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The

CZECHOSLOVAK REVIEW

JANUARY, 1920

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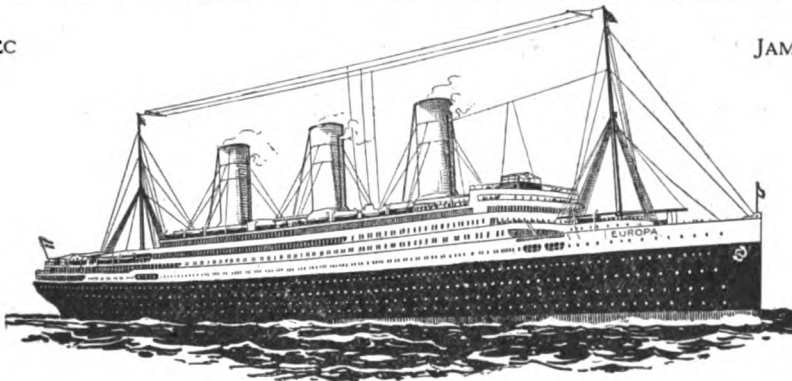
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THE CZECHOSLOVAK REVIEW

OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE CZECHOSLOVAK NATIONAL COUNCIL OF AMERICA.

Jaroslav F. Smetanka, Editor.
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The Month in Czechoslovakia

The year 1920 has come upon the Czechoslovak Republic, while it is still laboring under the severe effects of the war. Coal is scarce, food is still distributed by cards and strictly limited, all imported articles sell at terrific prices, there is a lack of housing in most of the cities. People grumble and put the blame on the capitalists or the socialists or the government in general. But after all, conditions in Czechoslovakia are so much better than in the neighboring countries. There is Poland to the east of the Czechoslovaks. Poland has been at war on almost all frontiers from the first day of its independence down to the present day; its army is exhausted and almost bare-footed, its debt has grown beyond computation, its currency which was originally far more valuable than Czechoslovak currency is now worth not much over a half of what the other is quoted at; the government is not so well organized and the various districts of which the country is composed have not coalesced as readily as is the case in Czechoslovakia. The difference between the political and economic progress of Poland and Czechoslovakia is enormous, but still more striking is the contrast between the Czechoslovak Republic and the two miserable countries to the south of it, Austria and Hungary. Austria which once aspired to rule the world now contests with Armenia for the distinction of the world's principal mendicant. It has thrown all pride to the winds and begs openly for charity as a nation. It should, however, be remembered, that it is not really Austria which is hungry and in desperate straits, but only the city of Vienna; the four million country people of the Austrian Alpine provinces keep what food they have and let Vienna go begging for the alms of strangers. Compared with Czechoslovakia, Austria has money to burn, for the old

Austro-Hungarian Bank keeps printing hundreds of million of crowns a week; but without Bohemian coal and without Bohemian food all Vienna would starve long before charitable America could come to its assistance. As for Hungary, it had to endure for six months the rule of that vain and egotistic demagogue Count Michael Karolyi, then the rule of Bela Kuhn whose bolshevism cost the country more than four years of war, then a period of Roumanian occupation during which Hungary was looted in a very thorough manner, and now a spasm of monarchistic reaction with a program of vengeance, wholesale executions and imperialism. And even as against Germany Bohemia is much better off, for among the Czechoslovaks the sentiment of patriotism has not suffered a diminution, the country has comparatively greater natural resources than crippled Germany and is less burdened with debts and foreign obligations. Even the comparison with Italy, Roumania or Jugoslavia would be greatly to the advantage of the Czechoslovak Republic, to say nothing of Russia and the new Baltic states.

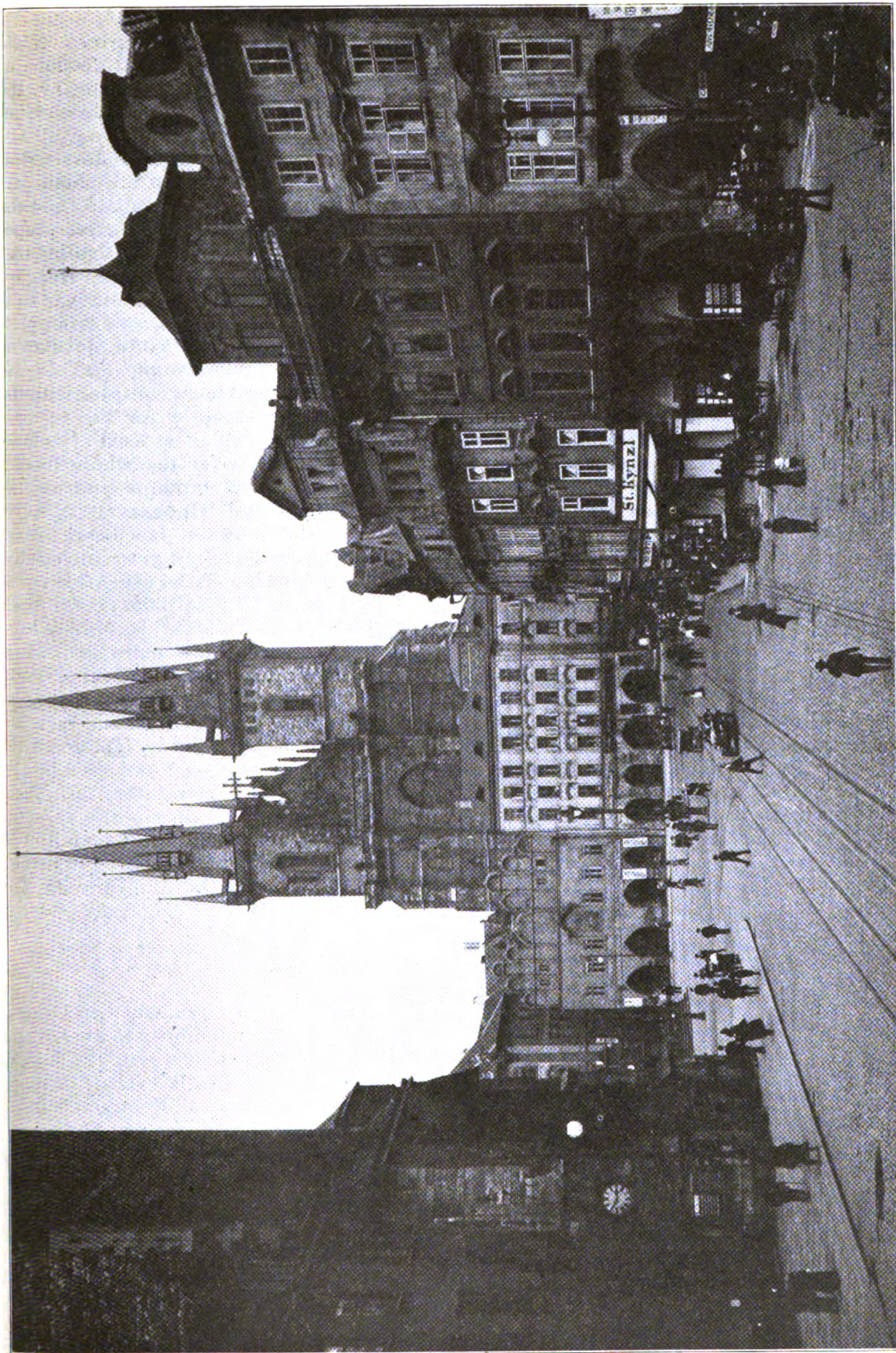
And so the Czechoslovaks enter upon the New Year with confidence, even though life is still difficult for the great mass of the people. The worst is behind them. The political situation of the country is in comparison with the rest of Europe excellent, and the economic situation has greatly improved and is daily growing better.

Cabinet crisis appeared on the political horizon at the end of November. The present government of Vlastimil Tusar is based on a coalition of the social democrats, the Czechoslovak socialists with whom the small progressive party co-operates, the republicans (farmers' party) and the Slo-

vaks; national democrats and the people's party (Catholic) are in opposition. A year ago it appeared most likely that the two principal socialist parties would coalesce, but instead they have grown further apart. The social democratic party professes devotion to Marxism and contains elements that differ widely from each other in their plans for the application of the Marxist program; one might say that in this party are found people who in Germany would be found in three camps—the majority socialist, the minority socialist and the communist. The Czechoslovak socialist party do not believe in Marx, look upon socialization as a gradual process and are pervaded by a spirit of intense patriotism. Each party has its own trade unions, but the social democrats are stronger, having been longer in the field. For some time past the national socialists have been charging the social democrats with intimidation, in that in many places workmen of the younger party were treated as scabs and driven from work, unless they agreed to join the social democratic labor union. In the middle of November the executive committee of the Czechoslovak socialists called upon the government to submit to the National Assembly a bill making intimidation of this sort criminal and in fact enacting what we would call here "open shop." The social democrats refused to comply, and early in December the four representatives of the Czechoslovak socialist party in the cabinet submitted their resignation. A general convention of the party was held in Prague on December 7, attended by 450 delegates which adopted an uncompromising attitude. It looked, as if there were no way out except through a new combination of parties which it would have been very difficult to secure, but through President Masaryk's mediation a compromise was effected. Dr. Winter, minister of social welfare, acting for the social democrats, and Dr. Veselý, minister of justice, acting for the national socialists, were entrusted with the drafting of a bill which would effectually protect the right of workers to form their own trade unions without being blacklisted. It seems certain now that the present cabinet will remain in power until the elections to the parliament are over. They have been delayed for many reasons, but the government has definitely promised to have everything ready for the holding of elections before the end of February.

The committee on constitution of the National Assembly has been working for several months on the draft of the permanent constitution for the Czechoslovak Republic. The result of its labors has not yet been laid before the Assembly, but it is known that in spite of determined opposition the draft provides for a second chamber or senate, elected by universal franchise with a higher age qualification than for the lower house. One of the questions which arouses strong interest is local autonomy; shall the historical subdivision into Bohemia, Moravia, Silesia and Slovakia be retained, or shall the republic be divided for administrative and local government purposes into districts with about half a million population each? The second plan seems to promise more efficiency of administration, but there exists strong sentiment in favor of the retention of the old provinces, particularly in Slovakia. At the same time all parties agree on the necessity of abolishing the dual system of law which was inherited from the dual empire. In the Bohemian lands with 10 million people the old Austrian laws are in effect, except in so far as they have been set aside by the new legislation; in Slovakia with three million people the Hungarian laws prevail, except as modified; the autonomous province of Rusinia with some 600,000 people is also governed by Hungarian laws. On December 6 President Masaryk appointed Dr. Milan Hodža, a Slovak leader, to be the chief of a new ministry, temporary in character, which is charged with the duty of unifying the laws and the administrative practice of the entire republic.

Party feeling runs much higher in Czechoslovakia, than in the United States. Each party has its own daily paper in Prague, with other daily and weekly organs in the provinces, and a merry war goes on between them, each blaming the other for the ills of the republic. Even the organs of parties that form the government coalition frequently attack each other. But underneath the strong partisanship there exists everywhere a much stronger feeling of patriotism; the interests of the country go before party advantage, at least in all important matters. The best proof of it is the fact that measures introduced by the government, whether it be the ratification of the peace treaty or new taxes or social



Old Town Square of Prague with Týn Church.

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legislation, are approved unanimously by the National Assembly. For the good of the common country the socialists are willing to defer the radical changes which their program calls for, while the bourgeois parties vote for all measures designed to improve the condition of the workingmen. There may be radical talk and loud threats, but compromise always prevails in the end.

What is true of political life applies also to industrial life. There have been very few strikes in the Czechoslovak Republic during the first year of its existence, and not one big strike. In November there was a strike of foremen and office employees of the steel shops, for in Bohemia, just as in America, a mechanic or laborer is better off than foreman or clerk; but after a few days the strikers went back to work, when the government promised to take up their grievances. The tradesmen closed their shops on November 27 for half a day as a protest against too much government regulation and against favoritism shown to co-operative consumers' societies of the workingmen. There was also a local flare up in brown coal mines near Most which subsided in three days. As against that coal miners all over the Republic held meetings in which they pledged themselves to work seven days a week, until the coal shortage was over. There is a decided increase apparent in coal production and railroad cars have been obtained from Germany. Minister of Public Works Hampl states that the distress would be almost over early in January. The coal situation was one of the principal reasons for the decision of the government, approved by the National Assembly, to buy out the remaining private railroads of the republic which are in the main coal roads; their total length is 1204 kilometers.

Everyone follows with interest and some anxiety the development of events in Hungary. One would think that the Magyars had enough troubles at home, after what they have gone through during the past year, to have any aggressive designs. But the fact is that the present government of premier Huszar pursues the same policy as Karolyi and the bolsheviks, namely restoring Magyar rule over the entire area of

the former kingdom of Hungary. While Huszar is publicly making professions of peacefulness and submission, Horthy, the former commander of the Austro-Hungarian navy, is strengthening his army and posting it on the Slovak boundary. Billboards in hungry Budapest are again covered with chauvinistic appeals to fight for an integral Hungary, and an active propaganda is carried on abroad pretending that the liberated races of former Hungary clamor to be put back under Magyar rule. Bolshevik agitators are released from prison, when they promise to go to Slovakia or Transylvania to make trouble, and Magyar squires in these provinces conspire with the monarchists of Budapest for the restoration of Hapsburg rule or at least of monarchy in some form over the whole former kingdom. There is quite a contrast between Austria and Hungary in this respect; Austria knows it has been licked, but the Magyars have not yet realized that instead of disposing of the armed forces of an empire with fifty million people their strength is limited to the resources of a bankrupt, beggared little country of scarcely eight million people. The Czechoslovaks are not afraid of the military prowess of the Magyars, but they deplore the fact that the existence of a warlike neighbor on the south will make necessary the spending of more money on their military establishment. Unless there is an effective League of Nations in existence, the Czechoslovak Republic will have to be prepared to defend in the field against the Magyars the territory awarded to it by the Peace Conference.

National Assembly was asked in December to grant additional money to the government, to cover a deficiency in the budget for 1919. Like practically every European country, the Czechoslovak Republic is faced with a big deficit. The regular budget approved in May showed a small surplus as between ordinary revenues and expenditures, but extraordinary outlay brought about a deficiency of 3901 million crowns. Now the government came with a statement of 807 million of additional revenue and 1901 million of additional expense. Thus the total deficiency for 1919 is increased to almost five billion crowns. The new deficiency not foreseen at the time

of the preparation of the regular budget was caused by the inroad of Magyar bolsheviks to Slovakia and by a considerable increase of salaries of all state officials and employees which the continued rise in prices made necessary in autumn. The government is trying to secure a balance in the state finances by laying on new taxes and by internal loan. Thus there was recently imposed a tax of 12 crowns on each liter (less than a quart) of alcohol, both as a measure of revenue and as a means of furthering temperance; the tax on alcohol fit only for industrial uses is only 20 hellers a liter. Incidentally the cabled report which was published here in November to the effect that prohibition would be introduced in Bohemia lacked all other foundation except this fact of higher taxation. A heavy tax was also imposed in December on all sales to be in effect for four years; this is a consumption tax which will be a special hardship on the poorer classes, yet it was approved by all the parties with the exception of the Catholics, because both the socialists and the bourgeois considered it a necessity of the state. A special tax on property is being prepared which will cut deep into the gains made during the war. It should be noted that Czechoslovakia does not attempt to get rid of its financial difficulties by issuing paper money; it has actually reduced the circulation of fiat money since the armistice. The republic, however, has been offering for sale since September treasury certificates, payable in four and five years, bearing four percent interest, at the subscription price of 98 and 97½ respectively. Up to November 25 the people bought 1007 millions of these obligations.

The continued low price of the Czechoslovak crown is a serious drawback to foreign commerce, and to the entire economic life of the republic. Cotton has become prohibitive in price, and cotton mills and other factories depending on foreign raw materials are working only part time. The syndicate of cotton manufacturers succeeded in obtaining 50,000 bales of cotton through the Guaranty Trust Company of New York, to be delivered in monthly installments of 5000 bales; and they are negotiating for 40,000 additional bales. But all that is barely enough for domestic con-

sumption and leaves hardly anything for export, as the prewar consumption of cotton in the Bohemian mills was 600,000 bales. The foreign trade of the Czechoslovak Republic for the first half of 1919 had a large favorable balance, but the difficulty is that the export goes in the same direction, as before the war, principally to the south and east, to countries with depreciated currencies, while the imports come from the west and must be paid for in sound exchange. Thus imports from Austria were 355 mill. and exports to Austria 796; the figures for Poland were 19 and 79 mill. respectively, Yugoslavia 50 and 52, Germany 194 and 127, Switzerland 156 and 26, France 12 and 27, England 21 and 1, and United States 13 as against 1 mill. crowns. The total exports from Czechoslovakia were 1,288,722,920 crowns, total imports 1,071,022,250.

Restrictions on foreign trade are being gradually removed; the functions of the Foreign Exchange Central have been turned over to the banking office of the ministry of finance and transactions in foreign money have been freed from the strict control of the government. An exporter may now sell his wares abroad for crowns, thus creating a market for Czechoslovak money. Syndicates controlling various branches of the industry are being dissolved one by one. The list of products which may be imported or exported without special license has been lengthened. There is a leaning toward free trade, as Czechoslovakia is decidedly an exporting state; railroad rates on export goods have been reduced. An agreement was reached with Germany which provides for free transit of Czechoslovak goods through Germany, permits importation into Germany of various commodities, and trades German railroad cars for Bohemian brown coal. With Italy lumber is bartered for food products, and even with Hungary trade has been renewed, the Czechoslovaks sending all sorts of manufactures for wool, hides, iron ore, cattle, horses, sheep, corn; but unfortunately Hungary has not enough to offer for what it needs and its currency is of no value at all. The large crop of hops was sold abroad on excellent terms and there is, of course, good market for all the sugar produced; the milder weather of November made possible the harvesting of sugar beets which remained in the ground

at the time of the freeze up at the end of October, but some part of the potato crop was lost. Banks are still increasing their capital; Živnostenská Bank, the largest Bohemian bank, increased its shares from 160 to 240 million crowns, and its reserve funds amount to 65 mill. additional; Central Bank of Bohemian Savings banks raised its capital from 35 to 70 mill., Land Bank from 25 to 40, Slovak Bank of Ružomberk

from 20 to 30, Czech Bank from 20 to 30, Economic Credit Bank from 14 to 20, Bank of Brno from 10 to 20; even the socialist party is opening a bank of its own. The state, too, plans the formation of a governmental bank, like the banks of issue of England, France and Germany, and in the meantime has established a consortium of the principal Prague banks to act as the fiscal agent of the government.

A North Bohemian Village

By DONALD BREED.

It is easy to know when you are nearing Slanice, because the train shoots through a tunnel and then emerges at the base of a wide sloping meadow which goes up and up until it melts into the sky. On the other side of the track is a tall cleanly pine grove which used to be part of the estate of a German noble. There are deer on his lands and rabbits and, I think, a good many wild fowl. An old chateau is hidden somewhere in the recesses of the park, but it is closed and no one ever goes there now.

It takes three minutes to pass the great meadow and the evergreen forest and then, as the engine puffs feebly and painfully around a long up-grade curve, the little station of Slanice comes into view.

There is a great throng of people waiting to take the train. At every stop the platforms seem to be crowded. The increase of passenger traffic now-a-days in Bohemia is a little puzzling. Railway service is slow and uncertain, and the cars are often unheated and unlighted, with windows broken out and tattered upholstery. Yet the people come and go. Whence they come from, whither they travel, and why—these things are hard to explain. Most of them ride third-class, which means that they carry tremendous knapsacks on their backs and huge shapeless bundles of clothing. They are always lunching. As soon as the train starts they begin to eat. They unwrap from newspapers prodigious slabs of black bread, crack their hardboiled eggs against the wooden seats, and consider themselves lucky, if they have a piece of cheese or a scrap of meat. They talk and laugh and stare out of the windows in solid enjoyment. After all, life has its compensa-

tions, and it is vastly diverting to ride on a train.

At Slanice there is a tussle. It is necessary to wriggle and elbow one's way past a mob of eager persons who are trying to board the car before the passengers for Slanice have alighted. Of course they would like to find seats, but they will certainly be disappointed, for there are already people standing in the corridors. A high-capped official roars at those who seem to be shoving and orders them back, but they ignore him with great good humor, for they know it is merely part of his business to be loud-mouthed and authoritative.

At last I am free of the melée and here is my good friend, the marmalade-maker, who has come to the train to meet me. He grasps my hand in hearty welcome and inquires, whether I am not half-frozen after my journey. I tell him that I am not, that my circulation is good, and the cold air in the Bohemian railway cars only stimulates me. The marmalade-maker shrugs his shoulders, smiles doubtfully and introduces me to his wife's brother, who has just come up with a long pair of skis. I walk between them through the station gate and out into the street.

There are three streets in Slanice. One is the street of the tavern, another is the street where the marmalade-maker lives and has his factory, and the third is nothing but a long row of low orange-colored houses allotted to the workers in his establishment. Each of the streets sustains an independent existence. They lie somewhat apart, point in divergent directions and seem to have nothing to do with one another, like three brothers who have quar-

relled. In the middle, between the railway station and the tavern, is an open place. In the season when the grass grows, this furnishes pasturage for the goats of Slanice, but now it is inches deep with snow.

Through this end of the town runs a wide ditch spanned in two places by narrow foot-bridges without railings. The nearer bridge leads directly toward the marmalade-maker's house and factory and the hard-trodden path in the snow shows that many people come and go over this route. The young man with the skis warns me to be careful about my footing on the bridge. A mis-step on the icy planks might easily cause a tumble into the ravine which is half full of drifted snow, and that is very inferior sport as he knows from his own chilly experience.

A little girl of six comes dancing down the path toward us with open arms.

"Oh, daddy!" she cries. "Here you are! Did the strange man come?"

Then, catching sight of me behind her father, she is overcome with confusion and hides her blushes in the folds of his long coat. Her father laughs and lifts her in his arms.

"Our little Mařenka is shy," he says. "But just wait a few years and you will see that she is not so afraid of the young men."

Mařenka looks very demure, so that it is hard to know how much of her father's pleasantries she understands.

"But what does this mean?" he continues with grave reproof, stroking her flying locks. "How many times has *mamička* told you not to go running out of doors on cold days with nothing on your head?"

Mařenka blurts out, crestfallen: "I forgot, daddy!"

Her father looks severe, but cannot refrain from winking solemnly at me. It is probable that nothing escapes little Mařenka, least of all a furtive wink. It must be very subversive of discipline. The marmalade-maker goes on up the path carrying her.

His house appears insignificant in comparison with the factory and the various sheds and buildings which cluster about it. It is very old and is all on one floor, but the marmalade-maker is entirely satisfied with it. He is even a little proud, for it has a real bath-room, the only one in Slanice. The windows are casements, of a design

long disused, and through them I see dainty curtains and rows of flowering plants.

The approach to the door-stone is across a sort of farmyard. If it were not winter there would be geese waddling about and a few hens, and perhaps a little lamb with wobbly legs would go cantering in front of us to get a drink out of the water pail. None of these things is to be seen today; the farmyard is deserted and the season's white blanket covers the ground and roofs. Birds and animals are penned up in a number of outbuildings where they are presumably warm and well-fed, but where I fancy they drag out a dismal existence in spite of the company which they afford each other and the ceaseless opportunity for the exchange of ideas.

We are at the door. The brother-in-law throws it open, while I am busy with the boot-scraper, and admits us to a kitchen all shining and warm. A table with a white cloth in the center of the room is laid for afternoon coffee. The pungent smell of the drink fills the whole room and a cloud of steam rises from a small black kettle on the stove, where it is being stirred by the servant girl. The mistress of the house is placing a pan of boiled milk on the table. She is a merry little woman and makes me instantly feel at home under her roof-tree. A child of three toddles around clasping a great doll, and a tall boy of eleven, summoned from another room, comes in to make his compliments in a husky voice. A canary trills welcome from a brass cage and the kitchen range sends out a hospitable glow.

After the marmalade-maker and I have stood for a few minutes warming our hands over the coals in the stove, we are bidden to sit down. There are four places at the table, set for my host, his wife, her brother and myself. The children will not take coffee with us. Each of us gets a big cup more than half full of hot black liquid, and then the servant passes about with the scalding milk and dips it out with a ladle into our cups, stirring the mixture as she does so. Mařenka brings a great platter of *buchty* and coffee bread from the bedroom, staggering under the weight. Her mother exclaims.

"Child, what are you thinking of. Couldn't you have waited for Anna?"

Mařenka rubs against her mother's knee like an affectionate kitten and whispers

confidently: "Mamičko, may I have one of those large ones?"

The coffee is excellent. There is nothing to take the place of coffee on a winter day. Moreover, this is real Mocha and not one of those substitutes, made out of hops or turnips ground and roasted, which everybody used during the war. It was given to the brother-in-law by a friend in Liberec, whose son, a courier, brought it from Italy.

"Why, here is Žila!"

A small white dog bounds into the kitchen and commences rushing everywhere and barking furiously. The boy follows, with a selfconscious smile. The baby with the doll, amazed at this invasion, topples and sits down suddenly and violently on the floor.

"Put the dog out!" cries my hostess.

"Come here, Žila," says the marmalade-maker, in an indulgent tone, and immediately the little animal makes a lunge at him and worries the bottoms of his trousers.

"I won't have it!" says his wife inexorably. "You know how the creature eats everything up."

So Žila is banished to the outside and the boy goes along for company. Presently I can see them through the window, playing and romping in a whirl of snow.

Coffee is over. My host proposes to take me to see the sights of the village until dinner time. We are warned not to be gone more than an hour and a half. For me, at least, that is easy to promise, for the scent of roasting pork which the oven now begins to disseminate is very alluring.

We go first to the factory where I am initiated into the fearsome secrets of marmalade-making. This business is one which was very slightly affected by the war. Raw materials are the greatest problem; the apple crop last year was miserable, but there is still a sufficient supply of sugar. Labor troubles are never heard of in Slanice. The factory hands live a stone's throw from the place where they work; they are treated well and feel satisfied with what they get.

Nor is there any difficulty in reaching markets; the entire output of this factory could easily be disposed of three times over in Turnov, Mladá Boleslav and other towns within easy traveling distance.

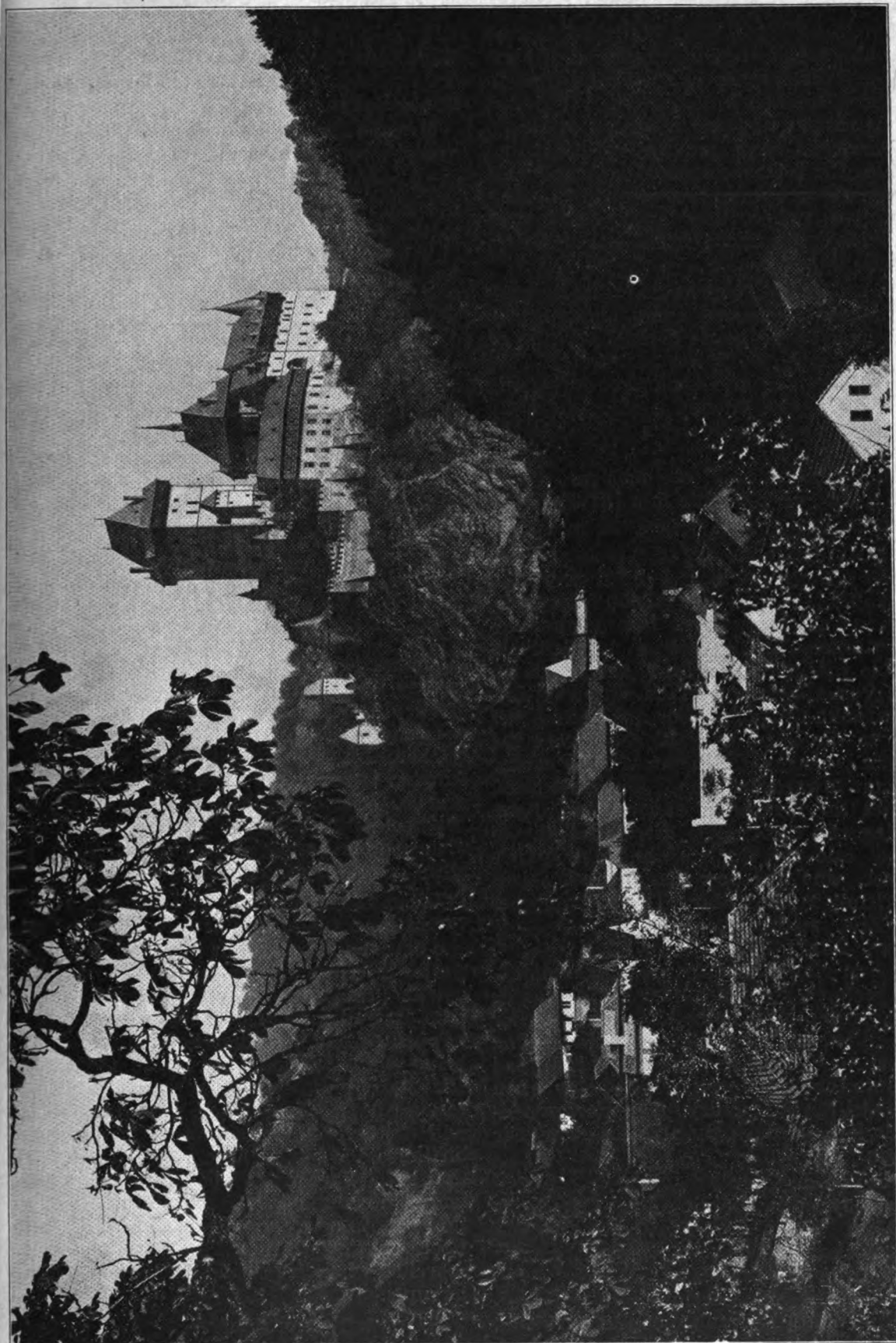
Now that the worst times are over, my host expects to make certain necessary repairs in his plant. The Germans took away

one of his great copper kettles; he hopes to get an iron one to put in its place. They overlooked a second copper kettle, which he had time to hide. He shook in his shoes when the officers were tramping in and out of the factory, for he knew it would be the worse for him if they should find it in its place of concealment. Eventually he will renovate the whole establishment, but many articles are hard to get at present, and he contents himself with making minor improvements; for instance, he is going to do some painting. He has bought a quantity of red paint, which has been turned out into a wooden tub in one of the sheds. As we pass the door, two painters come out, quitting work for the day. Their schedule used to be longer, but the eight-hour law applies to all industries. He speaks to them familiarly and they touch their caps. Both sides are evidently satisfied with the new legislation.

Now we have left the factory and, by the farther and less perilous foot-bridge, we cross to the street of the tavern. In the west a saffron sunset is cooling above the gentle curves of a line of hills. The gloom deepens and every house window throws its glimmer of light across the roadway. This little villa on the corner is so situated that it commands a good prospect of the rolling country that lies to the north and west of Slanica. It is a pretty green house with a cupola, and a high spiked fence surrounds it. The owner was a Jew from Dresden who used to spend all his summers here. Finally something happened to him, something so horrible that my oracle will not even tell me what it was. His place has been deserted ever since, and the swallows make their nests unmolested under the projecting edges of the roof.

At the end of the street is a patch of woodland, and by the time we have walked there and back to the tavern it is quite dark. The tavern is a plain two-story affair, with no other inscription on its buff walls than *Hostinec* in enormous black letters. From within comes a confused din of voices and the sound of people trotting to and fro. I am surprised at this degree of activity in a plain country inn and ask the reason for it.

"Only a little party," the marmalade-maker tells me. "If you have brought dancing shoes along with you, we can drop in there this evening."



Castle Karlstyn, Dating from Fourteenth Century.

Though he puts it so casually, I know he would be desperately disappointed, if I expressed a preference to spend the time in his warm kitchen instead. But, of course, that is what I have no intention of doing. Fortunately I came provided with evening clothes, for I have already learned that these plain people of Slanice like to preen themselves, when they sally out for an evening's fun and wish their guests to do likewise.

We are on the way home. The dangerous hollow is crossed again, and as we come near to the house delicious whiffs of dinner travel to us on the breeze. My hostess lets us in and apologizes for laying the cover in the kitchen again, but really it is the most comfortable room in the house in winter.

"The pork is done," she tells me. "The food will be on the table in a jiffy."

An untoward event delays the meal.

From the direction of the factory there suddenly rings out the agonized yelp of a dog. There follows a succession of squeals, barks and piteous groans. The marmalade-maker raises his eyebrows inquisitively and his wife, who is wiping her hands on her apron, stands transfixed with awe. Little Mařenka flings the door open and peers out. In the beam of light shed from the kitchen I discern the form of Žila, racing like mad toward the house. The little beast reaches the threshold and grovels there, panting and squirming. He would like to bound into the kitchen, but the wife's brother, who has now reappeared, seizes him firmly by the collar. The boy saunters after Žila, laughing heartily.

"Poor Žila!"

At first glance the dog presents a shocking spectacle, for his hinder half looks as if it were entirely bathed in gore. Closer inspection resolves our fears. It is nothing but paint. Red paint! Some one has dipped Žila into the wooden tub which I saw when I was visiting the factory. The marmalade-maker looks accusingly at his eleven-year old son.

"Did you do this?"

The boy nods, holding his sides with laughter.

"How shameful of you to torment a poor dumb brute like that!"

The culprit grows serious.

"Why, daddy, I didn't mean to hurt Žila. I was just playing with him out by the shed,

and he looked so white, and I happened to think how funny it would be to make him red and white, so he would be a real national Bohemian dog!"

My host casts a comical stare at his wife and resolutely shuts his lips.

Žila lies on the door-sill in an abject posture. His patriotism has not been equal to the ordeal. The brother-in-law leads him off to be chained in one of the out-buildings for the night. The boy is summoned indoors and comes looking very sheepish. A brief family council decides that he must be sent to bed at once without anything to eat. His punishment is made doubly hard because Mařenka, who idolizes her big brother, is told that she must not go into his room to talk to him. The boy limps off immediately, glad of a chance to escape the publicity of his disgrace.

After the servant girl has marshalled the other children out of the kitchen, the marmalade-maker sits down to indulge in silent but tremendous laughter, in which the rest of us join.

Dinner is coming on the table. There is savory broth with noodles, a rib roast of pork with dumplings and fat, sour cabbage, a compote of cherries, and, after a while, sugar cakes and two kinds of wine. The kitchen is hot and full of steam and good smells. The door of the range is red-hot. My hostess' face is very flushed and damp. Everyone is happy and hungry. There is little occasion for conversation.

When the dishes have been cleared away, the marmalade-maker presses tobacco into the porcelain bowl of his pipe and, between puffs, tells me stories about ghosts and spirits. There are tiny creatures in the hills who play all sorts of tricks on folk. If they happen to like you, they befriend you and bring you good luck. But if you happen to stir their liliputian wrath, then the worse for you! Of course these are just fables and my informer chuckles at them. But, on the other hand, there is the adventure that befell Jan Janek when he was coming home late one night from Vnoň. Something about a woman all on fire who came fleeing out of a thicket. Jan's clothes were scorched when he got home. My hostess interrupts.

"Don't tell those things," she begs. "They make me feel creepy."

The brother-in-law has already taken his departure, for he is escorting a girl to the ball and her house is some distance away. When we have changed our clothes, we too start for the tavern. We are late comers; the dancing has already begun.

The dance hall is a high, dark room, with thick rafters and a floor stained brown. It is crowded with all the young people of Slanice and a good many of their elders. A waltz is in progress. The music is very brisk, and the dancers whirl rapidly about, always in one direction and never reversing. When the pause comes I am formally introduced to a good-natured middle-aged woman and her daughter, a blooming girl in national costume.

The girl and I sit together. She is pleased because I am admiring her dress. No, she did not make it herself. She thanks me for the implied compliment, but she is really not clever enough for that. This was a present from her little grandmother in Králové Hradec. We make an engagement for the next dance, and I am glad when I find that it will be a Bohemian beseda.

The *beseda* is great fun, especially the spinning part. You stand with your feet close together, facing your partner, with the tips of your toes almost touching hers. Then you take hold of hands and lean far back, away from each other. When the music starts you commence turning, gathering momentum and pivoting about your toes. Faster and faster you go, until the whole hall swims and you feel like two motes caught in an eddy of light. Then the music stops and you must make way for some one else. It is over too soon.

When we are warm and tired, we go into an adjoining low-ceilinged room, where there are clouds of blue smoke. We sit about a round table over glasses of amber wine, with two little squat bottles of *Mělnické* before us. The richest man in VINOŘ, who is a sort of guest of honor, sits with us, and my beseda partner and her mother. The man from VINOŘ talks politics. He would like to know about this scandalous new proposition they are talking over in the national assembly at Prague, the confiscating of big estates. He considers it an outrage. The marmalade-maker asks him, whether he would like to have the old days of German rule back again. No, he is too loyal to want that, but there is no reason why the new government should start its

career with idiotic measures like the land law. The marmalade-maker reminds him that the Germans used to confiscate things too. His brows is pensive and I suspect he is thinking about his copper kettle.

After this bit of rest in the wine-room comes more dancing. It is remarkable how one feels more and more light and high-spirited at these village festivals, as the night wears away. It is hard to believe my hostess, when she finally comes to say that it is four o'clock in the morning.

We trail home under a starless sky. My feet ache dreadfully. The servant girl, who has waited up for us to come home, is drowsing beside the kitchen table. She rouses herself and brings us more coffee and a piece of *koláč*. We drink our coffee and compare notes. It turns out that the marmalade-maker's wife broke her vow and danced almost continuously through the whole affair. Her husband laughs and winks at me. We are warm and contented, but too tired to talk much. I am shown into my bedroom.

It is a small chilly room, crowded with dark, ornate furniture, but the only thing which interests me is the bed with its mountainous feather quilt. When I crawl under this I find that the sheet is like ice. It must be a frightfully cold night, for I can hear the boards somewhere in the house creak and snap. I have opened my window and a breeze sweeps into the bed. For a short time I find myself shivering, but what blessed relief to stretch out here and relax my weary frame! Soon the feather-bed has made me very comfortable.

My brain swarms with pictures. I burrow my head into the pillow and wonder confusedly whether I shall be long in getting to sleep. Now I am waltzing with the young sister of the man from VINOŘ, now with my beseda partner. Now I am sitting out a dance with some one. By all that is wonderful, it is the little grandmother from Králové Hradec, and she is nodding her head and telling me how she came to buy the national costume! The marmalade-maker glides by me dancing with his wife's servant girl in all her kitchen regalia. Suddenly all the people begin prancing about and cutting the most ridiculous capers, while round and round the room runs a little red and white dog. I cannot remember what comes next.

The Religion of the Rusins

The Greek Catholic Church in America.

By ELEANOR E. LEDBETTER.

When the Rusins came to America, they brought with them, as a part of their racial heritage, the Greek Catholic church, into which their national life had been so interwoven as to make nationality and church one and inseparable.

Until their coming, this branch of the Christian church, which occupies so interesting and distinctive a position, had been unheard of in the United States, and now, when it has more than two hundred churches with 550,000 members, its position is still known and understood by but few, so quietly and unostentatiously has its work been done.

The Greek Catholic church is first of all an object lesson on the fact that Rome, inflexible as she seems, can compromise and has compromised. The Great Schism in 1054 split the Christian world into two parts, one of which looked to Constantinople as its head, the other to Rome, hence the terms Eastern church and Western Church; or from the language of the liturgy at that time, the Greek rite and the Latin rite. As a matter of usage, the term Orthodox has come to be applied to the Eastern church, Catholic to the Western.

Each has always been certain of the correctness of its own position and has sought to evangelize the other. The Greek Catholic church is the result of the only considerable success in this line which has ever been achieved by either. It was brought about by a compromise offered by Pope Clement VIII to the Orthodox dioceses of Galicia at the end of the 16th century. This compromise may be summarized broadly as having made the church Roman in doctrine, but left it Eastern in practice. The very name Greek Catholic indicates the combination of sources.

The terms of the compromise required acknowledgement of the supremacy of the Pope and acceptance of the *filioque* clause in the creed, but permitted the retention of the Eastern arrangement of the church with the great screen in front of the altar; the three-barred cross, the lowest bar oblique; the use of leavened bread in the mass; the communion in both kinds to the laity; the

liturgy in the language of the people; the administration of confirmation by the priest immediately after baptism; the Eastern calendar; and the married clergy. On these terms the union took place, hence the term United Greek Catholics, or Uniates.

The Ukrainians of Galicia were the first people to accept these terms, and they were soon followed by their kinsmen on the other side of the Carpathians, Russians of Hungary. The movement thus started has had some success in almost every Orthodox country, so that there are now Greek Catholic Rumanians, Croatians, Lithuanians, Syrians, Copts, Armenians, Italians, and Greeks. Its strongest hold, however, is still among the race who were the first to adopt it, and who are variously known, according to location or to political nomenclature as Little Russians, Ruthenians, Russianians, Ukrainians, or Uhro-Rusins.

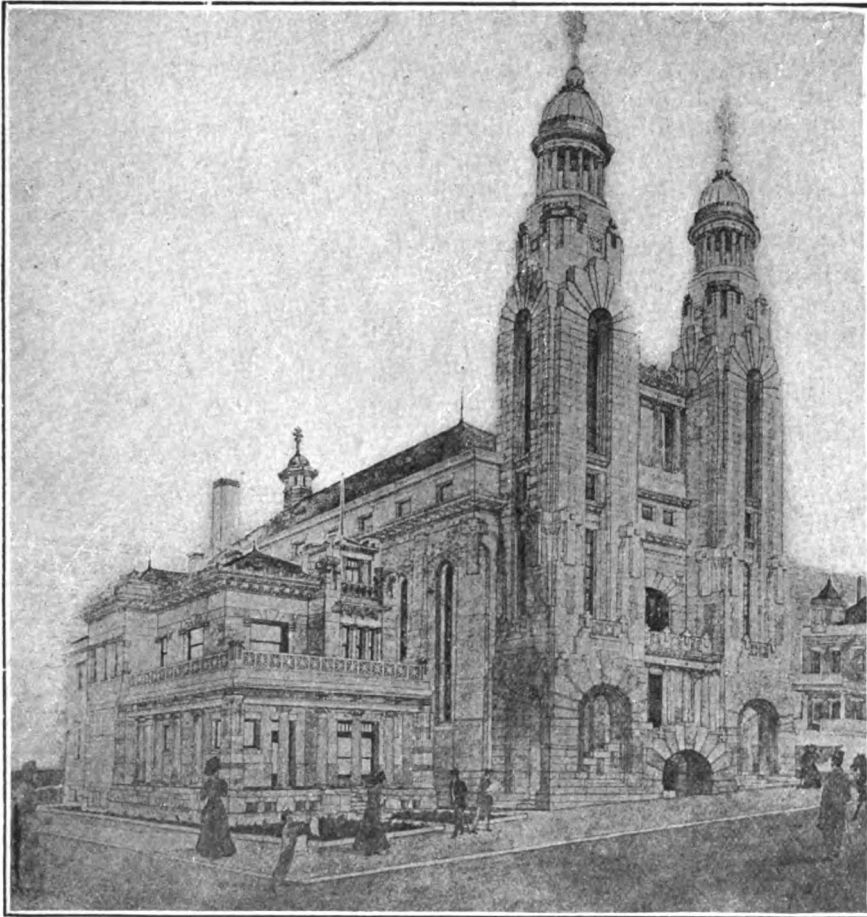
Greek Catholic emigration to the United States began on both sides of the Carpathians in 1879, and was directed to that insatiable field of employment, the Pennsylvania coal mines. In 1884 a group of these immigrants in Shenandoah, Pa. had become strong enough numerically and financially to form a church organization and to send for a priest of their own race and faith. But their joy in the achievement was soon submerged in dismay at the conflict in which they unexpectedly found themselves. For this priest had brought with him his wife, and the Roman Catholic clergy of the diocese, acting sincerely, but without understanding, fell upon him and his followers with a storm of denunciation. The stranger priest was not only deeply shocked at this reception, but utterly bewildered, as nothing in his past experience gave him any clue to what the fuss was about. An exchange of letters between the bishop of the local diocese and the archbishop of Lemberg, now become a cardinal, established his regularity and good standing as a priest, and he was able to enter upon his work without further opposition. The controversy had, however, a very unhappy effect upon the people, to whom it seemed a part of the same persecution

which they had known on political grounds in the old country, and they said to each other, "We came here expecting to find freedom, but here, too, there is persecution."

This first priest, Rev. Ivan Volanski, was a good organizer, and in 1886 he and his parishioners completed the building of a little frame church, the first Greek Catholic church in America. In the next five years, he organized churches in Hazelton, Wilkes

panied by an equally rapid growth in the immigrant church.

At first these churches were under the Roman Catholic bishops, but this arrangement was very difficult for both parties. To the Ukrainian, the Roman church was inseparably associated with the hated Polish domination, even in this country the Roman Catholic bishops being often spoken of as the "Polish bishops"; to the Uhro-Rusin, the Roman church carried the curse of



St. John's the Baptist Greek Cath. Church, Homestead, Pa.

Barre, Scranton, and Jersey City, besides visiting and administering to many small and scattered communities. Finding his parishioners without reading matter, he sent to Galicia for Russian type, and in 1886 commenced the publication of a small newspaper, which he magnanimously called "America." In 1889 an assistant was sent him, shortly afterwards another was needed, and since 1890 the great increase in Ruthenian immigration has been accom-

Magyar domination; while the bishops themselves found their difficulties greatly enhanced by the intrusion of this new and disturbing element, with their different rites and rights. It was therefore a source of mutual satisfaction when the Pope decided to appoint a Greek Catholic bishop for the United States. The Rev. Stephen Soter Ortynsky, a monk of the order of St. Basil, the only order in the Eastern church, was so appointed, and arrived in August,

1907. His status was defined upon his arrival by an apostolic letter, *Ea semper*, which greatly limited his authority, leaving him without jurisdiction, and thus making him virtually an auxiliary to the Latin bishops. It prohibited the rite of confirmation by the priest, and decreed that no more married priests should be ordained here, nor should any more be brought here from abroad.

These restrictions were the occasion of great dissatisfaction, and about 10,000 members went over to the Orthodox church. Most of these, however, came back later, and bishop Ortynsky's skillful handling of the difficult situation resulted in the creation in 1913 of the "Ruthenian Greek Catholic Diocese of the United States" in which he received full episcopal powers. This diocese includes all the Uhro-Rusin and Ukrainian Greek Catholics in the United States, and also the Magyar parishes which were in existence at that time. Greek Catholic parishes of other races, including Magyar parishes organized since 1912, are still under the Latin bishops.

Between the Uhro-Rusins and the Ukrainians there are numerous minor differences of custom, the most important of which is probably the variation in the use of the language; the Ukrainian using a reformed, phonetic spelling, while the Uhro-Rusins cling to the earlier etymological forms. Their sentiment may be appreciated by the English reader who pictures the English Bible as it would look if printed with the extreme reformed spelling used by a few enthusiasts like Andrew Carnegie. Lack of political sympathy between these two branches of the faith is also a cause of divergence, and as a consequence they organize separate churches whenever numbers permit. This is often confusing to the uninformed, as in Pittsburgh, where two Greek Catholic churches of St. John the Baptist stand within a block of each other. A neighboring storekeeper explained, "They are both Russian, but one is a deeper Russian than the other." One is Rusin from Hungary, the other Ukrainian from Galicia.

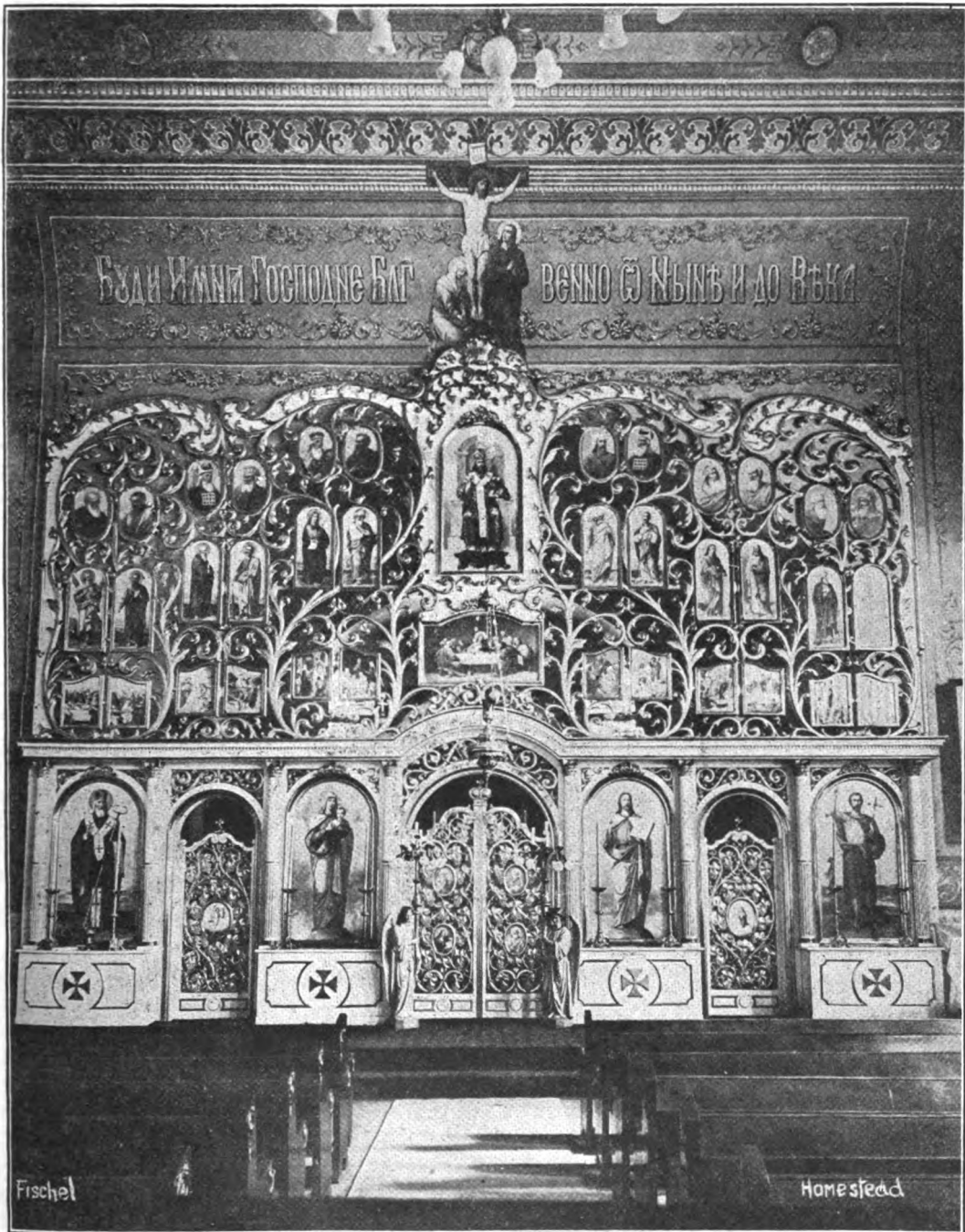
The latest figures give 124 Uhro-Rusin and 100 Ukrainian parishes in the United States, with 500,000 communicants, of whom the Uhro-Rusins are more than half. Bishop Ortynsky died in 1916 and his successor has not yet been appointed. It is

possible that the diocese may be divided and pending the appointment of a bishop diocesan affairs are divided between the Rev. Gabriel Martyak, administrator for the Uhro-Rusins, and the Rev. Peter Poniatisin, administrator for the Ukrainians. The distribution of these churches in the United States is as follows:

State	Uhro-Rusin	Ukrainian
Massachusetts		3
Connecticut	2	5
New Hampshire		1
Rhode Island		1
New York	10	15
New Jersey	8	7
Pennsylvania	78	44
Maryland		3
Ohio	15	2
Delaware		1
Indiana	2	
Michigan	1	3
Illinois	4	3
West Virginia	1	3
Virginia	1	
Minnesota	1	1
Missouri		3
North Dakota		3
Colorado		2
Montana	1	

Many of these churches are fine handsome buildings of the Byzantine style of architecture, conspicuous with their bulbous domes and three-barred crosses. Their interiors follow the Eastern arrangement with slight variations. Pews are provided and the characteristic banners are scattered through the church, supported above the pews by high standards. Because these churches are built by congregations of immigrants who came here poor and who give of their earnings, it is seldom that one is completely furnished at its building. Decoration and equipment are added from year to year, and each addition to the furnishing of the church is an occasion of celebration. The iconostasis, which takes the place of the chancel rail in the Western church, is the most expensive part of the furnishing, costing, when properly constructed and decorated, from \$3,000 to \$10,000 according to the size of the church, and it is therefore usually the final achievement. The minor furnishings, such as crosses and reading desk, are often Hucul mosaics.

The services of the Greek Catholic church are practically identical with those of the



The "Ikonostaz" of St. John's Greek Cath. Church, Homestead, Pa.

Russian Orthodox church, the Old Slavonic being the church language. Anointing with oil is a feature of the service on great feast days, as is also the distribution to non-communicants of the *antidoron*, or blessed bread, in memory of the *agape* or primitive lovefeast. For this purpose five small loaves are blessed at vespers, symbolizing the five loaves which Jesus blessed and with which he fed five thousand people. The services, when well rendered, are very beautiful and impressive. No musical instrument is permitted, but the service is entirely choral and antiphonal throughout, the people being trained to their part from earliest childhood. In some churches the whole congregation takes part in a wonderfully effective unison, in others a trained choir sings the service. The cantor, or musical director, occupies a position of considerable importance, leading the congregation's part in the service, and also teaching the children, to whom he usually gives instruction two hours a day. A thorough musical training is included in preparation for the priesthood, and many of the clergy are accomplished musicians and actively promote the musical organizations which are so large a part of the Slav's cultural contribution to America. The congregations are most devoted and devout. Rapidly as churches have been built, they are still always crowded, and it is no uncommon thing, even on a winter Sunday, to see kneeling on the steps of the church and there following the service, worshippers who could not get even standing room inside.

The clergy include many men of the finest calibre. In the old country they were almost the only educated class and they were the medium through whom the national tradition and ideals were passed on. Many have come to America because of political persecution, which is in itself a certificate of quality, since it is always the able man who is persecuted. In this country they are most unfortunately situated. Among their congregations of uneducated working people, they have no intellectual companionship; they are regarded with coldness, if not with actual hostility, by the Roman Catholic clergy; their acknowledgment of the Pope is a barrier between them and the Protestant communions; and they are constantly on the defensive against the active rivalry of the Russian Orthodox church. Probably no lonelier men live in

America to-day than the Greek Catholic clergy.

The gulf which exists between them and the Roman Catholics has its cause in those characteristics which they have in common with Protestants and Eastern Orthodox, namely the married clergy and the use of the vernacular in the services of the church. The married priest is an offense to the Roman Catholic celibate who has no adequate explanation of this apparent lack of consistency on the part of the Holy See; the priest's children are refused admission to Roman Catholic secondary schools, because of the occupation of their father! A priest whose portrait was published in a group with his five fine sons in Uncle Sam's uniform, was severely censured for permitting such publicity to the fact that priests have sons.

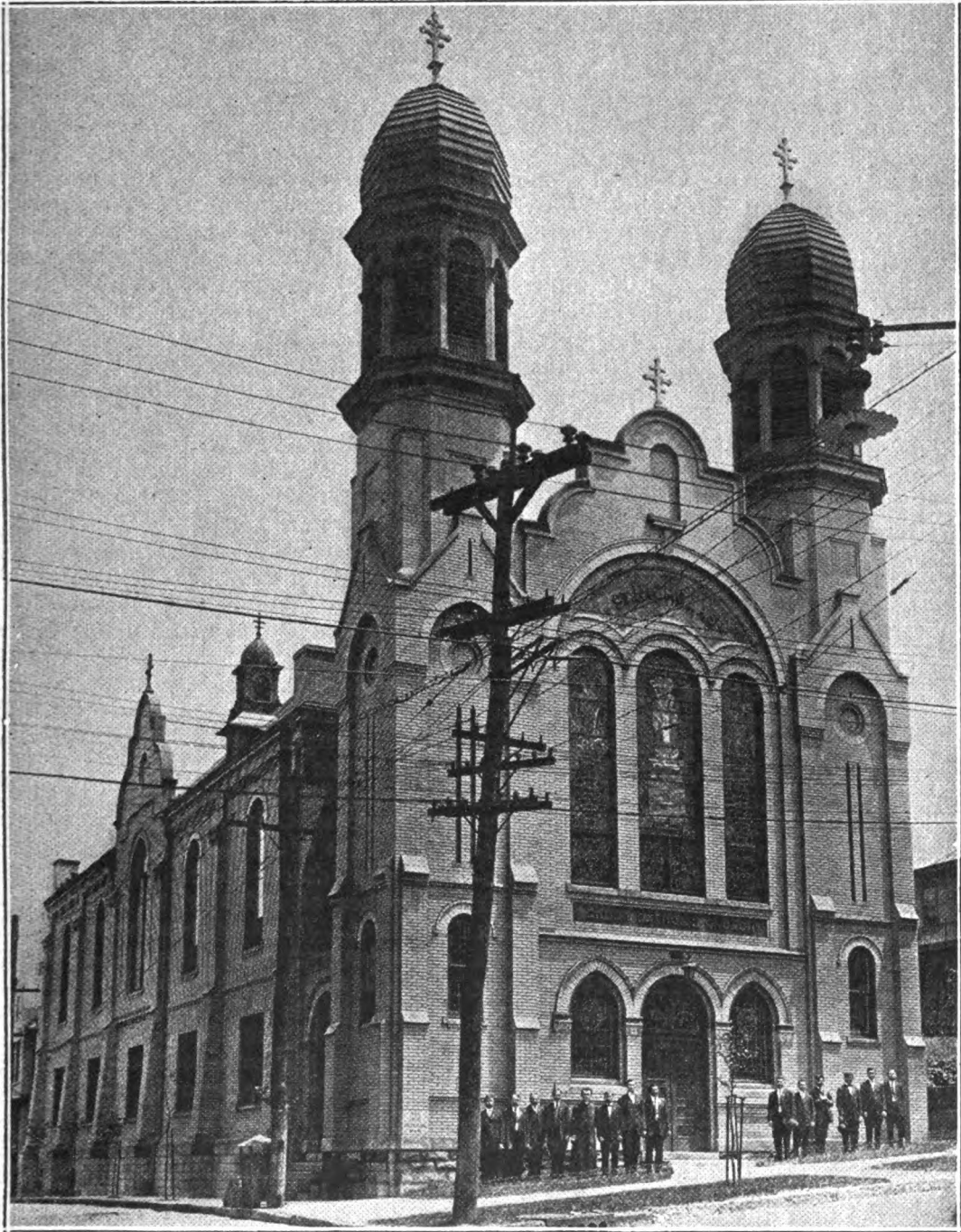
It was decreed in 1907 that no married men should be ordained here, nor should any more come here from abroad. The success of the decree may be judged from the fact that of the present clergy list of 162, there are 111 married priests, 17 are widowers, and 33 celibates, of whom 10 are monks of the order of St. Basil. This is by no means a personal matter only with the clergy. The people are as much in favor of a married clergy as are most Protestants, and the first question of a new appointee is often "Are you married? If not, we don't want you." Besides, it is felt that the attempt to enforce celibacy is an encroachment upon their rights as defined in the terms of union, and that to yield anything of those rights would be to establish a dangerous precedent.

The language of the liturgy is a question not so much of the present as of the future. The terms of union permit the use of the language of the people, of which the Old Slavonic was the accepted church form among the Slavs. The Rumanian Greek Catholics use the Rumanian language in their services, the Magyars changed in 1917 to the Magyar language, and the leaders of the Greek Catholics in the United States look forward to the time when English, being the language of the congregation, will become the language of the church also. To this end prayerbooks, catechism and books of instruction in English are being prepared. At present they are usually printed with one page in English and the opposite

in the Slavonic, although some of the young people already use prayerbooks entirely in English.

The courage, the devotion to a cause, the persistence, the self-sacrifice, the indomit-

able tenacity of the American Greek Catholics, are all qualities which older Americans, must admire. When fully understood, they will certainly lead to general recognition and appreciation.



Rusin Greek Cath. Church, Brownsville, Pa.

International Position of the Czechoslovak Republic

By ALEŠ BROŽ.

To the Czechoslovak Republic the peace treaties of Versailles and Saint Germain signified its international recognition. By them the *de facto* existence of the Czechoslovak State became one *de jure*. The Allies, of course, had already, during the war, recognised the existence of the Czechoslovaks as an independent nation. Now the enemies also were compelled by their total military defeat to recognise the Czechoslovaks. To understand the terrible and tragic meaning of this event for the Germans it is necessary to remember the joy with which they accompanied the first journey of the Berlin-Constantinople express which meant to them the realisation of their long planned Berlin-Bagdad scheme. There is no better proof of the final and total defeat of this scheme than the existence of an independent Czechoslovak State. A glance at the map will show what an obstacle the Czechoslovak Republic constitutes to any future German push towards the East. The remaining few European nations which did not take part in the war, have, also one after the other, recognised the independence of the Czechoslovak State.

The Peace Treaty of Versailles and Saint Germain recognised the territorial integrity of the three old units of the ancient Czech State, namely Bohemia, Moravia and Silesia, with the exception of the Teschen district; moreover Slovakia has been incorporated into the new Czechoslovak State. As the boundaries of the new State apart from Teschen are now definitely fixed, it is possible to make a more accurate estimate of the size of the Czechoslovak territory and the amount of its population.

The Czechoslovak Republic occupies the centre of Europe. It is over 1,000 kilometres in length, but in places hardly 100 kilometres broad. Its elongated form has been increased by the addition of an autonomous Carpathian Rusinia to the east of Slovakia, and this territory makes the Czechoslovak Republic a direct neighbour of Roumania. About a sixth of its whole frontier is with the latter country, about a third being with Poland and the remainder

divided between Hungary, Austria and Germany.

The area of the Czechoslovak Republic may be estimated as between 130,000 and 140,000 square kilometres, no decision having yet been reached as regards the Teschen district and two districts in Slovakia. In point of size the Czechoslovak Republic will occupy a middle position among the European States. Apart from the great powers, its area will be exceeded by Sweden, Norway, Spain, Poland, Roumania and Jugoslavia, while Hungary will be about the same size. But the Czechoslovak State is larger than Denmark, Holland, Belgium, Portugal, Greece, Bulgaria, Switzerland and Austria.

If we consider the numerical strength of its population, the Czechoslovak State assumes a more prominent rank among European countries. We estimate the number of its inhabitants at thirteen to fourteen millions, and it is thus ahead of Finland, Norway, Sweden and Jugoslavia. As regards density of population, Czechoslovakia contains roughly 100 inhabitants per square mile and in this respect it is inferior only to Belgium, Holland, Great Britain and Italy. The density of population in the remaining States is altogether smaller. Thus the corresponding figures in the case of its industrial activities are greater than those of any other state. There are special branches of industry in which it is pre-eminent. Thus it occupies the foremost place in sugar manufacture, while its importance in glass-work is by no means small. In the manufacture of beer it stands third among the European States. The supply of the commodities referred to depends, of course, upon a high standard of agriculture such as exists along the valley of the Labe (Elbe), in Moravia and the south of Slovakia which possesses some of the best soil in Europe. Agriculture is thus able to fill the greater part of home requirements and many products such as oats, barley and hops can be exported.

In the textile and iron industries the conditions are less satisfactory because the

country has to rely upon the import of raw materials from abroad. In particular it will be a long time before Czechoslovak industry will obtain sufficient supplies of wool and cotton, which are imported by means of expensive maritime routes, to keep its factories fully occupied. There is also an inadequate supply of iron ore within the Czechoslovak Republic, and the foundries of Vitkovice have to rely on ore from Sweden.

In many directions a better organization of industry would produce huge profits, especially in the manufacture of furniture, where advantage could be taken of the enormous forest wealth in Czechoslovakia. Of course advance of industry must be supported by means of mineral wealth. In this respect it must be emphasised that if Czechoslovakia retains possession of the Teschen coalfields, its supply of coal is assured, while the loss of this district would be a serious blow to the state.

Until fresh sources of mineral oil are discovered in the Czechoslovak Republic (there is good hope that they will be found in Slovakia), it will depend for this commodity upon foreign countries, especially upon Poland and Roumania. Again, it has to rely for salt upon Austria and Poland. Of gold there is but little, and production of copper is also very insufficient. On the other hand there is a fair supply of silver together with lead and antimony. Mercury is completely lacking.

Much wealth is contained in the mineral water springs of Czechoslovakia and many of these have a world-wide reputation.

If we sum up the economic conditions of the Czechoslovak Republic, we can say that it is one of the richest States in Europe. But its population is too great for its area and it therefore has to depend upon industrial activities. These in their turn are dependent upon the thorough organisation of transport, the zeal of the workers, the foresight of the manufacturer and the skill of the trader. Only a few years of peace are necessary to see that prosperity can flourish in the Czechoslovak territories in a way that few States can rival.

The Czechoslovak Republic is a racially homogeneous State, if we count the Czechs and Slovaks as one nation, as they really are. The Czechoslovaks form more than three-quarters of the whole population. The

national minorities composed of Germans and Magyars and numbering about three millions will be granted full linguistic and civil rights. The Rusins living in the North-Eastern part of Slovakia who at their own wish were assigned by the Paris Peace Conference to the Czechoslovak State will enjoy local autonomy.

Whatever may be thought of the Peace Treaties of Versailles and Saint Germain, as far as the Czechoslovak Republic is concerned, they are on the whole just and fully compatible with President Wilson's fourteen points and with the principles of self-determination. There are, of course, sceptics and pessimists who viewed with alarm the breaking up of the Habsburg Monarchy and who cannot believe that the new condition of affairs in Central Europe can endure. Moreover there are those who regard the present structure of Central Europe as being, "Balkanised", by the use of which term they imply a permanent danger to European peace. Their reasoning may be summed up as follows: In the place of Austria-Hungary which, despite all its faults, represented a coherent economic activity, a number of small antagonistic States have been created whose jealousy will endanger the future stability of the Continent. Therefore, it is argued, some political organism resembling the former Dual Monarchy must be set up.

First of all, it is out of the question to restore anything resembling former Austria-Hungary, for neither the Czechoslovaks nor the Jugoslavs have the slightest sympathy with such a proceeding. No less an authority than President Masaryk expressed himself against the idea of a Danubian Federation in an interview with a representative of the "Tribune de Geneve" in the following terms:

"People who today still believe that we would create a federative union with Austrians and Magyars merely show that they cannot deduce the logical consequences of the war. No," he said, "we cannot bind ourselves towards our neighbours. The Danubian Confederation, a political Alliance of States, established on the territory of Austria-Hungary, would be nothing else than a renewal of the late dualistic Empire. We are well satisfied with the freedom we have at length obtained to think of resuming our chains. We shall never indulge in such a policy. It is, of course, necessary

for the new states to come to an agreement in economic matters. We are on the best of terms with Roumania, Jugoslavia and Poland, we shall need each other's help, and mutual trust is fundamentally in our own interests. As regards Austrians and Magyars, we should like to establish a basis for friendly relations with them, but that depends exclusively upon them."

Even the Viennese Social Democratic "Arbeiter Zeitung" does not believe in a Danubian Federation, for it recently stated that all ideas relating to such an arrangement are nothing but a childish utopia.

Leaving aside the utter practical impossibility of a Danubian Federation, let us see whether Central Europe in its present form is really "Balkanised," and whether it constitutes a greater danger to future peace than the old Hapsburg Monarchy.

There is no "Balkanisation" of Central Europe in the proper sense of the term. The creation of the national states does not in itself entail "Balkanisation." On the contrary, the revival of old historical units such as Poland and Czechoslovakia, and the completion of the national unity of other states such as Roumania, Jugoslavia, by the incorporation of their irredentist minorities, have not Balkanised, but rather debalkanised the whole of Central Europe. It has obliterated the Austro-Hungarian anomaly, which could not hold together any longer. Moreover the new outlook in Central Europe implies nothing else than the logical application of the principles of self-determination which constituted one of the primary war-aims of the Allies.

The existence of such unnatural organisms as Austria-Hungary and Turkey was, indeed, a permanent menace to the peace of Europe. The Habsburg Monarchy was incompatible with the people's right to self-determination. It was a "survival of medieval times" as President Masaryk once remarked. For excepting the Germans and Magyars who predominated, all the other nations, whether Czechoslovaks, Poles, Roumanians or Jugoslavs, numbering in the aggregate about 30 millions, were longing to break away from it, and no force could have kept them permanently under the foreign yoke.

These 30 millions are now living in freedom under their own national sovereignty. But owing to their secession, the formerly

predominant Austro-Germans are, no doubt, placed in a relatively unfavourable economic position, inasmuch as they, especially in Vienna, had grown accustomed to living at the expense of the wealth and industry of the subject races. Hence their complaint that their position is intolerable. It is, nevertheless, a fact that the existence of Austria-Hungary through the centuries as such has left many economic interests and ties among the nations once composing it. A close economic co-operation, such as is outlined in the above—quoted interview with President Masaryk, is therefore desirable. An economic co-operation among the Czechoslovaks, Jugoslavs and Roumanians appears to have been already arranged for, and if the Austrians and Magyars will renounce their claim to preferential treatment, not one of the former Austro-Hungarian nations will be found unwilling to co-operate with them.

In, order, however, to prevent any possible "Balkanisation" of Central Europe the policy of the great European Powers should consist in facilitating the consolidation of the new states, while suppressing the principal causes of disagreement among them; in helping those states by every possible form of economic and moral support to ease their internal difficulties and arrive at a peaceful solution of their differences on a sound economic and ethnographic basis. Moreover, it is necessary to inspire the new states with a common political idea and to rally them around a new central organism which must be logical and carefully conceived.

In order to carry out all these plans, it will, of course, be necessary to discover a really practical basis of action. This must be looked for among such of the new states as by virtue of their geographical position, economic resources, stability of administration, and their high degree of civilisation would be best capable of constituting the pivot of the Central European group. The Czechoslovaks who by their attitude during the war have proved their capacity to become perhaps the strongest factor in new Central Europe, will form the nucleus for a large conglomeration of states extending from Danzig to Matapan and capable of acting as a powerful barrier against an aggressive Germany, as well as against the possible development of disintegrating forces from the East.

The Jewish Question

By Dr. EDWARD LEDERER.

(Concluded)

Masaryk with a small circle of like-minded men made a determined fight against this superstition; having examined in his usual thorough manner both the question of ritual murder and the circumstances of the Polná murder he laid before the Czech public a clear proof of the absurdity of the superstition. The anger of the people was then turned against Masaryk and his party; in the end, however, the champion of justice gained victory. The excitement passed away, and social and political conditions recovered after the anti-Jewish fever. Nevertheless, this affair had a lasting effect on the Jewry of the Hapsburg Empire.

If we cannot trace the rise of Zionism directly to the Hilzner affair, it can be at least said that its growth was thereby accelerated and strengthened. It becomes necessary at this point to discuss this Jewish movement; but in order to do that we must take note of developments in the German Empire, the birth-place of German nationalistic and racial anti-semitism based, as one expects from the Germans, on their well-known scientific methods.

In Germany the growing imperialism had need of a war cry of national superiority and divine mission so as to inculcate in the German people the conviction that the age-long *Drang nach Osten*—more recently a push into all corners of the world—is the natural, historical mission of the German nation. German imperialism did not find a home merely in the shadow of the Hohenzollern tree; it had penetrated into the head and heart of nearly every German through the instrumentality of the school and the barracks, science and pulpit, literature and music and fine arts.

Marx who is called the father of the International was just as passionate Pangerman as any Hohenzollern, Prof. Mommsen, the great historian of Rome, shared Pangerman ideals with Bismarck, Richard Wagner, the composer, agreed with Adolf Wagner, professor of political economy who in 1870 was among the foremost and first advocates of annexation of Alsace-Lorraine.

After 1871 this national megalomania knew no limits, it became an insane faith. What more was needed, except a proof of German racial superiority and special mission?

Count Gobineau wrote in 1854 his "*Essai sur l'inégalité des races humaines.*" He, a Frenchman and a nobleman, flattered the Germans as a specially gifted race. German scholars found his work most remarkable, and it became a text of innumerable books and pamphlets. A flood of newspaper articles spread the good tidings of German superiority over all other nations, above all their Slav neighbors. And the most zealous apostles of this new gospel were German-Jewish journalists. Their colleagues in Hungary applied this doctrine to Hungary and its nations by spreading the doctrine of the special mission of the Magyar nation. The logical conclusion of this doctrine was plain: denationalization of non-German and non-Magyar nations, whatever may be the means used, is in the interest of higher culture, therefore in the interest of those denationalized, in the interest of humanity itself.

But the German Michel cannot be charged with lack of thoroughness. When he believes, he believes blindly and deduces from his faith all the consequences. He is superior by being born a German, called to rule others, elevated above the Slavs who are of lesser worth, above the degenerate Latins, perfidious Anglosaxons, kinsmen to be sure, but given to pursuit of gold instead of following lofty idealism like the Germans. But is not German idealism endangered by the Semites who know nothing but despicable pursuit of wealth and in their debased materialism can have no conception of German idealism and its historical mission?

Michel who likes to have all his opinions properly authenticated by science had science furnish him the necessary arguments against the Jews. Germany has a wealth of universities, professors and instructors, printing shops and paper. German science demonstrated to Michel promptly that the Jew—Semite—is a worse

enemy of the pure-blooded Aryan—German—than the Slav; nay, the more does the Jew put on the appearance of patriotic German, the more dangerous is he. Not only from the standpoint of race! The Slav at least worships the same God as the German, the God of love, whereas the Jew knows only his God of vengeance, who is inferior compared with Jesus Christ, just as the Semite is inferior compared with the Aryan German.

Prejudice grew, when German science uncovered the secrets of Talmud which—so it was claimed—millions of Jews had heretofore cleverly hidden, secrets declaring a war of extermination by the Jews against the Christians and culminating in direct inculcation of ritual murder. Eisenmenger of the 18th century found an imitator in Prof. Rohling of the 19th. Is not all Jewry the world over in reality a secret society aiming at the subjugation of the Christian world and its culture, the highest flower of which is the German Kultur?

In 1882, seventeen years before the Polná affair a similar sensation occurred in Hungary in Tisza-Eszlar. A Christian girl of fourteen years, named Esther Solymossi, disappeared and was said to have become a victim of Jewish ritual murder. A few years after the Polná mystery a similar story was concocted in Prussia over the killing of a young student by name of Winter. German science was ever ready to prove the crime to have been ritual murder, and Czech anti-semitic press, chiefly clerical, swallowed the learned accounts with avidity.

However, the glory of such science did not last long. Normal conditions were re-established, Slavs grew stronger and held their own against German-Magyar pressure, their cultural and economic wealth increased; in the Hapsburg realm everyone realized that the artificial dualism was bound to collapse sooner or later, and in the Bohemian lands national consciousness, and with it Czech-Jewish movement, acquired strength. The years 1897 and 1899 were being forgotten; there was a rapprochement between Christians and Jews in the Czech lands. Social relations between them were growing better. There was hardly a city or town without Jewish membership in the council, and even in villages this was not unusual. In other autonomous corporations, in all societies, even those of

the most pronounced national character like Sokols, Jews were members. There were no entertainments or celebrations in which the Jews would not participate as arrangers or at least guests, and this not merely in purely Czech territory, but also among Czech minorities in Germanized parts of Bohemia.

As against that the German anti-semite was very reserved and narrow-minded in his relations with the Jew. He would not receive the Jew into his purely German societies, boycotted him socially not merely in districts where Germanism was in full control, as in the north of Bohemia, but even where the Jews with great generosity helped to support German minorities. So it was for example in Prague, where the Jews furnished scholars for the many German schools from the common grades to the university and polytechnic, supported the German theater and other German cultural institutions. The same thing is true of Pilsen and Budějovice, Brno, Olomouc and other Moravian cities. In many such cities German minority managed to retain control of the city hall only through the help of the Jews and by artificial franchise restrictions.

Such a situation furnished food for reflection to the best of the Jews who had been brought up as Germans and looked upon themselves as German. How much the Jews had done for Germanism! It was not a question of political support only; but how many great Jewish authors, scientists, artists, journalists, actors, how many talented financiers and political economists have contributed richly to the cultural and material wealth of the German nation, even long before the Jews received the rights of citizens; how great a number of Jewish enthusiasts in the cause of Germany's greatness fell in the war of 1870-1871.

This was German gratitude! There was bitterness in the heart of many German-Jews, when they saw themselves turned down by their fellow-Germans, because they lacked baptismal certificate; they were not allowed to participate in the joys and sorrows of the nation which they served faithfully, far more faithfully than many of those Christian Germans who could only yell: Hurrah for Germania.

This feeling of bitterness breaking out at first only in occasional complaints and

charges finally found qualified spokesmen. In the Hapsburg realm these spokesmen were two authors and journalists who both happened to be on the staff of the Vienna *Neue Freie Presse*. This was a journal which by its boundless anti-Slav and particularly anti-Czech agitation, by its lack of morality and by its support of German and Magyar nationalistic imperialism incurred great responsibility for the fall of the Danube Monarchy of which it had claimed to be the greatest supporter.

Theodore Herzl and Max Nordau, both authors of wide reputation, became the creators of central European Zionism. Both were born in Budapest, Nordau in 1849, Herzl in 1860; at that time Budapest was still very largely a German city. Both these men were thus by education and sentiment Germans and became Jewish nationalists only after German racial anti-semitism in Austria grew violent and communicated from German fellowship all those who could not produce baptismal certificate or were willing to swear to the divine mission of the pagan-Aryan race. Nordau through journalism, Herzl more through poems, gave expression to the pain which thousands of hearts of their German-Jewish fellows felt. Herzl depicted this bitterness in a drama "Das neue Ghetto", and his Zionistic plan he brought out in an essay "Der Judenstaat" in 1896, in which he sees the only solution of the Jewish question in the establishment of a separate Jewish state in Palestine. In his novel "Alt-Neuland" written in 1902 he describes the visionary Jewish state, as it splendidly flourishes twenty years after its foundation.

Of course it is an Utopia. But what Utopia would not at this time find its believers and apostles. Zionism was thus launched in Austria and found adherents principally in German and Polish districts. With the Czech-Jewish assimilation movement it came early into conflict, but it did not affect its strength.

Then came the world war. The entire population of the civilized world was thereby astounded, but it may be safely said that of the Hapsburg subjects the Jews were most completely without bearings. They who through age-long traditions of the Ghetto developed such strong sensitiveness to happenings in the world of intellect, especially in the sphere of political economy and art, were veritable illiterates in poli-

tics. The average Jew is known to be an industrious and thorough reader of newspapers, but only of his own papers. He will believe everything his own journal tells him, because he found it very reliable in business matters; surely it could not be fallible in politics.

His journal preached every day that the rulers of the Central Powers wished nothing except to secure to humanity perpetual peace, but that there was danger from the decadent French, the insatiable British and the barbarous Russia which is in alliance with them. Woe to humanity, should these states win, and with them their small allies; woe to the Jews, should the white czar with his Cossacks invade the soil of Austria. Russian pogroms would be insignificant in comparison with pogroms which the Cossacks and other Russian savages were preparing against the Jews who live under the double-headed Hapsburg eagle.

This consternation fell even upon a large part of Czech Jews. With their German daily which they had read for its carefully compiled financial section they ran now from neighbor to neighbor, looking forward to the future with anxiety. Suppose the Germans and Magyars are defeated; no need to regret that, for they have been parasites on the labor of the Czechoslovaks. But will not the czar then come with his Cossacks and slaughter the Jews?

Their German fellow-believers sized up the situation much more simply; they were German nationalists, in fact they wanted to prove that they were good Germans by being super-German fanatics. And Zionists, too, forgot German-Aryan superiority; they welcomed every official report announcing victory, for to them defeat of the Entente meant primarily defeat of Russia, liberation of five million Jews from czarist barbarism and the establishment of the Palestinian state under the protection of the two German dynasties. They could see nothing for the Jews except open adherence to the German side; why, out of 14 million Jews about ten use the Yiddish which is substantially German dialect.

Today German Zionist literature written during the war is kept carefully hidden as much as possible. It would not be wise to recall unpleasant memories at a time, when the victorious Entente is building in Paris if not an independent Jewish state, at

least a Palestinian home for the Jews. Undoubtedly, too, the leading men among German Zionists were honest in their adherence to the cause of the Central Empires during the war in the interest of their own cause; and besides they were convinced that the Germans would be victorious.

What was taking place in the meantime in the minds of the great majority of the Czech nation and of those Slovaks who had a developed national consciousness and remained faithful to their nation? That is impossible to describe; it can only be likened to the terror which gripped the Romans under the rule of their insane emperors.

The entire Czechoslovak and Yugoslav nations were under military control. Every word uttered by a Slav could be used as pretext for a charge of high treason. No one could be sure that he would not be in jail before the day was over. Conscripts were sent to the front like cattle to the slaughter house. Non-participation in enforced loyalty demonstrations was prosecuted as criminal. Czechs of Prague clinched their fists and kept watch over their tongues, while the German minority made "patriotic" demonstrations in the streets, and in these demonstrations the German-Jewish youth took a prominent part.

Indignation was intensified by the fact that silence had to be preserved. A German Jew denounced a well-known Czech lawyer for his harmless remark about soldiers departing for the front, and the anger of the silent Czech people was boiling over. A rumor was spread of thousands of denunciations made by Jews against the Czechs, and although it was untrue it was believed in throughout the war.

The whole German press of the Hapsburg Empire raged against the Slavs, but the Czech public cherished particular hatred against the German-Jewish press. All Germans and Magyars, their educated and semi-educated classes, and the workmen as well, raged against the Czechoslovak nation, but nothing worked up Czech public opinion so much as the behavior of the various Benedicts and Kisches who led the German-Jewish press. Shortly before the overthrow of Austrian rule accusations were widely spread that thousands of Jews asked permission to assume Czech names

and that they chose mostly names of famous men of the nation.

How are we to explain this peculiar anti-Jewish hatred? Apparently the psychological foundation of it lay in the following reasoning: Only two or three generations ago, you, Jews, were enslaved, and now so many of you side with the oppressors! Then again the people saw only the acts of the Austrian-minded Jews and ignored thousands of other Czech Jews who suffered under Austrian police rule equally with the entire Czech nation. Whatever the reason, Czech anti-semitism was kindled, fed on unjust sweeping charges and awaited the day of vengeance.

Came the revolution, and anti-semitism heretofore kept under cover by the pressure of the Austrian rule now dominated public sentiment.

It cannot be said that riots that took place in some cities of the Czechoslovak Republic were exclusively due to the hatred of the Jews. Hunger and occasional manifestations of Bolshevism were contributing causes, for some Christian stores were plundered as well. But some of the newspapers began to publish as a regular feature anti-semitic charges in a highly objectionable form. Among the loudest Jew-baiters were some journalists and writers who under the Austrian regime were particularly careful to keep their mouths shut.

Anti-Jewish sentiment among the masses of the people was increasing during the first few months after the revolution. But this was not so among leaders who realized their responsibilities. Our president remained faithful to his noble record as an apostle of humanity. In his first presidential message he laid emphasis on friendly co-operation of all citizens regardless of religious and racial differences. The cabinet followed his example; it is enough to point out that in the ministry are two members of Jewish descent and that several prominent Jewish experts were given important posts under the government.

But anti-semitic press could not be prevented from troubling public opinion, for freedom of press is guaranteed under the republic. Fortunately already there are signs that the influence of this anti-Jewish agitation is growing less.

The average Czech gets soon tired of reiterated charges that are too general in

character and are never substantiated; he has enough intelligence to observe what is going on around him and who makes a business of patriotism. For anti-semitism is not a movement based on a great idea; it is generalizing hatred which shouts the more, the less real evidence it has. It is a step back into barbarism which may for a time sweep the masses off their feet, but cannot retain them under its baneful influence. Today Czech anti-semitism is moribund; it may assume the guise of a-semitism for a while, and then it will expire, as I believe, for good.

I base my optimistic judgment on the real good nature of the Czech people and the desire of the Jew for lasting rest. For a transformation is going on in his soul; he has realized that nationalist zeal of German Jew and Magyar Jew did not save him from injustice, and that for the future his place must be on the side of those who are wronged and not those who commit the wrong; he will never again be found among the jingoes. But what about the Zionists? Is their movement in the Czechoslovak Republic breaking up? On the contrary they gained many supporters after the revolution, especially in Moravia and Slovakia from the ranks of those Jews who want to be no longer Germans or Magyars, and cannot be Czechs or Slovaks by reason of their upbringing and political past. These men will be full of enthusiasm for a Palestinian state, will contribute to various Zionist funds, but they will not go themselves to Palestine. The final outcome, however, must be that children of the present Zionists will succumb to Czech environment—most of them in the first and second generation, while in Slovakia the completion of the process may extend into the third generation.

That does not mean that Zionism lacks an ethical foundation. In it humanity protests against insults based on difference of religion and descent. But this is after all negative; Zionism, at any rate in Western Europe, is merely a reaction against anti-semitism. Whether that will be sufficient for creative activity remains to be seen. Perhaps Zionism will create in Palestine a new culture of a new tongue out of various new ethnical elements, and will call it the re-born culture of the old Hebrew nation. There is no need to discuss that. Even if a new culture is created, only the

Palestinian Jew will have a part in it, and not Jews living outside of Palestine, especially those of Western Europe.

In this connection we should notice instructive figures given in a statistical essay of Dr. Felix Theilhaber; he attempts to prove by them that Jews in Germany will become fused in the mass of the German people, unless Zionism saves them. But it will not accomplish that either in the West or in our Republic. They are fusing into one body with the rest of the citizenship, to their own benefit and to the benefit of the nation whose members they feel themselves to be. Neither anti-semitism nor Zionism can prevent it.

Whatever may be the differences in our Bohemian lands between the Jews and their Christian fellow-citizens, flocks of Jewish refugees from Galicia who during the war flooded the Bohemian lands convinced all unprejudiced observers that the difference between the Jew of Bohemia and the Jew of Poland is far greater than between the Czech Jew and Czech Christian. The Czech-Jewish assimilation movement has been in existence only forty years and so many obstacles were placed in its way; and yet what a large number of Jews have already had a part in the new Czech culture, whether they were gained over directly through the influence of this movement or fused with the national organism simply through their Czech environment.

Let me name here, beside Siegfried Kapper, Dr. Zucker, late professor of criminal law in the Czech University of Prague, Dr. Arnost Kraus, professor of Germanic languages in the same school, Dr. Victor Vohryzek who died in the fall of 1918, a physician and a philosopher, the deepest thinker of the Czech-Jewish movement, who searched for a synthesis of Jahvism and the Gospel, Dr. Bohdan Klinenberger, lawyer and philosopher, Vojta Rakous who described in bright colors the life of old country Jews, journalists Mor. Schonbaum, Penížek, Hlaváč; of the younger men Dr. Otto Guth, Dr. Victor Teyta, Otto Fisher, essayist Dr. Jindřich Kohn, musical critic Dr. Lowenbach, educator Dr. Karel Veleminský, Jindřich Fleischner, author of engineering works, Dr. Eugen Stern, author of social studies, Dr. Alfred Meissner, member of National Assembly and his brother Dr. Emil Meissner, author of books on commercial law. Among the younger authors

and poets we find Richard Weiner, Dr. Otakar Fischer, Dr. Frant. Langer and a host of other talented men. As far as the activity of Czech Jews in other fields is concerned, it must be said that in commerce and industry they belong in large numbers to the leading men of our Republic, and that among them are some persons of such size that they must soon assume significant places in public life.

