

ANARCHY MENACES FRANCE

The grim clouds of complete economic breakdown hang over France today. Faced by the impossible Premier Ramadier resigned and the all too familiar, always ineffectual political reshuffling began again. *Mr. Biscaut of Bernans* ~~Paul Reynaud was~~ ~~Foreign Minister,~~ ~~unacceptable to the majority,~~ Paul Boncour, here with Ramadier, was *one of the* ~~just another of the~~ brilliant politicians who can do everything but govern. ~~Leon Blum was unable~~ ~~to form a government~~ and M. Schuman remained the final hope. In the Chamber of Deputies ~~Blum~~ *him, and* appealed to all parties to support Schuman, ~~as perhaps the only man~~ ~~who could get a cabinet together.~~ From Schuman himself the nation learned that he would at least try to form a government.

~~Thurxxxxxxxx~~Marseilles, like Brest, Le Havre, Bordeaux and most lesser ports

was idle because of the general dock strike. While France plunges down the steep place towards ruin millions refuse to work; the spectre of anarchy stares the country in the face.

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Public transport systems ~~in many towns are~~ not running, but in Marseilles foremost concern was with the perishable cargoes of food ships. Police in radio *touch* ~~touch~~ with headquarters received orders to protect from possible attack the soldiers, drafted ~~into~~ Marseilles to unload the ships. Little more than in the fatal Spring of nineteen forty does France seem able to stave off disaster.

army trucks

To the big flour mills of Paris went ~~military transport~~ to guarantee the capital its bread. Such emergency measures keep the lifeblood of France weakly circulating till the economic heart of the country is either restored to action or fatally stops. Tried beyond endurance by ever rising prices, corruption and ineptitude at the top the people do not seem to care.

The miners, too, have thrown up the sponge. At Lens, centre of the northern coalfields, government appeals to return to work were rejected, largely at the behest of the Communist dominated General Confederation of Workers. It was the same in Paris, where the Citroen men joined the strike movement and seemed at one time likely to fall foul of the police. Since these pictures were taken Citroen workers have gone back, an example not followed to any great extent elsewhere.

Most serious of all ^{was} the railway strike. Only a few long-distance trains were running. Goods traffic, almost the breath of the country's economic life, was dead still. Passengers were stranded, ^{everywhere} ~~not only in Paris but wherever~~ ~~the trains left them when the men walked out.~~

Then from the Chamber of Deputies came a small hope.

President Auriel announced that M. Schuman had formed a government. Optimistic indeed must be all who put faith in a fresh dealing of the party cards. France can only hope.