Committed by the Nationalists Go Unpunished While Reprisals on the Part of Friends of the Republic Meet With Terrible Retribution.

BY MAXIMILIAN HARDEN,
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Special Cable Dispatch to The News.
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Berlin, Sept. 3.—Number 316 on the list of political assassinations: Matthias Erzberger, member of the Reichstag. Which means that, since the German Republic was proclaimed, 316 members of the republican parties have been treacherously murdered.

Of the perpetrators and instigators of these crimes, only five have been convicted and none sentenced to death. Count Arco, who shot the idealist Kurt Eisner in the back, was sentenced to life imprisonment in a fortress, while the Bavarians call him a saviour. The total of all other punishments amounts to thirty-one years for 315 murders. Generally no trial has followed these political assassinations, but when a trial is unavoidable, the prisoner is either allowed to escape or is acquitted. The real instigators are never seriously sought.

During the same period, there have been fifteen murders of Communists and Socialists, ten of which were reprisals for Monarchist murders. The total punishment for these fifteen murders has been eight executions and 177 years in prison.

The soviet dictatorship attempted at Munich cost twelve lives, and these only after the shooting of unarmed red guards and relief workers excited a spirit of revenge. Then, when the German troops entered Munich, 506 prisoners were shot without trial and 32 adherents of the Bavarian soviet were sentenced to a total of 518 years.

KAPF LEADERS IGNORED

No leader of the Kapp rebellion to restore the monarchy has been tried and none of the 775 officers who participated in that movement has been punished. Most of them are still in the army.

Of fifteen Communist murders, only two have been unpunished. Of 316 nationalist murders, 282 remain unpunished.

These eloquent figures are incomplete without two additional facts. A weak and cowardly government, flirting with all parties, has engendered the shameful belief that everyone who does not swear that the imperial German government was as innocent of starting the war as a new-born babe and that the brave German army, "on the point of final victory," was stabbed in the back by the Social Democrats, the Jews and other terrible monsters, is an enemy of the people and newspapers and

speakers at public meetings are entitled to say his demise was good for the Fatherland.

The second fact is that, not only are Count Arco and the Junker, who previously wounded Erzberger, called patriots in court, but the editor of an obscure paper who twice publicly demanded the murder of "Harden, Foerster, Gerlach and Albert Einstein," was sentenced in Berlin to a fine of one thousand marks (about eleven dollars) because of consideration for his "patriotic motives." As a matter of fact, he advertised his paper to several times the value of the fine.

ERZBERGER NOT BLAMELESS

Erzberger was no great or blameless statesman. He rose from his position as a Wurtemberg schoolmaster to be a leader of the Center party by intelligence and industry. As propagandist chief he was our German Northcliffe during the war. This once-obscure journalist could spend countless millions in the export of innumerable lies and, in doing so, he soon became accustomed to acts not good for his character. He was wrong, of course, not to steer clear of certain business connections, which, however, really netted him but little profit. To call him corrupt would be stupid, for but less, he could have amassed millions during the war easier than almost anyone else.

Erzberger formerly was an annexationist, almost a Pan-German. But he was convinced by visits to neutral countries, especially after America's entrance into the war, that victory was impossible. Therefore he sought and negotiated the peace. Optimism often blinded him. His blunders were numerous but this ardent Catholic was an honest, passionate patriot and an honest, energetic democrat. Incitement was carried on against him with the deadliest weapons—lies in words and caricatures—especially since he shifted heavy taxes to the rich Bourgeoisie.

Twice shot, previously, Erzberger succumbed to the third attack. The popular version, which is never quite right, but seldom quite wrong, says he was murdered by the rich because he wanted to make them pay the war bill. Of course it is not so simple as that. But recent impudent demonstrations by the militarists and the nationalists, who go as far as to read telegrams from "the All-Highest Commander-in-Chief" (who fled across the border at the moment his army was in the greatest danger) were prompted by anxiety over their precious money-bags.

They have at last scared the government and the democracy.

GREAT STRENGTH AGAINST GERMAN

Gained by European Powers as Result of Ratification of U. S. Treaty.

By ANDRE TARDIEU,
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Special Cable Dispatch to The News.
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Paris, Sept. 3.—The most significant comment on the German-American treaty in Europe is the lack of comment. There has been little or no comment in the European

press, and this is particularly true of the French papers.

There are two outstanding reasons for this. The first is the fact that the text merely declares that the United States reserves to itself all the rights acquired under such and such sections of the Treaty of Versailles, but rejects the obligations imposed by other sections. Not twenty men in Europe are familiar enough with the Versailles treaty to understand what this all means.

A second reason for the silence is the fact that everybody knows some such treaty to be made. Therefore the public has paid but little attention to the incident. The opinion of those few Frenchmen able to understand the matter is easily summed up.

Whether the United States eventually would negotiate a separate treaty or ratify the pact of Versailles with reservations, everybody knew that the Washington government would reject the clauses concerning the League of Nations and those providing for an international labor organization. It was also foreseeable that, on account of difficulties in the Pacific and the approach of the Washington conference, the articles concerning the various colonies might not be ratified.

But on the other hand, there is a certain astonishment here at the failure of the German-American treaty to ratify the German boundary clauses and the boundaries of the new states created by the Allied victory.

The astonishment is all the greater because there was nothing in the 1920 Senate debates at Washington, nor in the Lodge reservations, which would lead any one to expect this.