If under the Austrian regime clericalism was the hotbed of antisemitism, under the republic clericalism at least lost all governmental support. Thus anti-semitism loses its strongest root. During the Austro-Hungarian rule Jews in the Bohemian lands fell under the influence of Germanism and in Slovakia were protagonists of Magyarization. Today the Jews of the Republic will be faithful to the nationality to which they are inclined by sentiment and education. They will surely no longer stand against the efforts of the Czechoslovak nation. Even chauvinists will have no fault to find with the Czech Jews in the future, and thus another strong root of anti-semitism will fall away.

Leaving the old churches will be now easier and more common, after there is separation of church and state. In the schools there will be introduced training in religious morality which will unite scholars of all confessions, whereas the present ecclesiastical instruction in religion brought in difference of religion from the first days of primary school. Civil marriage will make easier mixed unions and social relations of re-united society will make such marriages more common.

Finally cultural and economic efficiency of the Jewry in our Republic is such that the Jews are sure to attain whatever they go after. So far Jews in our Republic have brought forth no genius, if we except the great composer Mahler who by training was a German. But they are great consumers of culture, lovers of books, music, theater and patrons of that domestic luxury which sustains fine arts.

Such qualities make it inevitable that they secure recognition everywhere, where rough demagogy is not supreme, wherever there is an atmosphere of national tolerance and world-wide view.



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Masaryk's "The Spirit of Russia"

By PROF. ŠÁRKA B. HRBKOVÁ.

Within the last six years, thousands of books have been written on and about Russia. Everybody who ever looked through a car window over its broad steppes, everyone who had a veneer of knowledge of some names in Russian history or literature, everyone who mayhap as a Red Cross or Triangle man learned the meaning of 'spasivo' or 'nichevo' even though he got no farther in the mastery of the Slavic tongue, undertook to tell the world all about Russia. American journalists — male and female — who well knew the reading public back home expected the bizarre and the startling from Russia forthwith perpetrated in their reports, based on the most superficial knowledge of pre-war Russia, such inanities — beg pardon — one almost said asinities — as would provoke to laughter the obscurest *mužik* if he knew the stupidities set down about him and his country. But the books written by these shallow and cursory observers were issued in ruddy and shrieking colors and what was mainly to the point with their writers and publishers — they sold. The public bought, read and after reading knew really less than it did before about Russia, for it had devoured the writings of individuals who were either uninformed or misinformed or both.

That the first comprehensive series of studies of Russian History, Literature and Philosophy should have emanated from a representative of one of the little Slavic nations which had been accustomed to look on Russia as the 'big brother' who would succor all the other Slavic lands some day, is not only significant, it is prophetic. Natives of that little land of Czechoslovakia for the past six years have been valiantly helping the "big brother" to help himself against a world of woes.

In the gathering of the material for "The Spirit of Russia" Prof. Thomas G. Masaryk undoubtedly spent years of indefatigable, conscientious labor, though he states that the pith of the work was first delivered by him in a course of lectures at the University of Chicago in 1902, under the auspices of the Charles R. Crane foundation. It was a labor trebly valuable, for on it was brought to bear all the energy of a trained scholar who had a thorough and intimate knowledge of every world movement, every philosophy whether sweeping or minute in its scope and action, since the beginning of time.

When one has read Masaryk's work, one appreciates more than ever the truth that no one country or people can be studied effectively without a broad understanding of every other land or nation, for no nation liveth unto itself just as truly as no man liveth unto himself. And

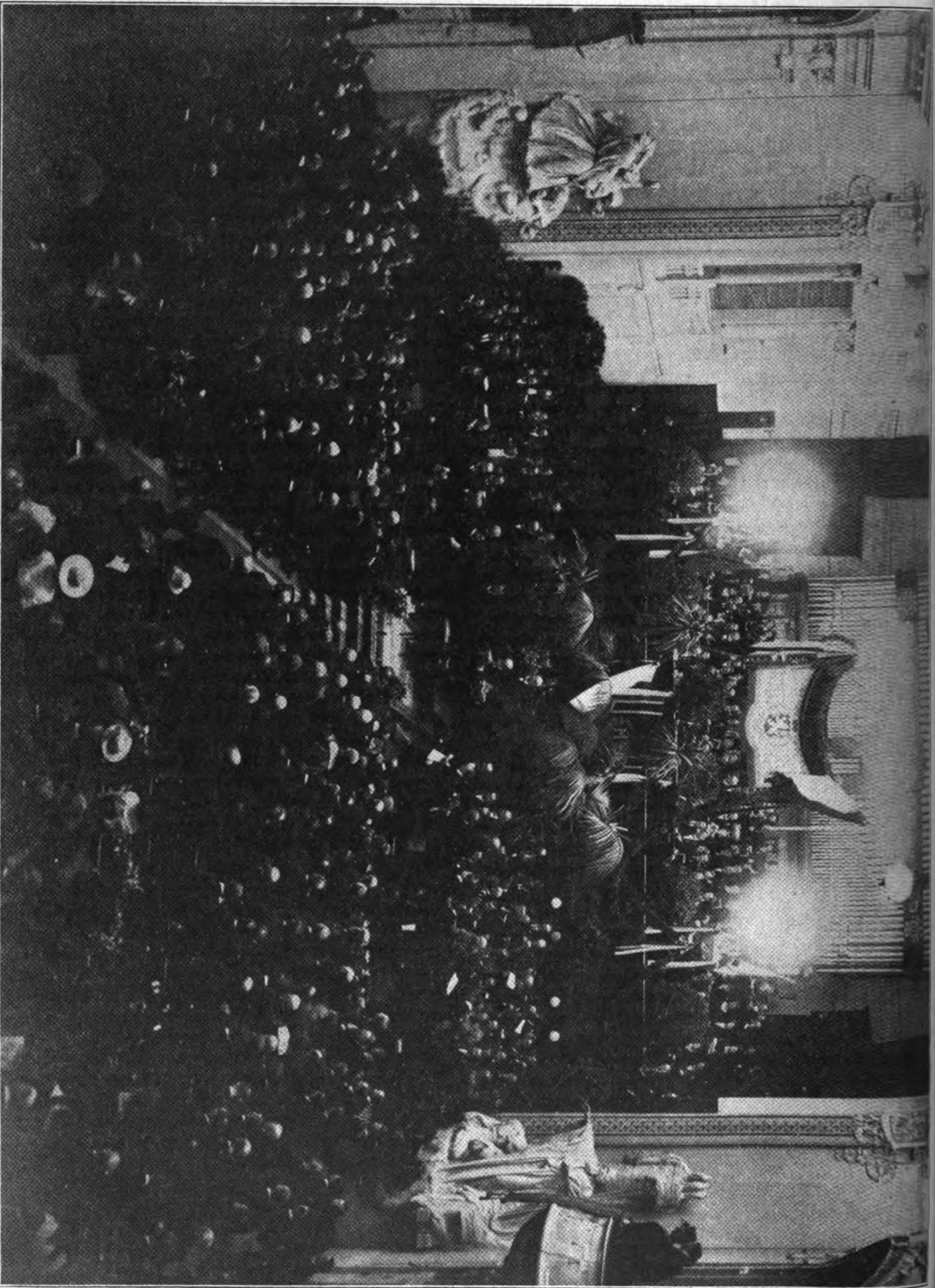
so to know what swayed Russian writers, thinkers and moulders of national aspirations, it is necessary to understand how the philosophies of the Western world reacted on a civilization struggling with the handicaps of climate, vast distances, Mongol hordes, theocracy, monarchical absolutism, serfdom, pan-German political philosophy and all the ills attendant and developing from these facts and factors.

It is essential to know, as Masaryk has shown us in his monumental work, how Russians accepted or developed the principles of Mills, Hegel, Comte, Kant, Fichte, Hume, Nietzsche, Schopenhauer, Spencer, Lasalle, Marx, Darwin, Voltaire, Rousseau and Feuerbach.

Again, for one who wishes to discuss Russia and its present day crisis with intelligence, it is indispensable to have an acquaintance with the rise and growth of the family and village communities — the *Zadruga* and the *Mir*, — the Duma, the importance of the period of Peter the Great, of czarism, the political and philosophical revolution under Catherine II. and Nicholas I., terrorism, Westernism and Slavophilism, Nihilism, Mysticism, Anarchism and Socialism. The peculiar aspects of these "isms" under the special conditions which they encountered in Russia are all shown in an enlightening manner by Prof. Masaryk who indicates to what extent each theory was inaugurated, advocated, abridged or broadened by such leaders of Russian thought as Speranski, Čadaev, Bakunin, Bělin-skii, Herzen, Černyševskii, Mihailovskii, Solov'ev, Tolstoi, Turgenev, Kropotkin and Dostoevskii.

Most significant is the statement of Prof. Masaryk that "an analysis of Dostoevskii is a sound method of studying Russia". Dostoevskii's conception of Nihilism as a desire for new life by new men was a fruitful subject of discussion with him. Hostile to all needless formalities, "Nihilism", says Masaryk, "was the most radical emancipator of the Russian woman... The nihilist felt proud of his contrast with the aristocrat; he was class conscious; he was in revolt against oppression, theoretically at first, but before long practically, ethically and politically as well... nevertheless, the nihilist above all loved Russia, in his own peculiar manner; he loved in Russia that which seemed to him lovable and sacred."

Not only the type — Russian, Dostoevskii, reveals the spirit of his home land, but innumerable authors are cited as exponents of national thought. The author shows how novels, like Turgenev's "Fathers and Sons" and Černyševskii's "What is to be done?" in which the figures of Bagarov and Rahmetov, respectively



Masaryk Delivers Independence Day Message to National Assembly, October 28.

stand forth as models of "the correct and genuine incorporation of nihilism", influenced the Russian reading public and through it the masses. The so-called national Russian disease "Oblomovstchina" is spoken of in connection with Dobrolyubov who writing of Gončarov's "Oblomov", describes Oblomovism as "the issue of the old Russian darkness, but the errors were those of one already struggling towards the light." Oblomov was the representative of the liberal nobles, inactive but longing for activity, "superfluous persons".

Černyševskii who was a consistent fighter for the liberation of Russian women from "the yoke of so-called patriarchy" in order to make them into "thinking beings" makes his hero answer Věra's reproach of him for his theory of national egoism thus "The hand that holds the lancet must not flinch, for mere sympathy will not do the patient any good. This theory is prosaic, but it reveals the true motive of life, and only in the truth of life is poetry found." In this quotation which Masaryk approves, he reveals his own convictions. One involuntarily recalls how Masaryk courageously and unflinchingly took a stand against the authenticity of the Queenscourt Manuscripts and, so to speak, cut out the cancer of a lie which would have gnawed at the very vitals of Czech literature had the "Question of the Manuscripts" remained unchallenged.

Again and again in commenting on the lives and principles of the Russian theorists, the author reveals his own ideas unreservedly and we get his philosophy with a vividness that explains, why Masaryk is himself the key to an understanding of the Czechoslovaks, just as he indicates that Dostoevskii is the key to Russia.

His comment is noteworthy with respects to Herzen's theory, that society, like the individual, can overleap one or several stages of development, and that Russia need not develop organically, need not, that is to say, traverse all the stages of European development. Russia can take over as a heritage all the desirable acquisitions of European evolution, just as Russia has introduced railways, though she did not herself discover them. Of these theories Masaryk disposes briefly thus, "It must be admitted that the analogy is a lame one, and that it displays the *mir* in a light which makes that institution seem anything but suitable to the socialism of the future."

Běhinskii, too, had declared that "Russia often found it necessary to do in five years what the West had taken fifty years to accomplish."

To this Masaryk replies "The truth of the assertion is questionable; and in so far as it is true, it merely indicates a lack of steadfastness and diligence." That the "grasping at the summits" or any other method will make it possible for Russia to "skip certain stages of historical development, to pass without transition from a low stage to a much higher one," Masaryk denies. He says,

"Against the original sin of passivity it is continually necessary to guard by the encouragement of activity, steadfastness and diligence. The task for the critical Russian thinker is, starting from what actually exists, to promote the attainment of the desirable aims by a process of organic development."

When Marx discarded ethics, Černyševskii did not abandon morality, desiring rather to give ethics a "serious scientific foundation."

Masaryk's own prodigious energy and unexampled diligence is indirectly communicated to his readers in his indictment of Černyševskii for not accomplishing more in a literary way while incarcerated in Siberia, where he had the time and the facilities for valuable work, being constantly furnished with books and publications by his friends in Russia and Europe.

One of the Americans in the Czechoslovak Legion which fought in France related to the writer that when he was transferred to Prague, he was delegated to stand as night sentry near the building in which resided President Masaryk of the new Republic. It was not unusual, he said, to see the President at work until two or three o'clock into the morning. The immensity and permanence of the work accomplished by this rightly chosen leader of the Czechoslovak people is a challenge not only to his brother Slavs, the Russians, but to all nations to encourage "activity, steadfastness, diligence."

From the last page of his remarkably clarifying study of the philosophy peculiar to the Russians who are always agitating the questions "Whither? and What is to be done?" we make this quotation. "The study of the Europeanisation of Russia, expanding as it does into a study of reciprocal cultural influence, suggests numerous and extremely interesting problems. The study of Russia will give the sociologist a clearer insight into the problem of cultural mutuality and cultural unification, a problem that is of such profound importance to human evolution."

When one considers that Masaryk's deductions and foreshadowings from the treasure house of rich literary and historical material which he has assembled in the thousand odd pages of this work were made previous to the beginning of the World War, the book having been published originally in 1912, we marvel, though we should not, knowing his keen penetrative method, at the accuracy and completeness of his diagnosis of Russia's condition. For the reader who wishes a liberal education not only in things Russian, but in the progressive thought of the world, there is no work more fit for unqualified endorsement than Masaryk's "The Spirit of Russia."

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The Spirit of Russia, studies in History, Literature and Philosophy, By Thomas Garrigue Masaryk, First President of the Czechoslovak Republic. Translated by Eden and Cedar Paul. Two Volumes 1919. The Macmillan Company, New York.

Šrobár Describes Situation in Slovakia

At a conference of Slovak members of the National Assembly with the district prefects, held at Košice in Eastern Slovakia on November 15, Dr. Vávro Šrobár, minister with full power for Slovakia, addressed the conference as follows:

I desire to speak to you briefly on the general political, cultural and economic situation. Recently three significant events took place in our state. It is first of all the ratification of the treaty of Versailles, next the enthusiastic celebration of October 28, first anniversary of our republic, marred by no untoward happenings anywhere in our territory. And finally there is the important message of our beloved president Masaryk to the National Assembly and to the entire Czechoslovak nation. These three events stirred up the people and inspired it with confidence.

Since our last meeting at Turčianský St. Martin two disturbing elements interfered with our labors for the country. One is the plebiscite in Spiš and Orava, the other is the agitation of Hlinka and his colleagues abroad.

As far as the first point is concerned, I can assure you that the people of Orava and Spiš did not for a single moment ask to be attached to Poland; they are faithful to our own country. We are preparing for the plebiscite in a calm and honorable manner, conscious of our right and confident of success. We can affirm today that not a single village in Orava or Spiš asks to be detached from their brothers and from their country. The entire Polish agitation, often carried on almost brutally, had as its only effect to demonstrate to our brothers what their fate would be in a state which suffers from dire want and disordered internal conditions. The Polish government lacked good information about Orava and Spiš, when it asked for plebiscite there, and it will be totally disappointed in its expectations that the people of the two districts would turn unfaithful to their own country. And I believe that this failure of the Poles will have a beneficial effect also on our neighbors to the south, the Magyars.

Slovak public opinion was lately disturbed by the agitation of Hlinka and his companions who imagined that they only need to get out of the country, appeal to foreign countries insufficiently informed about us, fill them with bunk about the oppression of the Slovaks and their hatred for their Czech brothers, and that as a result of their lying Slovakia would be at once separated from its sisters, Bohemia and Moravia. But the work of these traitorous sons of Slovakia ended with complete fiasco. One of them faces the court, where he will have to account for his traitorous activities. The others, realizing their

crime, fled to countries hostile to us and there labor for the realization of their fantastic ideas, maintained by foreign money and enjoying protection of our adversaries.

The noisiest of them is Dr. Francis Jehlička. It would seem that this man lost conscience, honor and shame. He began his career with an oath which he violated. As student of divinity he swore love to the Slovak people and instead he betrayed it. As deputy he swore loyalty to the Slovak people, but sold his trust for a professorship at the Budapest University; now for the third time he broke the oath solemnly made in the National Assembly and placed himself in the service of the Friedrich government. Of Hlinka I will say no more, for the actions of this erring and misled man whose ambition exceeds all bounds are now being investigated judicially. As to Jehlička, he is now working openly for the secession of Slovakia from the Czechoslovak Republic and its annexation to the Magyar state. He submitted a memorandum to this effect to the English representative in Pest, to the Friedrich cabinet, and finally in an interview with a Magyar journalist he uncovered his plans, his past activities and future projects and openly proclaimed that he would work for the restoration of monarchy in Slovakia and the union of Slovakia with Magyaria. This interview with Jehlička was published in pamphlet form and we learn from it that in Paris Hlinka and his confederates divided the work in a well-planned manner and that they entered the service of states hostile to us. Hlinka was to work in this sense at home, Jehlička in Budapest and the others in Poland, Switzerland and America. It is the height of cynicism and moral depravity, when a man betrays the plans regardless of the fate of his fellow-traitors of whom one is under arrest.

That enmity between Czechs and Slovaks was artificially excited is evident from this that the Slovak people, after the timely removal of the offending officials, now live in brotherly harmony with Czech officials located in Slovakia, and that the entire Slovak nation celebrated October 28, first anniversary of the Czechoslovak Republic, with great solemnity and enthusiasm and without the slightest disturbance.

The relation of the Magyar population to the Czechoslovak Republic is friendly. Both city workers and country people are working peacefully and enjoy order and security which prevail here since the defeat of the bolshevik invasion. But it seems that the Magyar aristocracy and the former ruling class again indulge in political dreams that Slovakia will once more fall a prey to their irresponsible domination. We are well acquainted with their plans and we know well all those men who scatter rumors of the co-

ming invasion of white guards. I assure you that when the time comes, these conspirators will not catch us by surprise, but rather will themselves be surprised and unpleasantly awakened from their dreams. The Magyar noblemen do not seem to realize that domination over enslaved nations in Central Europe is gone for good. We shall see to it that their reliance on chance and possible foreign complications shall be proved vain.

The internal situation in Slovakia has been very good in the last few months. It has been demonstrated that reasons for whatever dissatisfaction existed were economic and not political. Better regulation of requisitions and food distribution removed the motives which disturbed the minds of the people. In the military administration, too, an improvement was brought about by the assignment of officers from our legions to Slovak regiments; these officers conduct themselves as brothers toward the men under their command and pay attention to their just complaints. In order to liberate the soldiers from the hostile atmosphere of Magyar culture in which they were brought up, lectures are given in all the larger garrisons on Slovak history, literature, our fight for freedom; our soldiers are made acquainted with the cultural life of our Czech brothers to bridge the gulf which the separation of a thousand years made between us and the Czech nation.

Officials scattered in Slovakia as a result of the campaign in press and of instructions from their superiors pay more attention to the political, social and religious circumstances of the Slovak people, try to understand them and to act in harmony with the local environment. Here also we reach the conclusion that the principal reason for dissatisfaction with Czech officials was their ignorance of the Slovak soul, Slovak mentality and life. The better we get acquainted, the less there will be of misunderstanding and disharmony between Slovaks and Czechs. Therefore I ask with great earnestness that Czechs coming to Slovakia should first try to acquire all possible information, about the people they will have to deal with, then establish personal contact with both the educated people and the masses in the particular city or village in which they may be stationed. It is especially desirable that all Czech officials and state employees should employ the Slovak form of speech as much as possible, for then the most obvious barrier between brothers is broken down and better co-operation will result.

As a result of foreign agitation a few newspapers published on Slovak soil began in spite of censorship a campaign aimed against the Czechoslovak Republic and against our Czech brothers. The editors received first an admonition, and where that was not effective the newspapers were suppressed. But on the whole Magyar and German press pays constantly more attention to

the internal affairs of our state, its political, economic and cultural interests. Thus their readers are brought in closer touch with the interests of the republic; the tension is relaxing, and our citizens of foreign speech bring their aims within the limit of the existing order and become a useful element of the state.

Municipal and national elections are approaching; they will be held on the basis of universal franchise with representation for minorities, and political parties are showing more activity. A serious problem for Slovakia is the formation of a block of parties with positive program which would paralyze the work of subversive elements supported from beyond our boundaries. I hope that the statesmanship of Slovak leaders will shortly solve this problem to the benefit of the parties concerned and for the good of our nation and the republic. It is evident, of course, that we count on Magyar and German citizens who are willing to co-operate in the upbuilding of our republic and securing peaceful development of all the races living in Slovakia. Our Magyar and German fellow-citizens must see that all of us in Slovakia have common interests and that an understanding is necessary for the sake of economic welfare, good administration and cultural growth. On this basis we are willing to extend our hand to all who wish to work honorably with us.

The Jews in Slovakia are now seeking close relations with the Slovak circles. We welcome this in the interest both of the Jews and of the state; we want the Jewry to abandon its isolation and thus overcome distrust and suspicion. The Jews must change the role which they formerly played among the Slovaks; they should demonstrate by deeds their loyalty to the country and our nation. They can either join such parties as seem nearest to them, or they can form their own party which must, however, so conduct itself as to exclude all suspicion of hostility to the state. Jewish intellect, Jewish enterprise and capital cannot easily be spared by any state, and least of all by our state which is building its institutions from the foundation and welcomes every sincere co-worker.

Big capital, whether industrial or agricultural or banking, needs to be told emphatically that it must use its advantages in a democratic spirit. It will be very foolish, if it waits for something to happen, for foreign complications. Let it rather get busy to create new values, so that willingness to work should be encouraged and unemployment decrease.

The excitement over the so-called religious question has in the recent months cooled down. There has been lately no report of religious sentiments wantonly hurt. It seems to me that even in the past a very few occurrences were artificially given undue publicity, magnified hysterically so as to stir up the people. From the time the "Slovák" and "Ludové Noviny" were sup-

pressed, the minds of the people quieted down, and only here and there a few immature young priests tried to excite the people against the laws and against our Czech brothers. These disturbers were properly dealt with by church authorities.

I am convinced that when bishops are appointed to the vacant sees in Slovakia, discipline will be restored among Catholic priests, and in place of the present anarchy there will be peace and order in the Catholic Church. — There are good hopes that the question of new bishops will be settled soon and that the Holy See will fully meet the desires of the Czechoslovak Republic.

For the last few weeks certain newspapers wrote much of the ministry for the administration of Slovakia, and other newspapers in Slovakia demanded reconstruction of this ministry. I wish to avoid a discussion of this topic, but I must say that some of the papers went beyond what was fair, that they described conditions in Slovakia as if Slovakia was going to pieces or as if it was about to separate from the Bohemian lands. This alarm was due to ignorance and was perfectly unnecessary; neither had it any other effect than to furnish foreign states with false news from our own sources which tended to injure the republic.

Slovak politicians, especially from the social democratic side, submitted a plan for the reconstruction of the department for the administration of Slovakia. I welcome the plan, just as I would welcome any plan that would tend to improve our administrative efficiency. The suggestion to form an advisory committee may be worked out so as to have in the department a committee of professional councillors, representing various parties; here would be taken up all questions of administration and political life. I shall prepare soon a detailed plan on this line.

As far as Carpathian Russia is concerned, a commission has been sent out to determine the language boundary between Slovakia and the autonomous province of Carpatho-Russia.

The enumeration of the population of Slovakia was carried out without any incidents. The completed figures brought no surprise to the Slovaks. What we knew of Magyar statistics long before this was now openly proved. The present census proved that the natural increase of Slovaks was kept up steadily. The total population as ascertained at the recent census is 2,940,374; Slovaks number 1,940,980 (66.3%), Magyars 665,703 (22.7%), Germans 143,322 (4.7%), Rusins 134,762 (4.5%), all others 55,308 (1.8%). Thus Slovakia is by an overwhelming majority Slovak and it belongs primarily to the Slovak people. Now let our people realize this numerical superiority and resolve that in the future they will lead in their own territory not merely in numbers, but also in wealth and power. Let the

Slovaks take possession of the heritage which just fate awarded to them, and let them make up in the twentieth century for what they lost in the last thousand years through adverse circumstances and the enmity of foreigners.

HALEK'S EVENING SONGS.

A regrettable error occurred in the last issue in the printing of Dr. Štýbr's translation of Hálek's Songs. Two stanzas belonging to song No. 6 were misplaced so that they appeared in print as part of song No. 3. The two songs should have read as follows:

3.

*Though all the world has gone to sleep,
The heart wakes in the body,
And God himself knows that the heart
Ne'er sleeps for anybody.*

*The whole God's world is silence-bound,
The heart still goes, well rated,
And God himself knows that the heart
Gets never fatigated.*

*Sleep is the conqueror of thought,
Night is day's alternation —
But in the breast the heart e'er wakes
And guards its love's sweet passion.*

6.

*My sweetheart, come, kneel down with me
Now is the time for us to pray —
The moon has risen o'er the woods
And my time has just passed away.*

*But, darling, do not clasp Thy hands;
Embrace me as I Thee with mine —
And thus, instead of clasping hands,
Two hearts will in one prayer join.*

*Thy lips then press Thou close to mine;
From one mouth let the prayer rise —
Let me the words press on Thy lips,
And Thou send them to paradise.*

*Our prayer shall be strong, indeed,
Our offer purest in that case —
For angels, too, when they do pray,
Are praying just in such embrace.*

In view of the fact that the French government will open offices in New York, Chicago and other cities for the purpose of attracting tourist trade to French resorts and battlefields, it would seem advisable for the Czechoslovak Government to advertise the famous watering places of the Republic, like Karlovy Vary (Karlsbad). Even the poor, bankrupt Vienna is advertising its hotels in American daily papers.

Government of Rusinia Organized

The Peace Conference joined the Rusins of Hungary at their own request to the Czechoslovak Republic and provided that they should have a full measure of self-government. In pursuance of this decision the following proclamation was issued at Užhorod, the capital of Rusinia, on November 18 by General Hennocque, military commander, countersigned by Dr. Brejcha, civil administrator:

In the name and by order of the government of the Czechoslovak Republic, as the supreme commander of Carpathian Russia, I hereby proclaim and announce:

Age old desires of oppressed nations have been fulfilled. Carpathian Russia is free, and the Czechoslovak Republic without delays, even prior to the election of a diet, lays the foundation for the autonomous administration of Carpathian Russia in those spheres which the Paris treaty leaves to the free decision of the nation.

Therefore with a view to the welfare of the autonomous territory and in the spirit of obligations assumed the government of the Czechoslovak Republic decided to issue the General Statute for the organization and administration of Carpathian Russia.

After mature consideration the government of the Czechoslovak Republic entrusted the affairs of Carpathian Russia to an administrator; it expects that all patriots of eminence who take part in the administration of the territory through the directory will sustain him in his difficult task.

The General Statute is as follows:

The government, after conferences with eminent citizens and representatives of the people of Carpathian Russia, lays down the following general principles for the organization and administration of Carpathian Russia:

I.

At the Paris Peace Conference the following treaty was adopted between the five Great Powers and the Czechoslovak Republic:

1. The Czechoslovak Republic agrees to organize Rusin territory south of the Carpathians, within limits determined by the principal Allied and Associated Powers, into an autonomous unit of the Czechoslovak state and will grant it the highest measure of self-government consistent with the unity of the Czechoslovak State.

2. Rusin territory south of the Carpathians will have its own diet. This diet will exercise legislative power in all language, school and religious questions, in matters of local autonomy and in other questions which may be entrusted to it by the laws of the Czechoslovak Republic. The governor of the Rusin territory who will be appointed by the president of the Czechoslovak Republic will be responsible to the Rusin diet.

3. The Czechoslovak Republic agrees that officials in Rusin territory will be as far as possible selected from among the inhabitants of this territory.

4. The Czechoslovak Republic guarantees to the Rusin territory just representation in the legislative body of the Republic through deputies elected in accordance with the constitution of the Czechoslovak Republic. These deputies shall not have the right to vote in the Czechoslovak parliament on such legislative subjects, as are within the jurisdiction of the Rusin diet.

II.

The territorial commission of the Paris Peace Conference settled the boundaries in the following manner: a) The demarcation line between Slovaks and Rusins shall run in a direct line from the city of Čap (Csap) to the northern part of Užhorod (Ungvar), so that the railroad remains in Slovakia and Užhorod in Rusinia, and thence along the river Už (Ung) toward the Carpathians. All territory east of this line shall be considered to be the autonomous Rusin territory.

b) The southern boundary of autonomous Rusin territory was determined by the Peace Conference so that the line from Čap runs to the south, the railroad remains on Rusin territory up to Maramoros Sihot which is given to Roumania; further the boundary runs partly along the river Tisa in an easterly direction to the northern boundary which is identical with the boundary between former Hungary and Galicia.

c) Because a part of the Rusin people forms a minority on Slovak territory, as determined by the Peace Conference, the Czechoslovak government recommended to the representatives of both nations to agree as to eventual addition of contiguous Rusin territory to the autonomous Rusin province.

III.

Until the future diet settles this question, the historical name Carpathian Russia (or Russia under the Carpathians) shall be used; it is also permissible to use the term Rusinia.

In the schools the language of the people will be the language of instruction and the official language in general. The needed Rusin schools shall be organized as rapidly as possible. The Rusin language will be the language of instruction in the lower classes and will gradually enter the higher classes. During the period of transition the Magyar language will be retained in the existing schools in the higher grades; the Rusin language will be in all cases a required subject.

Schools of the Magyar minority will be protected, like all minorities in the Republic, by the decisions of the Peace Conference applying to min-

orities and by the laws and decrees of the Republic.

IV.

With a view to the strengthening of order and laying proper foundations for the new general and autonomous administration, the government in accordance with article I. of the above treaty has appointed a temporary administrator who will be assisted by necessary officials. The government has also appointed a temporary Rusin autonomous directory. The directory will be the advisory council for legislation and administration in all language, school and religious questions and in matters of local administration. The advisory function of the directory applies also to the appointment and recall of all officials and employees, entrusted with the administration of the above named subjects. These officials will be appointed by the administrator and will be subject and responsible to him.

If the administrator and the directory disagree upon any question enumerated in the preceding paragraph, the question will be submitted to the

president of the Republic or some other person, except the administrator, selected by the president. The decision of the president or his appointees shall be final and authoritative. Until then the question shall be considered pending.

The directory will be divided into departments, and it may also be heard upon questions common to the entire state.

The administrator shall assign to the directory necessary clerical assistance.

The office of administrator and of the autonomous directory will cease to exist, when the Rusin autonomous constitution, based on the decisions of the Paris Conference, comes into effect. The election of members of the Rusin diet will take place not later than 90 days after elections to the National Assembly of the Czechoslovak Republic. The offices of administrator and directory are provisional and shall not constitute a precedent for the future.

Rusinia will have its own public finances. Until definitely regulated the state will pay all expenses of administration which will in the future be separately audited.

Foreign Debts of the Republic

Minister of finance, Kuneš Sonntag, made a statement to the budget committee of the National Assembly on December 11 as to the foreign indebtedness of the Czechoslovak Republic.

The first loan of the state was made in America. On November 15, 1918, President Masaryk was granted a credit by the United States Government of seven million dollars for the equipment of the Siberian army. Of this credit six million has been used and one million is available for the transport home of the Siberian army. Further loans were made in the United States as follows: ten million dollars on January 13, 1919, 18 million on March 3, 6,330,000 on April 8, 9 million on May 22 and 5 million on June 28. This total indebtedness of over 54 million dollars bears five percent interest, a very advantageous rate. Interest is payable in the same way as in ordinary loans, but the time when the loan is payable is not formally set. According to oral agreement America will not ask for repayment before four years.

Distinct from the loan closed at Washington is the credit of \$19,500,000 which was used for the purchase of food and supplies from the American stores in France; the obligation was signed by minister Beneš. A third loan is for six million dollars for the purchase of American food, payable June 30, 1921; this was negotiated directly between the ministry of finance and the American Food Administration. No statement has yet been given to us and no obligation was signed as yet, nor was interest paid so far. That is why this particular credit has not yet been formally

laid before the National Assembly for its approval.

From France we received a loan of 110 million francs at five percent interest; this is to be repaid in July of next year. This money was applied for the purchase of war material; the obligation on behalf of our government was signed by minister Beneš.

In Italy we contracted a loan of 120 million liras for the equipment of the legions which fought on the Italian side. Interest and term have not been determined. The other loan of 20 million liras was secured by private firms for the purchase of textile goods, but the state guarantees its payment.

The minister then referred to certain other topics coming within the scope of his department. The Czechoslovak Republic started out without any reserve of precious metal. An appeal was made to the people in spring of 1919 to turn in their gold and silver coins and ornaments. — This campaign is still going on, and it has brought in so far 20 million crowns worth of gold and 100 millions worth of silver. This is increased by silver mined in Přeborn of which only a small part is released for industrial purposes.

The foreign exchange central is to be abolished and its functions transferred to the banking bureau of the ministry of finance. It is the plan of the government to establish as soon as possible a state bank of issue, based on a reserve of hard metal, an active balance and the confidence of foreign states.

A Tale of Young Blood of '48

By ALOIS JIRÁSEK.

Translated by Mathew Špinka.

(Concluded).

The brightly illuminated hall and the cheerful music were pleasantly inviting. The philosophers took great care to prepare delightful entertainment. When Lenka was ascending the stairs, her heart trembled in fear and expectation, and a slight tremor shook her when the music started. For the first time she was in such a large company.

Conscious of her all-conquering charms, Lotty stepped boldly into the room, graciously receiving the bows of the students. Her sparkling eye quickly looked over the whole room. Only there at the side-door, where a tall, handsome young man stood, her glance lingered a little longer.

She saw, how coolly and without emotion Vavřena looked at her, how calmly he turned his head away — but now — he stirred, his eye lightened, and his composure was gone. Oh, what blindness! She expected something different from that cold, indifferent glance! And yet he flared up, but for another!

On Lenka the philosopher fixed his gaze, joyfully surprised, happy. He did not expect her, did not know that she was coming. And as soon as the old priest's ward saw the joy in his face, all fear and depression left her, and in her innermost heart she exulted. Moreover, when he later came and asked her for a dance, when he bore her away in his arms around the brilliantly illuminated hall to the sound of the gay music, when she heard his ardent, sincere words which he whispered to her during the dance — her head went dizzy with happiness.

When, during the intermission, a promenade over the hall was going on, Lottynka was hemmed in all sides. Only he whom she expected with certainty acted as if he did not see her. She waited, but in vain. She saw how he danced with her cousin, how vivaciously and intimately he spoke with her, and the proud Lottynka was again dissatisfied and peevish. Also, of course, her mother's eyes angrily and coldly followed the happy couple.

But Lenka and Vavřena ignored these glances and the clouded, sneering faces; they enjoyed in full measure the few blissful moments that were permitted them. Frýbort also gave his undivided attention to the radiantly happy Márinka.

"If Miss Elis could see us!" whispered Lenka. "She would bless us."

At about eleven o'clock, a mighty flourish sounded from the little gallery, occupied by the

band. Count George, with his radiant sister, honored the philosophical ball by his presence. In a little while after this interruption, everything went on as before.

Midnight came, and Vavřena had not come to bow to Lottynka, and most probably would not come. She had not conquered. She returned to her mother, her white forehead shaded with displeasure.

"*Bedenke nur, wie er nur ungalant ist!*" (Just think how discourteous he is!), she complained. But just then she received full compensation. The count, walking about the hall, stopped before Mrs. Roubinek and her daughter, to whom he addressed a few complimentary words. Mrs. Roubinek was transported into bliss. When he left, and she was hurrying to the next room to inform her husband of the incident, she looked contemptuously on Vavřena and Lenka whom she passed. Who can equal her girl? What is he, that student from the peasantry? No wonder the vulgar seek vulgar! Mrs. Roubinek did not forget to inform her acquaintances what courtesy the count had shown them, and in the twinkling of an eye it spread that he had pronounced Lottynka to be the queen of the ball.

It went worst with the registrar Roubinek. He was not a heavy drinker, could not play cards here, and there was no king Herod on the wall on whom he could fasten his eyes. He was in the habit of going to bed early, and now to stay up here all night! He yawned, and longed for his "*oberst*", his night cap, and the soft bed. Only the fact, that his gracious lordship condescended to speak kindly with his wife consoled him.

Day was dawning, when the party broke up. Frýbort was escorting the landlady with Márinka, and Vavřena went with them. Mr. Roubinek's family also walked now. Snow was falling and settled gently on the shawls and the wraps of the women. Although all were tired, they still spoke much of the honor done them by the count. Only Lenka was silent; in her thoughts, however, she felt as though she were in the flower filled spring time; in her snug room all was peace and happiness.

She thought of Vavřena's words, of the sacred promise he made her in the ornamental chamber of the hall, where for a while they sat alone.

"Let us wait, dear Lenka! I will not leave you, nor betray you!" he vowed to her, and she believed him as the gospel.

CHAPTER X.

A new spring opened, which brought, besides the blossoms and songs, the brilliant gleam of a new era, for which the nations, long oppressed by absolutism, had yearned. Metternich fell, censorship was abolished, and an organization of the national defense was permitted. On the fifteenth of April, 1848, the Constitution was proclaimed. The news of this filled Prague and the whole kingdom with rejoicing and exultation.

The National Defense, or Guard, was being established everywhere.

In Vienna, a student legion was formed, and was organized after the manner of the old Roman army; in a short time, this was not the only one in existence.

The tranquillity of quiet Litomyšl flew, God knows where. Everything was upset and changes and subversions occurred unexpectedly, suddenly, almost over night. One message from mother Prague succeeded another, exciting and straining the minds of all. Some welcomed the Constitution with joy, others in hesitation were awaiting further developments, and some, more to one side and under cover, cursed these innovations, and the destruction of the old, established customs.

The registrar Roubínek was unhappy, beside himself. He had not had a moment of rest, for his ultra-conservative spirit feared all experiments, dreaded weakening of discipline and expected a general collapse.

The recorder used to come oftener, but of a "delightful" conversation no trace was left. True, Mr. Roubínek still gazed at king Herod, but he turned his gaze away oftener, for his friend, the recorder, brought such news!

Storms in Vienna, confusion in Prague, mass meetings of the common people, abolition of censorship and of the forced feudal servitude — oh, God, — what will become of the world, what a monster this Constitution is, turning everything upside down!

All around in the neighboring towns guards were organized; there would be one in Litomyšl in no time, and every citizen would take up arms, be given a helmet, and be trained on the Bleachery, stand guard, and attend military training!

That was enough to make a person sick! The registrar could not even rest properly, when, having the "obersť" on, he sat in his easy chair; he did not enjoy even his pipe, in spite of the fact, that Lotty, with her rosy, little finger would press down the tobacco.

Noise and singing was heard from the street every now and then, and from all sides resounded: "nation, country, liberty, equality, Bohemian language, self-government" — "and, who knows how many more watchwords of frenzied brains," as Mr. Roubínek remarked to the recorder.

God only knows where all those patriots thus came from all of a sudden! They sprang up over night like mushrooms after a rain. Everything was patriotic! Esteem was nowhere, the former respect gone completely! Everybody proudly carried his head higher, as if he had grown in stature by the virtue of that Constitution. Mrs. Roubínek bore it ill that everywhere Bohemian was beginning to be spoken, and that at several places she, with her mixed language, was laughed at. She had an only friend in Mrs. Roller, as her husband in the recorder.

"*Bedenken sie, that Lenka!* Heretofore always taciturn, stubborn, but now talkative and cheerful. That is all..."

"*Diese Konstitution!* You will see that man *wird noch rauben und morden!*" (That they will yet rob and murder.)"

And what, then, when Lotty rushed home and brought the news that the philosophers had held a mass meeting, and that they had organized themselves into a student legion!

"Now we are done!" sighed Mr. Roubínek. — "What is it when a child is given a knife or a razor? Swords instead of pens to the students! Now we are done!"

"*Und was die Professoren, und was der Pater Rector?*" (And what the professors, and what Pater Rector?)

"They can not hinder them."

"How could they, when not even state authority, not even the ministerial cabinet has any respect!" and Mr. Roubínek's glance fastened rigidly on king Herod.

With the exception of Zelenka, Miss Elis had seen but little of her students the whole day. — They were eternally at the college, or in meetings of which there was no end. How could Vavřena or Frybort stay away? In all schools and institutions student legions were being organized or had been organized, and should the philosophy of Litomyšl be the last one? Nobody could hinder them, nor would they have permitted interference. Thus within a very short time, even before the citizens themselves had formed a company of national defense, a student legion was organized. It was led by a captain and elected officers.

The landlady, conversing with Miss Elis, often expressed her fears over the stormy times, "which surely will bring no good." But the patriotic old lady comforted her, explaining the Constitution to her as best she understood it herself, or as Vavřena had informed her about it. She was sincerely glad of it all and that the loyal spirit, which up to this time had been in hiding in the city, now held sway.

"What would the late Mrs. Rettig say! Too bad she had not lived to see this day!" and her glance fell on the picture of the unknown, sacrificing patriot, Pater George.

And how her home became famous! She almost blushed for joy when Mária rushed in to

tell her that at the mass meeting of the philosophers Frýbort and Vavřena were elected officers.

"Then they must have officers' sashes!" observed Miss Elis.

"I'll make one for Frýbort!"

"And I for Mr. Vavřena. Lenka, poor girl, can't."

Next day (it was Sunday) the legion was to march out the first time for training. Early in the afternoon there was a little celebration in the home of Miss Elis. The landlady came with her daughter, who brought something wrapped up in paper. When she took it out, it proved to be a beautiful sash of red and white; Miss Elis took a similar one out of the cabinet. Both the officer-philosophers stood in the middle of the room, wearing green caps with red and white bands on. They had no uniform, but shining swords were suspended at their sides on neat belts. All beamed with satisfaction and happiness.

Frýbort, smiling, stooped a little, and Mária, blushing, raised herself on tiptoes, and hung the sash on his shoulders, tying it into a neat knot on the side. The young legionary bowed and saluted in military fashion. Just then a young student stepped into the parlor and reported that Mr. Brož sent a little package to Mr. Vavřena. The philosopher quickly reached for it; when he unwrapped it, he found a beautiful red and white sash, and a card fell from the sash. Vavřena read it hurriedly, and blushed for joy.

"Oh, I know, my gift will be refused!" exclaimed Miss Elis. "But I'll gladly step aside. Miss Lenka — —"

"Sends me this sash."

"I'll put mine away."

"But she begs you, Miss Elis, to put it on me."

"Why, that's understood, who else could do it."

The officer-philosophers thanked the ladies, and with a military salute left for the meeting. The mother, the daughter, and Miss Elis stepped to the window, and looked after the students. They marched manfully away in their decorations, proudly conscious of being soldiers.

Everything was in revolt, even the sentences of Mr. Roubínek!

That Sunday afternoon the registrar sat as usual by a table, and wrote to his colleague of Rychteburg. At other times everything proceeded as if of itself, sentence after sentence, paragraph after paragraph, worked out nicely so that it was a joy for Mrs. Roubínek to listen. But to-day her husband could not hammer together a single decent sentence. Where should he begin, when there is so much to write about in these God-forsaken, rebellious times? On other occasions he wrote about the wind, the weather, or here and there about gossip in the office; to-day he would have to write — who would not get angry? — every where, even into

his pen, rush the words "liberty, equality, country, abolition of serfdom!"

Hardly had he finished the first line, when he was interrupted. There arose a muffled din and singing outside, and then the heavy step of a multitude was heard. His wife and daughter ran to the window.

"Papa, papa, they are coming!"

The din was heard under the very window. Mr. Roubínek also got up and went to see.

In the street stood a crowd of people, and in the middle, with a measured, ringing step marched the student legion. The captain in front, on the sides the officers. All, even the private legionaries, wore green caps and were armed.

Company after company passed. Now Lotty was startled.

Here was Vavřena, an officer. Presently she heard his resonant voice commanding:

"Eyes right!" and his platoon, saluting, turned eyes right.

"Eyes right!" officer Frýbort commanded immediately after him for his friend's sake, and his platoon also looked right.

For whom? Oh, well did Lotty note Vavřena's glance, which was directed to the window in the hall-way, where Lenka stood. The platoons were saluting her!

Lotty bounced off from window; her father, chagrined, likewise returned to his easy chair. After a while he took up his pen again, but had the same trouble as before. Leaning his right elbow on the table, he gazed at king Herod, that is, he meditated.

That legion would not leave him alone. Patriots! Hmm! Why those guns, and those green caps? Green caps!

He leaned over, and began writing. From the black quill pen flowed out on the paper — green caps! Who had ever heard the like of it? Žižka and Emperor Joseph were also patriots, and — weapons? Green caps? — Destruction!...

The philosophers, after the college lectures, assembled to receive military training.

Their patriotism, moreover, did not stop with songs and manifestos. The college lectures were still all German, and of the Bohemian language and literature they had not heard a single word. All felt the necessity to perfect and establish themselves in their mother tongue. But who should lecture to them in Bohemian, who should teach them?

A student conference was held over the problem, and when a decision was arrived at, Vavřena and Frýbort betook themselves, as student representatives, directly to the dean's manse to Pater Anton Šanta, of whom it was known that he was a sincere, active patriot, and that he studied the Bohemian language and literature zealously.

The young priest was sitting in the servants hall, reading, when the clanging of swords in the corridor interrupted him; immediately after-

wards the delegates of the Student Legion entered the room. He was joyfully surprised with their request, and willingly promised to comply with it, if pater rector would permit. The rector, under such circumstances, could not prevent it, and had to admit the priest to the philosophical faculty as a *docent extraordinary*.

A short time after that the hall of the philosophical college was entirely filled. The professors, students, guardsmen, and citizens, all came to hear the first lecture; no one had so many auditors but Pater German, sometimes, when he lectured on special periods of history. The philosophers, as though they were not the same men who caused that infernal uproar in the room of the professor of theology last year, stood there like lambs, their eyes fastened on the young priest who mounted the cathedra.

In a sonorous voice he began the introduction. With ardent, eloquent words he reviewed Bohemia's past, the nation's glory and its fall; he spoke of the labor of the great leaders, such as Jungmann, and the living patriots, Šafařík and Palacký; he spoke of the present hopeful times and of the prospect for a better future.

Silence pervaded the whole room so that the buzzing of a fly could have been heard; the eyes of the young were fired with enthusiasm. The glance of Pater Anton fell on the white-haired Pater German, who rested his outstretched arms on a cane. On his expressive, noble face was reflected a depth of strong emotion, and from his eyes joyful tears were trickling down his wrinkled face. It was the joy of Simeon, to whom it was given to see the dawn of a new day, which he so long had awaited.

A stormy applause thundered through the hall when Pater Anton ended. From that day on philosophy had a new course, and no course was so well attended.

That day, when philosophy was so inspired and rejoicing, a terrible misfortune befell Mr. Roubínek, who, by the way, was not present at the lecture. Mrs. Roubínek was frightened when her husband returned from the office and entered the parlor. For a long time she pressed him to tell what happened, why he was so disturbed. He, however, sank into his easy chair, and did not even take off his "Abraham," which, considering his usual carefulness, meant much; he did not put on his "oberst," but stared with icy face at king Herod. Finally, when Mrs. Roubínek was getting angry, he spoke:

"The guard — —"

"What about the guard? What guard?"

"Castle guard — —"

"Oh, so — — I do not understand!"

"There will be a castle guard — —"

"Aber, Roubínek, *rede doch vernuenftig*,—(But Roubínek, speak sensibly,) there is a guard in the city — —"

"Count George wants — also — — a guard —"

Now Mrs. Roubínek was surprised.

"*Du must auch* — you must also?"

Roubínek merely nodded his head.

"And the recorder also?"

"Also — everybody."

The world was turning the wrong side up! When even his gracious lordship joined those innovators and rebels, who could abide? But the lord commands, and Roubínek must obey. He must go to the castle arsenal, there they will give him some old cutlass, put on his shoulder an old blunderbuss, stand him in line, and then he must jump all over the castle yard "one, two, one, two," and "left, right," — good Lord, like those idiotic students — he, the registrar! And they will come and look at him, the children, the grown-ups, and everybody, and if he makes a mistake they will mock him "hay, straw," and he, with a green cap on his head, will dance around like a fool! Where then will esteem go, what will become of respect, authority?

CHAPTER XI.

The patriotic movement made rapid progress and spread far and wide. Even the maidens and married women, who were formerly to a great degree indifferent in such matters, were carried away by the torrent. The good seed, sown by Dobromila Rettig, bore now an abundant fruit. The spirit of those times was like a rain which revived and refreshed the plant of patriotism. Mis Elis and Lenka especially were rejoicing. While the guardsmen and the students were in training, stood guard, kept night watches, the women were collecting money among themselves for a flag, which was to wave over the heads of the courageous student legionaries.

The solicitors did not meet with much success at Roubínek's. Mrs. Roubínek, who would have liked best to show them the door, did not go very deep into her pocket. But in those constitutional times it would not do to slight the matter altogether. When the workers were leaving, they met the ward of Roubínek's on the stairs, who evidently was waiting there for them. Blushing, she took out of her apron pocket something wrapped in paper, and gave it to the workers.

"Please, accept this little mite!"

Had Vavřena seen Lenka, blushing, humble, bashful he would have fervently kissed the little hand which sacrificed for a patriotic cause all her savings, all her possessions.

May came again, but without the "*majales*." There was no time for a celebration, for the minds of all were occupied with more serious affairs. Messages from Prague continued to pour into the city in a steady stream, sometimes filling the people with fear, but mostly comforting and carrying the expectation of better times.

The efforts of the women of Litomyšl were successful. The money was collected, and the flag made. Lenka rejoiced like a little child when Brož delivered her a printed handbill, on which she read:

"Invitation to the consecration of the flag of the Student Legion of Litomyšl, which will be held on May 21st, 1848, in the following order:"

And when she read the program, her glance fell on the last lines.

"The celebration will be enhanced by the cooperation of the Sharpshooter's Company, and the officers of the National Defense. The Committee of the Student Legion of Litomyšl."

She rejoiced, and was proud of Vavřena, the officer and the member of the Committee.

In the meantime, Mr. Roubínek committed an act which nobody who knew that cold and icy official, would have expected of him. Tired, he returned from training, and found that invitation on the table. Hardly had he read a few lines when he crushed the paper into a ball, and threw it into a corner. But what availed all this anger? It was impossible to swim against the current. Mr. Roubínek could not stop the celebration by his bad temper.

The twenty-first of May was a cool day, but in spite of that a great crowd congregated at the college, where in the main hall the dignitaries, the sponsor of the flag, young count Kinský, students, and other guests were assembled. Then the festively attired maid of the flag, the niece of Pater German, mounted the platform, and in the name of the women of Litomyšl handed the emblem to the Student Legion.

This speech was answered by captain Jehlička, who thanked the women in the name of the Legion. The immense crowd then moved over to the public square, where the Sharpshooters, the City Guard, and the students were lined up in their respective positions.

Through the bright air sounded a loud, long shout, when the newly consecrated flag, on which the words "Concord" and "Equality" were printed in gold, flew over the heads of the student legionaries, and its beautiful ribbons fluttered briskly in the wind.

Miss Elis and Lenka stood at an open window. Both looked with joyful eyes on this celebration; the deep, solemn stillness, in which only the priest's voice resounded, and then the shouts of exultation, moved them deeply.

The band started playing, and all organizations and all the people marched back to the Piarists' church, where the celebration was to be closed with a mass and with the chanting of the "*Te Deum*."

Miss Elis looked with joy on the long columns of philosophers, who proudly marched behind the new flag, and Lenka's face blushed when a tall officer looked up to her and greeted her with a smile. How soldierly he carried himself and how becoming his uniform was.

* * *

The stir of public life did not abate but rather increased each day. From Prague, the heart of Bohemia, activity radiated to all parts of the kingdom. Sudden, unexpected changes took

place almost overnight, events continually new, domestic and foreign, kept all classes of people in tension and excitement. Elections to the Bohemian Diet and to the Frankfurt Parliament were called, and were quickly followed by the famous manifesto of Palacký. The Czechs and the Germans, in accord up to this time, now separated, and then many an uproar and tumult occurred in Prague. The authorities lost control over affairs, and unscrupulous men abused the short period of golden liberty.

The stormy waves shook even so remote and placid a place as Litomyšl. Roubínek was in despair. He complained no longer; he attended the training exercises, went to his office, sat at home, looking at his favorite picture, and only when the recorder came, did he feel easier, for then he could frankly unburden his soul. Mrs. Roubínek, with her friend, Mrs. Roller, was compelled to keep still; they did not agree with anything, and were in revolt against the whole world; but it was dangerous to express such sentiments in revolutionary times. Mrs. Roller secretly rebelled; she felt like a queen deprived of her throne.

Lottynka hesitated. Because of her opposition to Vavřena and Lenka she was against everything; but when nearly all the girls went over to the other side she became uneasy in her isolation.

To Lenka these stirring times were kind. She could see Vavřena much oftener than formerly, and her aunt could not successfully prevent these meetings.

Miss Elis' students brought home some startling news every now and then. But Frýbort had completely frightened his boarding lady with the information that the philosophic course would end that year at the end of May. Mária was still more alarmed by this news, but the jolly Hanák knew how to cheer her up; he promised to stay in town. He was doing this partly for her sake, and partly because of the times. But, contrary to expectation, he, together with Vavřena, who also did not plan to leave Litomyšl till the regular vacation time, was to take his leave much sooner.

A number of the legionaries left after the eighth of June, on which day captain Jehlička delivered a public speech of farewell to the professors, citizens, and the patriotic women of Litomyšl.

"To you, ye illustrious fathers of ours, whom the murderous hand of the foreigners, the enemies of our land, brought down to your graves, I vow in the name of my comrades, that we are your loyal sons; that the newly won rights of the Bohemian nation we will stoutly defend, and prove by our deeds that we honor our language and customs, and if necessary, even by the force of arms defend our nationality."

Many a maiden wept when the stalwart philosophers dispersed. Lenka and Mária were satisfied. There were almost two full months before they need say good bye!

But then came the second Sunday after Pentecost, the fatal, unfortunate twelfth of June!

On the thirteenth of June, terrible news reached Litomyšl.

"A revolution has broken out in Prague; the ancient city is at stake. In the terrible disorder the lawless rabble plunder and destroy, all is a hub-bub of confusion, and there is lack of means and force to restore order and discipline."

Similar news, full of frightful details, spread over the town. On the Bleachery a large crowd of citizens came together, especially the guardsmen and the sharpshooters. It was rumored that help from the country had been sent to succor threatened Prague, and after a prolonged debate they also decided to relieve the capital. Before this was to be done, however, a few of the more prominent citizens were sent to the nearest railroad station to find out how matters stood, and to learn if from other cities relief was also sent to Prague. They left in the evening and were to come back by morning.

Before the crowd dispersed from Bleachery, however, two philosophers, after hearing the most important deliberations, quietly left the place. They walked, engaged in a serious conversation. In front of Miss Elis' home they shook hands; Vavřena then turned his steps toward the castle, and Frýbort went home. He found Miss Elis frightened and anxious, and Mária with her. Both now pelted the philosopher with their questions. Fear seized them when they saw Frýbort, although not dejected, was unusually serious. When he finished his story, Miss Elis grew pale, and Mária burst out crying. She wept long and spoke convulsively:

"You do not love me — you can not leave me so lightly . . ."

But Frýbort drew her toward him, comforted her as well as he could, showing her that it was his sacred duty, and that he had promised Vavřena to do so.

Even Miss Elis attempted to restrain him; but her arguments as to what he alone could do there, what his father would say, together with Mária's expostulations, availed nothing.

In the castle park, Lenka stood with Vavřena. He was telling her something softly and in a low voice. The poor girl grew pale as he spoke, and when her lover finished, she was silent, gazing on the ground. She was calm as a statue, but it was a statue of grief.

Her handsome face showed signs of painful, inward struggle. Then looking up to him with her large, tearful eyes, she extended her hand.

"You can not act otherwise; it is your duty — go —"

Her voice shook, and instantly she ceased, laid her head on his shoulder, and wept.

It was a sad evening, a sad night! For hours a light was seen in Miss Elis' rooms. After midnight the house door creaked, and two men came out. Up stairs in their respective rooms, Mária

wept and Miss Elis prayed. Lenka also kept vigil; before her lay a book, in which a prayer for the country was inscribed in her uncle's handwriting.

Early in the morning, when it was still gray, the citizen's deputation returned in haste to tell what it saw, and heard at the railroad station. It did not notice the two young men who quickly walked in the direction from which it had come. As the committee neared the town, it met squads of guardsmen and sharpshooters, who, without waiting for information, decided to leave at once for Prague. At Babka's Inn stood wagons, full of food supplies and of all other necessities of this small, citizen army. The information which the committee brought did not turn them back, but confirmed the rumors that the National Defense Guards of the Bohemian cities were marching to relieve Prague. So they, too, set out.

* * *

At that time Mr. Roubínek also was arming himself with his ancient cutlass to go to the rescue of mother Prague. Žižka and Emperor Joseph, according to him, were patriots, but they surely did not put on their swords in this manner. Mr. Roubínek was pale and frightened, and it took him a long time to buckle the belt. His dejection was increased by the grief of his wife and daughter.

Oh, Count George had no heart! Having heard that Prague was in a state of anarchy, that the goods and lives of her citizens were in jeopardy, and that the guard of Litomyšl as well as of other towns was marching to relieve the capital, he commanded his castle defenders to arm themselves quickly, and get ready for the march to the capital.

"Oh, thou king Herod! Thou wert no more cruel than this, when thou didst command that the babes of Bethlehem, both black and white, be utterly destroyed!"

The registrar, a virtuous citizen, an official, to whom all unrest and disorder was horrifying, that he should seize arms against some rabble, that he should fire into them . . . ! And if those rebels catch him, how will they treat him? They will hang him to a lamp-post, they will rip him to pieces! What crime had he committed that he, the quietest, most orderly citizen, should spill human blood? Oh, thou quiet parlor, thou comfortable easy chair, and thou, O king Herod, good bye! Perhaps he will see thee no more, never again rest himself on thy soft seat, thou easy chair, never take his comfort in thee!

He embraced his wife and daughter, pale and with eyes full of tears, and stumbled down the stairs, his cutlass rattling on the steps.

In the yard, the castle guard of Count George stood at attention. All officials were armed and ready to march. Their wives, children, and acquaintances stood around.

Then the count came, perhaps to give the command. But he stopped with the chief of-

ficer and talked with him, and both of them looked toward the turnpike. A terrible moment! The count had sent out a special courier that he might properly ascertain the state of affairs. The courier had not returned, and perhaps the count would grow impatient and would give the command to march.

Oh, that God would grant that the courier bring a favorable message! Mr. Roubinek sighed and turned his eyes toward his family. Then, sweating and breathless, the courier rushed in—reported something to the count, who questioned him further. All eyes were concentrated on the group — Mr. Roubinek hardly breathed. Then, the count turned to the guard and announced that he had received definite, trustworthy information: a revolution had broken out in Prague, and a terrible upheaval had followed. (Mr. Roubinek lost all hope. They would go! They would!) — But the people had seized weapons and were fighting against the Imperial troops; and against those troops he would lend no aid; therefore, the guardsmen should resume their work and calling.

This was so unexpected that Mr. Roubinek could hardly comprehend it all. So many sudden upheavals and changes, that he could not give a proper outlet to his joy. He was the first to leave the line, and forgetting his dignified step, he hastened to his wife and daughter. On the steps he snatched off his cap and tore off his sword.

Then, tired and exhausted, he dropped into his easy chair, and spoke but little.

XII.

The night of the fourteenth of June, the soldiers secretly left Prague and occupied Hradčany. The next day prince Windischgraetz proclaimed martial law in Prague. The people undertook the unequal struggle. The Small Quarter was fired upon from the Old Town, and the soldiers answered with bomb-shells.

In the struggling mass both Vavřena and Frýbort fought, although separated from each other; Vavřena stood among a crowd of students and fired.

"Here, friends, here!" a mighty voice shouted behind him. When Vavřena turned, he saw a tall monk, with pale homely face but whose eyes burned with enthusiasm. In his left hand he grasped a still smoking gun, and with his right hand pointed to the threatened position.

"Špina!" cried Vavřena, running toward his former colleague.

"Vojta! Welcome! But here, here, follow me, here!"

All crowded where they were led by the fighting monk, who was loading his gun again. Vavřena took his stand beside him. The shots again began to whistle, the bombs whizzed and crashed, the din of battle boomed all around; from here and there came sounds of groaning

and the moans of dying men. There was no time for long conversation or questions. Vavřena only heard Špina asking:

"Is Frýbort here also?"

"He is."

Just then a bomb exploded near by, and the pieces flew all around; when the fire and smoke cleared away, a few of the young warriors lay on the pavement.

Vavřena, escaping all danger, looked around for Špina. He was lying near by. Vavřena immediately kneeled beside him, and lifted him up. He was deadly pale, and his robe was reddened on the breast by the warm blood. With the help of another student, Vavřena bore the mortally wounded comrade to a place sheltered from the enemy fire.

When the young monk received medical attention and regained consciousness, he spoke with difficulty to Vavřena:

"Go back to the fight, go! If you return to Litomyšl, give my regards to — you know. —" Then he ceased talking. Vavřena did not obey to the letter, but remained a while longer. And he did well.

Thus, at least in his last moments, there stood by the dying "deserted orphan" a friend, who sincerely mourned over the unfortunate monk.

This was on the fifteenth of June. The day after an honorable capitulation was arranged for; but then a shot from the mills was fired on the soldiers and Windischgraetz renewed the bombardment. During this engagement the Old Town mills and the waterworks were burned down.

On the seventeenth of June, Prague capitulated. The army entered the town, and wholesale persecution began.

Before Prague capitulated and matters came to these sad ends, the Litomyšl contingent returned home.

Miss Elis circumspectly inquired about her students, if perhaps someone had not seen them in Prague; but nobody could give her any information. The philosophers were not with them; undoubtedly they were on the barricades, and there either fell or were arrested and arraigned before the court martial.

Lenka seemed not to have a drop of blood in her face; she was sad and always lost in thought. She had no one to whom she could complain or unburden herself. She was not permitted to visit Miss Elis, for since her uncle fell sick, she could hardly leave the house. She had to do the most of the waiting upon Mr. Roubinek and her household duties were not lightened. Neither the aunt nor Lotty could say that she complained by a single word, or that she even as much as sighed before them.

Of course, her dark room did not reveal the tears which she shed, and did not tell how in the long night hours it heard the silent, pain-

ful cries of a lonely heart, which feared that it had lost its all, its everything.

The registrar really became dangerously ill.

The Constitution was the cause of all this, as his wife told Mrs. Roller. The mayor's widow returned from a prolonged visit to her relatives, and her first call was to the registrar's. She also brought the news that "Prague was shot to pieces, and that they were catching those rebels like mice."

When they told this to Mr. Roubinek, his face brightened and he said: "Well, order will come again —"

There was much talk in the town about Frýbort and Vavřena. But Miss Elis, and by her advice her good friends also, insisted that her philosophers had left for their vacations. Still here and there it was rumored that they had gone to Prague, and had remained there. But Mrs. Roubinek would always add:

"Well did Roubinek say that with that Vavřena it *ein schlechtes Ende nehmen wird* — ." ("it would take a bad end")

A few more days passed, but no news came.

The sixth night after the return of the Litomyšl contingent, Miss Elis was suddenly roused from sleep.

She heard a knocking at the door similar to that of Frýbort's, when he sometimes would come late from Prence's. She thought that it was merely a realistic dream, but the knocking was repeated, quickly, hurriedly. She trembled and got out of bed with difficulty, then dressed a little, and hastened down stairs.

"Who is it?" she asked in a wavering voice.

"I, Miss Elis, Frýbort —"

"Holy Virgin!" She opened the door. He grasped her hand and closed the door himself. "Let us go up stairs, but let us hurry —"

When she made a light, she almost cried out with alarm. The handsome young man, how changed he was! He had grown thin and his clothes were torn and dirty.

"Do not fear, I am all right, only terribly hungry. I have been fleeing from Prague for four days now; I had to hide — only something to eat quickly. — What is Mária doing?"

When Miss Elis brought him something to eat, he begged her to wake Mária, if possible, because he must go on the same night.

Miss Elis acted as though in a trance. She rejoiced, yet feared but did as Frýbort requested.

"And what of Mr. Vavřena?"

"He is alive and well; he escaped home to the mountains. We were fleeing together for a time. This slip of paper here is for Lenka — But Špina, the poor fellow, fell — on the barricades."

Miss Elis was dazed and could not even believe it. She would have endlessly pitied him and kept on questioning, if Frýbort had given her time. Mária and her mother were called, and Miss Elis told them the news. Both hastily

dressed, and hurried up stairs. Frýbort, seeing his Mária, did not mind at all the presence of her mother, but jumping up, caught the beloved girl into his arms. The landlady would have lectured him on his folly in joining the rebellion, lamenting that he possibly had spoiled his student career thereby, but the philosopher knew how to comfort her. He would have almost forgotten what he expected to accomplish that night yet, had not the peal of the bell from the tower announced the second hour past midnight, and thus reminded him of his intentions. Explaining everything as far as time permitted, and taking a short but sincere farewell, he left and turned toward the near Moravian border. He promised that as soon as he reached home, he would let them know by a card. Quietly, unnoticed, he came, and in the same manner departed.

And next evening Lenka's room heard her painful cry no more. A candle flickered on her table and by its light the girl bent over a slip of paper, which announced to her that Vavřena was alive, that he had successfully accomplished his flight, and shortly by letter would tell her more.

The Prague storm was suppressed, but persecution and punishment ensued.

Špina now was beyond all these things. He had not tormented himself long in the monk's robe, which he despised, but even so, he was compelled to wear it on his journey to eternity.

Before the vacation was over, Mrs. Roubinek and her daughter met with a great sorrow. The registrar went to his eternal rest. He died, having left, as is proper and right, a correctly drawn up last will. He designated therein minutely what he bequeathed to his wife, what to his daughter; where the 'obersl' was to go, where "Abraham", "Klapálek", and all the other parts of his wardrobe. He devoted a special paragraph to the "priceless" picture of king Herod, upon which even from his bed of sickness he often and long had gazed. He left it to the recorder, his beloved friend, with whom he had so many "delightful" conversations. He did not entirely forget Lenka, but appointed her a modest sum of money for her careful and faithful attendance on him during the fatal illness.

Mr. Roubinek had a splendid funeral. The Heavenly Father did not grant the registrar the joy of witnessing the "good order" of the times of Bach, of blessed memory. Instead, he called him where he could enjoy himself with the company of Žižka and Emperor Joseph, "who left us that church for a memorial."

After the vacation, there was less noise in the rooms of Miss Elis than formerly. She had no philosophers; instead, three young college students lived with her. She did not feel lonesome for she was more satisfied. Her wish of long ago was realized.

She asked Lenka to move and live with her. Mrs. Roubinek, having lost her husband, at first opposed this proposition, more in appearance than in reality, but finally she consented; for Lenka was somewhat of a relative of Miss Elis', anyway. So Lenka began a new life, the kind, old lady became a mother to her.

After vacation Frýbort came with his father and asked for Mária's hand. The landlady had dreamed of a doctor, it is true, but Frýbort chose rather a large, fine farm in golden Haná, and Mária also did not object to marrying an educated farmer.

"You loved a philosopher and an officer, will you also love a farmer?"

For reply she embraced him.

Now the letters from Moravia came directly to Mária's address; Miss Elis got letters only from Prague and these in reality belonged to Lenka. They were sent by Vojtěch Vavřena, *medicinae studiosus*. He had escaped all trials and so could pursue his studies.

Zelenka did not write.

"I knew that as soon as he left, he would forget us" said Miss Elis.

Next year, before Lent, Frýbort, with a numerous Hanák suite came for Mária, to carry her away as his beloved wife. Vavřena also came from Prague to be the best man, while Lenka was the bride's maid. And when the wedding feast was at the gayest, the bridegroom being the jolliest of all, Vavřena stood up and raised his glass to the honored memory of the former friend and colleague, who died in the fateful struggle on the barricades. The bride cast her eyes down and Miss Elis' were filled with tears.

CHAPTER XIII.

The year 1849 passed. The philosophical school of Litomyšl was abolished, the legion dispersed and its flag was destroyed. The pater rector himself tore it off its staff, which he then stuck in the Piarist's garden by a gooseberry bush.

Mrs. Roller moved out of town to her relatives.

After five years, the ancient house in which Miss Elis lived was again the scene of gayety. Her dream was realized! Lenka's longing was fulfilled. Doctor Vavřena was married, leading to the altar the priest's niece. Their love was as fresh and true then, as when they met of a Sunday afternoon in the castle park. They had guests from as far as Moravia. Frýbort, happy and contented, came with Mária, and smilingly said: "You were my best man, my friend, but I can not repay you that service, for that little cherub will not let me." And he pointed to his three year old son.

Mrs. Roubinek, although invited, did not attend the wedding. Her handsome, rich daughter

was still waiting for a very distinguished suitor, at least a doctor. But he had not yet come.

Miss Elis went to live with "her children," and never regretted it. She related now oftener than ever how she had had fifty one philosophers in her rooms; fifty had attained positions of independence, the fifty-first had fallen on the barricades.

When she lived at Vavřena's, she received a letter, for which she had to pay a whole twenty heller piece. What is that, who writes? It was Zelenka, who informed her that he was in the cloister of Medlice, where he had attained a very good living. "I need eat bread and fruit porridge no longer," he wrote, among other things.

"I believe," remarked Vavřena, "that he has fat, ruddy cheeks now, and is of respectable dimensions, and does not touch a book except the breviary."

"And hoards crowns; he did not even prepay the letter."

On Christmas, the first which the young doctor spent together with his little wife, he received a hearty letter from Frýbort, enclosed in which he found a large sheet. It was headed:

"Colleagues!"

"It is the first draft of the proclamation which we composed together before the celebration of the *majales*. I found it in the bottom of my student trunk. You will, no doubt, be glad to remember those times," wrote Frýbort.

"I surely remember them gladly," said Vavřena. "It was then that we found each other under the old tree; do you remember, Lenka? We also have a nest now, and it is pleasant and warm in it."

* * *

The philosophical history is ended. It was written for the pleasant remembrance of the old, and for the enjoyment of the young; the author of this chronicle sincerely wishes and hopes that the pleasure will be plentiful.

TO OUR READERS.

As announced in the last issue, the annual subscription to the Czechoslovak Review is now two dollars. Renewals and new subscriptions sent in January at the old rate will be credited as good for nine months only.

A large part of the subscriptions expired with the December or the January number. Please look at the address on this copy, and if indicates that your subscription is up, send in a renewal.

An index for the 1919 volume of the Czechoslovak Review has been prepared. If you have saved your copies and desire to have them bound together with a table of contents, write for this index which will be sent you on request without any charge.

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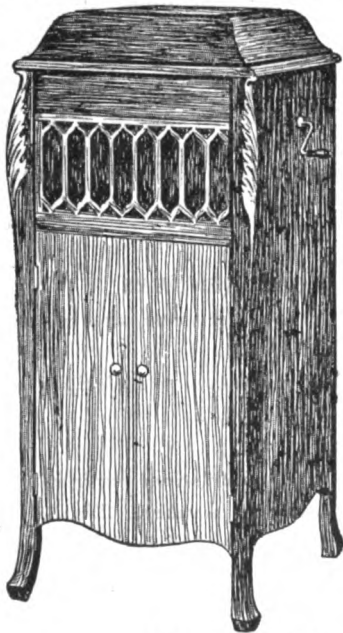
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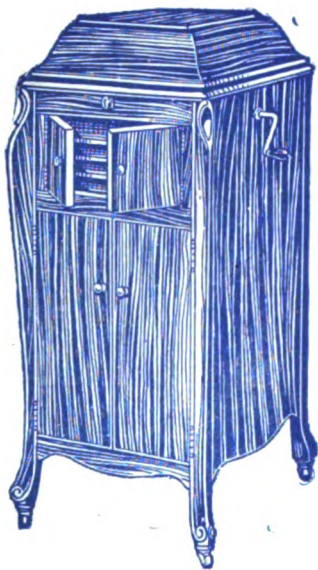
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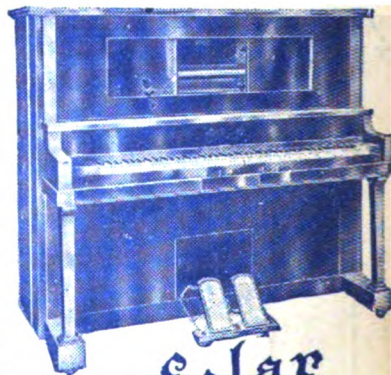
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Relief Work.

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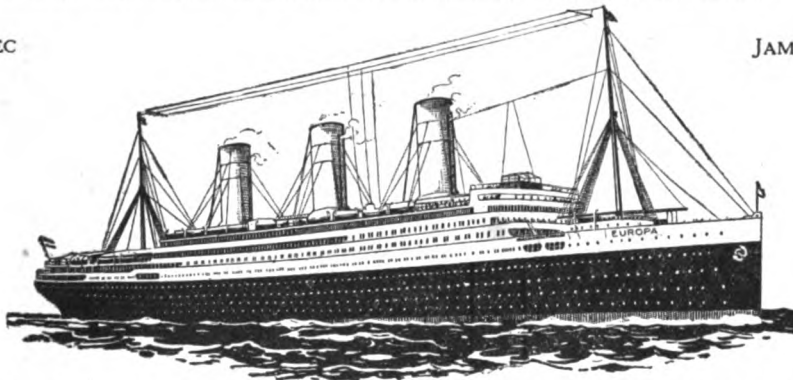
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FEBRUARY, 1920.

No. 2

The Month in Czechoslovakia

Chancellor Renner's visit to Prague was of a startling character and gave rise to many rumors, some of them silly on their face, such as the cable published in America claiming that an offensive and defensive alliance had been formed between Czechoslovakia and Austria. Renner came to Prague—went to Canossa, as the opposition in Vienna called his journey—because he was urged to it by both economic and political motives. His previous trip to Paris resulted in little material help from the Entente; Vienna was in desperate need of food and coal, and while the Czechoslovaks could spare no grain, they could give more coal and sugar. And as far as politics was concerned, Vienna was willing to forget that for centuries it had dictated to Prague, because the existing republican regime in Austria was in danger from the monarchistic reaction in Hungary which by its talk about the restoration of Hungary's integrity aimed also at the integrity of the Czechoslovak Republic. So it was natural that Renner sought rapprochement with the Czechoslovaks. He came to Prague on January 10 for a visit of four days, accompanied by a staff of expert advisers; he announced that he came to take up the details of the execution of the St. Germain treaty, such as the drawing of the boundary lines and liquidation of financial claims, further more liberal frontier inspections, making of a provisional commercial treaty, exchange of products etc. Renner himself promptly took up foreign affairs with Minister Beneš, while his financial and commercial advisers went into session with Czechoslovak experts. As to the economic phase of the negotiations, it was announced later that Czechoslovakia agreed to increase its quota of coal for Austria to 510 carloads a day, as well as give Austria

30,000 tons of sugar. The larger coal pledge was made possible by France which promised to give the Czechoslovaks 5000 coal cars of which 1500 have already been delivered. As to diplomatic questions, talk of an alliance was called foolish by Dr. Beneš; he stated in the National Assembly that agreement was reached as to the execution of the St. Germain (Austrian) peace treaty. Undoubtedly this understanding applies principally to those parts of the treaty which have reference to the Magyars. The Czechoslovak Republic was given the northern counties of Hungary—Slovak and Rusin territory; this district has been occupied for more than a year and is completely incorporated into the body politic of the Republic. Austria was given by the peace conference a small strip along the western boundary of Hungary. It is a territory inhabited by very mixed population, Slavs, Magyars and Germans, the last being the most numerous. This district is still in Magyar hands. The land here is very fertile, which is one of the reasons why peace conference awarded it to Austria, a country almost entirely mountainous. The present regime in Budapest which is dominated by chauvinists may refuse to comply with the demand of the peace conference to surrender this additional slice of St. Stephen's land; and if it feels strong enough, it may even repeat the bolshevik invasion of Slovakia of last May. Beside these possibilities of trouble with the Magyars, Austria is seriously affected by monarchist propaganda from Hungary, just as it was formerly exposed to the missionary activities of the bolsheviks; and it must be remembered that outside of Vienna the population of Austria consists of small farmers and shepherds who are very conservative and were formerly very loyal monarchists. In

Czechoslovakia this element is lacking and a monarchist reaction is unthinkable there. But if the Hapsburgs should come back both in Hungary and Austria, with Germany an unknown factor, Czechoslovak independence would be in grave danger. It was due to these considerations that relations between Vienna and Prague have, contrary to all expectations, become friendly, if not cordial.

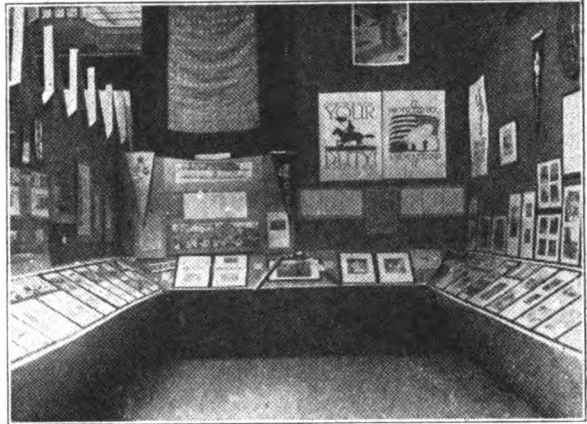
The hard lot of Vienna, shivering, starving, stoical, has been described fully in the American press. A number of correspondents from this country are stationed there, although there are none in Prague; they are keenly sensible to human suffering and they have tried to rouse American sympathy with poor Vienna. Apparently they succeeded so well that politicians and businessmen, even as cool-headed a man as Herbert Hoover, have been betrayed by the contemplation of Vienna into passing a summary judgment on the work of the peace conference. It is now the smart thing to say that European diplomats reduced Austria to a pass, where it cannot be self-supporting, and that they expect America to keep giving money to Austria so that its population would not starve to death. That is hardly fair, for in the first place France, England, Italy, Czechoslovakia, Holland are giving Austria far more on credit than Uncle Sam is asked to do. But regardless of the loans, is it possible that Americans would prefer the alternative to Vienna's downfall, namely the restoration of the Dual Empire, let us say under a republican regime? Vienna is freezing and starving, because it is a city of more than two million people which lived in comfort and contentment on the industry of an empire of 52 million people, but is simply impossible as the capital of a mountainous republic of six million people. Let us be clear about this matter: the trouble is not with Austria, but with Vienna. Until a half or more of Vienna's superfluous population disperses, there can be no cure of the city's ills, and that will be a gradual process; agriculture alone could absorb them, but the Viennese will rather starve than go to the farm, and even with the best will on the part of all concerned the displacement of a million people will take much time. Thus a little reflection will show that the statesmen in Paris cannot be charged with

responsibility for Vienna's straits. Even if they wanted to, they could not have kept the Czechoslovaks, Poles, Jugoslavs, Italians and others under the old rule, and if they had complied with the wish of a part of the Austrian population and permitted the union of the country with Germany, that would have passed the buck to Germany, but would have hardly meant more flour and potatoes and coal for Vienna.

Magyars have until February 14 to submit their observations on the peace treaty delivered to them. The terms of the treaty have not been made public, but the territorial clauses are no secret. Boundaries against Austria have been settled in the Austrian treaty; boundaries with Czechoslovakia were determined by a decision of the Supreme Council on June 12 and later ratified by the Czechoslovak National Assembly; and similarly in the case of other neighbors. Thus Magyar counts who compose the peace delegation cannot hope to bring home Hungary in its former boundaries, even though they are resolved never to agree to the mutilation of the crown of St. Stephen, and even though they spend all available francs and pounds and dollars in propaganda. The psychological state of the men who now control what is left of Hungary may be likened to the state of mind of Germany during the earlier period of the war: if they have the will to victory, they must win in spite of the whole world. So the Magyars intensify their agitation in the lost Slovak and Roumanian and Yugoslav districts and try to break into the press of the Entente countries. Occasionally they succeed. Thus at the very time, when the peace delegation reached Paris, a report was cabled to America from Budapest that the Czechoslovak government confiscated three million dollars sent by the Slovaks of America to their people in Slovakia for a campaign against Czech domination. No one among the Slovaks of America heard of any collection being made for any such purpose; the only funds sent from here to Slovakia were relief money collected by the Slovak League and a small Christmas gift sent by a Catholic Slovak organization to Catholic leaders abroad. The whole story was a lie calculated to give credence to Magyar claims that Slovaks want to get back under Magyar rule. But the ingenious foreign propa-

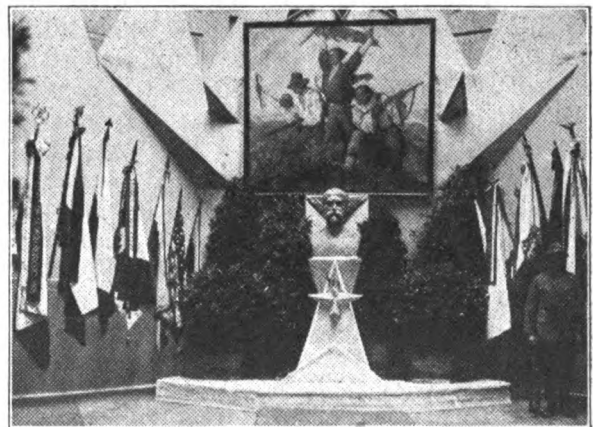
ganda came too late and is not doing the Magyars any good; and as to agitation among the former nationalities of Hungary, the Slovaks, Roumanians, Rusins and others are not as simple-minded, as Budapest takes them to be. In Roumania the present government is controlled by leaders of Roumanians from Transylvania, Rusins have their own government and the Slovaks point eloquently to the school record: one thousand years of Magyar rule did not produce one Slovak high school, while one year of Czechoslovak rule created over 40. Incidentally Slovak leaders in answer to invitation to join the Magyars in a happy union under one king draw a comparison between Slovakia and Magyaria in 1919. The proud rulers of Hungary looked on Slovaks as an inferior race, fit only to obey the lordly Magyar, the kinsman of the Turks and Tartars. In 1919 Hungary proper passed through three revolutions; a few months ago the reds were shooting the noblemen and priests, now the patriots hang the leaders of the workingmen and the Jews, while the country is bankrupt and Budapest starving. Slovakia is in comparison prosperous, public order has been steadily maintained and great progress made in the first year of independence. Magyars under their new king, whoever he may be, will be a disturbing element in Central Europe, but fortunately their country is too small—less than eight million people—to be a real danger to its neighbors.

After five and a half years Czechoslovaks in Siberia are about to be sent home. At least this time there is a definite pledge on the part of the American and British governments to furnish the shipping and extend credit to the Czechoslovak government for the cost of transportation. Up to the present nearly ten thousand invalids and soldiers over 42 have been sent home through the efforts of the army itself; the leaders chartered Japanese freight boats, loaded them with raw materials needed in Bohemia and brought Czechoslovak manufacturers on the return trip, thus earning enough to pay for the charter of the ships. The last part of the first regiment sailed from Vladivostok on December 18 and reached Prague about February 1. Sometime in February two large transports, President Grant and America, will take on



Service Flag of Cleveland Czechoslovaks, American Room, Exhibit of Legionaries.

10,000 men at Vladivostok and take them home by way of the Panama Canal; the rest will go at the rate of about 10,000 a month. Most of the transports will take the Suez route to Trieste, although it is possible that the British will transport a portion of the army via Canada. There are still 40,000 Czechoslovak soldiers in Siberia, of which 25,000 were until recently stationed at Irkutsk and places west of Irkutsk. With the rapid advance of the Red armies and the overthrow of Kolchak rule in Irkutsk the position of the garrisons west of Irkutsk became highly difficult. It is not clear what is happening west of Lake Baikal, and some of the Czechoslovak garrisons may have to fight for their lives once more. In addition to 40,000 soldiers remaining in Siberia it becomes the duty



Flags of Legionary Regiments Around Masaryk's Bust.

of the Czechoslovak government to see to the return of some 30,000 prisoners of war, who are citizens of the Republic of German race.

National Assembly met on January 7 for its last stretch of constitutional and legislative activity. It had a big task ahead: adopt new constitution which the committee on constitution had agreed upon, pass election laws for the first elected parliament, settle the question of languages in public service, pass the budget for 1920, decide the size of army and obligation to military service, create Greater Prague and a number of other urgent matters. It was the plan of the ministry to get through with all this before the end of January, so that elections could then be proclaimed and held the first week in March. Apparently there is again a delay of one or two weeks in this program, though it seems certain that elections will be held early in March. At the time of writing, the draft of the constitution prepared in the committee has not been made public, but certain principal features have become known and may be considered as definitely a part of the future constitution. The Czechoslovak state is declared to be a democratic republic with a president and national assembly. President is elected by the National Assembly for a term of six years and may be re-elected for one more term. This provision does not apply to the first president; this is meant as a compliment and vote of confidence to President Masaryk. President may dissolve both or either chamber of the legislature, but must call for new elections in 60 days; he may veto bills passed by both houses, but a simple majority vote in both houses may pass such bills against his veto. The chamber of deputies will consist of 300 members, elected for five years; all citizens, men and women, 21 years of age, are entitled to vote; the candidate must be 30 years old. Senate will consist of 100 members elected for 8 years by electors who are at least 26 years of age, while the senators must be 45 years old. Regular sessions will be held in March and October of each year. There will be a separation of church and state. All citizens are equal before the law, and members of minority races can use their own language in dealings with governmental officials in districts, where the particular minority numbers

20% of the population; besides each race is entitled to have the children instructed in public schools in its own language.

Organization of the army has made great progress. On January 1 Czechoslovak legions became fused with the domestic formations, thus unifying the structure and equipment of the entire army. The legions which fought during the war on the Allied side in France, Italy and Russia are composed of picked men, all volunteers; they now become the cadre out of which the permanent regiments are built by being filled up with men who had seen service only in the Austrian army and with new drafts. The army bill provides for a standing army of 150,000, composed of 48 regiments of infantry, 4 of mountain infantry and 10 independent battalions, 11 regiments of field cavalry, 12 of light artillery and 12 of heavy artillery, 5 bat. for air service with 310 aeroplanes, 1 railroad regiment, a transportation corps with 2285 motors and 5 battalions of train. There is even a navy, of course for service on rivers only, consisting of 6 monitors, 6 guardships and 2 gunboats. The peace status of the armed forces will be 8090 officers and 141,910 men. Service in the army will be compulsory and will probably include two years under arms, while undergoing training, with a longer period in reserve.

Although elections are approaching, party warfare has somewhat decreased in bitterness; only the national democrats are making campaign material out of the failure of the coalition government to lower prices and raise the exchange value of the crown. The quarrel of Czechoslovak socialists with social democrats arising out of discrimination of social democratic labor unions against workers belonging to the younger labor party, has been composed by a decree of the government which created workingmen's arbitration courts. An employee who lost his place through violence or intimidation of a labor union may sue the union before the new arbitration court for damages; the court is composed of representatives of the rival labor unions, and the chairman is the county judge. Provision is made for collecting damages assessed and for re-employment of the discharged worker. Among other political happenings the dissolution of the

progressive party deserves to be recorded. The party was never imposing in numbers, but it counted among its adherents at one time or another some of the greatest Czech statesmen. Its beginnings may be traced to 1883, and Masaryk should be called its founder. It was then known as the realist party. Its influence began to be felt in 1886, when the weekly "Čas" was established. In 1891 it entered into a coalition with the Young Czech party and participated in its sweeping election victory; Masaryk, Kramář and Kaizl were sent to Vienna parliament. But two years later came a dissolution of the alliance; Kramář and Kaizl went over to the Young Czechs, Masaryk resigned from parliament and did not re-enter it till 1907. At that time the party had only two deputies in parliament, but its influence far exceeded its numerical strength. During the latter part of the war, in 1917, the leaders of the party, Dr. Herben, Dr. Šámal, head of the Maffia, and poet Machar combined with the former Young Czech party, now the national democrats. The others made an alliance with the Czechoslovak socialists, and at a conference on January 6, 1920, voted to join this party formally. This step will mean an important addition to the intellectual leadership of the national socialists. Masaryk himself, of course, has not been identified with any party since the time, when he left the country during the early days of the war to conduct the independence campaign abroad. In Slovakia the old national party fused with the new and lusty farmers' party. Among current events of general interest should be noted the conviction of former bureau chief Karel Jirák of attempt to bribe foreign minister Beneš. Jirák was sentenced to eight months' imprisonment and loss of franchise; the jail sentence was suspended, but he was compelled to pay the offered bribe of twenty million crowns for the benefit of Prague charitable institutions.

