

CIVIL WAR IMMINENT IN GERMANY; BERLIN IN GRIP OF STRIKE

DEATH PENALTY FACES LEADERS OF STRIKE IN REACTIONARY REVOLT

Effective at 4 P. M. Today Death Penalty Will Be Inflicted on Those Inciting to Riot - No World Capital Has Ever Before Experienced Such Paralysis of Living and Commercial Facilities as Has Berlin - Water Supply Shut Off in Hotels.

BERLIN, March 15—Men who act as leaders or pickets in the general strike called in this city as a protest against the reactionary revolt are threatened with the death penalty in a proclamation issued today by Dr. Wolfgang Kapp, the new chancellor. The order for the inflicting capital punishment will be effected after 4 o'clock Tuesday afternoon and is based on the decree prohibiting any strike or passive resistance in any vital service which was issued earlier in the day by the minister of defense. The chancellor's proclamation follows: "Ringleaders who are guilty of acts specified in the decree for safeguarding important services and for the protection of labor and peace will, as well as strike pickets, be punished with death. This decree is effective from 4 p. m. Tuesday.

There is intense anxiety over the prospect of a continuance of the strike with a possibility of famine and epidemic resulting from the lack of sanitation and the stoppage of the water supply. No world capital probably ever before experienced such a complete paralysis of all its living and commercial facilities as Berlin did today. The hotel Adlon made heroic efforts to provide food for the American, British and French missions and newspaper correspondents but it gave up the task at 10 o'clock this morning when the last of the kitchen force walked out, leaving foreigners to shift for themselves. It was a common spectacle subsequently to see frock coated diplomats returning to the hotel from foraging expeditions carrying brown paper parcels, foodstuffs, oil stoves and other necessities.

Guests of the hotel warned that the water would be shut off at noon, filled the bath tubs and wash stands but defective stoppers gradually let out the precious fluid and the guests thereafter had to rely on wines and table water. Men who are usually shaved by barbers are in an apologetic mood tonight and if the strike continues the male population soon will be bearded.

The city this afternoon had the appearance of another Sunday holiday, sauntering crowds filling Unter-Den-Linden. At intervals troops with bands and accompanied by artillery and machine guns, paraded through the streets.

GERMANS COULD HAVE BLUFFED ALLIES IN 1918 SAYS ADMIRAL SIMS

WASHINGTON, March 16.—A little "bluff" on the part of the Germans in 1918, at the crucial point of the war, would have paralyzed transportation of soldiers and war materials between this country and Europe, Rear Admiral Sims today told the senate naval subcommittee. Information from authentic sources, indicating that the Germans were building two heavily armored modern battle cruisers for a desperate last hope raid against troop ships convoys, was transmitted to the navy department, Admiral Sims said, and immediately he was besieged with cablegrams from Washington outlining various plans of action, all of which, he testified, were impracticable, although such a contingency had been under discussion for nearly a year and there had been ample time to prepare. "If the enemy had only known," said Admiral Sims, "all he need have done was to make a series of bluffs, involving little risk to himself, and we would have done the rest. Shipping would have been paralyzed."

Six months of preparation did, the department agree to abandon the plan. It took seven months of effort to bring the Washington officials to the final conclusion, he said. On May 11, 1917, the navy department first suggested the idea of a barrage of mines across the North sea to trap the German sea forces, Admiral Sims said, and at that time he opposed the plan because the allies could not afford to divert the large number of men and ships and huge amounts of material necessary to make the project a success, he declared, and also because the old type mines then in use were not practicable for such a purpose. Later, when the submarine campaign was well in hand and a new type of antennal mine developed in this country, he approved the idea, he said, and helped to expedite the laying of the barrage. The result, the North sea mine barrage, was a magnificent achievement, the admiral said, reflecting great credit on the navy and the officers and men who were responsible for the success of the project. Admiral Sims said he particularly wished to refute an assertion "widely circulated" that the department had proposed and from the first favored the mine barrage project and that he was "about the only officer in the navy who had ever opposed it." The navy department, at the time the United States entered the war, Admiral Sims said, was not "very much better informed than the general public of actual conditions in the belligerent countries, and had but little trustworthy information regarding such matters as submarine losses, shipping losses, anti-submarine measures or other matters concerning which complete knowledge was essential to the development of effective plans for combatting the submarine menace." Even after he arrived in England and had access to the information he could not place it at the disposal of the department immediately, he added, because of the smallness of his staff.

