

plete the change from Imperialism to Idealism, from world power to spiritual greatness. ('Hear, hear.') Now must the spirit of Weimar, the spirit of the great philosophers and poets, again fill our life, fill it with the spirit described in *Faust* and in *Wilhelm Meister's Wanderjahre*. Not roaming in the interminable and losing one's self in the theoretical, not hesitating and wavering, but with clear vision and firm hand taking a firm hold on practical life.

So will we set to work with our great goal clear before our eyes. To maintain the right of the German people, to anchor firmly in Germany a strong democracy and to fill it with true social spirit and Socialist character. ('Hear, hear.') So shall we create an Empire of right and of righteousness, founded on the equality of everything that wears the form of mankind.

The Weimar Tageblatt

## THE CONFERENCE OF BERNE ON BOLSHEVISM

'THE Congress welcomes the mighty political revolutions which have broken the old imperialist and militarist system and overthrown the governments in Russia, Germany, and Austria-Hungary. The Conference calls upon the workers of all countries to develop democratic republican institutions, within which as a framework the Socialist transformation of society can take place. The Berne Conference takes its stand immovably, in full agreement with all the congresses of the *Internationale*, on the platform of democracy. A transformation of society, increasingly determined by Socialism, cannot be accomplished, much less maintained, unless rooted in the principles of liberty secured by democracy and developed by the workers. These fundamentals of democracy — freedom of speech, of the press, and of association, universal suf-

frage, a responsible parliamentary system, institutions which make possible the coöperation and ultimate decision of the people, freedom of coalition, etc. — give at the same time the proletariat the democratic arms for its struggle.

'The Russian delegates have proposed that the Conference should send to Russia a commission representing all Socialist tendencies, to obtain for the *Internationale* unbiased information on the political and economic situation in Russia. While aware of the difficulties of such a task the Conference, in view of the general interest of the proletariat to learn the truth concerning these revolutionary ferments, recommends the Permanent Committee to dispatch such a delegation to Russia.

'The Conference places the question of Bolshevism on the order of the day of the next Congress, and entrusts the Committee with the execution of the necessary preliminary work. But it will not let this occasion pass without pointing out that the misery and hardships prevailing everywhere, especially in the defeated countries, as a result of the war, must lead to conditions making for social disintegration.

'Instead of using Bolshevism as a bogey, and under that name calumniating every rising of desperate proletarians, the governments should realize their own responsibility. Anti-revolutionary forces are at work everywhere. The Conference warns the present holders of power, in whose hands rests the fate of the world, against an imperialistic policy making for the military or economic subjection of the peoples. It calls upon Socialists everywhere to close their ranks, not to hand over the revolutionary peoples to international reaction, but rather to do their utmost that Socialism and democracy, with which it is indissolubly linked up, may triumph everywhere.'

Le Journal de Genève

## TALK OF EUROPE

### THE MURMAN EXPEDITION

FROM accounts obtained from the latest arrivals from the Murman coast, it is learned that the Allied troops composing that part of the North Russian Expeditionary Force are in good health and condition, while everything possible is being done by the military authorities to alleviate the inevitable discomforts of extreme cold, combined with the Arctic twenty-hour night.

By the end of January the temperature had dropped to nearly forty degrees below zero Fahrenheit, while at the Port of Murmansk, which is some two hundred miles inside the Arctic circle, there are now only three or four hours of gray light in the twenty-four. The troops are for the most part accommodated in woodlined log barracks of local construction, or collapsible huts, specially brought from Norway, all of which are fitted with sleeping bunks and stoves of Russian pattern. Cinema entertainments and concerts are frequently organized, while an extensive naval and military canteen, with branches at every important military station, supplements the special rations supplied to the troops. Winter sports of all kinds are in full swing, especially skiing, while rough shooting is also to be had on the hills and in the frozen swamps bordering the railway. The special fur clothing supplied to the troops has proved efficient in the extreme cold, and comparatively few cases of frostbite have occurred.

The Allied troops, consisting of British, French, Italian, and Serbian detachments, with Russian volunteer regiments, are occupied in garrisoning the three-hundred-and-fifty-mile stretch of the Murman Railway under the Allies' control, while volunteer troops, recruited from the Red Finns and the Karelians, and administered by British officers, are distributed along the Finnish frontier to guard against any incursions. The supplies for these outposts are sent up from railhead, sometimes a distance of two

hundred miles, by reindeer sledges, driven in many cases by the men's own women-folk, two of whom have already received the Military Medal for gallant conduct in repelling an enemy raid on a food convoy.

The Russian civilian population, consisting mostly of railway officials with a sprinkling of merchant and fishing folk, who inhabit the towns of Murmansk, Kola, Kandalaksha, and Kem, the principal points in our zone of the railway, are fed and clothed by a British Supply Commission, which has representatives at each of the towns named above.

The port of Murmansk, situated about fifty miles up the Kola Inlet, is free from ice all the year round, and thus the troops are enabled to receive mails throughout the winter, whereas at Archangel the force is completely cut off for six months from the outside world. Intercommunication between the two forces, which are under the joint command of General Ironside, who succeeded General Poole, is, therefore, only possible during the winter by aeroplane, and the Flying Corps, which was organized on the Archangel front in the summer, has now been supplemented by the sending out of machines and pilots to the Murman coast force.

Major Sir Ernest Shackleton is attached to General Maynard's headquarters in the capacity of adviser on Arctic equipment, while a special force of Canadian officers and N.C.O.'s, all experienced in Klondike conditions, is attached to the force in the capacity of instructors in Arctic life. Teams of 'husky dogs' have also been specially sent over from Canada for transport work, though local reindeer, which roam in herds over the Lapp country, are chiefly used for this purpose. Leave was started for the force last December. The hospital accommodation has now been sufficiently enlarged to cope with the entire force, and the Braemar Castle, a Union Castle liner converted into a hospital ship, is used as a base hospital in the port of Murmansk.