An unusual event, the significance of which it is difficult to estimate at this time, took place on January 8, when an assembly of the so-called Reformist clergy voted by 140 against 65 to secede from the Roman Catholic Church. Rumblings of rebellion had been heard for a year. Last January a referendum was taken among the priests as to a number of reforms, chief of which

were voluntary celibacy of the clergy, introduction of the language of the people into the services of the Church and greater democracy in Church government. Delegations were sent to Rome for concessions in these matters, but the extent of concessions promised did not satisfy the Reformists. They were further incensed by the appointment of Dr. Kordáč to be archbishop of Prague; he was looked upon as an extreme conservative. Many priests did not wait, but contracted marriage; one of the Reformist clergymen married 105 priests. At the meeting on January 8 the serious step was taken to establish a separate church, to be known as the Czechoslovak Church. As was to be expected, the Catholic Church met the schism with determination and the Holy See excommunicated the schismatics. There is a great deal of sympathy in the press for the Reformists, but also much scepticism as to what they will accomplish. The editorials point out that the schism took place over questions of a formal character, principally marriage of clergy and Czech language in services; a religious movement needs a deeper religious impulse to obtain and maintain a hold on the people.

War is responsible for much moral deterioration, in Czechoslovakia as elsewhere. Perhaps with the Czechoslovaks war should get even a larger share of blame than in other countries, because during the war it was the patriotic thing for a good Czech to cheat the government—simulate sickness so as to avoid military service, hide his grain so that it would not be requisitioned for the Austrian army, loaf on the job in the munition factory. Four years of bad habits cannot be readily eradicated; there is today in the Czechoslovak Republic much profiteering, selfishness, suspicion of public officials, wholesale condemnation of the existing conditions. But there is also strong effort to overcome the moral defects which the war produced. The leading organization is the Republican League for Moral Regeneration of the Nation which was recently addressed by President Masaryk in a remarkable letter. The president says among other things: "I cannot address a special appeal to the people, as so many friends suggested. Democracy implies not merely political self-government, but moral also; and democracy means self-help. Besides I am kept from taking this

step by the conviction that our national conditions are far from black and that improvement and growth of better things are plainly to be seen. . . . I recommend to your League to avoid indefinite and barren moralizing, but to study rather the actual moral condition of various classes, callings, localities etc. and to base on this study efficient moral self-help". One symptom of this improvement in public morality is the plan of the government to suppress prostitution and to commit persons suffering with venereal diseases to public sanatoria, where they will be detained until cured.

The proposed budget for 1920, laid before the National Assembly on December 15, makes a better showing than the first budget of the Republic. The 1919 budget figured with a total deficiency of five billion crowns, although the minister of finance stated in January that the actual deficiency turned out to be only four billion; the 1920 budget expects to end with a deficit at the end of the year of about two and a half billion crowns. The total expenditures are estimated as 10,416,175,920 K; of that ordinary expenses are 4,926,691,823 K, extraordinary 5,489,484,097 K. The income for 1920 is figured as 7,750,770,773 K; ordinary income is 5,323,582,361 K, extraordinary income 2,427,188,412 K. Compared with 1919 the total expenses have grown by 1,890,830,000 K, the total income by 4,011,016,000 K. Among the important items of expenditure are following: interest on state debt 1,158,011,000 K, that is 746,200,000 K more than in 1919; ministry of finance asks for 1,055,158,000 or nearly double the previous year, most of which is needed to purchase tobacco abroad for the tobacco monopoly; posts and telegraphs need 109,400,000 K more than the previous year by reason of growth of service in Slovakia and Rusinia and because of increased salaries; railways ask for 384,000,000 more, public works 20 mill. more, social welfare 933 mill. more for building of homes, care of children and maintenance of invalids, while pensions and unemployment grants will require less money than in 1919; ministry of national defense asks for 472 mill. less than in the previous year. A large share of the extraordinary expenditures is in the nature of investments; thus posts and telegraphs want 51 mill. for increase of telegraphic and telephonic communication.

and 22 mill. to purchase mail trucks; ministry of railways wants 350 millions for rolling stock and new track. The total of appropriations in the nature of investments is 462,800,000 K.

It cannot be said of the Czechoslovak statesmen that they fear to lay on heavy taxes. The minister of finance and the National Assembly believe that a balance in the national budget must be reached quickly, and so they tax everything in sight. There are now graduated stamp duties on drafts, notes and other evidences of indebtedness averaging 0.4%; conveyances of real estate between strangers are taxed from 4 to 7% of the value; inheritance taxes have been sharply raised, so that they now range from 1.25% on small estates passing to immediate members of the family, to as high as 33% on estates valued at 10 mill. crowns passing to distant relatives; new stock issues are taxed from 2 to 6%. Recent cable reports announce the introduction of the long discussed special property tax, to be paid on all property exceeding 10,000 K in value; the tax will be graduated and will range from 1 to 30%; another new tax is an assessment of from 5 to 40% on the increase in market value of securities.

In Czechoslovakia, at least, there are no signs of a blow-up such as some pessimistic American correspondents have been picturing as a possibility for Central Europe. Coal situation is slightly improved, and the weather being unusually warm there is not as much distress, as there was reason to fear earlier in the season. Unemployment is constantly decreasing; the government is able now to maintain the promised ration of flour by the importation of American flour via the Elbe. That of course cannot continue indefinitely, as the cost of delivering American flour in Bohemia is greater than the original purchase price and the government is obliged to pay great sums out of its funds, so that flour may be sold to the people at a price which they can afford to pay. The economic situation is governed by three considerations: shortage of coal, lack of railroad cars and the low exchange value of the crown. There is a steady improvement in the first two points; the crown has dropped again in January in sympathy with the German mark. Owing

to the depreciation of the Czechoslovak crown, manufacturers can undersell competitors in the western markets, but cannot buy raw materials without which the prosperity of the country cannot be brought back. The eyes of Bohemian financiers and merchants turn toward the East; Russia is next to America the great storehouse of food, wool, skins, oil, manganese ore, and Russia needs Czechoslovak manufacturers. But the situation there is kaleidoscopic; hardly had Czechoslovak representatives made an agreement for the purchase of 150,000 tons of wheat from southern Russia, when the Reds overran the country and everything was back at the beginning. Cze-

choslovaks also need ships; traffic on the Danube is carried on directly by the government, on the Elbe by private firms, but ocean-going ships are at present beyond the reach of Czechoslovakia, although the government is trying to charter German ships to transport iron ore from Sweden across the Baltic to river boats. The sugar crop of 1919 turned out to be smaller than originally figured on; it is now estimated at 530,000 long tons. There is a lack of agricultural laborers, but the hunger for soil is there; the commission for the apportionment of great landed estates received 200,000 applications for half a million acres of land.

Czechoslovak Information Bureau.



Women from Teschen Demand Union with Czechoslovakia.

The minister of finance as a New Year present increased the price of smokes to the men of Czechoslovakia, but in return promised them larger rations of tobacco, cigars and cigarettes. In our American money we would not consider it expensive to smoke the best Bohemian cigars which are only 3 crowns a piece, less than 5 cents; the best cigarette costs 0.70 K, just about a penny. Czechoslovak smokers have their choice limited to 11 brands of cigars, 7 kinds of cigarettes, 3 kinds of cigarette tobacco and 2 of pipe tobacco, and 2 brands of snuff.

The Sokol Games to be held in Prague between June 22 and 27 will exceed in size anything of

the sort heretofore attempted. A total of 2046 Sokol gymnastic societies have notified the central committee of participation; in the calisthenic drill there will be 26,902 men and 23,248 women; the youngsters who hold their athletic meet the week previous to the big games will number 13,572 boys and 12,607 girls. American Sokols will send a strong team and thousands of visitors.

In the entire Czechoslovak Republic there are 15,136 municipalities or communes, including cities, towns and villages; of this number 7776 are in Bohemia, 2904 in Moravia, 497 in Silesia and 3959 in Slovakia.

Magyars and the Czechoslovak Republic

By PROF. KAREL KADLEC, PH. D.

The Magyars, like the Germans, are fanatical enemies of the Czechoslovak nation. That is not our fault, but it is due to the Magyars themselves. There is nothing in history to indicate that between the Czechoslovaks and the Magyars friendship or even sympathy had been the rule, but neither are there evidences of chronic hatred. Only in the last fifty years have the relations of the two nations been marked with downright hostility.

Almost eleven hundred years ago, in the center of Europe to the east of German territories, there was growing up in Moravia a political organization of West Slav tribes who later formed the Bohemian-Moravian state. Among these tribes were the Slovaks, both those living in Moravia and those settled under the Carpathians. The Great Moravian realm of the Mojmir dynasty enjoyed favorable conditions of development and would have grown into a powerful state, if it had not been for the invasion of migratory Magyar hordes which at the end of the ninth century penetrated into the plains between the Danube and the Tisza, captured Pannonia and about the year 906 destroyed the Great Moravian empire.

The Pannonian plains seem to have been destined by nature for the stamping ground of various Asiatic hordes. History speaks of several Turanian races holding sway over what later became Hungary. First came the Huns, then the Avars and finally the Magyars. All of these races were extremely backward culturally and maintained their rule over subjugated European peoples through violence and a better military organization. But force and military discipline did not save the Asiatic hordes from defeat. Huns and Avars were destroyed, and the Magyars who for half a century sent out robber expeditions from Pannonia into the neighboring lands as far as France, suffered signal defeat in 955.

Their bellicoseness was greatly moderated by this slaughter. At the end of the 10th century Christianity began to take roots among them, and their first Christian king, St. Stephen, may be considered the real founder of the Hungarian state.

The country received the name of Hungary after the people who established here a new state, for Magyars were called by their neighbors Huns. Their own name for their nation is derived from the name of the principal of the seven tribes into which they were divided.

By accepting Christianity and the fruits of European culture Magyars saved their nation from extinction. Their number was not great; according to tradition recorded in their chronicles the Magyar nation was composed of eight tribes of which seven were properly Magyar and one was Chazar or Kuman. These tribes again were divided into 108 families or clans, so that their total number could have hardly exceeded 200,000 souls. About one-fourth or one-fifth of it made up the army. In view of the constant robber expeditions which the Magyars carried on during the first fifty years it may be safely stated that during the first century of their settlement in Hungary the number of Magyars did not increase, but rather diminished. Thus it is not strange that St. Stephen in establishing a Christian state had to lean on all the nations of Hungary, and primarily upon those who communicated culture to his barbarian kinsmen.

Among these men were Germans both those settled in Hungary and to the West, and of the Slavs especially Slovaks, Slovenians and Croatians; this is proved by the Magyar scholar Jan Melich from Magyar Christian terminology. Further proofs are found in Magyar political and legal institutions taken over from Germans and Slavs, as is evident both from their substance and their names. The higher cultural level of the Slavs furnishes the explanation, why a full third of Magyar vocabulary is derived from Slav roots; many Magyar local names and especially names of Hungarian castles indicate that the Slavs had well-developed political institutions before the Magyar invasion. Magyars found a complete system of Slav castles or forts which they took over without materially changing the names. Thus in Slovakia we find Nitra, Hlohovec, Bečkov, Trenčín, Novohrad (Nograd), Všehrad, etc., in other

parts of the country several Zemljens, that is to say forts with earthen walls, Černý hrad or in Magyar Csongrad (Black Castle), two Bělehrads (White Castles), Kněža or in Magyar Kanis, Brana or Baranyavar etc.

The conversion of the entire Magyar nation to Christianity took about ten generations, from 900 to 1200. During that time the former wanderers became accustomed somewhat to the European way of living. The same feudal system which was the foundation of political life in Western Europe was planted in Hungary. The population came to be divided into those with privileges and those without them. In both camps were represented members of all Hungarian nationalities, Magyars and Slavs equally. After the adoption of Christianity by the Arpad dynasty access to the court became available not merely to Magyar Christian magnates, but to other chiefs, especially Slovaks.

It is probable that the non-Magyar population was more numerous than Magyar, and the language of the conquering race did not enjoy any privileges over the other tongues, if for no other reason, because it had not yet developed sufficiently to be used as a literary medium. It was enough of an advantage to the Magyars that they did not lose themselves in the mosaic of Hungarian nationalities, as did their kinsmen the Bulgars who laid the foundations for a Slav state in Moesia and Thrace.

Various were the causes, why the Magyar element did not disappear among races numerically stronger. On the one hand Magyar nobility increased its numbers by accessions of renegates of other nations, especially ennobled men of Wallachian and Roumanian nationality. Another contribution to the maintenance of Magyar individuality was furnished by the Kumans, a related Turko-Tatar tribe which at various times migrated into Hungary and in course of time fused with them, both the common people and the Kuman chieftains. Other immigrant races, like Pečeněhs (Bissen), nearly related to the Magyars, Tartars who remained in the land after the Tartar invasions, and Turks who remained after the overthrow of Turkish rule, also were assimilated to their Magyar kinsmen. Turkish domination which lasted for a century and a half in Central Hungary contributed also to the preservation of the Magyar element, for the Turks made

no attempt to deprive their subjects of their nationality, as did the Germans, and thus their rule did not hurt the Magyars from the national point of view.

In the peculiar mixture of Hungarian nationalities the Slovaks made a good showing. They belonged to the nationalities that were settled in Hungary before the advent of the Magyars; this may be said also of the Slovenians. Both nations were named by the Magyars Totok, a word still preserved today in Tot, Magyar designation of Slovak; the old Magyar name for Slavonia was Totorszag. According to Vambery the word tot is derived from Turkish and signifies a resident stranger. Thus Magyar etymology itself proves that Slovaks were settled in Hungary before the coming of the Magyars. This disposes of Magyar chauvinistic claim that Slovaks in Upper Hungary became almost extinct during the Arpad dynasty and that Slovakia was colonized anew by Czech immigrants during the Hussite period.

We do not mean to say that there was no immigration of Czechs into Hungary. To the contrary, historical sources show clearly that the indigenous Slovak population received constant accessions from the Bohemian lands. There is nothing surprising in that. Even in eastern Hungary and Transylvania so many Slavs were living that newcomers, from whatever Slav country they hailed, felt themselves at home in the new environment. Slav colonists are mentioned for instance in Koloman's First Decree (cháp. 80), and in the so-called Regestum of Varad dating from early 15th century men are mentioned with Slav names, and the ordeal of glowing iron is called there iudicium praudae, pravda being a Slav word meaning truth. Fojer's Codex Dillom. IV. 1, pp. 58 to 60, quotes documents showing that during the reign of Stephen III. Czech colonists came to Hungary and received the territory of Obon. Many Czech immigrants came to Hungary in the first half of the 15th century during the Hussite wars, and when Jan Jiskra of Brandýs defended with a Czech army in Northern Hungary the claims of queen Elisabeth, widow of Albert of Hapsburg and daughter of Zikmund of Luxemburg, and of her infant son Ladislav the Posthumous to the Hungarian crown. After Jiskra surrendered to king Mathias, his captains and his men remained in the

country and settled principally in the Malohont and Bylog districts of the Gemer county, and in Zvolensk and Lučenec in the Novohrad county.

Closer relations between the Bohemian and Hungarian populations took place particularly at times, when the two states, or at least parts of them, had common rulers, as under Sigismund of Luxemburg, Albrecht of Hapsburg and his son Ladislav, Mathias Korvin, Vladislav and Louis Jagiello, and finally under the Hapsburgs. During Ferdinands' reign and under his successors the Austrian-Bohemian-Hungarian monarchy held for a century and a half only that part of Hungary consisting of the Slovak counties and a strip along the Austrian border, so that the Hapsburgs really ruled in Hungary only Slovaks and a mixture of Germans and Yugoslavs in the west of Hungary. The Slovaks in those days used the Czech language as their literary medium. In consequence of these political, language and neighbor relations the nobility of Upper Hungary maintained friendly relations with the nobility of not merely Bohemia and Moravia, but also of Poland.

Czech peasants also migrated into Hungary. There is a decree of emperor Leopold I. dated June 6 1699, in which reference is made to wholesale emigration of Moravian and Silesian peasants to Hungary, after the Turks had been expelled, in the hope that they would thereby free themselves of serfdom. The emperor forbade this migration. But early in the 18th century Moravian and Silesian peasants were still moving in large numbers into Hungary. Naturally peasants within Hungary were even more affected by this migrating fever. After the expulsion of the Turks peasants of many Slovak villages moved south into districts populated by Magyars, and many Slovak colonies in central and lower Hungary were then founded. The first and greatest of these settlements in the Hungarian Alfold (steppe) was Čaba (Bekes-Csaba) which was founded in 1715 and before the middle of the 18th century gave rise to several new Slovak colonies. In 1820 it had a population of 20,000, in 1840 over 25,000 and was made a market town.

In the second half of the 18th century there were established first Slovak colonies in what later became known as the Military

Frontier and the Banat of Temešvar; many other races, especially Germans, settled here also. In Southern Hungary there were established not only Slovak, but even Czech colonies. They date from the second decade of the 19th century.

Extensive colonization was needed by Hungary, because the population was very scarce. At the end of the 17th century, when the Turks held only the Banat and Srēm, all Hungary had only about two million people, of whom Magyars numbered hardly more than half a million. Thus they had about 25% of the population, and this small percentage in itself made it impossible for them to dominate the rest. The administration of the state was in the hands of Austrian bureaucracy. Only after the final expulsion of the Turks during the reign of Charles VI. were the supreme Hungarian offices reorganized, namely the Hungarian court chancery, Hungarian exchequer, governing council, court of the seven lords, and the royal court of justice. But throughout the 18th century Latin was the official language of all the Hungarian nationalities, and the Magyar language still lacked literary polish. It was first cultivated in the 15th century as a result of impulse communicated by the Hussite movement, and the Reformation in the 16th century also contributed to the development of the Magyar tongue. But after the flourishing period in the 17th century Magyar literature fell into decay in the 18th. Only in Transylvania which during the sway of national princes in the 16th and 17th centuries became a Magyar state did the Magyar language receive special acknowledgment; since 1665 it was the language of many provincial diets. The first Transylvanian codifications of laws, prepared for the three political nations of Transylvania, namely Magyars, Saxons and Szekels, called *Approbatæ Constitutiones* (1655) and *Compilatae Constitutiones* (1669), were also written in Magyar. But after the Hapsburg dynasty secured Transylvania at the end of the 17th century, it began to favor Latin against Magyar and again introduced into judicial proceedings the use of Latin. In the 18th century Latin was the usual literary tongue of Hungary.

A new epoch in the cultivation of the Magyar tongue begins in the reign of Maria Theresa. But in spite of promising start made by the modern Magyar literature the

general public remained cold toward Magyar nationalism. Only after Josef II. commanded the authorities in Hungary to use German in place of Latin, did the national consciousness of the Magyar nobility awaken. Since 1791 we find repeated decisions of the estates in behalf of the Magyar tongue. The privileges of Latin are gradually curtailed and Magyar is introduced into the whole administration of the state, judiciary and legislation, until in the fourth decade of the 19th century it becomes the exclusive official and parliamentary language, at the expense of the other tongues customary in the country. Magyar chauvinism not satisfied with this forced Magyar language upon the Croats, a nation which had a separate political position based on treaties.

In the fourth decade of the last century we can no longer recognize in the Magyars the descendants of those freedom-loving Hungarian revolutionaries of the 17th century who with much bravery and self-sacrifice grasped the sword to win political and religious liberty for all Hungarian nationalities. The Magyar became suddenly a conceited jingo and oppressor; he alone is born to rule, others and Slovaks especially, may count themselves lucky to be swallowed by the chivalrous Magyar nation. "Tot nem Ember — Slovak is not a man", this was a favorite expression of Magyar chivalry. Count Szechenyi, called by his people the "greatest Magyar", had this to say in an address to the Hungarian Academy: "I hardly know a single Magyar, even though his hair be gray and his face bear wrinkles of much experience, who will not turn into a lunatic or at least lose all sense of justice and honor, as soon as there is any question of our language and nationality. Then even our shyest man loses his temper, wise man is blind, and the squarest man forgets the eternal commandment: Do no do unto others what you do not want others to do unto you."

Szechenyi's admonition was in vain. The Magyars lost all balance and by their violent methods of Magyarization made enemies of all the Hungarian nationalities. Although Magyarization made great progress, it was too slow for the rabid patriots who wanted to make everybody Magyar in the course of a few years. They raged against the dynasty, when it occasionally

cooled their hot heads and protected to some slight extent the non-Magyar peoples.

In 1848 Magyar terror reached its climax. A weak-minded king and his court gave way before the insatiable ambition of the Magyars. April 11, 1848, new fundamental laws received royal sanction. Hungary won complete independence and the monarchy was divided into two parts. The new constitution insulted all non-Magyar nations, especially the Croats whose country was declared to be a mere Hungarian province. The result was a desperate fight of the nationalities against the Magyars, and then Magyar revolution against Vienna. Too late, in 1849, Ludvik Kossuth was willing to pass a law which would guarantee to all Hungarian nationalities free development. The revolution was over with Gorgei's capitulation on August 13, 1849. In the whole monarchy there opened another era of absolutism and Germanization, pressing down on all nations with the exception of the Germans. The Magyars got over their spell of megalomania. Kossuth in exile planned in 1859 a confederation of three Danubian states, Hungary, Serbia and Moldavia-Wallachia (Roumania), thus indicating that he held radically changed views on the question of nationalities. He wanted a reconciliation with the Serbians and the Roumanians, and in Hungary all citizens were to enjoy equal rights and liberties. Military units recruited from Serbians and Roumanians of Hungary were to use their own language in army command. In negotiating with the Serbian Prince Michael Obrenovich Kossuth declared that the Magyars were ready to make all the concessions to the nationalities which would not break up the unity of the country and its political entity. The Magyars could be very liberal, when they found themselves in unfavorable political conditions. But as soon as they came once more into power, they forgot liberty and fraternity and became the worst oppressors of their fellow-citizens of other nationalities. Their talk of equality was never sincere, even when they were in the greatest difficulties.

Absolutist regime of the fifties brought the Hapsburg monarchy almost to ruin. After the defeats in Italy in 1859 Vienna sought a new political orientation. By the diploma of October 20, 1860 the emperor surrendered his absolute power and ad-

mitted representatives of the citizens to participation in affairs of state. The various lands were to have provincial diets and the entire monarchy a common parliament or imperial council. Magyars and Croats declared themselves opposed to a common legislature, and their diets were dissolved. After a brief period of absolute government negotiations were commenced again both with the Magyars and the Croats. The defeat of Austria in the Prussian war of 1866 hastened the conclusion of the deal with the Magyars; the emperor consented to the restoration of the constitution of 1848, with some changes in the interest of the entire monarchy. Beust, a foreigner, at that time the chief adviser of Francis Joseph, solved the long lasting constitutional quarrel of the Magyars with their king in a superficial and easy-going manner.

The emperor-king and the Vienna circles that ruled the monarchy looked upon the Magyars, with justification from their point of view, as a stiff-necked, bothersome nation which by its constant and immoderate demands endangered the international standing of the empire as a Great Power; perhaps it would be as well to get rid of this annoyance, even at high cost. It was plain, in any case, that this abnormally conceited nation could not be Germanized and would not consent to centralization. So Beust, a superficial politician, offered the advice to divide the monarchy into two parts, both with equal rights. One part would be ruled by Germans, the other by Magyars; in other words Germans who had held the exclusive privilege to rule up to then agreed to let out the Magyars from under their sway and admit them to partnership in ruling the empire. Each of the two nations should be allowed a free hand in its territory as against other nations living there. Thus Germans secured the right to hold down the non-German races in Cis-Leithania (country this side of the River Leitha or the Austrian half of the Dual Monarchy), while Magyars had now the same right as against non-Magyars in Trans-Leithania. This cheap plan of a politician was readily accepted by Francis Joseph and in 1867 the old Hapsburg monarchy was transformed into Austria-Hungary. Wrong and oppression was doubled.

Beust and Francis Joseph committed a grave injury to all the nations of the poly-

ethnic monarchy. Only two domineering nations were to enjoy free political, economic and cultural development, whereas all the other nations were reduced to subordinate, inferior, serf races. But the greatest crime consisted in turning over Hungarian nationalities to the mercies of the Magyars, a nation backward in culture, undistinguished in any field, small in numbers, abnormally conceited and aggressive. Even though the German yoke lay heavy on the nations of Austria, it was light compared with the Magyar yoke borne by the nations of Hungary.

At once Magyars threw away the mask of liberalism and turned into persecutors. As a subterfuge they issued in 1868 the so-called law of nationalities or rather language law, in which non-Magyar nationalities received certain very limited guarantees. But even this law was never enforced, but rather grossly violated from the very first days of dualism. Remorseless Magyarization and persecution of nationalities was introduced finally in fall of 1875 with the appointment of Koloman Tisza to the chair of premier.

Since that time the existence of the language law was completely ignored. The Hungarian state was claimed to be in danger, as long as Magyars do not form therein an overwhelming majority, and until the other nationalities are not completely assimilated, whether voluntarily or by use of force. Therefore all kinds of means were used to increase the Magyar element and weaken non-Magyar nationalities. The upbuilding of the Magyar national state was the care of the cabinet and the entire Hungarian bureaucracy, the church, deputies, newspapers, societies, schools, kindergartens, professional classes and especially the Jews. The most efficient work was naturally done by the state administration. Non-Magyar languages were driven, against the clear wording of the laws, from courts and public offices, from state institutions like the posts, telegraphs and railways, from schools and even churches.

The Magyar government went so far as to close down the secondary schools maintained by Slovak churches. As early as 1862 Catholic gymnasium in Banská Bystrica was transformed into Slovak-Magyar. In 1874—75 the government closed Protestant gymnasium in Velká Řevuň, Catholic gymnasium in the convent of Znojmo and

Protestant gymnasium in Turč. Sv. Martin. The school of Bážská Bystřice was now completely Magyarized. Similar procedure was applied to elementary schools, and particularly since the enactment of Apponyi's law of 1907 the last non-Magyar elementary schools were endangered, nay doomed.

What language can characterize properly Magyar robbery of the funds collected by the Slovak Cultural Society? And what about the closed doors of the Budapest parliament against all non-Magyar deputies? As late as 1875 there were 24 deputies for nationalities elected. It was a ridiculously disproportionate number, for the House had 413 members (not including representatives for Croatia), and the Magyars were a minority in the country. But even a slight representation was not pleasing to the Magyars. In 1887 the elections were conducted under such pressure from the officials that only Magyar candidates were elected, and Slovaks and Roumanians decided on passive resistance, maintaining it till the elections of 1896. In 1901 four Slovaks were elected, in 1905 only two, in 1906 seven; in proportion to their numbers they should have had about fifty. In 1910 the nationalities suffered a serious reverse; Slovaks lost three deputies, Serbians all and Roumanians ten.

History knows no other nation to oppress so barbarously citizens using a different tongue. The Magyars in their megalomania proclaimed as their mission the spreading of Magyar culture among the barbarous nationalities of central and southern Europe. The world asks in vain what the culture is, since it contains nothing original, but only elements borrowed from the more advanced European nations. But the Magyar was convinced that his nation is a nation of refinement and chivalry, chosen by God to play a great part in history; therefore a non-Magyar may count himself fortunate, if he is permitted to become a Magyar. This apotheosis of everything Magyar, this self-worship deprived the Magyars of all perception of truth and reality. From childhood on they were taught that Magyars are superior to non-Magyars, that they are born to rule and non-Magyars to serve. History of their people was interpreted to them in a false light. And thus brought up the young man was sent out into the Magyar world which was filled with lies, injustice and oppression.

Magyar scholars take special pride in pointing to a thousand years of the Hungarian constitution or at least of the Hungarian state. To be a good Magyar you must believe it. And yet it is a historical lie, for even after their defeat in 955 the Magyars did not abandon their migratory life, and only since the reign of St. Stephen the beginnings of a settled life may be traced, due to severe measures of compulsion by the king. Where is the thousand year old constitution and state? But that never bothers a true Magyar; he has a different mentality than other Europeans, and it is useless to debate with him even the most elementary political questions. Although they have been nominally Christian for so many centuries, they have not got rid of their old paganism. They are still the same pagan nomads who in spite of their small number held in severe slavery the native population of their conquered territory. Like the Huns and Avars of old they are settled in the centre of Hungary and hold by terror, or rather did before the monarchy was broken up, the nations living around them. Nay, they even dreamed of "Nagymagyarország" (Greater Hungary) which would govern Balkan countries also. This was the plan of Paul Hoytzy and this was the policy pursued by the Magyars in the Balkans which shares responsibility with the Germans for the world war.

Magyar megalomania fed on results it achieved. At the beginning of the 19th century Magyars formed 30 per cent of the population, less than a third. This proportion was not changed until the introduction of dualism. Even in 1869, when the population of Hungary with Transylvania was found to be 13,700,000, the number of Magyars was estimated at 4,000,000. Magyar census of that day did not ascertain nationality, because the ministry was well aware of the fact that the figures would not correspond with Magyar claims. But in 1900 Magyars numbered 8,600,000 or 45 per cent of the population. Even if this number is artificially boosted, there is no doubt that Magyarizing efforts have succeeded in increasing the Magyar total. That is specially true of the last census of 1910, according to which there were found in Hungary 9,944,627 Magyars or 54 per cent of the total.

No doubt this number is exaggerated, but nevertheless it must be admitted that Magyars did form at least 40 per cent of the

population in 1910. How did it happen that the percentage increased in the course of single generation from 25—30 per cent to more than 40? Magyarization by violence is the answer. The pressure was exerted on all the non-Magyar nationalities, but particularly on Slovaks, our own brothers. And that is the reason, why Magyars had to be our enemies.

Slovak nation was fought by the Magyar government in a double manner: by forcible denationalization and economic oppression. Hungarian state economy and social policies were so miserable that no other contry could equal Hungary in the number of emigrants to America. Between 1902 and 1911 emigration from Hungary to North America amounted to 1,462,214, of which about half a million, or a third, came back. In 1912 the loss of population caused by emigration amounted to 104,000. Figures are not available as to the percentage of Slovaks among emigrants, but it is known to be very high. By this systematic war on the Slovak element in Hungary their numbers were kept down. The census of 1910 counted only 1,946,357 of them.

But the Czech nation has another reason, why it must look on the Magyars as enemies. Th brutal Magyar egoism set the Hapsburg monarchy since 1867 on a down grade direction. Dualism was first of all directed against the state right demands of the Czechs. In the reorganization of the monarchy Czechs had equal rights with the Magyars, and the reorganization should not have been carried out for the exclusive benefit of the Magyars, but to secure equal rights to all nations; federalism should have been introduced instead of dualism. And when the division of the monarchy into two parts became a fact, there should have been equal duties, as well as equal rights. But through the complaisance of the Viennese negotiators it was agreed to make the burdens of the Hungarian half much easier than those of Austria. That applied not only to the so-called quota, by which the common expenses of the monarchy were divided, but especially to the division of the common public debt.

But we would have become reconciled even with dualism, if we could have secured within its frame a separate political position, as the Croatsians secured in Hungary in 1868. In 1871 the so-called fundamental articles were actually agreed upon and the

emperor was going to proclaim them. But various foreign elements, and especially the Magyars, protested so strenuously that Francis Joseph broke his word to the Czech nation. One can say that in 1871 the Magyars destroyed the Czech state for the second time, as they had done more than nine hundred years ago.

Being faithful imitators of the Germans the Magyars were not satisfied with playing a big role in the internal politics. They, fully as much as the Germans, are responsible for the outbreak of the world war and the awful tragedy caused by it.

It was meant to be a war against the Slavs, as Bethmann-Hollweg openly admitted and as his Magyar co-worker Stephen Tisza boasted. The brutal cynicism of Germans and Magyars, as practised by the general staff of the Central Powers, made it quite clear from the very beginning of the war, what would happen to the Slavs, should the Entente be defeated. For more than four years Europe was flooded by the blood of millions of victims of German and Magyar lust of domination; lives of two generation were freely spent and accumulated wealth of centuries was wasted. But the bold attack on humanity itself failed; Germans and Magyars with their Bulgarian and Turkish helpers are reaping their reward. Defeat is to them the more painful, the more certain they were of victory. Magyar megalomania is over, but the former ruling clique cannot realize that the sacred Hungarian crown with its fetish of the integrity of the country belongs definitely to the past. Here is the explanation of Magyar hatred against the Czechoslovak Republic, against Roumania and Jugoslavia and against the entire Entente, hence also Magyar bolshevism.

The Magyar nation restricted to territory inhabited by Magyar population will have to consider carefully, how to maintain its existence. The old ways are impassable, and even the Magyars will have to conform to the new European environment and give up their violence and conceit. If they will repent, awaken from their self-intoxication and try to be worthy of membership in civilized European society, they will have a future. But they must give up for good all ambitions of dominating other nations.

If they reform, they will find in us good neighbors who will not recall ancient wrongs.

Relief Work

We talk about high prices in America. High cost of living is the most common topic of conversation; it is also the source of more jokes than any other subject, since mother-in-law was invented. We think it terrible that we have to pay two dollars, where formerly one dollar did the work. But few of us really experience any hardship because of the increased cost of living, and probably none of us has to deny himself a square meal on that account.

How different is the situation of our kinsmen in Czechoslovakia. If the price of the necessities of life were only double of what it was before the war! What a sigh of relief would be heard all over the land; how all their troubles would seem to dissolve into the air and disappear! The fact unfortunately is that most of the articles of consumption have multiplied their price ten times and more, partly because of depreciated currency, partly because of the lack of commodities or the difficulty of bringing them into the country. And while the income of the people as a whole increased two or more times above the pre-war standard, it lags woefully behind the price index. A cabinet minister draws a salary of 65,000 crowns a year; even if we refuse to be guided by the abnormally low value of the crown which would make his pay in American dollars less than one thousand a year, yet there can be no doubt that he is not as well off as a machinist in the United States. Regular professor at the University of Prague, and that means a scholar of considerable distinction, gets some 20,000 crowns a year, less than an office boy in an American factory. It is the same with all the learned professions: plain living and high thinking go together in Bohemia nowadays.

High government officials, professors, lawyers and their kind have not asked for charity, though God knows they seem to need it, if we judge their mode of living by our American standards. But think of the people who are considered poor over there, the laborers, the clerks, even the country school teachers; think of the people who have no work and try to live on the government pittance to the unemployed; then think of the hundreds of thou-

sands of widows who lost their husbands during the war, and more hundreds of thousands of children without fathers or mothers, children who hardly know, how milk tastes, who have never seen an orange and know candy only by sight! We wonder how all those multitudes manage to keep alive, when flour is scarce and high, potatoes beyond their reach, meat not to be thought of, coal as precious as diamonds. It does not help the situation to remember that in comparison with the misery of the poor in Vienna, Budapest or Warsaw the poor of Prague may be said to be well off. There is a tremendous amount of human suffering just now in Czechoslovak Republic; there is also a great work of mercy going on to relieve this suffering, inaugurated largely by Americans and still supported to some extent from America.

Of course relief of the needy did not wait for the coming of the Americans. From the first day of the war there have been countless cases, where those comparatively well-to-do shared their little with those who had nothing. But organized relief work was long made difficult, if not impossible, by the existence of the Austro-Hungarian Red Cross which monopolized all public and private gifts by a system of governmental terrorism and used the funds to keep up pro-war and pro-Austrian sentiments among the beneficiaries. Not only was the noble name of Red Cross prostituted to mean ends in Austria, but there was actually extensive grafting going on in the headquarters, where titled ladies held the reins.

To all Czechs the very name of Red Cross was hateful under the Austrian regime; they organized their own war charities in the fourth year of the war, charities on a small scale, because the sum of misery was altogether too large to be attacked in its whole extent; they got up the Czech Heart, an organization for the placing on farms of city children who were dying because of lack of milk and decent food. Properly speaking it should be said that one woman organized this whole charity,—Růžena Svobodova, poet and novelist and a great heart. The whole nation wept, when this woman died suddenly on January 1, 1920.

The Czech Heart saved the lives of thousands of little ones; it was still the only nation-wide charity, when Austria collapsed and the Czechoslovaks became masters of their destiny. A ministry of social welfare was established, as well as the food ministry, and between them they tackled the big problem of getting enough to eat for the masses of the people. That they have accomplished much is evident the minute one compares Czechoslovakia with its neighbors; the government saved the nation as a whole from famine, from sheer starvation. This was made possible with the help of America. The United States

the charities of a strange republic; they furnished the impulse and they furnished a good deal of the money needed to give the relief activities a good start; and they pledged further help. But the big problem they put up directly to the Czechoslovaks.

Thus arose the two great Czechoslovak relief organizations—Czechoslovak Red Cross and the Czechoslovak Child Relief (Péče o dítě). Dr. Alice Masaryk, daughter of the president, became the moving spirit of both bodies. If the nation as a whole has cause to bless its president, the poor and the children have abundant reason to pray for his daughter. It is too early to



Local Committee of Czechoslovak Child Relief in Hradec Králové.

government lent the new republic the necessary funds, and Hoover rushed the food into the country in early spring in time to prevent a disaster.

Hoover's assistants were not satisfied with merely delivering the food supplies to governmental authorities; they took in hand the terrible problem of relief for the masses of the poor to whom the artificially reduced price of flour was beyond reach. Above all they tackled the problem of city children who were dying or growing into stunted forms because of lack of milk and nourishing food suitable for their years and physical condition. Being practical Americans they did not undertake to run

put a value on the work accomplished by Alice Masaryk during the past year. She has given all her time to it, even gave up her seat in the National Assembly so as to have more time for her wards. She conquered the prejudice against the name of Red Cross which came down from the Austrian days; it is now a proper, almost fashionable thing, in Czechoslovakia as in America to make collections on every possible occasion for the Red Cross. The National Assembly approved a loan of twenty million crowns for the benefit of the Red Cross. There are local chapters in most of the cities of the Republic, and with the aid of experienced American organizers

the Czechoslovak Red Cross is now covering the entire field of humanitarian work, just as we have become accustomed to see it in the case of the American Red Cross. Child Relief work has enlisted in its services the best brains of the nation and the most self-sacrificing women. There are 2300 kitchens scattered throughout the Republic, furnishing soup, cocoa and milk to several hundred thousand children. It means the saving of the next generation of the Czechoslovak nation.

When Hoover closed his official activity on June 30, 1919, by the expiration of the act which made him the food administrator of America and the world, he did not abandon the destitute children of the war-ravaged states of Europe. He established an office in New York under the name of the American Relief Administration, European Children's Fund, and undertook to continue his support of the relief activities, and especially children's relief, in a number of European countries, among them Czechoslovakia. The funds are obtained from charitable gifts. What this organization has done for Czechoslovak children is best shown in a cablegram sent to America by President Masaryk on Christmas:

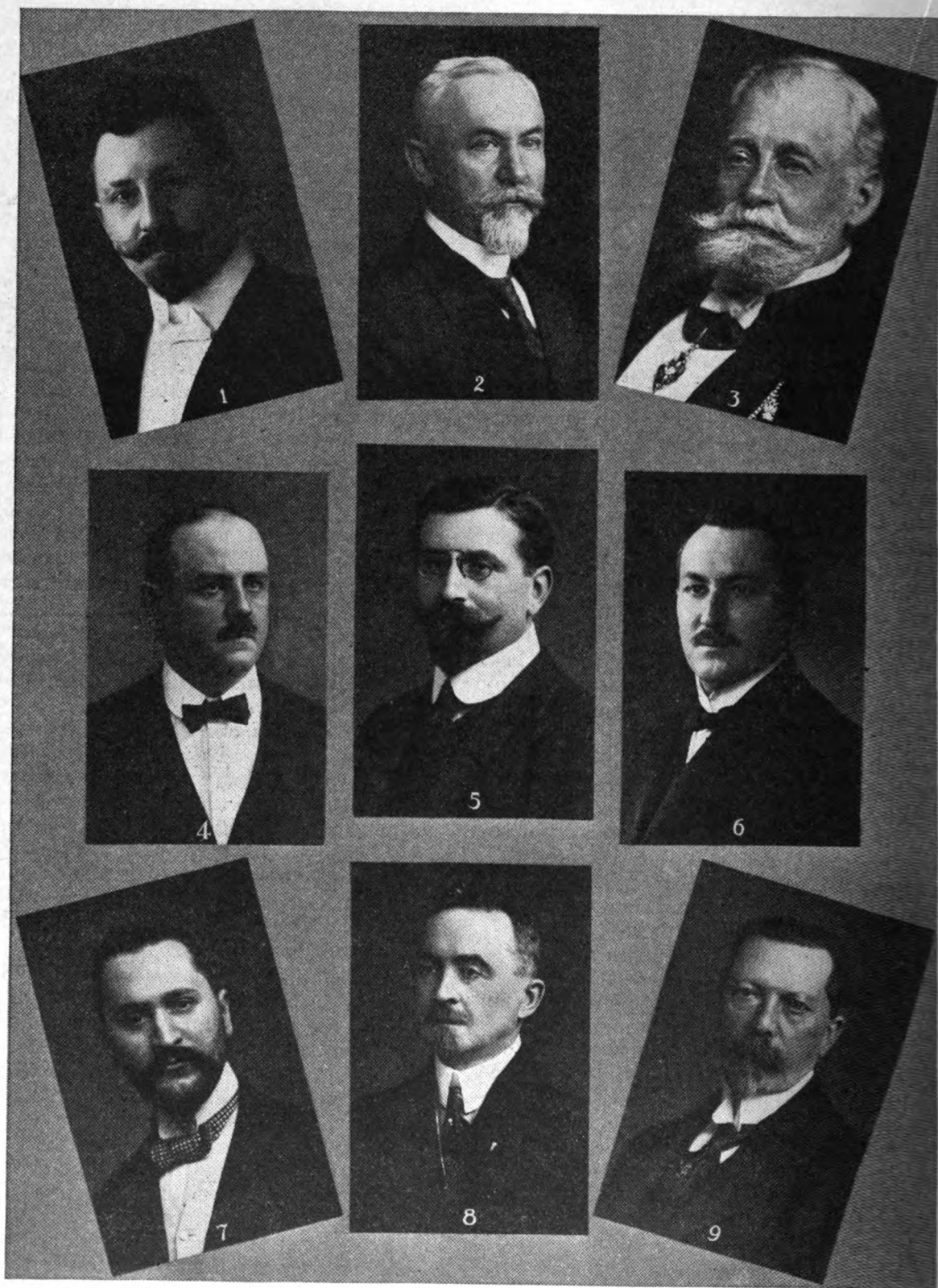
"This American organization has been feeding half a million of our children since last May in close co-operation with our Czechoslovak Children's Relief Society under the joint supervision of the minister of social welfare and a national committee, composed of representatives of the ministry and the American mission in Prague. It has established kitchens in over twenty three hundred towns in Bohemia, Moravia, Silesia and Slovakia. These kitchens are supervised by voluntary committees of public-spirited men and women, representing all parties, creeds and activities in our national life. In my judgement our children need relief until the harvest of 1920. As president of Czechoslovakia I ask our relatives and friends in America to give their confidence and financial support to the American Relief Administration, European Children's Fund, and the Czechoslovak Children's Relief Society, to the end that our children may be fit to discharge their coming responsibilities of citizenship."

Czechs and Slovaks in America have given generously for the relief of suffering among their kinsmen in the old fatherland. Since 1914 they have been contributing the

funds with which the campaign for independence was financed; at the conclusion of the armed struggle and after the establishment of the Czechoslovak Republic a thanks-giving offering was taken in the closing days of 1918 which among the Czechs alone brought in \$320,000. Most of this sum was no longer used for political purposes, but instead was distributed by President Masaryk to various charities.

The real relief work, however, dates from May, 1919, when the plan was conceived of sending out a "ship of love", loaded with gifts, principally food, for both general distribution to the needy and for delivery to relatives of individual senders. In two weeks every important settlement of Czechs and Slovaks in America gathered one or two car loads of gifts and forwarded it to New York, where the special committee in charge of the campaign turned the goods for transportation to the firm of Voska & Byoir. There are no complete figures available as to the size of the total shipments, but from Chicago alone \$400,000 worth of food and clothing was forwarded to New York. Nearly one quarter of the total were donations of food and clothing for the Czechoslovak Red Cross or for the mayors of various cities, all for distribution to the needy. The first part of this shipment was carried on the Steamer President Wilson which sailed from New York for Trieste on May 30; the balance was forwarded on two other ships, sailing a few weeks later. Owing to transportation difficulties in Europe it was several months, before the last of the gifts were delivered to the consignees.

Letters continued to come from Bohemia and Slovakia to relatives in America, telling about the lack of lard and soap, shoes and cotton, clothes and tobacco. Parcel post was not yet in operation between the United States and the Czechoslovak Republic; and while much dissatisfaction was heard about the high transportation charges on the first shipment and about delays in delivery, the people nevertheless demanded of their racial organizations that another opportunity should be given them to ship packages and boxes to their relatives in the old country. At the end of June the American Czechoslovak Board, now the Czechoslovak National Council, opened its own office and storehouse in Chicago for the forwarding of relief goods



Members of National Committee,

1. Antonín Štych, M. D., President Union of Cech Cities. 2. Rev. Josef Souček, Senior, Evangelical Church of the Brethren. 3. Dr. A. Petřina, President Chamber of Physicians. 4. Josef Hahn, Deputy Mayor of Košiče. 5. Dr. Lar. Procházka, Health Officer of Prague. 6. Karel Viškovský, J. D., President State Grain Institute. 7. Dr. Karel Domin, Prague University. 8. M. Moric Hruban, J. D., Former Minister. 9. Bohuslav Franta, J. D., President, Adm. Com. of Bohemia.



Czechoslovak Child Relief.

10. Fr. Malínský, M. D., President Association of Manufacturers. 11. Rt. Rev. Abbott Meth. Zavoral. 12. Dr. Jar. Preiss, President Union of Czech. Banks. 13. Mrs. Anna Podlípna. 14. Rt. Rev. Bishop W. Frind. 15. Mrs. Božena Augustinová. 16. Jindřich Brody, Ph. D., Chief Rabbi. 17. Vinc. Červinka, Editor Národní Listy. 18. Antonín Svojsík.

at cost price; at this office it received packages both from Chicago and from the entire West, forwarded them to New York and there made arrangements with the Czechoslovak Commercial Commission, attached to the consulate general in New York, to look after the delivery of the goods. When in November it was announced that the post office was ready to forward parcels to Czechoslovakia, the Chicago forwarding office was closed. During five months of its activity it forwarded two million dollars worth of free gifts from Czechoslovaks in America to kinsmen in Europe. In addition to this principal office two similar forwarding agencies were established by local Czechoslovak organizations in Cleveland and New York, and many individuals availed themselves of the service of private forwarding firms. Undoubtedly some four million dollars worth of goods was sent from United States to Czechoslovakia in the latter half of 1919.

By far the greater part of this consisted of packages sent by individuals to individuals; and since as a matter of fact the majority of people who came to America from Bohemia, Moravia and Slovakia, were from the country districts, the greater part of the gifts also went to villages, where the needs were smaller than in cities. It must be admitted that the two great Czechoslovak charities, the Red Cross and the Child Relief, received little benefit from the tremendous piles of gift boxes sent to the old country through the forwarding offices named above.

A special campaign for the benefit of the Czechoslovak charities was undertaken in the summer. Miss Emma Novákova came to America as representative of Alice Masaryk, spoke in a hundred or more cities and settlements and established the Alice Masaryk Fund; when she went away, she took with her \$56,000, and later some \$12,000 more were sent to Dr. Alice Masaryk directly. But in the meantime Dr. Masaryk cabled that all funds collected for Czechoslovak charities should be turned over to the American Relief Administration, as Mr. Hoover's organization was able to deliver in food and other necessities far greater values than the Czechoslovak Red Cross or the Child Relief was able to buy with money received from America. Thus \$40,000 collected for the Alice Masaryk Fund was turned over to the American Re-

lief Administration directly. In December this great organization explained to officers of the Czechoslovak National Council that in addition to feeding half a million children in Czechoslovakia it was necessary to clothe at least 100,000 of these, because otherwise the tattered children could not get in winter to the soup and cocoa kitchens; for five dollars a complete, substantial and warm outfit would be furnished for a child. It would take over half a million dollars to clothe the bare minimum of one hundred thousand children just in Czechoslovakia, and that money had to be collected from charitable souls in America. If Americans who had no special ties connecting them with the Czechoslovak Republic undertook to do so much, it was clearly up to Americans of Czechoslovak descent to do their share. The Union of Bohemian Ladies gave \$1500, the National Alliance of Bohemian Catholics gave \$2000, the Bohemian National Alliance gave over \$12,000, most of it collected in Nebraska, and the balance of \$6000 remaining in the Alice Masaryk Fund was turned over for the same purpose.

Much money was spent by the Czechoslovak National Council, as representative of the three principal racial organizations, for transportation of gifts for general charity. During the first shipping campaign in spring more than \$20,000 was paid out by the various local organizations for freight of charity gifts. Later in the summer the American Red Cross made a gift to the Czechoslovak Red Cross of clothing valued at more than a million dollars, on condition that Czechoslovaks pay for the cost of transporting it to Prague; and the Relief Department of the Council in New York paid out \$20,000 in order to secure this magnificent gift. In addition more than \$10,000 was paid out by the Relief Department for transportation charges on boxes collected throughout the country for free distribution in Bohemia and Slovakia. All this work for the old country was done in addition to heavy expenditures on behalf of the Czechoslovak soldiers in Siberia and the payment of a generous bonus to 2000 boys from America who volunteered to fight with the Czechoslovak army in France and returned to the United States in the fall of 1919.

The latest form of relief work will undoubtedly be the most popular, as well as



Soup Division of Child Relief in Hradec Králové.

the most practical one of all up to the present. It is again the American Relief Administration, which, after overcoming many difficulties has recently placed the scheme into operation. Mr. Hoover explains his plan as follows: "There are three to four million families in the United States with family affiliations in Eastern and Central Europe. Many of them are desirous of giving direct personal assistance to these relatives and friends. Some are endeavoring to perform this service by preparing or purchasing packages of food for overseas shipment. In some cases the packing and extra freight involved adds one hundred percent to the cost. We are proposing to solve this difficulty by establishing warehouses in European cities, where distress is particularly acute. We propose to sell, in America, orders upon these warehouses in the form of Food Drafts which can be transmitted to friends or relatives in Europe. We propose to charge the buyer of the Food Draft the factory cost of the food plus a reasonable margin to cover the cost of transportation and insurance. Profits, if any accrue, will be turned over to the European Children's Fund. The object of this plan is to add to the total stock of available food supplies in Central and Eastern European countries. Under an arrangement set up with the Governments of these countries, this food will be allowed to revolve outside the rationing system, with the hope that enough food will be injected to reduce the pressure on the narrow marginal supplies. The officials of these new governments are endeavoring to impress upon the American people that it is useless to remit money to a family in Central or Eastern Europe with the hope of improving its food situation. The sum total of food now available in Central Europe is insufficient to keep the population alive, and under these circumstances money thus becomes that much paper, so far as nutrition is concerned. A hungry man wants food, not money, and under the arrangement outlined above, we can meet this need."

President Masaryk heartily indorses this plan and recommends it to people in America who desire to help their kinsmen in the Czechoslovak Republic. He says in a Christmas cablegram: "At this time of holiday giving I want to call the attention of our kinsfolk in America to conditions

in respect of money and food, contributed to the relief of our relatives in Czechoslovakia. The generosity and thoughtfulness of Czechoslovaks in America for the mother country is deeply appreciated in these days of stress. But we at home must make certain that your gifts are delivered as you direct. To assure this result I have given, with the full support of the ministerial council, unreserved support to Mr. Herbert Hoover's American Relief Warehouse organization. This organization in conjunction with our government here is establishing warehouses throughout Czechoslovakia, stocked with staple foodstuffs. This food will be sold at low cost to our people on order of their kinsfolk in America. All profits from the operations of the American Relief Warehouse organization will be turned over to support of our Czechoslovak children. In presenting the advantages of the American Relief Warehouse organization to our kinsfolk in America I want to emphasize particularly the following points: Mr. Hoover's organization has now been operating in Czechoslovakia for nearly a year, and in addition to transatlantic shipping facilities has been given the entire shipping and warehouse facilities of our government from the port of Hamburg to all points in Czechoslovakia, supplemented by organized committees in nearly every town of the Republic. These official facilities, which insure delivery to your gifts and packages, are of essential value to American contributors in view of the present disorganized condition of private shipping. Gifts of money should not be sent for the purchase of food in Czechoslovakia, since it is necessary to conserve the local supply as much as possible. To overcome this difficulty the American Relief Warehouse will accept money orders payable in America and deliver equivalent value in food to your relatives from their American warehouses in Czechoslovakia, thus avoiding all chances of loss of money and delay in delivery. Finally I wish to emphasize that the American Relief Warehouse is a philanthropic institution, officially affiliated by formal agreement with the Government, and all food will be sold at the lowest possible price and the profits turned over to the support of our children's relief kitchens in Czechoslovakia".

Through the American Bankers Association arrangements have been made by

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Cocoa Division of Child Relief in Hradec Králové.

which at almost any bank in the United States a person who wishes to send food to his relatives in Bohemia may purchase a food draft. There are four standard packages of which two are intended for Jewish people of Eastern Europe who want *kosher* food. The other two are designated as packages A and B. Package A sells for ten dollars and contains 24½ lbs. flour, 10 lbs. beans, 8 lbs. bacon and 8 cans of milk; package B costs \$50 and contains 140 lbs. flour, 50 lbs. beans, 16 lbs. bacon, 15 lbs. lard, 12 lbs. corned beef, 48 cans of milk. The food was selected so as to give the most nutrition for the money, and it is estimated that the ten dollar package contains enough food to last a family of four people for 10½ days, while the larger package will supply the family larder for 58 days.

This plan has just been placed in operation, and to be successful it must be well advertised. As to its success among the Czechoslovaks there exists no doubt, because both their racial organizations and their newspapers will keep its advantages before the people. If you have brother, cousin, friend in the Czechoslovak Republic, buy a ten dollar or fifty dollar food draft from your bank and mail it to him. If you have no relatives with whom you are in touch, send your ten or fifty dollar gift to the Czechoslovak National Alliance, 3734 W. 26th St., Chicago, to the National Alliance of Bohemian Catholics, 3207 W. 22nd St., Chicago, to the Slovak League, 524 Fourth Ave., Pittsburgh, Pa., or to any of their local branches. Help the hungry, feed the children, give the old country a chance to get on its feet.

The Literary Work of Paul Selver

By ALEŠ BROŽ.

Among the few who have contributed to make the Czech literature, and especially Czech poetry, known outside Bohemia is Mr. Paul Selver. And among the Englishmen he is so far the only one.

It was in May 1911 that "The New Age" published three translations from Bezruč's "Ostrava", "Thou and I" and "I"—and they represent very characteristically the beginnings of P. Selver's literary work. From that time onward he became regular contributor to that paper, and it will be found that the work he published there falls into two main phases,—verse translation and verse satire. For the purpose of the present article, these may now be examined in a more detailed manner.

It is significant and interesting to note that Selver's earliest published translations were from Bezruč. An organic sympathy for the Czech language and especially for its poetry,—a sympathy due to deeply rooted temperamental and racial influences—had led him to the works of Bezruč and Vrchlický while he was still a university student. At first in a necessarily unsystematic manner, then directed by the advice of the late Dr. Josef Karásek, whose "History of Slavonic Literatures" had led him to write enthusiastically to the author, he began to survey the whole field of modern

Czech poetry. The connection with Dr. Karásek resulted in further correspondence with Czech authors, especially with Fr. S. Procházka, who helped him to obtain material for his purposes which otherwise would have remained inaccessible to him. The first-fruits of these activities were the translations contained in his "Anthology of Modern Bohemian Poetry" published in the year 1912. This volume which contains specimens of over 40 poets, nearly all contemporary, is the first attempt of its kind since Sir John Bowring published his "Cheskian Anthology" in the early part of the 19th century. There is no need to discuss the intrinsic merits of these translations here. When the book first appeared, Dr. Arne Novak devoted a long essay to it in "Národní Listy", where he quoted parallel passages of translation and original to show the fidelity of Selver's renderings. And it is natural that the skill exhibited on that occasion has not diminished as the result of eight years continual practice and experiment. But to this point we may return later.

Although Selver had been specially attracted by the Czech poets, his interests had not been confined to them. Throughout this time he was studying also the poetry of the other Slavonic nations. In 1916

he published his "Modern Russian Poetry", containing extracts from the most prominent contemporary Russian poets in the original texts, with verse translations to correspond. This was followed by a more extensive and ambitious work, the "Anthology of Modern Slavonic Literature", which was completed in May 1918 and published a year later. This book represents an epitome of the whole of Selver's Slavonic studies, and in remarkably concise form it includes some of the most striking work, both in prose and verse, which has been produced in recent years by Slavonic authors. Proportionally, Czech literature is better represented than any other. Much space in particular is devoted to Březina, Bezruč, Machar and Sova.

All this, however, does not exhaust Selver's activities as a translator. It would lead too far to consider them in any great detail, but it may be mentioned that he has also devoted much labour to Scandinavian poetry, and that two volumes containing selections from Obstfelder and J. P. Jacobsen respectively, are at present in the press. He is also preparing for publication a series of European poets including such diverse originals as Verlaine, Nietzsche, Strindberg, Liliencron, Pushkin, Drachmen, Björnson, Verwey, Mickiewicz, Presser, Dučić and Březina, amongst numerous others.

But Selver is not merely a translator. We have referred to his work as a satirical poet, and this is quite extensive. A selection from his verse satires is contained in the volume "Personalities" published in the year 1918. The main objects of his invectives are charlatans and materialists. This phase of his activity is derived in part from the influence of Byron and Browning, as far as form and style are concerned. On the one hand, poems in *ottava rima* written with the directness and energy which are so characteristic of "Don Juan"; on the other, blank verse poems with the rugged, condensed and slightly archaic phraseology found especially in Browning's dramatic monologues. Other poems, again, recall the ballades of Laurent Tailhade. But in all these cases, it is only in more or less external features that these similarities can be observed. Subject-matter and treatment are altogether individual and distinctive.

Throughout his connection with "The New Age" Selver has been extensively occupied in literary criticism. For some time he contributed regular monthly articles on contemporary foreign literature. Later, he conducted the reviews of modern English poetry. More recently, he has begun to write speculatively on the theoretical principles of art and aesthetics. More especially he has utilised his long period as a translator to write a close critical study of the artistic processes involved in the translation of poetry. This study, which is based on the assumption that the translation of poetry is a branch of artistic creation, and is illustrated with copious examples derived from the most diverse sources, will probably be reprinted in volume form.

The prose style of these critical works is limpid and also conversational. It is prompted by Selver's conviction that the principles of arts are capable of being understood in their broad outlines by the average reader, and that they therefore need not be obscured by the employment of philosophical terminology.

Selver's work as a critic has not been confined to "The New Age". He has also written for "The Athenaeum", "Times Literary Supplement", "The Poetry Review" (articles on modern Czech poetry and on Březina), "The Quest" (on Březina), "Today", "The New Europe" etc. During the war he contributed articles on Czech literature to "La Nation Tchèque".

There are still other aspects of Selver's literary activities. His satires in prose, for instance, form a natural complement to those in verse. And he has written lyric poetry in which elegiac moods predominate. But these are matters which concern the future more than the present.

Comparison between Czechoslovakia and Poland is striking. Czechoslovaks start out with a public debt of 15 billion crowns, Poles with 150 billion; per capita indebtedness is 1000 and 5000 crowns respectively. The Czechoslovak Republic has a deficiency for 1919 of five billion crowns, Poland of 30 billion; one hundred Czechoslovak crowns costs now \$1.80, one hundred Polish marks \$1.00. A kilogram of white flour costs in Bohemia 1.70 K, in Poland from 10 to 20 K; a suit clothes in Prague costs from 400 to 800 K, in Warsaw 2000.

Several important publications have recently published articles about Czechoslovaks, all very complimentary; thus the Country Gentleman, the Etude and the Yale Review.

A Selection of Contemporary Czech Poetry

Translated by PAUL SELVER.

Petr Bezruč: Kijov.

*Ho, ye youthful swains, top-booted and lithe,
Ho, ye damsels in scarlet wear;
In Kijov town ye ever were blithe,
And blithe shall ye ever be there.*

*E'en as from fragrant vines it had gushed,
E'en as ye see the, my lays;
The blood of the Slovaks is fierily flushed,
Lips burn and eyes are ablaze.*

*Who shall smite us, who shall afflict us with ill?
Of a master naught we know;
And as blithe as we live and drink our fill,
As blithe to our end we shall go.*

"SILESIAN SONGS" (1909)

Otakar Březina: Earth?

*World stretches onward unto world,
Star unto star, when gloom of midnight is here,
And one there is in their midst, revolving around a white sun,
And its soaring thunders in music of mystical cheer,
And the souls of them who have suffered the most
May venture amid its sphere.*

*Hundreds of brethren spake: We have fathomed its secret,
Dead arise therein from slumber, living in slumber therein are dead;
Lovers spake: Blinded are eyes by an over-great lustre
And all are slain there by time, as by fragrance that unknown blossoms have shed;
But they who had skill to gaze through the ages,
"Earth?" with a questioning smile, they said.*

"TEMPLE BUILDERS" (1899)

J.S. Machar: Avar Inroad.

*Villages rearward burn. Smoke-black the sky.
Torrents of flame pour onward from afar
Over the ripened corn and meadow-grass,
And from these places rolls a rumbling cloud
Of Avar soldiery. The slant-eyed horsemen
Sway buoyantly upon their horses, for
There is no peril. And they are content,
Laden with goblets and with crucifixes,
With reliquiaries, candalabra, cruses,
With vestments, mantles, flagons and apparel.
Lowing of cows, and bleat of goats and sheep
Which are borne on amid the warriors,
Rings out like sweetest music in their ears.
And each one drags along, having entwined
Tresses like ropes about his bony hand,
Three or four women, naked utterly
And with their blood bedabbled, for their breasts
With a sheer wound are all pierced through and through.*

"THE BARBARIANS" (1911)

Antonín Sova: Eternal Unrest.

*Spirited words had soaring zest,
The puny heart was frail and shy...
We can soar to each topmost crest,
Or linger here. The heart sobbed: Try!
And when I made endless heights my quest,
The heart wailed there below despairingly...
And when with the heart I sank to rest,
The eagle's eyrie stirred me snaringly.*
"LYRICS OF LOVE AND LIFE" (1907)

Otakar Theer: Spake my heart. . .

*Spake my heart unto my will:
Why rackest thou me, that I ne'er am still?
Why snappest my growth? And my leafage wrest?
Why marrest the song in each topmost nest?*

*I desire to clutch dizzily sweet breath of spring,
I desire unto summer my branches to fling,
I desire to be fragrant, to lure, rustle, flower,
I desire a sun-gold, a star-silver dower.*

*Spake my will unto my heart:
It betides thee well, pampered thing that thou art!
Yearlong from bliss to bliss didst thou stray;
But for me, thou wouldst know nor sorrow nor sway.*

*Are we born for struggle, or born for dream?
Are we water and vapour, or hill-top and gleam?
I am mistress, thou'rt slave, hand am I, thing art thou,
At my bidding, as taper in tempest, to bow.*
"IN SPITE OF ALL" (1916)

Karel Toman: The sun-dial.

*A house in ruins. On the crannied walls
Moss gluttonously crawls
And lichens in a spongy rabble.*

*The yard is rank with nettle-thickets
And toad-flax. In the poisoned water-pit
Rats have a drinking-lair.*

*A sickly apple-tree, by lightning split,
Knows not if it bloomed e'er.*

*When the days are clear, the whistling finches
Invade the rubble. Beaming, sunlit days
Liven the dial's arc that fronts the place,*

*And freakishly and gaily on its face
Time's shadow dances
And to the sky recites in words of gloom:
Sine sole nihil sum.*

For all is mask. "THE SUN-DIAL" (1913)

*) The above selection has been extracted from a volume which will appear in 1920. The translations, to the number of nearly 50, will be printed opposite to the original Czech texts.

Czechoslovakia and Her Stamps

By BREWER CORCORAN.

Of all the nations brought forth from the war at that maternity ward in Versailles, it would seem that the most stable of to-day was the most romantic of yesterday. Czechoslovakia has given up her place on the front page and is paying strict attention to fitting herself to be the back door. And that is no unimportant feature in the architectural structure of what was once planned as Mittel Europa but which, through force of circumstances, was changed into New Europe. As she stands outlined on the new map, Czechoslovakia juts well into the land of the Hun, over-shadows what is left of Austria on the north, covers practically the northern boundary of Hungary and meets Poland on the ridges of the Carpathians. Strategically she is the key state of the new Balkans and commercially, financially and intellectually she promises fair to become their leader, for her helm is in able hands and her ideals are high.

As in other respects Czechoslovakia has proved more conservative in her issuance of postage stamps than many of her new sisters in the family of Nations. For more than three months she continued to use the Austrian stamps on hand and since then has been successfully endeavoring to improve her own very artistic issues. The so-called first issues are not legitimate and can rightfully be classed only as locals. The first series to put in an appearance came from the presses at Budweis and was the 1916-1918 issue of Austrian postage stamps surcharged with the lion of Bohemia, a three toed brute of no artistic pretense, and the legend "Československý Stát." They were used, it is said, in Prague and Brunn but is is rather safe to assume that the majority of the "used" copies will be neatly cancelled in the lower right corner and "the piece of original cover" will be a small square of white paper which has never been a part of an envelope.

The Austrian special delivery stamps of both the 1916 and 1917 issues were also decorated with the black lion and a suitable inscription as were the Austrian postage dues of 1916 from the 5 heller to 10 kroner

values. Then, too, the 5, 10 and 20 heller values of 1916 Austrian dues were obliquely surcharged "Franco" and locally issued at Brunn. Of the same order is a 20 heller green of the Austrian 1916 postage issue but this, too, was probably intended for the postage due page of the juvenile album. Brunn, this year, also surcharged the 5, 15 and 40 heller of the 1916 Austrian postage issue with a "T", as well is the 10 and 30 heller newspaper stamps of the same year. Just what the excuse for these was is utterly unknown. It is much to the credit of Czechoslovakia that Herr Fasen, her director general of posts and telegraphs, has denied them by closing his Postal Union communication of Jan. 17, 1919, by saying, "The Austrian stamps used until now are still provisionally available; in regard to their suppression, special orders will follow." Certainly had the surcharged Austrians been of anything but of local character, M. Fasen would have made some mention of them to the postal union authorities and not have said that Austrian stamps were "provisionally available."

Before leaving these locals for good, it is well to note the two handsome stamps issued by the Scout's committee at Prague. They are of 10 and 20 heller values and were doubtless some sort of local or else issued as a little flier in the way of raising some ready cash for the boys.

The real postal issues of Czechoslovakia made their appearance early in this year and it is probable that in the years to come the three various postal sets will be listed as one under the head of The Issue of 1919 and be subdivided into three types. Yet, at this early date, when so little is known about some of the varieties of the second and third, it seems best to classify them as three distinct issues. Certainly the first is now complete, for it has been already entirely superseded by the second and third. The designs of all are the work of Prof. Alfonse Mucha, a Czech painter of some note and, so far as it is known, all printing has been done by the United Czech Printing Co., Inc. of Prague. Whether or not the plates were made by this firm is unknown to the writer.

*) Reprinted from "The American Philatelist", December 1919.

The varieties are of much interest for several reasons other than those which might appeal to the advanced specialist. In the first place they are the most artistic stamps which have come out of any of the new countries and the designs are extremely well thought out and developed. Rectangular in shape, the frame about the half-moon central design is formed by the curved branches of lindens with an outer border of more formal design. At the base, and on either side of the oval frame for the numerals of denomination, are white doves—probably to signify the peace of which the republic was really born—and little white hearts, which here make their first appearance on postage stamps. The central picture is officially described as a "view of the Hradschin, rayed by the sun." As a rule "Hradschin" has been used as a term to denote the most picturesque and beautiful part of the ancient city of Prague. The towers in the background are suspiciously like unto those of the lovely old church of St. Vitus and the building in the right foreground closely resembles the Aldstat Tower of the Karslbruke.

Considering only the postage stamps for the present, the first issue contained ten values running from 3 to 400 deniers and the coloring, while attractive in its delicacy, is going to prove trying for those who may later try to develop shading. Also the stamps mar badly under the cancelling stamp. The ten values were first issued in imperforate form, but soon Weinberge decided this of too great hinderance in quick handling and resorted to a semi-official improvement. This is listed under the heading of a "rough perforate 9" by many American dealers who have been more anxious to sell the stamps than examine them. They are really *perce en lignes* roulette and should be so listed. So far no copies of the 200 and 400 in this form have come to my attention nor are they listed in most of the foreign catalogue, although a few American dealers so advertise them, but seem to have none for sale. The 5, 10 and 20 appear Perf. 11½ and the 20 and 25 Perf. 13½.

On this issue the word "Česko" appeared on the left of the frame and "Slovenská" at the right, while at the top was the word "Pošta," all three in small letters. It would seem that it was quickly realized by either artist or authorities that these words were

too small and two, at least, misplaced. This must have been the chief reason for quick change from the first issue to the second and in the latter the "Pošta" has been greatly enlarged and the "Československá" brought from the sides and joined in an enlarged frame beneath the central picture. Certainly the change was for the better, both from artistic and practical viewpoint.

What may ultimately come to this country to be added to this set remains to be seen. All that have come to hand are supplementary values to the first set and are the 1, 50, 60, 80, 300 and 1000 deniers. All appear in the official imperforate form, but the 1, 50, 60 and 80 have come over *perce en lignes* and it is to be presumed that no reason exists why the two new high values will not come in that same form. None of this set have so far appeared perforate.

It is the now current set that is furnishing the greatest difficulties of classification for the simple reason that, apparently, it is as yet incomplete. In itself it is a striking example of how Czechoslovakia is working for the betterment of all things, great as well as small. After the first changes were made in the plates, it is to be supposed that the postal officials deemed their troubles at an end but it is evident that closer study of their work convinced them that the plate, as it stood, could still be improved upon. This would be possible through the recutting of the die to remove the linden trees from in front of the tower at the lower right of the picture. It may also be assumed that practical, as well as artistic, reasons had weight in the considered change. As it stood in the second set, the plate would have worn quickly in this one spot and, soon, there would have been only a dull blur at the base of the tower. The change has resulted in a far more attractive stamp.

This set, like its predecessors, appears officially as imperforate and so far the 15, 25, 50, 75, 120 and 500 deniers have been received in the United States. Of the *perce en lignes*, there are the 15, 25 and 75 denier values, while of the perforate 13½ there are 5, 6, 10, 15, 25 and 75 and the 5, 15 and 25 perf. 11 by 11½. However, it is to be taken that more of all of these will appear before many weeks.

The other stamps of Czechoslovakia are of lesser interest and have all run true to the first type. There is a set of five news-

paper stamps running through the 2, 6, 10, 20 and 30 denier values and, like all the preceding, printed on white, unwatermarked paper. The numerals of value are in the color of the stamps, set in small, white hearts in the two lower corners. A circle, which touches the edges of the square design, bears the legend "Česko Pošta Slovenská" and, in the center, is a white falcon with outspread wings and tail. All were issued imperforate but the 2 and the 10 have been put out in the *perce en lignes* and Mr. J. R. Nichols of New York reports all values rouletted vertically.

The special deliveries are of two values—2 and 5 deniers, done on yellow paper. The inscription is in small letters about the border and the numerals of value in large figures in an oval frame at the base of the stamp. The design is of two doves in the act of alighting on linden boughs. Both stamps appear imperforate and *perce en ligne*.

The postage due set is the least attractive of the series and runs from the 5 to the 100 deniers value. The lower denominations are in olive green but the higher are in colors which break the monotony of the series. The stamps are rather too large, rectangular in form and the design is an interwaving of linden boughs and small hearts. The usual "Československá Pošta" legend runs around the borders and, in a frame in the center, is the word "Doplatit", while beneath, against a background of the stamp color, is the numeral of value in large, white letters. These were all issued imperforate but Mr. Nichols has been kind enough to send me the 20 deniers both *perce en ligne* and Perf. 7, vertically, and reports that he has seen all values up to the 40 deniers in both forms. It is presumed that the entire set has been treated in this way unofficially.

No attempt will be made at this time to go into description of minor varieties. There are some, such as the 40 deniers orange of the first set with a small circle in the left edge of the oval of value. What it amounts to, is far too early to state here, for certainly the writer is making no claim to the dignities of an "Advanced Specialist" and, most certainly, is not seeking any debates, merely trying to pass on a bit of tentative information to others who may have taken a fancy to the stamps of Czechoslovakia, as he has done. For this same reason no list of shades is given but two are

noted merely to help fill what, at best, is but half a measure—in the first set the 25 deniers is found in both blue and dull blue and the 60 deniers in orange and yellow-orange.

It is as the above article is leaving my hands that the eagerly expected arrives from Czechoslovakia in the form of a part of a new and again distinctive issue of postage stamps. The values so far at hand are the 15, 25, 50, 75, 100 and 120 deniers and are of two types. They measure 25 by 30-mm, the 15 of slate green, the 25 of brown and the 50 of blue. The design shows the large lion of Bohemia in the act of tearing the shackles of ages from his feet, the hind claws being already freed while he gnaws at the irons on the right forefoot. His two-forked tail curves over his back and there is a twist in it which mars the art of the stamp and makes one wonder if the artist dares revive memories of Austrian tortures in such a manner. The value is in a circle in the lower left corner, while across the top, runs the legend "Pošta Československá", set in a narrow frame.

The three high values, and especially the 120, will go down as among the most beautiful stamps issued. This 120 deniers is a gem of its kind. It is a deep, rich purple on straw colored paper. On either side, against a finely drawn background, is a naked upright bayonet. At the base of each, in a rectangular frame, is the numeral of value and across the bottom of the picture frame is "Pošta Československá." At the top, on a ribbon, is inscription "Sirotám Našich Legionářů." But the central design is what makes the stamp stand far above its fellows of other new nations. At first sight one thinks it a modern treatment of *The Mother and Child*. but then the linden leaves on the shoulders and in the hair of the mother, holding the little one closer in eager hands, brings out the symbolism. The engraving is so fine, the lines so soft and the coloring so delicate, that the stamp looks almost like an unusual "Christmas commemorative." The 75 is in a gray black and the 100 in violet-brown. All but the 120 are on white paper and all are unwatermarked, Perf. 13½. All six stamps are the work of J. Obrosku, but one grieves that the first type was ever used. The appearance of the other values is awaited with interest for it may be that there is still a third type in the series.

Slovakia on the Road to Internal Consolidation

By PETER KOMPIŠ.

If the October revolution is an important milestone in the history of the former lands of the Bohemian crown, for Slovakia its importance is incomparably greater. It closes the era of slavery which lasted a thousand years, accompanied by cultural and economic poverty. For Slovakia free development begins with the end of the year 1918.

One year of free national life in Slovakia contributed a great deal toward the crystalization of political currents and tendencies. Magyars and Magyar sympathizers carry on their propaganda with new intensity and with all possible weapons. Emissaries are sent by Magyar government to scatter insurrectionary bills. In Bratislava, Košice, Užhorod, Nová Ves, Rožnava etc. a surprisingly large number of Magyar dailies and weeklies are published. In the majority of cases it is plain from the manner of writing and from the low subscription price that the papers are not independent publications, but draw their financial support from beyond the boundaries. In Košice, Lučenec, Nová Ves, Rožnava, Nové Zámky, Komárno and other cities near the frontier there is evident passive resistance of the Magyar element in school matters. It is due to hostile propaganda that in these cities some 3000 children that ought to be in school are keeping out.

One of the favorite means of Magyar propaganda in Slovakia are unauthorized Magyar schools. Thus in Košice you will see Magyar children on the streets at a time, when they are supposed to be in school, but that they go to some school is plain from their conversation. They attend classes, where they are taught Magyar literature and history and geography in the Magyar chauvinist spirit. In some places this propaganda is carried on in the guise of private instruction given by former Magyar professors and teachers who are supposed to get thus an opportunity to earn their living. In many cases even public schools are used for hostile agitation against the Czechoslovak Republic, and especially in Catholic schools conducted by sisters children are exhorted to pray for the 'holy, suffering Magyar fatherland.'

The center of this activity is Budapest, and serving Magyar propaganda are many who are Slovaks by birth, as for instance Hlinka's best known co-worker Dr. Fr. Jehlička, but many more who never before pretended to be Slovaks, such as Dr. Bulissa, Karel Csecsoška and others. The Magyar government publishes in

Budapest a periodical in Slovak under the name "Slovenský Národ", written completely from the Magyar point of view and "Slovák Zahraničný", intended for smuggling into Slovakia. Just what kind of poison Budapest sends to Slovakia can be illustrated from No. 3 of the "Slovák Zahraničný", where we read the following about our liberators: "Masaryk and Beneš walked by the Vltava river and discussed what should be done. Masaryk said: "We really should do something that would please the Slovaks." Beneš tried in vain to think of something that would answer. But a Slovak remarks to that: 'Jump into the Vltava; that will be real joy for Slovak hearts.'

Handbills with similar sentiments were smuggled into Slovakia by the million. The headquarters of this activity is the "League for the Restoration of Hungarian Integrity" in Budapest. But on the whole one may say that this subversive Magyar activity in Slovakia is getting weaker. The bourgeois elements were cured of their Magyar enthusiasm by the bolshevist regime, and Magyar social-democratic workingmen in Slovakia are not exactly pleased with Huszar's monarchistic and reactionary regime. Magyar workingmen have mostly joined Czechoslovak labor unions. In Prešov there is now a Magyar weekly which writes in a spirit friendly to our republic. And even the Košice and Bratislava Magyar papers employ lately better manners.

The intensive organization of Magyar propaganda could not remain without effect on the new-born Slovak politics. The most active work was done by the social democrats and by Hlinka's "Slovak People's Party". This last went so far in its political activity as to step outside the limit of loyalty to the Republic, thus creating a veritable enthusiasm for itself among Magyar and Jewish circles, so that in many places the local leadership of the party got into untrustworthy hands. As against the hustling followers of Hlinka and the socialists the old Slovak National Party, with its headquarters in St. Martin, did not seem to be able to make a stand. Since the revolution not a single large meeting or party conference was held. The Hlinka party in many places captured the field without a fight. Under these circumstances the establishment of the National Republican Farmers' Party was a very significant event; the founders were minister Šrobár, Dr. Milan Hodža, Dr. Pavel Bláho, Dr. Okanik, Kornel Stodola, Ant. Štefánek, Dr. Milan Ivanka, Dr. Slavík, Dr. Halla, Fr. Votruba and other distinguished Slovaks. The party formulated its pro-

gram, established good newspapers, created district and town organizations and opened agitation all over Slovakia. The success of the farmers' party stirred up the leaders of the Slovak national party, and the political cry became the consolidation of political parties. The leaders of St. Martin commenced negotiations about cooperation both with the farmers and with the Hlinka followers and for a time an understanding between the old party and Hlinka's men seemed very likely. But in the end the healthy common sense of the majority prevailed, and on December 15 in Pišťany the national party fused with the republican farmers' party. Judging by what both social democratic and Hlinka papers had to say about the fusion one may confidently say that the new party will become the rallying point for all truly national, non-socialist Slovak elements and will form a strong block in opposition to the Hlinka faction and the friends of the Magyars.

Beside the political situation the school situation also cleared up. In fact schools constitute the most important asset of the first year of Slovak freedom. In the elementary schools of Slovakia there are some 5000 teachers, in the grammar, secondary, technical and university grades there are about 600 Czech professors besides many Slovaks.

Today 42 secondary schools are open in Slovakia; of them 28 are purely Slovak, 5 Magyar, 1 German, 2 Slovak-German and 6 Slovak-Magyar or German-Magyar. Slovak pupils number 4781;

that means that the number of educated Slovaks will increase each year by at least 500.

The growth of Slovak press, libraries, theaters and fine arts keeps pace with the development of schools. In Liptovský St. Nicholas and in Trnava there were held exhibits of Slovak and Moravian painters. Even the question of a permanent representative theater is solved. In November 1919 a theatre association was formed at Bratislava which received a concession as the Slovak National Theater. Its operatic branch will begin to play on March 1 in the Municipal Theater of Bratislava, and the season will continue to the end of June. From July till fall operas will be given at Pišťany. The dramatic section will give plays commencing with February 1 in all important cities of Slovakia.

It is natural that the liberated energies of Slovakia are also making themselves felt in the economic field. Slovak banks have become emancipated from the control of the Magyar-Jewish capital, they have increased in size and spread their activities into all parts of Slovakia, so that they are now ahead of the Jewish-Magyar banks which are paralyzed because their cash was for the most part kept in the big banks of Budapest and is not available to them now.

Consolidation of conditions in Slovakia is making excellent progress. The new year opens with elections as the big feature. Let us hope that the electoral fight will result in victory for the loyal national elements, strengthened by recent fusion.

The Coal Problem

By JIŘÍ STRÍBRNÝ.

The deficiency of coal is so serious that it has become our most urgent problem. Without coal we cannot improve our finances and communications, to say nothing of real distress of millions who freeze on streets and at home.

We hear constantly appeals to work harder. All of us, whether socialists or bourgeois, are saying over and over again that the world war subverted the economic foundation of all Europe, that productive capital is being consumed, that our republic has but one treasure, namely creative, productive human labor.

And while we are calling on the nation to work more intensively, one factory after another is being closed because of lack of coal.

Railroad transportation is in the same condition. We lack in comparison with peace times some 60,000 cars, but without coal we cannot make more cars, and when the firemen are compelled to stoke the locomotive boilers with coal

dust and shale, the engines have to be sent to repair shops and transportation slows down even more.

I will refrain from speaking of the condition of those poor people who cannot get fuel to cook dinner or keep warm at home; one would need strong language to characterize such a state of affairs.

Looking at the situation without prejudices we come to the conclusion that there are several reasons for this misery, and it is up to us to do away with them. Merely to criticize or blame this or that ministry will get us nowhere. I do not propose to discuss the question from a party viewpoint, but solely as a good republican.

The main cause of the lack of coal is to be sought in my opinion in a decrease of the efficiency of the miners. This is best seen by comparing coal production for 1914 with 1918 and the first half of 1919. I use round numbers covering the production of the entire republic, Slovakia included, and taking in both black and brown coal.

Translated from the *České Slovo* of Nov. 21. The author is former minister of railways and one of the leaders of the Czechoslovak socialist party.

Year	Production in mill. tons	Number of miners	Tons per miner	Decrease in efficiency
1914	33½	93,600	353	
1918	28	96,100	289	19%
1919	13	105,700	242	32%

The decrease in efficiency is not the same everywhere; it is greater in Kladno than in northern Bohemia or in the Ostrava basin. But it would not be just to say that the miner is wholly to blame for producing one third less. In 1914 the coal mines were in pretty good condition and getting up coal was much easier than it is today after the reckless robbery to which the mines were subject during the war and with the run down equipment available now. Undoubtedly also the second half of the current year will, as is usual, show somewhat larger production. And then we must not forget the introduction of the eight hour law.

To explain the decreased production per man one must take into account poor nourishment of the workers, distaste for hearty work which is so striking all over Europe, and especially the run down equipment and war methods of exploitation for four years.

One may affirm that our miners work harder and more efficiently than they are getting credit for, but not as well as in the days before the war. To increase their efficiency is a matter of deep interest to us all. But let us remember that what we are after is more coal, and that does not depend on the miners alone.

Here we come to the second difficulty. All our mines need modern equipment, rational economy, costly improvements. Can we expect all that from private owners and speculators who are being told constantly that coal mines will be taken over by the state? It would be as sensible to expect that a criminal awaiting execution would send for a dentist and pay him to have his teeth overhauled.

An end must be put to this hesitation. Either socialization of the coal mines, and then let it be taken in hand at once; or a definite statement that for so many years the mines will be left undisturbed by the state. But to threaten socialization and do nothing more is very poor policy. Our German coal barons, Messrs. Petschek, Weimann, Guttmann, have no more idealism than the average man. It is in their interest to get as much out of the mines as it is possible at the last minute; why should they pay attention to rational exploitation or the need of putting more capital into the mines?

We must decide quickly. The most dangerous course would be not to go through with socialization, but to keep on talking about it, just to scare the owners and keep the workers in good humor.

Another problem is the distribution of coal. In spite of our dire needs tremendous quantities are being exported. Factories are shut down, trains cannot run, hospitals are closed, and yet

we send coal out of the country. I do not want to lay the blame for that on the government. When our state was born, we lacked the freedom to do with our coal as we would like.

Out of the 26 million metric tons which is our present annual production we export about 7 million to Austria, Germany, Yugoslavia and Poland; certain compensation agreements increase that by half a million more. We send out over a fourth of what we produce and have hardly 18 million left for ourselves.

Deliveries abroad are of two kinds: voluntary on the basis of agreements made by our government of its own initiative, and compulsory deliveries which we had to agree to by orders of the Entente. To Germany and Yugoslavia we send coal voluntarily, to Austria and Poland we are compelled to.

Germany gets from the Czechoslovak Republic 262,000 tons of brown coal and 75,000 tons of black coal (including 6500 tons of coke) each month. For that we get German coal from Upper Silesia. Against this trade itself nothing can be said, but the conditions are onerous. For each carload of Silesian coal we must give Germany three and a half carloads of brown coal. That is a startling disparity, and even a layman will know that we give more heating value. That such a disadvantageous agreement was concluded was due to the fact that we needed German cars for this exchange of coal. On top of that, when there was strike, in the Katowitz mines, the Germans remained behind in their deliveries and now owe us 46,000 tons. This agreement expires on November 30, and it is up to us to make a better deal for the future.

To Yugoslavia we deliver monthly 4000 tons of coal and 12,500 tons of coke. That is not a large quantity and what we receive in return is badly needed. We cannot save any coal here.

A sad chapter in the brief history of our republic is the compulsory coal agreement with Austria and Poland. Under pressure of the Entente we had to agree to furnish Austria monthly 42,750 tons of brown coal, 27,500 tons of black coal, 2250 tons of coke, 250 tons of blacksmith coal; further 74,100 tons of brown and 15,220 black coal for the Austrian state railways and 5000 tons for the Southern railway. Thus we give Austria over two million tons a year. Poland which is so rich in coal gets nearly a million and a half from us.

This is a touchy subject, but our very existence is involved in this, and it would be foolish to avoid it. For five years we had to suffer through the economic catastrophe of the Central Powers; Vienna robbed us of all our accumulated capital, and now we are ordered to restore the neighboring states with our natural riches.

As long as our domestic needs are not fully covered, we must be allowed to dispose of our own coal for our own use. Only the surplus can be sent out of the country. It is most peculiar,

how all these international commissions insist on our coal for Austria; it sometimes seems, as if they were Austrias allies, instead of ours. Are we to give in all the time?

The last great trouble, responsible for coal shortage, is bad communication. That is not caused wholly by lessened efficiency of the railroad employees or by the crying need of more rolling stock. Much can be done to remedy this evil. First of all, the railroads themselves must get enough coal; it will not do to have in division points just enough coal on hand to last 24 hours. And the coal used in locomotives must be of good quality; at present Czechoslovak state railroads get the kind that even Austria refuses.

