

GOVERNMENT OF THE GERMAN EMPIRE HAS CEASED TO EXIST

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY IS DISSOLVED AND A NEW GOVERNMENT IS FORMED

Revolting Troops Have Entered Berlin and Occupied Wilhelmstrasse - Power of the State Has Passed Into Hands of Director Von Kapp Who Becomes Chancellor - Socialist Parties Have Declared a General Strike - History of Ebert Government.

PARIS, March 13—A proclamation issued in Berlin today declares that the government of the empire has ceased to exist and that the power of the state has passed into the hands of General Director von Kapp, who becomes Chancellor and has appointed General von Luetwitz commander in chief of the military forces, Berlin despatches state.

LONDON, March 13—A proclamation was issued in Berlin this morning at 10 o'clock stating the German government had ceased to exist, according to a Reuter's despatch from the German capital received here.

Revolting troops entered Berlin this morning and occupied Wilhelmstrasse, the despatch declares. No acts of violence are reported.

PARIS, March 13—A military pronouncement has been issued at Berlin proclaiming a new chancellor, according to advices received here.

The proclamation declares the national assembly dissolved. It is announced that a new government is being formed. The socialist parties have declared a general strike, the despatches add.

The issuance of the proclamation followed the occupation of the Wilhelmstrasse, where the government buildings are situated, by troops who had returned from the Baltic and held in barracks at Doberitz, in the suburbs. The troops entered Berlin this morning, it is stated.

The names associated with the new revolutionary movement in Germany indicate its reactionary character. It appears that Germany is in the throes of the frequently predicted counter-revolutionary, monarchist struggle.

Dr. von Kapp, reported as having assumed the chancellorship, is probably Dr. Wolfgang Kapp, a former conservative member of the reichstag, and general director of the German agricultural society. He was one of the deputies who early in 1918 urged the government to speed up U-boat building. He became president of the Fatherland party, the notorious Pan-German organization, which urged that Germany carry on the war to the bitter end. After the abdication of Emperor William and the signing of the armistice, Dr. Kapp was one of the men for whose arrest the independent socialists clamored on the ground that he and his associates had been responsible for the continuation of the war and the hindering of peace.

Major General Baron von Luetwitz, who, according to the despatches, has been named commander in chief, was military governor of Berlin in the early days of the war. He later was a commander on the Verdun front. When the German treaty came up for action by the government last June, he was one of the leaders of the military party prominent in opposition to the peace terms.

He has an American wife, who was a Miss Cary, of Cleveland. He always has been classed as thoroughly Prussian.

Before the war General von Luetwitz held the post of military attaché of the German embassy at London and later at Petrograd. He was born on April 9, 1865. His father, Max Freiherr von Luetwitz, died in 1837. His mother, Irma von Gall-Gyula, is still living.

The new commander in chief's marriage to Miss Cary, whose maiden name was Mary Curtis Cary, took place on July 14, 1892. She was born on January 6, 1869. The couple have two children, Irma and Gustav.

There has been a strongly held belief both inside and outside Germany that the pan-German monarchist party was merely biding its time and awaiting an opportunity to seize control of affairs. This belief, for one thing, caused the allies' vorriment when they considered the nearness of former Emperor William's retreat at Amerongen to the German border and prompted strong representations to Holland of the danger to the peace of Germany and the rest of Europe of his presence there. In response to this, the Dutch government promised to keep a close guard over the ex-royal. Former Crown Prince Frederick William also is a refugee in Holland, but his retreat at Weiringen is further removed from the German border.

While there has been no hint in the early reports of an overturn at Berlin to indicate that the movement looked to a restoration of the Hohenzollern dynasty, the fact that development is apparently of a monarchistic nature will cause close attention to be paid any news from Holland regarding the former royal personages who have been making that country their home for more than a year past. Interest in this phase of the situation is all the more strengthened by the indications that have come from Berlin that the reactionary movement was possibly precipitated by the fact that a Hohenzollern prince, Joachim Albrecht, had been arrested and was about to be tried and possibly imprisoned in connection with the recent demonstration against French officers at the hotel Adlon.