HON. ROBERT N. PAGE SPEAKS TONIGHT

Candidate For Governor Will Address Voters of Gaston County on Issues of Campaign at County Courthouse Tonight at 8 o'clock.

Hon. Robert N. Page, of Biscoe, Montgomery county, for 14 years Congressman from the Seventh district, and now a candidate for Governor, will speak tonight at the county courthouse on the issues of the campaign. Mr. Page has never spoken in Gastonia and his friends and supporters are looking forward to his appearance tonight with much interest.

Mr. Page has spent the entire day in Gastonia, shaking hands with old friends and acquaintances and renewing old friendships. He feels very much encouraged at the outlook for his campaign over the state.

WILL GIVE ANTI-AIRCRAFT EXHIBITION

Soldiers From 5th F. A. Brigade and From Ft. Caswell Arrive in City - Will Fire "75's" Tonight - Huge Searchlight Will Be Used.

Two detachments of soldiers, one from Fort Caswell, N. C., coast artillerymen, in charge of anti-aircraft guns and a huge searchlight and the other, field artillerymen from the famous 1st Division, 5th F. A. regiment, Camp Taylor, Ky., arrived in town at noon today, and will give exhibitions tonight on a vacant lot near the city limits. At the hour of going to press the location had not been decided upon. Blank ammunition will be fired from one of the famous "75's" and the searchlight will play over town. They go from here to Shelby. Concerning last night's exhibition in Charlotte, The Observer says: "The show was highly successful, Captain Yates said, and, according to the statement of several ex-service men, who saw the 'real show' in France, the exhibition was entirely realistic. A large crowd lined the boulevard near the field and the occupants of numerous automobiles parked on the hill watched the proceedings with apparent interest.

"The firing of the gun was plainly audible uptown and the beams of the great searchlight flooded the Realty and Commercial National Bank buildings, making them as visible as in daytime. The rays from the mammoth light were seen in the sky four miles from the city, according to a telephone message of B. S. Haas, who lives on the Statesville road.

"The huge finger of light moving across the heavens was also visible as far away as Monroe and three consternation into the hearts of some of Union county's negro population, according to a long-distance message received in the city by Milton Meacham soon after the recruiting party's performance. One old negro 'mammy' is said to have exclaimed, after seeing the light, 'O, Lawd, dis world here have come to a end.' "The anti-aircraft battery and its accompanying light will be taken to Gastonia today, where an exhibition will be staged tonight, Captain Yates announced.

It was announced by Capt. Yates in charge of the detachment that the exhibition would be staged on the corner of Second and Marietta Streets, beginning at 7:30 o'clock.

WOOD WINS OVER SENATOR JOHNSON

ST. PAUL, March 12—Minnesota's republic preference primary, held last night, in rain, sleet and snowstorms and terrific gales, gave Major General Leonard Wood a plurality of four thousand votes over Senator Hiram Johnson, of California, on the face of available returns. Herbert Hoover, not an avowed candidate, received such strong support in St. Paul and Minneapolis that returns from 450 precincts showed him leading Governor Frank O. Lowden, of Illinois, by more than 1,000 votes.

The latest tabulation showed the following vote: Wood, 12,627; Johnson 8,517; Hoover 4,486, and Lowden 2,510. The totals include a majority of the precincts in St. Paul and Minneapolis. The returns from the rural districts were very slow coming in and late in the night all the wires were prostrated by the high winds and snow. In most counties the polls were open only from 7:30 to 8:30 p. m.

—Her many friends will be glad to learn that Grace, the little daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. S. Zimmerman, who underwent an operation for appendicitis last Saturday, is improving nicely.

ACCEPTS PASTORATE OF EAST BAPTIST CHURCH

Rev. J. J. Beach, Former Pastor, Now Superintendent of Evangelism For the State of South Carolina, Elected Pastor of East Baptist Church at Salary of \$3,000.

Rev. J. J. Beach, who was recently called to the pastorate of East Baptist Church, was here Sunday and preached to large congregations at both morning and evening services at this church.