The monthly output of our carshops is about eight or nine hundred cars. That is not enough; to get back to our quota before the war we would

need at that rate six years. For the present our attention must center on rapid turn-over of the existing rolling stock. Give the engines good coal; instead of making up trains with a car apiece for each city, run straight coal trains for the larger towns at regular intervals and thus avoid unnecessary switching. All state officials must have a regard in the performance of their duties to the needs of railroad traffic.

If we sum up all these causes of the coal crisis, we reach the conclusion that we need first of all to increase the efficiency of the miners, next break the passive resistance of the operators either by instant nationalization, or by strict supervision and orders to invest the needed capital with a state guarantee; to reduce our export of coal, to give the railroads plenty of good coal and make better use of what cars we have.

Letter from Czechoslovakia

By CATHERINE BRESHKOVSKY.

It is difficult to convey the feeling of gladness which fills the heart of a Russian who understands and appreciates the sacredness and the significance of the unity of all Slav peoples, upon visiting this land and this people, from the womb of which have sprung giants without fear and reproach, fighters who have shed their own blood for the freedom and welfare of their own and our own people.

I see in Bohemia the nearest approach to that order, to that mode of living, of which I have always dreamt for our Russian people. I have observed here conditions which make it possible for the people to steer their forces towards the perfection of the principle of popular rule, towards further successes of moral and spiritual culture and of development of industry and the higher arts. Democratic in spirit, like all Slav countries, Bohemia is considerably ahead of all of them in the wise progress of her productivity, and is sharply distinguished by her perfect organization, her ability to apply properly the energies of the nation, and its artistic tastes. Everything in Bohemia seems so orderly, so stable and so beautiful.

Bohemia after five years of war on all European fronts, looted clean by the Austrians and the Germans, still preserves the appearance of a well-managed and arable land. Every bit of land is cultivated and under seed; the forests—young and old—are in splendid condition; fruit trees, in miles of rows, cover the entire country; there is only a scarcity of creamery products, as during the War the Germans stole all the milch cows and cattle from the country.

The roads are in excellent condition everywhere. Artificial ponds abound, as there are few rivers and springs. The national economy is in good order, and the astute President and valiant

citizen of the Czechoslovak Republic, Thomas Masaryk, is, with a firm hand, directing the complex ship of State on the road to progress chosen by the conscience and wisdom of the people themselves, and is wisely avoiding submarine rocks and shoals. The past of this President, his ceaseless fight for the common weal of the entire Slav race, his honorable and consistent stand towards the Entente, his faithful endeavors to obtain satisfaction for the multitude of wants of his people who fought literally on all the anti-German fronts,—all these achievements have earned for this tried leader, the pride and love of all the Slavs, the warm and undying admiration of the population of this new Republic. Such a harmony as prevails at present in Bohemia cannot be observed in any other country. The disturbing efforts, from the Right and Left, are so feeble and fruitless here that they disappear as smoke once they come in contact with the conscious discipline of the population. The people here are cultured enough to know that care and vigilance are required for the transition from one order to another.

Of course, there are in Bohemia parties and groups, and a varied press, but the general interests and traditions transcend individual impulses. These are all the positive features of the life of the Czechoslovak Republic. Nevertheless, they are conscious of the fact that over-excessive care will often impede the wider swing and initiative of personal action. The Czechoslovaks are a people closely bound together by national interests, and they display so much solidarity in their discussions and decisions relating to fundamental principles of the State, that all the other Slavs of the Balkans, as well as the Ruthenians of Galicia, regard Czechoslovakia as a real force upon which they can lean with confidence.

Dr. Beneš and Czech Foreign Policy

Dr. Edward Beneš, the Czechoslovak Minister for Foreign Affairs has on December 25 made in "České Slovo" the following statement on Czech foreign policy, at the request of the editor of that paper:

At the present moment life is everywhere affected by the result of the present war. The main political questions for the peace have been fully or partially solved, and thus in all states they are being relegated to the background and replaced by economic and financial problems. These are assuming approximately the following forms in all states.

(1) The lack of raw materials for various branches of industry, and the active endeavour to procure raw materials quickly with the help of international credit.

(2) The consequence of this fact: the lack of particular goods, consequently very high prices in the case of these goods and a demand for them, unemployment in these branches and considerable outlay for the various States as grants for the unemployed or of those whose dwellings and factories have been destroyed by the war.

(3) The huge quantity of financial burdens from the period of the war, which now have to be liquidated and which the various States have difficulty in defraying at the present critical period.

(4) The interruption of the former foreign economic relations, the disorganization in the management of credit, and especially the breakdown of international credit relationships.

These problems everywhere penetrate to the very foundations of all States. The statesmen of the Entente are well aware of this, and therefore the Peace Conference have recently proceeded more with the consideration of the economic questions, from the solution of which the solution of the political problems would be derived more or less as a corollary. In this respect the problem of America and its relationship to Europe and the Peace Conference is assuming an important aspect. This was also the tendency of the last negotiations carried out at London; it is from this point of view, too, that the problem of the Adriatic and the economic position of Italy with regard to the rest of the Allies, and in particular her certain economic dependence, is being considered; and finally, it is in this direction that our views of the Russian problem are tending more and more.

The Peace Conference is today confronted with the problem of Central Europe especially in the form of an economic problem. I speak of Central Europe as a geographical whole, and not as a political or economic whole. The Allied Statesmen regard Central Europe as a series of

small States and they are afraid that this implies what they call the Balkanization of all this portion of Europe and a perpetual menace to peace in the future. They see that satisfactory economic relations are everywhere and always the best means for cementing and consolidating States and social organisms, and they are specially concerned as to abrupt upheavals in these regions, as well as political changes which might make it impossible to carry out the terms of the peace of St. Germain. They therefore regard these questions especially as economic problems and hence, too, their endeavour is everywhere to bind these States together by economic ties.

Hence it is possible to explain the periodical endeavours at political confederation or economic union, hence the demands to assist Austria not only for humane reasons, but also for those of a general economic-political character.

The attitude of our foreign policy in these matters is clear.

Naturally our experts are today also concerned above all with our financial and economic problems. Our foreign policy must not only take into account the general tendencies of foreign policy abroad, but must also fully serve the interests of our domestic financial and economic needs.

In this respect we must refuse any unions and confederations, whether of a political or economic character. We must remain fully independent, and our relationships to our neighbours must be fixed by free discussions on individual problems relating to economic and commercial or transport affairs; our needs, our relationships and interests must here, of course, be fully taken into account. In this we must have regard only for the peace terms which we signed and to which we must loyally keep, and we must also have a fitting regard for the present Allied policy, and harmonize our interests with theirs in such a way that our Republic suffers no injury either internally or externally.

Geographically we are of course a part of this Central Europe. The conditions of today have assigned us a definite role there, a significant role, a brilliant and influential future. We must fulfill our role in the place where we are and where geographically we can contribute by our national activity towards the world's general peace-endeavours.

In the "Short Stories from the Balkans", translated by Mrs. Edna Worthley Underwood, there are also two Czech stories that somehow strayed into Balkan territory; one is "Brother Celestin" by Jaroslav Vrchlický, and the other is "Foolish Jona" by Jan Neruda.

Schism of Reforming Clergy

(From the "Národní Politika", Prague, Jan. 9, 1920.)

Yesterday morning, January 8, there was held at the National House in Smíchov a convention of the Reformist clergy, attended by large number of priests. The meeting was called to order by the chairman of the "Club of Reformist Clergy" Dr. Farský; he welcomed minister Staněk and representatives of the press. He recalled that for the first time in history the public was admitted to the deliberations of the clergy.

Minister Staněk greeted the assembled clergymen in hearty words. He said that there always existed in the Czech nation a keen desire for moral purity, faith and liberty of conscience. The present movement of the clergy is an important element in making the nation free and independent; perhaps it does not intend to change the fundamental truths of religion (cries No), but desires through Czech liturgy to gain over the people, so that the truths of religion should be more readily accessible to it, wants to strengthen the people in the principles of Christianity. The minister says emphatically that he is in agreement with this reforming movement and stands back of it, not as cabinet minister, but as a Czech farmer. (Loud applause).

After response had been made by Father Zahradník-Brodský, Dr. Farský, Zahradník-Brodský and rector Holba were elected chairman and vice-chairmen of the meeting.

Dr. Farský then made his report as secretary. He described at length the persecution on the part of the Church, suspension of priests who had married, and mentioned the pastoral letter against Czech language in the services of the Church. It is the duty of the Reformist clergy to seek the truth and make it prevail in the life of the nation.

Legal relation of the priest to Church was the subject of a report by Dr. Choc who emphasized that a priest who marries is merely exercising his rights of citizen. Father Zahradník-Brodský talked about the episcopate, mentioned that the hierarchy again makes combinations with the old nobility, and that must be repulsive to a Czech-feeling priest.

The debate was further participated in by Father Stibor who emphasized the necessity for practical carrying out of reforms, by Father Holba, vicepresident of the Clergymen's Union of Moravia which has the same aims as the Club of Reformist clergy, and professor of religion Ševčík of Ml. Boleslav who pointed out that reforms can be carried out only with the help of the people. The convention then adjourned until the afternoon.

In the afternoon session Dr. Farský denied the statement of Father Kolář of Wisconsin,

member of the American mission, that separation of the Bohemian Church from Rome would have bad effects on Czechs both here and in America. Amidst stormy applause Father Dlouhý-Pokorný called for separation and condemned the behavior of the educated classes which talk about Rome as enemy and yet do not leave the Catholic Church. Now they have an opportunity to make good their stand. With reference to the material condition of the clergy, Dr. Farský stated that it would be necessary to protect it by a special law to be passed by the National Assembly. Father Zahradník-Brodský called on the clergymen present to be active among the people in the promotion of religion. Father Procházka then moved that a vote be taken on the establishment of a Czech National Church.

For the formation of a Czech National Church 140 votes were cast, against 65; 5 did not vote. When the result of the vote was announced, the assembly broke into long applause, and then all present sang the national hymns "Kde Domov Můj" (Czech), "Nad Tatrou se blýská" (Slovak), and "Svatý Václave" (old church hymn to St. Václav, patron saint of Bohemia.)

Father Janout moved that an appeal be made to the nation to join the new church; it was approved. A sketch of the constitution of the Czech National Church was also unanimously adopted. The church receives the name of "Církev československá" (The Czechoslovak Church) and takes over temporarily the existing rules of the Catholic Church with this difference that freedom of conscience is introduced, together with the use of Czech in the services.

The church administrative consists of 12 persons of which 6 are clergymen and 6 laymen; this body is to carry out the organization of the Church. The clerical members are: Dr. Farský, Zahradník-Brodský, Dr. Smrček, Dlouhý-Pokorný, Hofer and Otakar Tichý; the six lay members will be selected by the clerical members.

After hopes had been expressed that the activity of the Czechoslovak Church would bring many blessings to the nation, Dr. Stěhule as representative of the Evangelical Church gave a hearty welcome to the new Czechoslovak Church and declared that all the press organs of the Evangelical Church were open to the new body and that the press will support the movement with all its strength. Chairman Dr. Farský accepted this assurance with thanks; he declared that the Czechoslovak Church did not intend to carry new controversies into the nation and did not wish to fight with the Catholic Church. That closed the convention of the Reformist clergy.

Grandmother

By BOŽENA NĚMEC.

One hundredth anniversary of the birth of Božena Němec will be widely celebrated in Bohemia on February 5th. Božena Němec was one of the early writers whose work fanned the feeble spark of Czech national consciousness in the souls of the people to burning patriotism. As a portraitist of Bohemian country life she has no equal.

"Babička" (Grandmother) is generally considered her best work. It was translated into English by Frances Gregor in 1892. The excerpt given here tells of the visit of the grandmother with her grandchildren to the princess on whose estate they lived.

The cabinet of the Princess was decorated with green hangings inwrought with gold, curtains of the same stuff were at the door and over one window, which was as large as a door. Many pictures of various sizes hung upon the walls, but all were portraits. Opposite the window was the fireplace, made of gray marble variegated with black and green; upon the mantel stood two vases of Japanese porcelain, holding beautiful flowers whose perfume filled the whole cabinet. On both sides were shelves of costly wood, skillfully wrought. Upon these were laid out various articles, valued partly for their artistic worth and partly for their costliness; also natural objects, such as shells, corals, stones, and the like. Some of these were souvenirs from journeys, some keepsakes from friends. In the corner of the room near the window stood a Carrara marble statute of Apollo, and in the opposite corner a writing desk. At this desk, in an arm chair covered with dark green plush, sat the Princess, dressed in a white morning-gown. As Grandmother and the children entered she laid aside her pen to welcome them.

"Praised be Jesus Christ!" said Grandmother, bowing respectfully.

"Forever!" replied the Princess, and welcomed her guests.

The children were so bewildered that they did not know what to do, until Grandmother winked at them, when they went to kiss the hand of the Princess. She kissed them on the forehead and motioning to a stool covered with plush and ornamented with golden tassels, she invited Grandmother to sit down.

"I thank your Grace, but I am not tired," was the reply. The fact was she was afraid to sit down lest the stool should break down or roll away with her. Still, when the Princess asked her again, she spread her white shawl over the stool and sat down saying: "So we should not carry away your Grace's sleep." (It is a common belief, that if a person does not sit down when

coming into a strange house, its inmates will not sleep well.) The children stood still and trembling with awe, but their eyes wandered from one object to another; the Princess observing this asked, "Do you like it here?"

"Yes, ma'am," they replied in chorus.

"No wonder," added Grandmother. "They would find enough here to amuse them and they would need no coaxing to remain."

"And you? Would you not like it here, too?" asked the Princess.

"It's like heaven, still I should not want to live here," replied Grandmother.

"Why not?" asked the Princess greatly surprised.

"What should I do here? You have no house-keeping. I could not spread out my feathers here for stripping, nor take my spinning out; what could I do?"

"And would you not like to live without care and labor, and take some comfort in your old age?"

"Indeed, it will be soon enough that the sun shall rise and set over my head, and I shall sleep free from care. But as long as I live and God grants me health, it is fitting that I labor. An idler costs too much when he costs nothing. Besides, no one is wholly free from care, one has this cross, another that, but all do not sink beneath its weight."

Just then a small hand turned aside the curtain at the door; and there appeared the lovely face of a young girl, whose head was adorned with long blonde braids.

"May I come in?" she asked.

"Certainly, you will find pleasant company," replied the Princess.

Into the cabinet stepped Countess Hortense, the ward of the Princess, as was said. Her figure was slender, and undeveloped; she wore a simple white dress, her round straw hat hung over her arm, and in her hand she held a bunch of roses. "Oh what charming little children!" she exclaimed. "Surely they are Proshek's children, who sent me those delicious strawberries yesterday?"

The Princess nodded. The Countess bent down to give each child a rose; then she gave one to Grandmother, one to the Princess, and the last she placed behind her belt.

"This bud is as fresh as yourself, gracious Countess," remarked Grandmother smelling the rose, "may God protect and keep her for you," she added turning to the Princess.

"That is my earnest prayer," replied the Princess as she kissed the forehead of her ward.

"May I take the children away for a while?" asked the Countess looking both at the Princess and Grandmother. The former nodded, but

Grandmother said they would be a great trouble, for those boys were like hounds and John was a regular scapegrace.

But Hortense smiled and offering both her hands asked: "Do you want to go with me?"

"Yes ma'am, yes ma'am!" cried the children in a chorus, taking hold of her hands. She bowed both to the Princess and her company and disappeared. The Princess then took a silver bell and rang it; in an instant the chamberlain appeared at the door. The Princess ordered him to see that breakfast was served in the small dining room, and gave him a package of papers to care for. He bowed and left the room.

While the Princess was speaking with the chamberlain, Grandmother was looking at the portraits upon the walls of the cabinet.

"O dear Lord!" she exclaimed when Leopold was gone, "what strange costumes and faces! This lady is dressed just as the late Mrs. Halashkow used to be dressed, — may her soul rest in peace! She used to wear high heeled shoes, a high bonnet, her petticoats puffed out, and her waist laced so tight that she looked as if she had been cut in two by a whip lash. Her husband was a city alderman in Dobruska, and when we went there on a pilgrimage, we saw her at church. Our boys called her a poppy doll, because in those petticoats and that powdered head she looked like a poppy blossom with the petals turned backwards. They said it was a French style of dress."

"That lady is my grandmother," said the Princess.

"Indeed? She is a fine lady," replied Grandmother.

"The picture to the right is my grandfather, and the left one is my father," continued the Princess.

"Very nice people! Your Grace does not deny her father; and may I ask, where is your mother?"

"There is my mother and sister," said the Princess pointing to two portraits above her writing desk.

"A lovely lady, it gives one pleasure to look at her; but your sister does not resemble either her father or her mother; it is sometimes the case that a child takes after some distant relative. The face of this young man seems familiar to me; I cannot recollect where I saw it."

"That is the Russian Emperor, Alexander, you did not know him."

"Indeed I knew him! why, I stood about twenty steps from him. He was a handsome man, here he is somewhat younger, but still I recognized him. He and the Emperor Joseph were excellent men."

The Princess motioned to the opposite wall, where hung a picture,—a life size figure of a man.

"The Emperor Joseph!" exclaimed Grandmother clasping her hands. "A perfect likeness!

How you have them all together! I did not dream that I should see the Emperor Joseph to-day. God grant his soul eternal glory; he was a good man, especially to the poor. This dollar he gave me with his own hand," said Grandmother as she drew the silver dollar from her bosom.

The Princess was pleased with Grandmother's simple-heartedness and timely remarks; so she asked her to relate how the Emperor came to give her the dollar. Grandmother needed no coaxing and at once began to tell the story of her dollar. The Princess laughed heartily. When Grandmother took another look about the cabinet, she espied the portrait of King Frederic.

"Why, this is the King of Prussia!" she exclaimed. "I knew that ruler well, too. My late husband George served in the Prussian army, and I spent fifteen years in Silesia. Once he had George called out of the ranks to him, and made him presents. He liked tall men, and my George was the tallest man in the regiment and well grown, like a maiden. Little did I think that I should look down into his grave! a man like a rock, and he is gone long ago and I am still here." She sighed and wiped the tears from her wrinkled cheeks.

"Did your husband fall in battle?" asked the Princess.

"Not exactly, but he died from the effects of a wound received in battle. When that rebellion broke out in Poland, and the Prussian King with the Russians invaded the country, our regiment was with them. I followed the army with my children; we had two then, the third was born in the field. That is Johana, who is now in Vienna; and I think that she is so courageous a girl, because from her birth she had to become accustomed to all sorts of hardships like a soldier. That was an unfortunate battle. After the first skirmish my husband was brought to me into the tent. A cannon ball had taken off his leg. They cut it off. I took all the care of him that was possible. As soon as he was a little better, he was sent back to Neisse. I was rejoiced. I hoped that when he got well they would not want him as a cripple, and that we could return to Bohemia. But my hopes were disappointed. He began to fail, and nothing could be done. I knew that he must die. What little money I had I gave for medicines and yet he was not helped. It seemed to me that I must lose my reason or that my heart must break from grief. But a person can endure much. I was left with three orphans, not a penny of money, and but little clothing. In that same regiment there was a certain Lehotsky, who was my husband's best friend. He took me up, and when I told him I could weave blankets, he got me a loom and set me up in the trade. May God reward him! What I had learned in my youth as a pastime now did me good service. My work sold well, so that I soon paid off my debt to Lehotsky, and supported myself and the children comfortably. Although there were very good people

in that town, I was very lonesome, and from the time my husband died I felt as forsaken as a pear tree in a grain field. (In Bohemia, one often sees a solitary pear tree in the field; so that the phrase "as lonely as a pear tree in a field" has become a common saying). I often thought I should be better off at home, and one day I broached the subject to Lehotsky. He discouraged the thought and assured me that I should certainly get a pension and that the King would care for my children. I was thankful, but finally decided to return home. The German language was a great obstacle to me. While we were at Glatz, I was better off, for there Bohemian was spoken more than German; but at Neisse, it was just the opposite, and I could not learn that language. Hardly had we made ourselves comfortable when the flood came. Water is a fearful element when it becomes angry; one can not escape it even on horseback.

"It came so suddenly that people barely escaped with their lives. I quickly picked up what I could, tied the bundle upon my back, took the youngest child in my arms, held the elder two by the hands, and so we fled, wading to our ankles in the water. Lehotsky came to our assistance, led us to the higher town, where good people received us kindly and gave us shelter.

"The report soon spread through the town that I had lost almost everything, and these good people at once came to my aid. The commander of the regiment sent for me, and told me that I should get several dollars a year and steady work that the boy would be taken into a military school, and I could place the girls in the Royal Institute for Women. This did not comfort me at all, and I begged them, if they wished to show me some kindness, to give me a little money so that I could return to Bohemia. I said I would not part with my children, that I should bring them up in my faith and language. This they would by no means permit, and told me that if I did not remain there, I should get nothing. 'If nothing, then nothing', thought I, 'God will not leave us to perish from hunger,' and so I thanked the King for all, and left."

"I think your children would have been well provided for," observed the Princess.

"Very likely, your Grace; but they would have become estranged. Who would have taught them to love their home and their mother tongue? Nobody. They would have learned a strange language, strange customs, and finally would have forgotten their own kin. How could I then justify myself before God? No, no, who is born of Bohemian blood, let him learn to speak the Bohemian tongue! I asked for permission to leave, picked up the little clothing I had left, took my children and bade farewell to the town where I had seen so many bitter, as well as happy days. The housekeeper loaded my children with as much food as they could carry and gave me sev-

eral dollars for the journey. May God repay their children what good those people did to me! Poor Lehotsky went with us about six miles, carrying Johanna. He was sorry we were going away, for our house was always like a home to him. At parting we both wept. While he remained at Neisse, he went regularly to George's grave to pray a Pater-noster; they loved each other as brothers. He lost his life in the French war. God grant his soul eternal rest!"

"And how did you get to Bohemia with those children?" asked the Princess.

"We suffered much on the journey, gracious lady. Not knowing the way, we wasted much time wandering about to no purpose. Our feet were covered with bloody blisters, and often we could find no habitation. We got safe to Kladrau Hills, and there I felt quite at home. I came from Olesnic near the borders of Silesia, but I suppose your Grace doesn't know where that is. When I was near home, another burden began to weigh upon my heart. I wondered whether my parents were still living, and how they would receive me. When I left home they had given me a good outfit, and now I was returning with empty hands and bringing them three orphans. 'What will they say to me?' That question kept sounding in my ears. I feared, too, that some sad change might have taken place in the two years during which I had not heard from them."

"And did you never write to them, at least your husband, if not you?" wondered the Princess.

"The custom of sending letters is not common among us. We think of each other, pray for each other, and as we have opportunity, we send word by some friend how each one is doing. A person doesn't know where such a letter may go, and into whose hands it may fall. My father used to write letters to soldiers who went from our village and were somewhere far beyond the boundaries, so that their parents might find out whether they were alive or not, or when they wanted to send them a little money. But when they returned, they said they never got anything, and so it is, your Grace; when a letter comes from a person of the lower classes, it is very apt to remain here or there."

"You are mistaken, my good woman," quickly said the Princess, "every letter, let it come from whom it will, must come into the hands of the person to whom it is addressed. No one can keep it or open it, there is a severe penalty for this."

"It is a proper thing, and I gladly believe it; but after all, we prefer to confide in some good friend. Upon such a bit of paper one cannot put everything, and the reader would like to know this and that, and there is nobody there to ask; but when one of those good pilgrims or peddlers comes along, he tells everything word for word, I, too, should have heard more about my folks, but on account of those disturbances, there was very little travel.

"It was dark when we arrived in the village. It was summer and I knew that at that hour they would be at supper. We left the road and went through the orchard so as not to be observed. The dogs came out from our house and barked at us; I called them but they only barked the louder. The tears filled my eyes, my heart felt heavy, — for the moment I forgot that it was fifteen years since I had left home and that they were not the same dogs that we had then. In the orchard, I noticed many young trees, the fence was repaired, the barn had a new roof, but the pear tree under which George and I used to sit, had been touched by God's messenger (lightning) and its top was gone. At the cottage near by there was no change; it had been taken by father from the late Widow Novotny for an annuity. She was the woman that made those woolen blankets, and my husband was her son.

"There was a little garden near the cottage, for she always liked to have a bed of parsley, onions, some little corner of sweet balsams, sage, and such herbs as are needed in the household. George made her a fence of wicker work around the garden. That same fence was there still, but the ground had been neglected and allowed to run to grass; only a few onions were still seen. An old dog, half-blind, crawled out of his kennel. 'Old fellow, do you know me?' I said to him, and the brute began to rub himself about my feet. To be recognized and welcomed by this dumb animal touched me so that I burst into tears.

"The children, poor things! looked at me wondering why I wept. I had not told them that we were going to their grandmother's; for I thought that if my parents should be displeased with me, the children must not know it. Caspar, the oldest, asked: 'Why do you cry, mother? shan't we get a night's lodging here? Sit down and rest. We can wait; then I shall carry the bundle for you. We are not hungry.' Both Johanna and Theresa agreed with him, but I knew they were hungry, for we had gone several hours on our journey without coming upon any habitation.

"No, my children, that is not why I am weeping', I replied. 'We have reached our journey's end; here in this house your father was born, your mother in that one yonder. This is the home of your grandparents. Let us thank God for bringing us home safe, and pray that we may receive a fatherly welcome.' The prayer finished, we went to the cottage, for I remembered that my parents lived there, having given the homestead to my brother for an annuity. Upon the outside of the door was still pasted the picture that George brought his mother from the Vamberitz shrine, — the Virgin with the fourteen helpers. (Saints.) A burden fell from my heart as soon as I saw it. I thought: 'They blessed me when I left, and welcomed me as I return;' and much comforted I entered the house with confidence.

"Father, mother, and old Betsey sat at the table eating soup out of one dish, — it was milk soup thickened with flour and egg. I remember it as if it were yesterday. 'Praised be Jesus Christ!' I said. 'For ever' was the reply. 'May I beg a night's lodging for myself and these children? We come from far, we are tired and hungry', I said, my voice trembling with emotion. They did not recognize me; it was somewhat dark in the room. 'Lay down your baggage, and sit down by the table!' said father and laid aside his spoon. 'Betsey,' said mother, 'go cook some more soup. In the meantime, sit down, mother, take some bread and give the children. Then we will take you to sleep up in the garret. Where do you come from?'

"Clear from Silesia, from Niesse,' I replied. 'Indeed! That's where our Madaline is,' cried father. 'I beg you, my good woman, didn't you hear anything of her?' asked mother approaching me closely. 'Madaline Novotny, her husband is a soldier. She is our daughter, and we haven't heard for two years what she is doing and how she is. I've had bad dreams lately; not long ago I dreamed that I lost a tooth; so I have that girl and her children on my mind constantly, and I wonder whether something has not happened to George, since they have those battles all the time. God only knows why those men cannot let each other alone!'

"I wept, but the children hearing their grandmother speaking thus, pulled at my skirt and asked: 'Mamma, are these our grandmother and grandfather?' As soon as they said this mother recognized me and fell upon my neck, and father took the children into his arms; and then we told each other every thing that had happened. Betsy ran to fetch brother and sister, sister-in-law and brother-in-law, and before long the whole village was together, and not only my relatives and old friends, but everybody else welcomed me as though I had been a sister to them all. 'You did well to return home with those children,' said father; 'true, the earth is the Lord's, but one's own country is always dearest, as ours is to us, and thus it should be. As long as God gives us bread, neither you nor your children shall suffer, even if you cannot work. That which befell you is indeed a heavy blow, but lay it aside! Think: "Whom God loveth he chastiseth."' "

"Thus I was again among them, and was as their own. My brother offered to let me have a room in his house, but I preferred to remain with my parents in the cottage where my husband had lived. The children soon were entirely at home, and my parents loved them dearly. I sent them regularly to school. When I was young, girls did not learn to write; it was thought enough if they could read a little, and that only the town girls. And yet it is a great pity and a sin when a person has the gift of

the Holy Ghost and does not improve it. When, however, there is no opportunity, what is one to do? My husband was a man who knew the world, he knew how to write, too; in short, he was fit for a wagon or a carriage. And that is well; everybody might be so!

"I wove blankets as before and earned many a handsome groschen. Those were hard times — war, disease, and famine everywhere. A bushel of rye cost a hundred guilders in bank notes! that is something to say. But God loved us, and so in one way and another we managed to pull through. The distress was so great that people went about with money in their hands unable to buy. My father was a man whose like is seldom found; he helped every-body where and how he could. When the neighbors were driven to the last extremity, they usually turned to him. Sometimes the poorer peasants came to him saying: 'Let us have a bushel of rye; we haven't a crust of bread in the house!' He would say: 'As long as I have, I give; when I have no more, others will do it,' and at once mother was sent to fill the bag. Money, however, he would not take, no, indeed! 'Why, we are neighbors, and if we do not help each other, who will help us? When God blesses your harvest, return the grain and we shall be even.' Thus it was that father had thousands of 'God repay you's!' And mother was the same. Why, she would have gone to the cross roads to look for a beggar, if none happened to come along. And why should we not help people! We had enough to eat, enough to wear; why should we not share the remainder with others? This is no merit, but merely a Christian duty. But when a person denies himself to help others, that is a real virtue. Indeed, it came to that pass that we ate only once a day, that others might have something, too. And we stood it until the sun shone again. Peace returned to the land, and times grew better and better.

"When Casper finished his schooling he wanted to learn weaving, and I did not object. A trade is a master. When his apprenticeship was finished he went into the world. My husband used to say that a tradesman rolled out on the oven (who never goes away from home) wasn't worth a kreutzer.

"After several years he returned, settled at Dobrusitz, and is doing well. The girls I trained carefully to do housework. About this time, my cousin from Vienna came into the village; she took a liking to Theresa and said she would take her to Vienna and care for her. It was very hard for me to part from her, but I thought it would not be right for me to stand in the way of her fortune. Dorothy is a good woman; they are well-to-do and have no children. She cared for Theresa as for her own child, and when she married gave her a good outfit. At first I was somewhat vexed that she chose a German, but

now I do not mind it. John is a good and worthy man, and we managed to understand each other. And the children — they are mine. Johanna went to Dorothy in Theresa's place, and she, too, is well pleased with her home. This new generation is quite different from the last. I never wanted to go away from home, especially among strangers.

"After a few years my parents died only six weeks apart. They left the world quietly as a candle is blown out. God did not leave them to suffer, and they did not mourn for each other long; they had lived together for sixty years. Soft they made their bed, and softly they rest. God grant them eternal glory!"

INTERESTING ITEMS.

Czechoslovaks have now three universities, as well as two polytechnics. To the ancient University of Prague, founded by emperor Charles in 1348, has been added the Masaryk University in Brno and the Komenský (Comenius) University in Bratislava. For the current semester 7049 students were registered at the Czech university in Prague; 2764 study law, 2560 medicine, 1696 philosophy and 29 theology.

A constant struggle is going on in Bohemia for the lifting of restrictions on sale of food. One notable victory was secured by the consumers, when goose, the favorite Bohemian bird, was permitted to be sold without any other restrictions except those imposed by its price which is beyond the ordinary pocketbook.

While Prague is the seat of the executive and legislative branches of the government, the Supreme Court of the Republic was placed in Brno, the capital of Moravia.

After nine months' work the American Y. M. C. A. has now 26 buildings in various garrisons and army posts in active operation, 10 more centers are being organized and 40 American secretaries are employed. In addition 8 officers and 104 soldiers have been lent to Y. M. C. A. by the army command. Recently a fine building was opened in Bratislava, the capital of Slovakia, in the presence of the chief military and civil dignitaries. The senior secretary is Irving D. Kimball.

The Czechoslovak Republic has 142,000 square kilometers (about 54,800 sq. miles); the population is approximately 13,750.

Tourists will be welcome in the Czechoslovak Republic this summer. They may visit Karlovy Vary (Karlsbad) and the other world-known cures, if they like, but they will be urged to stray into less known parts of the Republic, like the Šumava (Bohemian Forest), the Macocha caves and the High Tatras in the Carpathians.

Current Topics

NATIONAL COUNCIL MEETS AT CLEVELAND.

A number of important matters were discussed at the meeting of the Czechoslovak National Council, held in Cleveland on January 8, with full representation in attendance.

The delegation of the Council which was sent in July to pay a visit to the Czechoslovak army in Siberia made their report. On the way to Vladivostok they met in Japan the official delegation from the old country and combined forces with it; they went as far as Novo-Nikolayevsk, between Irkutsk and Omsk, gave addresses and held informal talks with the greater part of the army and cleared up some misunderstandings about America. They found the morale of the soldiers very high, discipline excellent, food and clothing good, health quite satisfactory; the only real complaints were as to insufficient news from home and above all the delay in returning home, especially as everybody felt that further exile in Siberia could serve no good purpose. The fund of \$18,000 which the delegation brought with them as a gift of Czechoslovaks from America was spent in the purchase of tobacco.

The meeting had the pleasure of listening to a talk by Major Gephart, representative of the American Relief Administration. He described the work done by his organization on behalf of the children of Czechoslovakia, and the Council voted to turn over to Mr. Hoover's bureau the balance of the Alice Masaryk Fund for the benefit of the children. Major Gephart also explained the new plan of the American Relief Administration by which food drafts may be purchased of banks here, good for packages of food from the warehouses of the organization in Czechoslovakia and other European countries. The plan was endorsed and the Council pledged itself to recommend this relief method to its people.

Dr. Pisecký, director of the Bohemia Bank of Prague, asked the cooperation of the National Council in directing the stream of remittances that are being sent in thousands each day to relatives in Czechoslovakia so as to benefit the value of the crown. The Council voted to issue an appeal to Czechoslovaks in America to send their remittances through banks which buy their crowns in Prague and not from Swiss, German and other speculators.

A delegation of Czechoslovak legionaries from America who fought in the Czechoslovak army in France were assured of a substantial gift from the Council, as soon as they perfected their organization.

Among other matters taken up was the winding up of the business of shipping relief packages to the old country and the closing of the relief department of the Council in New York. The next plenary meeting will be held in Chicago on April 14.

The Čechs (Bohemians) in America. By Thomas Čapek. Houghton Mifflin Company, publishers. Price \$3.00, postpaid \$3.15.

It is a book for which Bohemians in America have been long waiting; and it could not have been written by anyone else than Čapek, the man who kept his finger on the pulse of Bohemian-American life for thirty nine years and who has already published monographs in English and Bohemian on certain phases of his general subject. Besides Čapek has the additional qualification of conservative judgement and eminently fair temper so necessary to the man who desires to deal justly with the various camps into which Čechs in America are split. The book he gave us will probably satisfy all except a few extremists on either side.

The study is quite exhaustive and must have represented a tremendous amount of preliminary research; there are nearly three hundred pages of reading matter and over one hundred illustrations and photographs. Čapek tells of Augustine Hefman, the first known Bohemian immigrant in the days, when New York was still New Amsterdam, describes the immigration of the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, discusses every important character and every interesting movement and ends with an account of the part Čechs in America took in the world war and the liberation of their home country. You will find in this book the biographical data, an estimate of the personality and life work, and probably also the picture, of any man who was talked of in the Bohemian settlements, when you were young, or may have occupied a place of leadership during your father's younger days. Čapek's Čechs in America is a complete Who's Who of Bohemian America.

Looking at the Bohemian record in America, registered in this book, one must admit that while it is respectable it does not furnish any reason for boastfulness. Half a million Čechs have brought forth in half a century no great men; they have made no startling contribution to the civilization of either Bohemia or America. And yet they have made good from the point of view of the old country, when they financed the revolutionary campaign which ended in the establishment of the Czechoslovak Republic: while from the point of view of the United States, the country is a gainer by the addition of the intelligent, industrious and law-abiding Bohemian immigration.

An American reader who is not personally acquainted with the Čechs and their leading men may find the book occasionally too rich in names and details; to a Čech reader this only enhances the value of the book. However that may be, any man that finds the Czechoslovak Review interesting will enjoy reading Čapek's new book.

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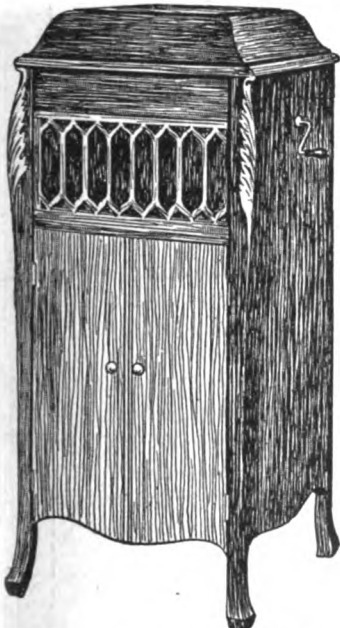
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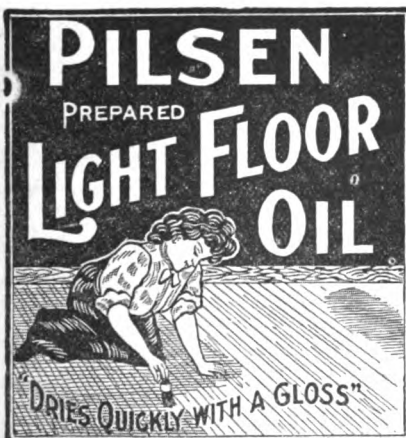
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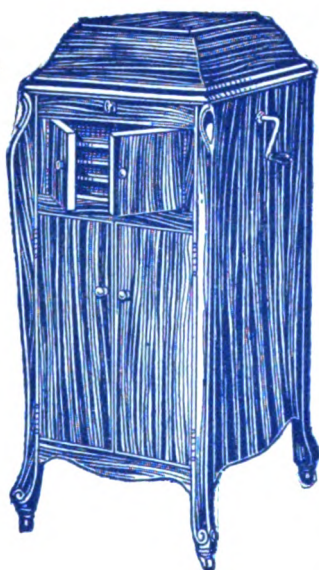
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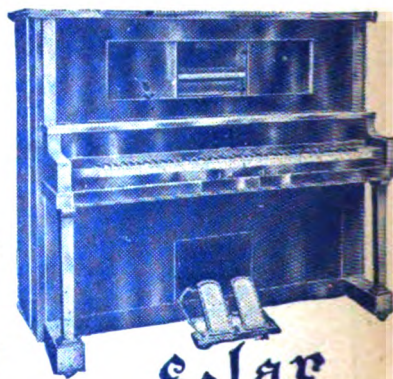
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Masaryk's Seventieth Birthday.

Coming Sokol Games.

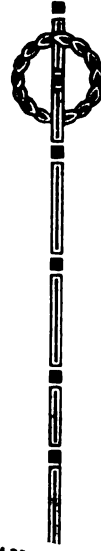
*Y. M. C. A. in Czechoslovak
Army.*

*Masaryk's Sociological Writ-
ings.*

Declaration of Slovak Deputies

Beneš on Russian Situation.

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MAR 28 1920

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The Month in Czechoslovakia

The nation celebrated on March 7 the seventieth birthday of its first president. After a year and three months Masaryk is as popular as in December, 1918, when he returned to Prague to assume his high office. That fact may be pointed to as the supreme test of his statesmanship. Of the big men on the Allied side he alone may be said to be greater today, than when the fighting ceased. Since the armistice there has been a new deal in France and Italy; in England Lloyd George who swept the country in the elections of December 1918 is constantly losing by-elections, and the popularity of President Wilson has decreased in a startling manner since his first trip to Europe. Paderewski who was decidedly the more picturesque and probably the more popular of the two Slav statesmen a year ago has now disappeared from the political stage. Masaryk alone is stronger with his people than ever; every Czech and Slovak, nay more, every German in the Czechoslovak Republic, looks up to him as the biggest asset of the Republic, and while the German minority naturally merely respect and trust the president, the Czechoslovaks love him as they would love a wise father. No criticism is ever heard of his actions; he may veto laws passed by the National Assembly, and the deputies hasten to re-write the law to meet his objections. The new constitution provides that no president may be elected for more than two terms; but it also states explicitly that this limitation does not apply to the first president. Everybody takes it for granted that Thomas G. Masaryk will remain at the head of the state, as long as he lives or as long as he can be induced to bear this high responsibility. Czechoslovakia on March 7 resounded from one end to another with the sincere cry: Long live our President.

With the exchange of ratifications between the Allies and Germany the peace status came to prevail between Germany and Czechoslovakia. The two countries have exchanged diplomatic and consular representatives and proceeded to put into effect certain clauses of the Versailles treaty. The principal change was the occupation of the small district of Hlučín in Prussian Silesia by the Czechoslovak authorities. This district includes 39 villages with about 50,000 people; most of the inhabitants are Czechoslovaks who call themselves Moravians. They were attached to the Bohemian crown until 1742, when Frederick of Prussia robbed Maria Theresa of the greater part of Silesia. In spite of germanizing influences to which these Slav peasants have been exposed for two hundred years, they have maintained their language and will now be rejoined to the main body of their kinsmen. The occupation took place on February 4; German soldiers and officials evacuated the district the night before.

The fate of Teschen will soon be decided. In compliance with the decision of the peace conference, providing for plebiscite after the German treaty goes into effect, an inter-allied commission took control of the Teschen district on February 2. The chairman of the commission is De Manneville, and French and Italian soldiers have entered the old duchy to execute the orders of the commission. It will take about three months, before the plebiscite is carried out, and in the meantime the entire district, both that section heretofore under Czech administration and the one under Polish administration, constitute neutral territory over which the Allied commission exercises

supreme jurisdiction. The situation is full of inconveniences; instead of the present customs line running through the middle of the contested territory there are now two lines, one facing Moravia, the other Poland. In one part of the now neutral district Czechoslovak crowns are legal tender, in the other Polish crowns and Polish marks. Business is disorganized, and everybody wants the plebiscite to take place as soon as possible. The commission desires to allow each side to present its arguments in a peaceful manner over the entire district, particularly over that part of it heretofore occupied by the opposite party; but intimidation and demonstrations are forbidden. So far there was a minor riot in the town of Orlová, caused by a Polish demonstration in which ten persons were slightly wounded. But as the commission takes its duties seriously and has the necessary armed force at its command, there is no reason to fear any excesses. As to the result of the vote, the Czechs feel a confidence which has been growing steadily during the past year, while the Poles feel discouraged. In connection with the Teschen plebiscite a subcommittee of the international commission is making arrangements for the taking of popular vote in the Orava and Spiš districts of Slovakia. The Poles secured this point in the peace conference by introducing a picturesque delegation of mountaineers from the territory in question to President Wilson and claiming that the people of this territory were really Poles and wanted to join Poland. While the speech of the people shows traces of Polish, the peasants call themselves Slovak and repudiate the name of Poles. No one in Slovakia has any fears that the two small mountain areas in question will declare in favor of Poland.

Conferences with Austrian representatives in Prague were resumed to settle economic questions and to liquidate financial and other problems growing out of the dissolution of the old empire. The relations between Czechoslovakia and Austria continue friendly; Vienna acknowledges that it is now getting more coal from Bohemia and Moravia. Both states look with suspicion on the developments in Hungary. The elections there at the end of January resulted, as was expected, in the

victory of Christian socialists and agrarians, because the opposition was brutally terrorized. The elections were the first in Hungary under the universal franchise, but never before was intimidation at the polls, always popular with Budapest ministries, as barefaced. Magyars would now like to secure an English prince for their king, but all their suggestions to that effect are received coolly in London. On the other hand the impression widely prevails among the neighbors of the Magyars that the British have decided to make the Magyars their protégés and are inclined to favor them unduly. All the four neighbors of the reduced Hungary—Czechoslovaks, Roumanians, Jugoslavs and Austrians—distrust the present regime in Budapest. They believe that Admiral Horthy, the new regent, means aggression, and they abhor the white terror which assassinates not merely the former bolsheviks, but even good democrats. In the meantime the Magyars have not yet signed the peace treaty or evacuated the strip of Western Hungary which was awarded to Austria.

With the exception of uneasiness caused by reaction in Hungary the foreign relations of the Czechoslovak Republic are satisfactory. Germany respects its new neighbor on the southeast and has no cause of quarrel with it. Relations with Poland are better and with the settlement of the Teschen dispute will improve rapidly; the present government of Warsaw is more democratic, and economic causes make for closer contact. Negotiations are going on with Jugoslavia about an economic and political understanding, and the interests of Czechoslovakia and Roumania run along parallel lines. It is hardly necessary to repeat that fidelity to the Western Allies gained during the war is the cornerstone of Czechoslovak foreign policy. Russia is the riddle and the chief problem of all European foreign ministers. The address of Dr. Beneš, given elsewhere in this issue, elucidates Czechoslovak policy toward Russia. In spite of the fact that Czechoslovak soldiers in Siberia unwillingly became engaged in warfare with the bolsheviks, the government tried to maintain a neutrality toward Russian parties struggling for control. As against Dr. Kramář who wanted his country to become identified with the cause of Kolchak and Denikin, Masaryk

and Beneš held aloof and are watching the developments.

Budget for 1920 was approved by the National Assembly on January 29, after a debate of three days. This debate was preceded by a discussion of the budget in the proper committee of the Assembly lasting six weeks. All the parties voted for the budget, even the opposition. As is customary in European parliaments, the general budget debate is employed to bring up for discussion such political questions, as may be agitating the minds of the people. Dr. Kramář on behalf of national democrats criticized the government for being too ready to make concessions to the German citizens of the Republic. But the great majority of the Assembly favored the policy of conciliation, so that the German minority would feel themselves citizens whose rights to their own national culture and to the use of their language in the districts in which they live are respected by the Czechoslovak Republic.

The National Assembly is working hard and is sincerely anxious to close its labors quickly, but it is still sitting. In February the parliament debated the army law; there was considerable opposition to the two year compulsory service, but the logic of circumstances was too strong even for the social democrats. Then the discussion of the new constitution, as drafted by the committee on constitution, was thrown into the assembly. We hope to be able to print the constitution, or at least its outlines, in the next issue. Among constructive measures adopted by the National Assembly was the establishment of a legislative reference library which is to inform parliaments of the world of new Czechoslovak legislation by publishing an excerpt in French of all new laws, and is also to keep track of new legislation elsewhere. Masaryk's Academy of Labor was incorporated; it is to be the central body of technical and engineering experts who will be divided into commissions in accordance with individual industries and work together to promote industrial efficiency. President Masaryk gave to the new organization one million crowns out of funds which were left in his hands from the thanksgiving offering of

Czechs in America after the winning of independence. Another important measure passed by the National Assembly appropriated 300 million crowns, spread over a number of years, to build monumental structures to house the parliament, the various ministries, universities in Prague and Brno. governmental buildings in Slovakia etc.

Prague is now a city of almost a million people. On February 6 the National Assembly passed a law consolidating with Prague 38 cities and villages which have grown up on the periphery of the old capital. All of them are connected with Prague by miles of built-up streets; the total area of Greater Prague will be 17,000 hectares (about 115 square miles). The population of the city on the basis of the 1910 census would be 675,000, but Prague has grown tremendously since it became the capital of a republic, so that the next census will find nearly a million inhabitants in Greater Prague. The law annexing the suburban towns to Prague held the attention of a special committee of the Assembly for nearly a year, so many conflicting interests had to be reconciled. The cities and towns that are now annexed were willing to join Prague, but innumerable details of administration, legislation and above all of finances had to be adjusted. Finally the bill as prepared in committee was passed unanimously. The capital city of Prague will be governed by a council of 100, elected by universal suffrage; this council elects the mayor whose title will be the "primator" and three deputies; also an executive body of 24. The first elections will be held within six months of the enactment of the law, and the entire plan will be in operation within one year. In order to put the finances of the city on a sound basis, the Assembly granted the city council the right to lay a special tax on building lots, on all vehicles, on street car tickets and on amusements. Greater Prague will be a city of unique interest to tourists; full of memorials of the Middle Ages, with century old castles, churches, houses and bridges, it has already many great examples of modern monumental architecture. The government will embellish its seat with splendid public buildings. Prague will be the most attractive city in Europe east of Paris. It will rapidly outdistance its old rivals, the capitals of Austria and Hungary.

Newspapers display prominently appeals to their partisans to be sure and register for the coming elections. National democrats and people's party criticise the government, and Czechoslovak socialists have constant bickerings with the social democrats, while everybody in the cities takes a shy occasionally at the farmers who are charged with selfishness. But in parliament they all vote together and all want the prosperity of the republic. In preparation for the elections the opposition in the farmers' party joined the national democrats, while in Slovakia the significant event is the decision of socialists — Slovak, Magyar and German — to vote one ticket, all three nationalities declaring their adherence to the Republic. Magyar workingmen hate the reactionary rule in Hungary proper, while the Germans in Slovakia appreciate the fact that under Czechoslovak rule their national rights are far better respected than they were under Magyar rule. In the Czech social democratic party the left wing published its program in February; it insists on the Marxist platform, is opposed to the coalition of social democrats with bourgeois parties and wants to join the third internationale. But even these radicals go slow; they declare their purpose to hold back the agitation during the elections and only afterwards make an effort to capture the machinery of the party. It is, of course, easy to understand the dissatisfaction of the radical socialists with the present leadership. A government which has half the members socialistic, with a social democrat as the premier, lets go the governmental pressbureau to a private syndicate and announces its approval of the bill for a bank to be the government's fiscal agent and to have exclusive right to issue banknotes, not as a governmental bank, but as a stock company.

Lack of coal, still the principal difficulty in the way of economic reconstruction, was for a time aggravated by a strike of coal miners in the Ostrava district. The strike was meant to be a one day demonstration against the cost of living, both food and clothing, but overturning the plans of the leaders the men refused to return to work and remained idle for a whole week. There were no disorders, but the loss of one week's production closed many factories, until delegations of factory workers came

to plead with miners to resume work. The strikers received 20 per cent increase in wages and the state authorities agreed to supply them with clothing and shoes at reduced prices. A conference of miners, held in Prague on January 28, declared for nationalization of coal mines, and as immediate step toward this end they demanded the establishment of workers' councils with share in management and profits; the government had already agreed to this demand. The minister of food supply announced that stock of flour was low, owing to the impossibility of importing flour from abroad, when the value of crown had depreciated so greatly. At the same time he believed that it would not be necessary to reduce the flour ration. Great efforts are being made to increase the yield of crops for the coming year; the government imported phosphate from French Africa and salts from Germany and is trying to import cattle and feed. Although the farmers clamor for the abolition of the state control of grain production, it is stated this cannot be done in the near future.

A new domestic loan was announced by the government. The first loan of the Czechoslovak Republic, the Liberty Loan, will be due in 1924; the outstanding treasury certificates are payable in 1923 and 1924. The new loan is a long term security; it is to be retired on or before 1960 in annual drawings which will commence in 1925. The rate of interest is 4½ per cent, but as bonds drawn for retirement are redeemed at 125, the average rate of interest will amount to about 5.15 per cent. This is a lower rate of interest than France offers on its latest state issue. All the old Austrian paper money is now withdrawn from circulation, and thus the danger of forgery of stamped currency is finally done away with. But the government now plans to substitute gradually for the currency, issued by the state, notes of the new Bank of Czechoslovakia. The bank will receive from the government its slender store of precious metal, buildings and special privileges. It will issue its own notes against its hard money reserves, commercial paper, and if possible, against sound foreign money, to be obtained by a loan abroad. State-issued money will be retired, as bank notes will enter circulation. The basis of new money will be the Latin monetary union.

in other words the aim will be to make the value of the crown, or whatever the future unit of currency will be called, equivalent to that of franc.

The Czechoslovak Republic can only exist as an exporting country, and this is fully realized by the governmental and commercial circles. Great attention is being paid to Czechoslovak ports, granted to the republic in the peace treaties. A conference held in Trieste between Italian and Czechoslovak representatives resulted in making the port of Trieste more available to Czechoslovak trade. Direct freight trains have been provided between Italy and Bohemia with through rates; Italy agreed to furnish open cars of which the Republic has not enough. A section of the harbor was turned over to Czechoslovaks, with docks and all other facilities for handling freight; here Czechoslovak employees and customs officers have full control. Czechoslovak export will be directed as before the war principally toward the Levant, the Black Sea countries and the Far East. Ma-

gor Sheba, formerly military attaché in Rome, was appointed consul general in Trieste. Similarly in Hamburg Hugo Vavrečka, an experienced engineer and businessman, was appointed consul general and manager of the Czechoslovak sector of the port of Hamburg.

England pays much attention to the new Republic. There has been recently founded in London the Czech Society of Great Britain. Lord Robert Cecil, the distinguished statesman and advocate of the League of Nations, is president, and many friends of Czechoslovakia, like R. W. Seton Watson, are among the directors; Robert F. Young, formerly secretary of the British legation in Prague, is the honorary secretary. The society aims at the strengthening of political, intellectual and commercial ties between Great Britain and Czechoslovakia, and to spread in England knowledge of the nation by lectures, meetings, concerts, art exhibits and literary publications. Why is there not such a society in the United States?

American or "Americanized"

By Prof. ŠARKA B. HRBKOVÁ.

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We remember hearing somewhere once upon a time the story of a certain Irish captain who, in ordering uniforms for his company, to save time, had the tallest man and also the shortest accurately measured, divided the sum of the measurements by two and thus, expeditiously arriving at an average (?), ordered uniforms for the entire company. It is unnecessary to add that, as a result, not a suit fitted and great was the rage of the captain to find that his men absolutely would not fit into the uniforms he had devised for them.

It is inconceivable to the army of "Americanizers" who are abroad in the land "seeking whom they may devour", why the "alien" (anyone who speaks another language instead of English or even in addition to English is so classified by the professional "Americanizer") refuses to be melted and moulded instantly into the pattern all duly described in the handbook issued by the particular organization said "Americanizer" is representing.

To-day practically every national organization in the United States—religious, social, industrial, economic and political—has incorporated an Americanization department in its sphere of activities. Their combined funds to be spent for "Americanization programs" run up into tens of millions. Then there are hundreds of other organizations of state or local significance which have undertaken the same ambitious program.

Out of this feverish and fanatical rush of first aiders to the injured it cannot be said that any one organization has clearly defined a national ideal of what is really meant by Americanism. In all fairness to the leading men and women in the above named organizations it must be said that some of them actually have in mind an ideal of what they would like to attain as far as the immigrant element is concerned. Unfortunately, however, their assistants, sub-assistants and minor "field-workers"—those who come into actual contact with

the individual immigrant have, as a rule, a most chaotic and hazy notion of the "quod erat demonstrandum", and their floundering only serve to roil the waters all the more.

As a matter of fact "Americanization" does not mean the same thing to any two organizations engaged in their self-appointed tasks. To certain of them, it means merely the naturalization and attainment of citizenship by the foreigner. To others, it means the acceptance of a certain veneer or brand of religion along with the "dose". Some have a broad conception inclusive of every virtue under the sun. Another class, chiefly those heading large industrial establishments, regards Americanization as a fight on radicalism and bolshevism and often linked with it are quasi-foreign or so-called inter-racial organizations which purport to be friendly to the foreignborn in advising them, in highly paid advertisements in the foreign language press, not to take part in strikes or protests against economic injustice, though the latter term is never so used, for obvious reasons.

The "57—Varieties" of Americanization programs proposed by national, state or local organizations in more or less incoherent or general terms which sound big and inflatedly Fourth-of-Julyish involve the expenditure of millions of good American dollars. From such an investment one should reasonably expect some results. The outward visible signs of the immense outlay consist of probably 50,000 jobs for as many persons who two years ago had never heard of "Americanization" and didn't know nor care a tinker's dam about the immigrant, or his troubles or our problem in having him in the United States. But to-day—avaunt! they are full-fledged "Americanizers" and glibly discuss at Mrs. Astorbilt's luncheon or at a prayer meeting of the Pink Teatotalliers how they are implanting "American ideals" in the lowly foreigner and his more lowly wife.

One is reminded of the "special course" advertisements which assure the reader of a return of loads of money after taking and "no previous knowledge of the subject necessary". The analogy is not at all far fetched. The summer sessions of practically every university, college and normal school in the United States last year offered "special courses in Americanization" and innumerable institutions are this year offering similar courses. Whence came this

horde of "expert authorities on Americanization" who to-day by their own honest confession know all there is to know on the subject, but yesterday were not wise enough to utter a single word of warning to a waiting multitude of the dangers lurking in the immigrant masses? Did they spring Minerva-like, all equipped with this special intelligence, from the brain of some modern Only Original Americanizer? The naiveness of this erudite group of Americanizers is characterized in the example of one of them, a professor in a certain western university who not long after advertising a series of extensive lectures on "The Causes of the War" and "European Peoples" asked the writer if the Bohemian people and the Hungarians were not one and the same. When told of their vastly different origin, the Czechs or Bohemians being Indo-European and the Hungarians or Magyars of Ural-Altai or Mongolian stock, this authority (?) on the "causes of the war" exclaimed, "Oh yes, yes. I made a mistake. The Bohemians are the same as the Germans, aren't they?" One can't help saying "What's the use?" when university professors, posing as authorities, continue benighted. Nor can one wonder that the mass of the people know so little of those they are bent on "Americanizing" when a representative of the highest "intelligentsia" of the state has such an addled understanding of the whole situation.

Americans are quick at adaptation—too quick some times one meditates—and readily adjust themselves to the needs of the moment. In a sense Americans are opportunists, if not always for pecuniary reasons, then for their real desire to be of service. But unfortunately all the Minute Men who sprang to the "aid of their country" when the wave of Americanization first began to sweep over the country were not actuated by purely patriotic zeal or armed with the weapons of real understanding. A member of the California Commission on Immigration and Housing which, by the way, very emphatically eschews the use of the word "Americanization" in connection with its very real services, which are only incidentally patriotic and never offensively or too obviously of that character, said recently: "The trouble is that every one who has failed at everything else thinks he's exactly cut out to do "Americanization work". It is a fact that one of the men appointed as a regional director of Americanization

with about eight states under his direction confessed to the writer that he had no idea what Americanization was nor had ever had dealings with the foreignborn, let alone devoting even an hour's study to their needs or problems. Yet he jumped at the chance to be "Regional Director of Americanization" and would as soon have thought of cutting off his own nose as to refuse the appointment. No American ever admits his lack of fitness for a job. Versatility or the assumption of it is a truly American character. That the bluff succeeds frequently does not make it any the less a bluff.

Not only are these hundreds of Americanizers to a great degree guiltless of any knowledge of immigrant backgrounds, but many do not even have a broad American knowledge of United States conditions into which they blithely undertake to fit the foreigner.

The persistent confusion exists in the popular mind that no one can be an American who does not readily understand, read, and speak the English language. Senator Kenyon's bill (S. R. 3315—entitled "Americanization of Aliens") provides for the expenditure of \$12,500,000 annually after June 30, 1920 and for "the compulsory teaching of English to illiterates and those unable to speak, read or write the English language."

Senator Lane in his report to the President says: "Twenty-five percent of the 1,600,000 men between 21 and 31 years of age who were first drafted into the Army could not read nor write our language, and tens of thousands could not speak it nor understand it. To them the daily paper telling what Von Hindenburg was doing was a blur. To them the appeals of Hoover came by word of mouth, if at all. To them the messages of their commander in chief were as so much blank paper. To them the word of mother or sweetheart came filtering in through other eyes that had to read their letter."

While the Secretary's pity for some of the foreignborn may not be amiss, it certainly cannot apply to those who could speak, read or write some other language than English. It is absurd to suppose that because many of the men were ignorant of English, "the daily paper telling what Von Hindenburg was doing was a blur." Thousands of those men were diligently reading in another tongue, to be sure, every move

made in the theatre of war. They knew, moreover, the very territory over which the armies were moving and had a far more vital interest in the success of the Allied Armies than many of the native born in this country could ever conjure up. Else why did tens of thousands of Czechs, Slovaks, Poles, Jugoslav, (Croatsians, Slovenes, Serbians,) Italians and others enlist in the United States Army and not wait for the draft? It is an actual fact that Cedar Rapids, Iowa, Colfax County, Nebraska, and other typical communities, were not compelled to exercise the draft because of the large number of enlistment on the part of young men of Czech stock. Among the first 500 enlistments in the United States Army in Chicago it is reported that over twenty-five per cent were men of Czechoslovak blood.

The largest single Red Cross Chapter in Cleveland, Ohio, consisted of over 500 Czech women many of whom could not speak English, but they understood what it was to be an American, for they felt and thought and acted the American part and were in perfect sympathy with the spirit of our land.

A most enlightening commentary on the response of the various nationalities in the United States to the Liberty Loan is shown in a report of the Treasury Department on "The Foreign Element in the Third Liberty Loan". This is based on a report of the Foreign Language Division of the Federal Reserve Districts. It shows that the total amount subscribed by Americans of foreign descent is \$741,437,000 representing forty one and one half percent of the total number of subscribers in the entire country. The huge sum was subscribed by 7,061,305 individuals of foreign groups. *The Czechs, while representing only one and seven tenth percent of the general foreign population bought nearly twelve per cent of all the bonds bought by persons of foreign descent or seven times as much as was their proportionate quota.* In precise figures, the Czechs, consisting of 539,392 individuals and composing one and seven tenths per cent of the foreignborn population of the United States, purchased \$31,750,550.00 worth of bonds.

It is quite pertinent, too, to point to the fact that during the months of January and February of the present year the Czechoslovak Division of the Foreign Language Information Service of the American

Red Cross has received 379 calls from Czechoslovaks who served in the United States Army. Those men, writing in their native language, make appeals ranging from questions on War Risk Insurance, Income Tax, lessons in English and in United States Citizenship, Naturalization papers, back-pay, re-employment, location of relatives to questions on Health and calls for Liberty Bonds and War Savings Stamps which they had paid for in camp but had not yet received.

None of these men could write English or read it understandingly if at all, but all of them were informed on matters pertaining to the United States Government, especially to the War and Treasury Departments and were refreshingly loyal and staunch in their praise and support of the United States Government. Many of them had fought a desperate fight to be allowed to serve the United States during the war, for at first our American Government was disposed to regard *all* individuals who came from Central Europe as enemy aliens, an intolerable situation which would never have obtained had our government been informed of the anti-Hapsburg history of the Czechoslovaks.

The Lincoln (Neb.) Star in this respect says, in its issue of April 7, 1918: "There is perhaps no class which has entered into the war against Germany as wholeheartedly and vigorously as the Americans of Bohemian descent. They have been leaders in responding to the call to colors, in the purchase of liberty bonds and in aiding the Red Cross. The University Bohemian "Komenský" club, typical of the spirit of all Bohemians in Nebraska, sold more Liberty Bonds than any other university organization and the club was the first to pledge money to the Red Triangle. Even before the United States had formally declared war, the Bohemian societies in this country sent out literature to its members urging them to support financially the American government in case war was declared.

The sacredness of democracy is uppermost in the heart of the Bohemian. The American of Bohemian stock shares with the love of democracy in this country a kindred love for democracy in Bohemia. Prussianism has no more bitter enemy than the Bohemian. There is today an army of 16,000 Czechs fighting in France. When the kaiser's brutal arm has been bended and the liberty of humanity assured the

world will find that Bohemia has done more than its share."

The indiscriminate "bunching" of all foreignborn peoples with the disloyal element among the Germans has aroused the resentment of the great groups of non-German and non-Magyar origin who unhesitatingly and faithfully supported the United States government, when it most needed that moral and substantial backing.

Somehow the public has lost sight of the fact that it was *not* the Slav or Italic element in our population that betrayed the United States cause, but that it was members of the Teutonic and Hungarian groups who failed in their support of the American cause. Moreover the "traitors" in our time of stress were not foreigners unacquainted with English, but English speaking American citizens of Teuton origin.

Nevertheless a perfect frenzy of attacks on all foreign speaking peoples set in and state legislatures proceeded to enact laws and local organizations at once began practicing a highly Prussianized treatment of all the foreign speaking population.

During the war it was fully understandable that measures would be taken to suppress an enemy language, but the extension of the prohibition to the languages spoken by our allies in the world struggle is establishing a precedent unheard of even in Berlin. A prominent Iowa lawyer in discussing the drastic measures of Governor Harding writes: "We of Czechoslovak blood were good enough for America during the war to support the government with our lives and our fortunes, but before the struggle overseas is fairly won, we are ignobly classed with our enemies and the language in which we all did faithful American propaganda service is suppressed." A woman who worked indefatigably for American War relief in Nebraska states "Nebraskans refuse to differentiate between the friendly and the enemy nations. This morning my aged mother who has knitted industriously for the Red Cross throughout the war, but who can speak only the Bohemian language, was roughly treated by some extremists of native birth for using the Czech (Bohemian) language in speaking over the telephone to me."

The Siman language law passed early in 1919 by the Legislature of Nebraska while aimed ostensibly at the German parochial schools wiped out temporarily instruction in every language except English.

A decision of the Supreme Court handed down in December 1919 is to the effect that all instruction in public, parochial and denominational schools must be given in the English language up to and including the eighth grade, but permits people who send their children to the American public schools to provide for them foreign language instruction in Saturday, Sunday or vacation schools outside of public school hours. This decision saves the day for Nebraska which thus provides its rising generation with a thorough education in the English language, but does not deprive it of the advantage and opportunity of instruction in other languages as well.

Another piece of legislation signed January, 20, 1920, by the Governor of Oregon which may yet prove sadly retroactive was the act making it unlawful to print, publish, circulate, display, sell or offer for sale any newspaper and periodical in any language other than the English, unless the same contains a literal translation thereof in the English language of the same type and as conspicuously displayed, and providing a penalty therefor of imprisonment in the county jail not to exceed six months or by fine not exceeding five hundred dollars (\$500), or by both such imprisonment and fine."

Is Oregon to be a state abjuring the knowledge by which its citizens could profit through other than English sources? Are we really developing into an exclusive one-language people?

That the Czechoslovaks regard the acquirement of the English language as not only desirable, but a necessary patriotic duty is evident from the thousands of expressions on the subject. Such representative men of Europe as Charles Pelant writes "The Czechoslovaks must be regarded as a nation whose second language is English. We must have English taught in all our schools."

It may surprise many "Americanizers" to know that the most effective, in fact the only "Americanization" efforts made among the Czechs long before the recent hysteria had seized on the native born, were the results of the work of the Czechs themselves. No American took any interest in them except at election times, so forthwith they themselves set about learning the first step in the process of becoming Americans. No fewer than thirty-five (35) English books—interpreters, grammars and

dictionaries have been written and published by Czechs and almost an equal number of works on how to attain American citizenship. The Czechs and latterly the Slovak newspapers and periodicals have published series of lessons on the American Constitution and on Civics in general and have for years devoted columns to articles on the Americanism of leaders like Washington, Franklin, Lincoln and Wilson. Practically every masterpiece of American literature—both prose and poetry—has been translated into Czech language and widely circulated in the justified belief that the truest knowledge of the nation of Americans can come through intimate acquaintance with its literature.

It is noteworthy, too, that the Czechoslovak press in the United States published in 1919 alone upwards of 520 releases from United States Government Departments issued by the Czechoslovak Bureau of the Foreign Language Governmental Information Service and have cooperated wholeheartedly in every effort to provide its readers with authentic and dependable information about the activities of government agencies. The official organs of large Czech and Slovak organizations constantly urge their readers to learn English and to take an active part in all community activities. Practically every one of them now has from one to ten pages devoted to informational articles in the English language. Most of these organizations open their lodge meetings by singing "America."

The spirit of America finds an echo in the heart of every Czechoslovak and in them it will find an intelligent and patriotic citizenry. It is the practice of certain Americans and not the principle of Americanism that is objectionable to the residents of foreign stock. It is all very beautiful for the nativeborn to rant in high sounding phrases of the principles of freedom, equality and justice which our country supports, but it is rather disillusioning to read in the news columns of every paper article after article telling of political graft and crookedness, business profiteering and industrial wrongs. The effect of the chauvinistic editorial is refuted by the proof of actual daily occurrences and experiences.

The "Denni Hlasatel" of Chicago pertinently remarks: "It seems to us highly necessary that Americanization should begin at home, among those who so loudly demand the Americanization of foreigners,

among capitalists and those who are their willing and blind instruments, whether they sit in the seats of legislative assemblies, or at editorial desks or stand in pulpits. Everyone must own that the conscienceless profiteer cannot be a good American, for he is a bad man. *To us a good man and a good American, have come to be a synonymous conception.* When everyone who has in his heart a desire for the welfare of this land, will work to bring about these conceptions, then, Americanization will be accomplished rapidly to the satisfaction and joy of all good people regardless of what origin."

The attempt to distract attention from the real point in the industrial issue by confounding it with the problem of the foreigner and making it appear he is the disturbing element is a trick perceived early in the game by others as well as socialist publications. The *St. Louiské Listy* published at St. Louis, Mo., in an editorial entitled "What Do We Mean by Americanism", after statistically proving that the majority of leaders in the strikes are fullblooded native born Americans, asserts that "hardly had the foreign born element become accustomed to American standards and demanded better pay and better living conditions, when the employers imported a new supply of foreigners who were not yet Americanized". In the recent steel strike, the Steel Company imported negroes, Greeks and Mexicans who were willing to work under conditions which the strikers regarded as intolerable. . . . We naturally desire to have every citizen of this land sympathize with American ideals, but we do not see how American ideals can be separated from American standards of living. And if the immigrant population is to accept American institutions, it must unquestionably be given a wage making it possible for them to live like American citizens. . . . As far as we are concerned if 'Americanism' signifies anything, it should signify justice, freedom and genuine liberty. We advocate with all our strength the "Americanization" of our foreignborn population by educational methods and protective methods and protective legislation, but we doubt that anyone will be convinced he is in "the land of the free and the home of the brave", when he is denied the right of vote or that he is justly dealt with, when a wage commensurate with decent living is denied him. Americanism

based on the Declaration of Independence in the American constitution will find a response in every intelligent and faithful citizen and there will be no difficulty whatever with the immigrant, when the American standard of living will go hand in hand with the American form of just, lawful government. But the word "Americanization" must not be used to conceal tyranny, militarism and industrial persecution. Americanization is in truth necessary in this land but it is the selfish plutocratic class that needs it most."

The excellent schooling facilities in Bohemia which are justly a cause for pride to the Czechs have given the members of that group unusual opportunities for social expansion. Among the immigrants over fourteen years of age who knocked at our gates, in the last score of years, the Czechs have an average of only a small fraction over one per cent illiterates as against the Germans with about six per cent of illiterates, Magyars and North Italians with twelve per cent.

Since 1899 or in the last 20 years, 141,669 Czechs and 480,286 Slovaks have immigrated to America. The majority of the Czechs belong to the older and settled immigrants, for they go chiefly to the agricultural states. They have become citizens, bear their burden of the responsibilities of the communities where they live equally with the native born. Admiration for the free institutions of this government have ever characterized them and because they are inveterate readers and active in community work they have kept abreast of the spirit of the times. But they cannot understand why, after being Americans for a generation or more, they are now to be "Americanized."

The Relief department of the Czechoslovak National Council, with offices in New York, was closed in February. Balance of funds on hand were to be used for the purchase of American Relief Administration food drafts for the Czechoslovak Red Cross.

The total circulation of paper money in the Czechoslovak Republic on January 9 was 4,854,000,000 crowns, that is about 340 crowns per unit of population. That would be \$68 per head on the basis of normal rate of exchange, about the same as in the United States; measured by the present depreciated value of crown, circulation per head would be less than \$4.00. It cannot be said that the Czechoslovak Republic owes its economic ills to inflated currency.

Masaryk's Seventieth Birthday

By ALEŠ BROŽ.

T. G. Masaryk was born March 7 1850 of poor parents at Hodonín, a little town in the south of Moravia. After finishing his studies (1866-1872) at the grammar-school of Brno, the capital of Moravia, he entered the University of Vienna (1872-1876) and then completed his philosophical studies at the University of Leipsic. Afterwards he undertook several journeys in Germany and Russia, on one of which he made the acquaintance of an American lady, Miss Charlotte Garrigue, who later became his wife. In 1879 he established himself as lecturer of philosophy at the University of Vienna, and when, in 1881, the University of Prague had been divided into a German and a Czech University, Masaryk was transferred, in 1882, to this newly created Czech University.

His arrival at Prague marked the beginning of a complete revolution in the currents of philosophical and scientific thought prevailing in Bohemia. It signified an absolute emancipation from the German philosophy of Kant and his followers, and the adhesion to the French and the English empiric, positivist and evolutionist doctrines of Hume, Mill, Comte and Spencer. However, we must not suppose Masaryk having simply adopted these doctrines; he rather worked them critically, trying to assimilate them to his own personality and inner need. As a scientist and philosopher, he was not a type of a specialist, strictly limited to one or more branches of his science, but he is rather a vast and encyclopaedic mind who touched all sides of both the theoretical and practical philosophy. Everywhere he gave new impulses, calling attention to problems in Bohemia heretofore if not known at least neglected or undervalued.

In 1891-1893 Masaryk took an active part in politics, having been, in 1891, elected deputy to the Austrian Parliament. In this quality he was in most intimate relations to two prominent members of the Young Czech Party, one of whom is the well-known Dr. Kramář, formerly Prime Minister of the Czechoslovak Republic. Owing to his eminent qualities, Masaryk in the Austrian Parliament soon rose to be among

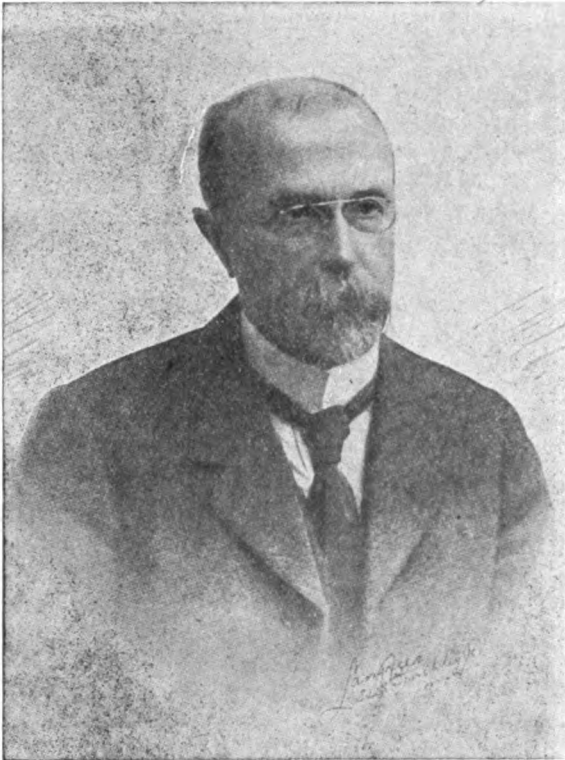
the first political leaders. Although he did not always approve of all that the Czech delegation undertook, he never denied his true Czech sentiments. He criticised the Austrian systems against the Serbs of Bosnia so severely as to be stigmatised by German deputies a traitor.

In 1909 he was for the second time elected deputy to the Austrian Parliament. When in 1893 Masaryk had resigned his mandate as deputy, he did not quit altogether political work. In 1900 he grouped his partisans into a political party called "Realists" because of their principle to count in all work only with what is real, with facts.

When deputy for the second time, Masaryk already saw the course the official Austrian politics had taken, and the ends to which it must sooner or later come. He protested against the annexation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, he publicly denounced all the crimes and the whole baseness of the Austrian Government with which it tried to justify, in the face of Europe, its barbarous proceedings against the Serbs, he intrepidly defended the Croats and Serbs accused of high treason in 1909 and, in the infamous process of Friedjung, he greatly contributed to the discovery of false documents on which the Austrian Government, in the person of Count Aehrenthal, had based its whole Bosnian politics. Masaryk remained deputy till 1917 when, on account of his "treasonable" activity abroad, he was declared deprived of his mandate.

The task which Masaryk had undertaken in the present war against Austria-Hungary, is only the corollary of all his political activity of the last years before the war. As soon as the war was declared, he clearly saw the whole state of things. Austria, serf of Germany and its vanguard in the "Drang nach Osten", attacked Serbia in order to dispatch, together with it, the whole Slavdom within its own boundaries, and to subdue it for ever to the German-Magyar yoke. Foreseeing all further events that were to come from it, he preferred leaving his native country that he might openly take side with the Allies and fight against Austria-Hungary for his own people.

When the war broke out, Masaryk was in Bohemia, whence he made some important politic journeys to Holland. In 1914 he came to Italy with his daughter Olga. At his return home he received a notice in Switzerland not to go to Bohemia. He went therefore to London where he got an appointment as professor at Kings College. In London Masaryk began his work at first only in the restricted circle of his personal friends, penetrating little and little into English scientific and political spheres, and at the same time directing thence the whole Czechoslovak movement in Russia, America and France. Not long after the Russian



President Thomas G. Masaryk.

revolution had broken out, he left London and went to Russia. The conditions there were most critical, and it is due to Masaryk that the Czechoslovak Army in Russia was organized so as not only to make the Czechoslovak name well-known but to render great services to the Allies. In this respect Masaryk's addresses to that Army were not only interesting, but very important and instructing. Masaryk himself proclaimed several times that it was the simple Czechoslovak soldier who had shown him the way how to make revolution. He saw how these

soldiers refused to fight for Austria-Hungary, how they deserted and took side with right and justice against wrong and violence, and he came to the conviction that he as a man of intelligence could not remain behind those simple people. Thus it came that Masaryk, who had been an ardent apostle of all antimilitaristic doctrines, at last became Commander-in-Chief of the Czechoslovak Army. The Czechoslovak soldier accustomed to discipline, yet liking as all Slavs do an open and a friendly relation towards his superiors, found his real leader, friend and father in Masaryk who not only took care of all his wants but inspired him with his strong will and moral intrepidity.

When Masaryk saw how desperately Russia was torn by the Revolution, he decided after overcoming difficulties and risking several times his life to leave Russia with his Army and to go, as it had been arranged upon, to France to fight against the Germans. But in the meantime the conditions changed completely and the Army had to remain in Russia. Masaryk nevertheless left and was the first to come by way of Siberia to America, where he rendered great services to the Czechoslovak nation at the very time, when definite decisions were taken about its destinies. And of no smaller importance Masaryk's action has been for the whole Czechoslovak revolutionary movement abroad. He was an undisputed authority for the Czechoslovak political emigrants in Russia, France and America to whom he showed how they should behave if they were always to remain strong, united and disciplined.

To-day he has no enemies in the Czechoslovak State, his work abroad having won for him the infinite gratitude of the whole nation that loves and reveres him as the impersonation of all for what it has been fighting and suffering four long years. The Czechoslovak movement for independence, its struggles and final victory were not possible without Masaryk. He will always remain among the greatest benefactors of the Czechoslovak people, as well as President of the Republic as long as he lives.

Jaroslav Hilbert, distinguished Czech poet and playwright, visited the United States in February on his way home from Siberia, where he served as member of the Czechoslovak governmental mission.

The Coming Sokol Games in Prague

By JOSEPH PASKOVSKÝ.

Chief of Athletic and Gymnastic Activities, Sokol Union of America.

At the end of June Prague will put on her robes of state to act as hostess to a hundred thousand Sokols, men and women, girls and boys, and to more than hundred thousand visitors, all brought to the "golden mother" Prague by the magic call *Sokolský Slet*, the seventh quinquennial meet of the "Falcons" of the nation, of all Slav nations.

Only a Czech will understand the thrill that lies in the word *Sokol*. At a time, when the nation was subject to Austrian rule, when the young men were drafted each year against their will to wear the "emperor's coat", the Sokols represented the real army of the nation. Their Garibaldian costumes raised a sparkle in the eyes of the girls, where the Austrian uniform was a hated sight. Sokols were the hope of the enslaved nation. And they did not disappoint this hope. When the time of fiery trial came, when Czech conscripts were driven into Serbia and Galicia to shoot their brother Slavs, the Sokol training made good. Sokols were the leaders of the small groups and of entire regiments that risked a traitor's death and went over to the "enemy", not because they did not want to fight, but in order to fight on the right side. It is a matter of pride to every Czechoslovak Sokol that in 1915 and 1916 the possession of Sokol membership card or insignia was treated as treason by the Austrian military authorities.

Those who passed through the Sokol discipline in the days before the war helped to organize and to fill up the Czechoslovak legions. Others who were not so fortunate as to reach the Allied lines in the course of the fighting, the men who were in general beyond even the Austrian military age, rendered a distinguished service to their country in the first days of the Republic. On the first Independence Day, October 28, 1918, the National Committee called on the Sokols to maintain order and to carry out its directions. At a time, when the country was garrisoned by Magyar and German formations of the old Austro-Hungarian army, when soldiers of Czech nationality were

fleeing home from the smashed Austrian front in Italy, before the legions came home or the new government could form a few reliable regiments, the Sokols filled the gap. In November and December 1918 the traveler saw their uniforms, as soon as he reached the frontier station; they kept watch at the railroad stations, to prevent disgraceful scenes, such as occurred in Russia after the revolution; they occupied Bohemian and Moravian towns in which the Germans had long held the upper hand. They were the soldiers of the nation, when the nation had the greatest need of them.

Is there any wonder that Sokols are popular in Bohemia? The nation is anxious to do them honor. And so their seventh general *slet*, flocking together, if we are to translate it literally, will be an occasion of rejoicing such as probably Prague never saw, unless we except the day of the arrival of Masaryk, the first president of the Republic.

The seventh general meet which should have been held in 1917 will of course be something unique, just because it will be the first gathering of the Sokols on the free soil of the Republic and because the nation more than ever will honor its darlings. But if it were no more solemn or imposing than previous ones, the sixth for instance, it would present a sight which it is worth while to come to see from the distance of four thousand miles. Thousands of fresh young bodies performed the most difficult and pleasing evolutions on the tremendous plain of Letná, thousands of young women in neat uniform and other thousands of boys and girls drilling furnished proof to the nation that the young generation was growing up sound in body and therefore sound in mind.

It is now nearly sixty years, since Miroslav Tyrš founded in Prague the first Sokol Union; two generations of the nation had been under the influence of the Sokol ideas—training of the body in the gymnasium and training of the mind in patriotic ideals, so that the entire being of the Czech men and women should be at the



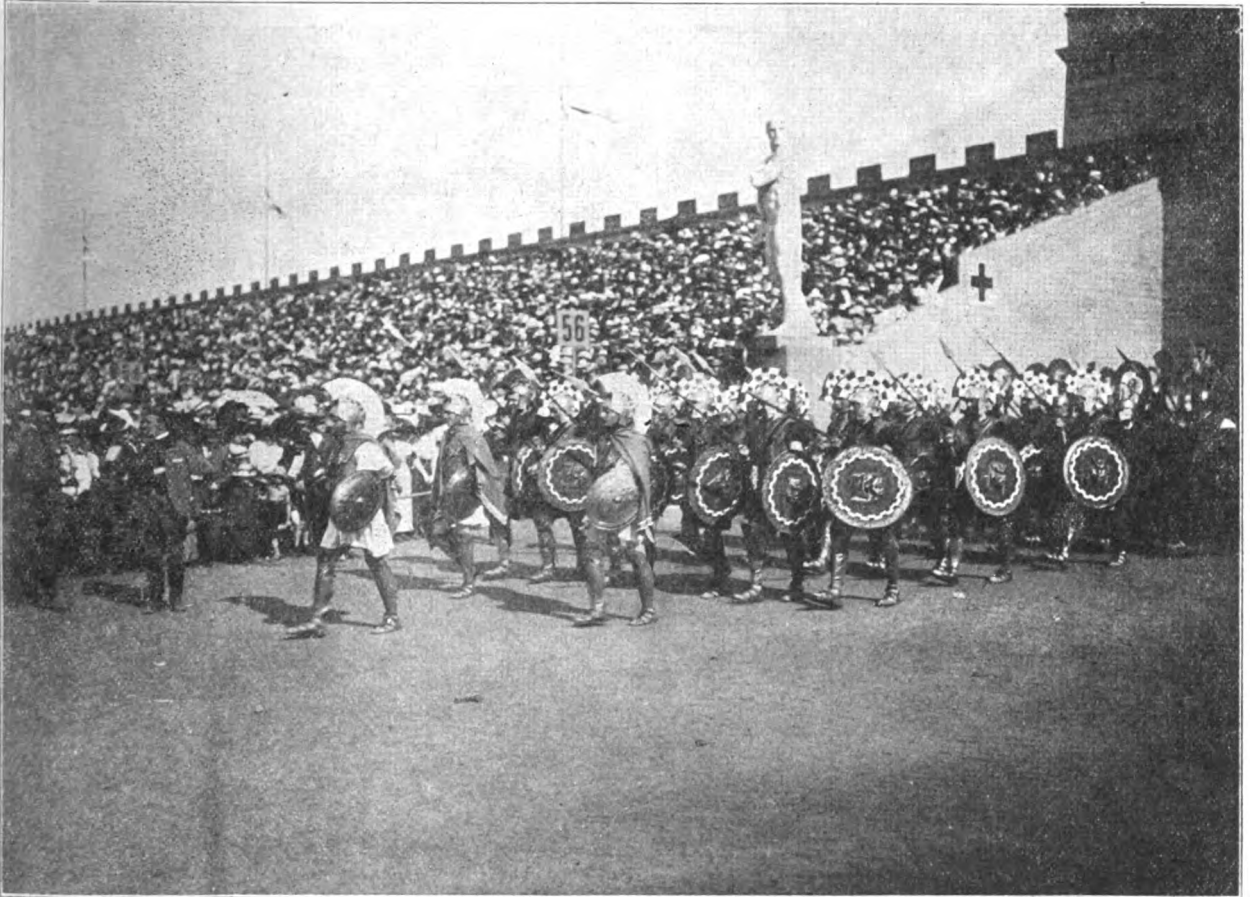
Calisthenic Drill.



Sokol Cavalry Drill.

service of the nation and should make it great in fame and character, if not in mere numbers. The Czech Sokols were from the first animated by lofty ideals. The German *Turners* also trained their bodies, but their ideal was the mean one of domination and conquest of the world by the German race by any fair or foul means; and even the French *gymnasts* laid too much emphasis on revenge for the robbery of Alsace-Lorraine. Besides in no other nation

peculiar gymnastic organization. The number of men who will participate in the drill and the various athletic contests is now 27,000, and in addition, 17,000 women will take part; that is twice as many men and three times as many women as last time. After the great losses of the war this is a remarkable number, especially in view of the fact that the thousands of Sokols among the Czechoslovaks in Siberia are not included among those already entered in



Battle of Marathon Reproduced at Prague in 1912.

did any single organization, athletic or otherwise, acquire such influence over the masses of the people, as did the Sokols in Bohemia. There is no body in America—Masons, Y. M. C. A., K. C., or whatever organization may be considered as exerting the greatest influence in the nation—that can at all compare with the standing, the moral force, the affection which the Sokols get from the Czechoslovak nation.