The despatches from Berlin under yesterday's date, telling of the discovery of a reactionary plot in which the leaders were the very men mentioned in today's advices of the plot's success, would indicate that the government had explicit foreknowledge of the attempt, and this fact makes an explanation of the reported easy success of the anti-government forces in entering Berlin difficult of explanation. It may be noted that the names of the two men most prominent in military affairs under the old regime, Field Marshal von Hindenburg and General Ludendorff, so far have not been mentioned in connection with the new development. The field marshal, indeed, had only recently announced his willingness to become a candidate for the German presidency in the elections that were to be held later this year, while Berlin despatches in January also credited General Ludendorff with the intention of becoming an active participant in the next German political campaign. If there has in fact been an effective overturn of the present government in Germany the effects upon the relations between Germany and the allies and the carrying out of the terms of the treaty of Versailles can hardly be estimated. With a militaristic regime in control in Germany there seems little doubt that the outside pressure for the strict execution of the stipulations of the peace pact would be markedly increased, particularly from such nations as France and Belgium, with their territory contiguous to that of the former empire. It has been generally conceded, however, that

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MERCHANTS TO HAVE SMOKER TUESDAY NIGHT

Department of Mercantile Affairs of Chamber of Commerce Will Hold Important Meeting Next Tuesday Night, March 16.

Breaking up fake advertising, early Saturday night closing, the summer closing schedule and other matters of importance will be considered by the merchant members of the Gastonia Chamber of Commerce at a meeting to be held Tuesday night at 8 o'clock at the offices, called by the Department of Mercantile Affairs.

The department met yesterday and discussed several matters at present needing attention and decided to submit the propositions mentioned to the merchants for a decision one way or the other. The meeting will be in the nature of a smoker. Director Jno. R. Rankin, of the Department of Mercantile Affairs, will preside. The members of the department present yesterday besides Chairman Rankin were J. W. Culp, J. H. Matthews, W. E. Haynes, Z. B. Harry, W. H. Poole and A. S. Karsh.

DR. JOHN F. CANNON DIES OF INJURIES

Prominent Presbyterian Divine Native of Cabarrus County, Dies From Injuries - Was Personally Known to Many Gastonians.

ST. LOUIS, March 13—Rev. John F. Cannon, former moderator of the general assembly of the Southern Presbyterian church, died here last night of injuries suffered in the afternoon when he was struck by an automobile. He was 69 years old, having been born in Cabarrus county, North Carolina, January 31, 1851. He held pastorates in Virginia and Tennessee.

ARTICLE TEN IS SOMEWHAT MODIFIED

(By The Associated Press.)

WASHINGTON, March 13—Introduction in the senate of a modified reservation to article 10 of the league of nations covenant caused speculation today as to whether President Wilson would inform democratic leaders of his attitude toward the new qualification. In the past he has usually taken steps to let his party know whether pending reservations to the treaty were acceptable to him.

The modified reservation did not serve to clarify the befuddled situation. Instead, it caused postponement of the expected vote on article ten, which probably will not come until Monday or Tuesday.

Irreconcilable opponents of the treaty condemned the substitute qualification as a "republican capitulation" to the white house, while the mild reservationists of the party followed the leadership of Senator Lodge, who introduced it. Democrats generally had nothing to say about it except Senator Hitchcock, who declined to accept it.

Despite defections from the republican ranks because of the changes in the reservation, the republican leaders said they could hold thirty votes for it, leaving thirty-four votes for the democrats to deliver if the treaty is to be ratified with the substitute attached. Efforts to amend the substitute probably will be made, in which case all existing lineups may be overturned.

MINORITY REPORT COAL COMMITTEE SUBMITTED

WASHINGTON, March 13.—John P. White's minority report on the bituminous coal strike settlement was submitted today to President Wilson, who received the majority report of the coal commission two days ago.

At the white house it was said that it would take the President two or three days to go over the reports and it was indicated that no further steps looking to a compromise were to be expected before next week. Meantime, the reports will be withheld.

WASHINGTON, March 13.—The labor controversy in the bituminous coal industry — which has engaged the attention of the government almost constantly since the break between employer and employe in the national strike last fall — today is awaiting the personal decision of President Wilson. The commission appointed by him to suggest a settlement having split in its award, two proposals which have originated from it are before him for consideration.

PARIS, March 13—Georges Carpentier, heavyweight pugilistic champion of Europe and his wife, embarked today at Havre for the United States.

DID NOT KEEP HIM INFORMED

Admiral Sims Tells Senate Investigating Committee That Department Kept Him in Ignorance of Plans and Policies.

(By The Associated Press.)

WASHINGTON, March 13—Documentary evidence in support of his charge that the navy department failed to keep him informed as to its policies and plans was presented today by Rear Admiral Sims to the senate investigating committee.

"Delay and confusion," resulted from the department's failure to notify him of important dispositions and movements of naval forces within the area of his command, as well as elsewhere, he said, adding that the result also was to create in the minds of allied officials an impression that he was not supported by and in the confidence of his government.

Because of his ignorance of the department's plans, the admiral continued, the allied admiralties carried on direct negotiations with the navy department in Washington. Allied team work was impaired and American interests suffered as a result, he said, adding:

"Undoubtedly at times such independent negotiations resulted in direct conflict with my recommendations."

