Popular Discontent in Germany

THE unity of *all* the German people in support of the war and the government is a very popular lie indulged in by pro-Germans who do not mind making free with the truth. This is a libel upon the German people; and the government of the Kaiser is doing its best to prove it to be a libel.

Item: Thirty-five German soldiers, including two officers, are alleged to have *been shot at the front* as a punishment for distributing among the troops a manifesto issued by the International Socialist Commission at Berne.

Item: The government arrested Karl Liebknecht for leading a May Day demonstration in Berlin—the charge "sedition." The Reichstag refused to release Liebknecht or to postpone his trial.

Item: The military in Mannheim used machine guns to quell "food rioters," killing and wounding 300 persons. Simultaneously with this report comes the resignation of Dr. Clemens Delbrueck, Minister of the Interior, who is being made the scapegoat for the food shortage in Germany, which is weighing terribly upon the working people.

We do not cite these items in proof of the barbarity of the German government or as the comment of events upon the war of "liberation and defense of our freedom"—this would be entirely superfluous. But we do cite these happenings as symptoms of discontent in Germany, proof of the awakening of the people, the augury of the revolt that may yet assume the dimensions of a revolution.—*L. C. F.*

Another Crime of A. F. of L. Bureaucracy

TWO thousand carpenters being on strike in New York City, William L. Hutchinson, International President of the Brotherhood of Carpenters, orders the strikers back to work. Hutchinson made an *oral* compromise with the employers, *without consulting the leaders of the strike.* When the strikers refused to return to work, Hutchinson sent a telegram to the Greater New York District Coun-

cil threatening suspension of all locals refusing to obey his orders. At first the district council remained neutral in the controversy, until compelled by the membership to act in the interests of the strikers.

The betrayal of strikes by craft union officials is not unusual in the American Labor movement. This is one of the greatest evils of craft unionism, and works unlimited injury to the interests of the working class generally. It is another illustration of the inadequacy of craft union organization and ideals to represent the interests of the workers.

It is interesting to observe that the New York *Call* publishes the facts of the controversy, but makes no editorial comment. But, then, it is well known that the *Call* has for some time past been edited primarily in the interests of the A. F. of L. bureaucracy, and only incidentally in the interests of Socialism and the working class.—*L. C. F.*