At the close of the evening service, a business meeting of the church was held and Mr. Beach announced his acceptance of the call. Mr. Beach is not a stranger to Gastonians, having served this same congregation as pastor for six years, and it is due to this fact that such a great number were determined that nothing should be left undone to secure his return to Gastonia.

Since Rev. Mr. Beach left here four years ago, he has held pastorates in Columbia and North, S. C. At the latter place his church has just completed one of the best arranged houses of worship to be found anywhere in the Carolinas. While North is not a large town, his church is very strong in membership and in finances. Every effort was made to retain the services of Mr. Beach at this church but the leaders in South Carolina saw in him a man worth while and one especially fitted for larger service and he was accordingly offered and had accepted the place of Superintendent of Evangelism for the State of South Carolina.

It is not known just when Mr. Beach will move to Gastonia as his program for Evangelism had been made for several months ahead, but as soon as his work can be satisfactorily arranged he will again take up his residence with us.

It is interesting to note that when Mr. Beach came to East Gastonia a little more than ten years ago his salary was \$500.00 per year for half time. He comes back this time at a salary of \$3,000.00. East church is fortunate in securing so strong a man as leader and all join in a welcome to him as he comes back to the best city in the Carolinas.

NEWSPAPER MAN FINED FOR CONTEMPT OF COURT

CHICAGO, March 16—Hector E. Elwell, city editor of the Chicago Evening American, was at liberty today under a stay from a jail sentence and a fine of \$500, imposed by Federal Judge Carpenter for refusing to reply to questions asked by a federal grand jury. Judge Carpenter entered an order yesterday finding Elwell guilty of contempt of court and sentenced him to the county jail until he expressed readiness to answer the jurors.

A stay order for ten days was obtained by attorneys for Elwell who said: "We consider the point involved so important to newspapers in general that we intend to carry this case to the highest court."

Elwell refused to disclose the source of a news story concerning action against W. E. Sage, head of the Chicago bureau charged with enforcement of the anti-narcotic law.

LEADERS WORK TOWARD AGREEMENT TO VOTE

WASHINGTON, March 16.—Senate leaders worked today for an agreement to vote on ratification of the peace treaty this week, so that the pact might be sent to President Wilson or laid aside to permit consideration of other business.

If the ratification vote fails of the necessary two thirds majority, a motion to reconsider is expected immediately, probably by Majority leaders, in the hope of stampeding some of the opposition into changing their votes. It was admitted the situation held many possibilities, in view of the urgent representations that have been made for ratifying the treaty to stabilize world conditions.

Adoption yesterday of the substitute reservation to article 10, by a vote of 56 to 26, removed the last obstacle to a vote on the treaty itself, although a number of other questions remain to be settled first. Fourteen democrats voted with the majority, but that number was less than half of the strength which ardent ratificationists had promised to deliver.

Administration leaders seemed without fear that their forces would crumble sufficiently to enable the republicans to ratify the pact with the objectionable reservation to article 10, which President Wilson let it be known through Senator Hitchcock he would not accept.

—Miss Bessie Sullivan, of the City Hospital force, is now in Bessemer City nursing influenza cases.

EBERT GOVERNMENT WILL NOT NEGOTIATE WITH REACTIONARY REGIME

President Ebert Announces That He Will Direct the Affairs of the Country From Wuerttemberg - Demands Unconditional Surrender of Men Directing New Government - Berlin In Grip of a General Strike.

Germany's two governments — the new in Berlin and the old in Stuttgart — are still locked in a struggle for supremacy. While reports through Paris today reiterate that negotiations are in progress for a compromise the Ebert government in Stuttgart is equally positive that no compromise can be considered.

On the face of the announcement by the rival governments today promised to witness the beginning of a determined contest for control.

Chancellor Kapp, backed by the bayonets of the troops that made it possible for him to oust the Ebert government, is sitting tight in the German capital, but already feels the effects of the strong weapon the socialists have used to combat him—the general strike. Against this he declares that most drastic measures will be taken immediately.

In Stuttgart President Ebert and his followers not only denied the report current yesterday that an agreement had been reached with the Kapp forces but declared there could be no negotiations except upon the basis of unconditional surrender by Dr. Kapp.