Admiral Sims told the committee the first intimation he had that he was not in the full confidence of the department came soon after he submitted his first reports from London. He learned then, by accident he said, that an agreement had been reached by the navy department and British and French naval officials in Washington early in April regarding the disposition of American naval forces. The terms of this agreement were cable to Admiral Jellicoe, by the British representative on April 13, 1917, he declared.

The officers also charged that without notifying him beforehand, the department arranged with the French naval attaché to send ten or more yachts to combat submarines off the French coast; arranged to establish two naval bases in France; sent naval aviation forces to that country; despatched six destroyers from Boston; sent a hundred cannon to France on naval colliers; started a campaign in the newspapers for a North sea mine barrage; despatched the fifth destroyer squadron from St. Johns to Queenstown and sent four additional destroyers from New York to join his force.

Some of these vessels, he said, arrived overseas before he knew of their allocation to his command. In most cases, he said, he received belated information from French and British sources, but seldom in time to make proper adjustments and arrangements for receiving the ships.

The admiral declared that while he protested continually against the department's failure to keep him informed, the situation was not remedied.

That great confusion existed with regard to the establishment of the bases in France and that the department itself did not know what it wanted was demonstrated, the admiral said, by a letter he received early in August from the officer assigned to command the Bordeaux base. This officer, he said, wrote that "the situation in France is not clear to me," and that when he had asked upon being ordered to the command of the base what his duties were, he had been unable to obtain any information.

"I asked the same question and got the same answer from all the heads in the navy department," the officer said.

"After waiting about four weeks I received orders to proceed with a party of eight persons, but still no instructions."

A similar condition existed with regard to American naval aviation forces sent abroad, Admiral Sims said.

Awarded D. S. Cross. The following dispatch from Washington will be of interest throughout Gaston county, since Rev. J. B. Cochran, the father of the Sgt. Cochran mentioned was at one time pastor of New Hope Presbyterian church in the county.

The war department authorized the following distinguished service cross awards today:

Sergt. Carlisle C. Cochran, medical detachment, 30th infantry. For extraordinary heroism in action near Cremany, France, July 15, 1916. Sergeant Cochran, though severely injured in one foot early in the morning, persevered in the work of rendering first aid and assistance to the wounded exposed to heavy shell fire, until it became necessary for him to be evacuated later in the afternoon. Emergency address: Mrs. Allie C. Cochran, Huntersville; Sergeant Cochran belongs to an old and highly respectable Mecklenburg county family.

STREET CARS RUNNING. ATLANTA, Ga., March 13—Street cars were running again here today, after a three day strike that paralyzed the local and interurban lines.

The motormen and conductors voted yesterday to accept the 15 per cent wage increase.

EBERT REGIME ROSE FROM THE RUINS OF THE HOHENZOLLERN HOUSE

Friedrich Ebert Was Elected First President of New German Republic February 11, 1919, by National Assembly - His Government Concluded Peace Negotiations With Allies - New Government Was Promised to Be a Government of the People.

(By The Associated Press.)

Friedrich Ebert, formerly head of the main committee of the Reichstag and a leader of the Social Democratic Party was elected first President of the new German "progressive republic" for a term of seven years on February 11, 1919, by the National Assembly at Weimar. He has been characterized as a type of Pan-German or imperialistic Socialist.

It was the Ebert government which arose from the ruins of the Hohenzollern dynasty and which enabled the Entente Allies to conclude peace with Germany.

On November 10, 1918, when former Emperor William abdicated and fled, Ebert was the Imperial Chancellor, having succeeded Prince Maximilian of Baden who was instrumental in negotiating the armistice. He at once assumed command and succeeded in quelling revolutionary outbreaks. The red flag was hoisted over the Brandenburg Gate and the royal palace after wild scenes in Berlin where the people shouted "Long Live the Republic!" and sang the Marseillaise.

"The new government will be a government of the people," Chancellor Ebert said. "It must make every effort to secure in the quickest possible time peace for the German people and consolidate the liberty they have won. The new government has taken charge of the administration to preserve the German people from civil war and famine and to accomplish their legitimate claims to autonomy."

The Independent Socialists, including a radical element favorable to Bolshevism and known as Spartacides complicated Ebert's problem. When he became Chancellor many of these radicals including Karl Liebknecht and Rosa Luxemburg, were freed from prison and the two mentioned were subsequently assassinated.

The National Assembly which elected Ebert was formed for the purpose of adopting a Constitution. Its document which was approved last August 3 provided that "the executive power lies with the people". The power of the upper chamber of the Reichstag was limited to the British House of Lords. There were special protection for labor and "generally accepted rules of international law" were incorporated in the new instrument. Ebert took the oath of office on August 23 and two days later the National Assembly ceased to exist, it being succeeded by the new Reichstag.