The seventh all-Sokol games present a vivid demonstration of the strength of this

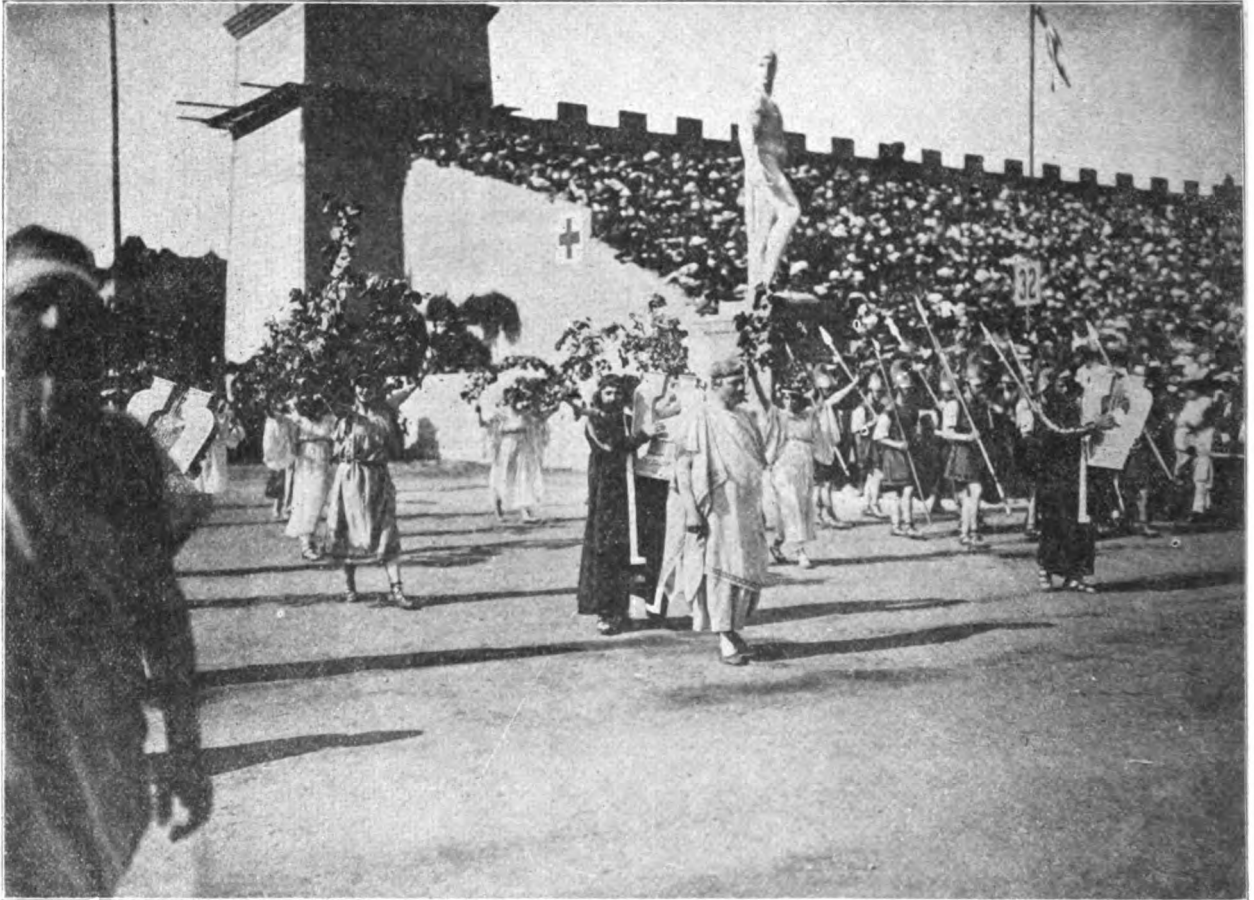
the lists. These tens of thousands of men and women from all parts of Bohemia, Moravia, Silesia and Slovakia will come to Prague at their own expense in order to compete not for purses, but for diplomas or laurel wreaths. If any athletic event of the year 1920 deserves the name of Olympic games, it is the Sokol "flocking together" in Prague, rather than official Olympic games in Antwerp.

Even though Prague will not have as many foreign nations represented or as

many foreign teams contesting for the honors as Antwerp will have a few months later, there will be many others besides Czech and Slovak Sokols in the great arena on the Letná. As yet we here in America do not know at the time of writing, what foreign delegations will attend this year. But in 1912 Prague welcomed Sokols of all Slav nations which following the Czech example had created organizations with the same name and the same ideals. Unfor-

enthusiasts who believed in Slav co-operation and in patriotic ideals. From Prague instructors of gymnastic training went out to all Slav countries to organize Sokol unions and be the pioneers in physical training.

Beside teams from Slav countries there were present at the more recent Prague Sokol games delegations of the French gymnasts. And if France has been during the late war the earliest and most generous



Scene from the Marathon Games at the Sixth Sokol Meet.

tunately in none of them had the Sokols attained to the same degree of influence and numerical strength as in Bohemia. The fate of Russia would have been different since its first revolution, if the Sokol idea had been as firmly rooted in the soul of the people, as was the case with the Czech nation. At the sixth all-Sokol meet there were present Serbian, Bulgarian, Croatian, Slovenian, Russian Sokols; Prague was the spiritual center of all those

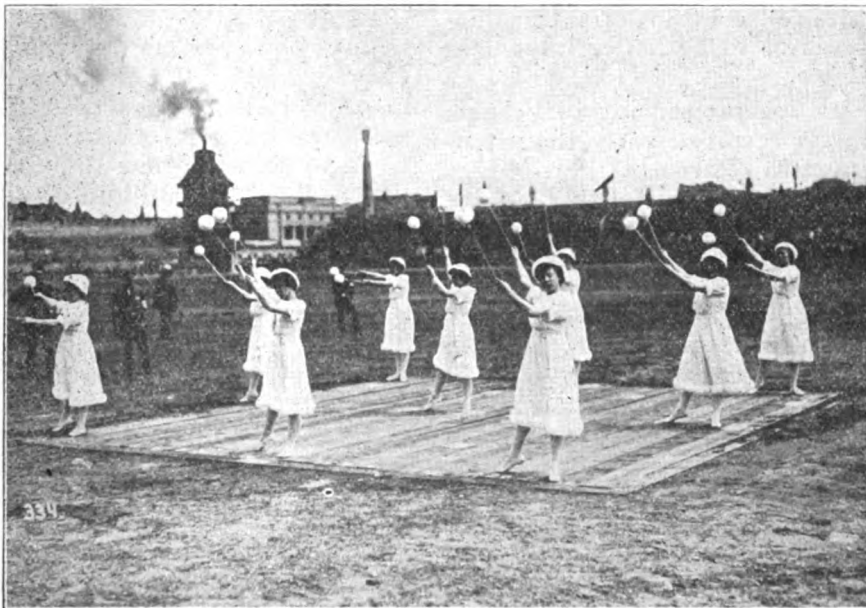
supporter of the claims for Czechoslovak independence, the cordial relations and mutual visits between Bohemian Sokols and French gymnasts in the days before the war were the principal means by which France was gained over. France introduced the Sokols into international athletic events and gave them the opportunity to win victories at the international games in Luxembourg, Turin and London. It is easy to imagine, what sort of reception will

be extended to the white-uniformed French gymnasts, when they come to Prague in June.

The celebrations in connection with the seventh general Sokol meet will extend over several weeks. June 6 pupils of the Prague school will exhibit their drill, and on June 13 Sokol youth, children of the members and themselves future members of the great organization, will in tens of thousands parade on the extensive grounds and show, what Sokol training did for them. Then on June 20, 21 and 22 the junior Sokols will flock together and compete for prizes. The principal events, how-

need not hesitate on that ground to take in an event that in picturesqueness and genuine sporting interest will have no equal. There is in Prague a governmental office, known as the Foreign Visitors Bureau, which has the first call on hotel accommodations. And an American has the first call on the services of this bureau.

Czechs and Slovaks in America will turn up strongly at the seventh all-Sokol meet. The Sokol Union of America is sending 7 teams to contest in the sporting events, and the organization is in addition conducting a tour to Prague in connection with the celebrations. About five hundred men and



Russian Women Sokols Play Snowball Game, Prague, 1912.

ever, take place on June 25, 26 and 27, when pupils, juniors, and adult men and women will exhibit calisthenic exercises and compete in gymnastic and athletic events, as well as take part in specially designed evolutions. For Sokols from the United States a separate day has been set aside, namely the Fourth of July, when they will give exhibition of specifically American athletics and games.

It is, of course, to be expected that the Prague hotels, which could not accommodate the influx of strangers ever since the city became the capital of a republic, will be crowded. But visitors from America

women, both members of the Sokol organization and non-members, have paid their deposit and will leave New York early in June. Before the time comes for closing the books, there will be many more than this number. They will have their own ship, and the difficulties of travel over war-torn Europe will be smoothed out for them. The great Sokol Union of Bohemia and the Czechoslovak government want Americans to come and will do everything possible to make their visit pleasant. The address of the travel bureau of the Sokol Union of America is 2601 So. Lawndale Ave., Chicago, Ill.

Y. M. C. A. Work in the Czechoslovak Army

By WM. REGNEMER.

What the American Young Men's Christian Association did for the American soldiers during the late war needs no retelling; there is hardly a family in the whole breadth of this great land that did not get a letter with a red triangle on it, written in a Y. M. C. A. hut. But comparatively few people know of the service which this great organization rendered to the men of French, Italian and Russian armies; and that the American uniform with the four magic letters on the collar is the most popular uniform in Czechoslovakia is something that deserves to be better known in this country.

Czechoslovak legions serving in France, Italy and Russia received early the attention of the men in charge of the military activities of the Y. M. C. A. In Russia there were workers with the Czechoslovaks on the southern end of the old Russian front as early as 1917. In France the service began early in 1918, in Italy in the latter half of 1918. When armistice came and the Czechoslovak legionaries from France and Italy were to be sent home to their liberated fatherland, both the men and their officers were insistent that the Y. M. C. A. workers—their uncles from America—should go with them. The secretaries were willing, the Y. M. C. A. headquarters in Paris and New York agreed, and the Czechoslovak government welcomed the suggestion; the arrangement was reached between the organization and the new government that Y. M. C. A. work be extended to the entire Czechoslovak army, of which the French and Italian legionaries formed numerically only a small part.

In December 1918 the European representative of the International Committee at Paris called two secretaries into his office and told them of the new opportunity in the Czechoslovak Republic; then he gave them orders to get material together and attach it to a troop train which was to leave Cognac, the Czechoslovak camp in France, for Prague.

(Mr. Regnemer has served as Y. M. C. A. Secretary in Slovakia for a year and has had an important share in the work which he here describes.)

A month later the two secretaries arrived at the Capital of Czechoslovakia and received a welcome which came undoubtedly straight from the hearts of the people. The government, the army officers, the civilians vied with each other in assisting the Y. M. C. A. men in their work. There were, however, many difficulties to be overcome, for everything had to be built up from the foundations. No supplies or equipment were available in the country, and transportation facilities from France were quite inadequate, to say nothing of the strangeness of the customs and language of Czechoslovakia. But Americans were equal to greater difficulties than these, and the work was rushed forward. The first Y. M. C. A. unit in the new Republic was established about the middle of January, 1919, at Trenčín barracks, Slovakia.

We had no need of advertising what we were ready to do for the soldiers; in a few days the people, and above all the army, knew all about "uncles from America", and calls multiplied for the opening of other huts like the first one in Trenčín. The organization was willing, but it lacked secretaries to man the new units, and thus the work increased only as secretaries kept on arriving. But even today the demand for workers exceeds the supply.

At present the American Y. M. C. A. is operating 39 huts (vojenský domov) in the following garrisons of the Czechoslovak army: In Bohemia—Budějovice, Praha, Plzeň, Milovice, Pardubice, Josefov, Most, Cheb, Stříbro, Litoměřice, Terezín, Čáslav, Hradec Králové, Vysoké Mýto, Liberec, Prague Hospitals. In Slovakia—Trenčín, Bratislava, Nové Zámky, Komárno, Lučenec, Žilina, Prešov, Košice, Užhorod, Nitra, Báňská Bystrice, Zvoleň. In Moravia and Silesia—Opava, Bohumín, Moravská Ostrava, Brno, Olomouc, Jihlava, Znojmo, Německý Brod, Kroměříž. In all these towns there are attractive places equipped for the soldiers. The government furnishes buildings, light, heat, fixtures and free transportation of material. On each of these buildings there is a handsome sign that can be seen from afar, reading "Vojenský Domov" (Soldier's Home); a free program of enter-

tainment is furnished every day from ten o'clock in the morning to nine o'clock in the evening.

The buildings are provided with a library and reading room, where the men find the latest magazines and newspapers; in the reading rooms also are played the usual indoor games such as chess, checkers and dominoes. The intricate game of chess, very little known among soldiers of other nations, is so popular here that ten times as many chessmen have to be furnished to Czechoslovakia, as to any other country in which the Y. M. C. A. work goes on.



WM. REGNEMER,

Y. M. C. A. Secretary in Czechoslovak Army.

Just as in the American army during the war, so in the Czechoslovak army now the Y. M. C. A. huts offer the soldiers free writing paper, envelopes and post cards; on the average five hundred pieces of mail are written daily in each of the buildings and dropped in its mail box, the contents of which are taken to the post office every night. In the eastern section of the Republic it is frequently impossible to buy a Czechoslovak post card or souvenir card in the local stores which are kept by Magyars,

Jews or Germans; Magyar and German post cards cost from 30 to 40 hellers each, while the Y. M. C. A. huts furnish Czechoslovak post cards at 20 hellers and especially designed cards manufactured in large quantities are sold for ten hellers each—at the present rate of exchange one tenth of a cent.

Nothing is considered too good for the soldiers of this promising new Republic. The secretaries try to secure the best possible program for their entertainment, such as the violin playing of Jan Kubelik; cinemas as the moving pictures are called there, are given from two to four times a week to houses packed to capacity, all watching with appreciation and in perfect order the clean and instructive program. The best American films are used by simply translating the titles into Czech. Men occupying prominent positions in public life are called upon to give addresses on various subjects, such as: "Our consecration to the Czechoslovak Republic", "Justice, equality and freedom is our motto", "What we owe to the American people", "How to take care of your body and health", "Moral and spiritual welfare", "Three remarkable men of American history, Washington, Lincoln and Wilson", "Masaryk, the true son of Czechoslovak people", "What is the American Y. M. C. A." etc. Lectures are of great importance particularly in Slovakia.

There is much musical talent in the army, and in many places the men themselves furnish a weekly concert, perhaps with help from local musicians. Outside talent is available also, and the best artists give concerts in Y. M. C. A. huts. Mass singing in many centres has become extremely popular, and it is really inspiring to hear the boys thunder their favorite national hymns and folk songs, songs that every Czech and Slovak knows and loves, such as "Kde domov můj", "Hej Slované", "Nad Tatrou sa blýská", "Moravo, Moravo", "Mařenko", "Boleráz", "Pod našima okny", "Přijde jaro přijde", "Kdo za pravdu hoří", "Slovan jsem", "America", "Marseillaise" etc.

The work of the Y. M. C. A. for the soldiers does not confine itself to the furnishing of wholesome entertainment; it aims to employ the leisure of the men for their education. There are classes in painting, basket making, English, French classes in Czech and Slovak literature. In Slovakia elementary courses in Slovak reading and

writing are given for those Slovak boys who under the former Magyar rule had no opportunity in school to learn the language of their parents and who often cannot write either Magyar or Slovak.

But the most popular field of work in which the American Y. M. C. A., the *Imka*, as the soldiers call it, has become engaged is athletics and field sport. This work is carried on in full co-operation with the army physical director of the Ministry of National Defense, and with the great Sokol organization. The Sokols who have developed a wonderful system of gymnastics and mass drill recognize the value of the American sports, athletics and mass plays which develop individual initiative, competition and team work. The two institutions, one distinctly American, the other as distinctly Czech, thus supplement each other. To foster athletics in the army the physical director arranged with the Y. M. C. A. to send one man from each regiment to attend the Y. M. C. A. training school at Žilina, later transferred to Brno. Graduates of this course are returned to their regiments as athletic directors. Already some ten thousand men take part in American sports and games each week; football is the most popular sport.

Canteen work is confined to serving soldiers hot drinks, such as coffee, chocolate and cocoa, and fresh buns or cakes which the secretary procures locally. But what the Czechoslovak soldiers prize most highly of all the stores served out in the huts is American soap which is sold at nominal price. I remember once seeing at Užhorod two thousand soldiers stand in double lines, waiting to get the American ivory soap which they call often a jewel of a soap. The Czechoslovak soldier is even more anxious to get soap than tobacco, something that cannot be said of soldiers of every nation. During the Magyar invasion of Slovakia last summer the Y. M. C. A. rendered a special service to the units involved in fighting by operating a series of movable canteens which served from five to eight thousand men each day.

The largest and best equipped buildings operated by the Y. M. C. A. in Czechoslovakia are in Brno, Opava, Komárno and Bratislava. At Brno, the capital of Moravia, the organization is housed in a fine building which was erected before the war at a cost of half a million crowns. There is a

hall with a seating capacity of 1500, large rooms for canteen, for reading and writing letters, fifty shower baths and extensive athletic grounds. In Opava the *Vojenský Dům* was a former German exhibition building, 80 by 220 feet large, beautifully located in a park, and turned over to the Y. M. C. A. after being completely remodelled. At Komárno the Y. M. C. A. hut is the former casino theatre, used by the officers during the old regime.

It goes without saying that the success of this American invasion of the new republic is primarily due to the character of the secretaries who are the soul of the institution. They are all loved by the soldiers who call them uncles from America or uncles Sam (*strýček Sam*). The Czechoslovak government appreciates the great service which the American institution renders both to the physical and moral welfare of the individual soldier, and to the spirit of the entire army. There are many testimonials to this effect, of which I will only cite two: Václav Klofáč, minister of national defense, says:

"I cannot let pass this opportunity without asking you to express our thanks for all the work that the Y. M. C. A. has done for the Czechoslovak soldiers. Gratitude to the Y. M. C. A. dates from the time, when we received news of their work among our legionaries, while our country was still in bondage. We read much praise of the humanity and truly friendly service of your Association.

You came to our liberated country soon after the Revolution and began to work with our newly organized army with the same cheerfulness and kindness you showed the soldiers at the front. All your friends who offered their aid to the Y. M. C. A. organization in the Czechoslovak Republic met the soldier with great heartiness and without waiting for thanks.

The Czechoslovak soldiers and the Czechoslovak nation will never forget the friendly kindness of the great American nation that has manifested itself in this way. The teachings of love America it putting into practice in Europe and your activity will surely bear good fruit."

And President Masaryk said:

"I am very glad to say that our soldiers find in the Y. M. C. A. huts the comfort of home, that they like to spend their spare

time there in good healthy entertainment, interspersed with interesting lectures and good reading that strengthens spirit and discipline among them. I also learn that the Y. M. C. A. canteens, with their non-alcoholic atmosphere, exert a very good influence with the morals of the army.

Our young army that is only being organized greatly needs the most extensive work of the kind the Y. M. C. A. is doing."

One day our Vojenský Domov at Užhorod was visited by a distinguished guest, professor in one of the great Czechoslovak institutions of learning. When he saw the soldiers reading newspapers and magazines, playing chess and checkers with great interest and much good humor, he remarked: "Fraternity and equality are not mere words or political doctrines here. I see that in this building they are the real facts of life".

The headquarters at Prague gets continually new requests for the opening of Y. M.

C. A. huts in various parts of the Republic, particularly from garrison towns, where the Germans or Magyars form the majority of the people, for there the soldier's lot is the loneliest. Thus far it has been impossible to operate huts in garrisons, where there are less than one thousand men on duty. Before I left, I learned of the request of the general commanding the eighth division who offered to send an officer and three non-commissioned officers to the training school at Žilina in order to have them return and establish Y. M. C. A. work in his division.

The ultimate aim of the American leaders is to train Czechs and Slovaks in the service which the Y. M. C. A. offers to soldiers so as to make them competent to take over the entire work as soon as possible. It is impracticable to bring new secretaries from America in sufficient numbers to do more than to supervise and instruct native workers.

Masaryk's Economic and Sociological Writings

By Dr. B. ODSTRČIL.

As a thinker with universal scientific interests, as a sociologist approaching his subject upon a broadly concrete and empirical basis, as a student of ethics endeavoring to bring about the application of justice and neighborly love to our daily life, and as a practical politician with a world-wide outlook and a personal knowledge of many foreign countries, President Masaryk was naturally soon led to the study of economic and social questions. Moreover, with his unusually well-developed capacity for dealing with every new problem that arises, and in particular with urgent questions affecting society at large, it was inevitable that he should devote himself to the far-reaching questions which are presented by economic and social affairs.

The preliminary investigations involved by his first work, in which he discussed suicide as a recurring feature of modern civilization, induced Masaryk to a careful consideration of the influence exerted by economic and social conditions upon the frequency of suicide in modern times, for he discovered from statistics that about 20

to 30 per cent of cases of suicide were the result of dissatisfaction through money matters. This fact alone was an eloquent indication that something was profoundly amiss with the economic and social mechanism of modern society. But Masaryk was not content with drawing attention to this fact and analysing it into its component parts; he endeavored to penetrate to the root of the evil itself, which he discloses to us in the following words:—"Our epoch has unquestionably become materialistic and self-indulgent; ideal aspirations, unselfishness and moderation have grown rare. Such an epoch as this in which material things play so prominent a part, cannot achieve happiness, and sooner or later must become barren and corrupt. And so as a result of present day economic conditions universal discontent will inevitably be developed, which in many cases will be intensified to a complete distaste for existence. The whole social question resolves itself into the question, whether we wish to be really moral and rational. Neither rich nor poor, neither employers nor workmen are

alone responsible for the present day situation; we are all responsible for it, and we must all suffer and repent for our guilt in common.

For all that, although Masaryk denounces the spirit of contemporary society which is intoxicated with materialism and self-indulgence, and although he unflinchingly reveals the great defects in the economic and social structure of modern civilization, yet he does not give vent to any prejudice by rejecting the whole of the modern economic system and by advocating in the manner of Tolstoy a return to primitive economics, but he demands a moral regeneration and radical reforms which must be struggled for to attain reasonable economic standards.

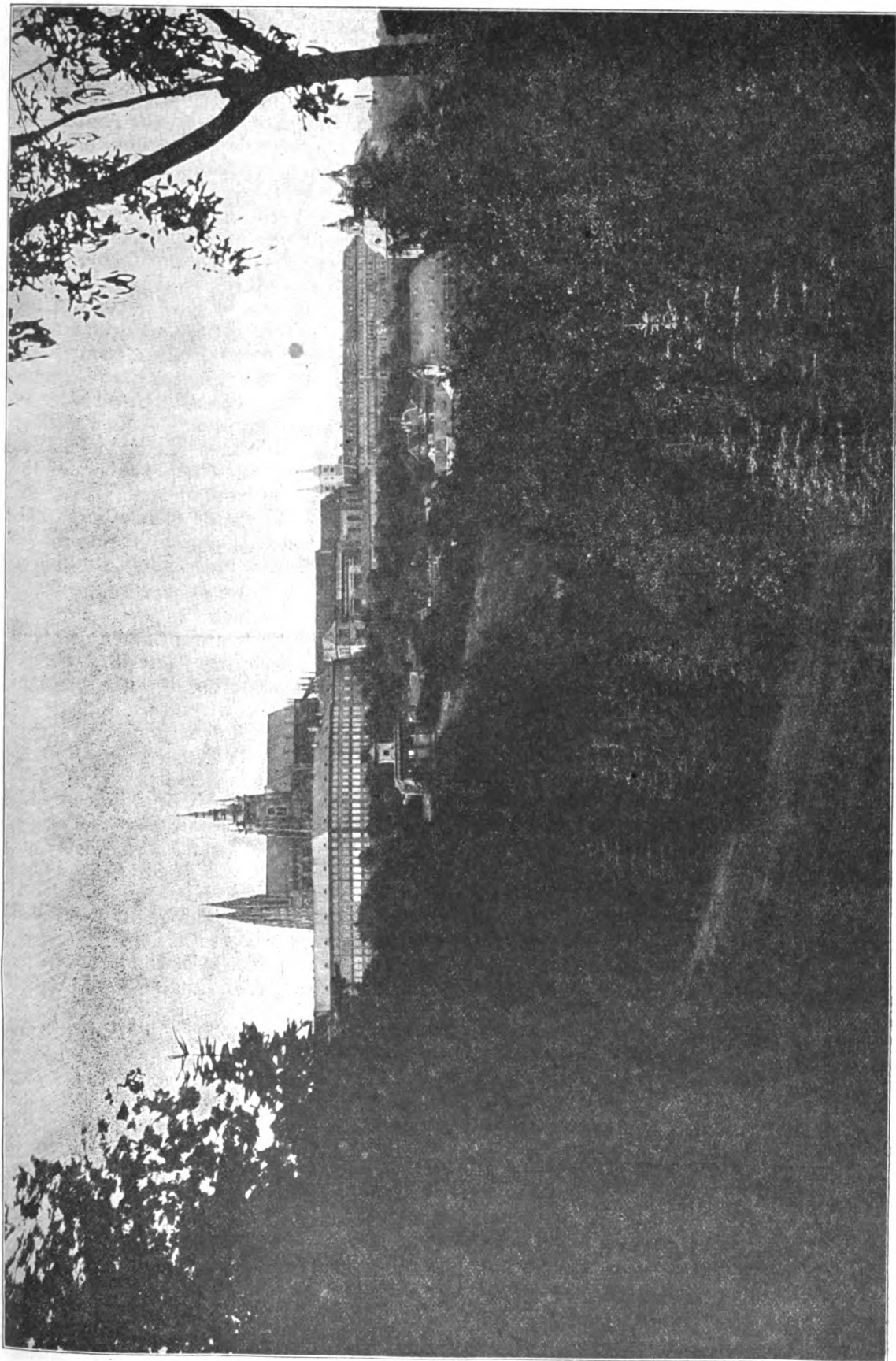
Masaryk is a decided opponent of listless acquiescence; on the contrary he is always advocating labor, enterprise and resourcefulness. He is fond of drawing attention to economic progress and development in other countries and of indicating the general tendencies of economic movements throughout the world. On more than one occasion he has particularly emphasized the great importance of modern means of communication, which render possible, to a degree hitherto unforeseen, the exchange of ideas, persons and things. This is a factor which exerts a thoroughly radical influence upon our modern economic life. It was many years ago that Palacký, the eminent Czech historian, pointed out that through the marvelous power of steam and electricity, world relationships were acquiring a new standard, and that a centralisation, as it were, of the whole globe was being developed. Masaryk refers to these ideas of Palacký with emphatic approval, corroborating and amplifying them by fresh evidence. And it is from this universal stand-point, too, that he deals with racial problems, especially with the struggle between the Czechs and the Germans. In discussing this particular question he always had in mind the difficulties arising from the inland situation of Bohemia. It was therefore Masaryk's endeavor in establishing and developing the Czechoslovak State, to counteract this drawback as much as possible by means of an appropriate adjustment of the frontiers and by alliances and agreements with neighboring states, in order that the Czechs might enjoy the benefits of the main communication routes. But not only in the international markets, at

home as well must industry and commerce, business and agriculture be dominated by the endeavor to establish the reputation of their produce and their efficiency in dealing. Sharp practice, fraud, cheating, extortion and usury of former days must be eliminated from economic activities and replaced by reliability, honesty, efficiency, readiness and enthusiasm.

In Masaryk's opinion, the object of economic endeavors should not be the acquisition of wealth, especially of wealth at any price. There must of course be an effort to attain prosperity, but only with the object of being able to develop and thrive in a spiritual direction and of having a firm basis for the political existence and aims of the people. In other words, Masaryk desires economic life to be also actuated by the moral principles of truth, justice and humanness. He is, of course, well aware that the leanings of mankind towards greed, covetousness and rapacity to the detriment of others are very strong; he therefore demands that the State should use its authority to keep economic activities well under control, and in particular he is convinced of the need for the State to take economic charge of those who are weak or in danger of being submerged.

Hence Masaryk has always been in favor of protective legislation in the interests of labor, especially in the direction of effectively reducing and standardising the working day, further, of a well ordered and completely developed system of social insurance, of building reform and of social hygiene in the widest sense of the word. On the other hand he has declared against the supremacy of the State as well as against State collectivism, since he has no desire to restrain and suppress enterprise on the part of individuals or numerically small organizations. On the contrary he has emphasized the significance of personal initiative and self-government in economic matters. He has also come out most emphatically in favor of buying up landed property, especially the large estates, and of distributing them to small holders. But Masaryk has consistently opposed communism both in intellectual and economic affairs.

Although he attaches such importance to fundamental and radical reforms, yet on the other hand Masaryk has no desire to bring about hasty and ill-considered changes. What he aims at is organic de-



View of Hradčany, President Masaryk's Residence.

velopment, as he himself expressed it in his first presidential message,—an organic development directed by a genuine effort at progress. Thus he is not satisfied merely with big isolated improvements; he is more concerned with achieving continuous endeavor and unrelaxing attention to details, in order that everything which is undertaken and accomplished may continuously become more effective and of better quality. Even every day life with all its trifling duties and requirements is to be animated by and devoted to some higher object. In this connection much can be achieved by education in the true sense of the word. Masaryk therefore strongly emphasizes the importance of the proper organization and equipment of schools and other educational establishments both in economic and social affairs, and he draws attention to the great significance of science in economic progress.

It is obvious then, that Masaryk is in favor of a process of evolution, of a gradual transition in economic and social matters. He admits revolution only very exceptionally as a last resource. But he points out that economic and social revolution can be successfully and permanently obviated only if society as a whole is animated by the spirit of true justice and humanity. He is therefore emphatically opposed to exploitation and class-rule, a fact which he repeated in his latest presidential message. In the course of a speech delivered in 1907 he said: "I recognize the existence of an economic diversity of classes, but I do not advocate implacable war between them; it is rather my desire to work for the organization of their joint labors so as to bring about prosperity for the nation and mankind as a whole."

From what has been said, it is clear that Masaryk does not recognize economic materialism, as in fact, he rejects materialism in any form. Neither does he advocate class-war, nor absolute economic equality, but he aims at applying the principles of cooperation on a large scale to all activities of an economic and social character.

During his career he has frequently had occasion to adopt a critical and polemical attitude, in particular towards the lack of understanding of the social question and of socialism in general. One of the most valuable services which he rendered to his country was to bring about an ever increasing development of sound views there con-

cerning these matters. He had the courage to champion the cause of every reasonable demand on the part of labor, even in the face of considerable prejudice. And by his actions he has always shown how his principles are to be practicably and consistently carried out.

Masaryk's critical attitude was indeed,—although many did not realize this,—only a means to achieving a positive activity. The final aim of all his endeavor has been to create a higher and nobler type of humanity among his fellow countrymen, a type of humanity genuinely conscientious and with complete spiritual and bodily harmony. For this constitutes his idea of what humanity should be. And a further consequence of this idea is that the nation as a whole should be an organism of the most perfect structure and of the finest development—a true nation of brothers. This is the object towards which economic and social organization and labor should be directed.

The Wends who to the number of about 200,000 inhabit a compact territory in Saxony and Prussia, acting on the basis of President Wilson's principles signed by the Germans when the Armistice was concluded, also sent their representatives to Paris for the purpose of endeavoring at the Peace Conference to gain freedom and independence for their small nation, the final remnant of what was once a large Slavonic population in the basin of the Elbe. They regarded this as their final opportunity to protect themselves against complete Germanization and extermination. Their representative in Paris was Arnost Bart, the president of the Wendic National Council who has been at the head of the National Wendic movement ever since the revolutionary events in Germany. The hopes of the Wends which centred in the Peace Conference were not fulfilled. Finally the terms of the Peace Treaty involved only the cultural rights of national minorities under the protection of the League of Nations, and these extend also to the Wends.

But so far this protection has not protected. Bart, the leader of his small people, has just been sentenced at Leipzig to imprisonment in a fortress for three years.

The ostensible reason for his condemnation was the charge that he warned the Allies last April against Germany's secret military preparations.

Declaration of Slovak Deputies

Deputies from Slovakia considered the reunion of the district of Hlučín in Prussian Silesia to Czechoslovakia a suitable occasion for the following declaration, published on February 7, 1920:

Members of the Club of Slovak deputies, as representatives of all Slovak political parties, upon the joyful occasion of the re-incorporation of Hlučín into the Czechoslovak State declare solemnly once more the unshakable fidelity of all elements of the Slovak people to Czechoslovak national union and to indivisible state union of Slovakia with the other lands of the Czechoslovak Republic.

Every statement aimed to create the impression abroad that there exist in Slovakia efforts hostile to Czechoslovak state union we hereby declare to be malicious lies. Responsible and irresponsible organs of neighboring states, especially Magyars, spread these lies so as to make them the basis of their imperialistic ambitions to continue to hold under Magyar domination non-Magyar nations of former Hungary which, employing the right of self-determination, voluntarily joined their racial kinsmen in new state formations.

Certain individuals who have always been indifferent to human and national rights of the Slovak nation of which they were born now give themselves out for Slovak representatives beyond the boundaries of our state; they are merely tools of organized propaganda of hostile states.

We declare that no Slovak political party or group authorized any person to work abroad in its name for the separation of Slovakia from the Czechoslovak Republic or its union with another state. The only rightful interpreters of the will of the Slovak nation are the representatives of the Slovak political parties which in spite of differences in their platforms, all agree that nothing shall weaken, not to say break, the state union of Czechs and Slovaks.

We point to state union of Czechs and Slovaks in the Great Moravian empire a thousand years ago, violently torn by the Magyar invasion; we point to the fact that the Slovak nation, which was nationally and socially oppressed and persecuted by the Magyars in a most cruel manner, and robbed of all national rights, as early as 1848 made it plain first through a political declaration, then through armed insurrection, that it wanted to be free from the Magyar yoke and exist separately from the Magyars.

History of the last century records continual struggles of Slovaks against Magyars for liberation from Magyar slavery. That also appears

in the record of the world war, when Slovaks alongside with their Czech brothers joined in thousands Czechoslovak legions in Russia, France and Italy, in order to destroy the rule of Germans in Austria and of Magyars in Hungary, and in order to form within the Czechoslovak state one indissoluble national and state unit. Slovaks in the days of the revolution declared in many imposing assemblies that they would not live any longer in the Hungarian state, but that they wanted the closest national and state union with the brother nation of Czechs. The same thing was done by Slovaks in America who in the war supported our legionaries and volunteers with great money gifts.

The state union of Czechs and Slovaks was bought and consecrated by the blood of Czech and Slovak legionaries shed in common on all the great battlefields; it was solemnly declared and accepted by the entire Czechoslovak nation after the fall of Austria-Hungary, and it was confirmed by the common fight of Czechoslovak armies during the invasion of Magyar troops into Slovakia. The state union of Czechs and Slovaks is the common treasure of the Czechoslovak nation which no one may touch; Czechs and Slovaks together will maintain it against anyone in common, just as they won it in common.

The Club of Slovak Deputies in the National Assembly of the Czechoslovak Republic: Fedor Houdek, minister, president of the Club.

Dr. Josef Buday, Dr. Ferdiš Juriga, Dr. Alois Kolísek, Dr. Ján Kovalík, Stefan Onderčo, Josef Sivák, Florián Tománek, members of the People's Party.

Dr. Vávro Šrobár, minister, Dr. Milan Hodža, minister, Ján Duchaj, vice-president of the Club, Ján Botto, Dr. Pavel Blaho, Josef Branecký, Dr. Ján Brežný, Ján Burian, Vladimír Čobrda, Andrej Devečka, Matuš Dula, vice-president of the Club, Dr. Ivan Hálek, Dr. Ján Halla, Dr. Júr Janoska, Dr. Milan Ivanka, Ján Janček, Ján Kliešek, Karol Medvecký, Dr. Ludevít Medvecký, Ján Mitrovčák, Pavel Országh, Emerich Parák, Villiam Pauliny, Rudolf Pilát, Josef Rotnágl, Dr. Ján Ružiak, Dr. Juraj Slavík, Kornel Stodola, Ant. Štefánek, Dr. J. Vanovič, Dr. Jaroslav Vlček, members of the Slovak National and Farmers' Party.

J. Chlek, vicepresident of the Club, Ferdinand Benda, Dr. Ivan Dérer, Andrej Hvizdár, Andrej Kubal, Emanuel Lehooký, Dr. Ivan Markovič, Jan Maršalko, Josef Oktávec, Ján Pociš, members of the Czechoslovak Social Democratic party in Slovakia.

Igor Hrušovský, Josef Záruba-Pfeffermann, members of the Czechoslovak Socialist Party.
Dr. Edward Beneš, ministr.

Beneš on the Russian Situation

Minister of foreign affairs, Dr. Edward Beneš, delivered a memorable address on the foreign policy of the Czechoslovak Republic in the committee on foreign relations of the National Assembly on January 30. The greater part of his speech dealt with the Russian situation and the policy of the Allies toward Russia. Because of its general interest it is given here in translation:

Even during the war, and while we were still in Bohemia, there was evident in our nation something like twofold orientation in the views taken of the world war and its possible outcome, as far as we ourselves were concerned. There were some who believed that Russia would win on the eastern front, would march into our territories and bring us independence. They believed in the immense strength of the Russian colossus which by its bulk would overwhelm Europe and would be the principal victor in the war against the Central Powers, thus gaining decisive influence on world politics. These men looked with romantic eyes on everything that was happening in Russia through the glasses of our traditional Slavophilism, lacking the critical faculty and the sense of reality, without comprehension for the social, political and economic conditions of Russia. In short they did not understand the Russian problem at all. Slavism meant to them a misty dream about solidarity and co-operation with Russians, Poles and other Slavs. And this attitude was accompanied by the naive faith and hope that the great Slav colossus, regardless of others, by its own material strength, would solve the problem of other Slav nations and of all Europe. They did not see first of all that this colossus was substantially weaker than people believed; war demonstrated in spite of Russia's great sacrifices that it was not prepared for war either technically or materially, either morally or politically, and that neither from the cultural, scientific or political point of view did Russia have enough comprehension for the problems of other Slavs. Right at the beginning of war it was made plain, how Russia understood the problem of the Jugoslavs, of the Czechoslovaks and of the Poles.

From the beginning President Masaryk refused to wager our whole campaign of liberation on the Russian card only, because at a time, when many among us believed in rapid Russian victory, he feared that Russia through the faults of its old regime would lose. When he came in May 1917 to Petrograd, where the liberal revolution was in power, he promptly wired to London that Russia was definitely lost for the Allies in the present war. That was not lack of

love for Russia; it was knowledge of Russia which shows so clearly in his great book on Russia, where things that later came to pass were foretold.

It would be tiresome to tell, how the old Russian regime was even during the war unfavorable to us. But let me make it clear again: all this is not dislike of Russia, for we love it and we have best shown it through our soldiers. But old Russia did not understand us, and of course the bolsheviks did not understand us. The behavior of our army is a splendid example of our real feelings for Russia and of our entire policy toward Russia.

The course of the war smashed this whole conception and demonstrated that this view of Slav policy and Slav world was incorrect, politically immature and more or less impossible.

But the war proved a great deal more. I had occasion to point out in other circumstances, in what light Slav nations showed themselves in this war. As to Russia, that has already been said; as to other Slav nations, it is necessary to admit that in comparison with western European states, England and France, the Slav nations were behind, because during the war in spite of their determination to play an important role — and they did play it — they were nevertheless in technical, material, cultural and administrative matters lagging considerably behind the Anglosaxon and French world. This condition is still to a large extent existent with reference to technical and economic matters, it is manifested in the administration and organization of the state. That is the way the western states look on the Slav states, Poland, Jugoslavia and even Czechoslovakia. We must take this judgment into account as an existing fact, to underestimate it would be a serious error. The Slav states in comparison with the Anglo-saxons and the French do lack political experience, expertness in administration and organization, they lack training in various phases of politics and social life, they have not century-old traditions and thus are in this sense handicapped and will continue handicapped for a long time. In other words they have much to learn and prepare themselves for real political art which consists above all in knowing how to administer and organize, how to carry on modern economic life, create modern social institutions and modern political administration. East differs from the west in that it always indulges in big romantic planes; it imagines that politics means big gestures, to make history, to occupy the chair of minister or dictator and to issue orders, send out instructions, telegrams, commands, in general create great effect.

The western world long ago realized that the secret of democratic and modern policy lies in the ability to organize political, economic and financial administration, that the best way of playing politics is to evolve efficient personnel and introduce good administration into municipal, county, provincial and state affairs, that correct politics signifies the building up of thorough and smooth-running financial system, and finally that the wisest policy for the state is to inoculate in the citizens honest dealings and sound commerce at home and abroad which means confidence of foreign countries.

In other words statesmanship that is modern, as against medieval and romantic policy, the statesmanship of the new regime as against the old regime, is the policy of constant democratic work to be applied to problems of every day administration from the smallest unit to the largest. And that, gentlemen, is the problem of our eastern Slav policy and in the end that is the Russian problem.

Russia collapsed, because it was a medieval, undemocratic state, which had no conception of what democratic labor for the people means, what modern administrative and organizing statesmanship must be. That became evident in the course of the war, and that is the diagnosis today.

The Russian problem in reference to our policy during the past year presented itself also in a new form. In the first period of the bolshevik revolution the theory arose that the bolsheviks were created and maintained by the Germans, that Germans called forth bolshevism and inoculated the Russian state with it. There was also the conviction current that bolsheviks were ready to make up with the Germans and line up against the Allies. The fact that they actually made a peace with the Germans at Brest Litovsk and called the Allied policy just as imperialistic as the policy of Germany created naturally a strong dislike to Russia in the Allied lands and caused a fight against the bolshevism. Thus was shaped the policy of intervention in Russia, for the Allies were then persuaded that Germany would take advantage of the Russian situation, occupy tremendous territory which would save Germany economically and enable it to win the war. But from the beginning there was talk of two different kinds of intervention and questions were asked, whether it should be military or economic intervention. In view of developments in the bolshevik situation and in view of the fact that at first the bolsheviks by making peace with Germany did actually greatly aggravate the position of the Allies in the west, the Allies decided for military intervention in Russia, in order to set up Russia on its feet and recreate its front against the Central Powers. That was the original motive of intervention in Russia. At that time the idea of social revolution was not in the forefront, although the danger

of bolshevik propaganda in some states did endanger victory of the Allies against the Central Powers which tried to turn the bolshevik revolution in Russia to their advantage.

In time the idea underlying intervention in Russia suffered a change. The Allies won the war on the western battlefields, and armistice turned away the attention of Europe from military problems toward economic questions. Social problems appeared in all the states in a threatening form, and the problem of bolshevism in Russia with reference to the other European states took on new shape. Russian bolsheviks believing in the spread of Marxist ideas and in universal revolution attempted to accelerate this revolution by propaganda and by terrorism. They started a propaganda in all directions for the purpose of causing internal collapse of Allied armies, and they became dangerous to the other European states. Thus arose the second phase of the intervention policy; it was not merely felt that steps must be taken against social revolution, but there was fear of the uncertain situation in Russia whose history showed that it could be a sphinx and that it may have in store disappointment to all who figured on some particular outcome there.

In the Allied countries the danger discerned was not merely that social revolution might spread into them, but that Russian anarchy might be transformed into extreme reaction; and should a reactionary regime come to power in Germany, reaction in Russia would forget the alliances during the war and seek help from Germany. From that time the policy of intervention aimed not only at the prevention of the spread of social anarchy, but also to make impossible an alliance of reactionary Russia and Germany in the future.

But the allies, though they grasped correctly the situation in Russia, did not realize that the peculiar place of Russia in Europe made the success of intervention depend on certain conditions. Today it is no secret that every intervention in Russia would require hundreds of thousands soldiers; in fact it would make necessary again armies of millions and budgets of billions. And to intervene in Russia means even more than to place into the field great armies with all the immense apparatus which they must have; it postulates also exceptional organizing and administrative ability for the man who would want after the present break-down to build up a state in Russia with all its necessary administrative machinery. These things were not understood, and that is why England intervened in Archangel, the Allies in Siberia, why help was sent to the Caucasus; all that was a mere episode in the immensity of problems which is just what Russia is today. For that reason also the attempts of various Russian generals who want to solve the Russian muddle with arms are bound to fail. From the point

of view of Czechoslovak foreign policy the Russian problem was never the military problem of Kolchak or Denikin. We never reposed special hopes in the one or the other. Whether Kolchak and Denikin should win or not, whether they were or were not reactionaries, that was not the main thing, as we saw it. What we considered the principal point was, whether Kolchak or Denikin realized what it meant to build a state, to build a Russian and Slav state, what modern democracy signified, what the world war with its political and social demands meant to the Russian situation.

I may state that since March 1919 we received detailed reports from our men in Siberia. After Kolchak had grasped the reins of dictatorship in Siberia, we watched his conduct with eagerness. Unfortunately all reports showed that Kolchak's regime was a military regime which was incapable of understanding the administrative needs of the Russian people. The same reports came to us from the beginning about Denikin. We saw that charges of reactionary regime and of persecution had some foundation and that they were caused by the incredible lack of capable men who could take charge of administrative affairs, that they could be traced to an absence of efficient organizers able to apply the principles of modern social policies and not swayed by the romantic ideas of the old regime as to what politics and political work meant.

Why did bolshevism win? First of all, because it was opposed to reaction, because it fought the old regime which everywhere called forth so much dissatisfaction; it triumphed also, because in the first moments of revolutionary work it did not have to carry on constructive policies, but at first destructive measures. It had therefore far easier position than the so-called liberal elements which had attempted to build a new construction through long and weary work. Such work is difficult and very slow, whereas destructive work, social levelling, is very quick and at first successful. It goes without question that we are opposed to bolshevist terrorism, that we are against every anarchy and bolshevism as we see it in Russia. But the question is how to combat such anarchy. We see that the policy of intervention has failed. We do not believe the assertions that if sufficiently strong steps had been taken in time against the bolsheviks, the situation would have been changed. This is a conception of the old regime which does not realize the significance of the world war, the meaning of the present social movement, which does not understand the real Russian problem, how to organize and administer such a state as Russia is with its present population.

It is known that our army against its will and the will of its leaders took part in the fight on bolshevism during the first phase of the intervention policy, when the question was to de-

feat the Central Powers at any cost. But even then our army fought on the defensive. For that matter it has been the guiding principle of our policy toward Russia to avoid any situation which would compel Slavs on Russian territory to wage a bloody conflict with a part of the Russian nation. The only correct principle for the conduct of the Czechoslovak army in Russia could be noninterference in domestic concerns; when the history of our entire fight for independence is written, it will show that this policy was justified. The Czechoslovak army and the Czechoslovak government did not favor intervention policy and that not merely for political, but also for practical reasons, because our leaders realized that the Allies were not prepared technically or materially to carry out intervention in Russia so as to make it successful. At a time, when our soldiers in Russia were fighting their defensive campaign and should have received help from the Allies, they were unable to get it. We knew what the Russian problem was, and we knew the actual conditions in the Allied camp. The Russian problem could not be solved with arms or with our soldiers.

What will come next and what are we to do about the bolsheviks? As far as we are concerned, the Russian problem is still the same, as it was during the period of intervention, during the campaigns of Kolchak and Denikin; it is all a question of intelligent, able administrators and organizers. If the bolshevist regime has such men, if it realizes that the Russian problem is not answered by the defeat of Kolchak and Denikin, but implies above all modern, progressive and democratic administration and if the bolsheviks can furnish such administration, then this regime may maintain itself and would become the kernel of future Russia. I myself have great doubts of it; even though the bolshevist regime manifested considerable ability both political and military, there is in red Russia great lack of able men who could introduce these new ideas and institutions. But it is only fair to point out that in any case the bolsheviks made a better showing than their enemies, that they appreciated better than the other side that in order to maintain themselves, they must organize and rule, that they introduced a firm military organization, returned to the old army system, that they are coming back to the old capitalistic economy by offering to pay Russia's debts, to make peace, to take over from the old social structure whatever can be applied — just so they will maintain themselves in power and finish their problem.

The fact that the Allies today accepted the principle of economic relations with the Russian nation means that they have abandoned the policy of intervention; it is the first step toward attempted agreement with the new Russia. It this new Russia will realize what it

faces, if it will tackle the work of organization on a sensible basis and turn its back on all those excesses which the old regime and threat of intervention naturally called out, then through these economic relations the bolsheviks will adopt many institutions of the former regime, perhaps pervaded by a changed spirit; they will take over the whole construction of the old social order which will of course be so changed in its character and spirit that it would deserve the name of new regime compared with the old. I have no doubt that the intervention policy meant a policy of the old regime, while the triumph of the present policy will mean new regime.

The ministry of foreign affairs endeavored constantly to carry on policies of the new regime and would consider it radical mistake, in fact under present conditions extremely dangerous, for the Czechoslovak state to carry on policies of the old regime.

I believe that the bolsheviks will not find the solution to the Russian problem, that for lack of efficient workers they will be unable to organize the state properly and make it what they dream of making out of it. I believe that their government will fall, because they also committed mistakes and even crimes and above all because they will be unequal to the tremendous

task which the reconstruction of Russia means.

One more question we must face. We talk of future Russia and of future Slav policy, but we do not ask, whether future Russia will be so far advanced as to desire co-operation. It is for us so to shape our politics that Russia will desire to work with us in a Slav policy. Old Russia had a leaning toward Germany; now we do not know what sort of Germany will new Germany be. Former efforts at the rapprochement of Austria and Russia meant in reality the rapprochement of Russia and Germany. We must act so that the Russia of new regime will want to go with us in a policy of peace. A responsible minister cannot be blind to the possibility that the future Russia, unless it is governed by the new regime, may want to go with Germany against Poland regardless of us, especially should Poland commit great mistakes in its policy towards Russia. What would we do then? This is an eventuality with which we must reckon.

To resume: I have sketched a special conception of the Russian problem, of the problem of Slav statesmanship, of our entire national policy. I contrasted the old regime with the new regime. I believe that the world catastrophe called into being much that is new, a whole new generation. I belong to this new generation and will defend its policies.

Fame

By SVATOPLUK ČECH. Translated by P. SELVER.

Ever and ever again my spirit soars back to the one corner of the earth where I spent perhaps the most beautiful week of my life. But let no one imagine that I am speaking of a happy first love or anything of that kind. The joys which fell to my lot there proceeded only from charms of nature which I had never before beheld. You may perhaps smile and class me in your mind as one of those morbid enthusiasts for nature who are always raving about it in that hackneyed and bombastic manner, with which Berlin book-keepers on their holidays spoil their fellow-travellers' enjoyment of the finest views in the mountains. But I assure you that the region of which I am speaking really inspired me with a fervid love, and that perhaps I am only unfortunate in the choice of words with which to express this sentiment of mine.

Imagine that you suddenly stepped from a European apartment, furnished even in the most splendid style, into a magnificent Eastern room where every object would astonish you by its unusual form, differing with poetic boldness from the sober patterns of the West, or surprising at least because of the unusual radiance and peculiar grouping of colours, where a magical lustre would heighten the fairy-like impression of the whole, where a wonderfully sweet music

of unknown and hidden instruments and a delicate blending of unfamiliar fragrances would intoxicate your senses, where your heated imagination would paint the magical figures of oriental poetry behind every curtain. Such was my state of mind when, after traveling for several days by rail and ship, I suddenly found myself in the midst of that distant region where the greenish waves of the sea with their metallic glitter flung their white foam at my feet with a medley of many-coloured and gracefully shaped shells, where I was surrounded by mountains which lifted their peaks higher and higher even far beyond the limit of eternal snow, where I saw forests of an unusual kind animated by the alert movements of strange animals, where the rich plant-life captivated me with the beauty and vividness of its colours, and intoxicated me with the strength of its delightful fragrance, and where even natural objects, familiar to me from my home, assumed a new and more magnificent aspect in the brilliant illumination of the southern sun.

If you have in your hands a map of Russian Empire, search at the southern border of the Black Sea for the name Novorossijsk. The black spot beside it has a very sober appearance upon the map.

"Skvernyj Gorodok!" exclaimed the young Russian lieutenant standing beside me on the deck, and stretched out his hand in the direction of the little town before which we had anchored in the bay of Novorossijsk. "Skvernyj Gorodok!" (actually he pronounced it "Skrjorny"), he repeated, and was sorry for me because I had to spend a week in such an out-of-the-way spot.

Well, certainly, Novorossijsk*) in itself is an out-of-the-way spot, consisting of about 200 insignificant cottages mostly constructed only of wood and clay, a few unimpressive military buildings and a Russian church painted brown, with a green onion-shaped dome in the company of the inevitable smaller domes at the side, also onion-shaped. The only interesting thing about it to me was its population, a motley mixture of Russian officials, traders, and soldiers, Russian peasants, Cossacks, Greeks, Armenians, Georgians and others.

But then on the other hand, the surrounding landscape! Would you like to accompany me on an imaginary excursion into these regions?

"Today you will have a fine journey" observed the Novorossijsk hotel keeper, an Armenian called Gusikov (probably some Armenian name in a Russian uniform), carefully cutting the nail on the toe of his right foot, which for this purpose he had stretched out before him on the table. The capacious sole of his foot was turned towards me, and thus caused a partial eclipse of the flushed moon, as by a poetical comparison I may call the circular, ruddy countenance of my host with its surrounding decoration of reddish locks.

"Don't forget to cover your head and neck with a pocket handkerchief; a hat alone is not enough to protect you against our sun" added the waiter with fatherly concern, as he polished his master's boots behind the buffet, which in the Russian style invited the guests to the free enjoyment of various dainties, such as crabs, spring onions, small pasties, caviare and so on.

He was a curious waiter: tall and shambling, in a white linen smock, with a fez upon his head, the bald skull of which was covered here and there with a few wisps of light hair which looked more like whitish fibres. But I was also interested by this man's history. By birth he was an Adige (Circassian) of a war-like stock which formerly inhabited the mountains round Novorossijsk; after the year 1864, when the Circassians were defeated in their obstinate struggle against the Russians, and some of them left their home in the Caucasus for Turkey, while the rest emigrated to Kuban, he came while still a youth to Asia Minor. But he clearly did not make his fortune in foreign parts, for after several years he returned to his native mountains and was satisfied with the above mentioned modest position in the single "hotel" of Novo-

rossijsk. I often used to see him as he stood before this little one-storied inn, and shaded his eyes with his hand, while his gaze wandered across to the mountains near by. Only ten years or so earlier, these mountains had swarmed with war-like Circassians, and he himself as he sat on the threshold of his native hut in one of the numerous auls (Circassian villages), would dream of his future glory as a hero. Now these mountains are bare and deserted far and wide, the auls have disappeared or are overgrown with dense forests, and there is neither sight nor sound of the Circassians here. So instead of a hero he became a waiter, and avenged himself on his former arch-enemies by serving them with flavourless wine from Kachetin and sour beer from Kertch. As he looked at those bare mountains, did he meditate upon the bitter lot of himself and his whole nation? I do not know. But I never saw in him any traces of sentimentality. His face always used to have a contented and kindly expression, and round his lips there often used to play a merry smile, on which occasions two rows of beautiful large white teeth were displayed under his fair long moustache.

I was just about to reply to the remarks of these two people, when the surgeon Pavel Semenovitch Tabunov, in full riding equipment, stepped into the inn. He informed me that the whole party was assembled outside. I followed him.

To the quiet amusement of the company I made use of the stone bench in front of the inn as I mounted the tractable mountain pony, and with one hand seized carefully the long front points of the Tcherkessian saddle with the high-slung stirrup, which forced the legs into a cramped position uncomfortable to the beginner.

But first of all let me here enumerate the heroes and heroines who under the surgeon's leadership had assembled for this excursion into the mountains. There was the surgeon's wife, Anna Kirilovna, a talkative brunette of quite respectable proportions, and in the "prime of her years"; she had undertaken to act the part of motherly supervisor and chaperon to the remaining ladies during the hardships of the excursion. But on the journey she herself soon became the centre of continual care and concern to the whole company.

Then there was an old Colonel, Ivan Ivanovitch Revnin, tall, gaunt, with several scars and numberless wrinkles in his lean, striking face through whose expression of military sternness shone his natural kindness of heart. He still carried himself perfectly straight, and his silver grey hair, eyebrows and moustache charmingly completed the picture of a veteran hero.

It did not take me long to see that this old lion had found two powerful and alert tamers in the persons of his young daughters. Being a widower, he devoted his whole life to their interests, and submitted to their fancies and whims.

*) Written more than forty years ago.

with mild grumbling, although he was very glad to do so. It was clear that they had managed to join the present excursion against his will, by employing those delicate little methods which enabled them to overcome his feeble opposition. Moreover, the anxiety about them which he displayed on the journey was quite unnecessary, for they were both thorough daughters of a soldier, and sat upon their mounts as easily and unconcernedly, as if they were sofas in their boudoir. I took Uljana, the elder, to be about seventeen years old; she was a girl of particular beauty. She was slender but not too tall, with an oval face gently tapering toward the chin. Beneath her large, broad forehead and her gracefully arched and delicate eyebrows, her nose, regular and delicately shaped with its small nostrils, advanced to meet the beautifully shaped lips of her small mouth. But the principal charm of this countenance consisted in the extraordinary purity of the features and the texture of the skin, in the grace of the tender and yet vivid red which adorned her mouth and suffused her face, and above all, in the deep blue and sparkling radiance of her eyes, which in their full beauty admitted of no comparison to describe them. In this girl's appearance there was not a shadow of sensuality to disturb the pure pleasure which arose from the sight of her loveliness. She gave the impression of being something poetically ideal, but at the same time of possessing a maidenly pride, a mysterious power of command which would have led you involuntarily to bow your head before her. I had never before met with girlish beauty of such a type; but in dreams and in meditations it had often hovered before me ever since my childhood, and indeed I confess that she was the image of my ideal. If I had met her ten years earlier, perhaps —. But let us not disturb with vain fancies the calm of a spirit which has grown cold and sober.

The younger, whose name was Duňaška, was only about fourteen years old, and was quite different in appearance, resembling more the Russian type. Instead of the radiant dark brown hair which seemed to float upon Uljana's head, her round and chubby countenance was surrounded with an abundance of Russian curls of a golden tinge. Long lashes of the same golden color shaded her large light brown eyes, and the delicate white skin of her little face also radiated a kind of golden glimmer. For her years Duňaška was well developed, and her figure exhibited promising signs that she would become a full bloomed, plump, alluring Russian beauty. But otherwise she was still only a romping, chattering, pampered child.

The quartette of feminine members of our company was completed by Aglaja Andrejevna (I did not discover her surname), a young relative of the Moscow surgeon with whom she was staying on a visit. She was rather a pretty girl, but with a cold reserved expression in her pale

face and with a fixed smile of contempt upon her full, pink lips. She was supposed to have finished her course at a public school; I should certainly have taken her for a would-be nihilist, if I had already heard of nihilism in Russia at that time.

To conclude this perhaps rather too conscientious description, I must mention Roman Lvovitch Suslikov, a relative of Ivan Ivanovitch, a beardless youth who spoke in a thin sing-song voice with very active gestures, and was fond of showing off his knowledge and lack of knowledge in matters concerned with western culture.

We were all mounted upon good-tempered little horses, the ladies in the more convenient side-saddles, under broad sunshades. In addition, they were equipped against the glowing sun with thick long veils, which in the meantime fluttered beneath their hats around their foreheads and curls, according to the latest fashion. The armed escort of our caravan consisted of two mounted Cossacks, sturdy fellows with tanned bearded faces. The picturesque costume of the Black Sea Cossacks, which was derived from the Circassians, suited them admirably. A high shaggy cap, a tunic reaching to the ankles and fastened round the waist, with a row of cartridge-pouches on both sides of the chest, high close-fitting boots, a long thin sword in the girdle, and slung across the back a light rifle in a cover of dark fur with long hairs. In front and behind the saddles of these Cossacks, partly tied up and partly deposited with care in the capacious "sumky" (bags), which hung down from both sides of the horse's back, there were also eatable and uneatable necessaries for a journey, including of course, the indispensable vade mecum of the Russians, a large samovar.

We rode out from Novorossijsk, accompanied by the active curiosity of the motley population, which had partly assembled in the bazaar, and stared partly from the open "pogrebs" and "duchans" (taverns), where they were enlivening themselves with wine or vodka.

It was a beautiful May morning. Over the radiant dark blue sky a few delicate cloudlets could be seen here and there like small scattered feathers. The long bay which cut like an outstretched arm deep into the land, at the extremity of which lies Novorossijsk on the left shore, was gleaming at this moment as blue as a sapphire. Two small Turkish vessels with triangular sails were rocking gently by the shore, where their crews in picturesque attire were idly lounging on the sands. Here and there a white seagull hovered above the waves with long outstretched wings shaped like our accent over the letter é, — pardon me for this orthographical comparison.

An unbroken range of picturesque peaks, mostly cone-shaped, — these are the smaller advance-guard of the Caucasian giants — extends along both sides of the bay, and behind Novorossijsk

forms a far-reaching arch around the broad hollow, the greater part of which is covered with a dense growth of leafy forest. We rode from the town in a south-easterly direction towards these peaks. They here stretch quite close up behind the town, and their lower slopes reach as far as the bay itself, along which they are piled in a long row up to the sea, where a dark rock of curious shape projecting sharply into the water, closes this panorama like the remotest background in a piece of theatrical scenery. All the sides of this peak are interlocked with those of its neighbors, and only its rounded breast separated from the others by deep ravines, and its open summits standing out clearly in their manifold shapes against the bright sky, are revealed to the gaze as a range of mountain tops by themselves. They are covered with a growth of low but rank and leafy thickets, in whose fresh and lovely green the gloomy shadows of the cypress tops are here and there mingled.

After we had passed the outermost extremity of the bay, we found ourselves at the foot of one of these peaks. There, by a little Cossack guardhouse, we were stopped for a moment by an interesting sight. On the green meadow at the foot of the mountain a company of Cossacks were going through their drill. The Black Sea Cossacks have, it is true, a uniform, as far as the shape of the clothing is concerned, but not at all with regard to its color. The long coat of one is black, of the second white, of the third brown, of the fourth violet, and so on. Their trousers also, and in fact even their boots, are of various colors. As a result, a troop of them seen somewhere from the distance, resembles a many-colored flower-bed. It was really a rare pleasure to watch this motley throng of sturdy bearded men, for the most part dusky sunburnt, galloping to and fro on their small horses across the meadow and filling the air with the hundred-fold glitter of their polished weapons, metal belts, and the gold and silver adornments on their attire flashing in the sun, — it was like gazing into a kaleidoscope whose varied pattern changes every moment.

Behind the guardhouse we had to ascend the mountain side gradually. The pathway, which was covered with grass and which bore only scanty traces of wheels, twined itself along the slope with an abundance of curves. At first we could ride only two abreast. In front rode the Colonel with the surgeon, the remainder in no particular order behind them; I brought up the rear with Uljana.

Oh blissful moment of life! Oh sweet power of memory! I recognised the spring in its full enchantment, and ever since, my spirit has been radiant with the delightful lustre of this image, into which I plunged my insatiable gaze that day, until in spite of myself, I felt it grow dim with the moisture of joyful emotion. What more could I say? Am I to describe how the surround-

ing air was like transparent gold, and how I felt it wafted on my brow like the breath of a maiden in amorous yearning? Am I to describe the freshness of the herbage with its range of manifold shades, the intoxicating fragrance of countless flowers? Everything there was like a single flower. Never before have I seen so many of them, and such beautiful ones, together at one time. Flora has here scattered a veritable deluge of flowers from her lap, flinging them forth prodigally in lavish handfuls. Here a thorn-bush is hidden by a cluster of glittering white starlets like newly fallen snow; yonder another shrub is red with great wild roses, and next to that others are covered with flowers of varying shapes and colors. Around the shrubberies was thickly heaped a wonderful medley of many-colored calyces and pods. It was a regret to me then that my paltry botanical knowledge did not permit me to recognize, in addition to the plants most familiar to me from home, the rest of the glorious springtide retinue by genus and name. But what use would it be to you, who are not botanists even if I filled up several lines here with long Latin words barbarously patched together?

One flower especially took my fancy; it consisted of little stars of a dark blue color, unusually beautiful and brilliant, which stood out with a double vividness from the grey shadow of the shrubberies, along whose fringe this plant mostly grew, peeping with its tiny blue blossoms through the glossy green foliage of the dense branches.

I remarked to Uljana how much I liked this flower.

"Ah, I am in love with it too," said Uljana eagerly. "Although I have lived in this region for several years, I always welcome with joyful admiration year by year the blue eyes of the spring flower, whose beautiful color I really do not know what I can compare to."

At this she questioningly fixed her clear blue eyes on me. Oh, I knew full well what would serve admirably as a comparison with those beautiful blue blossoms, but I kept my thoughts to myself; I am not fond of gallant phrases of that kind, and in any case, even though it were the truth, what would have been the use for me, an uninteresting stranger, to flatter this young and graceful girl?

I had always been somewhat puzzled by the words with which Heine begins a song of his:

"Oh, faith in marvels, blossom blue . . ." but at that moment it seemed to me that I fully understood, why the poet had called faith in marvels a *blue* blossom.

I was dragged away from these thoughts by a scream of terror which resounded in front of us. We rode up quickly with the rest to Anna Kirilovna, who had frightened us with this scream, and who now, with lively gestures of horror, with staring eyes and outstretched finger, was

drawing our attention to a sandy spot by the wayside, overgrown here and there with grass.

"Oh, there, there, look — " We looked in the direction which she indicated with her finger, but we could see nothing.

"Well, what has scared you so much, my dear?" Tabunov, who had just galloped up to us with the Colonel, asked of his wife.

"Oh a snake!" announced Anna Kirilovna with a very expressive gesticulation. "A big black ugly snake! It rose up right in front of my horse, ever so high, and how it hissed! Dreadful! Then it darted off like lightning through the grass and disappeared in the thicket over there."

Tabunov burst into loud laughter at this fearful news, and then exclaimed: "A snake! that is certainly dreadful. You see how right I was when I persuaded you to come on the excursion today. We have been living for such a long time in this place, and you are still frightened of a snake. Well today, I hope you will make friends with them. Look, there is another one escaping over there, and there again, and yonder, — I wager that in each one of these thickets you could find several of their nests. Do you hear that rustling and crackling? They are scuttling away in front of us on all sides. And you are trembling at these poor timid reptiles, even when you are so high up in your saddle? Most of them contain about as much venom as this cigarette of mine, and besides, they haven't inherited a spark of enterprise from their forefather in Eden."

In reply to this detailed information Anna Kirilovna could answer nothing, and as she rode on, her expression became more and more vexed as she observed signs of suppressed merriment on the faces of the others.

As a matter of fact, the surrounding brushwood swarmed not only with snakes, but with various other forms of animal life. The sunlit ground between the shrubs was covered with basking snakes of various hues, and beautiful lizards of a glistening green or mottled tint, the greater number of which however, we saw only for a moment like flitting flashes of light, as they vanished with the swiftness of arrows before our caravan into crannies and bushes. Green and brown grasshoppers of various sizes were leaping up high on all sides. Shaggy black spiders, beetles and flies of very beautiful and glistening colors set the grass, the plants and the air astir with their lively movements, while on the ground and in the shrubs could be seen an extraordinary quantity of snails. From time to time a large land-tortoise also came into view, sometimes with an escort of little tortoises, which with their tiny rounded shells beside the huge armor of their male or female parent, afforded a charming and at the same time a comical sight.

But the higher we mounted, the sparser became the bushes and brushwood, until finally

the road twined up to the summit of the height only through thick grass. Although we had hitherto ridden only a short part of the journey, and that very much at our ease, yet Anna Kirilovna, at every step taken by her horse, was already complaining of the hardships of the troublesome excursion, and in spite of all the protests of the girls themselves, she announced that these poor creatures could not possibly ride any further without a proper rest. Finally her lips let slip, half to herself, the word "tea", and the powerful magic of this word can rarely be resisted by the Russian heart.

So we stopped for our rest on a small piece of flat grassy land beneath the top of the mountain, whence a pathway led slopingly to the other side. While Anna Kirilovna attended to the samovar in the centre of this little plain and the horses were grazing round about with the Cossacks in charge of them, we delighted ourselves with the lovely view, which from this spot presented itself to our eyes in all directions. In the west we saw beneath us the blue stretch of the bay merging in the distance with the open sea, and behind it extended a range of green cone-shaped peaks, which on the north enclosed a spacious wooded hollow, where could be seen several small villages and a scanty sprinkling of "chutors" (farms). In this valley are to be found the Czech settlements of Kirilovka, Metodějovka and Glěbovka. Directly beneath us at the end of the bay was Novorossijsk.

To the south and the east, the direction in which our journey continued, we could see in front of us a varied and picturesque mountain range, which grew higher and higher in the distance, until, in the background, clouds and mists shut off our view of its highest peaks. The prospect in this direction revealed a glimpse of wildly beautiful and primitive nature. Mountains and hills of varied shapes could be seen there, separated by charming valleys and hollows, nearly all with a dense growth of rank thickets and forests, in some places with dark pine-woods, but for the most part with bright leafage, whose manifold shades of fresh and glittering green were delightfully refreshing to the eyes; in places amid this green, or upon projecting boulders, torrents, and cataracts glittered like silvery flashes, and the mist fluttered here and there through the ravines, or was rended on the sides of the wooded slopes into long trailing girdles and shreds, thus adding to the picturesque and fascinating appearance of the mountains; but nowhere in this broad expanse, as far as we could see, was there any trace of human dwelling or activity; not a single village, not a single farm, not a single cloud of smoke, which would have indicated a solitary hut or a shepherd's fire. In deep solitude and undisturbed peace rested before our eyes this beautiful mountain region, — the deserted home of the Circassians, who after the Russians had

finally conquered the courageous mountaineers, emigrated for the most part to Turkey, while a smaller number of them settled down in the plain of Kuban.

"Look, every inch of soil here bears witness to the fame of Barjatynsky," exclaimed the old Colonel with sparkling eyes. "It was a hard piece of heroic labor that he accomplished before he finally broke down the desperate resistance of the Circassians in these remote mountain regions."

"Hm, fame — fame — " remarked Aglaja Andrejevna, disdainfully curling her pink lips. "What is fame?"

"Oh, Aglaja Andrejevna, you ask what fame is," said the Colonel in a tone of surprise. "Perhaps you scorn the laurels of the hero, who in noble enthusiasm to good effect helped with his sword to clear the way for the great world-wide mission of his country?"

"If fame is based on wholesale slaughter in general, and on gratifying the ambition or domineering instincts of an individual or of a whole nation in particular, — yes, fame of that sort fills me not merely with contempt, but with disgust as well," exclaimed the girl-student in a decisive tone and her cold green eye flashed vividly for a moment.

"In this matter I must express my agreement with Aglaja Andrejevna, sir" said Suslikov, intervening in the conversation with his little sing-song voice. "Before very long the time will come when the history of mankind will have to be revised in the spirit of true and pure humanity, when Clio will erase from her scroll the names of ambitious egoists, who for the sake of fame have waded through an ocean of human blood, and during long ages have led mankind astray by their pernicious example. In their places will be inscribed only the names of the real benefactors of mankind, the great thinkers, scholars, poets, artists and geniuses who are worthy of a share in immortality. Yes, from this point of view, fame is in truth a worthy goal for human endeavor. See, such a man departs as an individual to the grave, he perishes and disappears for ever, and with him what we call his spirit or soul, but his name and the memory of his works live in the hearts of countless future generations, — this is the true and only immortality."

"Excellent, Roman Lvovič," said Aglaja Andrejevna with an ironical smile, "the most competent German professor would not need to be ashamed of your lecture. But in spite of it all, I could very well do without even that kind of immortality. To live beyond the grave in the praise bestowed by future generations, of which I shall know nothing, nothing whatever—no, that prospect does not attract me. And fame during one's lifetime, — believe me, that ambition is a craving which causes mankind not only a hundred

times more harm than good, but for individuals, as well, is the source of far more suffering than happiness. However, all this is an amusing game with words, phrases — phrases — phrases."

"Oh, this is a fine thing indeed," exclaimed Colonel Revnin, now really indignant. "These, then, are the opinions held by our young people, in whom our hopes are set? These, then, are the fruits of the present-day advanced education? We have grown grey in the opinion that, by fighting for the honor and victory of our country, we acquire honorable and lasting merits, — and in the meanwhile, we learn at the close of our lives, that our honorable wounds are in reality a sign of shame and disgrace . . . And our highly educated daughters actually declare that it is not worth while for a man to acquire any merits in respect of posterity, — for the grave is an end to everything, and it is a matter of indifference what opinions future people will form about us. Tell me, Uljana, have you imbibed similar views at your college?"

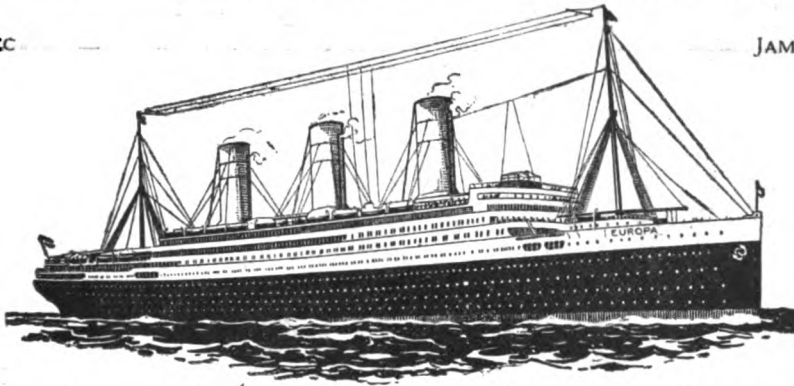
Uljana has listened only to the beginning of the discussion, and had then become dreamily immersed in the mountain landscape. Interrupted now by her father's question, she collected her thoughts for a moment and then said with increasing enthusiasm: "What do I think of fame? I myself would not trouble about it. But I see sublime beauty in the idea of a man who, by bravery or wisdom, uplifts himself high above the unknown multitude, and snatches from heaven upon his brow, at least a twinkling ray of immortality. That is in truth beautiful, sublimely beautiful, — is it not?" At this she fixed upon me her beautiful eyes, in whose deep blue glittered stars of enthusiasm, — even though I might have had my own ideas about fame, how could I help agreeing with her after such a glance?

"Assuredly," I assented. "Eagerness for fame is not the guiding principle of my life either, and I feel no resentment at being submerged without a memory in the unknown multitude. But I entirely agree that the longing for fame, — perhaps not the vain ambition and conceit, which pursue only immediate recognition, but the longing for fame beyond grave, is one of the most beautiful and at the same time one of the most noble passions of man. The longing for the praise of future generations, which he will never hear, for the preservation of his name upon this earth, from which his individuality would otherwise vanish without a trace, — is that not, — besides, — yes, — the immortality of mankind as a whole, in which the individual, urged by an unconscious instinct like a dying polyp in its coral abode, — yes, — besides, —"

"Tea, tea, if you please," announced Anna Kirilovna in a loud voice, thus helping me out of the straits to which my scanty abilities as an orator, and my lack of fluency in Russian had reduced me. (To be continued.)

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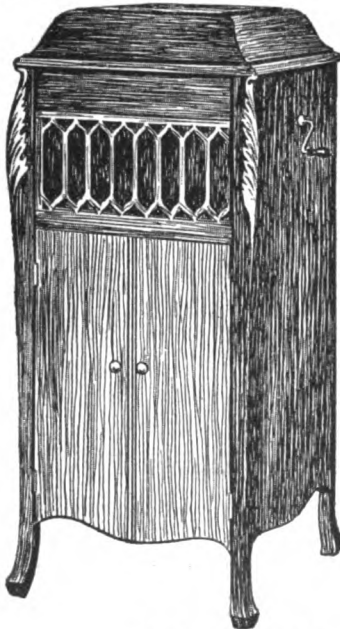
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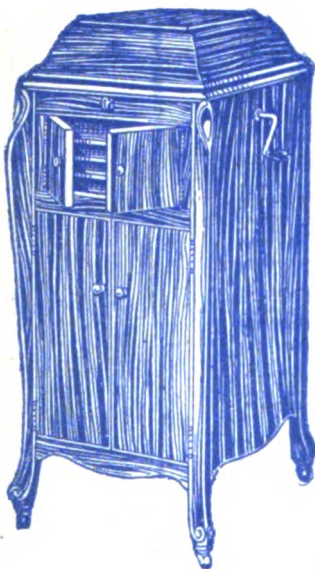
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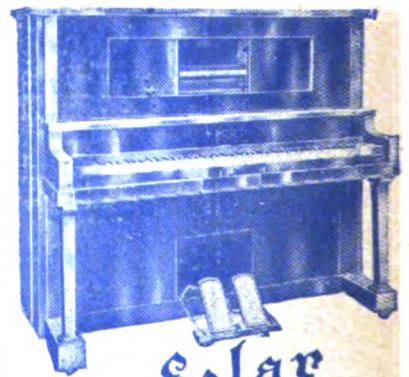
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Masaryk's Birthday Address.

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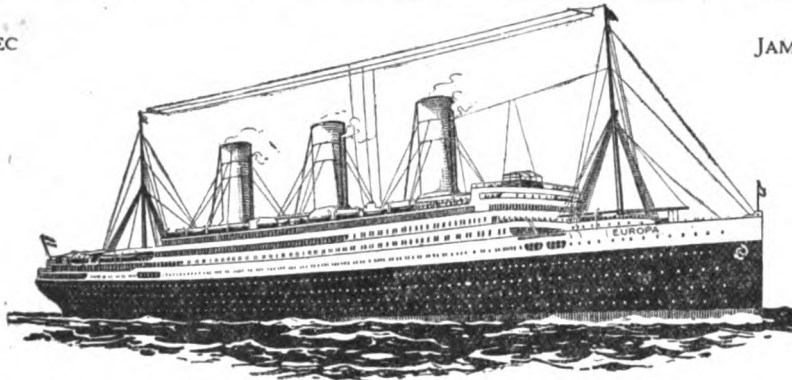
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THE CZECHOSLOVAK REVIEW

OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE CZECHOSLOVAK NATIONAL COUNCIL OF AMERICA.

Jaroslav F. Smetanka, Editor.
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No. 4

The Month in Czechoslovakia

On February 29, at 2:30 in the morning, the National Assembly adopted the Constitution of the Czechoslovak Republic by the vote of all parties, with the exception of national democrats. On March 5 President Masaryk approved the constitution, and a few days later it was promulgated and went into effect. The constitution is the product of a committee of the National Assembly which has been at work for nearly a year. In the parliament itself the debate lasted only two days. All the parties, except the national democrats, compromised their differences in committee, and some of the provisions of the completed draft show that they are the result of a compromise; thus for instance the limited powers of the senate are a concession to the social democrats, who were opposed to a second chamber. But the national democrats, the party of the middle classes with strong national sentiments, brought into the plenum their demands that the Czechoslovak language (of which the Czech form is to be ordinarily used in the Bohemian lands and the Slovak form in Slovakia) should be made the state language, instead of the official language, as the draft had it; that all state employees must know Czechoslovak; that the Czechoslovak language should be required subject of instruction in all schools of the Republic; that voters should be free to vote for individual candidates to parliament on the various party tickets, instead of having the choice between parties only; and that the historical division of the Czechoslovak state into Bohemia, Moravia, Silesia and Slovakia should be retained in place of a new division into counties (*župy*). The fundamental difference between the governmental parties—which were joined by the Catholics also—and between the national democrats con-

sisted in their view of the problem of German minorities. Dr. Kramář, the leader of the national democrats, defended in powerful speeches his opinion that Germans would never be won to loyalty to the Republic, that conciliation was useless and that the only way was to use the strong hand. The great majority of the National Assembly believed in conciliation and favored such fundamental laws which would give the Germans absolutely square deal. As a matter of fact German public opinion in Bohemia concedes that the constitution and the other fundamental laws are fair. Their only complaint is that Prague gets a somewhat larger number of deputies than the last census entitles it to; but this will be balanced in a very few years by the rapid growth of the capital city.

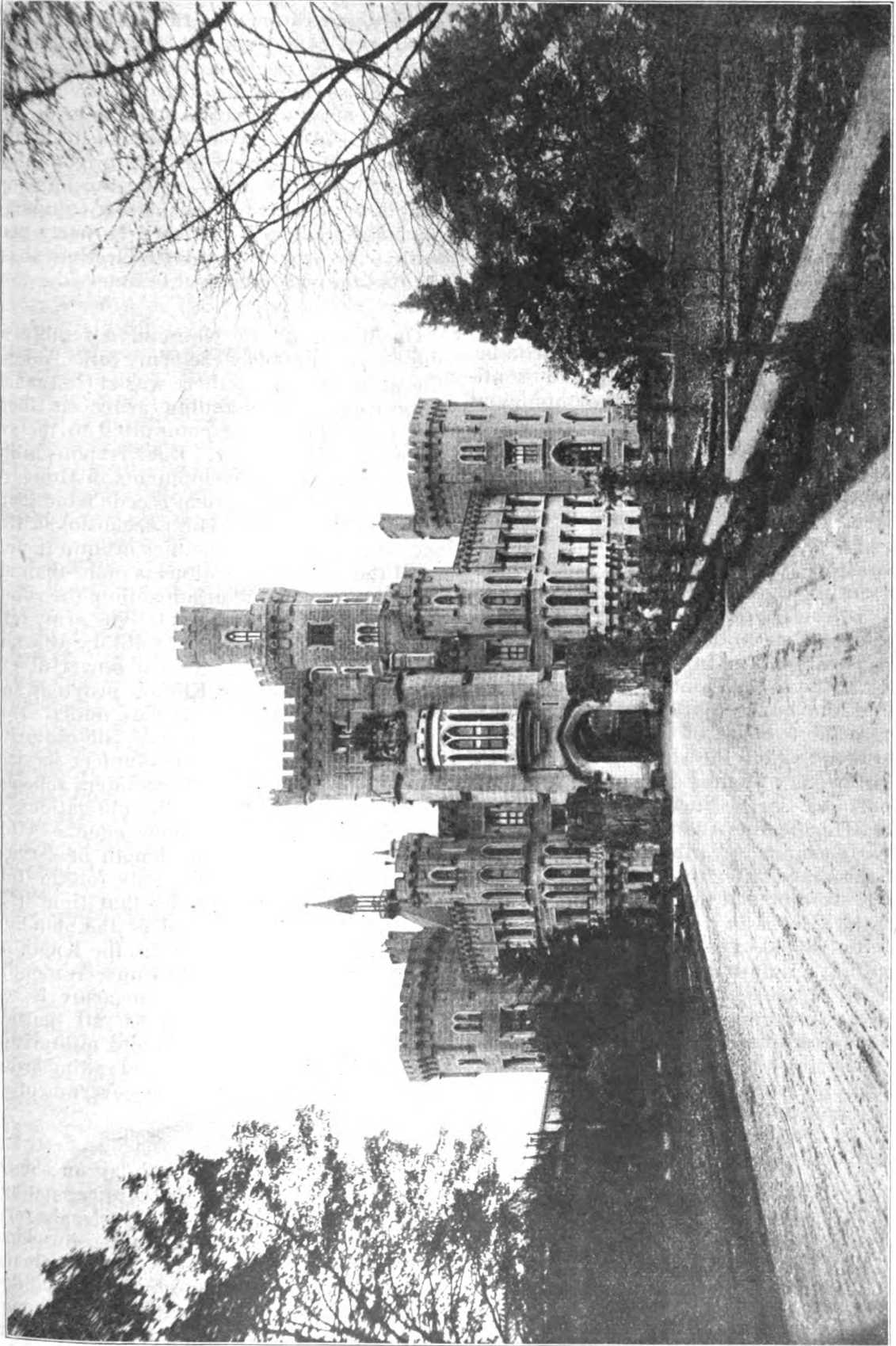
The makers of the constitution were greatly influenced by the American constitution. But though the spirit that pervades the document drawn at Philadelphia governed their deliberations, they borrowed more of the actual planks from the French system than from American. They were used to the machinery of parliamentary government with responsible ministries and very early decided that the presidential republic on the style of the United States would not be suitable to Bohemian conditions. But the true spirit of democracy is there. They adopted almost bodily the beautiful preamble of the constitution of the United States, and they declare at the beginning that the people are the only source of all public authority. The American division of government into three departments is followed. The legislature is by far the strongest; the National Assembly is treated as if it were in truth the assembly of the entire nation. Suffrage is universal;

all men and women 21 years of age vote for members of chamber of deputies, while in the senate elections voters must be 26 years of age. The senate is meant to be principally a controlling organ, preventing hasty or loosely drawn legislation and generally saving the president the unpleasant task of returning bills with his objections. The president is elected by the joint session of the two houses for a term of seven years; he may be elected for a second term, but after that seven years must elapse, before he can be elected again. This provision does not apply to the first president, which means President Masaryk; so the constitution says explicitly. And while this undoubtedly means a life term of service at the head of the state for Prof. Masaryk, the report which appeared in the newspapers here to the effect that Masaryk was made a president for life by the new constitution was erroneous. As the president can only act through ministers responsible to the National Assembly and supported by the majority of the deputies, it seems very likely that Masaryk's successor will not have much more power than the French president. There is a very limited provision in the constitution for use of referendum, but on the whole the document resembles the federal constitution far more than the average state constitution in that it provides for strictly representative government, rather than government by direct action of the people. It goes in this respect even beyond the federal constitution, as the Czechoslovak president is elected by parliament, and the terms of the deputies and senators (six and eight years respectively) are longer than in this country. On the whole, a political student is inclined to call the new Czechoslovak constitution a conservative document and one that ought to make for stability of government.

The constitution itself is a brief document which outlines the structure of the government and contains a bill of rights. In addition to it the committee on constitution reported to the National Assembly five other measures which are to be considered as part of the constitution and can be amended only by a vote of three fifths of the entire membership of both houses. The first of these supplementary fundamental laws deals with the question of racial minorities and grants them larger rights

than Czechoslovakia was bound to do by its agreement with the Allies. All districts in which any racial minority numbers more than 20% are to be considered racially mixed districts, and the members of the minority may use their language in public offices and courts, as well as have their own schools. Election law provides for large circuits with 15 or more members each; each party nominates a full ticket, and the voter must vote for the entire ticket and not for individual candidates on it. The number of votes cast is divided by the number of members to be elected, and this quotient is applied to each party vote; if the vote cast for a party entitles it to five members, the first five names on its ticket are elected. The fractions from all the electoral districts of the entire Republic are then added together and parties with the largest fractions get one or more members. The scheme is fair to all parties and to all races, and incidentally it secures deputies who are not tied too closely to local interests, but who consider themselves first of all representatives of the entire nation. But on the other hand it overemphasizes the importance of political parties, especially as primaries in the American sense are unknown and all nominations are made by party organizations. The law defining the powers of the senate and the law creating an electoral court merely carry out the general provisions of the constitution. Of great practical importance is the law creating counties (*župy*) with an average population of about half a million, divided into districts (*okresy*); their number and boundaries are not available at the time of this writing.

Immediately after the proclamation of the constitution the government announced the date of elections for the new parliament. The elections for the chamber of deputies are to take place April 18 and for the senate April 25. Those dates mark the close of the revolutionary period of the Czechoslovak Republic. Up to now all public authority proceeded from the National Assembly which is a revolutionary organ constituted by Czechoslovak political parties in November 1918 without direct appeal to the people. It is thus analogous to the Continental Congress which led the fight for American independence. The National Assembly elected the president, gave the coun-



The Chateau of Hluboká in Southern Bohemia.

try a stable government, abolished titles of nobility, carried out social and land reforms, brought some order into state finances and finally established a constitution. It will continue to sit and legislate, until the new National Assembly is ready for business. The great difference under the new order of things will be that about 30% of the membership of the next Assembly will consist of Germans and Magyars who were not represented in the revolutionary legislature which organized the Czechoslovak Republic. But as to the political complexion of the Czechoslovak deputies and senators there will be apparently little change from the last expression of public sentiment which took place in the municipal elections of June 1919. At the time social democrats received nearly 30% of the vote, agrarians over 21%, Czechoslovak socialists 16%, Catholics 10% and national democrats 9%, with the rest scattered. At the end of February, judging by municipal elections in Brno, the capital of Moravia, the sentiment of the people has changed very little. There the elections of June 15 were cancelled on account of irregularities in registration, and in the elections of February 29 the social democrats gained slightly and the bourgeois gained even more, both at the expense of the other parties. But on the whole the shifting of sentiment has been very slight. The only change of importance is the increase in the Czech vote. During the Austrian regime Brno was a German city, through an artificial franchise law. After the revolution the suburbs were annexed to the city, and in June 1919 the Czechs in a direct vote gained 59 seats out of 90 on a proportionate system of voting; a month ago they increased their gains to 61 seats in the city council. This tends to show that thousands who were nearly Germanized under the Austrian rule are reverting to their Czech nationality. Incidentally among the Germans in Brno there seems to have occurred a considerable swing in sentiment from socialists to bourgeois parties.