Furthermore, certain of the clauses now rejected were among America's principal war aims. When I recall the tremendous ovation given the American orator at Mount Vernon on the fourth of July, 1918, demanding the liberty of his enslaved brothers; when I remember the enthusiastic reception all America gave to the great Czech, Stef. Trik, and that great Pole, Paderewski, I cannot help regretting that the United States today refuses to ratify the acts which liberated Metz, Strasburg, Prague and Warsaw.

I would be lacking in respect for my American friends if I did not express this frank opinion, which our recent guests of the American Legion will not repudiate.

Concerning the reparations, financial and economic clauses, the German-American treaty merely re-enacts the Treaty of Versailles, all of which is a decidedly important and fortunate fact. America thus proclaims, like her associates in the war, Germany's responsibility and obligation to repair all damages and the victors' rights to compel her to do so. The Pan-Germans had boldly announced that this would not happen. The solemn denial inflicted upon them will make the party which murdered Matthias Erzberger reflect.

It is notably a good thing that Washington ratified Article 231 of the Treaty of Versailles which reads:

"The Allied and associated governments affirm and Germany accepts the responsibility of Germany and her allies for causing all the loss and damage to which the allied and associated governments and their nationals have been subjected as a consequence of the war imposed upon them by the aggression of Germany and her allies."

It is also a good thing for European peace that America adopts Part XIV of the Treaty of Versailles providing for fifteen-years' occupation of the left bank of the Rhine, with continued occupation if certain guarantees are not made. This notifies Germany an essential principle that the United States thinks today as yesterday.

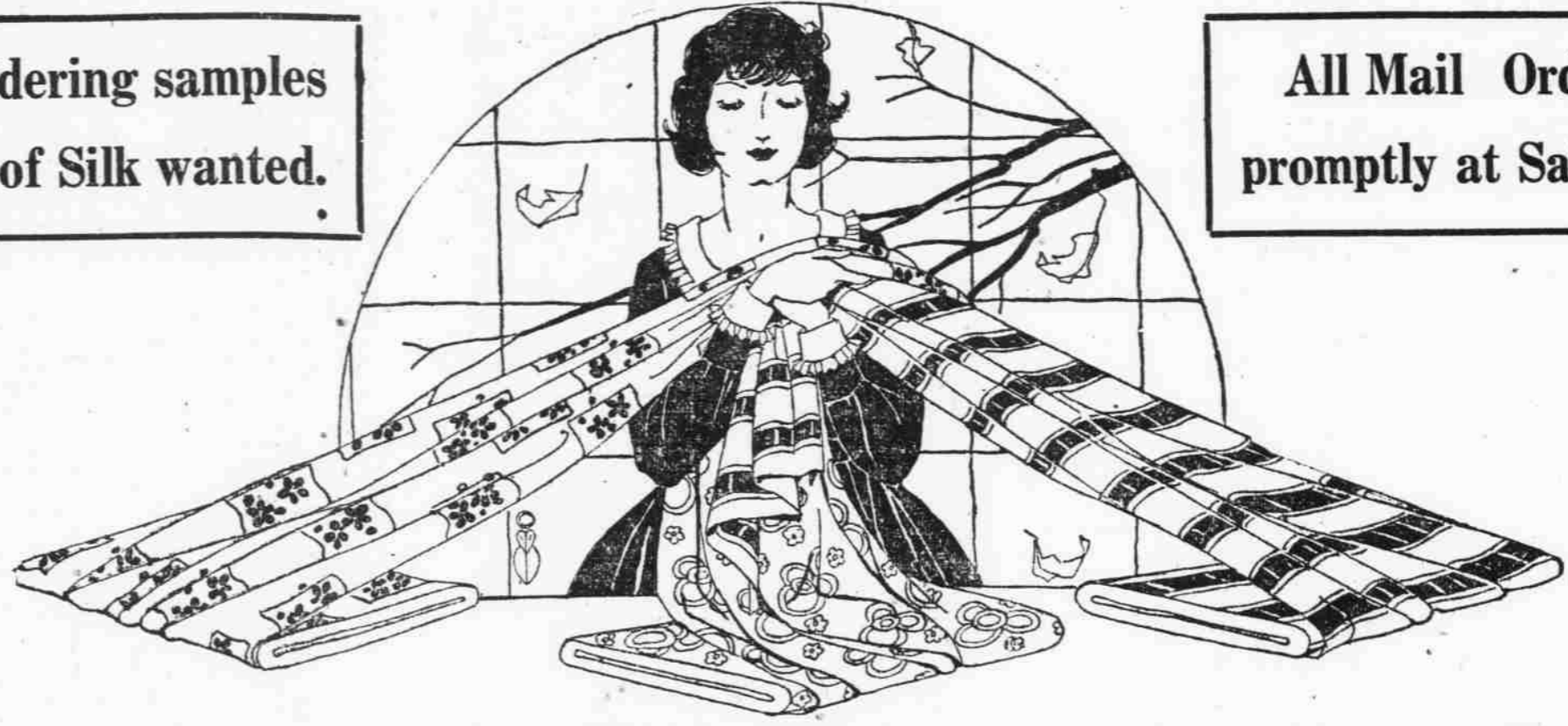
As for the practical workings of the new treaty, I do not foresee difficulties. From a strictly legal viewpoint, one might object that the United States, by reserving only the clauses favorable to her and rejecting the others, places her associates in an unfairly disadvantageous position. But as none of the parties is disposed to raise this judicial question, obviously no dispute will arise.

Moreover, it would be stupid to underestimate and diminish by vain controversies the strength the European powers gain against Germany through the fact that the United States ratifies by the solemn treaty the greater part of the pact of Versailles.

Let us hope this act ends yesterday's differences and that the victors in the war unitedly will turn toward the future it is their duty to organize on a basis of justice and peace.

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