Philipp Scheidemann was the first Premier of Germany under Ebert. Gustave Noske, formerly Minister of Demobilization and before that Governor of Kiel, was named the first Minister of Army and Navy. By reason of his drastic enforcement of new regulations he became known as a "dictator".

Other members of the first Ebert cabinet follows:

Minister of Interior, Herr Preuss; Minister of Justice, Herr Bendsberg; Minister of Commerce, Herr Muller; Minister of Labor, Herr Bauer; Minister of Foreign Affairs, Count von Brockdorff-Rantzau, former German Minister to Denmark; Under Foreign Minister, von Riechthofen; Minister of Finance, Herr Schiffer; Minister of Postal and Telegraphs, Herr Geisberg; Ministers without Portfolio, Dr. Mathias Ermerberger; Armistice Commissioner, former State Secretary and leader of the Centrist party; Eduard David, President of the National Assembly and Herr Wissel.

The Ebert government underwent many changes by reason of political, economic and popular demands.

The first real crisis to threaten the Ebert regime, however, arose over the question of accepting the peace treaty terms. Ebert, Scheidemann and other leaders were opposed to yielding to the Entente demands. Scheidemann resigned and a pro-treaty cabinet including Dr. August Mueller and ex-labor secretary Bauer, former socialist member of the Reichstag, was organized. Bauer in a speech at Weimar before the National Assembly denounced the treaty in strong terms but announced the government's decision to sign.

For weeks before the revolution broke out in Berlin there was a steady run on German banks. Ebert, then Chancellor,

had a conference in Berlin on November 25, 1918 with 70 delegates from various parts of Germany, said: "Everything was in ruin when we took charge. Now, a Socialistic republic has replaced the monarchy and power has been put in the hands of the workmen and soldiers." The first aim to be achieved, he said, was peace and the security of an economic basis. Liberty, he maintained, was worthless without food, and employment and it was a result of this conference that the National Assembly met last spring to devise a constitutional form of government.

Meanwhile the provisional government had been in an almost constant state of flux. Ministers came and went. Owing to scarcity of food, clothing and fuel, conditions in many parts of Germany were reported desperate and there were many rumors that Soviet government would supersede the Ebert regime.

President Ebert had the backing of the Moderates of Germany almost from the beginning. One reason for this was that when he succeeded Prince Maximilian he announced that property rights would be respected, that no banks would be seized and that the government would uphold the German war losses and pay all claims on the state.

The President in a New Year manifesto said that 1920 would decide whether Germany would maintain herself as a nation. A week later he was threatened by a mob in Stuttgart. On the preceding December 12 the Ebert cabinet's fall was reported as likely as a result of the Allied demands over the Scapa Flow sinking.

PUBLIC GUARD OCCUPIES VORWAERTS OFFICE

BERLIN, March 13—The public security guard this morning occupied the offices of Vorwaerts, and the semi-official news agency. The services to the provinces and abroad were provisionally suspended.

SUMMERS' RANSOM RAISED TENFOLD

(By The Associated Press.)

CHICAGO, March 13—Ransom for Peter W. Summers, American ranch owner captured near Salina Cruz last week by Mexican bandits under Juan Morellas, was raised from \$500 to \$5,000 and March 12 fixed as the last day for payment, according to a telegram from American Consul Burlingame at Salina Cruz to two sisters of Summers here.

Informed through the state department that the ransom had been set at the smaller figure, the woman said, a brother, Luke D. Summers, of Chickasha, Okla., raised the money and forwarded it to Senator Owen, of Oklahoma, to be turned over to the bandits. His hopes were blasted, they said, with receipt of the message from Consul Burlingame, who added:

"One or two thousand dollars, if available, might save him. No funds available here."

The sisters, Mrs. E. K. Switzer and Mrs. J. A. Humphreys, were informed from Washington that the state department was doing everything possible to have Summers released.

Recruiting Campaign.

Corp. Max J. Millet, of Greensboro, and Pvt. E. T. Coward, of Atlanta, arrived in the city Friday from Charlotte. They are traveling throughout the county at present with the machine gun truck in the interest of the recruiting campaign. From here they go to Asheville today, taking with them the army relics that have been on display at Van Sloan's, and other war equipment. Corp. Millet relates an experience recently encountered in Chatham county between Sanford and Goldston. The mud was so deep just after a rain that the truck of four ton weight, had to be jacked up and for four hours they cut pine wood near by until nearly two cords were consumed with which a road was built for some distance out.