

THE FUTURE OF THE RHINELAND.

(Continued from page 4)

constituted as one or more independent states, under the protection of the League of Nations."

After first rejecting the separation of the Rhineland from Germany, both Wilson and Lloyd George gave way. On April 20, 1919, the latter declared to Clemenceau that he was in agreement with an occupation for a period of 15 years, and that this occupation, should Germany not meet her obligations, could be prolonged or renewed after evacuation.

The decisive French ministerial council, which accepted the peace treaty in the form handed to Count Brockdorff-Rantzau on May 7, was held on April 25, 1919. In this decisive session, the Prime Minister, Clemenceau, addressed the following remarks to the President, Poincaré:

"M. President, you are much younger than I. In 15 years I shall be here no longer; in 15 years Germany will not have filled all the clauses of the agreement; and in 15 years, should you do me the honor to visit my grave, I am fully convinced that what you will have to tell me will be: 'We are on the Rhine, and intend to remain there.'"

Poincaré, as Premier, is continuing this policy with obstinate tenacity. The Ruhr action proves that imperialist France is now determined to present accomplished facts to the world. At the Versailles peace conference France's annexation policy was supported by the alleged necessity of securing France from fresh attacks on the part of Germany, but since then the Comité des Forges, the French military authorities, and the French statesmen, have been using much plainer language. It suffices to give two examples of this.

A draft drawn up in 1919 by the former commander-in-chief of the Rhine army, General Mangin, on the occupation of Düsseldorf and Duisburg, concludes as follows:

"It is possible to disorganize the steel industry, dyes (bye-products) and agriculture (manures). There can be no question of killing industry and agriculture. The working population demands nothing more than to work for us, provided that it can get something to eat and is paid (!). Destruction of industry—social danger—risings—without profit to France. Article 270. Only the convention of Rhenish notabilities (co-operative and economic) could state what services German industry can perform for France in the occupied territory. These delegations will become the germ of the special representation of the special interests of the country."

M. Adrien Dariac, the chairman of the French finance commission, spoke even more clearly in his secret report to Poincaré on May 28, 1922:

"Could France not consider the exchange of German coke suitable for smelting, and French ore, for the purpose of joint exploitation, upon a basis on which real industrial co-operation would be possible? We cannot demand of Germany that she pay immense sums for 35 years, if, on the other hand, we are afraid to see her industries develop in a manner enabling her to pay her debts.

But as soon as we have gained a footing on the right bank of the Rhine, and have 45 million tons of ore at our disposal annually, we shall be in a position to play a decisive role in the German iron industry, for we can demand control of its production as an equivalent.

The first act of our autonomy policy is the financial organization of the Rhineland: the drawing of our customs boundaries—closed to the East against Germany, open to the West to France in order to avoid the danger of economic strangulation

arising from a double state wall and its attendant limitation of exchange of goods; further, a budget separate from that of the republic, and the substitution of the unhealthy mark by sound currency.

The second act is the substitution of the Prussian officials by Rhenish ones.

The third act is the expansion of the authoritative powers of the High Commission and the convention of an elected corporation.

These are doubtless far-reaching plans, but ones which would be fully justified if carried out judiciously and with a capacity for differentiation, and in proportion to the extent to which Germany avoids fulfilling her obligations. A far-sighted policy could accomplish by means of skilful diplomacy—adding one link after another to its chain of actions—the gradual separation of a free (!) Rhineland from Germany, under the military protection of France and Belgium."

This is the policy of imperialist France and its accomplishment is being tenaciously striven for. No bourgeois government in Germany can put a stop to this work of destruction. It is only the proletariat, only the proletarian revolution, which can liberate the powers, and create for Soviet Germany the allies, that can save the Rhineland and the entire country from colonial slavery. It was the spectre of Bolshevism which restrained Clemenceau, Poincaré, etc., from realizing the French war aims in 1919. The aid of the cowardly November democrats in Germany made it possible to "banish" this spectre for a time. But today the working class of Germany, and, outside this class broad circles of the petty bourgeoisie, recognize that Bolshevism, that Communism, is the one way out. It alone can save, not merely the German nation, but the possibility of existence of the German people.—Inprecorr.

REVOLUTIONS, POLITICAL AND SOCIAL.

(Continued from page 6)

loud resounded mirth and dancing." The most pronounced feature was Lord Palmerston and Count Walewski in high glee, and the fact that the British Foreign Secretary had thus openly rejoiced was sufficient warrant to bring every official attache in London to the French Embassy.

Put not your trust in princes but in the British Foreign Office—At times! At anyrate, for many years after the Emperor was crowned the standing by-word in his court was "With Palmerston one can do great things." Palmerston was dismissed for his secret handling of this affair, but he lived to enjoy the fruits, when he became Prime Minister, owing to the scandalous conduct of the British War Office during the Crimean War, 1854.

It will perhaps be proper to point out that the good officers of Nicky of the elephantine hoof, in saving Austria, and his anxiety to emulate Balzac's death-watch on the Sick Man of Europe (Turkey), coupled with his gift of the "rare and nameless marble" for the tomb of the old Napoleon, made a dangerous situation for the country which governed India. Hence we see France and Britain defending the rights of small nations, and Turkey remained to laugh in the face of Europe. Hence we regard Palmerston as a man of vision and foresight.

Well: well: here we are at the end of the chapter and half of it not told. So we will have to leave Paris, revolutionary Paris, till next time.

CORRESPONDENCE.

Editor Clarion:

Please find enclosed \$1 for my sub. I have just read the article by "Progress." He or she refers to the Connolly and De Leon quarrel. I belonged to the same local in Edinburgh and consider I knew Connolly pretty well. I always, in those days at least, found him to be an Irishman first before even a Socialist, and as he blossomed out into a printer then and really was some class he got so conceited about it he hiked off to the U. S. and thought for a time he could demand a job on the staff of the Weekly People and, as Dan pointed out, as there were no vacancies and nobody would be fired to make room for him the row commenced. He then started an Irish Socialist paper called "The Harp" and sent a request to us take subs. We wrote him and told him we had already started a paper called

the Bagpipe and would be pleased to exchange. I have no sympathy with De Leon for calling him a Jesuit but he provoked the old man quite a lot. We are all very prone to pick up the faults and impairments of others without giving credit for their good points.

Referring to Nell McLeod, I may say it is a long time since he was thrown out of the S. L. P. I happened to be there on that occasion. He thought, being national secretary, he should not be disciplined for his actions which were not in tune with S. L. P. policy, but we soon showed him he could not play fast and loose. Then he picked on the smallest comrade present and wanted to fight; he got landed on the sidewalk before he got started; that was the end of his greatness as far as the S. L. P. was concerned. He got peeved over an article he wrote to the paper (being a slave in Singers' factory he talked shop, as most of them do). He explained capital thus: If a woman bought a sewing machine while her hubby was alive and made clothes for the family, that machine was not Capital, but if her hubby died and she made clothes and sold them to make her living it became Capital. What do you think of that? This was by the way of setting one Cox, M.P., on the right track in economics. Later, when he was billed to speak for the S. L. P. he was found addressing meetings of the unemployed and advocating all manner of reforms, concerning which conduct he defied the discipline of the party. After that he linked up with the I. L. P. and became a shining star.

Brandon, Man.

G. P. CRAIG.

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