It is considered dangerous experiment to have the National Assembly continue in session, while a bitter election fight is going on. But there is pressing need for continued legislative activity, and the actual result seems to be not the increase of partisan bitterness in the debates of National As-

sembly, but rather less rancor on the hustings. One of the somewhat radical innovations in the Czechoslovak elections is the right of soldiers to vote. To obviate the dangers of an electoral campaign in the army which might be subversive of discipline all the parties agreed to refrain from electioneering in the army, while the ministry of public defense published a campaign book for soldiers in which each party presented its program and its election arguments in a non-polemical manner.

On March 19 the National Assembly adopted unanimously the army bill. Among the social democrats there was at first much opposition to a standing army, as their party had been long committed to the system of militia only. But responsibility for the state and developments in Hungary and Germany made them recede from their traditional ground. The Czechoslovak Republic has potential enemies around it, and until the League of nations is more than an ideal or an inchoate organization, the country cannot afford to disarm. The army bill, adopted in the presence of military attachés of allied states and after a powerful exposition by minister Kľofáč, provides for compulsory two years service under arms during the next three years. The old privilege of one year so-called volunteer service, extended to graduates of secondary schools, has been abolished, and the obligations of all citizens have been made equal. After the first three years the length of service is to be eighteen months only for the following three years. If by that time it is not found feasible to replace the standing army by a system of militia, the length of service will be reduced to fourteen months only. Large control over the army is reserved for the parliament, as all parties fear the penetration of the old militaristic system. The strength of the standing army was left as proposed by the government at 150,000 officers and men.

Masaryk's seventieth birthday on March 7 was celebrated by the entire nation. There were meetings in Prague and every city and village of the Republic, in which his life work was extolled. Newspapers on March 7 appeared in holiday guise and devoted most of their space to the great man. The day was observed as holiday all over the nation. Prague was resplendent in

spring sunshine and national flags, as the members of the government and of the National Assembly, foreign diplomats, representatives of the churches and all the notables of Czechoslovakia went up to the castle to congratulate the president. President Tomášek of the National Assembly was the spokesman, and as usual his address was peculiarly appropriate, moderate, free from partisanship and unaffected. He closed by saying: "Leader of our national revolution, creator of our independence, teacher of the nation, guide in new ways, our golden, good, beloved little father,, may you be well and strong for many years, for many decades, to the well-being and success of the nation and the Republic." President Masaryk's address is found elsewhere in this issue. It is not a political speech, but the talk of a teacher to students, of a wise father to grown-up children. The address cannot be called popular, yet the general intelligence of Czechoslovaks is so high, their devotion to Masaryk so great and the publicity given to the speech so prominent, that undoubtedly a majority of the people read the speech and pondered upon it. Not the least of Masaryk's many services to his people lies in this that he makes them think. Messages of congratulation were received from numerous heads of the state, among them from President Wilson and from the Pope. Masaryk's health continues to be good, with the exception of an occasional cold; he is active and as hard-working as ever, rides daily on horseback, and everything points to it that he will be able to serve his country for a great many years. That is what every Czechoslovak earnestly hopes for.

There is trouble in Teschen. The plebiscite commission, composed of the French, British, Italian and Japanese representatives, is in control of the old duchy and has small military forces at its disposal. But the Poles refuse to obey its orders and by their actions have brought about a state of anarchy in the district. Foreign minister Beneš, speaking in the National Assembly on March 11, was very bitter against the behavior of Polish agitators and local authorities in Teschen. He charged that they purposely instigate riots to make plebiscite impossible; Czechs submit to the orders of the commission, Poles do not. Poles have hidden thousands of rifles and bombs, and by means of them terrorize the Silesi-

ans whose votes will decide the question—men whose dialect is more nearly related to Polish than to Bohemian, but who will not admit that they are Poles, insisting that they are Silesians, and who favor annexation to Czechoslovakia. Polish miners caused coal strikes and brought great hardship upon the neighboring steel towns of Moravia. Many Czechs and Silesians were killed in attacks by Poles. Dr. Beneš stated that he asked Paris for larger garrisons and for maintenance of order at any cost in the district that the plebiscite commission is supposed to control. The Czechoslovaks greatly regret this behavior on the part of the Poles, as friendship with Poles is desired by them, both because the two nations are nearly related, and because they would be both menaced by any future revival of German imperialism. It is stated that the vote will be taken before the middle of May, and the Czechoslovaks are supremely confident of their success. But in any case the tension will relax after that, especially as the Czechs have little inclination to blame Warsaw for the excesses of local Polish agitators in Teschen and the neighboring city of Cracow. They blame the Polish government only for its inability to control the "Rada Narodowa", or Polish National Council which exercises authority in the name of Poland in the district in question.

Kapp's coup d'état was an unpleasant surprise for Bohemia. The Czechs saw in him the advance guard of militarism and monarchism, and they did not like the prospects, should his revolution manage to maintain itself in power. With reaction dominant in Germany the Magyars would no longer hesitate to call back the Hapsburgs, and the weak republican government of Austria would soon give way to monarchist reaction. Czechoslovakia would then be almost surrounded by militaristic and monarchistic neighbors. There is absolutely no danger of a monarchistic movement in Bohemia itself, no traditional loyalty to a dynasty, no memories of greatness under former emperors. But danger of foreign aggression there would be, if reaction got hold of Germans and Magyars. So there was a genuine relief, when Ebert came back. The opinion prevailing in Prague is that Kapp's rebellion and the subsequent civil war in Germany will prove extremely costly and that disorganization

will prevail a long time and retard Germany's recovery.

The relations with the Magyars are not improving. As long as the Council of Ambassadors is delaying the signing of the Magyar peace treaty and Signor Nitti openly advocates concessions to the Magyars at the cost of Czechoslovaks, Jugoslavs and Roumanians, Magyar agitation and jingoism will not abate. Dr. Beneš in a recent speech in the National Assembly declared that the Magyar government was not acting loyally toward the Czechoslovak Republic. There was absolute proof that Budapest officials were sending bolshevik agitators into Slovakia to stir up discontent, that they were hiring prostitutes and sending them north to spy and to corrupt officials. The Magyars make much of the fact that half a million of their people live on territory assigned to the Czechoslovak Republic; but they say nothing of 300,000 Slovaks who are left in Magyaria. The mixture of races in old Hungary was such, that a better division of its territory was not possible. And while in Czechoslovakia the Magyar minorities receive absolute equality and justice, non-Magyar minorities in Hungary are persecuted. Even Dr. Jehlička, the renegade Slovak who became the chief propagandist for the return of Slovakia to Budapest, is now in disgrace, because his predictions of a revolt in Slovakia before the handing of the treaty to the Magyar delegation failed absolutely. No Slovak was elected to the new Budapest parliament, although Slovak minorities should have several deputies, and although it would have been in the interest of Magyar plans to put forward such Slovak deputies as elected spokesmen of the Slovak people. But even where it would be to their interest, the Magyars cannot bring themselves to it to admit a member of an "inferior" race to their parliament. However, abroad the Magyars carry on a strenuous propaganda for integral Hungary and shout about their imaginary injuries. Their latest plan is to use the Magyar Reformed churches to appeal to the sympathy of Protestants in Holland, Great Britain and America; the campaign is purely political and is designed to create sympathy for Magyar territorial claims.

The bolshevik foreign minister Chicherin addressed a wireless message to minister Beneš on February 2, offering formally to

negotiate a peace treaty and a commercial treaty with Czechoslovakia and asking Beneš to suggest the place and time for the meeting of delegates. Chicherin no longer speaks bitterly against the Czechoslovaks in Siberia, blaming their intervention in Russian affairs on foreign pressure. The fact of course is that the fight broke out, because the bulk of the Czechoslovak army were convinced that the bolsheviks intended to turn them over to the Germans, and Allied military attaches with the Czechoslovaks were at first horrified at the temerity of 40,000 men who in their opinion signed their own death sentence, when they broke with the bolsheviks. Dr. Beneš stated in parliament with reference to Chicherin's offer that after verifying the genuineness of the message he would ascertain the attitude of the Western Allies toward the proposed negotiation and later advise the Assembly what action the Czechoslovak government would take.

The land reform is now practically carried out. The great estates, belonging mostly to former noblemen, partly to the old imperial family and the Church, have been taken over by the state. No man can own more than 150 hectares (about 380 acres) of agricultural land or more than 100 hectares of forest. The land was not socialized, but parcelled out to small cultivators on state credit. The principle of compensation to former owners has been formally adopted, but a controversy is going on as to the basis of valuation. The former noblemen ask for present sales value or twenty times the average rent of last three years, while public opinion on the whole is willing to pay only pre-war prices.

The plans for the Bank of Czechoslovak Republic provide for a capital of 75 million francs in gold, divided into 75,000 shares of 1000 francs each. The government will take 25,000 shares and will have three representatives on the board of directors, while the stockholders will elect six. The governor of the bank will be appointed by the president for a term of five years. The bank will receive a charter for 20 years, and it will issue its notes which must be covered up to 35% by gold. It is expected that most of the stockholders will be foreigners, as the capital must be paid in gold.

The Czechs in Cleveland

By ELEANOR E. LEDBETTER.

CLEVELAND is one of the largest Czech cities in the world. The national capital, Prague, of course comes first in importance, the Austrian capital Vienna is second, the American Chicago is third, and Cleveland is fourth. For some years the relative positions of Cleveland and New York were uncertain, but since 1910 Cleveland has had unquestionably the larger number. Its important position in this respect was humorously indicated by a squib in the "Camp Sherman Gazette" last year, which stated, "There is no truth in the rumor that the capital of the Czechoslovak Republic will be removed from Prague to the neighborhood of Broadway and E. 55th streets, Cleveland."

The Czechs have always been known in this country by the English designation Bohemian, and it is only with the rise of their own state that the native name has become generally known in the English speaking world. Unfortunately this has to be transliterated, as the Bohemian language contains several characters not existing in English, among them the letter *č*. This is pronounced like the English *ch* and is now being generally written *cz*, which unfortunately offers no suggestion as to pronunciation to the English reader. The native name of Bohemia is *Čechy*, the people are *Čechs*, and the descriptive adjective in *Český*,—all pronounced as if beginning with *ch*.

The racial term Czech includes not only the inhabitants of Bohemia, but also those of the sister states Moravia and Silesia, which now form part of the Czechoslovak Republic. Cleveland Czechs have come from all three of these states.

There have been some Czechs in America from the very earliest time. The presidency of Harvard College was offered by Governor Winthrop to the great Czech educator, Jan Amos Komensky, better known by the Latinized name Comenius; but Cotton Mather tells us that "the solicitations of the Swedish ambassador diverting him another way, that incomparable Moravian became not an American."

In the 14th and 15th centuries, Bohemia was in point of culture one of the most advanced nations in Europe. Her university of Prague was thronged by students from all over Europe, its professors were known to the world. But even then the struggle against Teutonic domination was an intense one, and by the end of the Thirty Years' War, culture had succumbed to force, and the Bohemian people were crushed under the heel of the Hapsburg dynasty. The national leaders were all either executed or exiled, their rich and abundant literature was utterly destroyed, and the remnant of the people who were left for long years had not force enough to offer effective resistance to encroachment and suppression. The Bohemian soul, however, was never touched, and by the beginning of the 19th century sufficient force had accumulated to wring many concessions from the Austrian government, among them the acknowledgement of the Bohemian language and permission for the establishment of schools and the extension of educational opportunity. As a result of this fight for education, and of the opportunities thus wrested from a hostile government, the Bohemians have been for years one of the two or three best educated races in Europe; and among those coming to America the percentage of illiteracy is only one and a half,—less than that among the native born of any state in the Union, even those with compulsory education laws.

First Immigration.

After the failure of the Revolutionary movement of 1848, some Czech leaders were compelled to flee the country, and others, despairing of the future under the House of Hapsburg, were disposed to give up the seemingly hopeless struggle. These were the pioneers of the Czech emigration to America. From 1850 to 1870, most of them came with the idea of taking up land and developing homesteads in Nebraska, Iowa, and Wisconsin. The journey in those days was a long and tiresome one, and Cleveland was a convenient resting place on the way. Some who stopped only to rest, found it good to stay; in 1850 there were three families here, in 1860 there were fifteen, and in 1869 the number had

grown to 696 families, including 3252 persons. Thus the Czech immigration was from the first an immigration by families.

Its industrial value may be judged by a selection from some statistics regarding the 3252 Czechs here in 1869. This number included 1949 men and their occupations were as follows: masons, 76; carpenters, 72, tailors, 56; shoemakers, 44; coopers, 39; locksmiths, 25; blacksmiths, 19; merchants, 15; professional musicians, 13, besides many others who had music as a side-line; harness makers, 9; weavers, 9; stonemasons, 8; wheelrights, 7; tanners, 6; tinsmiths, 6; bakers, 5; painters, 5; booksellers, 2; printers, 1; clockmaker, 1; while 90 men and 50 women were employed on nearby farms.

Location in Cleveland.

It is hard now to imagine what Cleveland was like in the 60's and early 70's, when everything east to East 30th street was farm land. A history of the location and growth of the Czech settlements in Cleveland is actually a history of the growth of the city. In the first years of the Czechs in Cleveland, they lived in the old district of Hill, Cross, and Commercial streets, but as soon as they had become assured of the means of subsistence, they began to reach toward their natural rural environment. The Czechs love the country. It is a saying among them here that when out early in the morning for a walk, for mushrooms, for a swim in the lake, or for fishing, you can speak in Bohemian to whomever you meet and he will answer.

It follows that the Czechs never live in congested districts if they can help it. On the contrary they are always to be found on the edge of the city, where town and country meet; when the city follows, they move on. The older Czech still loves his own fenced-in yard, here he can have a vegetable garden, some bright colored flowers, and a few ducks or geese. In settlements on the outskirts of the city, flocks of geese still roam vacant allotments and hiss viciously at the timid American.

As early as 1853, J. Capek and J. Doubrava bought farms and became the pioneer Bohemian farmers of the county. Their fellow countrymen built up two sections on what was the outskirts of the city. The first was "Brooklyn," a term at that time applied quite loosely to the west bank of the river south of Ohio City. Land there

was cheaper than in Cleveland, and from the very beginning there were some Czech families there. One of the pioneer women of that district is reported as saying that at first the Americans looked at them as if they were some strange kind of animal. They could not understand why this was so, but later learned that it was because of their strange dress, particularly the shawls on their heads. When they learned the reason, they began to dress like Americans.

On the east side of the river, many early Czech immigrants were employed as laborers on farms, and immediately began to buy from their employers plots for their own homes. Harvey Rice employed many on his farm in the neighborhood of what became Croton Street, and he sold them land on very easy terms, in some cases allowing them to work out the price. This was the beginning of the Croton street settlement, which was the Czech center of Cleveland from 1870 until the development of the Broadway district. Life here, we are told, was always gayer and brighter than in Brooklyn. The general merchandise store, steamship agency and public utility office, of Martin Krejci, at Croton and East 37th streets, was famous for the variety and multiplicity of its contents. A long flight of stairs led down the hill in front of this store, and many a new immigrant spent his first night in Cleveland sitting on those steps.

In the latter part of the 70's the Standard Oil Company began to employ many Czechs. In those days barrels were all made by hand and the natural skill of the Czechs as hand workers found here a convenient and profitable field of employment. Almost every Czech man in the city at that period spent some time "making barrels for John D. Rockefeller."

Convenience of access to this factory furnished the first motive for removal from Croton street across Kingsbury Run. In 1878 the farms along the south side of the Run were parceled into lots, and the district in the neighborhood of Trumbull and East 37th streets became a residence district known as "na vršku" (on the hill). Broadway, already in existence as a county road, formed the axis of the new settlement, and the development of the whole district from East 37th street to Union avenue took place very quickly and the 21th ward (now the 13th) a chronicler in-

forms us, became "like a city of Bohemia." Meadow and woods gave place to streets, some of which still retain typical Czech names like Svoboda and Praha. These streets were built up with small, neat cottages, each with its own yard and garden, very comfortable and homey according to the standards of the time. For almost 40 years this district has been the Czech center of Cleveland. Stores, banks, national hall, and churches have helped to concentrate interest in this neighborhood, centering at Broadway and East 55th streets.

The city, crowding on Croton street, made that district undesirable to the Czechs who were left there, and many moved out and built up a new settlement on a new edge of the city, which they called the "east side." This is in the neighborhood of Quincy avenue and East 82nd street. The west side Czechs also moved from "Brooklyn" to "Cuba," west of the creek at West 41st street, where their principal residence district is now on West 41st and neighboring streets, between Clark avenue and Dennison avenue.

Great changes have taken place in all these districts in the last ten years. Business follows the Czech in Cleveland, and each of these centers is feeling its pressure. This is greatest in the Broadway district, which is now a wedge between two great arteries of the steel industry. Heavy smoke and noxious fumes are fast killing the trees and will soon make gardens impossible. The houses that were neat and bright have become dingy and ugly, the gullies offer no more mushrooms, the nature lover has nothing left to enjoy, and another removal is in full tide. Similar conditions are approaching also on Quincy Avenue.

It is characteristic of the Czechs in America always to build for themselves. They have never followed in an old neighborhood, but have always built anew, and they are doing it now. The whole southeastern part of the city is being built up by them. The additions known locally as Corlett, Newburgh City and Mt. Pleasant are very largely the homes of Czechs, as is also a considerable district out Buckeye road, and the Washington Park district, which is not yet in the city. The county highways to Bedford, to Brecksville, to Warrensville and to Chagrin Falls are lined with the homes of Czechs whose business interests are still in the city. These

new houses are the equal of those in any middle class section of the city, and it is the testimony of salesmen that the Czech never scrimps in the equipment of his home. On the contrary, he usually takes his wife with him to choose fittings and furnishings, and makes the first consideration, not the price, but that "the missus" shall be suited.

At the first the building of a home must have been very difficult for these immigrants, who often worked for as little as seventy-five cents a day. But they were fortunate in having so many skilled trades represented among their numbers. The mason helped the carpenter, and the carpenter helped the mason in exchange and cooperation took place among them as among the earlier American pioneers. The ownership of a home was one of the things the Czechs had come to America for, and a home he would have.

Savings and Loan Associations.

Since 1896 the native thrift and foresight have found a helpful vehicle in savings and loan associations, which are incorporated under the laws of the state of Ohio. The very names of these organizations are suggestive: "Včela", (the bee); "Mravenec," (the ant); "Oul" (the hive).

Včela, the oldest of these, was incorporated in March, 1896, and in twenty years had loaned over \$10,000,000 on Cleveland real estate. Its present capital is \$2,000,000, and it has \$1,000,000 outstanding in loans. Its office is at 5733 Broadway, and it is beginning the erection of a fine office building at the corner of Broadway and Portage avenues.

Mravenec was started a year later on the west side, and in 1918 changed its significant Czech name to the "Federal Savings and Loan association." Its office is in the Bohemian Sokol Hall at 4310 Clark avenue, and its present capital is about \$1,500,000.

The Čech Savings and Loan Association is located at 3122 West 41st street. It was organized in 1907, and has capital to the extent of \$700,000.

The East End Building and Loan association, organized in 1911, with capital of half a million dollars, is at 8506 Quincy avenue.

The Atlas, at 5545 Broadway, organized in 1915 has outstripped most of the older ones and now has \$1,750,000 as capital.

Other younger organizations are: The Progress Building, Savings and Loan Company, 4963 Broadway; "Oul" Building and Loan Association, 5638 Broadway; Capital Savings Building & Loan Association, 5209 Fleet avenue, with a branch on Buckeye road; Hospodář Savings and Loan Association, 12608 Miles avenue; Quincy Savings and Loan Association, Quincy avenue at East 89th Street.

All these encourage thrift and teach the value of small savings by the same methods which the government adopted for the sale of thrift stamps. Twice a year Včela places on the market a block of shares. The subscriber pays fifty cents a week per share, and at the end of six years is owner of a \$200 dollar share, which he may either draw or leave on deposit at five per cent interest.

The builder of a new home can get a construction loan up to three-fourths of the value of the property under way, and these loans are paid off by monthly payments which take care of the interest and constantly reduce the principal. Thus the workingman is assisted to finance the building of his home, and it would require an extraordinary run of bad luck to keep a Czech from completing his payments.

The savings and loan associations have by no means a monopoly of Czech savings and investments. The Broadway Savings and Trust Company, one of the strongest banks in the city, is built largely upon the patronage of the Czechs. The Columbia Savings and Loan Company, also at Broadway and East 55th street, with a branch at 4828 Fleet avenue, also deals chiefly with Bohemians. On the west side the Clark avenue Savings Bank may be considered a Bohemian bank, while the Society for Savings and other down town banks carry many Czech savings accounts. The day after payday in a Czech neighborhood sees a constant procession of depositors with passbooks and hard times seldom find the Czech without an account to draw on.

Newspapers.

Among the occupations of the Czechs listed in Cleveland in 1869, there was one printer. We are not informed whether he had opportunity to work at his trade at that time, but he undoubtedly did in 1871, when the newspaper "Pokrok" (Progress) was brought here from Cedar Rapids, Iowa, and established at 104 Croton street. Its

successive editors in Cleveland were men of the widest reputation, F. J. Zdrubek, J. V. Capek, and Vaclav Snajdr. In 1878 Mr. Snajdr merged "Pokrok" and "Dennice Novoveku" (Star of the New Era) under the name of the latter, and continued to edit it until 1915. In 1911 "Svet" (The World) was started as a daily paper under the same management in an excellent new building at 4514 Broadway. "Dennice Novoveku" was continued as a weekly until 1915, when it was entirely absorbed in "Svet." This chain of newspapers has always represented the free-thinking Czechs.

Since the founding of the first paper "Pokrok," forty other periodical publications in the Bohemian language have seen the light in Cleveland. Some of these have been the organs of various societies or institutions, some have been parish papers, and some excellent newspapers of general appeal. Their careers have varied in length from a few issues to nearly twenty years. The first attempt at a daily paper was made in 1888 by J. V. Lunak, with "České Noviny" (Czech News), but the time was not yet ripe for a daily, and Mr. Lunak suffered considerable loss in his venture. Later "Volnost" (Freedom), which had been founded in 1880 by Edward Veverka and Charles and Edward Vopalecky, developed from a tri-weekly into a daily. This paper was published without a break from 1880 to 1908.

At the present time there are three Bohemian newspapers of importance published in this city, besides several smaller publications of limited interest. There are two dailies, "Svet," already mentioned, and the "American", which is published at 5377-79 Broadway by F. J. Svoboda, who founded it in 1899. Both are good papers, well edited and illustrated, and are widely read, the "American" being favored by the adherents of the Catholic faith.

"Americké Dělnické Listy" (American Workman's News), published at 4032 Broadway, was founded in 1909, and is the organ of the Bohemian branch of the Socialist party in America. It was in a considerable degree due to the influence of the editor, Joseph Martinek, that this branch of the party rejected the St. Louis platform. Mr. Martinek, who in 1917 spent some months in Russia as a representative of the Bohemian National Alliance, came back decidedly of the opinion that the Bolsheviki are not true socialists.

and that the Socialist party in America should not identify its cause with theirs.

A distinctive custom of the Czech people in America is that of expressing congratulations or condolences through the medium of paid advertisements in the newspapers. A very popular couple will be congratulated on their marriage perhaps to the extent of a page of congratulatory notices. The usual form is two columns wide and about four inches deep, enclosed in a "box", but special fervor or social standing may be expressed by increasing the size of type and box, and including a verse of poetry.

Other advertisements are those of the entertainments of societies and lodges. During the summer picnics to country farms and groves are the principal thing, but from October to June musical and dramatic entertainments hold the field. A single issue of a paper has contained announcements of fifteen different dramatic performances to be staged within a space of two weeks in the various Czech centers of the city.

The general character of the Bohemian newspapers of Cleveland is excellent. They co-operate in all public movements and their devotion to the cause of freedom is

a passionate one. During the war, they gave whole pages of advertising free to the government,—as the English papers did not—and their support of every good cause is always wholehearted. They specialize, of course, in news from the home land, and through underground channels were often able to reveal Austrian conditions which were never officially acknowledged. In the establishment of the Czecho-Slovak Republic, their influence has been incalculable.

Important as is the present position of these papers, there can be no doubt that their future as Bohemian publications is distinctly limited. They are read by the old people and the newcomers. Of the young people who have grown up in this country, there are comparatively few who read Bohemian at all, and, without immigration, the clientele of these papers must necessarily decrease. Even among the older people, there are few who do not have a workable knowledge of English, but they cling to the news in Czech, because thus only are they sure of complete and perfect understanding. They can get the gist of a news in English, but to read it in their own tongue, gives them assurance as to details and significance.

Jugoslavs and the Czechoslovak Republic

By PROF. KAREL KADLEC, PH. D.

If we must see in Germans and Magyans the greatest enemies of our nation and of our republic, in Jugoslavs we find our best allies and friends of all the neighboring nations. Our relations have always been friendly, because both sides have been conscious of close racial relationship, which led to alliance in the political field, as soon as constitutional regime was introduced in the former Austro-Hungarian monarchy. Through the division of the Hapsburg empire into the Austrian and Hungarian halves the Slavs were split; but in the Austrian parliament there prevailed close co-operation between the Czechs and a part of the Jugoslavs. When the Poles in the Galician diet defeated the federalist program of Francis Šmolka and thus betrayed the Slav program for the reconstruction of Austria championed by the Czechs, Slovenians and Croatians of Dalmatia upheld the Czech program. The diets of Bohemia, Moravia and Carniola, denying the right

of the *Reichsrat* to approve the compromise with Hungary, refused to send deputies to it, whereas the diet of Galicia by a considerable majority voted on March 2, 1867, to send delegates to the *Reichsrat*. In Dalmatia the national Croatian-Serbian party endorsed the Czech attitude, but being in the minority in the diet was unable to prevent election of delegates for Dalmatia. Again in 1873, when in the interest of centralization elections to the Vienna parliament were to be transferred from the diets to electoral districts, Slovenians supported the Czechs in absenting themselves from the sessions, but the speaker declared a quorum to be present, after he had illegally deprived all absent deputies of their mandates. When later both nations were represented in the Vienna parliament, Slovenians and Croatians supported in general Czech policies, while the Poles co-operated with the Germans. The Czech-Jugoslav friendship was specially strengthened dur-

ing the war, when the deputies of both nations presented at the first war session of the Austrian parliament, on May 30, 1917, demands for the destruction of dualism and transformation of the Austrian Monarchy into a federal union of free and equal nations. Since that day representatives of Czechs and Yugoslavs worked in perfect harmony for the common goal of breaking up Austria-Hungary and creating their own national states; finally they succeeded. Out of the ruins of the Hapsburg empire smashed by the world war two closely related Slav states arose on almost the same day: Czechoslovak Republic on October 28, 1918, and the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats and Slovenes on October 29.

If our relations with the Yugoslavs have been intimate heretofore, they will be even more cordial and sincere, as the two nations will have to rely on each other's support in the keen rivalries of the neighboring states.

Relations of Czechoslovaks with the Slavs of the South date from the beginning of their history. There is considerable interest in the oldest Yugoslav traditions about the origin of the Croatian and Serbian nation, as well as in the Czech tradition about the Czech beginnings. Constantine Porfirogenitos, an author of the tenth century, writes that Croatians and Serbians according to their own traditions came to their present home from the north, from White (Great) Croatia and White Serbia. Similarly Thomas, archdeacon of Split, the oldest Croatian chronicler, who wrote in the 13th century, says that the Croatians came to Croatia from the North. Against that Czech chroniclers record a tradition, according to which the Czechoslovak tribes came to the Bohemian lands from the south. So Dalimil who composed a chronicle in rhymes at the beginning of the 14th century states that in the Serbian nation there is a land, known as Croatia; in this country there was a chieftain whose name was Čech. This Čech committed a homicide and lost his land in consequence, and then with his six brothers and their numerous retainers left Croatia for the country to which he gave his name. This tradition noted by Dalimil is found also in later Czech and Polish chronicles, and was known to later Croatian historians. Mention of it is found as late as 17th and 18th centuries.

We find similar references in Yugoslav authors Faustus Vrančić, Junius Palmotić, Jerome Kavenin, Sebastian Sladič (Dolci) etc. Among Czech authors Pešina of Čechorod calls all Christianity to arms against the Turks and emphasizes the kinship of Slav nations who suffer most by Turk cruelty. Balbin believes that Čech and Lech (legendary ancestors of the Czech and Polish nations) came originally from Illyria or Croatia. The same opinion is expressed by Jordan in his treatise on the origin of Slavs (*De Originibus Slavicis*, 1745).

The ties that bound the Czechoslovaks to Yugoslavs were not limited to mere literary expressions, but had a practical basis. The very beginning of our history is bound up with Yugoslavs. In the second half of the ninth century two Greek brothers, Cyril and Methodius, who knew the Slav tongues, came to Greater Moravia as apostles of the Christian religion, and not only introduced Christianity in Moravia, but also laid the foundations for a new Slav literature. Their disciples, after the destruction of the Moravian empire, continued their labors among the southern Slavs. For centuries religious relations were maintained between the Czechs and Yugoslavs. In Bohemia Slav liturgy held its own alongside Latin liturgy in the tenth and eleventh centuries. Princess Ludmila and her grandson, St. Václav, learned the Christian religion from Slav books. Slav legends of Czech saints, Ivan, Ludmila and Václav, written in Bohemia in the 11th century, were circulated among other Slavs, especially in the South. Slav liturgy was limited in the 11th century to the single abbey of Sázava, ruled by St. Procopius. At the end of the 11th century the monks were expelled and went to Hungary. Now and then liturgy was used at the court of King Václav II., when it was visited by distinguished Slav priests, among them Serbian and Croatian priests. Restoration of Slav liturgy took place during the reign of Charles IV. In 1348 this ruler received permission from Pope Clement IV. to establish in Prague a monastery with Slav liturgy, and the following year the monastery of Emaus was founded in Prague with Benedictine monks from the diocese of Sen in Croatia. This monastery was dedicated to Sts. Jerome, Cyril, Methodius, Vojtěch (Adalbert) and Procopius, patrons of the kingdom Bohemia. In 1372 on Easter Sunday the mona-

stery church was consecrated by the Prague archbishop John in the presence of king Charles IV., and the services were held in the Slav-Croatian tongue according to the *qlaqol* rite. Slav liturgy was kept up in the Emaus monastery until the Hussite wars, and then the monastery became the residence of the Hussite administrators of the Utraquist Church.

Charles IV. manifested his Slav feelings not only by the foundation of the Emaus monastery, but also by a letter to the Serbian ruler, Stephan Dušan, written February 19, 1355, and sent through a papal mission which he met in Pisa, as he was on his way to Rome to receive the imperial crown. The letter expresses joy over Stephen's sympathy with the re-union of Eastern and Western Churches; Charles calls the Serbian czar his beloved brother, not merely as a ruler, but also as one who uses the common Slav tongue.

In later days we hear nothing of friendly contact of Czechs with the South Slavs. The reason is to be looked for not in any disagreements, but in the geographical separation of the two Slav nations by the interposition of Germans and Magyars. Only accidentally a Czech found himself among the Jugoslavs or the reverse. Thus we read that a Bohemian priest named Duch became the first bishop of Zagreb in 1093. In the 15th century a Czech warrior Jan Vitovec of Hřeben, later Count of Zahor, played a distinguished role in Croatian history. When Ullrich, Count of Cili, was governor of Croatia, Jan Vitovec was lieutenant governor, and after Ullrich's death became governor. Sigismund, king of Bohemia and Hungary, has left an evil mark on Croatian history as the enemy of Bosnian independence. In Bohemian history again an uncomplimentary mention is made of Fantinus de Valle, procurator of King Poděbrad, who was by birth a Croatian of the Ciprianič family; as the papal legate he was hostile to King George and the Czech nation. In the history of Bohemian Brethren we meet with a Croatian from Istria, Matthew Vlasíč or Frankovič (Flacius Illyricus), a noted Protestant divine.

The Croatian magnate Nicholas Frankopan, governor of Croatia between 1616 and 1632, was lord of the Starý Jičín manor in Moravia.

In modern days the cause of Czech-Jugoslav friendship was greatly furthered by

the Czech scholar Paul Šafařík who was professor in the Croatian city of Nový Sad and whose researches shed rich light on Slav antiquities.

But systematic cultivation of Czech-Jugoslav relations did not begin until the 19th century, when through the influence of Kolář and his personal labors among the Jugoslavs of Budapest there arose the modern Jugoslav cultural movement, known as Illyrism. Gaj and his co-workers adopted from Czechoslovak orthography diacritical marks, introduced into the Czech language by John Hus. Since that period Croats and Slovenes use Czech letters (like č, ž, š) instead of a combination of letters, as formerly.

Friendship between the Czechoslovak and Jugoslav nations was highly valued on both sides. Havlíček wrote in 1846 for the *Pražské Noviny*: "The Slavs are not one nation, but four nations, as distinct from each other, as any other European nations. Each of the Slav nations must stand for itself and none can be made responsible for the other; they have not common national pride or national shame. Because Slav tongues are so closely related, it is desirable and useful that each Slav nation should pay close attention to the others and benefit by their literatures, languages and racial traits. Only between the Czech and Illyrian (Jugoslav) nations can there be special sympathies, because as things stand, neither can be dangerous to the other, but can be very useful."

In 1848 took place the first common political manifestation of all the Slavs of the Austrian monarchy, especially the Czechs and Jugoslavs. A Slav Congress was held in Prague in the early part of June, in order to voice the demands of the Slavs for proper political representation in the affairs of the monarchy, alongside of the Germans and Magyars. It was the Croatian politician and author, Ivan Kukuljevič Sakcinski, who first suggested the idea of a Slav congress in the National Gazette of Croatia, Dalmatia and Slavonia on April 20, 1848.

Although the Slav Congress was dispersed without results after the suppression of Prague outbreaks, and absolutist regime returned, Czechoslovak-Jugoslav sympathies could no longer be suppressed. They came to the fore immediately after the

granting of the constitution by the October diploma of 1860, its modification by the February patent of 1861, and especially after the introduction of dualism in 1867. As was referred to above, Yugoslav deputies from the Austrian half of the empire backed in the Vienna parliament the program of the Czech deputies; this support was mutual. Unfortunately the division of the Hapsburg monarchy into two almost independent countries made a unitary program on the part of all Czechoslovak or Yugoslav branches impossible. But even so it is well known that Czech members of the Austrian delegation used this forum to criticize the Austro-Hungarian administration of the Bosnian affairs and sometimes brought into the discussion even the affairs of the kingdom of Croatia-Slavonia. It was a matter of course that closest relations should be cultivated between the Czechoslovak and Yugoslav nations in the field of literature and art and culture in general, and as far as possible in the economic field as well. Translation of literary novelties from one language to another was constant, attention was paid in the press of one nation to the life of the other nation, there were meetings of journalists, Sokol meets, industrial conferences etc.

Nevertheless there did not exist any systematic co-operation of the two nations in the various fields of cultural effort. The principal obstacle was the lack of political freedom. The Yugoslavs were broken up into many states and provinces, and even the Czechoslovaks could not act as a unit, as they were divided between Austria and Hungary. But in the future all such obstacles will no longer exist.

The two kindred nations have now their fate in their own keeping; from now on they can make their mutual relations just what they wish them to be. There is no doubt that the relations will be most cordial; not merely because of race relationship, but for practical reasons which after all have so much to do with all friendships. For nations are as egotistic as individuals. They have their own special interests which they pursue by all means. If they are not sufficiently strong, they seek friends and allies; especially when they are smaller nations, as are the Czechoslovaks and Yugoslavs.

We have expelled our oppressors, but at what a cost! We enter upon our new life

almost beggared and with empty hands. We are so completely robbed that we are left with our bare lives, and many with even their lives bruised. And still our former lords, our present enemies, begrudge us this bare freedom. They watch our first steps as an independent nation with anger in their hearts and calumny in their mouths, and scheme to take away from us our liberty. Germans and Magyars will continue to be the enemies of Czechoslovaks and Yugoslavs alike, a danger to their free national life. What is more natural that we should keep common watch and make an alliance for life and death.

In addition to Czechoslovaks and Yugoslavs we shall find in the anti-German and anti-Magyar camp two more nations—Poles and Roumanians. All four are interested in the erection of a strong barrier against the German push toward the East. But still there will be special ties between the Czechoslovaks and Yugoslavs, closer even than the many ties which will bind the Czechoslovaks to Roumanians. Between us and the Roumanians there will be no conflict of interests, and our economic relations will be mutually profitable. But the same is true of our relations with the Yugoslavs, and here in addition we have the strong tie of racial relationship. There is also the fact that we are much nearer to the Yugoslavs than to the Roumanians. Social composition of the nation and political views are much more closely related between the two Slav nations, than between either of them and the Latins of the Balkans. Yugoslavs like Czechoslovaks lost long ago their native nobility, whereas the Roumanians have even today their *boyars*, so that politically the Slav nations are democratic and therefore in closer sympathy.

Economic interests demand our closest agreement with the kingdom of Serbs, Croats and Slovenes. We are half agricultural and half industrial, whereas the Yugoslav state will for long remain agricultural, and thus we can supplement each other. We shall export to Yugoslavia many industrial products, and bring back agricultural products. The Yugoslav countries are among the most exclusively agricultural states of Europe. In England those employed in tilling the soil compose only 13 per cent of the population, in France 49 per cent, in Italy 59 per cent, in Russia 75 per

cent, and in Yugoslavia fully four fifths. According to 1910 figures 84 per cent of the people in Serbia followed agricultural pursuits, 88 per cent in Bosnia-Hercegovina 85 per cent in Croatia-Slavonia, and 65 per cent in the Slovenian districts.

All kinds of grain and fruit raised in Central Europe thrive in Yugoslavia. Indian corn is the most popular grain; the average amount produced is from 37 to 40 million quintals, more than any other country in Europe. Roumania raises 28 million q, Italy 21 million, Spain 7 million q of Indian corn. As the country people in Yugoslavia prefer for their own consumption yellow corn meal to white wheat flour, they have a large amount of wheat left for export. The annual production of wheat is estimated at 1.6 q to each inhabitant, against 4 in Bulgaria, 2.8 in France and 3.48 in Roumania. In some sections of southern Macedonia rice is grown; much attention is paid to flax, hemp, sugar beets, rape seed. There is much variety of fruit in Yugoslavia; in addition to the species grown in our country they have also olives, figs, chestnuts, lemons, oranges, St. John's bread and almonds in sheltered places. Everywhere they can grow grapes, some of which make very fine wines. A large area is covered with forests, both broad-leaved and evergreen, and there is much lumber left available for export. The area covered by forests is twice the whole area of Belgium. Yugoslav lumber used to be exported to many places in southern and western Europe, as to Gette in southern France.

Cattle raising was until recently the principal occupation of the people in some Yugoslav countries, especially in Serbia. There cattle was the principal source of wealth. Gradually the country people learned to lay more stress on cultivation of the soil, but cattle continued to be of great importance. There has been so far little attention paid to improving the breeds by crossing and selection. In this respect the Yugoslavs have much to learn, and in agriculture as well. In some districts the peasants even today do not appreciate the importance of manure and fertilizers or the advantages of agricultural implements. That accounts for the low yield of crops. The most common animals raised in Jugo-

15. Eligible are those citizens of the is estimated at 15 million, more than the total of population. In spite of that there

is hardly any export trade in these animals, as the people eat almost entirely mutton and goat meat. Neither are horses bred for export; they are rather small animals, but very hardy. As far as cattle is concerned, good milch cows are found in Slovenian provinces and in Croatia: we may expect to see an export of milk and butter from this part of Yugoslavia into our republic. Serbia will export to us, even more than in the past, pigs and pork products. Yugoslav fisheries, both river and sea, are of considerable importance. Bee culture was once flourishing, but later was neglected; we may hope for its restoration and the importation of honey and wax to us.

Mineral riches of the Yugoslav lands are considerable. In various locations is mined iron, lead, copper, zinc, mercury, sulphur, naphtha, even silver and gold. The country possesses important coal beds; in 1913 the production of coal was 32 million quintals, without including the mines of Funfkirchen on the Danube which will undoubtedly go to Yugoslavia. In Idria in the province of Carniola the production of mercury amounted to nearly four million crowns or 8200 quintals. There is much undeveloped wealth in the Yugoslav rivers; only very little power has been developed so far.

Thus it is apparent that the Yugoslav countries have the necessary requisites for the growth of industrial life. So far domestic manufacturing has been undeveloped, and the needs of the people were supplied largely by imports from foreign countries; this applies especially to textile industry, tanning, steel making, pottery and glassware manufacturing. There is fine opportunity here for Czech industry to capture the Yugoslav markets.

We have merely sketched the Yugoslav industrial life. It is impossible to be more exact, because as yet there are no statistical figures. But there can be no doubt that intimate industrial and commercial relations between the kingdom of Serbs, Croats and Slovenes on the one side and the Czechoslovak Republic on the other are to be desired in the interest of both sides. Both states should at once devote their attention to this question. Yugoslavia can and will send to us foodstuffs and raw materials and get in exchange Czechoslovak industrial products.

Constitution of Czechoslovakia

Adopted by the National Assembly on February 29, approved by the President on March 5, 1920.

Preamble.

We, the Czechoslovak nation, in order to form a more perfect union of the nation, establish justice and order in the Republic, insure tranquil development of the Czechoslovak homeland, promote the general welfare of all the citizens of this state and secure the blessings of liberty to future generations, have adopted in our National Assembly on the 29th day of February, 1920, a constitution for the Czechoslovak Republic, the text of which follows. On this occasion, we the Czechoslovak nation, declare that we shall endeavor to have this constitution and all laws of our land carried out in the spirit of our history and also in the spirit of modern principles, contained in the word self-determination; for we desire to join the society of nations as an enlightened, peaceful, democratic and progressive member.

Enabling Provisions.

1. Laws in conflict with the constitution, the fundamental laws which are a part of it, and laws which may supplement or amend it are void.

The constitution and the fundamental laws which are a part of it may be changed or supplemented only by laws designated as constitutional laws.

II. The constitutional court decides, whether laws of the Czechoslovak Republic and laws of the diet of Carpathian Russia comply with article I.

III. The constitutional court consists of seven members. The supreme administrative court and the supreme court each designate two members. The remaining two members together with the president of the court are appointed by the president of the Republic.

Regulation of the manner in which the two above mentioned courts select members of the constitutional court, its functioning, rules of procedure and effects of its judgments is determined by law.

IV. The existing National Assembly shall remain in session, until the chamber of deputies and the senate are constituted.

Laws adopted by this National Assembly, but not proclaimed on the day when the chamber of deputies and the senate

are constituted, may not go into effect, if returned by the president of the Republic to the National Assembly.

As to the term, set by the provisional constitution for the exercise of the right of the president of the Republic according to section 11 and for the duty to proclaim the adopted law, the laws passed by the existing National Assembly shall be governed by the provisional constitution.

V. The present president remains in office, until a new election has taken place. From the day on which this constitution goes into effect he shall possess the rights herein granted.

VI. Until there is elected the full number of members of the chamber of deputies and the senate provided for in the constitution, the number of members actually elected shall be applied to determine the quorum of deputies and senators required by the constitution.

VII. Provisions of article I., II. and III. (paragraph 1) form a part of the constitution in accordance with section 33 of this instrument.

Enabling laws referred to in the constitution are not a part of this instrument within the scope of section 1, unless otherwise expressly stated by the constitution.

VIII. The constitution hereto attached goes into effect on the day of its proclamation.

Section 20 of the constitution does not apply to members of the existing National Assembly.

IX. On the day stated in paragraph 1 of section VIII. all ordinances in conflict with the constitution and the republican form of government, as well as all former constitutional laws, even though some of their provisions may not be in conflict with the fundamental laws of the Czechoslovak Republic, become void.

X. This law goes into effect simultaneously with the constitution, and the government is charged with carrying out this law and the constitution.

I. GENERAL PROVISIONS OF THE CONSTITUTION.

1. The people are the only source of all state authority in the Czechoslovak Republic.

The constitution determines through what organs the sovereign people adopt laws, carry them out and find justice. The constitution also sets the limits which these organs may not exceed, so that the constitutionally guaranteed rights of citizens may be protected.

2. The Czechoslovak State is a democratic republic at the head of which is an elected president.

3. The territory of the Czechoslovak Republic forms an unitary and indivisible whole, the frontiers of which may be changed only by fundamental law.

An indivisible part of this whole, on the basis of voluntary union in accordance with the treaty between the Allied and Associated Powers and the Czechoslovak Republic in Saint-Germain-en-Laye September 10, 1919, is the autonomous territory of Carpathian Russia which will receive the widest autonomy compatible with the unity of the Czechoslovak Republic.

Carpathian Russia has its own diet which elects its own officers.

The diet of Carpathian Russia is competent to make laws in matters of language, instruction, religion, local administration, as well as in other matters which may be assigned to it by the laws of the Czechoslovak Republic. Laws adopted by the diet of Carpathian Russia and signed by the president of the Republic are proclaimed in a separate series and shall also be signed by the governor.

Carpathian Russia shall be represented in the National Assembly of the Czechoslovak Republic by the proper number of deputies and senators in accordance with Czechoslovak election laws.

At the head of Carpathian Russia stands governor appointed by the president of the Czechoslovak Republic upon nomination by the government; he shall be responsible also to the diet of the Carpathian Russia.

Public servants of Carpathian Russia shall as far as possible be taken from its own population.

Details, especially the right to vote and to be elected to diet, are regulated by special enactments.

The law of National Assembly, determining the boundaries of Carpathian Russia, shall form a part of the constitution.

4. Citizenship of the Czechoslovak Republic is one and unitary.

Rules governing the acquiring of citizenship, its effects and its loss are determined by law.

A citizen or subject of a foreign state may not at the same time be citizen of Czechoslovak Republic.

5. Prague is the capital of the Czechoslovak Republic.

The colors of the Republic are white, red and blue.

Coat of arms and flags are prescribed by laws.

II. LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY.

6. Legislative authority for the entire territory of the Czechoslovak Republic is exercised by the National Assembly which consists of two houses: chamber of deputies and the senate.

Both houses meet regularly in Prague. In cases of absolute necessity they may be called to meet temporarily in some other place in the Czechoslovak Republic.

7. Legislative and administrative power of land diets is abolished.

Unless a law adopted by the National Assembly provides otherwise, it applies to the entire territory of the Czechoslovak Republic.

8. The chamber of deputies consists of 300 members, elected by general, equal, direct and secret franchise in accordance with the principle of proportionate representation. Elections take place on Sundays.

9. The right to vote for members of the chamber of deputies belongs to all citizens of the Czechoslovak Republic without distinction of sex who are 21 years of age and comply with other requirements of the fundamental law governing elections to chamber of deputies.

10. Eligible are those citizens of the Czechoslovak Republic without distinction of sex who are 30 years of age and comply with other requirements of the fundamental law governing elections to chamber of deputies.

12. Details of the exercise of right to vote and election rules are contained in the law governing elections to chamber of deputies.

13. The senate consists of 150 members, elected by general, equal, direct and secret franchise in accordance with the principle of proportionate representation. Elections take place on Sundays.

14. The right to vote for members of the senate belongs to all citizens of the Czechoslovak Republic.

slovak Republic without distinction of sex who are 26 years of age and comply with other requirements of the fundamental law as to the composition and jurisdiction of the senate.

15. Eligible are those citizens of the Czechoslovak Republic, without distinction of sex, who have reached 45 years of age and comply with other requirements of the fundamental law as to the composition and jurisdiction of the senate.

16. The term for which senators are elected is eight years.

17. Details of the exercise of right to vote and election rules are contained in the law as to the composition and jurisdiction of the senate.

18. No one may be member of both houses.

19. Contested elections to the chamber of deputies and the senate are passed upon by the electoral court. Details are regulated by law.

20. An employee of the state who is elected to the National Assembly and qualifies as member receives a leave of absence for the duration of his term and is entitled to his regular salary, not including therein local or active supplement of the same, as well as to seniority promotion. University professors are entitled to leave of absence; if they make use of this right, the same provisions apply to them as to other state servants.

Other public servants are entitled to leave of absence, while they are members of the National Assembly.

Members of the National Assembly may receive a salaried state appointment only after the expiration of one year from the time they cease to be members of the National Assembly.

This provision does not apply to ministers. The time limit of one year, contained in the previous paragraph, does not apply to deputies and senators who were in the service of the state before their election to the National Assembly, if they remain in the same department of service.

Members of county assemblies, and county and district chiefs may not be members of the National Assembly. Judges of the constitutional court and associate judges of the electoral court may not at the same time sit in the National Assembly.

21. Members of either house may resign at any time.

22. Members of the National Assembly carry out their mandates in person; they may not receive orders from anyone.

They may not intervene with public authorities in party interests. This prohibition does not apply to members of the National Assembly in so far as intervention with authorities is a part of their regular duties.

In the first meeting of the house which they attend they shall make the following pledge: "I promise that I will be faithful to the Czechoslovak Republic, that I will observe the laws and execute my trust according to my best knowledge and conscience." Refusal of the pledge or pledge with reservation carry with it automatic loss of mandate.

23. Members of the National Assembly cannot be molested by reason of their vote in the house or committees. For anything they may say in the exercise of their mandate they are subject only to the disciplinary power of the house.

24. Before a member of the National Assembly may be prosecuted or disciplined for other acts or omissions, the consent of the proper house must be obtained. If the house refuses its consent, prosecution is dropped permanently.

These provisions do not apply to criminal liability which a member of the National Assembly may incur as responsible editor.

25. If a member of either house is arrested in the commission of a criminal offense, the court or other proper authority shall inform the president of the house at once of the arrest. Unless the house, or during the adjournment of the National Assembly the commission elected in accordance with section 54, signifies within 14 days its consent to further imprisonment, imprisonment ceases. Should the commission give its consent, the house itself shall decide the question of further imprisonment within 14 days of its convening.

26. Members of both houses may refuse to testify as to matters which were confided to them as members of the house, even after they have ceased to be members. This does not apply to charges of seducing a member of either house to abuse his trust.

27. Members of both houses shall receive compensation provided by law.

28. The president of the Republic shall call both houses into two regular sessions annually in spring and fall. The spring

session commences in March, the fall session in October.

He may also call the houses into special sessions according to need. If a majority of either house makes a demand for special session on the president of the government, stating the nature of special business, the president shall cause the houses to meet within 14 days from the date of demand. In case of his failure to act the houses shall convene simultaneously within the following 14 days at the call of their presidents.

When more than four months have elapsed since the last regular session, the president of the Republic shall at the request of at least two fifths of either house call the houses to meet within 14 days of the date of the request. In case of his failure to act the houses shall meet within the following 14 days at the call of their presidents.

29. Sessions of both houses open and close at the same time.

30. The president of the Republic declares the session closed.

He may prorogue the houses for no longer than one month and not oftener than once a year.

31. The president of the Republic may dissolve the houses. He may not exercise this right within the last six months of his term of office. At the expiration of the term of either house or at the dissolution of either house new elections shall take place within 60 days.

Dissolution of the senate does not stay criminal proceedings that may be pending before the senate in accordance with sections 67 and 79.

32. The quorum of either house, except where otherwise provided for herein, is one third of entire membership; all acts to be valid must receive a majority vote of those present.

33. Declaration of war, amendment of the constitution and the fundamental laws which are a part thereof may be done only by affirmative vote of three fifths of all members of both houses.

34. The chamber of deputies may impeach the president of the Republic, the president of the government and members of government by a two thirds majority in the presence of two thirds of the membership.

Proceedings before the senate as a high court are regulated by law.

35. Each house elects its own president, officers and functionaries.

36. Sessions of the chamber of deputies and the senate are public. Executive sessions may be held only in cases enumerated in the rules of proceeding.

37. The fundamental principles of the relations of both houses to each other, to the government and to all outside them are regulated by special law within the limits set by constitutional provisions. For the transaction of its business each house adopts its own rules.

Until the house of deputies and the senate adopt their own rules, the rules of the existing National Assembly shall apply.

38. When both houses meet as National Assembly, the rules of the house of deputies apply.

Such a joint session is called by the president of the government and presided over by the president of the chamber of deputies.

His alternate is president of the senate.

39. Ministers may participate at any time in the meetings of either house and of all committees. They shall be given the floor, whenever they desire to speak.

40. At the request of either house or its committee the minister shall attend its meeting.

Otherwise the minister may be represented by officials of his department.

41. Bills may be submitted either by the government or by either house.

A bill submitted by members of either house shall be accompanied by a statement of expenses involved in the bill and by a recommendation as to how they shall be defrayed.

Government proposals for financial and army bills shall be laid first before the chamber of deputies.

42. Changes in fundamental laws shall be concurred in by both houses. This applies also to other laws, except as otherwise provided in sections 43, 44 and 48.

43. The senate shall take action on a bill passed by the house of deputies within six weeks; on financial and army bills within one month. The house of deputies shall take action on bill adopted by the senate within three months.

These time limits run from the day, when the printed act of one house is delivered to the other house; by consent of both houses these time limits may be extended or

shortened. The limit of one month within which the senate shall take action on financial and army bills cannot be extended.

If during the limit the term of the house which is to take action on the bill of the other expires or the house is dissolved, prorogued or its session closed, the limit begins to run anew from its next meeting.

If the second house takes no action within the above time limits, the failure is considered equivalent to approval of the decision of the first house.

44. A measure passed by the chamber of deputies shall become law in spite of the dissent of the senate, if the chamber of deputies by a vote of the majority of the entire membership reaffirms its original vote. If the senate rejects by a three fourths majority of the entire membership a bill which was passed by the chamber of deputies, the bill becomes law only if re-passed by the chamber of deputies by a majority of three fifths of the entire membership.

Proposals of the senate are submitted to the chamber of deputies. If the latter rejects the senate bill and the senate reaffirms its original vote by a majority vote of the entire membership, the bill is submitted once more to the chamber of deputies. If the chamber of deputies rejects the senate bill by a majority vote of the entire membership, the bill fails.

Bills which thus failed cannot be re-submitted in either house before the expiration of one year.

Amendment of a bill passed by one house in the other house is equivalent to rejection.

45. If either house has to consider for the second time a bill which it once voted or consider again a bill passed by the other house, and should the house be dissolved or its term expire before reconsideration, the action of the new house on the matter shall be considered to be its second action in the sense of section 44.

46. If the National Assembly rejects a government bill, the government may order a popular vote to be taken on the question, whether the bill shall become law. Such a decision of the government must be unanimous.

The right of vote belongs to all who are entitled to vote for members of chamber of deputies.

Details are regulated by law.

Popular vote does not apply to governmental proposals changing or amending the constitution and the fundamental laws which are a part of it.

47. The president of the Republic may return with his objections a law passed by the National Assembly within one month from the day on which it was delivered to the government.

48. If both houses in a roll call reaffirm their vote by a majority of the entire membership, the measure shall be proclaimed law.

If such a concurrent majority of both houses is not reached, the measure will nevertheless become law, if in a new roll call the chamber of deputies votes for it by three fifths of the entire membership.

If the measure in question is one which requires the larger quorum and higher majority, the returned measure must be adopted in the presence of this quorum by the specified majority.

The provisions of section 45 apply here also.

49. A law does not go into effect, until it is proclaimed in the manner prescribed by law.

Laws are proclaimed by this clause: "The National Assembly of the Czechoslovak Republic adopted the following law."

Laws shall be proclaimed within eight days, not including Sundays, from the limit set in section 47. If the president of the Republic makes use of his right there referred to, the law shall be proclaimed within eight days, not including Sundays, from the day, when re-enactment by National Assembly is communicated to the government.

50. Every law must state, which member of the government is charged with its execution.

51. The law shall be signed by the president of the Republic, the president of the government and the minister charged to execute the law. If the president is disabled or ill and has no deputy, the president of the government signs on his behalf.

The president of the government may be represented in the signing of laws in the manner provided for in section 71.

52. Each house has the right to interpellate the president and members of the government on all matters within their jurisdiction, inquire into administrative acts of the government, appoint committees

to which the ministers shall submit information, adopt addresses and resolutions.

The president and members of the government shall answer the interpellations of the members of the houses.

53. The manner in which state financial economy and state debt is controlled is regulated by law.

54. (1) In the period between the dissolution of either house or the expiration of its term and the next convening of both houses, and also during the time, when the session of the two houses is prorogued or closed, a commission of 24 members may enact urgent measures which have the force of law. The chamber of deputies elects 16 members with 16 alternates, and the senate elects eight members and eight alternates for the term of one year. Each alternate takes the place of a definite member.

(2) First elections take place as soon as the two houses are organized. Presidents and vicepresidents of both houses take part in voting. When a new house has been elected, it selects new members of the commission, even though the one year term of sitting members has not expired.

(3) The principle of proportionate representation shall be applied in these elections. Parties may combine. If all parties agree, members of the commission may be selected from the body of the house. This may be done, if objectors do not exceed twenty deputies or ten senators.

(4) Members of the commission remain in office, until their successors are elected. Alternates take the place of members who permanently or temporarily are unable to perform their duties. If there is a vacancy in the office of either member or alternate, supplementary election is had for the balance of the term. Newly elected member must belong to the same group as the former member, unless the group in question should fail to nominate a candidate or refuse to participate in electing.

(5) A member of the government may not be member of commission or his alternate.

(6) As soon as the commission is elected, it shall organize itself by electing a president and second vice-president out of members of the house of deputies, and first vice-president out of senate members.

(7) Sections 23 to 27 of the constitution apply to members of the commission.

(8) The commission may act in all matters that come within the legislative and administrative jurisdiction of the National Assembly, but it cannot

(a) elect the president of the Republic or his deputy;

(b) amend fundamental laws or change jurisdiction of public authorities, except that it may add new duties to existing authorities.

(c) impose by its measures upon citizens new and lasting financial duties, increase military obligation, burden permanently the state finances or alienate state property;

(d) give its consent to declaration of war.

(9) A measure which is to have the effect of law or which authorizes expenditures not provided for in the budget must be approved by a majority of the entire membership.

(10) In all other cases the commission may act in the presence of one half of its membership by a majority vote of those present. The president votes only to break the tie.

(11) Emergency measures which are in the nature of law may be adopted only upon recommendation of the government, approved by the president of the Republic.

(12) Acts of the commission referred to in the preceding section have temporarily the effect of law; they are proclaimed, with a reference to section 54, in the series of laws and ordinances, and they are signed by the president of the Republic, president of the government or his deputy, and at least one half of the ministers. Acts which are not signed by the president of the Republic may not be proclaimed.

(13) The jurisdiction of the constitutional court extends to measures which are in the nature of law; they shall be submitted to the court by the government at the time of their proclamation in the series of laws and ordinances. The constitutional court decides, whether measures submitted to it comply with paragraph 8 b).

(14) President of the commission and vicepresident submit a report of the actions of the commission in the first sessions of the chamber of deputies and the senate, even though they may have ceased to be members.

(15) Measures which are not approved by both houses within two months of their convening are thereafter void.

(To be concluded.)

The Golden Spinning Wheel

By KAREL JAROMÍR ERBEN.

Translated by Dr. Joseph Štýbr.

I.

*From green woods o'er a stretch of land
There rides a lord of high command.
He's riding on his high black steed;
The hoofs ring loud in joyous speed;
He's riding all alone.*

*And by a hovel — down a step!
And at the hovel: rap, rap, rap!
"Halloo, dear folks, come to the door!
I lost my way in chase of boar;
Refresh me with a drink!"*

*Sweet as a blossom came a girl—
Ne'er had the world seen such a pearl—
She brought fresh water; then, with zeal
Took her seat at her spinning wheel
Where, all abashed, she span.*

*Amazed, the lord stood on the spot;
His great thirst was at once forgot.
Admiring her thread, thin and white,
He cannot take his wond'ring sight
Off the fair spinner's face.*

*"If your most graceful hand be free,
You certainly my wife must be!"
And he embraced her with that word. —
"I have no other choice, my lord,
But what's my mother's wish."*

*"Where is, dear maid, your mother gone?
For I see you here all alone." —
"O lord! My step-mother's in town
With her own daughter; she'll be down
To-morrow, about noon."*

II.

*From green woods o'er a stretch of land
There rides the lord of high command.
He's riding on his high black steed;
The hoofs ring loud in joyous speed;
The hovel is his aim.*

*And by the hovel—down a step!
And at the hovel rap, rap, rap!
"Hallo! dear folks, come to the door
And let mine eyes behold once more
My life's own sweet delight!"*

*Out came a vixen of thin chest:
"Hoh, hoh, what brings us our rare
guest?"
"I bring a great change to your life;
I want your daughter for my wife;
Your step-daughter I want."*

*"Hoh, hoh, the great surprise, my lord!
How wonderfully sounds your word!
I bid you welcome, lord from far,
Though I don't know yet who you are
And how you came to us!"*

*"I am the king of these great lands,
Enthroned but yesterday by chance.
I'll give you silver, gold, in trade
For your sweet daughter, the fair maid,
The spinner, full of grace!"*

*"Ah, what a great surprise, my lord!
Who would have thought of such a word?
We are not worthy, my lord king!
Had we but earned by anything
Your lordship's sudden grace!"*

*"But I'll suggest what may be done:
In place of her I'll give mine own:
My daughter looks like her well-nigh
As in the same head eye and eye,
And her thread's thin as silk!"*

*"Old vixen, your advice is bad!
You'll do nought but what I have said:
To-morrow morning, the first thing,
Up to my castle you shall bring
Your step-daughter, none else!"*

"Get up, my boy, quick to your heel,
Take yonder golden spinning wheel;
Sell it at the house of the king,
But don't trade it for anything
But for two human legs." —

The boy ere long sat down to wait
And sell the wheel at the king's gate.
And scarcely did the queen behold:
"I wish I had that wheel of gold,
That golden spinning wheel!"

"O mother dear, be quick and rise;
Go to the boy and ask the price!"
"O lady dear, step near and buy,
My father's price is not too high:
'Tis but two human legs."

"Two human legs? Aye, that is queer!
But still I want it, mother dear.
Go, mother, near the chamber door
Our Dora's legs lie on the floor;
Give them to him in trade."

The boy took the two legs with heed
And hastened to the woods in speed. —
"Bring me that water with life's charm:
The body shall retain no harm,
But shall be as before."

As soon as wound to wound he laid,
A living fire flashed through the maid.
The limbs rejoined the trunk and heart
As though they had not been apart,
Retaining not a fault.

"Get up, my boy, run through the vale:
I have a golden staff for sale.
Go to the castle of the king,
But don't trade it for anything
But for two human arms."

The boy took near the gate his stand;
The distaff sparkled in his hand.
And scarcely did the queen behold:
"I wish I had that staff of gold
To my new spinning wheel!"

"O mother dear, hasten and rise;
Go, ask the boy the distaff's price."

"O lady dear, step near and buy,
My father's price is not too high:
'Tis but two human arms."

"Two human arms? Why that is queer!
But still I want it, mother dear!
Go, mother, near the chamber door
Our Dora's arms lie on the floor,
Give them to him in trade."

The boy received the arms with heed
And hastened to the woods in speed. —
"Bring me that water with life's charm;
The body shall retain no harm,
But shall be as before."

As soon as wound to wound he laid
Life's fire again flashed through the maid.
The arms rejoined the trunk and heart
As though they had not been apart,
Retaining not a fault.

"Spring up, my boy, and hurry back!
I want to sell the golden rack:
Go to the castle of the king,
But don't sell it for anything
But for two human eyes."

The boy took at the gate his stand,
The golden rack gleamed in his hand.
And scarcely did the queen behold:
"I wish I had that rack of gold
To match my distaff yet!"

"Get up, dear mother, and go back
And inquire what will buy that rack."
"Two eyes, madame, two human eyes,
That is my father's only price,
He asks two human eyes."

"Two eyes? Why, that's the strangest toy!
Who is your father, my dear boy?"
"My father's name needs not be known.
Who would look for him would find none:
Yet, he comes at his will." —

"Dear mother, what shall I begin?
Without that rack I cannot spin!
Go, mother, near the chamber door
Our Dora's eyes lie on the floor,
Let him take them along."

The boy took the two eyes with heed
And hastened to the woods in speed. —
"Bring me that water with life's charm;
The body shall retain no harm,
But shall be as before." •

He set the eyes in their own place,
And life flashed through the maiden's
Amazed, the maiden gazed around—
But she saw no one on the ground
But herself, left alone.

V.

And when three weeks were gone and
The victor-king came gay at last.
"How are you, lady dear and kind?
Tell me, have you kept in your mind
My parting words to you?"

"Oh, in my heart of you I thought!
Behold, my lord, what I have bought:
The rarest spinning wheel that's sold,
A distaff, a rack — all of gold,
All for the love of you!"

"Then, come, sit down, my darling wife;
A golden thread spin to my life." —
She went to spin to prove her tale:
The wheel went 'round — her face grew
Alas! how queer a song!

"Burr — burr — thou spinst a grewsome
Thou camest to only cheat the king:
Thou killedst thy sister, chokedst her cries;
Thou cutst her limbs and tookst her eyes —
Burr — burr — the grewsome string!"

"You have the queerest spinning wheel!
The strangest song it does reveal!
Oh lady, spin again, Oh spin!
I can't conceive what those words mean;
Oh spin, my lady, spin!"

"Burr — burr — thou spinst a grewsome
Thy aim was just to cheat the king:
Thou murderedst in the woods his bride
To take her place in thy vain pride —
Burr — burr — the grewsome string!"

"Ho lady, what a frightful song!
You're not as sweet as seems your tongue!
Play, lady, still another time
So I can hear all of that rhyme;
Spin on, o lady, spin!"

"Burr — burr — thou spinst a grewsome
Thou camest to only cheat the king:
Thy sister's in a forest cave;
Thou stolest her husband, the king brave—
Burr — burr — the grewsome string!"

The king had heard the song. In speed
He sought the woods on his black steed,
And through the forests wailed his sound:
"Where can my Dora dear be found?
Where are you, Dora dear?"

VI.

From green woods o'er a stretch of land
A couple's riding, hand in hand;
They're mounted on a high black steed—
The hoofs ring loud in joyous speed —
The castle is their aim.

A wedding followed their gay ride;
Like a sweet blossom gleamed the bride;
There was a great time, a great feast,
And mirth and music never ceased
For three long happy weeks.

And what of the old vixen-dame?
And of her child of viper's fame?
Ho, in the woods howl four wolves grim,
Each dragging a bare human limb —
Two female bodies' limbs.

Their eyes were promptly goaded out,
Their legs and arms hewn on the rout;
What they had first done to the girl
Came back to them now in a whirl
In those deep, gloomy woods.

And what about the spinning wheel?
With what song did it henceforth reel?
It came to play but those three times,
And no one heard again its rhymes
Nor saw it with his eyes.

Masaryk's Birthday Address

On a previous occasion I took leave of the National Assembly in the belief that I would not address you any more prior to the elections. I could not know that this day would place me before the National Assembly as the spokesman of the government and the entire nation. Your kindness truly embarrasses me; on such an occasion you will expect words beyond ordinary, words that come not only from the depths of the soul, but that are also the fruit of long experience. Please accept merely a few remarks.

All my thought turns constantly on this one question: What is the real meaning of the world war and what will be the effects of the peace and the political re-arrangement of Europe? And what is our task, our place and the place of our state in the entire world situation? The significance of the war and peace—that at least is my conviction—lies in this that it is the beginning of a new era, an era of mankind and humanity. What Kollár hoped for a hundred years ago, what Šafařík, Palacký and others preached after him, is now becoming a reality. When Kollár recommended to us that when a Slav is called, man should respond, he did not of course dream that pure humanity which he bequeathed to us would only be realized after a murderous war, after the killing of millions and millions of people of all nations.

You are right, Mr. President Tomášek, when you say that I accepted the program of humanity of our national awakers long ago and with full conviction. I stand by this program after all the horrors of the late war. The program of humanity is a moral ideal—to be truly a man. The program of humanity further signifies faith that humanity is not a mere abstraction, but a reality. And truly humanity seems to have been awakened by the war and begins to organize itself as a unit. The war was undoubtedly a world war. Against the four Central Powers there were opposed, I believe, 27 states from all the continents. The Central Powers represented 5.6% of all mankind, the Allies 86%, while only 8.4% remained neutral. The world character of this war consists just in this that all nations, all mankind realized the war's extent and consciously determined to reorganize the world and its politics. Palacký's "world centralization" is becoming a fact. The League of Nations already has in it 85.4% of all nations and states. This is practically a statistical proof that mankind as a whole has become conscious of its unity, that it begins to organize, that it begins to think of its further development as an entity. Dostoievský was right, when he argued that nations and individuals have a desire for pan-humanity, that every nation desires to get beyond its national boundaries and join the body of humanity. Do-

stoievski's "Pan-man" was not an utopia, but a concrete program of Russian Slavophilism. Even Kollar's Slav program is an expression of this natural desire for pan-humanity. You referred to my activity abroad, Mr. President. For four years I labored in the interests of the program of humanity. I began in Italy and continued in Switzerland, in France, England, Russia, Japan, America, and everywhere I spread the knowledge of our nation and created sympathies for its admirable national program. Today the Czech name is known everywhere. You, and all of you, have more than once expressed your thanks to the Allied nations for our liberation, and surely without Europe and America our Republic would not be.

Humanity truly is already in existence. To know humanity, as it is beginning to organize itself, as it develops, that is the duty of every sincere Czechoslovak public man. Long ago was expressed the axiom that states maintain themselves by the same means by which they took their rise. It is our task to harmonize our national desires with the desires of other nations and of all humanity. If I speak of humanity as a concrete fact, I mean and fully realize that humanity is composed of nations and states. Humanity cannot and must not be conceived as something that is above the nations or even against the individual nations. To labor for humanity does not mean to scatter oneself fanatically over the whole world, but it implies the duty for each of us to work for his own nation and in particular for that part of the nation to which we are joined and which we may by our acts foster or damage. The concept and principle of modern nationality developed together with the concept and principles of internationalism.

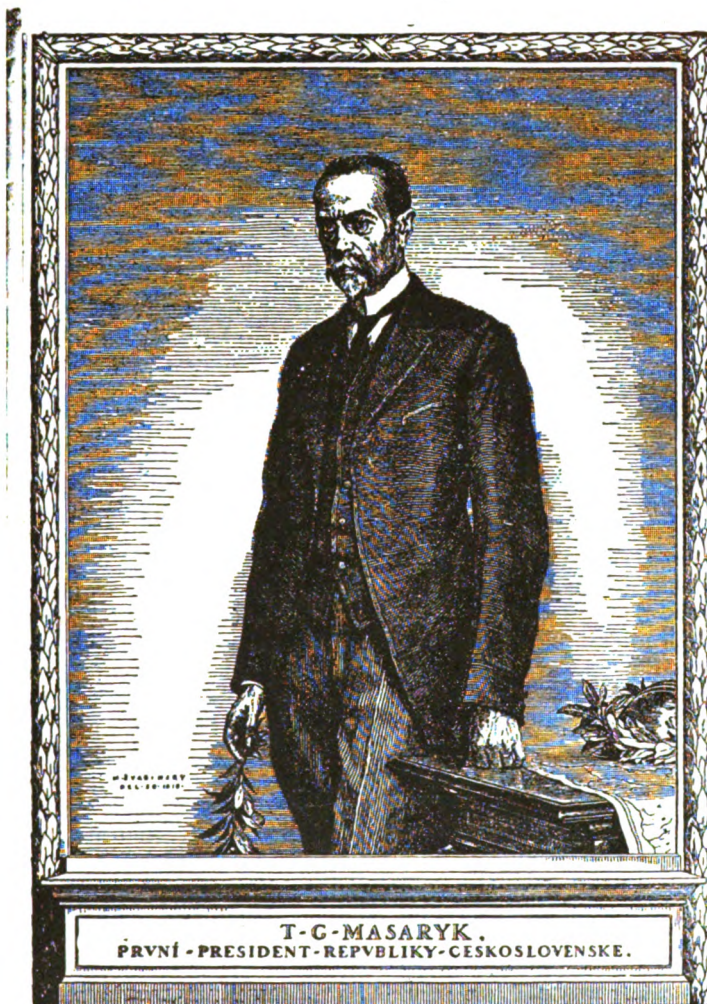
I recall Štefanik. We talked together for the last time in Washington, when he was going to Siberia; we discussed our future policies, and he vividly felt and realized that we must carry on European policies. I am sure that this conviction he was repeating to me before he boarded that unlucky aeroplane, even as he flew above his native Slovakia and as he met his heroic death. For Czechoslovak politics that is the only guiding principle: to be European, humanitarian, world inclusive, and therefore truly Czech and Slovak. That applies to all our relations with the nations of Europe and of the whole world. To our commerce, our enterprise, all our national life.

By the Peace of Paris Europe was not organized strictly on the principle of nationality. This was indeed the leading principle, but next to it the historical principle made itself felt to a considerable extent. Our Republic in particular is

an example of how the national and historical principles were applied in combination. We have considerable fragments of other nations with us. For our mutual relations the program of humanity must be the norm; our minorities may be the organ of true internationalism. Mutual acquaintance, mutual economic and cultural relations may and should make of our Republic an example to Europe and all mankind.

treat the language question not as political, as was done in Austria and Hungary, but as administrative.

The program of humanity is not the program of weak pacifism and supine yielding. It is true that our Chelčický and in modern days Tolstoy identified humanity with non-resistance to evil. That is not correct. I recall how I had a controversy several times with Tolstoy on this



Pen drawing of President Masaryk, by Max Švábinský.

The question of language and its inherent difficulties must not frighten us. Language is a substantial part of nationality, but it does not exhaust the concept and content of nationality; of course the mother tongue is equally precious to every nation. The cultivation of language in the national spirit is done through literature, science and philosophy. For the modern, democratic state language signifies principally an administrative problem. We shall solve our question of language and of minorities, when we will

point, because I drew the deduction from the program of humanity that it is just the love of neighbor, love of nation and humanity which commands us to defend ourselves with all energy, to resist everything evil, everywhere, always and in all things. To defend oneself does not mean coercing others, it means using weapons to repel violence. Defense does not spring from lust of domination, quite the contrary; it is therefore natural, necessary and morally fully justified.

It is not an accident that not merely the champions of the principle of nationality, but also leaders of modern socialism appeal to humanity. Both principles strengthened each other. National oppression in the days of absolutism was due to the same aristocratic domination and avarice, as economic and social oppression. A nation that is oppressed politically is also oppressed commercially and socially. Therefore the ideal of a republic was common to the leaders of national and social movements. I myself look upon the republican form of state as a great achievement and a political ideal. It is something invaluable that we have achieved a republic. Not that I am ignorant of the faults and dangers of republic and democracy; but nevertheless I decided consciously for republic. When I left Prague in December 1914, the general sentiment under the influence of Russian successes favored the Russian dynasty. I opposed it, but abroad I honestly interpreted the feelings at home. I want to state here that I never negotiated with anyone about any dynasty and that nobody ever put any such demand to us. As the war went on and the political situation developed, I informed the Allied governments as early as the spring of 1916 that republican conviction was getting the upper hand in our nation. I believe that we are ripe for a republic. That does not mean that we need have no care for it; on the contrary we must defend it and build it up with much deliberation and care.

Not merely our national program of humanity, but the whole situation of Europe and humanity imposes upon us radical social reforms. That is the first and principal task for our internal national and state life. Here we must avoid two dangers, one from the left, one from the right. There are some who imagine that social reforms, or rather social revolution, may be carried through in a very brief time, in fact in a couple of months. That is what Lenin thought at the opening of his rule, but he found out that he was mistaken and now estimates the time necessary for the accomplishment of social revolution to be thirty years. I do not believe that. Social revolution is already here and we are in it; but it will be an evolutionary revolution, and it is a great mistake to imagine that social revolution may be effected by the subjugation of the so-called bourgeoisie. Violence here too would fail of its purpose, violence would only make slaves, and a slave never and nowhere works willingly and efficiently. Proletarians would in vain compel the bourgeois to work, if they themselves are unable to control the work. Lenin's revolution in Russia is instructive on this point. This is a very serious matter, and whoever even partially appreciates what the question at issue is must agree that what we call capitalism cannot be removed altogether or at once; surely capitalistic technique, its efficiency, its inventiveness, its enterprise cannot be spared.

Lenin now next to Marx recommends the American Taylor, and Taylor is almost the classical mouthpiece of capitalistic method.

The problem of socialism or rather socialization is complicated by this that in the present economic situation we cannot get along without wholesale production. Even if we democratize a factory, we must keep wholesale production going, and on top of that we face the necessity of producing for export, so that we cannot get along without commerce and banks. Our best socialist theoreticians and practitioners are no longer in error here. Marx says that hunger is not in the socialist program; nor is there in it that peculiar nervous dissatisfaction caused by the war. In the economic and social sphere, as in others, there cannot be at once a radical break, but as in all matters there may be gradual development. As long as the workingmen cannot control and guide all production and its organization, we must not think of radical economic changes. Besides, among us, as elsewhere, socialization is conceived too narrowly as expropriation by the state. People forget that state ownership might prove to be merely another form of capitalism—state, bureaucratic capitalism.

On the other hand it is necessary that the bourgeoisie should pay attention to problems presented by the development of socialism, not merely because it must, but because it should actively co-operate with workingmen by reason of its own social convictions.

It is natural that the problem of socialization brings us to Russia, the more so, as we have always been Russophiles. Truly we may learn much from the Russian example. But love of Russia must not blind our eyes and make us forget to criticize. If a part of our bourgeoisie is charged with looking on old Russia in a romantic manner, the same reproach may be cast at the left, namely that it accepts uncritically the Russian revolution and bolshevism.

President Tomášek referred to our future relations to Russia. Chicherin's note offers our government a basis for the solution of the difficult, but grateful political and economic problem. I am personally pleased to see that Chicherin speaks of our army and our Russian policy in a more conciliatory tone than formerly. Minister Beneš will have an occasion to prove by production of documents that we have acted toward Russia in all its phases with perfect loyalty. As to the introduction of practical economic relations the main consideration will be means of communication; that is the chief problem of Russia and its commerce, as Zinoviev recently admitted. We must indulge in no illusions in this respect.

I attribute it to war and the consequent anarchy that just as elsewhere, among us also many dream of some miraculous revolution. I also took part in a revolution, I led it, but this

revolution was prepared by generations, by long political education. Never for a moment did I forget that after the revolutionary enthusiasm men will return to the old tracks; for man is a creature of habit. I observed people during the war in all countries, under all circumstances, I observe them at home and realize, how difficult it is for men to overcome old ideas and habits, how difficult to live up to those mottoes which they accept and even preach with enthusiasm. We all cry for purification from everything Austrian, but that means more than the abolition of a rule by dynasty; it means a change of our entire moral habits.

Someone may point out in this connection that men and nations are not governed by reason, science or philosophy, but by emotions. That is true. Emotions determine our ideals, emotions give the motives of our efforts, but correct means must be determined by reason and reason alone. And therefore modern democracy always declared science and philosophy to be its foundation.

I do not forget as a democrat that people, the mass, has much to do with democracy. I appreciate what our constitution says: The people is the only source of all state authority. Yes, but no individual must hide behind the people and the masses. No significant movement in history was anonymous; always certain individuals led it by their personal authority, whether these individuals were Bismarck, Marx and Engels, or finally Lenin. Without personal courage and responsibility one cannot pursue democratic and popular politics.

I wish we had in all departments many men who can observe and think; only their co-operation will assure to us prosperous development.

The ideals of humanity and democracy I always considered *sub specie aeternitatis* — from the standpoint of eternity. War and its horrors lead to meditation on problems of religion. I find in religion the ideal of true perfection and hence an objective standard for all human actions. This ideal of perfection teaches man to avoid pettiness and meanness. I would change Hálek's well-known verse to read: "God, do not let us grow common-place." The appreciation of eternity makes us humble, strengthens the sense of moral responsibility and leads to a recognition of general harmony. Hence we also get the understanding of the development and gradual improvement of the world and society. Our faith in progress is confirmed and we understand that everything cannot be reached at once. I would say that we learn patience, but not passiveness; on the contrary, to fathom out the order and law that governs the world leads to energetic co-operation of all.

Elections are before us. I rejoice with you that we have our own constitution, one that I gladly recognize as satisfactory. Now the question is to go ahead in all departments in the

sense of this constitution. These first elections will give us an opportunity to demonstrate the degree of our political maturity. Elections are only the first step to what will come after elections. We must elect deputies who will and can carry on European and world-wide politics.

Many pleasant messages came to me today, bringing out that my life was a very fortunate one. I must confess that the word "fortunate" never carried much meaning for me. I never believed in accident, I did not believe in casualty in the life of individuals and nations. Fortunate is he who has a rich life content, fortunate is he who can, at least partly, through honest effort realize his ideals. In this sense I am fortunate, but it is not my good fortune alone, but of all who with me struggled for the liberty of the nation. I never talked much of myself, and even today it is difficult to say something of myself. I will only promise you that the tasks entrusted to me by the will of the people I shall faithfully and tirelessly carry out. I shall try, in accordance with the bequest of Havlíček, to carry on policies of reason and honesty, policies that are truly Czechoslovak.

I thank heartily all that today remembered me.

PROFESSOR ZMRHAL GOES TO PRAGUE.

Jaroslav J. Zmrhal, principal of the Herzl school in Chicago, is going this month to Czechoslovakia at the invitation of the ministry of education to look over the system of public education in the Republic and suggest improvements on the basis of methods which made good in the United States. Bohemian schools taken as a whole are fully up to the American standard, in fact are more efficient, as there are practically no illiterates in Bohemia or Moravia. But while the Bohemian public school gives the child good general education and equips it with a larger fund of knowledge than the child receives even in a good city school in America, the system over there emphasizes the three R's too much at the expense of bringing out those traits of character that make for self-reliance, practical adaptability and success in life.

Professor Zmrhal is particularly well equipped for his task. He is aware of the good points of the Bohemian school system and will not antagonize the teachers by urging any wholesale change in methods and courses. But as a practical pedagogue of long experience he will set forth the advantages of such reforms as have proved their worth in the experience of American public schools.

On the same ship with Mr. Zmrhal will go Dr. Adolph Mach, a Chicago dentist, who served with the Czechoslovak legions and after his discharge accepted appointment as professor of dentistry in the new University of Bratislava in Slovakia.

Fame

By SVATOPLUK ČECH. Translated by P. SELVER.

(Continued.)

It was a strange gathering. In this magnificent mountain region, which ten or so years previously had still swarmed with savage Circassians, on the slope of a Caucasian height, was this cheerful European party, comfortably arranged in the thick grass around a huge shining samovar, with two sturdy Cossacks and the horses grazing in the background as a picturesque setting.

The tea gave an inner warmth, the sun glowed from above, several faces were beaded with drops of sweat, — what did it matter! The Chinese nectar fulfilled its duty. Whenever I saw such a party of Russians around the samovar, and then noticed how their faces became radiant, their eyes gleamed with satisfaction, their lips became inclined for mirth and conversation, and even their gestures and movements acquired a greater vivacity, I always used to think that tea is to the Russians almost what water is to the fish, a vital element in which they must be continually splashing about, if they are not to lose their proper humor. From the samovar comes the breath of the Russian animation.

"What were you arguing about so excitedly just now?" asked Anna Kirilovna suddenly.

"About something which I expect is of little interest to you, darling," said Tabunov with a smile. "About fame."

"About fame? You are right. An argument about the preserving of fruit would certainly have interested me more."

"But, — Anna Kirilovna!" twittered Duňaška. "Do you think so little of fame then? Ah, I should like to be famous. What a pity that I can't become a General... How lovely that would be! You know, like in Lermontov's poem:

In a serried body onward
The battalion comes,
See the banners in the van-guard,
Hear the beat of drums.

And a General, white-headed,
Tried in many frays,
Leads his soldiers into battle,
Sternness in his gaze.

At this she became silent, her face bashfully reddening, and in embarrassment she lowered her little auburn head...but she immediately raised it again, looked round merrily with gleaming eyes, her white teeth flashing with suppressed laughter; she rubbed her hands hastily and wriggled like a chicken among the ashes. — a

charming combination of child-like shyness and playfulness.

"Well," Suslikov chimed in, "we have all expressed our opinions about this subject, but Pavel Semenovič has contributed only a mysterious smile to our discussion. Let us hear your ideas as well, Pavel Semenovič."

"Yes, yes, Pavel Semenovič, — you also must tell us what you think about fame," exclaimed the rest.

Tabunov smiled and reflected for a moment. Something like a shadow flitted suddenly across his face, and with his former smile he remarked: "So you are asking me what fame is in my opinion? Very well then, I will tell you. But I warn you that it will take a very long time,—it is a regular history."

"That doesn't matter. Let us hear it. We have still plenty of time," announced the voices of the inquisitive members of the party round about.

While at the touch of Anna Kirilovna's plump hand the steaming liquid from the silvery falcon's beak which formed the ornamental cap of the samovar filled his glass, Tabunov rolled a cigarette, whereupon, after taking a hearty gulp of tea and blowing a few whitish rings of fragrant smoke, he began thus: "Last year, one day in the spring, I was in the bazaar, when a Czech settler from Metodějovka came to me and asked me to ride over to see his son who was ill. I promised that I would look in there during the afternoon, and immediately after lunch I galloped on horseback to the Czech settlement near by."

"Have you paid a visit yet to your fellow countrymen there?" asked the surgeon turning to me, and when I nodded my head in reply, he continued: "Well, you saw there a group of tiny huts standing between the foot of the mountains on one side and the fringe of the impenetrable, marshy forest on the other. As a matter of fact you can catch a glimpse of the village from where we are now. Besides that one, there are a number of other Czech settlements in this district, Kyrilovka, Glebovka, Vladimirovka, Pavlovka and Varvarovka. Well, our Government wanted to form a settlement of Czechs all over the district which had been left bare after the migration of the Circassians. But somehow or other it was not successful. Why? I do not wish to express a definite opinion on the subject. What is certain is that the whole of this scheme for colonisation fell through. The emigrants cannot carry on agriculture here entire-

ly as they are accustomed. It is true that a certain amount of rye and barley, — corn to a smaller extent, — is cultivated, but the chief attention has to be paid to tobacco, vines, maize and cattle breeding. That at least is my view. There is little outlet for the produce. Our people are not used to the climate which is rather unhealthy. Besides that there is the remoteness of this region, the sparse population, the scanty connection with the rest of the world. But I think that in spite of it all the Czech settlers could have prospered here after overcoming the first difficulties and getting used to the character of the country. The soil is fertile, there is an abundance of supplies. If you go over to the Government of Tiflis, you will see there a number of pleasant German settlements; a stone church, a school, neat and inviting cottages built of bricks and beams, covered with vines, with beautiful little gardens in front, everything is orderly and clean, there are stalwart men in German attire, sturdy girls in broad straw hats, — in short, you would imagine that you had been conveyed by magic to some township right in the middle of Germany. But I must cease reflecting about colonisation, and return to my story.

“So I rode to Metodějovka, and on the way my thoughts were occupied with my new patient. From what the father had told me in the morning about his only son, he was not an uninteresting person, especially in our district. I understood that he had completed his studies at school in his native land, and had in fact even attended the University, but he had not finished his studies,—he had got hold of various queer ideas, had given up studying, and, to make matters worse, had fallen ill, — in short, he had returned as a worthless student to his father in the country and had remained there. Then his health had gradually improved. But shortly after that, his father had been induced by unfavorable circumstances to emigrate to the Caucasus. He had taken his son with him. The latter was not a suitable partner for this region, where there is a need for strong and industrious hands. The young man then began to fall ill again, and this time he had to take to his bed. As far as I could judge from his father’s brief remarks, he was suffering from a disease of the chest. This was a sad ending for a young man’s wasted life, here in this distant and lonely foreign country.

“Amid such thoughts I reached the end of my journey. The sick man’s parents, a solemn, elderly farmer, and his stately middle-aged wife with kind features now filled with sadness, led me amid the freshly whitewashed walls of a low room, the ceiling of which consisted only of logs and planks, and the floor of which was formed of earth stamped down flat. Unvarnished chairs and a table of soft wood, a small mirror decorated with a switch of catkins and

a number of tawdry pictures of Saints,—this was the whole furniture. One part of the room was divided off by a plank partition of medium height something like a screen, upon which were pasted little pictures cut out of calendars and papers. Behind it I found my patient.

