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A Brief Sketch of Karl Liebknecht

My protest is against the war, against the violation of the neutrality of Belgium and Luxemburg, against military dictatorship and against the complete neglect of social and political duties of which the Government and the dominant class are guilty to-day.

Comparatively young, he was born in Leipzig on August 13th, 1871. Dr. Karl Liebknecht is famous throughout the world as the one man who dared to stand up in the Reichstag and denounce the German war of aggression in its earliest stages. In August, 1914, he concluded a speech, in which he announced his intention of voting against the war credit with the words given above, and one other member of the Socialist party Ledebour, voted with him.

Father and Son.
This man of great courage is of medium height, with the slightly bowed shoulders of the student and with kindly grey-blue eyes behind the spectacles that he always wears. He is a doctor of law, member of the German Bar, and was a town councillor before he entered the German Parliament. His courage and revolutionary tendencies are inherited from his father Wilhelm, who, for his part in the Baden insurrection of 1848-9, had to take refuge in Switzerland and England, returning to Germany in 1862. Two years later Wilhelm Liebknecht was elected to the North German Parliament. Wilhelm voted against war credits even as his son had done, and while undergoing two years' imprisonment for an article attacking Bismarck in the Demokratisches Wochenblatt, he was elected to the Reichstag and was a member for nearly twenty-five years. During his editorship of "Vorwarts," in 1895, he was sentenced to our years' imprisonment for lese majeste.

Represents the Kaiser.
Among the electors of Potsdam which Dr. Karl Liebknecht represents in the Reichstag is the Kaiser, and there is bitter irony in the fact that the strongest opponent of the Imperial policy should be the Socialist member against whom the Emperor ostentatiously cast his vote at the last election. Dr. Liebknecht does not stand alone; as the months pass his power and strength increase, and he expounds to-day the policy of a large number of the German people. The Socialist party in the Reichstag numbers 110 members, and the majority—one may say the overwhelming majority, 108 to 2—voted the first war credit as a defence against Russia, though soon after "Vorwarts" said that Austria was responsible for the war and that Germany was to blame for not exercising restrictive pressure on her ally. Dr. Karl Liebknecht's policy is expressed in these words taken from a speech made in the Reichstag more than a year ago:

This war which none of the peoples involved desired, was not started for the benefit of the German or any other people. It is an Imperialist war, a war for capitalist domination of the world. This war is not a defensive war for Germany. Its historical character and the succeeding events make it impossible for us to trust a capitalist Government when it declares that it is for the defence of the country that it asks for credits.

A peace made as soon as possible, and which will humiliate no one, is what must be demanded. All efforts in that direction should be supported.

Censure and Support.
It is by iron discipline that the German Socialist Party has been built up, and as this Party decided to support the credits they disowned Liebknecht's speech and action, and a vote of censure was passed on him last February by 82 votes to 15. Meanwhile the Government had not been inactive. They could not prosecute Liebknecht with out the authority of the Reichstag, so he was called to the Colours. The widely-spread rumour that he had been shot was fortunately untrue. Employed first as a sentry on lines of communication, it was thought this work was not sufficiently punitive, so on the plea of shortsightedness he was put on navying and road repairing, and I have seen a portrait of the doctor wheeling a barrow-load of flints. Minor Socialists have been imprisoned, and in March last ten Socialist newspapers were suppressed in one week for supporting the views of Liebknecht. On the vote on the last credit taken a few weeks ago Liebknecht was followed into the "No" lobby by twenty other members, including the well-known revisionist, Edward Bernstein, a contributor to "T.P.'s Weekly" and the British Press, and Haase, the president of the Social Democrats in the Reichstag. Further, twenty-two abstained from voting. It only needs a turnover of fourteen votes and Liebknecht's policy will have the support

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The Brilliant Strategy Of General Joffre

That the defeat of the Germans on the French front is due to the masterly strategy of General Joffre, is one conclusion of Count de Souza, a Continental military expert, who, in collaboration with his friend and translator, Major Macfall, of the British army, is bringing out a strategic history of the war. Both authors agree in declaring that Germany, though still far from vanquished, has been a defeated power ever since the fighting on the Marne. One does not need to be a tactician to perceive that their analysis of the events leading up to that climax will command attention in military circles—and probably provoke discussion. It shows a grasp of detail and an independence of judgment that arouse both interest and respect.

