

# CURRENT OPINION

September, 1919: 140

## FIRST POLITICAL CRISIS OF THE NEW GERMANY

The German Revolution  
is in a State of Suspense <sup>a</sup>  
That May Soon Terminate <sup>c</sup>

TAKING the German press as a whole, from the *Freiheit*, organ of the independents of the extreme type, to the *Deutsche Tageszeitung*, frankly opportunist, it would seem to have little faith in the Bauer combination now ruling—"the ministry of the signature." Conservative organs at Berlin tell us that this ministry is incapable of ruling. Socialist papers incline to defend it. Mildly bourgeois sheets think the Bauer combination should be given a free field and no favor. The emergence of this Bauer government, however, as the *Journal de Genève* points out, is the first genuinely parliamentary crisis through which Germany has passed since the adoption of the new democratic constitution. As a first effort it has not gone off so badly. President Ebert, who said he would not endure a ministry that favored the signing of the peace treaty, did not prove too obstinate on this head. He swallowed the Bauer combination. The great fact to the outside world is that a German parliament has actually precipitated a crisis. It threw out the Scheidemann cabinet. It presided over the birth of the Bauer one. It was the German parliament which dictated to the government regarding its composition, instead of meekly obeying the government, as had been the custom. Under the old Reichstag the deliberations of the political groups were purely formal when once the "government" had given judgment in a disputed matter of policy. It might have been feared that habits of servility thus acquired would survive the fall of the old system and that the parliament would follow in the wake of the executive like a lot of sheep, as occurs in other countries, even democratic ones.