He was a young man of about twenty-four, of slender build and with a longish face, the features of which were exactly regular and beautiful, but which nevertheless, and also in spite of the thinness and pallor caused by his illness, could not be called ugly. His pallor was heightened by his thick black hair which in a state of disorder enclosed his high white forehead and his sunken temples and cheeks. His eyes were dark, large and with a kind of dreamy stare. He was lying upon a straw mattress on top of a coarse sheet which covered a wretched bedstead of plain wood, with three ordinary red-striped pillows under his head, and dressed in an old, faded and tattered dressing gown. In the recess behind him, upon the chair by the bed and upon the ground, various books and papers lay scattered in disorder. Upon my arrival he raised himself laboriously from the bed, slipped a pair of worn-out slippers on his feet, and propped himself up with his delicate and almost transparently white hand against the back of the chair. But at that moment he was shaken by a violent and painful fit of coughing, and his weak body sank halfway back on to the bed.

When his coughing had become easier, I addressed him in Czech. I am something of a Panslav, as they call it in Western countries; I have become especially fond of your language, and from grammars and books as well as from frequent contact with the settlers here, I have acquired it sufficiently well to speak it with a fair amount of fluency. I asked him a number of questions directed towards the diagnosis of his illness. He replied briefly, but all at once he asked with a vivid gleam in his eye:—“Are you a Czech, sir?”

“No, but I understand Czech fairly well” I answered.

“How glad I am of that” said the sick man and added softly: “I am anxious for you, sir, to ask my parents to go out of the room. I should very much like to speak to you alone.”

After looking at him with a slight astonishment, I complied with his request.

When we were left alone in the room, the sick man stood up and throwing the books off the chair by the bed, he offered it to me with a weary movement of his hand and a beseeching glance: then he sat or rather sank down on the edge of the bed and propped himself up with his hands against the bed-post. Through the small windows, from which could be seen the rankly tangled brushwood of the forest close by, pierced a narrow strip of sunshine, which lightly sprinkling a golden tinge upon the hair by the sick man’s temples, fell like a halo upon the

small portrait of Byron pasted among the other pictures on the partition.

"I dare say" began the young man in a low voice, and from time to time his speech was interrupted by a fit of coughing, "that my father told you I deserted my studies and ruined my prospects. And yet I have conscientiously fulfilled my task in life. I know very well that I have not much longer to live. Do not shake your head, do not smile comfortingly,—I do not need any consolation. Whether my end comes within a year, or within a week,—I shall die contented. What I was able to accomplish in this short life of mine, I have accomplished. I have worked diligently,—of course, my good but simple parents could not appreciate this work, but I have concealed it from others as well. A comparison with the growth of maize forces itself upon my mind; in its green husk, concealed from human eyes, it seethes and ripens until finally the leafy covering withers and falls, and the splendid crop of golden grain emerges to view. In the same way, what I have created in secret will soon come to light. This bodily wrapping will fall and decay, but the fruit will remain and shine for evermore. You are an educated man. Moreover I have had confidence in you from the very first moment I saw you. Well then, I will entrust you with my secret,—I am a poet."

So he was a poet! So he was a victim of that youthful sickness from which happily the vast majority recover soon after their moustache begins to grow, but which nevertheless causes a few to rhyme themselves gradually to death. In my youth I myself meddled with "The golden strings of the lyre." But now it is a long time since I even read any poems. I do not care for them, especially lyrical ones. I am not fond of exciting myself over other people's fantasies, especially as they are always a little artificial. My poem is the starry night, when I am returning on horseback from a patient through the slumbering forest, in whose black chaos glimmers the flowery cynosure of the wild elder-tree which dazes me with the strength of its fragrance, when the thicket in front of me is set asparkle by a swarm of glow-worms, so that it looks like Moses' burning bush . . . My poem is the hurricane when it sweeps down with its mighty blast upon our gulf, so that masts are shattered, waves beat howling and hissing upon the shore, and the forest shrieks and groans dreadfully. It might be supposed that, holding such opinions as these, I coldly drew the young poet's attention to the fact that I was not an editor but a doctor, and that I had no time for literary discussions. But actually I felt deep compassion for this young man.

"Yes, I am a poet," continued the sick man after a while. "Not one of those vain young men who rack their brains with the counting of syllables merely so that they can plume themselves with the name of poets. I am a true poet, one

of the elect. Yes, I am,—I am! It is only ecstasy which summons me to song, now, even now it approaches afresh, — it roars like an ocean. — I feel it here in my throbbing temples,—here upon my trembling lips,—here within my quivering breast,—my whole body from head to foot is set astir by this blissful tempest."

At that moment he was like a different man. He stood up with lifted hand; it seemed as if his limbs had suddenly gained strength and suppleness, movements of fire. His eyes glittered rapturously beneath the arched curve of their delicate brows, his cheeks reddened slightly, his gentle beardless face was at that moment almost beautiful. And his cough had left him for the time being.

It was like the outburst of some mental malady. I pointed out to him that excitement of that sort would do him harm. He sat down again silently and lifting up the pillow, reached deep down beneath the straw mattress. With a trembling hand he drew forth a voluminous pile of paper which was covered with verses. He laid it down upon his lap and slowly turning over the leaves, he continued: "Here you see my life's work which is now all but completed. I composed the greater part of it here in the Caucasus, but secretly, because my good father would not allow this "everlasting useless writing." Nobody has yet had a glimpse of these papers, and except you, nobody will see them before my death. I am not concerned about fame during my lifetime, about appearing in the literary arena, where the feverish bustle of the ambitious, the petty intrigues of rivals, the verdicts of unqualified judges, the applause or abuse of the common rabble tarnish the pure radiance of poetry and poison the soul,—what I am striving after is fame beyond the grave, the wafting of my spirit, as I have embodied it in this poem, above the stream of future ages. But sir, I have an urgent favor to ask of you. I regard you as the one whom fate has sent me as the executor of my will. Are you willing to undertake this task?"

"Oh, you have plenty of time to make your will," I remarked with a forced smile, "however, if you have a wish and if it is in my power to fulfill it, I shall be glad to be of service to you."

"Well sir, I want you to take charge of the publication of this work of mine after I am dead. I will give you the names of persons in my country to whom you could apply in this matter. I am certain that you will soon find someone there who would undertake to publish my literary remains. You need only send a copy for their inspection. Perhaps I shall still have time myself—"

"No, you must not write now," I interrupted him. "I will see to the copy myself. You can rely upon me entirely."

"Thanks, my warmest thanks", whispered the sick man, at the same time handing me the manuscript of his work. "But for the present please take these poetical remains of mine, and read something of them when you get home, even if it is only a few pages. Perhaps you will find some spare time for it. And then tell me candidly, what impression it has made on you. You will be the only man whose opinion I shall hear."

"But I must confess to you," I objected, "that I do not know very much about poetry."

"Oh, every educated man can understand a real poem. Anyhow, your opinion will not change my own opinion in any way. Well, will you grant my second request as well?"

"If it means a lot to you, — with pleasure."

Embarrassed by the strange task which I had undertaken, I turned the leaves over. The first one was blank. "You have not found a title yet?" I could not help asking.

"I have not even thought about it yet. What does a title matter?"

"And here is a dedication: To the Unknown. Of course you have left this Unknown with your heart on the shores of Vltava?"

"Oh, not at all. She really is unknown to me, — and yet known. I cannot tell, how I am to explain this properly to you. While I was still a child, a bewitching form, a beautiful face, hovered before my imagination, — but I never saw it as a real thing. I might call it my ideal of maidenly beauty. And yet I always felt convinced that it is not a mere ideal, that this lovely form does actually live, and that one day I shall certainly meet with it. Now of course I have already abandoned this foolish hope. But in dreams and meditations this vision has accompanied me through my whole life. Nay, more than that. I have seen it not only in dreams and in meditations when my eyes were closed, but at times it hovered in the air before me, as if it were woven from sunbeams, mistily fragile and yet visible. I could almost draw her charming features for you, — only those eyes, — no, not the brush of the greatest master could catch the beauty of those eyes, the radiant blue, like the peaceful surface of the sea, when the gleaming sky is reflected in it. Whether I gazed into the shifting clouds, into the dusk of tangled forest branches, into the drab corner of this room, — her beautiful countenance always emerged from there at the last. My spirit had no place for any other besides her. She was the invisible queen of my heart. How often in imagination have I walked with her through the alluring solitude of old parks, amid the festive stir of splendid halls, in enchanted palaces and gardens of a fairy world. I hope that when my last moment comes, her face will emerge from his ceiling above me, that she will tremblingly descend towards me with open embrace, and

that I shall die with her kiss upon my brow as it grows numb."

This is very much like a fixed idea, I thought to myself. In order to end the conversation, which was causing the sick man more and more excitement, I said as I stood up: "Well then, I will read it through, and I will visit you again the day after tomorrow."

"I shall be very grateful to you," declared the young man. "But please bring back the manuscript with you. I will let you have it again later, — if it comes to the worst, you will find it here in the bed, in the hiding-place under my pillow. I only want to finish writing the epilogue now."

"You must write nothing now," I urged him insistently; "it would do you a great deal of harm. You must keep your mind completely at rest."

He said nothing.

I made the necessary medical arrangements with regard to his illness, and having comforted his distressed parents, I galloped back to Novorossijsk, with the voluminous manuscript clutched to my chest. As I passed the last cottage of Metodějovka, I caught sight of a girl running amongst the trees of the dense wood which skirts the roadway. Where the thicket hid the village from me at the bend in the road, the girl suddenly stepped out from behind a tree-trunk. Clearly she had run across the wood so as to intercept me and speak to me without being observed from the village. She called out to me in Czech, and jumped nimbly up to my horse. I stopped.

"What do you want?" I asked.

"I wanted, — to ask you, Doctor, —" stammered the girl in embarrassment.

"Well?"

"— How Jan is."

"Jan? Ah, the sick student? Why do you want to know? Are you a relative of his?"

I looked at her more closely. She was a sturdy village girl of about eighteen. Good-looking and well-made. She had a pleated kerchief, displaying the fiery color of wild poppy, twisted at the back around her fair hair, which was almost of a whitish color, and her clear brown eyes were full of radiance and life. Her full fresh lips resembled the most beautiful cherries. Her body, dressed in the simple garb of Czech village girls, revealed an abounding vitality, but at the same time a symmetry and beauty of figure. In short, she was a guilelessly alluring village girl in the full fresh bloom of youth and beauty. As I looked at her lowered eyes and the glowing blush with which her face was suffused, I easily guessed all.

"Confess," I said, pointing my finger in playful threat.

She blushed still more vividly and bent her head. She raised the tip of her flower-pattern apron to her eyes, and when she turned them

towards me again, tears were glistening beneath them.

"Ah no," she said. "He doesn't like me. He despises me. And I am so sorry for him, — I would give my life to make him well again. But don't tell him that I said so. He would be angry with me. I think that he has hated me for a long time. He never had a kind look for me, although we were neighbors at home in Bohemia. He never had a friendly word for any of the girls from the village, — he is in love with some lady of high rank."

He is in love with the empty air, with a phantom, with a creation of his morbid fancy, — and here is this beautiful and wholesome reality, I thought to myself.

"He does nothing but write," continued the girl; "writing isn't good for him, is it?"

"No, not at all."

"He writes in the night time as well, — only yesterday there was a light in his window until after midnight, — he was writing, — he was seen by, — by, — one of his neighbors."

"Indeed? Well, at my next visit I must see that it does not occur again. Otherwise he will certainly bring an early death upon himself. Goodbye."

I spurred my horse on, and heard the girl's thanks behind me as I cantered towards Novorossijsk.

Tabunov stood up.

"Well, go on, go on," said various members of the party.

But the surgeon declared with determination: "We must strike our tents and move forwards, if we are to reach our destination before the swelter of noon. Then in the pleasant shadow I will finish my story about fame."

(To be continued.)

Current Topics

THE FOUNDER OF A REPUBLIC.

Under this title the Washington Post, one of the most influential dailies of the United States, published the following leading article on March 7, 1920, on the occasion of President Masaryk's seventieth birthday:

This day has been made a holiday by the Czecho-Slovak republic, and there is reason to believe that it will be celebrated hereafter in perpetuity. It is the anniversary of the birth of Thomas G. Masaryk, first president of the republic, who has reached the age of 70 years, and who, blessed with health and strength, is completing the structure of the free government he has done so much to establish. The singularity of his standing among modern state-builders, and the resemblance of his career to that of George Washington, make him a peculiarly interesting figure to Americans.

The Bohemian people are not postponing until Masaryk's death the homage that is due him. In this respect they imitate the Americans, who recognized in their first President a man so fixed in purity of character that it was not necessary to observe precaution in doing him honor. Washington was acclaimed President by all parties, and so was Masaryk. Each was first in war, first in peace and first in the hearts of his countrymen.

Washington faced no greater or more disheartening tasks than those which confronted Masaryk.

In the complexity of political problems the creation of the free nation of Czechs and Slovaks was a harder task than the creation of the United States. But for the burning patriotism and clear vision of a man peculiarly equipped for his work, there would have been no United

States and no Czecho-Slovakia. Each of these men labored for the establishment of a "nation of laws and not of men," and each succeeded; but before the nation of laws could come into existence it was necessary that nations of men should be wrestled with, and that unstinted outpourings of the energy of the human heart should be offered, in meekness and with a "sad sincerity," as libations to the goddess of liberty. Each of the nation-builders "built wiser than he knew." Washington, with all his marvelous foresight, did not fully comprehend a century's development, and doubtless Masaryk only dimly imagines the place which he and his country will occupy a century hence. His nation is stronger and more populous than was the nation that hailed Washington as its first President. His country's history goes further back, and in its pages are many glowing records of heroism and genius. The growth of the United States under a form of free government such as that which Masaryk has established in Bohemia ought to inspire the most optimistic sentiments throughout the new republic.

One of the facts common to the establishment of both the United States and Czecho-Slovakia, which never should be forgotten, is this: France was the faithful ally and friend of both. Without France Washington's efforts would have been in vain. Without France Masaryk could not have achieved the independence of Bohemia. In the ever-enduring cement which binds the foundation stones of these republics is mixed the blood of Frenchmen shed for others in the cause of liberty.

Another fact that should not be forgotten is this: It was in this Capital, under the folds of the

American flag, that Masaryk wrote the Bohemian declaration of independence. At that time his people were under the Hapsburg heel, and there was talk of giving the Bohemians "autonomy" in exchange for their surrender of liberty. The Hapsburg dynasty had endured for ages. There was no indication of the magnificent onslaught that Italy was preparing, much less any assurance of its triumph. Yet Masaryk felt and declared that Bohemia was and of right ought to be free and independent. His declaration has taken its place with the immortal expressions of man's determination to be free.

Neither Washington nor Masaryk could have made a nation if its men had not been worthy of liberty. There is considerable resemblance between the Czecho-Slovak army and the Americans who fought under Washington. Both forces were distinguished by simplicity, strong self-reliance, ingenuity in emergencies, good humor and dauntless courage. They were men of medium height, rather slight than stocky, quick in speech and perception, instinctive in their teamwork, inured to hardship and intensely patriotic. Yet there was strong idealism in their souls and a pathetic tenderness in their personal and family ties.

The anabasis of the Czecho-Slovak forces in Russia is an illustration of the happy ingenuity and resourcefulness of that nation. The exploits of the army that went around the world will be recounted whenever classic examples of endurance and audacity are cited. The best that an American can say of that campaign is that it was conducted as Americans would have conducted it. Many of the lads who became veterans in those adventures were, indeed, former immigrants to America, who had felt the vigor of the American spirit. They were directed by Masaryk from Washington, and he drew confidence and audacity direct from the American fountain.

The free republic of Bohemia goes into the twentieth century with exultant heart. It has hard problems, but it is free to solve them by itself, in behalf of its own people, without the interference of the accursed race that so long blighted Europe. Every American rejoices in the freedom of the Czechs and Slovaks, and wishes them happiness and prosperity. May the founder of their republic be spared to complete his wonderful work.

MASARYK'S BIRTHDAY CELEBRATED IN WASHINGTON.

The capital of the United States in which Masaryk received notification of his election to the presidency of the Czechoslovak Republic sixteen months ago was the scene of an elaborate celebration of his seventieth birthday on March 7. The Czechoslovak legation of which the president's son, John G. Masaryk, is at present in charge, gave a reception in the ballroom of the

New Willard Hotel in which several hundred guests participated. Mr. Masaryk was assisted by Col. V. S. Hurban, military attaché of the legation, and Mrs. Olga Hurban, by Mrs. Henry M. Ferguson, sister of President Masaryk's wife, and by Mrs. Michael Gallagher and Miss Ferguson, also related to the family. The special feature of the reception was the appearance of Emma Destinnova who sang Czech and Slovak folk songs, accompanied at piano by Mr. Masaryk.

Among the distinguished guests were Miss Margaret Wilson, daughter of President Wilson, French ambassador J. J. Jusserand, dean of the Washington diplomatic corps, Spanish ambassador Riano, Italian ambassador Baron Avezzano, Belgian and Argentine ambassadors, Yugoslav and Swiss ministers, secretary of the British embassy, the papal delegate Archbishop Bonzano, Admiral Rousseau, Czechoslovak Consul General Kopecký and many other diplomats and official personages. According to Washington papers the reception was one of the most brilliant affairs of a brilliant season.

LOS ANGELES TAKES NOTICE OF CZECHOSLOVAKS.

Mrs. Clara V. Winlow, author of several books dealing with the Czechoslovaks, has been placed in charge of Foreign Extension Work of the Public Library of Los Angeles. The object of her work is to bring about a broad and friendly understanding and sympathy between the American and foreign groups in the city. Her program includes talks at foreign societies in foreign languages, and addresses in English on the art, literature and music of foreign countries; exhibits showing something of the wonderful folk art inheritance that foreigners bring to this country will be a feature of her work.

Her first accomplishment in this line is the exhibit of sixty etchings of a Czech artist of New York, J. C. Vondrouš, loaned by Dr. Henry J. John who is temporarily in California. While these etchings were on exhibit, Dr. John gave a talk to a large audience in the library auditorium on the problems confronting the foreign born on coming to this country. A collection of Czech and Slovak books will be added to the Los Angeles library's collections of foreign literature.

FOUR CZECH DOCTORS STUDYING IN AMERICA.

The Rockefeller Foundation for Medical Research has granted fellowships to four Czechoslovak physicians to enable them to study American methods of public health administration. All of them had medical experience during the war and one of them was wounded in the discharge of his duties.

Dr. Zdeněk Bernard, 29 years old, received his doctor's degree at the University of Prague in

1914; during the war he served as physician in cholera and epidemic cases; after 1917 he became assistant in the hospital for invalids in Prague. He intends to make a special study of the organization of hygienic work in factories. Dr. Karel Dřimal was also graduated from the medical faculty of the University of Prague in 1914, passed an examination in ship hygiene and tropical diseases and qualified as an officer of the state board of health. Dr. Hynek Pelc received his degree in 1918 and saw service with the Czechoslovak invalids in Cognac, France. Dr. Jaroslav Hulka, the last member of the party, is a recent graduate who will specialize in tuberculosis problems.

After completing their studies in the United States these men will return to Czechoslovakia to aid in the program of public health and medical education.

SLOVAKS AND CZECHS IN CLEVELAND.

That the foreign born look upon the Americanization movement with suspicion cannot be denied. Nor can one wonder at it, when Americanization is interpreted by legislators as the imposing of restrictions upon the immigrant--suppressing his newspapers, forbidding him to use in public meetings the only language he knows, compelling him to become naturalized on pain of losing his job, in short making him a patriotic American by brute force. To be sure, most of these Americanizing proposals are pigeonholed in committees of congress and state legislatures, but the foreign born read of them and become mistrustful of the very word of Americanization.

And that is unfortunate, for Americanization in harmony with the old liberal ideals of the United States is needed by the foreign born. The Cleveland Americanization Committee, for instance, goes about its task in a different spirit than some of the legislators. They realize that the problem is not merely to bring to the immigrant the knowledge of America, its language, customs and ideals, but also to interpret the foreigner to the native American. As they express it, "without a common understanding of the best each has to offer no real fusion of new and older Americans will ever take place."

Moved by this ideal the committee published pamphlets on the foreign born citizens of Cleveland. Our readers will be interested in two of them, "The Slovaks of Cleveland" and "The Czechs of Cleveland", both written by Mrs. Eleanor E. Ledbetter.

The author is librarian of the Broadway Branch of the Cleveland Public Library. She knows the people about whom she writes; she is acquainted personally with their leading men, and she has taken the time and trouble to get her facts and get them right. An American who writes about the immigrant is likely to gather a

few facts and base wide generalizations upon them. Mrs. Ledbetter's method is different; she gathers a great many facts and makes sure that they are facts, and then lets the facts speak for themselves.

The article on Slovaks of Cleveland gives also, as the title states, some general information on the race. It was written in summer of 1918, when Slovakia was still subject to Magyar tyranny, although the day of liberation was already seen at hand. Physical, economic and political conditions of Slovakia are described with some detail, and then the author tells of Slovak settlement in the United States and the beginnings of their settlement in Cleveland. She describes their churches, fraternal societies, newspapers, loan associations, their qualities as desirable addition to America. The account is sympathetic, sober and true.

In dealing with the Czechs, the author planned her story on slightly different lines. She wrote when the Czechoslovak Republic was already in existence, and she assumed that the Czechs (Bohemians) are better known than the Slovaks. So after a brief introduction she plunges into a history of the Czechs in Cleveland. The first Bohemians in Cleveland came in 1850, thirty years ahead of the Slovaks. They were great home builders which leads the author to speak of their savings and loan associations. She goes on to describe their musical and dramatic organizations, the peculiar religious situation prevailing among the Bohemians in America, their churches, national organizations, the share they take in Cleveland's industrial and civic life, and their share in the great war. The pamphlet presents a very full and fair account of the life of Czechs in Cleveland.

Both pamphlets are well got-up, and their interest is increased by numerous good illustrations.

Albert Mamatey, president of the Slovak League of America, has returned from a trip to the Czechoslovak Republic, where he was instrumental in settling the question of Slovak autonomy on a basis which both Czech and Slovak deputies found

ANNOUNCEMENT.

Fifty complete sets of the 1919 issues of the Czechoslovak Review have been neatly bound and will be sent postpaid for \$2.25 per volume. The volume is a book of 400 pages. It is a chronicle of events of the first year of Czechoslovak independence, and it contains besides a mass of other information as to the Czechoslovak nation, not available elsewhere in English. As there are only fifty copies of this bound volume, send in your order at once.

Look for the Prime Cause



SCIENTISTS tell us that ninety per cen of all sickness may be traced to the stomach. If you have fits of great mental depression, if your efficiency is broken down, if you suffer from dizziness and megrim,—stomach disorders are at the bottom of your sufferings just as well as if you suffer from poor appetite, indigestion, constipation, flatulence, etc. And remember, too, that the diseases find their easiest victims among persons whose stomach is not in good condition. The heart is weakened, the blood is poisoned from excess of waste matter, and the patient must fight against heavy odds when stricken with the disease.

Therefore it's always essential to keep the bowels open, and the best remedy for this purpose, both highly efficient and very palatable, is

Triner's American Elixir of Bitter Wine



Its ingredients, bitter herbs of eminent medicinal value and pure red wine, belong to the most dependable known to medical science. The formula has been revised and approved as conforming in all respects to prohibition laws by the U. S. Internal Revenue Department in Washington on May 2, 1919.

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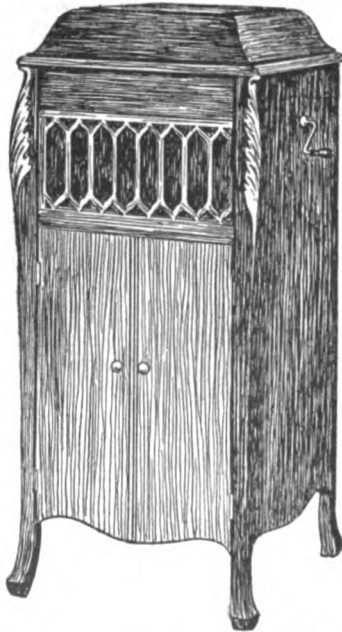
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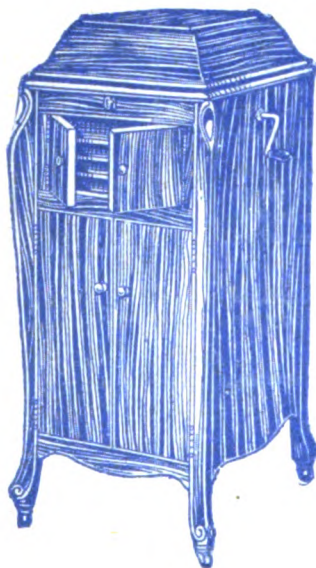
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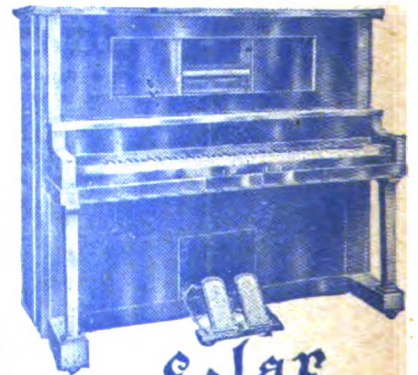
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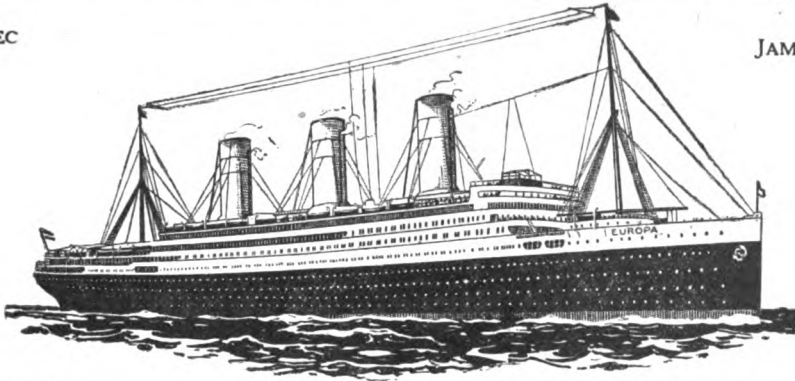
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OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE CZECHOSLOVAK NATIONAL COUNCIL OF AMERICA.

Jaroslav F. Smetanka, Editor.
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Vol. IV.,

MAY, 1920.

No. 5

The Month in Czechoslovakia

Elections for the National Assembly of the Czechoslovak Republic were the big event of last month. On April 18 nearly eight million voters cast their ballots for members of the chamber of deputies, and one week later elections were held for the senate. The number of voters was surprisingly large, because franchise was given to all men and women 21 years of age, and because the law requires every qualified voter to go to the polls. In the senate elections the number of votes was about 12% less, as the electors have to be 26 years old. The great day of April 18, the first general election since the establishment of the Republic, passed without any disorders or disturbing incidents. At the time of writing press reports of Prague newspapers are not yet available, but cable reports are at hand presenting a good picture of the result. A total of 281 seats out of 300 is decided; there are four seats reserved for the soldiers from Siberia, and the seats for Rusinia have not yet been filled by elections.

Of the 281 elected deputies 199 are Czechoslovaks, 72 are Germans and 10 are Magyars. Among the Czechoslovaks the social democrats made considerable gains and so did the Catholics, while the national socialists, farmers and national democrats have sustained losses. The social democrats have a total of 74 seats, Catholics of people's party 33, republican or farmers' party 28, national socialists 24, national democrats 19, Slovak national farmers' party 12, tradesmen's party 6, progressive socialists 3. On the German side there are 31 social democrats, 15 united bourgeois parties, farmers 11, Catholics 10, democrats 5. Among the Magyars are 5 Catholics, 4

social democrats and 1 farmer. At the elections for the senate a week later no change was apparent in the sentiment of the people, and the slightly higher age of the voters had no appreciable effect on the result.

It is too early to speculate on the composition of the future government. After the dissolution of the first National Assembly the government of Vlastimil Tusar handed in its resignation to President Masaryk who asked the ministers to continue in their offices until someone should be entrusted with the formation of a new ministry after the elections. In the cable reports the name of Dr. Alfred Meissner appeared as a strong candidate for premiership, but later it was definitely announced that Mr. Tusar was once more charged with the construction of a government which would have the support of a majority in the new parliament. Whether Tusar was successful in this task is not yet known. Neither is it known, whether he will make the same combination as hitherto, of social democrats, national socialists, farmers and Slovaks, or whether he will offer one or more seats in the cabinet to German socialists. The National Assembly will meet on May 18, and the new government will make its bow to the representatives of the people on that day. In any case the government will be a coalition government, because no one party will be in the majority, even though the various socialist fractions will have together almost a half of the deputies.

The first National Assembly of the Czechoslovak Republic, a revolutionary body, closed its work on April 15, after seventeen

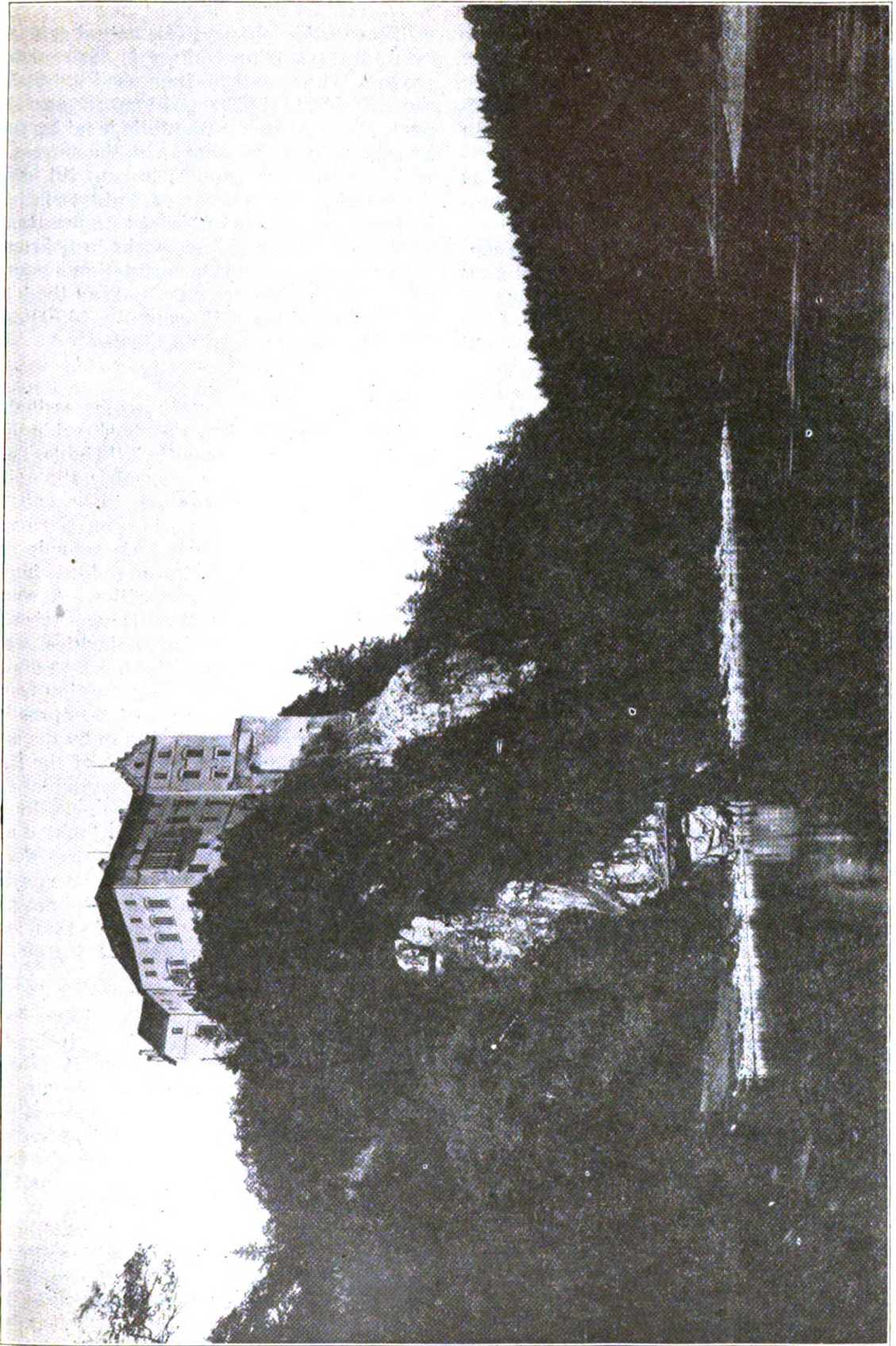
months of intensive and fruitful labor. It laid the foundations of the new republic, foundations that are democratic, as democracy is understood in this country. Among its notable achievements is the election of Masaryk for president, abolition of titles of nobility, expropriation of large landed estates, separation of Czechoslovak money from Austrian money, creation of an efficient Czechoslovak army and the adoption of a constitution. The amount of work performed by it is enormous; this was made possible by the fact that on most matters all parties were in agreement and even on controversial matters the real fight took place in committees, without lengthy debates in the house itself. Among the last laws passed by the National Assembly was one definitely establishing a national flag. Its foundation is the ancient Bohemian flag, white and red, to which the blue of Slovakia is added in the form of a wedge running the full depth of the flag at the side attached to the pole with the point of the triangle extending half of the width of the flag to the point, where the white and red stripes meet. The original proposition of the government provided for a blue wedge extending only one third across. Another law adopted in the last days of the Assembly acknowledges the liability of the state for damages caused by riots, but only where the loss affected one's ability to earn a living. Severe punishment by long imprisonment and fine was provided for the crime of smuggling the necessities of life out of the country — a sad commentary on the abnormal conditions under which the states of Central Europe live today.

Of more general interest is the action taken by the National Assembly on the difficult question of compensation for large landed estates taken over by the state for distribution to small cultivators. The principle of compensation was generally admitted by all, but various motives came into play in opposition to a generous compensation. It was to be expected that the socialists would want to cut down the amount as much as possible; however, all classes of the nation had always looked upon the German noblemen who owned most of the large estates as wrongfully in possession, since their ancestors received them after the battle of White Mountain from Emperor Ferdinand who took them from the exe-

cuted or exiled Czech owners. In popular opinion even three hundred years was not enough to confirm possession of the estates in the wrongful owners. In addition the fact was that most of the former noblemen were Germans, or in Slovakia Magyars, enemies of the Czechoslovaks and now disaffected citizens of the Republic. Taking this sentiment into consideration, it is rather remarkable that the ex-nobles received as considerate treatment as the National Assembly extended to them. The state will pay for the expropriated land on the basis of prices for the years 1913 to 1915, deducting from the valuation five percent for smaller estates with a progressive increase to 40% deduction in case of the largest tracts. The compensation cannot, of course, be paid in cash; it is payable in a state rent bearing interest at 3% with an additional half a percent yearly for amortization.

Transportation is not as serious a problem in Czechoslovakia, as it is in Eastern Europe, but nevertheless the railroad system has greatly decreased in efficiency. For one thing railroads in Bohemia had been built so as to converge on Vienna, in Slovakia on Budapest, and now the net of iron pathways has to be reconstructed; in particular Slovakia and Rusinia must be brought into closer touch with the western, more populous half of the Republic. In addition the rolling stock is insufficient. The state railways of Czechoslovakia have 3500 locomotives, 8500 passenger coaches and 65,000 freight cars; to function properly they need 4500 locomotives and 140,000 cars. The National Assembly has just approved the government's plan to spend 6500 million crowns on the railroads within the next five years. New carshops and roundhouses will be erected so that the deficiency of equipment may be repaired faster; new track will be laid in Slovakia and some of the old lines will be doubletracked. Prague yards will be enlarged and systematized, and electric motive power will be used in the neighborhood of large cities.

Chicherin's offer of peace was replied to by minister Beneš on April 15. Dr. Beneš pointed out to the soviet representative that the Czechoslovak Republic was not at war with Russia and had no occasion to make peace. The two countries have no common



Castle Orlik on the Vltava.

frontier and no territorial dispute. The Czechoslovak government does not reject Russia's hand, but in its attitude must be governed by the general European situation and the attitude of its western Allies. It can promise Chicherin non-interference in Russian internal affairs. The Czechoslovaks as Slavs desire to see Russia strong, democratic and Slav; but if Russia will not consolidate itself internally and will not accept the fundamental principles of international relations, it will remain long in a state of anarchy and in the end lose the fruits of the revolution. The note of Dr. Beneš was well received by all shades of opinion among his countrymen, and Chicherin considered its tenor sufficiently friendly to renew his offer of concluding a treaty of friendship and trade between the two Slav countries.

The revolt of Kapp and subsequent disorders in Germany have caused, among other things, a revival of the talk about secession of Southern Germany from the *Reich*. It is taken for granted that should such an event come to pass, Austria would join Southern Germany, provided the Entente did not interpose its veto. In Austria the sentiment is on the whole favorable; Tyrol has been trying for some time to get the consent of the Austrian authorities and of the Entente to join Germany in at least an economic union, and the other provinces have by no means the same objection to merging with the Catholic, conservative South as with the Prussian North. But in the opinion of Czechoslovak statesmen all talk of splitting Germany in two and attaching Austria to the South is vain; Germany will not remain divided, and to support Bavarian separatism would merely end in the annexation of Austria to Germany. At present, at any rate, Austria is hardly desirable even as a gift. On top of its inherent economic and financial difficulties comes the incapacity and weakness of the men in charge at Vienna. A country with six and a half million people has half a million state employees, if we include the railroads and post office; that would be analogous to eighteen million employes in the service of the United States. And in spite of this abundance of public servants the streets of Vienna were never as dirty as now. Now the state employees demand a minimum wage of 24,000 crowns a year, nearly 5,000 dollars normally, but only about \$120 on the pre-

sent basis of exchange. The actual deficiency in the Austrian budget is 8800 million crowns, which will be increased by raising the salaries to 14,300 millions crowns. At present the Austrian Republic is taking subscriptions to an internal loan, the success of which is not yet known; but up till lately the deficiency was taken care of by constant issues of banknotes of the old Austro-Hungarian Bank. Thus in two weeks in February the new money put into circulation amounted to 685 million crowns, making the total circulation of the little republic 13,703 million. It can only end in a crash.

While Jews in Hungary are assassinated or forcibly baptized, in Czechoslovakia they are treated as citizens with full rights. They are recognized to be a separate nationality, in the census they may ask to be entered as Jews and not as Czechs or Germans, they may establish their own schools and have them supported from public funds, just like other racial minorities. A world conference of Young Zionists was recently held in Prague at which delegates were present from Palestine, England, Poland, Germany, Austria and other foreign countries. A resolution was adopted expressing in strong terms the appreciation by the conference of the tolerant attitude of the Czechoslovak people and government. The Jewish National Council on the occasion of Masaryk's seventieth birthday donated one million crowns for the establishment of student home in Prague. The relations between the Jewish minority and the mass of the citizens are better in Bohemia than anywhere else in eastern or central Europe.

Transports of Czechoslovak soldiers from Siberia continue to arrive in Trieste; the third regiment, that of George Poděbrad, reached home at the end of March. In April the big American transports, Mount Vernon, President Grant and America will take more than 20,000 Czechoslovaks from Vladivostok to Trieste via Panama, and the British will transport their share of the army across Canada this month. Many of these men will see their families for the first time in six years, since the mobilization of July 1914. It is no wonder that they are impatient to get home, and it is this impatience chiefly which is responsible for their conflicts with the Japanese in Eastern

Siberia. Undoubtedly the Czechoslovak soldiers sympathize with the Russians, rather than with the Japanese, in the quarrel which arose after the withdrawal of the other allied contingents from Vladivostok. But that alone would not affect correct relations between Japanese and Czechoslovak soldiers and officers. The trouble was caused by Japanese attempts to control the railroad by which the Czechoslovaks were concentrating from the interior on Vladivostok and by the rough treatment of the Russian railroad employees who went on strike as a protest and tied up the railroad. But although there were a number of casualties on each side, there is no danger of serious conflict in the Maritime Province. Dr. Girsá, the Czechoslovak representative in Vladivostok, and Gen. Syrový, the commander, will in cooperation with Minister Pergler in Tokio reach an understanding with the Japanese authorities; this ought to be easy, as the Czechoslovaks desire nothing more than to get out of Russian territory and go home.

As spring comes, the food situation becomes the subject of anxious discussion in Prague newspapers, and to some extent even the football of politics. Everybody agrees that things are far better than a year ago; the ration is larger and costs less. There are no famine conditions anywhere in Czechoslovakia than can be compared to the famine in Austria and Poland. But the requisitions did not bring in as much grain and meat as the authorities figured on and expensive purchases must be made abroad. A lot of American flour was bought and hurriedly unloaded in Děčín in March. The government coalition blames the national democrats or rather their leader Dr. Rašín, the former finance minister, for failure to buy flour last June, when the purchasing power of the crown was several times higher than now. Even in the coalition itself the socialists and the agrarians got into strenuous arguments about this matter. The agrarians demand that the coming harvest should be released from state control and that farm products should be traded in freely; otherwise the farmer will greatly restrict his operations, because they would be unprofitable, and the harvest will be smaller than ever before. Against that the socialists point out that abolishing maximum prices and allowing the farmers to sell

their products at the price fixed by demand and supply would inevitably mean a serious increase of the existing inordinately high prices. It seems that for the present the city will have its way as against the country. An American financial commission has examined in April the industrial and economic conditions of the Republic and was very favorably impressed with the advanced state of the country.

A statistical report has been published on the import of food from January 1, 1919, to January 31, 1920. The bulk was brought from the United States, the total value being 54 million dollars loaned by the American government; from Great Britain only 300,000 pounds sterling was imported, also on credit; importations from France, Italy, Jugoslavia, Argentina and Belgium were paid for in cash or by export of commodities. From America was brought in principally wheat flour (95,800 metric tons), rye flour (22,200 tons), wheat (15,000 tons), rye (16,000 tons), bacon (18,000 tons), lard (3000 tons), condensed milk and other supplies. From the army stores in France the Czechoslovak Republic bought on credit 5000 tons of corned beef, 3500 tons of bacon, canned goods, biscuits etc. Rice was secured from France (6250 tons) and to a smaller extent from Italy. From Jugoslavia the Republic imported 1011 steers and 5374 pigs, from Argentina 30,000 tons of wheat and from Belgium 36,000 tons of American white flour. All these food supplies were distributed to the population by governmental agencies on cards at maximum prices.

They do not believe in prohibition in Bohemia, but nevertheless they get little beer and practically no spirits. In the year before the war the production of beer was 10.5 million hectoliters (a hectoliter is 26.4 gallons), in the year 1914-15 only 9.68 million hl, the following year 6.32, then in 1916-17 the production went down to 1.36, in 1917-18 to 1.6, and last year it rose again to 3.87. But this year the brewers are complaining that the government has failed to let them have even the promised one fifth of the pre-war amount of barley. In spite of this situation and in spite of prohibition in America the price of hops was never so high. A 50 kg bale of hops of Zatec (Saatz) was worth in September 1919 3000 crowns, and in March 6800 crowns.

Situation in Teschen

The news of the recent arrival of the first squadron of the 12th French Dragoons to reinforce the Allied army of occupation at Teschen, has aroused fresh interest in the development of events in that region. The point at issue in connection with the Teschen district is fairly well known. At the Peace Conference the representatives of the Czechoslovak Republic demanded that the Teschen district, as forming a part of the Czechoslovak regions in their historical entirety, should be unconditionally ceded to them on historical, economic and racial grounds. The Poles on the other hand, brought forward and laid a special emphasis upon the factors of nationality and self-determination, since they held the view that they were in majority. This was in spite of the fact that the delegates of the Czechoslovak Republic asserted a plebiscite to be unnecessary, adding however, that if it were carried out, the result would be in favour of Czechoslovakia. For this reason they advocated a judicious compromise by which both nations would benefit, as they foresaw that a plebiscite would probably result in fresh disputes and misunderstandings.

Unfortunately, these fears have been entirely justified. From the attitude of the preponderant majority of the population of the Teschen district, chiefly Silesians (Slonzaks), whose dialect forms a kind of a transition between the Czechs and the Poles, the latter discovered that the result of the plebiscite would be unfavourable to them, and they therefore have endeavored by all possible means, — intimidation, violence and calumny not excepted, — to force the population to vote in favor of Poland.

The Czechs for their part demand nothing but a satisfactory agreement with Poland, and they would be only too glad to live at peace with the Poles. The Polish point of view is best illustrated by the declaration of the Polish Deputy Zamorski, who immediately upon his arrival at Teschen said (according to the Polish paper "Dzienik Cieszynski") that if it came to war with the Czechs, such a war would be extremely popular in Poland. This statement acted as a signal to intensify the terrorism practised by the Poles.

There were numerous cases in which subjects of the Czechoslovak Republic or persons whose sympathies were with them, became the victims of armed attacks, robberies and imprisonment. The Allied Commission was informed of all such occurrences and supplied with the exact details relating to them. The whole of this terrorism was organised by Polish agitators mainly from Galicia. Things finally reached such a pitch that the inhabitants themselves together with the Allied troops set up a means of defence against the organised bands of ruffians, among whom were many soldiers in civilian dress from Haller's army. Owing, however, to the fact that the Allied garrison was not numerically very strong, its troops were scarcely able to intervene effectively, and this only increased the audacity of the Polish bands with the result that the authority of the plebiscite commission decreased day by day.

Under these conditions it was inevitable that there should be serious disturbances. On one of these occasions a French soldier, Octave Delille, was shot by the Poles, and the Polish organiser of this attack was arrested. On several occasions rifles of the Prussian pattern were taken away from the armed Poles who were taken into custody. The Italian detachments also frequently had to use their arms in self-defence, and during these proceedings numbers of Poles were killed and wounded. Much indignation was also aroused by the case of Dr. Radimsky, the brother of the Czechoslovak representative at Warsaw, who was attacked at Teschen and so ill-treated that he had to be removed to hospital. The greatest trouble is undoubtedly due to the lack of authority on the part of the Allied Commission which has not sufficient troops at its disposal to cope with the terrorism and intrigues of the Polish "National Council". Matters grew so bad that a regular outbreak of civil war was threatened.

The military situation was far more favorable to the Poles who were prepared for an armed conflict. But on the other hand the feeling among the greater part of the population is obviously against them. In this respect, owing also to the imprudent

action of the Poles, the situation is becoming more and more favorable to the Czechs, a state of things which is acknowledged by the members of the Plebiscite Commission. It seems that the Poles have at last realised how harmful their policy of terrorism is to their own interests, and they have therefore agreed to the Czechs proposal to issue an appeal to the population for tranquillity, after both the Plebiscite Commission and Dr. Beneš, the Czechoslovak Minister for Foreign Affairs, had asked the Allies for military reinforcements. By recalling Deputy Zamorski, who by his inflammatory utterances only added to the feeling of unrest, the Government at Warsaw has taken the step which is likely to

lead to a more peaceful development of the plebiscite in the Teschen district. Whether this also signifies a turning point in Polish policy, only the future can decide.

The Czechs do not abandon their conviction that in order to strengthen peace and to secure good relations between the two kindred peoples, it is only necessary to pursue a loyal policy such as is being maintained by the Czechoslovak Government. The foremost condition for this is that the plebiscite to which the Czechoslovak nation agreed in order to show their good will, should be carried out in a thoroughly just and honorable manner without drawing upon the store of intrigues in the possession of the former Central Powers.

Import and Export Regulations

Reprinted from Czechoslovak Trade Journal, Prague, April 1920.

Readers interested in the export or import of goods from and to Czechoslovakia should acquaint themselves with the following regulations in force. It is a general outline, which, in due course, will be amplified with the necessary details.

The new regulations governing the export and import of goods apply to the whole territory of Czechoslovakia, and all previous decrees, laws etc. on the subject are thereby made null and void.

In place of the hitherto existing Czechoslovak Export and Import Commission a Commission for dealing with Foreign Commerce has been established. It comprises a board of directors, a board of experts, with sub-departments, and an administrative committee.

The board of directors is nominated by the Ministry of Commerce which also sees to the representation of the interested groups.

The board of experts consists of representatives of agricultural, industrial, commercial and trade corporations, with an admixture of the labor element. The corporations to be represented on this board are nominated by the administrative committee. Their representatives are appointed by the Ministry of Commerce. Officials of the respective branches and experts may be appointed to the sub-departments with the consent of the administrative committee.

The administrative committee is composed of representatives of Commerce, Finance, National Defence, of the Foreign and Home Offices, of the Ministries of Public Sustenance, Public Works, Agriculture, Railways, Post and Telegraph, Social Relief, Justice and Health; of a representative of the Banking Department at the Ministry of Finance and of the leading members of the Commission of Foreign Commerce. President of the Administrative Committee is a representative of the Ministry of Commerce.

The sphere of Commission of Foreign Commerce comprises:

1. The granting of licenses for export and import; the granting of permission for the transit of any kind of goods; the attestation of applications for the export and import of goods in cases in which no permission is required.

With certain restrictions these rights of the commission may be transferred to local branches whose functions are defined by the Administrative Committee.

The Commission on Foreign Commerce is not competent with regard to

- a) the import, transit and export of goods, the monopoly of the government.

Licenses for these may be obtained from the Ministry of Finance.

- b) The import and export of coal and coke.

Applications for licenses must be addressed to the Ministry of Public Works which acts in concert with the Ministries of Commerce and Finance.

- c) The export and import of sugar, treacle, beet sirup, artificial honey, sugar-candy, sweet-meats, chocolate, fresh and dried beet, beet-flour and beet-seeds, cuttings and offal.

The export and import of these articles comes within the province of the Czechoslovak Sugar Commission.

- d) The export of securities, gold, silver, cheques, bills of exchange, money-orders, insurance - policies, Saving-Bank books, letters of credit, foreign exchange and Czechoslovak bank-notes.

Regarding these there are especial regulations in force.

The export or import of any goods without license or attestation is prohibited unless it be expressly stated that no license or attestation is necessary.

2. The granting of permits to exporters to use the value of exported goods for the purchase abroad of goods wanted in his establishment.

3. The encouragement of the economical management of import, export and transit. For this purpose the administrative committee may establish abroad branches of the Commission of Foreign Commerce.

4. A survey of export, import and transit in connection with the statistical department.

5. Cooperation in the preparatory work of commercial and custom policy with the Chambers of Commerce and Trade, the Board of Agriculture, the Central Union of Czechoslovak Traders and with the Labor Board, when established.

The Board of Directors represents the Commission of Foreign Commerce and executes its resolutions.

The administrative committee approves the standing orders of the commission, surveys its proceedings, fixes the amount of the fees and grants the permits to exporters mentioned (2).

The board of experts is an advisory body to the administrative committee and the board of directors.

The import and export syndicates form—with regard to import and export licenses—sub-departments of the Commission on

Foreign Commerce, acting within their special spheres.

In so far as the export and import syndicates deal with actions other than the granting of licenses for export or import (for instance, the organisation of the import of raw-material and of semi-manufactured articles for export), their activity and management are subject to inspection by the Control- and Compensation Office for International Commerce.

Attached to the Commission on Foreign Commerce is a Control- and Compensation Office for International Commerce. It deals with all compensation contract cases subject to the approval by the Administrative Committee.

The Chambers of Commerce, Board of Trade and the departments of the financial administration are co-operating in the executive branch of the commission.

The administration expenses of the commission are covered by the fees, while the surplus goes into the State fund. The working expenses of the Control- and Compensation Office are at the charge of the commission if they exceed the income of the Control- and Compensation Office.

The administrative committee of the commission periodically issues lists of goods the import or export of which is generally permitted. The import or export of these articles is not subject to a special permission, but notification must be given (on special forms) to the commission and an attestation fee paid. This attested notification serves in lieu of a permission and must be attached to the consignment notes.

Contravention of these regulations, especially the export or import of goods without permission or notification, wilfully incorrect statements in the applications and notifications of import and export, false data etc. make the offending party liable to penalties, without prejudice to further criminal proceedings or action by the financial authorities.

In order to control statements made in the applications for an import or export permit or in the notifications the Commission has power to inspect the books and correspondence of the parties concerned.

The right of ascertaining whether imported goods have been used as stated in the application rests with the Ministry of Commerce which acts in concert with the other Ministries concerned.

Intellectual Future of Czechoslovakia

By DR. JOSEF BAUDIŠ.

It has been pointed out on several occasions, that the Czechs are the only non-German race in Central Europe which can effectively compete with the Germans for the control of the Polish and the Russian markets, and that, in general, the Czechs are the only Slavonic race which has shown itself a successful rival of the Germans in the economic sphere. Economic prosperity, however, is not necessarily a proof of advanced culture, though it enables culture to develop successfully. The fact that the Czechs — who some hundred and thirty years ago had undertaken the difficult task of re-establishing their own language for literary purposes — succeeded during these struggles in holding their own against the Germans, is a far better proof of their high moral and intellectual qualities.

In the nineteenth century Czech culture was based upon a solid foundation of linguistic and historical knowledge. It thus follows that the most prominent of the Czech patriots were scholars. Dobrovský, the founder of Slavonic studies, had an admirable knowledge of Slavonic philology and a fine feeling for the spirit of Slavonic languages. A significant tribute was paid to his remarkable attainments by prof. Delbruck, the distinguished German scholar, who did not hesitate to say as late as 1893 that nobody after Dobrovský (who died in 1829) had succeeded in penetrating the whole of Slavonic syntax. But Dobrovský knew far more than that; he penetrated the spirit of the Slavs as well as their languages; he expressed the opinion in his private letters that the Slavs had something which the Germans, in spite of their great learning, could not achieve—the natural wisdom of the Slavonic soul. This of course must not be exaggerated, neither must it be interpreted as meaning that he regarded German learning as ballast which could be dispensed with; what he meant was, that if learning were combined with this natural wisdom, it would result in a new intellectual product of great importance. Dobrovský's successors were naturally influenced by German Romanticism, a movement which, having originated on foreign soil and being actuated by a non-Slavonic spirit,

did not even remotely realise the hopes of the Czech patriots. But this movement had one good effect, it increased the enthusiasm for the native languages, and it led the Czech patriots to appreciate the national poetry of the Czech peasants. Though there was much that was inspiring in this national poetry, it could not express all the needs of national life in the nineteenth century, and the enthusiasm for Czech and the Slav history sometimes led the scholars to exercise much less criticism than the circumstances really demanded.

These conditions were improved first in literature. The Czech authors began to see how important it was to learn from foreign literatures, and so within about sixty years Czech literature succeeded in absorbing all the important literary movements of modern Europe. The average Czech intellectual is now familiar with all modern literary schools of eastern and western Europe. His knowledge in this respect is at least equal to that possessed by those of similar attainments in Western Europe.

Czech scholarship was re-organized by Masaryk and his friends. This movement was especially fortunate because the Czechs succeeded in re-establishing the Czech University. It had been Germanized by the Habsburgs who even after the re-establishment of the Czech University did not abolish the German one. The demand for Czech university professors proved that Czech scholars were by no means inferior to their German colleagues. Some of them are known abroad even better than in their own country. Such were conditions in Bohemia before the war; there was a high standard of intellectual attainments, and among the Czech poets there were some such as Sova, Březina, Bezruč, whose works will reflect great credit on the Czechs when they have become better known abroad. The only task left to the Czechs was to establish a tradition for Czech public life in such a way as to justify Dobrovský's prophecy about the Slavs. This was naturally impossible for the Czechs so long as they were under Austrian rule and were unable to decide their own destinies, for only a free nation can create its individual life.

To accomplish this last task, the Czechs will have to assimilate foreign influences and to reshape foreign ideas in their own way. Naturally it is a matter of considerable importance to decide what these foreign influences are to be. It is in the interest of the Allies to see that the Latin and Anglo-Saxon influences predominate. The Czechs will see to that themselves; but it is not sufficient for the Czechs alone to make these efforts, the Allies should meet them at least half-way. This is all the more important, since the new Republic is not a community of half-educated people. On the contrary, they are versed in all technical progress and all the latest phases of scholarship. And so it is most likely that a

patronising attitude on the part of half-informed American and English circles would rather weaken than strengthen the Anglo-Saxon influence. If anything is to be done, it must be done seriously and thoroughly. The Germans, though they are the natural enemies of the Czechs, were fully aware of the Czech qualities, and they accommodated their cultural policy to this fact. There is little doubt that they will adopt the same policy in the future, and will try to exercise in a friendly way as much influence as possible. Hence it is perhaps not altogether a matter of indifference to the Allies to see to it that the German influence is not allowed to remain uncontested in the Czechoslovak State.

Constitution of Czechoslovakia

Adopted by the National Assembly on February 29, approved by the President on March 5, 1920.

(Concluded.)

III. GOVERNING AND EXECUTIVE POWER.

55. Ordinances may be issued only for the purpose of carrying out a definite law and within its terms.

56. The president of the Republic is elected by the National Assembly.

He shall be a citizen of the Czechoslovak Republic, qualified to be member of the chamber of deputies and 35 years of age.

57. Election is held in the presence of the majority of the total membership of both houses, and a vote of three fifths of those present is necessary.

If two ballots result in no choice, the next balloting is limited to the highest candidates; he who receives a plurality of votes is elected. In case of tie the decision is made by lot.

Details are governed by law.

58. The term of office commences on the day, when the newly elected president makes the promise, as provided in section 65.

The term of office is seven years.

Election is held within the last four weeks of an expiring term.

No one may be elected for more than two successive terms. A person who has served as president for two successive terms cannot be elected again, until seven years shall have elapsed from the expiration of his last term. This provision does not apply to the

first president of the Czechoslovak Republic.

The former president continues in office, until new president is elected.

59. Should the president die or resign during his term of office, a new election is held in accordance with provisions of sections 56 and 57 for a term of seven years. The National Assembly shall be convened for that purpose within 14 days.

60. Until the new president is elected (section 59), or if the president is prevented by ill-health or other cause from performing his office, his authority is exercised by the government which may entrust definite functions to its own president.

61. If the president is incapacitated or ill for more than six months (section 60), and if the government so decides in the presence of three quarters of its members, the National Assembly will elect an acting president who will serve as such, until the impediment is removed.

During the period for which a person is not eligible to be president in accordance with section 58 he cannot be acting president.

62. The election of acting president is governed by rules applying to the election of president.

63. The president of the Republic may not be at the same time member of the National Assembly. If a member of the Na-

tional Assembly is elected acting president, he cannot execute his mandate in the National Assembly, while he is exercising the office of president.

64. The president of the Republic.

1. represents the state in its foreign relations. He negotiates and ratifies international treaties. Commercial treaties, treaties which impose upon the state or the citizens burdens of a financial or personal nature, especially military, and treaties which change the boundaries of the state, need the consent of the National Assembly. In the case of changes of boundaries the consent of the National Assembly must take the form of a constitutional law (article I. of the enabling laws);

2. receives and accredits diplomatic representatives;

3. proclaims state of war to exist, declares war after first obtaining the consent of the National Assembly, and lays before it the negotiated treaty of peace for its approval;

4. convenes, prorogues and dissolves the National Assembly (sections 28 to 31) and declares the session of the houses closed;

5. may return bills with his objections (sections 47) and signs laws of the National Assembly (sections 51), of the diet of Carpathian Russia (section 3), and ordinances of the commission (section 54);

6. gives to the National Assembly oral or written information of the state of the Republic and recommends to their consideration such measures as he may deem necessary and expedient;

7. appoints and dismisses ministers and determines their number;

8. appoints all professors of universities, and all judges, civil officials and army officers of the sixth or higher rank;

9. grants gifts and pensions in special cases upon motion of the government;

10. is commander in chief of all armed forces;

11. grants pardons in accordance with section 103.

All governing and executive power, in so far as the constitution and laws of the Czechoslovak Republic, adopted after November 15, 1918, do not expressly reserve it to the president of the Republic, shall be exercised by the government (section 70).

65. The president of the Republic promises before the National Assembly (section 58) upon his honor and conscience that

he will study the welfare of the Republic and the people and that he will observe constitutional and other laws.

66. The president of the Republic is not responsible for the execution of his office. For his utterances, connected with the office of the president, the government is responsible.

67. He may be criminally prosecuted only for high treason before the senate upon impeachment by the chamber of deputies (section 34). The punishment may extend only to the loss of his office and disqualification ever to hold it again.

Details are determined by law.

68. Every act of the president in the exercise of his governing or executive power is valid only, when countersigned by a responsible member of the government.

69. Provisions applying to the president of the Republic apply also to the acting president (section 61).

70. The president and members of the government (ministers) are appointed and dismissed by the president of the Republic.

The ordinary seat of the government is Prague (sections 6).

71. The government elects from its membership the president's deputy who may take his place. If the deputy is unable to act, the oldest member of the government in years acts as president.

72. The president of the Republic decides over which department each minister shall preside.

73. Members of the government promise to the president of the Republic, upon their honor and conscience, that they will conscientiously and impartially perform their duties and observe constitutional and other laws.

74. No member of the government may sit on the board of directors or act as representative of a stock company or a firm which is engaged in business for profit.

75. The government is responsible to the chamber of deputies which may declare its lack of confidence in the government. This shall be done in the presence of the majority of the entire membership by a majority vote upon a roll call.

76. Motion to declare lack of a confidence shall be signed by at least one hundred deputies and shall be referred to committee which will submit its report within eight days.

77. The government may ask the chamber of deputies to vote its confidence. This motion shall be acted upon without reference to committee.

78. If the chamber of deputies declares lack of confidence in the government or if it rejects the motion of government for a vote of confidence, the government shall hand its resignation to the president of the Republic who will select the persons who are to carry on the affairs of state, until a new government is formed.

If the government resigns at a time, when there is neither president nor acting president, the commission provided for in section 54 accepts the resignation and takes steps to have the administration carried on.

79. If the president or members of the government violate fundamental or other laws by their official acts either intentionally or from gross negligence, they are responsible criminally.

Right to impeach belongs to the chamber of deputies, and the trial is held before the senate.

Details are regulated by law.

80. The government acts as a college which is competent to take action only in the presence of the president or acting president and a majority of the ministers.

81. The government decides corporatively in particular:

a) government measures for the National Assembly, government ordinances (section 84), and recommendations to the president of the Republic to make use of the power given him by section 74;

b) all matters of a political nature;

c) appointment of judges and civil officials of the eighth and higher ranks, as far as this appertains to the central authorities, and nominations of functionaries who are appointed by the president of the Republic (section 64, paragraph 8).

82. The president of the Republic may attend and preside over the meetings of the government; he may require of the government and its members written opinion of any matter relating to the duties of their office.

83. The president of the Republic may invite the government or its members for consultation.

84. Every government ordinance shall be signed by the president of the government or the acting president, and also by

ministers charged with its execution, and in no case less than half the ministers.

85. The jurisdiction of the ministries is regulated by law.

86. In the lower state administrative offices the citizen element shall be, as far as possible, represented, and the protection of the rights and interests of the citizens (administrative judicature) shall be effectively provided.

87. No one may be at the same time an elected member of an inferior administrative organ and also of an organ that is superior or exercises supervision over the former.

Exceptions may be made by law.

88. Judicial protection against administrative organs shall be provided by the supreme administrative court, composed of independent judges, with jurisdiction over the territory of the entire Republic.

Details are regulated by law.

89. The nature and authority of the inferior organs of state administration is settled in principle by law which may leave details to government ordinances.

90. State organs which are entrusted with economic functions only, without exercising the sovereign authority of the state, are created and organized by ordinances.

91. The nature and authority of autonomous organs is regulated by special law.

92. The law determines, to what extent the state shall be responsible for illegal execution of governmental authority.

93. Public employees shall in their official acts observe fundamental and other laws. This applies also to citizen members of administrative colleges.

IV. JUDICIAL POWER.

94. The judicial power is exercised by state courts; the law prescribes their organization, their jurisdiction and their procedure.

No one may be sent before any other judge but the one who has jurisdiction by law.

Only in criminal matters extraordinary courts may be introduced, and then in cases prescribed by law in advance and for a limited period.

95. Judicial power in civil cases belongs to civil courts, either regular or special and arbitration courts; judicial power in crim-

inal matters belongs to regular criminal courts, in so far as it is not assigned to military criminal courts, and except as such matters may, in accordance with general ordinances, be dealt with by police or financial punitive procedure.

For the entire territory of the Czechoslovak Republic there shall be one supreme court.

The place of juries in judicial procedure is regulated by special laws.

Jury trials may be temporarily suspended in cases provided for by law.

The jurisdiction of courts martial may be extended to civil population in accordance with the provisions of law only in time of war and for acts done during the war.

96. Judicial power is in all instances separated from administration.

Conflicts of jurisdiction between courts and administrative organs are regulated by law.

97. Qualifications of professional judges are determined by law.

Judges shall take an oath of office that they will observe the laws.

The status of judges in the service of state is regulated by special law.

98. All judges shall execute their office independently of all considerations except only the law.

99. Professional judges are appointed permanently; they may not be transferred, demoted or pensioned against their will, except should there be a new organization of courts and then only during the period provided for by the law, or by virtue of a proper disciplinary finding; they may be pensioned also by a proper finding, when they reach the legal retirement age. Details are regulated by law which also prescribes, under what conditions judges may be suspended from office.

Judicial senates in courts of first and second instance are in session all year; exceptions are made by law.

100. Judgements are pronounced in the name of the Republic.

Sessions of court are oral and public; judgements in criminal cases are declared in public; the public may be excluded from court sessions only in cases enumerated by law.

In trials of criminal cases the principle of accusation applies.

101. Professional judges may not hold any other paid position, permanent or tem-

porary, except as otherwise provided by law.

102. Judges in passing upon a legal question may examine the validity of an ordinance; as to law they may only inquire, whether it was properly promulgated (section 51).

103. The president of the Republic shall have power to declare amnesty, grant pardons or commute punishments, restore lost civil rights, in particular the right to vote for National Assembly and other elected bodies, and with the exception of criminal proceedings where an individual is complainant, suspend all criminal prosecution.

This power of the president of the Republic does not apply to members of the government, impeached or condemned in accordance with section 79.

104. Liability of the state and judges for damages caused by illegal execution of official authority is determined by law.

105. In all cases in which an administrative organ in accordance with particular laws passes upon claims for compensation the party affected may, after exhausting his remedies with higher authorities, apply for relief to courts.

Details are regulated by law.

V. RIGHTS AND PRIVILEGES, AS WELL AS DUTIES OF CITIZENS.

106. Privileges due to sex, birth and calling are not recognized.

All inhabitants of the Czechoslovak Republic enjoy, equally with the citizens of the Republic, in its territory full and complete protection of race or religion. Exceptions to this principle are admissible only as far as is compatible with international law.

Titles may be conferred only when they refer to office or occupation; this does not apply to academic degrees.

107. Personal liberty is guaranteed. Details are regulated by a law which is a part of this constitution.

Personal liberty may be restricted or taken away only in conformity with law; likewise public authorities may compel a citizen to perform personal acts only in conformity with law.

108. Every Czechoslovak citizen may settle in any part of the Czechoslovak Republic, acquire real property there and en-

gage in a gainful occupation, within the limits of general legal provisions.

This right may be restricted only in the public interest by law.

109. Private ownership may only be restricted by law.

Expropriation may be accomplished only in compliance with law and compensation shall be paid, except where the law specifically provides that compensation shall not be paid.

110. The right to emigrate may only be limited by law.

111. Taxes and public burdens may be imposed only in conformity with law.

Likewise threats and imposition of punishments shall be made only in conformity with law.

112. The rights of home shall not be violated.

Details are regulated by a law which is a part of this constitution.

113. Liberty of press and the right to assemble peacefully and without arms, and to form associations is guaranteed. It is therefore illegal as a matter of principle to subject the press to censoring before publication. The manner in which the right of assembly and association shall be exercised is determined by laws.

An association may be dissolved only, when its activity violates the criminal law or public peace and order.

The law may impose restrictions upon assemblies in places serving public traffic, upon the establishment of associations for profit and upon the participation of foreigners in political societies. In the same manner restrictions may be imposed upon the preceding guarantees in time of war or of domestic disorders which may menace substantially the republican form of government, the constitution or public peace and order.

114. The right to associate for the protection and improvement of conditions of employment and economic interests is guaranteed.

All acts of individuals or associations which seem to amount to intentional violation of this right are prohibited.

115. The right of petition is inherent; legal persons and associations may exercise it only within their scope of action.

116. Secrecy of mails is guaranteed.

Details are regulated by law.

117. Every person may, within the limits of law, express his opinions by word, writing, press, picture etc.

This applies to legal persons within their scope of action.

The exercise of this right shall not prejudice anyone in his relations as employee of another.

118. Scientific investigation and publication of its results, as well as art, is untrammelled as long as it does not violate criminal law.

119. Public instruction shall be so conducted as not to be in conflict with the results of scientific investigation.

120. Establishment of private schools is permitted only within the limits of laws.

The state administration shall have the supreme conduct and oversight of all instruction and education.

121. Liberty of conscience and profession is guaranteed.

122. No one may be compelled directly or indirectly to participate in any religious act; this does not apply to the authority of father or guardian.

All inhabitants of the Czechoslovak Republic have equally with citizens of the Czechoslovak Republic the right to practice in public or in private any confession, religion or faith, as long as the practice is not in conflict with public order or good morals.

123. All religious confessions are equal before the law.

124. The performance of definite religious acts may be forbidden, if they violate good order or public morality.

125. The marriage relation, family and motherhood are under the special protection of the laws.

126. Every physically fit citizen of the Czechoslovak Republic shall submit to military training and obey the call to defend the state.

Details are regulated by law.

VI. PROTECTION OF NATIONAL, RELIGIOUS AND RACIAL MINORITIES.

127. All citizens of the Czechoslovak Republic are fully equal before the law and enjoy civil and political rights, regardless of race, language or religion.

Difference of religion, faith, confession and language shall not be a handicap to any citizen of the Czechoslovak Republic within the limits of general laws, in partic-

ular with reference to access to employment by the state, to offices and dignities, or the pursuit of any occupation or profession.

Citizens of the Czechoslovak Republic may, within the limits of general laws, freely employ any language in private or commercial relations, in matters relating to religion, in press or any publications, or in public assemblies of the people.

This shall not affect rights which belong to the organs of the state in accordance with any present or future laws based on considerations of public order, safety of the state and efficient control.

128. The right to use a definite language in public offices is regulated by special law which forms a part of this constitution.

129. In so far as citizens may, in compliance with general laws, establish, direct and administer at their own expense charitable, religious and social institutions, schools and educational institutions, all citizens, regardless of nationality, language, religion and race, shall be equal and may in such institutions freely employ their own language and practice their religion.

130. In cities and districts in which there lives a considerable fraction of Czechoslovak citizens of other than Czechoslovak language, children of such Czechoslovak citizens shall receive in public schools, within the limits of the general law governing education, suitable opportunity to be taught in their own tongue; but instruction in the Czechoslovak language may be made obligatory.

131. Wherever in cities and districts in which there lives a considerable fraction of Czechoslovak citizens, belonging to religious, national and language minorities, definite sums are to be expended on education, religion or charity from public funds on the basis of state, municipal or other public budgets, such minorities are hereby guaranteed, within the limits of general regulations applicable to public administration, a proportionate share in the expenditure of such funds.

132. Principles set forth in section 130 and 131, especially the definition of the expression "considerable fraction", shall be carried out by special laws.

133. Every form of forcible denationalization is forbidden. Violation of this principle may be declared criminal by law.

Public Libraries Law

By KAREL VELEMÍNSKÝ, PH. D.

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Before the year 1919 neither the state nor the municipalities had any legal duties toward public libraries. The state did maintain in connection with the University of Prague, as well as with the former University of Olomouc, scientific libraries which exerted an influence far beyond the schools themselves. All book and newspaper publishers in Bohemia were obliged to furnish a copy of everything they published to the University Library in Prague, while the Olomouc Library enjoyed the same privilege for Moravia. Both these libraries for scholars broadened out their functions and were in reality public libraries open to all readers. The Prague University Library with almost half a million volumes became the fountain of Czech scholarship; for it includes practically the entire Czech printed literature, in addition to many precious manuscripts of the Mid-

dle Ages. Under the new republican regime its importance is strengthened by the fact that a copy of everything published in the Czechoslovak Republic must be sent to this central library.

Otherwise Czech literature grew up spontaneously. If we disregard libraries of monasteries in which here and there precious literary treasures of the past are preserved, most of the existing libraries were established by societies. Thus the Society of the Museum of the Kingdom of Bohemia, with a subsidy from the provincial authorities of Bohemia, maintains the second largest scholarly library in Prague which makes a specialty of Slavic literatures. Specialized industrial and historical libraries were created by local societies in smaller cities; of particular interest is the library attached to the Industrial Museum of Vojta Náprstek in Prague which is rich in English (Amer-

ican) works, in accordance with the traditions of its founder.

Municipalities seldom gave subsidies to libraries, and when they did, the grants were small. As is the case generally in Europe, the library was intended to serve a narrow circle of scientific investigators, and the general public showed no special interest in the library. Only in the last fifty years, when such a large number of associations of all sorts were formed, we see the rise of public libraries for the people. Associations played an unusual part in the political and cultural regeneration of the Czech nation. They not only centred in themselves the social life, but they furnished or supplemented many of the institutions which the Austrian government denied to the Czechs. Libraries were established by both reading and social clubs, and in a really surprising number. Thus libraries of the famous athletic organization "Sokol" and of societies for the protection of national minorities in Germanized districts were founded in thousands of towns and villages. Originally such libraries were established for members of the particular society, but later were for the most part made accessible to the public.

The law of July 22, 1919, makes it the duty of every city, town and village to maintain a public library. They may establish the public library by fusing the existing club or lodge libraries. This right is of very great importance, as some two thirds of the Czech literature is now out of print, and the price of books which are being published since the war is four times as high as the pre-war prices.

This Czechoslovak law of public libraries has some peculiarities. First of all it figures with the fact that in the more advanced parts of the state nearly 80% of the municipalities, including small villages, will be able to create a public library out of association libraries that are now in existence. Thus the law can afford to impose on all municipalities the duty to erect a public library within ten years of the enactment of the law.

Secondly the law deals very carefully with the problem of national minorities. While Czechs and Slovaks form the bulk of the population of the Republic, there are many Germans and Magyars, and to a large

extent these live together in the same industrial towns. It is the cardinal principle of the Czechoslovak Republic to give national minorities cultural autonomy, and thus the law provides for separate public libraries for members of the various nationalities.

Where there are poor or backward villages, central libraries will be established in the districts which will make loans of collections of books. There will be about 20 such libraries which will no doubt develop into central libraries for scholars, to serve their individual district, in addition to the large libraries in the capitals of the four provinces of the Czechoslovak Republic.

To exercise supervision over the town and village libraries there is created by law a library board for each judicial district. The board is composed of representatives of literary associations, political parties, school and autonomous public authorities. This board appoints local library experts, generally village schoolmasters, to supervise from 10 to 15 small libraries in their particular neighborhood. City libraries are supervised by professional state library inspectors.

So far there are hardly any schools for librarians in Europe. There will now be established in Prague a one year course for the training of men and women who desire to be librarians of city and special libraries while shorter courses will be conducted for those who are to run village libraries.

Czechoslovak law providing for the establishment and administration of public libraries gets its inspiration from American and English sources, but it contains detailed provisions in accordance with the special Czech traditions and needs.

ANNOUNCEMENT.

Fifty complete sets of the 1919 issues of the Czechoslovak Review have been neatly bound and will be sent postpaid for \$2.25 per volume. The volume is a book of 400 pages. It is a chronicle of events of the first year of Czechoslovak independence, and it contains besides a mass of other information as to the Czechoslovak nation, not available elsewhere in English. As there are only fifty copies of this bound volume, send in your order at once.

The Glove Manufacturing Industry

By Dr. V. Partl.

Before the war the glove making industry of the countries now comprised in the Czechoslovak state played a decisive part in the exportation of this article from what used to be Austria-Hungary. The total value of Austrian glove exports in the years preceding the war amounted on the average to thirty or forty million crowns (six to eight million dollars). About 85% of that was manufactured in territory now belonging to the Czechoslovak Republic. The total output of gloves was about three million dozens. The principal seats of the glove manufacturing industry of Bohemia were the districts of Prague, Kodaň, Příbram and Karlovy Vary. In the Prague district alone about 20,000 experienced workers were employed at this trade, as well as many more thousands of various helpers, chiefly seamstresses. The average cost price of a dozen of gloves before the war was about 20 crowns (four dollars). The principal raw materials of this industry were kids and skivers, imported principally from the Balkan countries under the marks of "Constantinople" and "Philippole". Skins imported from other countries, especially India and America, played only a secondary part.

During the war the situation of the Bohemian glove manufacturing industry grew constantly worse, and in 1919 it became critical because of the lack of raw materials. The bad state of the Czechoslovak currency and the necessity to pay first of all for imported foodstuffs made the importation of foreign raw materials for the glove industry almost impossible. The necessary consequence of this abnormal situation is general unemployment in the trade; experienced workers seek other employment, and unless the situation soon takes a turn for the better, the splendid Bohemian glove industry will face complete destruction. Today there are only some 1500 expert workmen available in the Prague district. At the same time it cannot be doubted that an improvement in the situation would bring back the majority of the old hands to the trade in which their

skill is so valuable. The present prices of gloves naturally correspond to the changed situation; a dozen pair cost now some 1200 crowns (about \$21.00, as the exchange stood at the end of April).

It is hardly to be expected that the Czechoslovak glove manufacturing industry will be saved through an early improvement of the international exchange difficulties. Other ways must be sought out of the desperate situation. Our glove making industry, in consequence of the lack of raw materials, cannot supply the international trade with sufficient products; its present annual output is only about 300,000 dozens. But it can offer its skilled labor, and that is the point of departure in the way to better things. The reputation of Prague gloves was world wide before the war, and the industry can be re-established, if it gets the needed skins. The presence of skilled workers is a big asset that should not be wasted. It presents an opportunity to the foreign capitalist to utilize the unemployed hands of a trade with such a long tradition behind it. A business basis for this enterprise can be found without great difficulties, and the relative stability of the water freights on the Elbe permits a sufficiently definite calculation.

The proposed plan for rescuing the Czechoslovak glove industry must start with the principle that the risk of currency fluctuation cannot be assumed by the foreign investor. The investor would organize the import of the necessary raw materials for the glove manufacturers with whom he would make a contract for the working over of the skins into gloves of definite description. The more manufacturers would participate in this arrangement, the better for the foreign investor. The Czechoslovak government would undoubtedly lend its support to such a deal. The investor would have his representative in Czechoslovakia, presumably in a Bohemian city on the Elbe; this man would receive the raw materials, make distribution of them among the manufacturers participating in the contract, receive from them the manufactured goods and look after their shipment abroad to his principal. The price of

manufactured goods would be agreed upon in some stable foreign currency, and the Czechoslovak manufacturer would receive payment for the work performed by him in Czechoslovak crowns.

Such an organization seems to present the only practical scheme to secure materials needed for the Bohemian glove industry upon terms that are likely to attract the foreign capitalist.

Affairs in Hungary

The internal affairs of the Magyar State are far from being settled and stabilized. The appointment of the new Government of M. Simonyi Semadam caused the outbreak of the old feud between the former Premier M. Huszar and General Stephen Friedrich, who up to the downfall of the Habsburgs was quite an unknown personage, and at present is the "strong" man of the Magyars. The influence and power of General Friedrich greatly displeases the Magyar Regent Horthy who accuses him of having instigated the murder of Count Tisza, the true facts about which are still a mystery. It is characteristic of the Magyar conditions that when M. Kovacs, the man entrusted with instituting legal proceeding in connection with murder of Count Tisza, had collected all the documentary evidence against General Friedrich, he was murdered and his documentary evidence disappeared. How this happened only General Friedrich's "boys" could tell.

Hardly anywhere are there so many political parties and groups as in Hungary. A special feature of Budapest are its political clubs, each of them representing a political group or party. For the time being the leading political party is that of the Christian Socialists. This party is again divided into three groups, fighting for ministerial posts. With the Government of M. Simonyi Semadam there is great dissatisfaction among the so-called Christian Socialists. Besides the Christian Socialists there are peasant parties and other groups, while the Social Democrats are not recognized as a constitutional party.

The Magyar army is divided between two military commanders. The part of the army quartered in Debreczin follows General Friedrich, while that quartered in Szegedin follows the regent Horthy. Both these armies are on their own account requisitioning foodstuffs from the Magyar peasants who were a few weeks ago "lib-

erated" from the Rumanian occupation. According to "Becsi Magyar Ujsag" General Friedrich recently declared that if things will not develop according to his schemes, he will march at the head of his army from Debreczin to Budapest and establish order there.

The Magyars refuse to sign the peace treaty which reduces their State to the area in which the Magyars preponderate, and the Magyar papers violently attack the Allies.

In the meantime they are continuing their agitation in the neighbouring countries, Czechoslovakia and Rumania. A correspondent returning from Budapest states in the Czech paper *Tribuna* that the Magyars are supplying travellers to Czechoslovakia with specially prepared pamphlets and leaflets in which they call upon the Slovak population to separate themselves from the Czechs and to declare strikes. The Czechs are accused of closing churches and favouring the Jews. On the other hand, the Magyar State is pictured in the brightest colors and the Slovaks are asked to join it.

It is, however, in the interest of the Magyars themselves as well as of the Allies that the Peace Treaty with Hungary should be signed without delay. Unless the Peace Treaty with the Magyars is signed, there will be a continuation and increase of chaos and uncertainty which are the main causes of the economic misery in Central Europe, for none of Hungary's neighbors can peacefully settle down to work, as long as the Magyars threaten aggression.

CORRECTION.

In the March issue an article appeared entitled "Masaryk's Seventieth Birthday" under the name of Aleš Brož. This article was not written by Mr. Brož and was attributed to him by a misapprehension.

Excursion

By DONALD BREED.

As spring came on, we all began to yearn toward the soil. Miloš showed this by lengthy perusals of the latest *Jizdni Řád*, the railway guide book, which he had bought at Vilimek's book store. The *Jizdni Řád* was a seductive thing, for it showed you how easily one could step aboard a train and find himself within a few hours in the Giant Mountains or the Bohemian or the Moravian hills. It was also a snare and a delusion, for unless you studied it carefully you were apt not to observe the neat little foot notes which explained, in the fewest words possible, that the running of this train or that had been cancelled for the present. But Miloš read assiduously every evening after dinner, and soon became expert in all these pathological conditions of the time tables. Outside of the Ministry of Railroads, I do not believe there was a man in Prague more versed in the lore of arriving and departing trains.

Milada gave up the *Jizdni Řád* after a brief and unsatisfactory perusal, but she continued to share the pleasurable uneasiness of her husband. She used to go out on the kitchen balcony and remain there, with her elbows resting on the iron railing, gazing down into the little back garden of the apartment building, where a venerable creature moved mysteriously about spading up the earth and planting seeds. I found her out there one morning and took advantage of the brilliant sunshine to make a snap-shot. She was laughing, and it turned out a very good picture, as Milada readily agreed. This, of course, proved that she was singularly free from vanity. A woman who is satisfied with snap-shots of herself is a rare phenomenon, and therefore to be admired and praised when she is discovered.

Finally it was left for me, with my American impulse to action, to transform these fluttering desires into plans. It was I who obliged Miloš to confine himself to a few trains instead of spreading over the entire guide book. It was I who wheedled Milada into baking koláče and packing knapsacks. It was I who sent our oldest shoes down to the cobbler in the basement for one last siege of mending and overhauling. Mařena of the kitchen sighed as she took them

down, for she knew that all man-made foot gear has a limit of repairability, and our shoes had virtually reached that limit. It was not I, however, who decided where we should go, for it was all one to me whether we went east, west, north or south, and I much preferred to start out with a feeling of adventurous vagueness regarding our destination. Miloš at length proposed that we should go up in the vicinity of Turnov. This was not because he wanted to see Turnov again, but because the Turnov train left at seven in the morning. All the others went earlier, much earlier. Inasmuch as we had seats for the theatre on the evening before our day of leaving, this was a matter of some importance to us. On such slight considerations do the balances of the gods turn.

The Turnov train, when we duly achieved it, proved to be one of those leisurely creations, which, in America, are popularly thought of as indigenous to the state of Arkansas. As we wandered from one station to the next, we had the opinion that no other trains in Bohemia could possibly be going slower than ours. Yet there was at least one such. Just beyond Mladá Boleslav we drew up beside a troop train that had obligingly got itself out of the way for us. It was made up of about fifteen little box-cars out of whose windows and doors uniformed soldiers were hanging and leaning. Milo opened the window of our compartment and shouted a greeting to them. This they acknowledged in a friendly, bellying style, and we fell into conversation. They told us they had left Prague the previous night at nine o'clock and had been traveling intermittently ever since. Over a distance which we had covered in less than three hours they had been crawling for more than twelve. After hearing this, Miloš felt so sorry for them that he hunted about for some cigarettes to give them. But he had only a box of one hundred, and they would not have gone far with the car-full of soldiers, whereas they would keep Miloš happy for several days. Therefore, he pocketed his cigarettes and his generosity and let Milada do the agreeable thing instead. This she did to perfection. She beamed through the open window and

joked with the soldiers to such an extent that they gave her a roaring ovation when we moved off.

Standing on the platform of the Turnov station, we were confronted with the necessity of making a choice. Miloš now disclosed that the next stage of our progress would involve a railway journey of a kilometer or two to a little cross-roads station from which we would proceed on foot. 'Our train would leave in half an hour. In the meantime we could deploy ourselves sight-seeing in Turnov, or we could eat luncheon in the station restaurant. Here was a dilemma of the gravest sort. It was solved at length by Milada, whose feminine intuitions revealed themselves more and more as equal to any situation, however trying. Milada deposed that Turnov was a permanent fixture, while luncheon was not. Turnov would remain there for months and years to come, and we might come back perennially to see it. But with luncheon it was now or never. Viewed in this light, the problem became easy. So we went into the station building, pre-empted a table and demanded to be given a meal. This, when it came, was not very good, and I remember that we were somewhat disposed to blame Milada because she had let us in for it. But Milada behaved serenely in the face of criticism and affirmed that food was good, and we would agree with her later in the afternoon. Of course she was quite right, as we subsequently admitted of our own free will.

After luncheon, the other train arrived and carried us away. We alighted at a depot-house which belonged to one of the more removed suburbs of Turnov. Possibly in the early morning it was a rallying-point for Turnov commuters, but I suspect not, for I do not think the Turnovers ever really commute. It is American to commute, just as it is Scotch to dance the Highland Fling, or Spanish to goad bulls, or French to be vinously disposed and fond of revues.

From the little depot-house we took an uphill path through a field. The field was a bare place, covered with scrubby grass, scattered stones and a few insignificant flowers that poked up between clods of earth. There was a lark singing loudly somewhere out of the blue, although it was already afternoon. Miloš objected to him on the ground of untimeliness, but I set my-

self up to defend him, and Milada eventually judged that he was entirely excusable for making a mistake about the time of day, because the season was so young that one time was a good deal like another. The period of drowsy, spellbinding mid-days had not yet set in.

We went on and up. On the summit of the hill was a man-built observatory reached by a short flight of winding steps. To its top platform we ascended, and looked over a land covered with spring haze. In every direction were flowering orchards, some pink, some white. The nearer ones were positively lustrous; they glowed with a soft light that was self-created and not merely reflected from the sun. The farther ones were nothing but luminous spots. These groves of fruit-trees were the spectacular element in the landscape. The intervening spaces were quiet. It was all rolling country, partly pasture partly tilled fields and meadow. Bold on the northern horizon rose the hill and fortress of *Jes-téd*. From that high landmark we could have seen a far wider sweep of Bohemia, the giant Mountains, and far into Saxony. Yet what was visible from our pigmy tower sufficed to loose the springs of patriotic emotion in Miloš.