The national assembly, called together by the Ebert government, will meet at Stuttgart tomorrow to consider the situation.

Field Marshal von Hindenburg, who has been mentioned as the choice of the Kapp faction for the German presidency, has eliminated himself from the situation, it is stated by a Hanover newspaper. He is reported to have made a public declaration that he is not connected with the Kapp revolution, and on the contrary, disapproves of it.

Berlin is in the grip of a general strike called by socialists and labor leaders as a counter stroke to the assumption of power headed by Dr. Wolfgang Kapp, who has issued a decree threatening all strike leaders and pickets with death if there is interference with vital public services. Extreme measures will be taken under the decree from 4 o'clock this afternoon and it is possible the crisis of the new revolution will quickly follow.

Details of the situation throughout Germany are somewhat obscure but there seems to be reason to believe the Ebert government is still holding control in the southern and western sections, while the Kapp regime is firmly entrenched in north-eastern Prussia and in Silesia, where many towns and cities are reported to have declared their adherence to the new government.

Fighting is reported at various points throughout Germany, and it is said there was bloodshed in suburbs of Berlin yesterday but it would seem the clashes so far reported have been between militia units and disorderly crowds. So far as is known armed forces of the two governments have not come into collision.

REFUSE TO NEGOTIATE WITH NEW GOVERNMENT

STUTTGART, March 15—Refusal to negotiate with the reactionary faction headed by Dr. Wolfgang Kapp, head of the new government at Berlin, was decided upon here today by the council of the old cabinet, over which President Ebert presided. Unconditional resignation of the leaders of the new government was demanded by the Ebert cabinet, which arrived here this afternoon by a special train from Dresden. The national assembly will meet in this city Wednesday afternoon at 4 o'clock.

Announcement was made that the Ebert government is in contact with almost all points in Germany.

"The constitutional government," reads an official announcement, "refuses to negotiate, being responsible to the people for the maintenance of the constitution and negotiations would only occasion distrust and confusion and would prolong disorders."

NO NEGOTIATIONS.

COPENHAGEN, March 16—President Ebert in officially notifying Dr. Wolfgang Kapp and his associates in the new German government that no negotiations would be held between officials of the two regimes, declared he would direct the country's affairs with Wuerttemberg as the capital, according to a dispatch received from Berlin.

Reports of negotiations for a compromise between the Ebert government and the reactionary regime at Berlin are untrue, according to a telephone dispatch from Hamburg to the Social Demokrat at midnight. It was said these rumors were spread by adherents of Dr. Wolfgang Kapp, the new chancellor in Berlin, "to deceive the public."

Workers at Kiel have suppressed an attempted military counter revolution there and the situation is well in hand, says advices to the Social Demokrat from that city.

HOLLAND RECOGNIZES EBERT. THE HAGUE, March 16—Holland so

far is recognizing only the Ebert government of Germany and is dealing only with the representatives of that regime here, it is learned from government sources. No other action will be taken by The Netherlands government until the present chaos in Germany is ended.

BEGAN THIS MORNING

LONDON, March 16—The national strike on the German railways was set to begin this morning, says a message to the Exchange Telegraph Company from Berlin filed yesterday. The railway men's officials have declared themselves in solidarity with the workmen of the country.

The railway men's central committee, adds the message, is moving from place to place, fearing arrest by officials of the Kapp government.

GENERAL STRIKE PROCLAIMED.

LONDON, March 16—Eighteen meetings of communists and independent socialists were held at Leipzig last night and a general strike was proclaimed in that city, according to a telegram received here. After the meetings had been dismissed street fighting took place and several people, including two street car conductors, were killed. When this news reached other workers all street car employees left their posts, leaving the cars where they stood.

ONLY FOOD TRAINS RUNNING.

PARIS, March 16—The general strike is effective throughout Germany and only food trains are running, according to advices. Severe fighting is reported from Dresden, Leipzig, Brandenburg and Chemnitz.

MAY USE STORM TROOPS.

PARIS, March 16.—The efforts of Chancellor Kapp's followers now appear, according to the French advices, to be directed towards the elimination from the cabinet of the ministers most objectionable