

# The Revolutionary Age

A Chronicle and Interpretation of Events in Europe

Vol. I, No. 11

Saturday, December 28, 1918

Price, 3 Cents

## The Story of the First Days of the German Revolution Told in Proclamations

In its issue of November 5, four days before the Revolution. The *Vorwaerts*, the official organ of the majority Socialists, printed the following proclamation from the government which was then made up of Prince Max von Baden, Von Payer, Dr. Solf, Philip Reidemann, etc.:

### To the German People!

The trouble of the times lies heavy on the world and on the German people. We must overcome these hard days and their consequences. Already we must begin to work for happier times. The new government has undertaken steps to bring about this result. Important things have been accomplished.

1. Equal franchise in Prussia is established.
2. A new government has been formed from the majority parties in parliament.
3. The Chancellor and his co-workers in order to insure the success of their work need the confidence of parliament and of the people.
4. Fundamental rights have been taken over from the person of the Emperor and placed in the hands of the people's representatives.
5. The declaration of war and the concluding of peace are at the disposition of parliament (the Reichstag).
6. The subordination of the Military Act administration to the responsible Chancellor has been effected.
7. A far reaching amnesty has been issued.

The *"Volkstimme"* (The People's Voice) Chemnitz, Saxony, November 9, carries the following manifesto in a special edition issued at 2 a. m.

### On with the struggle for Freedom, Bread and Peace!

#### Workers and Soldiers in the industrial district of Chemnitz!

The undersigned Council of the Workers and Soldiers of Chemnitz has this night taken in its hands the military and political power in the same manner as this has already been done in the important strategic districts of Germany.

The Council of Workers and Soldiers guarantees the upholding of order and public safety.

The stopping of work may only take place at the command of the Workers' and Soldiers' Council.

Therefore each one must go to his place of work until he receives further directions. The means of communication and all official business must be continued until orders to the contrary are received from the Workers' and Soldiers' Councils.

He who leaves his post without permission will immediately be called to account, as will each official who attempts sabotage or who, through carelessness in service, harms the public welfare.

The military commanding power lies in the hands of the Council of Workers and Soldiers. All commands from other sources are to be ignored. For the nourishment of the people the Council will take the necessary steps so that no stoppage in the distribution of food shall occur. Therefore each one be unafraid.

Today at 12, noon, in the Zentral Theater in the Kaufmannischen Vereinshaus and in the Neuen Stadt-Theater assemblages of workers and soldiers will meet at which an account of the situation will be given.

The Provisional Workers' and Soldiers' Council will be elected, and will be given the authority to direct all necessary action.

The taking over of all business will follow through a definite Workers' Council after its election. This election will take place in the course of the next week. All citizens of Chemnitz of both sexes who have

8. Freedom of the press and the right of assemblage have been guaranteed.

Yet much remains to be done. The conversion of Germany into a People's State, which in political freedom and social care shall be inferior to no state in the world, will be determinedly carried out.

The new administration can exercise its freeing and healing effect, when it finds in the civil and military authorities a spirit which recognizes and helps its purposes. We expect from our comrades, who in official positions are called to serve the commonwealth, that they will be willing co-workers.

We need in all portions of the state and kingdom the maintenance of public safety by the people themselves. We have confidence in the German people. They have through fearful years of war brilliantly made good, and they will not allow themselves through senseless and useless fantasies to be driven into new misery and ruin.

There is great need of discipline and order. Every act of license will endanger most surely the concluding of peace.

The government and with it the administration of the army and the fleet want peace. We want it honestly and we want it soon.

Until then we must protect our boundaries from invasion by the enemy.

reached their 18th year or have army service, are entitled to vote.

The aim of the Workers' and Soldiers' Councils of Germany is the creation of a Socialist German Republic.

Long live the Brotherly Commonwealth of Soldiers and Workers!

Long live the Revolutionary Discipline!

Long live the World Revolution!

Long live the people freeing Socialism!

Long live Peace!

The Council of Workers and Soldiers in the industrial district of Chemnitz.

Fritz Heckert,

Max Muller,

Corporal Max Stein

Executive Council in Power.

Proclamation of the Spartacus Group issued a few days before the National Congress of Workers' and Soldiers' Councils made the following demands:

Disarmament of all police officers, non-proletarian soldiers and all members of the ruling class.

Confiscation by the Soldiers' and Workmen's Councils of arms, munitions and armament works.

Arming of all adult male proletarians and the formation of a Workers' Militia.

The formation of a proletarian Red Guard, abolition of the ranks of officers and non-commissioned officers, removal of all military officers from the Soldiers' and Workmen's Councils.

Abolition of all parliaments, and municipal and other councils.

The election of a General Council which will elect and control the Executive Council of the Soldiers and Workers.

Repudiation of all state and other public debts, including war loans, down to a certain fixed limit of subscriptions.

Expropriation of all landed estates, banks, coal mines and large industrial works.

Confiscation of all fortunes above a certain amount.

Our troops who for weeks have been in hard fighting must be relieved and given rest. Only to this end and for no other reason has the recent requisitioning of fresh troops taken place.

To the troops of the land army and the fleet and also to their leaders are our especial thanks due. Through their death-defying courage and their discipline have they saved the Fatherland.

The more important and immediate tasks are:

The building up again of our agriculture in order that the returning soldiers and sailors now at the front may find in regulated conditions the assurance of a safe existence for themselves and their families. All large associations have declared their readiness to re-engage their former workers.

The assistance of those out of work, care for housing conditions and other measures in this direction are partly in preparation, partly already carried out.

With the conclusion of peace, a betterment together with all around improvement of living conditions will soon take place.

### German Men and Women!

Combat and peace are our common task.

State and kingdom are our common future.

Your confidence which is indispensable in the hour of danger is in truth nothing more than the confidence of the German people in themselves and their future.

The assured future of Germany is our guiding star.

*"Die Internationale,"* formerly *"Die Norddeutsche Allgemeine Zeitung,"* Sunday, November 10, prints the following proclamation:

### Workers! Soldiers! Comrades! Brothers!

The great, long expected day has appeared. Since November 9, the German people have the power in their hands.

Since November 9, Germany is a Republic; a Socialist Republic of the Workers and Soldiers.

Our hearts are full of pride.

But we have no time to give way to our joy. Now it is necessary to erect the organized foundation for the new Commonwealth. Enormous tasks lie ahead of us. Before all we must form a new government which will express our ideals and which will be equal to the vital problems before us.

The foundation upon which the new government rests is that the entire lawgiving, directing, managing and judicial power lies entirely in the hands of the representatives of the workers and soldiers.

To elect these representatives is your first practical task.

Therefore, Soldiers! Brothers! meet together today at 10 o'clock in the barracks and hospitals and choose your representatives on the basis of one delegate to each battalion, one to each smaller independent formation and one to each hospital.

Workmen! Workingwomen! Brothers! Sisters! meet together today at 10 o'clock in your workshops. Each 1,000 employed men or women will elect one delegate. Small trades are to join together and elect on the same basis.

Sunday at 5 o'clock the selected delegates will meet in the Zirkus Busch, [one of the largest halls in Berlin.]

Workers! Soldiers! care for the fulfillment of these orders. Keep order and quiet.

The Provisional Council of Workers and Soldiers of Berlin.