Count de Souza takes issue with accepted opinion at several important points. He denies emphatically that General Joffre made a sentimental error in the beginning by sending an army into Alsace instead of concentrating his attack upon the invading army in Belgium. That move into Alsace, he says, was part of Joffre's brilliant success. The French Generalissimo was already thinking two jumps ahead of the enemy. The main German reserve was concentrated for a smashing blow at Nancy, on the Lorraine frontier, and the successful French invasion of Alsace, to the South, compelled the Germans to weaken the force behind Nancy so greatly that when the final attempt was made to break through toward Paris at that point, they suffered a crushing defeat.

A vital part of the German strategy, says the Count, was the scheme to trap Joffre in Belgium. They believed that French indignation over the treatment of the Belgians would bait the trap—that Joffre would rush most of his troops Northward, weakening his Eastern guard, and allowing it to be overwhelmed. After the fall of Liee the Germans remained inactive several days before going on to take Namur and Brussels. Why? Count de Souza says it was because they were waiting for General Joffre and Sir John French to fall into the trap. But Joffre was too wise to let that happen. Not knowing the exact force of the enemy, he put it to the test at Charleroi, found it overwhelming, and then began the masterly retreat upon his hidden reserves in the Marne region, which was one of the alternatives in his original plan. From that movement the Germans lost the initiative and were on their way to defeat, though they thought they were reconquering. They followed the designs of Joffre, obeyed his moves, and lost their balance, tumbling down after him as a wrestler might be pulled down a steep incline by a crafty antagonist.

Why did the Germans turn aside instead of entering Paris? Count de Souza says they were not bound for Paris at that time. They were trying to envelop and crush the French armies that were luring them on. After that they could take Paris at their leisure. They did not know of the sixth French army, which emerged from Paris upon Kluck's flank, nearly enveloping him. Neither did they know of the seventh French army, under General Foch, upon which General Joffre was causing the retreat

of the majority of the Socialists in the German Parliament, as it already has the support of the majority of Socialist electors. They may be powerless without a revolution, but the food riots and other popular demonstrations in support of this policy must have effect, and Liebknecht may yet be looked upon as the saviour of his country. The one wise man who foresaw where the war would lead, his presence, coupled with an overwhelming love of humanity, led to his protest; and to-day he voices the demands of an ever-growing party that the war shall cease and peace come into its own again.—"T. P.'s Weekly."

armies to retire. When the manoeuvre was complete Joffre gave the word to stand and fight to the death, and it was Joffre's army at the centre that delivered the solar plexus blow in that vast engagement in the Marne region.

And four days before that, the Germans had suffered their most spectacular defeat at Nancy, under the eye of the Kaiser himself. Again and again they were hurled back, until at last they had to give up Nancy as impregnable, after a total loss of more than 200,000 men! The Germans had fallen into Joffre's trap. Yet we never hear of these two crucial events, because the newspaper correspondents did not see them. Says Count de Souza:

It was Foch's victory in the centre at Fere Champenoise, which saved the situation; which saved Paris, and which also saved Joffre's left wing from ultimate disaster. Yet Foch's victory, like that of Castelnau at Nancy, seems condemned, by the ignorance and indifference of the crowd to eventual oblivion.

The battle of Nancy, the author contends, was by far the most brilliant achievement of the war during the first phase. It lasted a week, and at comparatively small cost to the French it eliminated the equivalent of eight whole German army corps. Coming just before the fighting at the Marne, its moral effect upon the Germans also was an important factor in the final result. Count de Souza contends that the public has gone entirely astray in regard to the true values of the campaign, because it has kept its eyes fixed on Paris as the main object of the German attack. The main object, of course, was to crush the French armies, and it failed because General Joffre was the better tactician, and because General Castelnau so brilliantly defended the forts at the French frontier.

Rain was falling steadily as the weary cyclist plodded on through the English mud. At last he spied a figure walking toward him through the gloom. Gladly he sprang off his machine and asked the native: "How far off is the village of Poppleton?" "Just ten miles the other way, sair," was the reply. "The other way!" exclaimed the cyclist. "But the last signpost I passed said it was in this direction." "Ah," said the native, with a knowing grin, "but ye see, we turned that there post round to fool those 'ere Zeppylings!"—Pittsburgh Chronicle-Telegraph.

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