"Our land!" he exulted, and began addressing it in passionate apostrophe. "Free at last! Free after centuries of bondage! No longer leased out to a Hapsburg tenant who turns about and ejects the rightful owners! No longer ours to look at and yearn for, but ours to cry aloud and rejoice in. Bohemia! Our homeland! Do you know what that means to me, you American?"

Immediately afterwards he sighed. Neither Milada nor I said a word, but we knew what that sigh meant. He was thinking of the birth-throes with which the new state had come into being. He remembered lonely men dying in far lands, women and children going about starved and freezing in Prague, and those social nightmares which are the camp-followers of war: mass demoralization, class extravagance and industrial chaos. The three of us gazed silently over the smiling country for a little while. Then we turned and went down the stairs from the observatory.

The next section of the walk was along the edge of an evergreen grove, out of

which we were barred by a tall but flimsily built wooden paling. The path we trod on was not always even, and we talked in fits and starts of leaping over the paling or taking other bold steps of a sort to gain the coveted territory on the other side where the walking was better. Presently we had our opportunity to cross over without athletic exertion. We came to a convenient gap, left by some ruthless invader, and through it we stepped. It was cooler in the shadow of the trees, but it is woefully characteristic of the human disposition to depreciate that which has once been attained and therefore Milada began to realize that she had a conscience and to speak regretfully of us as trespassing gypsies. She reminded us that we were undoubtedly where we had no business to be, and longed to be on the outside of the barrier again. An unwary suggestion by Miloš that we might be on somebody's game preserve aroused her still more, because that meant that there could be wild animals somewhere about. She and Miloš began arguing and continued to have it back and forth for several minutes, during which time we found another hole in the fence and emerged once more on the public way. I think they were still arguing when we came upon Wallenstein's castle.

Wallenstein's place clings to the brow of a precipice. Parts of it overhang, and some day there will be a tremor of the earth and the whole pile will go tumbling down into the valley. This does not seem to concern the family of agreeable souls who live in it, and act as custodians of the premises. They apparently feel that a catastrophe which has so long impended will probably never happen, at least not in their day. They ought to have more consideration for their children and their children's children who will probably be caretakers in the days to come. Milada and I had a brief but serious talk about this singular hard-heartedness of theirs, but concluded that, on the whole, it was not our duty to sow the seeds of moral rectitude in the minds of otherwise decent people. Besides, the keeper's wife brought us such excellent cake and coffee with milk that we felt it would be our part to intercede for her on the day of judgment even if she should take it into her head to pitch her offspring, each and all, over the battlements some morning before breakfast.

The castle is more than half ruined, but a few, ill-advised attempts have been made to restore parts of it. The only effect of these restorations is to make one feel that none of the old strongholds, however picturesque, could ever have been habitable places. The living-rooms in the house which was once Wallenstein's glory now look like dismantled tombs. They are dismal and grim and the cobwebs swing in ropes from the ceilings. As I passed through them, a shiver of pity bestirred me on behalf of the people who once had to live there. Not Wallenstein himself, for that gory old person was always so busy planning atrocities that I do not suppose he had time for aesthetic particulars, but I did feel sorry for his wife and his mother-in-law and possibly a maiden aunt or so. At the same time I presume my sympathy was unnecessarily bestowed, for if one were to move about two-thirds of the furniture out of a modern house, substitute hideous copies for the pictures on the wall, and end by finger-printing the wood-work and flinging handfuls of dust broadcast, he would produce a devastation as depressing as that of a badly restored castle.

This is really beside the point, because we all enjoyed Wallenstein's very much, and Milada got a particularly rare degree of pleasure through venturing out on a projecting nose of rock which was labelled "dangerous to life." After we had seen the banqueting-hall and the chambers, we sat down for a few minutes in the sun, and Miloš diverted himself by telling us stories. Then we took the road again.

The trail led for several hundred yards on the verge of the cliff. There was a broad view, and the sunlight was beginning to wane. The foreground bristled with a cluster of eccentric rock columns, extremely high, like square pillars. A few leaned slightly, but most of them stood upright and tried to look impressive in spite of the puny trees which had impudently started to grow on their summits. Some of these chimney formations came so close to the rock wall that it was possible to spring over to them, and we tried one such spring, just for the sake of the sensation, but it was not much fun. The landscape was really too fine and the daylight was going too fast to waste time in sport like that. So we lay on the grass for a time, absorbing, and then adjusted our knapsacks and went on.

It was not far to *Hrubá Skála*, where the Austrian minister, Baron von Aehrenthal, owned a castle. He it was, I believe, who said on a certain well-remembered occasion: "These wretched Czechs! They ought to be exterminated, root and branch. Let them wait. Their day is coming!" It was a curious proof that their day had really arrived, when Miloš went serenely up to the gate of the castle and knocked, requesting admittance for himself and wife and an American. The lodge-tender, who was a German, and like to die with humiliation, went off to find the resident keeper, who came and received us with great courtesy. We explained that we were interested in old castles, and he immediately conducted us about. There was a richly colored old porcelain stove that we liked, made out of the fragments of a still larger and older one which, in the course of time had collapsed and been removed to some obscure store-house, where one of the Aehrenthal family found it. There was also a curious set of chess-men, and an enormous clock, and some intricate wood-carving.

The keeper talked with us about the ruin of Trosky, which is easily seen from *Hrubá Skála*, but he warned us solemnly against going there. For it appeared that there had long been only one guide who was capable of leading travelers up the beetling hill and through the crumbling halls and balconies. This man was only considered reliable when slightly drunk, but it appeared that his favorite beverages had so stolen a march upon him that he now spent most of his days in a state of torpor. I am bound to say that we did not put much faith in the keeper's story and, when his back was turned, we debated just what he meant by it. Miloš thought he probably wanted to guide us there himself and receive pay for it, Milada believed it was the influence of spring or that love might have made him temporarily mad, while I in a riotous burst of imagination, conceived that there might be German propaganda books stored in the deserted rooms of Trosky or insidious printing-presses operating by moonlight. At any rate, we decided not to go up there, and, after we had shaken hands with the keeper and given him good day, we walked across the open square of *Hrubá Skála* and turned down into the Mouse-Hole.

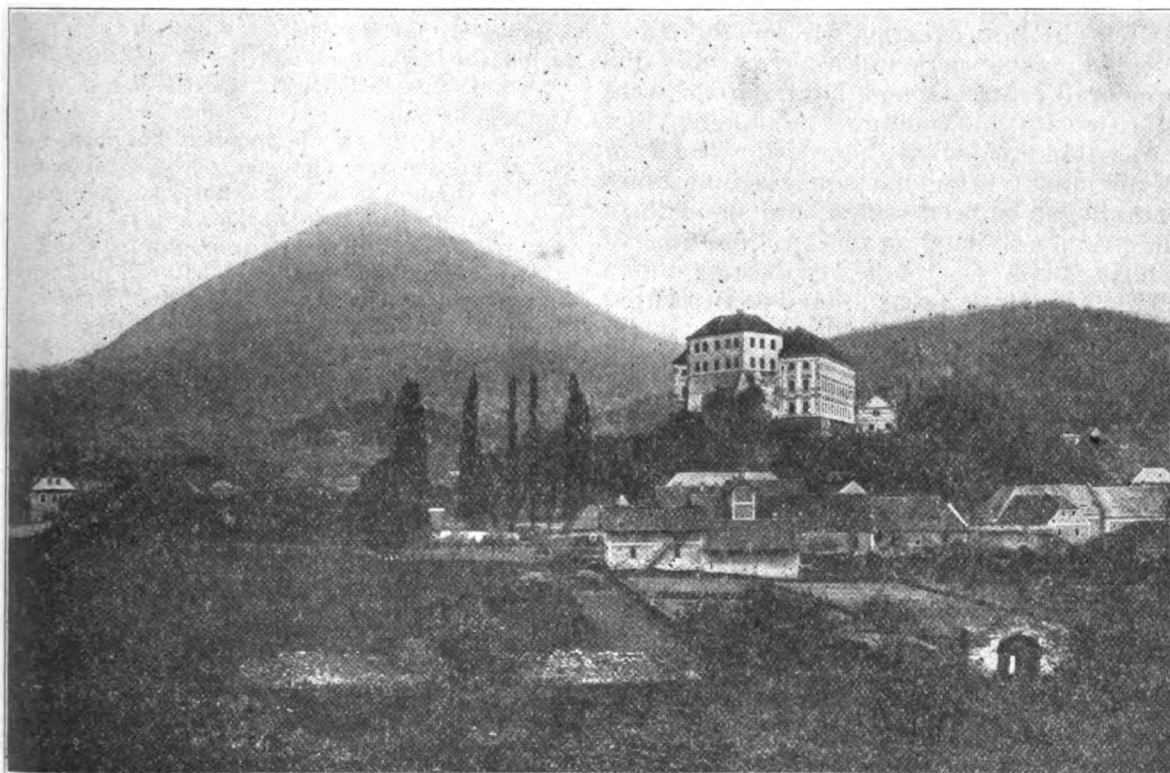
Everyone who knows anything about this part of Bohemia knows about the Mouse-Hole. It is a great descending crack in the rock, so narrow and deep that a damp twilight forever holds sway in its lower recesses. The Mouse-Hole is a freakish exhibition of Nature, something to sit down and laugh at, except that the sudden way it opens up on the edge of the *Hrubá Skála* square makes it momentarily rather awful. Stone steps run down through it to the valley below, and the really notable thing about it is that it is a public thoroughfare, constantly used, and not a mere curiosity. As we went down into the Hole, I had no idea of meeting anyone, but when we were half-way an old peasant woman suddenly came in sight around a corner pensively urging three she-goats along the upward course. She stared and nodded at us, and Miloš and Milada gave her a polite salutation. But I did not. The manner of her appearance made her seem like one of those spirits which are not natural, and the sombre light of the place caused the animals to take on the look of astral goats. I afterwards regretted that I had not spoken, but it was too late to go back and atone for my discourtesy. If this be rudeness, thought I, then, old woman, you must just make the most of it.

The walk from the lower mouth of the Mouse-Hole led over a pleasant road which was first arched over with trees and then bordered with villas. It led us to a railway station in the midst of fields, and we waited there and lay on our backs, blinking up at the cloudless sky until a train arrived. This train conveyed us to Jičín.

It was in Jičín that Miloš broke the clasp of his nose-glasses. Being blinder than a bat without them, he felt that he must have the damage repaired at once. So he went to a purveyor of spectacles, but it was so late that the shop was closed, and he set off on his rounds to find another, leaving Milada and me to walk about and see the statues for which Jičín is noted. There are three, in particular, which one must see: statues of Hus, Havlíček and one other. We admired them, but immediately afterward we encountered something which diverted us much more. Two wagon-loads of *komedianti*, itinerant players, came into the town, and we joined the gang of small boys who followed them through the winding streets. The vehicles in which they trav-

eled looked like house-boats on wheels. They swayed and wobbled from side to side, and I know the occupants must have been good sailors or they could not have stood it. From the tiny piece of stovepipe which stuck out of the roof of each, smoke was ascending, and the damp pasty smell of dumplings came through the open window. The drivers of the two wagons were gypsy looking fellows, burnt black by the sun. We followed them from one place to another and might have gone along to their

after hours. Miloš then began to plead that he could not see the road, the houses, the signs, and so on, but the girl with the broom was as unsympathetic as a piece of flint. After some minutes of such sparing, Miloš deliberately went over to the work-table, and sat down at it, hunting about for tools. The girl asked him what he was doing. Miloš replied that he was going to fix it himself, whether or no, because he was determined to see her through the glasses and find out whether her looks



Mount Milešovka in Northern Bohemia.

camp and eaten supper with them, if Miloš had not suddenly come charging under an arch-way toward us, conjuring us to listen to his account of the way he got his glasses fixed. According to his eloquent representations, it happened somewhat in this way.

It seems that he finally found a shop which was not closed, and a damsel was working with a broom, sweeping it out. He asked her if she thought the proprietor would repair the clasp for him, to which the maiden made spirited answer that she was perfectly sure he would not, because it was

were as cruel as her disposition. This, we were led to believe, melted the heart of the fair creature so completely that she sat down and did the work for him herself.

Milada had remained silent during this recital and when it was finished she began, to my great surprise, to tell of some interesting passages between herself and the driver of one of the *komedianti* wagons. There was not a single word of truth in the whole of her story, and I could do nothing but gulp and suppress my hilarity. Miloš, however, took it very seriously. Milada

told how violently the man had been impressed by her theatrical presence, and how he had tried to persuade her to join his troupe. After this, I observed that we heard no more about the nymph in the optical shop. While Miloš was poring over the *Národní Listy* after dinner that night, I took Milada to ask for her prevarications. I could not help thinking she was rather brazen about it. She said she knew I had been shocked, but she really could not let Miloš go about fascinating all the sweeping ladies in the shops. He was, she added in a dreamy tone, altogether too good at that sort of thing.

Jičín in late evening was a city transformed. Bare spots and dingy corners disappeared. Streets and house-fronts were glorified by the mellow moonlight that came flooding down the walls. We wandered about after the squares and lanes had begun to be deserted, and stood for a long time admiring an old building against whose facade we made grotesque moon shadows. There was subdued conversation within doors, and the tinkle of a piano, and soon a woman's voice singing. A cold spring breeze swept past us, carrying the fragrance of blossoming trees growing beyond the town limits. I do not know when it was, but at last we discovered that we were very sleepy and Miloš and I suffered Milada to guide us back to the inn.

Next day we went on to Horšice, which lay glistening and sun-drenched under the morning sky. Here we might have waited for a train, but a friend whom we acquired in the course of our ramblings urged us to make use of his horses and carriage, and so we were driven cross country to Králové Dvůr. From Králové Dvůr it was a short pilgrimage to Králové Hradec, and by this time we were such children of the road that we thought of buying tents or a house on wheels. But the voice of duty suddenly boomed into the ears of Miloš, from far Prague, and it came about that our excursion, like all good things, had an ending.

"Next time—" said Miloš, dreamily, while Milada, with a practical air, distributed to us hard-boiled eggs and black bread. "Next time we shall go south, eh? But where?"

"Next time, we shall do as we did this time," said Milada. "We shall take the most convenient train. Take care, Miloš. You are scattering egg-shells about, and

that is forbidden by the ministry of railroads."

Of course, Miloš scoffed and said that this was not true, and while they were buzzing back and forth, I stared out of the open window and watched the cherry trees, shining and white, as if they had been dipped in a basin of soft snow.

MASARYK TO THE LEGIONARIES

President Masaryk recently, March 24th, paid a visit to the Jan Hus regiment of Czechoslovak legionaries from Siberia in their barracks at Prague, and on this occasion he delivered a remarkable address in which he touched upon a number of topical questions concerning both the legionaries themselves and the Czechoslovak Nation and State in general. In the course of his remarks he said:

"One out of your number has just been telling me that many of you, perhaps the majority, are disappointed with what you have found here. To be disappointed does not, in itself, decide as to whether your disappointment is justified. There is a great and natural difference between a soldier, between a gallant fighter in the field, and the formation of a Republican State. I can see that, and I am experiencing what it means to create a military administration, with all its legal machinery. These circumstances are quite different from those under which you have lived. There is a great difference between carrying out a political revolution and a social one. A political revolution which overthrows dynasties together with everything that depends upon them, is not such a difficult matter; it can be done overnight, and of this we have examples from history. But to carry through a social revolution is quite a different matter. It means a change of labor, a change of life, not merely the removal of certain ruling sections.

You say that you have been disappointed. I have been keeping watch for nearly eighteen months and have been exerting all my endeavors to try and get our nation clear of this Austrianism or whatever you like to call it. Be fair in your criticism; our state is only a little more than a year old. The English State is 1500 years old, a period of unshaken continuity. That is quite a different thing from a state which we are *only* just in the act of developing. Therefore I say that we must first have a few years behind us for these foundations, these original forms to be made stable. The same phenomena are to be observed everywhere else, even in the countries which were victorious and in the neutral countries. Everywhere you will find high prices and lack of materials, as well as moral degeneration. For the war was an anarchy and it produced the same effects everywhere. I say therefore that you must observe calmly and not indulge in wholesale accusations when you criticise."

Slovak Rhapsody

Translated from the Czech by P. Selver.

By KAREL DOSTAL LUTINOV.

*In Moravia's golden epoch
Beneath the sceptre of Svatopluk
We were of one body.*

*For centuries the half of our body
Shackled beneath the yoke was deadened.*

*Like rock-welded Prometheus,
Thou, Slovakia, didst hang
Welded to thy heaven-reaching Tatra,
Crucified.*

*Accursed be our dissension!
Accursed be intolerance of sons
and father's unfaith!
Accursed be vikingry and unfaith of self,
unfaith of kindred, of speech and of spirit!
Accursed be foreignness and vainglory
of decking our raiment with foreign tinsels!
After centuries we are our own again —
but ever at war.*

*The untamed Mongol,
who ages ago
slaughtered and burned and shattered our realm
and with arrogant heel trampled on Metod's tomb,
To-day again slaughters and burns
our Carpathian home!*

*And again we are severing hallowed stems,
again are wrangling
and trampling upon our heritage
which Cyril and Metod implanted
and we rend one the other
sorer than foe and murderer can!*

*After centuries fused into one
by the grace of God who forgave us,
wantonly we squander
destiny, life!*

*O Slovakia, redeemed
by age-long serfdom and sorrow,
let not thy dearest treasure be seized on:
Thine ancient faith, thy dulcet speech,
Christendom's courses!
Thou art not of Arpad, art not of Stepan,—
Metod thy father!*

*Whatsoever they bring unto thee for thy jewels,
cast away as baubles, trumpery glass!*

*From sound roots of thy deep faith,
from the stock of Jesse, shall spring forth a stem,
shall spring forth a tree full of golden fruits,
beneath which we all shall rest.*

The Economic Outlook

We hear frequently bitter complaints that the low value of our money corresponds in no way to the economic strength of our state and to the purchasing value of the Czechoslovak crown at home.

According to the reports of the ministry of finance we have a favorable balance of foreign trade, and the circulation of our paper money does not exceed six billion crowns; that does not constitute serious inflation, when we consider that France, a country with three times our population, has a circulation of about 34 billion francs.

The view is wide-spread that the cause of the low value of our crown is lack of knowledge in the West of our conditions, distrust in our economic stability etc. But the causes are more concrete than that.

We shall arrive at a clear view of this matter, if we realize the amount of commodities that our highly developed industry must get from abroad, before it can run at full speed.

According to figures compiled by the Manufacturers' Association we would have to import approximately raw materials worth eight billion francs which at the present rate of exchange would be about fifty billion Czechoslovak crowns.

Against this total our present export, which comes to about four billion crowns a year of which sum the greater part is sent to countries with depreciated money is altogether too small and cannot at all balance the immense needs of our industry.

If under these conditions we left everything to free development, the value of our crown abroad would drop so low that soon any purchases in foreign countries would be impossible.

Therefore our financial policy aims to make only such purchases abroad as can be covered by available foreign money which we get for our exports; thus our industry will get its full amount of raw materials only gradually and we can return to normal economic life gradually.

That of course deprives the exchange value of our crown of its real basis, and it thus becomes dependent on arbitrage of foreign money against our money, on speculations and transactions in exchange which cannot be controlled by the ministry of finance and which of course are not likely to improve the value of our crown.

This condition may be counteracted to some extent by well-planned operations in foreign exchanges, but that again presupposes considerable financial resources which in view of the pressing needs of our industry cannot readily be spared.

Translated from the "Sbornik zahraniční politiky" (Review of Foreign Politics), No. 4, Prague.

This slow and difficult transition to normal financial and economic conditions could be considerably accelerated by one effective means. That is long term credit abroad which would get our shops going at once and thus would enable us to create new values by our work.

The endeavor of our government from the beginning has been to secure foreign credit, with slight success. Besides, with few exceptions the credit we got was unproductive, for it was consumed as food.

Early last summer we convinced American cotton men that we are a good risk; they furnished our banks 26,000 bales of cotton which the "Gulf of Mexico" discharged at Hamburg. But this amount was not sufficient even to cover our domestic needs.

We took up all forms of raw material credit: we pointed out to financial circles in Allied countries, how important it was for the Allies to maintain mutual financial solidarity and exchange of raw materials and manufactures. But the West could not understand and sought to solve the whole problem in a one-sided manner. It was itself in a difficult economic situation and looked across the ocean with the hope that the United States would continue to advance money to its impecunious debtors.

But there with the ending of war a great change occurred. The United States entered the war of its own accord, being dragged in partly by necessity, partly by opposition to the inhumane German war practices. By the declaration of war and all that followed it America interfered effectually in European affairs, and without being conscious of it or perhaps against its desires it was being bound more and more closely to Europe. The result was a tremendous indebtedness of Europe, and Europe today cannot pay the interest, to say nothing of capital.

When armistice came, America began to realize that to give more credit to European governments would mean further strengthening of the ties which bound it to Europe, and it would also involve the definite abandonment of the Monroe doctrine.

But since the United States even from the point of view of its own interests could not refuse altogether credit to Europe, discussion went on beyond the ocean as to the form which this credit could take, so that it would be a matter of business solely. The result of this discussion was the Edge bill, passed in January of this year.

This law places at the disposal of American exporters one billion dollars which will be used to discount invoices, when guaranteed in some manner by the importing states. The credit may extend for as long as five years or even ten years.

A similar law was passed in England, but there the government favors only the export of manufactured articles.

Our government which followed the development of American financial policy with steady interest is negotiating with American financial circles. The negotiations are proceeding favorably and aim principally at securing the necessary cotton to enable our mills to resume.

It is certain that through re-export of cotton goods, for which plans have been worked out in detail by our cotton industry and the necessary organization completed, we shall easily secure

foreign money to pay off gradually the credits and make a sizable profit.

From the textile industry we shall pass to other branches of our industry and effect renewal of production in them. That is the only means to restore our economic position and improve the foreign exchange situation.

We do not doubt that the time will come, when our factories will look as before the war, when every worker will be employed at full time, and when our products will compete on equal terms with the products of other countries in the markets of the world.

Notes for Travellers

In these times of restrictions and regulations the unwary traveller might easily be caught napping. Even the experienced globe-trotter will find the steps demanded by the powers that be in Europe more intricate of execution than the evolutions of the homely fox-trot. An interruption of the train-service in Austria, a missed connection or the omission of an indispensable visé on his passport are apt to ruffle the best of tempers, especially if the traveller's mental eye sees in the distance the steamer depart on which he has booked, and partly paid for, his passage to the States. That his recollections, as related on his return, are not of the brightest goes without saying. Yet, a little care and foresight these unpleasant happenings can be avoided.

If all roads lead to Rome, but a few lead now-a-days to and from Czechoslovakia. In this respect the man who looks at a map and figures out the shortest way may find on having to pass a whole night at an out-of-the-way railway station that he has to learn a new lesson in geometry. In travelling the shortest cut may be the longest way. In some cases it is far preferable to make a detour touching principal railway centres than to take the shortest line traced on the map. The hitherto most favored route from the west was that from Paris by the Entente train to Prague. This train has lately been demilitarised, and the Compagnie des Wagons-Lits is in charge. The fare Paris-Prague is about 450 fcs. The service being limited to three days a week the available accomodation is naturally somewhat short of the requirements.

Another route from Paris is via Vienna — for those who have business to transact in the Austrian capital. The Entente train passes through this city on its way to Warsaw. The same remarks apply to this route.

The third and by no means an uncomfortable way to getting to Prague is via Berlin, travelling in Germany being not only cheap but without the usually supposed inconveniences.

Lateral communication is afforded by a direct train service between Vienna and Berlin via Prague on three days a week. At Prague seats on these trains may be reserved in either direction,

A commercial train between Paris and Prague via Strassbourg and Nuremberg has for some time been forshadowed without, however, having materialised by the time of going to press. This would form the shortest and most convenient route, cutting the journey down to about 25 hours, as compared with the present route thru Switzerland which takes about 40.

In view of the prevailing restrictions and the risk of loss travellers are strongly advised to confine their luggage the the least possible dimensions. The prescribed limit of luggage registered on the Entente-train is 50 kilos, or about 100 lbs. On other trains more may be taken, but the risk of losing all or part of it had better be taken into consideration. All luggage, whether registered or not, should be insured for its full value at the place of departure, which may be done not only for a particular journey but for a specified time, say three months, on all railways which the traveller is likely to use. The various customs regulations need hardly be mentioned here since they differ almost in every country.

Equally as important as the procuring of a passport is to get it visé by the authorities of the countries of destination, as well as those traversed. Besides, in certain countries, for instance France, the visé of the French or British military authorities may be required. Without the necessary visé a passport is a mere scrap of paper whatever nationality its owner may belong to.

All visitors to Prague should make a point of calling on their arrival at the Foreigners Office (Mikulandská ul. 7), a Government Institution established for the convenience of visitors. There every available information is courteously given, the visés on passports obtained, seats on trains reserved, hotel accomodation — a very difficult item — procured, in short, every assistance is gladly extended, and all free of charge.

Visitors to Prague are earnestly requested to personally report their arrival at the Head-Police station within twenty-four hours and in case of a longer sojourn also their departure. Reporting by proxy is inadmissible.

Fame

By SVATOPLUK ČECH. Translated by P. SELVER.

(Concluded.)

We had to comply. Soon afterwards our caravan was proceeding in the opposite direction down a gradual slope of the mountain into the wooded valley. At first the road led again only through dense thickets, but lower down we were surrounded by a regular leafy forest. Riding was pleasant through the deep hollow, above which on both sides an irregular array of beech, elm, ash, sycamore and other trees, covered with a clinging abundance of various creeping plants, with a thick undergrowth of thorn-bushes, laurel, flowering azaleas and manifold other shrubs, scattered by the wind lay slantwise across the hollow, and from them hung almost to the roadway tangled creepers of ivy and honeysuckle, of wild hops and vine; in these spots we had to dismount from our horses and lead them by the bridle under these natural bridges, during which process strips of the tangled green fabric frequently got caught in the saddles. From the dim thicket above the hollow peeped forth many flowers, some of which were truly magnificent, with their large, glowing and many-colored eyes, and also upon the roadway among the ruts tall irises stretched forth their blue or yellow blossoms.

At the foot of the slope the forest opened out before us and disclosed to us a glimpse into the long narrow valley. We were afforded a view of unusually luxuriant vegetation. From both sides along the slope of the picturesque heights extended the shaggy fresh green of the forest down to the bottom, which was completely hidden in an incredible abundance of water-plants. I had never before seen leaves of such a girth and such a height. A very wide area was covered here by circular expanses of foliage which could easily have been used as umbrellas, and all the bottom of the valley, including the invisible stream in its midst, was thickly bespread with these green discs, among which projected the jagged leaves of some other species of plants, attaining almost the height of a grown man. It was as if beneath us in long and serried ranks an army of elves were marching through the valley in that military formation known to the ancients as a "Testudo"; from above I could see nothing but circular green shields and between them jutting green lances.

We rode on through this valley along a rarely frequented road which twined past the edge of the forest and here and there twisted into it. Although there was no trace of human habitation or of grazing herds to be seen anywhere, our journey proceeded nevertheless in the midst of ever-changing and absorbing views. The forest

itself around which we ambled, was a perpetual source of delight to our eyes; the most expert of gardeners could not have contrived to form from the various trees, shrubs and creeping plants such manifold and picturesque arrangements of which this grove was composed. Those who are familiar only with the appearance afforded by the foliage in the woods of Central Europe — drab, mossy tree-trunks and green clouds delicately woven from just a few leafy shapes which are generally mingled only in the immediate vicinity of separate tree-tops and easily distinguishable summits, — cannot form any proper idea of this. Here the various trees show the greatest fondness for gathering together in close clusters of rankly intertwined branches and in unchecked entanglements of leafage most varied in shape; there below, one trunk fervidly clings to the other, yonder a vine-stem twists around a third one in huge coils like a boa constrictor; up yonder, leaves large and small, with plain edges and clipped into various patterns, of dark and light green, with coppery and silvery glitter, are woven into a picturesque chaos, amid which diverse tinges of greenish twilight effectively alternate with the fiery gleam of the sun. — And everywhere the wild vine trails with its peculiar charm. As you gaze at such an arrangement, there flits across your mind the thought of a swarm of priests and priestesses of Bacchus, mingling with joyous intoxication in a dancing cluster, around which the loosened vine garlands picturesquely beckon and flutter from the thyrsistresses and shoulders.

It was a ride through a park such as no magnate in our country could have procured. At every bend in the zigzag path I was astonished by the fresh and pleasing conjunctions of the forest upon one side, and upon the other by a new and beautiful outlook on to the variegated green tree-tops, amid which from time to time a glimpse could be caught of the valley at the sides with the bluish silhouette of the mountains in the background.

Our party rode slowly, feasting their eyes upon the sight of this natural beauty, and expanding their lungs with the pure air which was sheer lustre and fragrance. Insects hummed around the blossoms, in the bright blue sky a bird of prey wheeled here and there, somewhere beside the path there was a noisy splash in the water; doubtless a water-turtle, scared by the trotting of our horses. We were silent; only Duňaska twittered from time to time snatches of some half melancholy, half merry folk-song.

thus compensating us for the lack of singing birds which was the only thing we missed so far in this charming spring landscape.

After riding through the valley for some time, we bunched off from the pathway — which led on through the midst of the deserted mountains heaven knows whither — to something which Tabunov certainly designated by the name of road, but which in reality by no means deserved such a name. As we ascended the hillside on this alleged road behind the surgeon and the Cossacks, I searched in vain upon the ground for any ruts or other traces of conveyances, horses or wayfarers; I saw nothing but high grass, stones and prickly shrubs. Later on in the forest I came to the conclusion that this gap between the dense trees which was narrow and overgrown with lower and sparser shrubs and along which we passed with some difficulty, was the trace of a roadway long since abandoned. And Tabunov partly corroborated my conjecture by informing us that this road was a survival from Circassian days, and that owing to the remarkable rankness of the vegetation here, it would have long been covered up, if from time to time the Cossacks had not made use of it on their expeditions into the mountains.

It was not over pleasant to ride upon. The horses had to keep out of the way of the thorny brushwood, and our two Cossacks frequently drew the long broad daggers from their leathern scabbards at their sides to clip the long overgrowth of branches and the cross-wise outstretched tendrils and garlands with which the hops and the vine covered in our pathway, as the villagers used to do for a wedding procession. From the forest we then rode out on to a stony level where a deadly heat blazed down on to us, sweltering from above and below, and from where we had a difficult task to mount across the boulders along a bare steep hill-side to a rocky ravine from which we caught a discouraging glimpse of the troublesome road to the high stony slope opposite. To this we could at the most look forward like Eulenspiegel because of the journey down again, but this journey was even worse than the upward one. And so it went on the whole time.

Our humor became less cheerful. I myself no longer even looked at the landscape. It is difficult to take any pleasure in picturesque views when the sweat is trickling in streams from your forehead, when your jaded limbs grow aching and numb, and your cramped knees are chafed by a feeling as if they were being cut into two with a saw. Duňáška stopped singing. Suslikov had started some mordant argument with Aglaja Andrejevna, but they soon gave it up; argue, if you will, when your tongue is being perpetually threatened by jolts, and when at a most telling point in your speech your opponent suddenly disappears behind a boulder.

During this journey the ladies had to dismount from their horses several times, and upon us younger men devolved the more or less agreeable duty of helping them across the worst obstacles. Anna Kirilovna was especially insistent in her demands upon our support, and the task of helping her along was all the more laborious, since in addition to the burden of her capacious charms it was necessary at the same time to bear the brunt of her continual lamentations and reproaches: "Oh, oh — what a journey! — dear, dear! — how terribly hot it is! — my poor darlings (this was intended for the girls, who with a smile and as nimbly as fawns, were leaping across the stones) — what a hard time you are having! — oh, Pavel Semenovitch, have you no conscience? — This is an outrageous sin, to lead us astray among such horrible precipices and abysses."

The sinner obstinately held his peace. But all at once, as we were riding out towards the wood on the spacious projection of a peak, he stopped his horse and exclaimed, pointing to the little wood: "We are at our journey's end, ladies and gentlemen. Look, there is the *aül* — *aül* — well, I do not know its name. Imagine, if you like, that this is the same Circassian *aül* in which Pushkin's prisoner of the Caucasus spent his days in grievous hardship and his nights in secret wooing of the unhappy Circassian girl."

We stopped and looked more closely at the place which the surgeon pointed out, but we could see only the little wood which was indeed of recent growth and not very high, but extremely dense and full of wild beauty. And yet Tabunov was right — it was a decayed Circassian village of bygone times.

A decayed village. What a depth of poetry reposes in these words. Imagine in the slumbering depths of the forest a group of half-ruined cottages, or rather only the remains of low walls in the interior of which among ferns and heather there is a rank growth of dense briar which thrusts its prickly branches with wild roses through the cavities of the windows. The deserted scene of former human activity with its joys and sorrows, with its love and hatred is concealed and grown over by the victorious forest with its thick branches, through the gaps in which a sun-ray seldom penetrates into the dull, mysterious dusk and plays like a will-o-the-wisp on the rich velvety moss from which compassionate nature is weaving a green shroud for the dead village. Perhaps you also imagine in its midst a half-ruined chapel into whose bare interior the branches of old oak trees force their way through the Gothic windows and with their thick leafage replace the fallen roof, and in whose moss-covered belfry with its rusty cross instead of the sacred chimes only the song of the forest birds now resounds.

Well, the decayed Circassian village, before which we stood, presented a somewhat different appearance. The mountain hamlets in the Cau-

casus bear a strange resemblance to ruins, even before they are destroyed. You can see somewhere under a rock or upon a rock a heap of low, flat-rooted huts densely packed together and forming in appearance only a single terrace-like mass, in which can be seen only the narrow lines of windows like loop-holes in a castle wall. The whole thing is not distinguished in color from the rocky background. Sometimes a tapering, pinnacle turret projects from the *aúl*, and then such a village reminds you very strongly of some of the ruined masses of rock in Bohemia. That is generally the appearance of a Caucasian mountaineer's hamlet, and that, no doubt, had been the appearance of this one as well. But its inhabitants, the Circassians, had deserted it, enemies had destroyed it, and the terribly luxuriant nature of the Caucasus held sway over a bare pile of stones. In the comparatively short number of years since the last inhabitant of the village had departed from his native threshold, nature had contrived to enwrap these ruins with an almost impenetrable forest thicket.

When with the help of our daggers we had hacked a pathway to the ruins through the Gordian knots of clinging plants and thorn-bushes, it was with difficulty that we could distinguish a half-fallen stone hut; around the twisted walls there was a rank growth of prickly shrubs and weeds spread densely almost to the flat roofs, where huge ferns and other plants were mouldering in the shadow of thickly interwoven branches with which the young trees veiled the empty hut; in the low entrance a snake rose up and hissed, as if it wanted to prevent the intruders from making their way into the hut, of which it was now the sole inhabitant. And at the back could be seen, as far as the eye could at all penetrate the wild thicket, several other such ruins, which were more like a waste pile of stones overgrown with vegetation. The surgeon informed us that amid this desolation we should neither find nor see anything particular, and so we returned — all the more willingly, since any further penetration into this wild chaos which was inhabited by snakes and other reptiles, would have caused us much exertion and unpleasantness.

We mounted still further on to the flat mountain-ridge, and there we pitched our tents. Of course, only in a figurative sense. In spite of the scorching noon-tide sun, we had no need of artificial covering; a group of bushy trees with a thick undergrowth of shrubs, afforded us all a shady and fragrant shelter. It was a delightful little spot with which the apostles would probably have been even more pleased than they were on the peak of Mount Tabor.

Thence upon all sides we had a captivating view of the surrounding mountains which filled the landscape along the horizon with billows of various form and size. Here was everything that the heart of a painter could desire; mount-

ains and valleys covered with thick forests in all shades of green, fantastic rocks of various colors, delightful blossoming hollows, charming quiet dales, in the distance snowy peaks half concealed by a torn veil of mist, and then the sea appeared through the cleft of a distant rock like a moist sapphire-colored eye—but yet something was missing. There was no town which spread itself out in a valley, no tower which peeped forth behind the forests, no cottage which nestled against quiet hill-sides, no sign of a peasant, a shepherd or a forester which animated the landscape, nowhere could be seen a garden or a plot of land, nor any sign whatever of human life — amid a deep and holy calm nature alone held sway here in her utter beauty and magnificence.

On the western side of the flat mountain-ridge upon which we had ensconced ourselves, the mountain descended by a sudden and almost vertical precipice into a deep inaccessible hollow filled with wild forest; our view in this direction was shut off by a rather beautiful young ash-tree, growing above the edge of the abyss isolated in the picturesque embrace of rich vine-tendrils, like a slender youth in the arms of a passionate girl.

Having feasted our gaze, we saw to it that our appetites were also satisfied. For a considerable while jaws were busy upon various wings, thigh-bones and similar matters, and finally the inevitable samovar again glittered in the midst of the party.

At first, as was natural, conversation centred around the decayed Circassian village and the Circassians generally, and in the course of this the curious circumstance was remarked upon by various persons that we were able to sit here so peacefully and undisturbedly gossiping in the midst of a region where only a short time previously the valiant nation of mountaineers dwelt untroubled in their stone retreats, devoted with a fanatical love to Islam and their wild liberty. But suddenly Uljana, who during this conversation had fixed her dreamy eyes in silence upon the grass, turned to the surgeon with the bashful question: "But what else happened to the sick man in the Czech settlement, Pavel Semenovitch?"

"Of course, of course — first of all you must finish your rather lengthy definition of fame," added Suslikov facetiously, and the others also joined him in this request.

And Tabunov continued his narrative thus:

"First of all you perhaps want to know whether the poetical accomplishments of my patient were real or only a sick man's fancy. Don't be afraid, Aglaja, I am not going to launch forth into a literary and critical analysis, for which I feel neither desire nor qualification. I will merely tell you this: On the evening of the same day that I returned from Metodějovka, I was lying tired out in bed, and with a yawn I took up a book to read a few pages, according to my

custom, before I went to sleep. At that moment my glance fell upon Jan's large bundle of poems, which upon my return from the Czech village I had laid upon the table by the bed. Almost without thinking, I picked it up instead of a book. I expected, I must confess, merely something of a pathological interest.

I read the first lines listlessly, I yawned, and it was with difficulty that I could keep my eyes open, but — when the first gleam of morning stole into the room, it found me by the half-extinguished lamp, devouring the last verses of the poem with my eyes excitedly enkindled. I was almost frightened when, looking up from the manuscript which I had finished reading, I saw through the window opposite the green of the mountain slopes already blended with the gold of a spring morning. It was long since such a thing had happened to me — the last time was in my youth when I had spent a whole night in ecstasy over Byron's "Cain."

I do not wish to suggest a comparison of the unfortunate Jan with the great Englishman. Altogether, I refrain from giving an opinion as to the literary value of his work. I am merely describing the effect that this poem had upon me. After a few stanzas I felt myself suddenly in the grip of something like the breath of the Lord, that vehement whirlwind of God, by which the prophets of old were borne through the air into distant places. Your smile, Aglaja, does not make the slightest difference; you may have already observed that I am matter-of-fact person — perhaps more so than you would like to appear — and that I am not given to exaggerating. But I tell you that I soared through that night in the twinkling of an eye, rising in unearthly regions upon the mighty wing of poetry, which long after I had returned to earth, dimmed my thoughts with a strange rapture. For a considerable while after I had finished reading this poem, I felt like a man who gradually gropes his way back to reality from the embrace of a beautiful dream.

And how I roved about everywhere that night. I soared through the world, the past and the present, all the huge expanse which Jan's poetry gauged life-size with its mighty rainbow-colored pinions. It was clear that he had desired to express all his poetical outlook on the world in this work, that he had desired to breathe into it, and had indeed breathed into it, his whole soul. Nature, all human relationships, all struggles and yearnings of mankind were exhibited here in a completely new and magical illumination, such as only spirits of genius can spread upon their earthly paths. And like Dante's Beatrice, there arose before him upon this poetical pilgrimage that graceful phantom that he had told me about. The poem ended here in the Caucasus — whose natural beauties were reflected in it with colors of rare splendor, as in the mirror of a magic lake — on the peak of a lofty mountain where the poet with a magni-

ficent harangue took his farewell from life and the world, and his mysterious ideal placed a wreath of immortality upon his brow. In my judgment his work was truly worthy of undying fame."

"And what happened to this poem? Where is it?" I exclaimed involuntarily, when the surgeon, after speaking these words, was silent for a while.

"In a moment, you shall hear in a moment" replied Tabunov quietly. "On my second visit to the sick man I saw that his condition was visibly becoming worse. I looked at his haggard, livid face with pity, and my voice trembled with sorrowful emotion as I bestowed sincerely enthusiastic praise upon his poetical work. He listened to it calmly without any signs of joy, as if he had not expected any other judgment. Then, taking back the manuscript from my hand, he said: "I rely upon your promise. You know where to find this which will be the only thing I leave behind me. But at the same time I beg of you imploringly to fulfil one more final wish. You know the decayed Circassian village not far from here in the mountains?"

I assented.

"Above this village" continued the sick man in a feeble voice, "on the flat peak of the mountain, is a spot where I have spent the most beautiful moment of my life. It used to be my favorite haunt as long as I could still leave the house. Above the edge of the abyss stands a solitary young ash-tree, with vine-tendrils trailing over it; in its shadow I have sat for hours at a time, with a notebook in my lap and a pencil in my hand . . . dreaming and writing. I used to be so unspeakably happy in that beautiful solitude where around me, as far as my eye could reach, I saw nothing but magnificent mountains, and above me the radiant vault of heaven. I was there alone with my poetry. Everything round about was silent with a holy stillness, and she alone whispered to me her wondrous sayings. And the light mist, fluttering afar above the forest, would gradually take on the form of a maiden, the likeness of my beauteous unknown, and come aquiver towards me in the air like a white cloud with open embrace. Yearningly I stretched out my hands towards her, plunging my whole soul in the mysterious sapphire depths of her eyes. She nestled tremblingly in my embrace, and then I closed my eyes with inexpressible joy, my head sank back upon the trunk of the ash-tree, and when a breeze passed through its foliage, I used to think that the beautiful vision, bending down gently above me, was whispering words of unearthly grace. How often have I desired in such a moment to rest thus for ever. Well, if I succumb to this illness, it is there that I wish to be buried. My parents would perhaps regard this wish as the expression of a morbid craving, and would bury me in spite of it amid the narrow walls of a graveyard. So please see

to it yourself that my last wish is fulfilled. Do you promise me this?"

I promised and I kept my promise. The unhappy Jan does actually rest yonder in front of us, in the shadows of this ash-tree. Above his grave was also raised a simple wooden cross, but the rank vine-tendrils soon trailed all over it with their dense leafage. When I was here the last time, I found two fresh wreaths of wild flowers on top of the cross — no doubt they had been gathered shortly before by Jan's mother and the beautiful girl whose hopeless love for the sick poet I think I mentioned on our way to the lonely grave. Now this cross is completely hidden by vine leaves."

The surgeon made a short pause. The rest of us were also silent as we gazed thoughtfully at the ash-tree. It was clear that all were moved at having been told that we were standing so near to the grave of the frenziedly inspired poet who had faded in the flower of his youth. Even Aglaja Andrejevna's lips lost their usual contemptuous smile. Tears glistened in Uljana's beautiful blue eyes. It seemed to me then that for a moment in the shadow of the ash-tree beneath the drooping garland of emerald vine-leaves, I caught a glimpse of the figure of a young man with black hair, seated with his pale face bent forward, his eye dreamily staring into the distance.

"When I visited my young patient in Metodějovka for the third time" continued Tabunov, "I found him in the middle of the room on a low trestle formed from planks and chairs, clad in a simple shroud, with his hands crossed upon his breast. He was entirely covered with fiery azaleas and gaudy pictures of saints. On the ground beside him, with her head at the feet of the corpse, knelt the girl who had stopped me in the forest the first time I was returning from the sick man. His father stood by the window in mournful lethargy, with his eyes duly fixed upon the ground: his mother was sobbing and wringing her hands in a circle of neighbors who were speaking words of comfort to her. My entry into the room aroused loud lamentation. Silently I advanced towards the corpse and glanced for a moment into his face.

"It had not changed much, except that the closed eyes made its gauntness and shadowiness even more conspicuous. And what is the face of a corpse else than the mere shadow of a beloved person who is departing; they have already crossed the threshold of the house, for a moment their shadow still flickers before us on the surface of the door or upon the opposite wall, and then vanishes—for ever. My gaze wandered from the dead man to the village girl who now stood beside him, hiding her eyes and face in the palms of her beautiful soft hands; from beneath them and along the side of them, bright tears were flowing and glistened also upon her fresh lips like the morning dew upon a ripe cherry. What a contrast was this lovely creature

brimming over with life, with her wealth of fair hair, in her bright colored dress and close red bodice, beneath which her lovely, full breast surged with heavy sighs,—what a contrast to the dead faded object beside her.

I gazed afresh into the face of the corpse, and I now perceived that his lips were half opened, and that a calm and happy smile rested upon them. This was, as it were, a rigid expression of the bliss which the last moment of his life had bestowed upon him. He had probably died according to his desire. The vision which haunted him, the airy blue-eyed beloved, had nestled into his arms, his head had sunk back into the pillows as if upon the trunk of the trusty ash-tree, his eyes were closed, and above the dying man was wafted a sweet whisper of love and fame, of immortality in the poem which he had left behind him upon this earth. Suddenly I remembered the promise I had made to the sick man.

Having made sure that Jan was dead, I advanced to the couch on which he had lain during his illness. It contained neither a feather bolster nor a straw mattress, — it was completely empty. I asked his parents whether they had not found any papers in it. His grief-stricken father glanced questioningly at his sobbing wife, but she sorrowfully shook her head.

At that moment the girl came up to me with downcast and tearful eyes, and said simply: "Are you speaking about the writings which Jan composed, and hid under the pillow in his bed?"

"Yes,—it is of time I am speaking."

"I took them away" the girl told me in embarrassment. "It happened in this way. His mother accepted my offer to watch by the sick man with her. It was yesterday evening, Jan was asleep. I remembered what you said about the great harm that writing did him, and for safety's sake I took away ink, pen and paper from the table beside his bed. After that we prayed quietly, sitting in this corner. A candle was burning behind the shade by his bed, his mother was sleeping, and through the gap between the wall and the shade I watched the sick man's bed upon which the light was shining clearly. He was sleeping quietly. Unexpectedly I was also overcome by drowsiness. When I woke up again, I saw that Jan was awake. He had raised himself up a little in bed, he had a thick pile of paper on his lap and was writing slowly with a pencil, which I had forgotten on the table. I wanted to tell him to leave off, but at that moment he stopped writing, his head sank back on to the pillow, he dropped the pencil which fell on the edge of the bed, his eyes closed and his deep sigh passed through the room. Driven by fear, I went quietly up to the bed.—he had died."

There was renewed lamentation which I interrupted with the eager question: "And what about the papers?"

"Ah, the papers" replied the girl, "they threw them off the dead man on to the ground. I

picked them up later and laid them on the table. Then I remembered that these papers were the chief reason why he had died before his time, and in my anger I nearly tore them up and threw them out of the window. But then the thought came to me that this was Jan's writing,—that it contained his thoughts, I should have liked to read them, and perhaps keep them for a remembrance. I knew that Jan's father had often called his writing a foolish pastime, and had threatened his son that he would burn these papers if he caught him at them again. So as I came away, I took the papers with me."

"And you have them at home?" I asked.

"Yes," declared the girl, and with that she stared at me with astonishment in her clear brown eyes, upon whose lashes tiny tears were glistening. "But is there anything important in these papers?"

I merely gave a slight nod, and after taking my leave of Jan's parents, I asked the girl to go with me and bring me the papers. How different was the view which greeted me outside when I had left the close room, the scene of death and sorrow. The lovely smile of the spring sun was shinging on the cottages, on the vine-leaves and the hopes which trailed around them, in countless flowers and upon the rich green tree-tops of the forest close by, in front of which, upon the fresh grass of a meadow under a blossoming pear-tree, a troop of children was romping around a merrily blazing little fire.

I went with the girl to a low-roofed hut. On the threshold a wrinkled old woman was warming herself in the sun; she had a crutch under her arm and in her hand a rosary, whose pimperl beads her shrunken fingers were slowly counting out. "I am praying for neighbour's Jenik" she mumbled with her toothless lips, "God grant that he may enter into heaven". The girl slipped, passed her into the cottage and remained there for a considerable time. She returned in manifest alarm, and asked the old woman: "Do you know, what has become of those papers that I put on the box?" — "How should I know" muttered the old woman. "I expect those young imps of ours,—they are always getting up to some mischief or other,—I think they took some papers out of the room,—they are over there, hm, hm," and with a cough she lifted her crutch and pointed to the group of children under the pear-tree.

I hurried there with the girl, and in the middle of the frolicking band of children I saw upon a small, half burnt-out fire a smouldering pile of papers; some of them had just finished burning and were still writhing and softly wheezing as if in pain. The children were gloating over the death struggles and sighs of the unhappy poem, and were delighted by the gambols of the playful sparks upon the blackening fibres. Of course, they had not the slightest notion that each one of these sparks meant that a great and beautiful thought was being utterly de-

stroyed, that with them the last traces of an extraordinary and lofty spirit were vanishing for ever from the surface of the earth."

"So it is all burnt up?" I exclaimed almost simultaneously with Uljana.

"Practically all. Only a single sheet of paper was saved from the children's auto-da-fé. It lay beside the fire with its edges only slightly charred. It was the epilogue, the lines of which had been completed in pencil, and with them the poet had accomplished his life's work, — now rendered useless,—almost in the very moment of death. I have kept this sheet in my pocket-book. Perhaps after you return home you could publish at least these few verses in some native periodical. In my opinion they are beautiful, extremely beautiful, and yet they form only a very insignificant and paltry fragment of the splendid magical palace, through the radiant passages of which I walked alone that night, and which collapsed into nothing behind me as if at the touch of an evil wizard. At the most they can arouse profound regret at the loss of an extraordinary —"

Two shots in quick succession interrupted his words. Alarmed and also inquisitive, the party scrambled to the slope of the mountain from which they had resounded. I also joined in. I soon observed that something very ordinary had happened. As time was hanging heavily on their hands, our Cossacks had been doing some hunting and they had shot an animal. So I returned to our camping-place. But there my steps were arrested by the following brief incident which I saw through a gap in the thicket which separated me from our deserted camp with the lonely ash-tree in the background. It was not entirely deserted. Uljana, whose agitation and moodiness I had noticed the whole time that the surgeon was speaking, had remained there. Perhaps in her deep thoughts she had overheard even the two shots. She was sitting there with her head buried in her hands. Now she suddenly arose, looked hastily around her, and perceiving nobody upon the camping-place, she gave a single leap up to the young ash-tree, clasped her hands around its slender trunk, and half concealed by the vine-tendrils trailing about it, she pressed her lips upon the grey bark. She remained for a little while in this posture. And just at that moment the top of the ash-tree quivered in the light breeze, its feathery, transparent foliage began gently to sway and rustle.

What was the meaning of this incident? Was it one of those mysterious outbursts of unfathomed emotion, which suddenly with the vehemence of a whirlwind set a young soul astir, and then suddenly disappear without after-effects? Or was Uljana the incarnation of that beautiful vision, for which the unhappy youth had vainly sighed throughout his life and with whose bodily image he would only meet beyond the grave? And truly, the ash-tree quivered as strangely as if Jan himself were actually standing there in

that green guise upon his grave, and as if he had felt the inexpressible bliss of that embrace and of the glowing kiss which penetrated thru the cold bark into his heart.

The party returned. Uljana was already sitting quietly in her place again.

"Our good fellows have been passing their time in a more useful way," said old Ivan Ivanovitch jovially, smoothing his white mustache, "they have bagged a first-rate roebuck."

This hunting episode was discussed in a jocular manner. But I had no thoughts except for Jan's epilogue.

"Please show me the page that you saved from my fellow-countryman's poem", I asked Tabunov.

"Ah yes, here it is." And the surgeon took a charred and yellow sheet of paper out of his pocket-book.

"And read us these verses aloud, please, — I should so much like to hear what a Czech poem sounds like," exclaimed Anna Kirilovna.

"Yes, recite it to us with the appropriate feeling, — stand over there in the shadow of the

ash-tree by the poet's grave, it will be very touching", remarked Aglaja Andrejevna, and it was difficult to decide whether these words were ironical or the expression of a momentary sentimental mood.

Involuntarily I stepped up to the ash-tree, the top of which was now trembling from time to time in the wind. Holding the paper in my hand, I gave another glance at Uljana, — her enchanting blue eyes, glistening with tears, were resting fixedly upon my lips.

"Mind your hat!" Suslikov admonished me at this moment, and while I clutched at my hat with one hand, a violent puff of wind suddenly dragged the paper out of the other, and in a twinkling carried it away over the abyss.

"Ah!" exclaimed everybody with one accord, and they all scrambled to the edge of the chasm.

Tabunov stretched his hand out towards the paper, which was gently fluttering through the air above the abyss and falling into an inaccessible ravine in the wild depths of the forest: he turned his face to us with a bitter smile and said: "See friends, — that is fame!"

Current Topics

TWO DISTINGUISHED SLOVAK VISITORS.

In March and April the Slovaks of America had the pleasure of welcoming two delegates of the Slovak Parliamentary Club, the Rev. Ladislav Moyš, until recently chief of the Uzhorod District, and John Pocisk, member of the National Assembly.

While the Czechs have had a good many visitors during the past year, some of them with various official missions, the Slovaks of America had to be satisfied until now with reports of their own delegates as to conditions in the old country. Their only visitors from abroad were two men who came last winter to agitate for the policy of separation from the Czechs; they were not very successful in their object, but they managed to create some ill feeling and squabbles, especially in Slovak Catholic churches.

Though they claimed to represent the Slovak People's (Catholic) party, they were repudiated by it, and the two visitors who arrived in March brought credentials from the Slovak Club in which all the Slovak political parties are represented. The Rev. Ladislav Moyš is a Roman Catholic priest who has been a Slovak patriot during the days of Magyar rule, when to be a good Slovak involved much persecution. Upon the overthrow of Magyar rule he was placed in charge of one of the counties of Slovakia from which position he resigned prior to his mission to America. His companion John Pocisk is a workingman of Bratislava, a leader of the Slovak social democratic party. This partnership and

good comradeship of a Catholic priest and a socialist leader is typical of conditions in the Czechoslovak Republic, where men of the most divergent political and religious views heartily co-operate with each other for the good of their country.

Father Moyš and Mr. Pocisk spoke practically every night since their arrival in March, and always to crowded meetings of their countrymen who were eager to hear from eye-witnesses a trustworthy account of the present conditions in Slovakia. They told their countrymen with reference to relations of Czechs and Slovaks that the Czechs had always been ready to agree to any political demand of the Slovaks; but the Slovak leaders realized that only close union with Czech brothers would preserve the Slovaks from the aggressive designs of the Magyars. So while all local affairs in Slovakia are completely in the hands of the Slovaks themselves, it was not thought desirable to erect Slovakia into a separate province with its own diet, as the Slovaks of America originally planned it.

At a meeting of the Slovak League, held in Pittsburgh on April 9, a report to the same effect was made by Albert Mamatey, president of the League, with the result that the Slovak League approved of the manner in which the leaders of the Slovak nation arranged their relations with the Czechs. Thus the danger of a misunderstanding between the two branches of the Czechoslovak nation which the Magyars zealously tried to bring about has been fortunately done away with.

IN BEAUTIFUL PRAGUE.

During my first visit to Prague, in November, 1918, I found the city in a fever of excitement over the allied victory. The streets were ablaze with flags, principally the white and red of Czechoslovakia and the stars and stripes. Pictures of President Wilson and of Czechoslovakia's president, Masaryk, were displayed in the shop windows. It was not unusual to see five pictures of President Wilson in one window.

To-day the streets of Prague are calm, and the city has assumed the normal appearance of an overpopulated central European town. New stocks of food — there was little a year ago — have replaced the pictures of the presidents. The flags are furled, and the people are working.

Prague is always beautiful. The city of a hundred towers forms an interesting diversion after Vienna on the south and Berlin on the north. Czechoslovakia forms the point of the Slav thrust westward into Teutonic Austria and Germany. One notices the change particularly in the architecture and the costumes. Vienna is Latin, Greek and modern; Munich and Nuremberg are heavy German; Dresden is heavy renaissance; Berlin is ugly! Prague is Slavic, with bulbous church towers, which look as if a giant architect had first erected straight steeples, had changed his mind, and with a heavy hand squeezed them down until they swelled into graceful curves.

Prague is picturesque. There can be no more interesting view than from the Hradčany, or Castle Village, over the city. On a turreted gun platform a soldier stands with his hand on the lanyard ready to fire at noon. He looks across a long stone stairway, occupied by a beggar or two playing an accordion; over the roofs of palaces and gardens; across the Moldau river, winding into the low hills, and he sees not a hundred but a thousand towers piercing the smoky haze that veils the city. At his feet is the Charles bridge, with a double row of saints' statues, and near by the John Huss church, with its old tower, a square one. There are several bridges, with knots of people stopping to pay the 2 heller (less than 1 cent) toll. One can pick out the dome of the national theater, the spire of the city hall, and the Powder tower. The soldier pulls the lanyard. There is a heavy report which booms over Prague announcing the hour. The smoke from the cannon dissipates among the peculiar chimneys and roofs which form interesting details of the picture.

The national costume of the women consists of many short skirts, flounced, like a ballet dancer's, reaching just below the knee. The bodice is snug and reveals the characteristic strength of the people. A head shawl, folded simply, falls to the waist. High boots, like those of a cavalryman, complete the picture. The colors are bright and harmoniously arranged by means of elaborate embroidery. A peasant woman dressed in this fashion impresses one with a sense of

forceful, almost primitive beauty. Full, plump faces, sad and at the same time pleasant, typically Slav, look out from the tightly drawn head shawl.

Every Czech girl owns a dress of the national pattern, but does not wear it daily; only upon special occasions, at dances or during national holidays. Some wear their gay, attractive clothes during the usual Sunday walk in the parks. Each region and almost each village has its own special costume, distinguished by the colors of the embroidery or by the length of the skirts.

The first sensation of national consciousness, the sensation of having a country of their own, has become tempered by the necessity of building the country into a working whole. Hitherto Austrians administered the state functions; the Czechs had no administrative experience. Experience and knowledge are being purchased at the expense of careful and sometimes costly experiments. The glory of independence is being superseded by the first stages of democratic growth. Czecho-Slovakia, the most promising of the infant war republics, is learning how to walk alone among nations.

A. R. Decker.

(In the Chicago Daily News.)

**STATEMENT OF THE OWNERSHIP, MANAGEMENT,
CIRCULATION, ETC., REQUIRED BY THE ACT OF
CONGRESS OF AUGUST 24TH, 1912.**

Of The Czechoslovak Review, published monthly at Chicago, Ill., for April 1, 1920.

State of Illinois, County of Cook, ss.

Before me, a notary public and for the State and county aforesaid, personally appeared J. F. Smetanka, who, having been duly sworn according to law, deposes and says that he is the editor of the Czechoslovak Review, and that the following is, to the best of his knowledge and belief, a true statement of the ownership, management (and if a daily paper, the circulation), etc., of the aforesaid publication for the date shown in the above caption, required by the Act of August 24, 1912, embodied in section 443, Postal Laws and Regulations, printed on the reverse of this form, to-wit:

1. That the names and addresses of the publisher, editor, managing editor and business managers are: Publisher, The Bohemian Review Company, 2324 S. Central Park Ave., Chicago; editor J. F. Smetanka, 2324 S. Central Park Ave., Chicago; managing editor, none; business manager, none.

2. That the owners are: (Give names and addresses of individual owners, or, if a corporation, give its name and the names and addresses of stockholders owning or holding 1 per cent or more of the total amount of stock.):

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3. That the known bondholders, mortgagees, and other security holders owning or holding 1 per cent or more of the total amount of bonds, mortgages, or other securities are: (If there are none, so state.) None.

4. That the two paragraphs next above, giving the names of the owners, stockholders, and security holders, if any, contain not only the list of stockholders and security holders as they appear upon the books of the company but also, in cases where the stockholder or security holder appears upon the books of the company as trustee or in any other fiduciary relation, the name of the person or corporation for whom such trustee is acting, is given; also that the said two paragraphs contain statement embracing affiant's full knowledge and belief as to the circumstances and conditions under which stockholders and security holders who do not appear upon the books of the company as trustees, hold stock and securities in a capacity other than that of bona fide owner; and this affiant has no reason to believe that any other person, association, or corporation has any interest direct or indirect in the said stock, bonds, or other securities than as so stated by him.

J. F. SMETANKA, Editor.

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 22nd day of March, 1920.

James F. Vanek, Notary Public.

(Seal)

My commission expires April 4, 1923.

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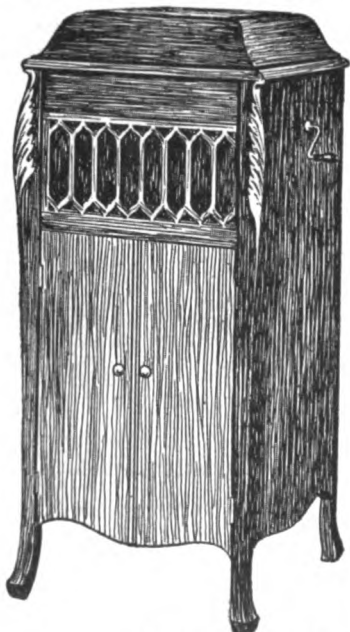
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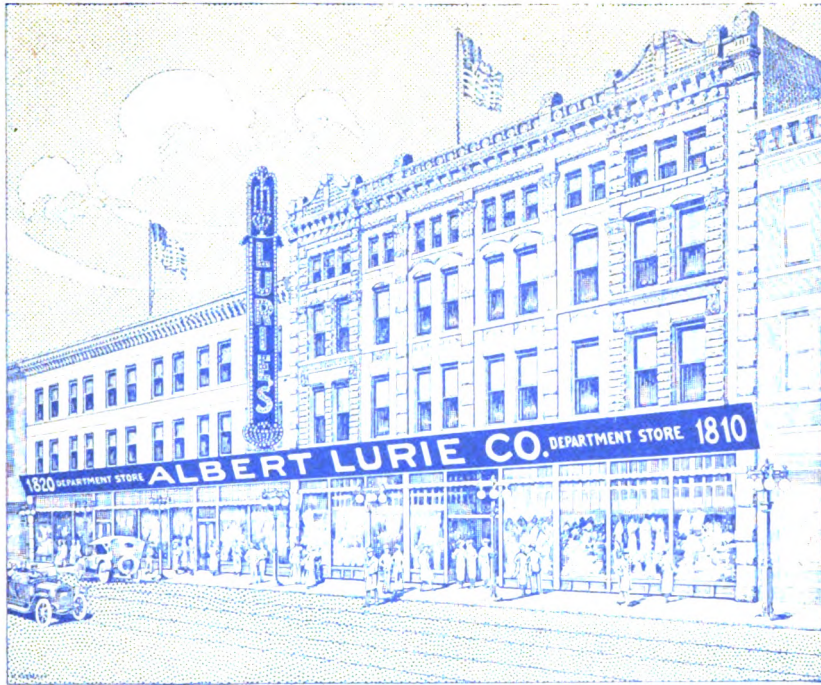
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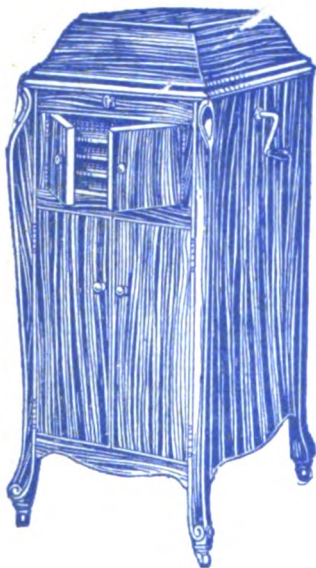
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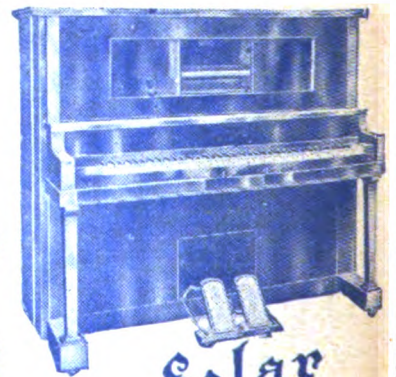
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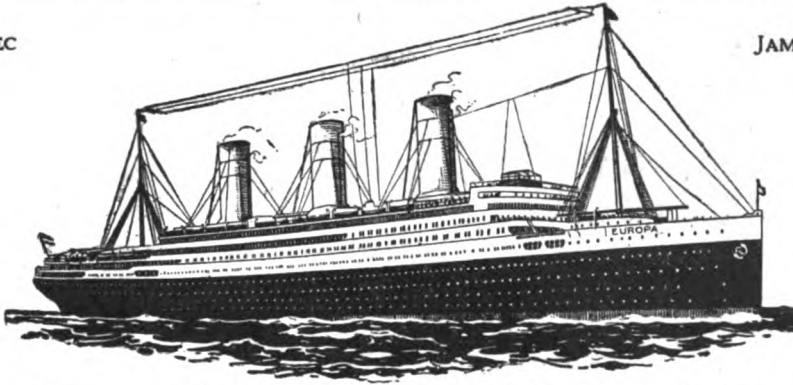
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April Elections

The first National Assembly of the Czechoslovak Republic, selected by the leaders of the revolution which overthrew the Austrian rule, completed its labors on April 15, almost on the eve of the first parliamentary elections in the new Republic. The revolutionary legislature consisted of one chamber; the constitution adopted by this National Assembly provided for a parliament of two chambers. On April 18 elections were held for the chamber of deputies, by far the more important of the two; on April 25 elections were held for the senate.

As is customary on the continent of Europe, election day is always Sunday. This seems quite startling to our American ideas, but the fact is that the election Sunday was far more quiet than ordinary Sundays. All drinking places were closed on election day, as well as on the following day—with the idea that people should not spend the "blue Monday" in celebrating or discussing the result. From one corner of the Republic to the other no complaint came of disorders. The preelection campaign, especially in the newspapers, was in many cases bitter, but the people took it good-naturedly. There were posters everywhere, knots of people standing on corners, cabs bringing old women to the polls, impromptu processions in the evening, after the polls closed. In fact the elections looked very much as they would in the United States. No party complained of intimidation, and in Košice, for instance, Magyar newspapermen came to the district chief after the elections and congratulated him on the good order that prevailed, stating that after all their experience of elections under Hungarian rule the election under the Czechoslovaks was the first one without violence and without bloodshed.

While the Czechoslovak parliamentary elections had so much in common with let us say congressional elections in the United States, there were also many points of dissimilarity. For one thing Czechoslovakia has put the women on an equality with men, something that America has not done up to this time. For another thing voting is made compulsory by law, and so everybody over 21 years of age voted—or almost everybody; for there must have been some who neglected this duty, as after the election the government announced that it was going to prosecute all those who failed to vote. The population of the Republic is estimated at 13 to 14 million; a census at the end of this year will ascertain the exact figures. The number of votes cast for deputies was 6,198,148, about a third as many as are cast at the election for president of the United States.

But what would have surprised an American most about the Czechoslovak elections was the number of parties that put forward candidates. Their total number was 22. In reality the situation is not as complicated as this number of parties would indicate. In the first place one must remember that according to the Czechoslovak election law a voter votes for parties and not for the men. The entire Republic is divided for electoral purposes into 21 districts for the election of deputies and 11 districts for the election of senators. The total number of deputies to be elected is 300, total number of senators 150. The largest electoral district is Prague which elects 45 deputies; the other districts for the election of chamber are: Pardubice 11 deputies, Hradec Králové 12, Mladá Boleslav 17, Česká Lipa 13, Louny 17, Karlovy Vary (Karlsbad) 12, Plzeň 17, Budějovice 13, Jihlava 9, Brno 16, Olomouc 17, Uherské Hradiště 8, Moravská

Ostrava 13, Trnava 9, Nové Zámky 11, Turčanský Svätý Martin 11, Báňská Bystřice 7, Liptavský Svätý Mikuláš 6, Košice 7, Prešov 10. This makes 281 members. There remain 19 seats to be filled; 9 belong to Rusinia, a part of which is still occupied by Roumanians, 9 to Teschen which is now under control of an international commission preparatory to the plebiscite, and 1 to the district of Hlučín, recently ceded by Germany and not yet organized. The senate districts are as follows: Praha 23 senators, Hradec Králové 11, Mladá Boleslav 15, Louny 14, Plzeň 15, Brno 17, Moravská Ostrava 16, Turč. Sv. Martin 10, Lipt. Sv. Mikuláš 7, Prešov 5, Nové Zámky 9; total 142 senators, leaving 4 for Teschen and 4 for Rusinia to be elected.

No independent candidates could enter the contest; only party tickets signed by a certain percentage of voters were recognized. That helps to account for the unusual number of parties, for there could be no independent candidates. It should be further noted that not all the parties ran in all the districts. In the elections for the chamber the largest number of parties competed in the Plzeň district, namely 15, and in the senatorial elections in Plzeň also 13 parties were in the race. Of the total number of 22 parties 6 did not succeed in electing a single candidate, which leaves 16 parties represented in the new chamber of deputies. Several of them, however, have since the elections consolidated.

Another factor which is responsible for the multiplication of parties in the Czechoslovak Republic is the presence of several minority races, at present Germans and Magyars, later when the vote is taken in Rusinia and Teschen, also a few Rusins and perhaps Poles. Czech parties may combine with each other or support one another, and so will Czechs and Slovaks vote for one another; even the Magyars to a small extent voted on April 18 for Slovak candidates. But a Czech will of course never vote for a German political party, neither will a German vote for the Czechs. Under the generous minority representation provided for in the franchise law for parliamentary elections everyone could vote for the party of his choice without fear that his vote would be thrown away; but in municipal elections, for instance, a Czech socialist in a German town

in northern Bohemia will vote for a Czech bourgeois, rather than for a German socialist. The result is that both Czechs and Germans have their own parties, and in electoral districts racially mixed the number of parties is truly excessive.

A peculiar feature of the Czechoslovak election law is the second and third scrutiny. In each electoral district the total number of votes cast is divided by the number of deputies (or senators) to be elected for the district. Each party elects in the first scrutiny as many deputies as this quotient is contained in the total number of votes it received. If the total number of votes cast in the district is 240,000 and the number of deputies to be elected is 12, a party receiving 35,000 votes elects one man straight out—the first name on its ticket—and the fraction of 15,000 is then added to fractions from other electoral districts by a central election board. The party thus gets one or more deputies on this second scrutiny. This leaves still some fractions and a number of seats to be filled, and on third scrutiny the parties with the highest fractions get the few remaining seats. But no party is considered upon second or third scrutiny which did not elect at least one deputy in some district on first scrutiny. This complicated scheme of voting has the merit of securing to each political group in the Republic a proportionate representation in parliament.

The election campaign lasted about a month. It was a hot campaign. Practically all the daily and weekly newspapers are strict party organs, and they did not hesitate to attack all the other parties and party organs. Meetings were held in every town and village by socialists of all brands, national democrats, agrarians, clericals and the smaller parties. Tons of paper were wasted in posters, circulars and sample ballots. And while every party prophesied a great victory for its banners, nobody really expected any substantial change of sentiment from the results shown at the municipal elections in June 1919. At that time the social democrats received 29.80% of the votes, republican party of the country side 21.36%, Czechoslovak socialists 15.93%, people's party (Catholic) 9.81% and national democrats 8.58%, with the rest scattered. Speculation as to the result of the first parliamentary elections was centered upon the result in Slovakia, where the voting of

April 18 was to be the first expression of public sentiment since the revolution.

Three parties were the principal contenders for the suffrages of the Slovaks. The old national party, rechristened a few months ago as the national farmers' party, included most of the men who in the years before the war and during the war led the Slovak opposition to Magyar rule. Its great figure is Dr. Vávro Šrobár who after the revolution became minister of public health and at the same minister with spe-

and as a practical measure it favored a centralized government for the Czechoslovak Republic. Opposed to it was the people's party, led principally by Catholic priests. Their war cry was Slovak autonomy. Some of the leaders were good Slovak patriots, like Father Hlinka who had suffered much from the Magyars in former years; men of his stamp were afraid of Czech socialists, Czech free thought, and wanted to keep the Slovaks as far apart from the godless Czechs as possible, without affecting the



President Masaryk and his wife leaving the polling place.

cial powers for Slovakia. While the entire Slovak Club in which Slovak deputies of all political beliefs were united entered the government coalition first under Kramář, later under Tusar, the national farmers' party occupied a majority of the high political places and was thus held responsible for the faults of the government and for unpopular governmental measures. As regards the relations of Czechs and Slovaks, the national party favored the preservation of Slovak individuality, but not at the expense of the welfare of the Republic,

existence of the Republic or playing into the hands of the Magyars. But on the other hand only too many of the influential men in the people's party were Slovaks who were such by blood only, whose secret sympathies were Magyar and who advocated Slovak autonomy, because they looked upon that as the first step toward the return of Slovakia to old Hungary. The third party were the social democrats who did not constitute a separate Slovak socialist party, but formed a part of the Czechoslovak social democratic party. They of

course favored closest possible union with the Czechs, but as socialists emphasized economic rather than national questions. It was not expected that the socialists would make much of a showing in Slovakia. The fight, as everybody saw it, was between the national farmers and the Catholics, and a victory of the latter would have been looked upon as in the nature of a blow to the Republic.

The result of the elections, while in no way constituting a clean sweep or a real overturn of existing balance of parties, did

241,881, Czechoslovak socialists 500,455, national democrats 387,426, tradesmen's party 122,660, progressive socialists 58,572. The German parties fared as follows: Social democrats 688,201, farmers 241,723, Christian socialists 212,999, united bourgeois 328,351, party of democratic freedom 105,418. Among the Magyars Christian socialists received 139,246 votes, social democrats (for which some German votes in Slovakia were also cast) 108,926, agrarians 26,464.

As the number of deputies corresponds almost accurately to the strength of popu-



Premier Tusar with wife reading election posters.

contain some surprises. The greatest gains were made by the social democrats, and the next largest by the Catholics, while the losses were borne by the parties between these—Czechoslovak socialists, agrarians and national democrats. The total vote cast was 6,198,148. Of that the Czechoslovak parties received the following: social democrats 1,590,284, people's party (including both Czech and Slovak Catholic votes) 699,745, republican party of the country side 602,745, Slovak national farmers' party

lar vote, the result of the elections can be better visualized by giving here the number of seats gained by each party. There were elected outright 198 deputies, and on April 26 at the second scrutiny 77 more were declared elected and 6 additional mandates were awarded on the same date upon third scrutiny. The seats are divided as follows:

Social democrats	74
Republicans (farmers)	28
Czechoslovak socialists	24
People's party	33

National democrats	19	Social democrats	41
Slovak national farmers	12	Republicans	14
Tradesmen	6	Czechoslovak socialists	10
Progressive socialists	3	People's party	18
Total of Czechoslovaks	199	National democrats	10
German social democrats	31	Slovak national farmers	6
Farmers	11	Tradesmen	3
Christian socialists	10	Total of Czechoslovaks	102
United bourgeois	15	German social democrats	16
Democratic freedom party	5	Farmers	6
Total of Germans	72	Christian socialists	4



Barnabite Sisters going to the polls.

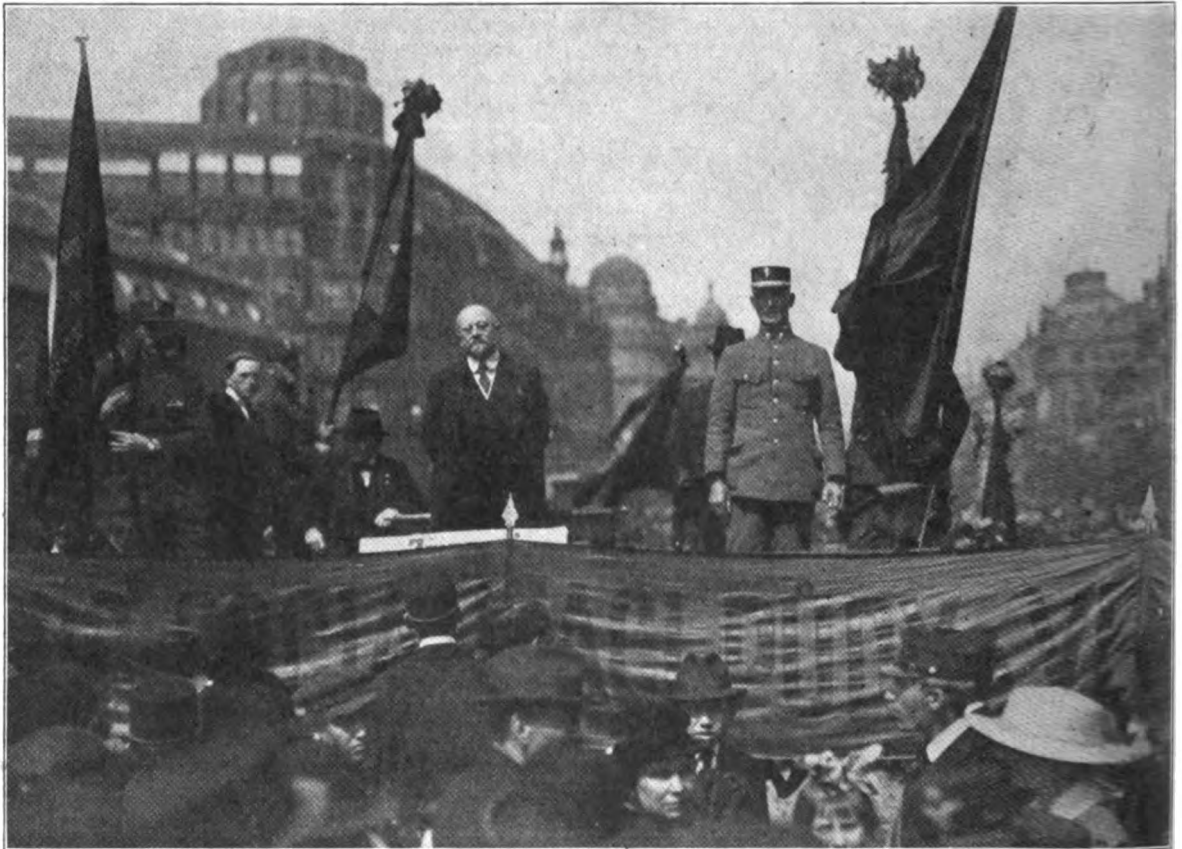
Magyar Christian socialists	5	United bourgeois	8
Social democrats	4	Democratic freedom party	3
Agrarians	1	Total of Germans	37
Total of Magyars	10	Magyar Christian socialists	2
		Farmers	1
		Total of Magyars	3

Senate elections which occurred a week later on April 25 showed no change in the relative standing of the parties. As the age of electors qualified to vote for senators is 26 as against 21 for deputies, the total number of votes cast was only 5,148,568. The strength of the parties in the Czechoslovak senate is following:

The growth of social democratic strength among the Czechs, though somewhat unexpected, was not startling. What surprised all the prophets, including the social democrats themselves, was the great strength

developed by the socialists in Slovakia. The party in power, national farmers, barely kept up with their chief adversaries, the people's party, each polling about a quarter million votes; while the socialists got in round numbers half a million votes among the Slovaks. The country people, as most of the Slovaks are, went to the mass on Sunday morning, and listened with unaffected piety to the priest who in most cases was the local leader of the people's party, and after church went to the polls and

As a result of the elections the old Slovak Club disappeared and the Slovak deputies joined various Czech parliamentary organizations which best suited them. Social democrats of course belong to the social democratic club, the Catholic deputies from Slovakia united with Czech Catholic deputies in the people's organization, and the national farmers decided to enter the Czech republican club. Whatever other results the elections may have, good or bad, they have laid at rest the problem of Slovak



Antonín Němec, socialist leader, speaks at celebration on May 1.

voted the social democratic ticket. There are many theories to account for this election surprise of Slovakia: slow progress of partition of large landed estates, government requisitions of cattle and grain at maximum (or rather minimum) prices, excellent organization and campaign work of socialist workers, the vote of Rusins in eastern Slovakia, the merciless campaign which the two chief parties—national and Catholic—carried against each other, forgetting to attack the socialists, etc.

separatism artificially kept alive by Magyar propaganda. Even if one charged all the Catholic vote to the side of separatists which would hardly be fair to many excellent men in the party, there was a three quarter vote of the people in favor of parties which want a close union of the two branches of the Czechoslovak nation. The Magyars who have been clamoring for a plebiscite in Slovakia have now their answer.

The Month in Czechoslovakia

Parliamentary elections are over. Constitutional government is functioning. Vladimir Tusar, who was chief of the coalition cabinet, is again premier of the new ministry. In this body the Social Democrats have 5 portfolios, the Agrarians 4, the National Democrats 2, National Socialists 2, and, the Slovaks 2, one of whom is a Social Democrat. Apparently the political atmosphere has calmed down after a tempestuous pre-election campaign. It seems as though partisanship has been buried to promote the welfare of the nation.

The new Czechoslovak Ministry consists of the following:

Tusar—Premier and Acting Minister of Public Defense.

Švehla—Minister of Interior.

Beneš—Minister of Foreign Affairs.

Engliš—Minister of Finance.

Šrobár—Minister of Public Health and Unification of Administration.

Staněk—Minister of Posts and Telegraphs.

Haberman—Minister of Education.

Stříbrný—Minister of Railways.

Meisner—Minister of Justice.

Vrbenský—Minister of Public Works.

Sonntag—Minister of Commerce.

Johannis—Minister of Food Supply.

Prášek—Minister of Agriculture.

Derer—Minister with special powers for Slovakia.

Hotovec—Minister without portfolio, in charge of organization of foreign commerce.

At the joint session of the Chamber of Deputies and the Senate held on May 27th, the former election of the President of the Republic was solemnly ratified by the newly elected national assembly. All the Czechoslovak deputies and senators, without regard to party affiliations, cast their votes for President Masaryk. German nationalist members gave complimentary votes to M. Naegel, while German Social Democrats cast blank votes. President Masaryk received 284 votes, Naegel 61 votes and 16 were blank.

In the first session of the Chamber of Deputies František Tomášek, social democrat, was elected speaker. Tomášek served as speaker of the first National Assembly and as such gained universal approbation for his ability, impartiality and patriotism. In the new chamber he received the votes of all the Czechoslovak deputies with some German votes in addition. The total membership of the chamber is 288; there were 281 votes cast of which Tomášek received 249. The president of the first senate of the Czechoslovak Republic is Dr. Cyril Horáček, former minister of finance, member of the republican party of the countryside.

Teschen is still the vexing problem. Press reports indicate that serious clashes have taken place between the Czechs and the Poles. Czech political, labor and social organizations of Teschen have united in a protest to the Czechoslovak government against a decision of the international commission which permits persons having no domicile within the disputed areas to vote at the coming plebiscite. They also protest against the action of the Polish National Assembly as being the source of the terroristic regime. Again the plebiscite has been adjourned—this time to July 12th—and it is doubtful if it will be held then. Another serious difficulty is the utter disregard of Czechoslovak passports by Polish authorities. Czechoslovak citizens, carrying proper credentials, have been imprisoned on slightest pretexts. Only through the energetic intervention of consular agents were they released.

The Czechs are very confident as to the result of the plebiscite in Teschen, while on the other hand the Poles are despondent and begin to talk of resorting to arms. It is conservatively estimated that there will be 260,000 votes cast in favor of Czechoslovakia as against 180,000 in favor of Poland.

Regular aeroplane connection between Paris and Prague will be established on June 15. The flight between the two capitals will be accomplished ordinarily in five hours.

The last of the Czechoslovak troops evacuated Siberia on May 15th and boarded transports a few days later. Thus "Finis" to the last chapter of a modern "Anabasis" is written.

Marshal Foch is to visit Prague in the near future. He is to be followed, in a very short time by President Deschanell.

The strike of German River Transportation Workers is causing untold hardship in the republic. Sadly needed food stuffs are held in transit between Hamburg and Dresden. One thousand car loads of flour are marooned near Dresden, 2,200 car loads of grain and flour are somewhere between Hamburg and Dresden, and, 8,800 car loads of cereals are in Hamburg. In the strike Czechoslovakia has no interest, it is purely a German internal affair. The leaders of the strikers were invited to Prague by the government for a conference in an attempt to relieve the situation. From late accounts nothing has been accomplished. In the role of an innocent bystander Czechoslovakia must suffer.

Conversations, pursuant to the Treaty of Peace, held in Prague between representatives of Austria and Czechoslovakia regarding rights of citizenship and the protection of minorities indicate that an accord has been reached. Protocols are being framed based on the findings of the commission to be submitted to the respective governments for ratification. The next sittings will be held in Vienna, when additional subjects will be considered.

The Sokol (Falcon) meet opened June 5th with appropriate ceremonies. Months were spent in careful preparations to make this tournament a success. Numberless foreign visitors are expected. Prague is in gala attire for the occasion. The number of contestants will be large, the competitions thrilling, close and exciting.

The one hundredth anniversary of the birth of Josef Mánes, a leading Bohemian painter, was observed throughout the republic with appropriate ceremonies on May 14.

Minister of Foreign Affairs, Dr. Edward Beneš, transmitted a note to M. Tchicherin advising him that a Czechoslovak commis-

sion, with proper instructions and full powers, will be sent out to meet a similar body to be named by him (Tchicherin) to agree upon establishing peaceful relations with Russia.

Slovaks dwelling in the eastern portion of Slovakia have signed a memorial protesting against "foreign defamers, and we advise them (Magyars) that they give us (Slovaks) peace. We are content with our brethren, the Czechs, we desire to learn from them. In the first place we want to work. But those who desire for return of that which existed before the war let them beware, for the Eastern Slovak people will arouse their wrath."

Land Reform in Slovakia received the attention of the President of the Land Board who visited Bratislava to confer with the Slovak officials in charge of local affairs. It is expected that soon the parcels coming within the scope of the law will be available for small settlers. This unquestionably will be a boom for Czechoslovakia and will raise the morale of the Slovaks.

THE NUMBER OF SLOVAKS IN THE MAGYAR STATE.

The Magyars complain that about half a million of their compatriots were assigned to the new Czechoslovak State, but on the other hand they suppress the fact that even according to the Magyar official statistics over 400,000 Slovaks were left in the Magyar State. Thus in the district of Nové Hradý there were, in 1919, 91,699 Slovaks of whom only 60,000 were incorporated into the Czechoslovak State, while over 30,000 of them were left to the Magyars. In the district of Pest-Pilis the Magyars counted, in 1910, 187,079 Slovaks, all of whom remained in the Magyar State. In the districts between the Danube and Tisza 13,633 Slovaks were left to the Magyars. On the right bank of the Danube, in the district opposite to Bratislava and Komárno, there are 56,771 Slovaks, who again were left to the Magyars. On the left bank of the River Tisza, especially in the district of Bekes, the Magyar official statistics of 1910 counted 86,802 Slovaks, in the district of Sabolc 20,082 and in other district over 10,000, all of whom have remained in the Magyar State. Thus, in the above-mentioned districts there are, according to the Magyar official statistics, 404,367 Slovaks who are still under the Magyar rule and amply compensate the Magyars for their minorities incorporated in Czechoslovakia.

The Constitution

The Constitution of the Czechoslovak Republic is a thoroughly modern document—a typical product of the times. Throughout the rights of the whole people are protected against usurpation by those in power, while the interests of the minorities, though preserved, are subordinated to the welfare of the majority. In the last analysis we find the power of government rests solely in the hands that issued it—the people. While by no means perfect, according to American experiences and standards, yet it throws abundant light on the mental and spiritual attitude of a nation in the midst of cross-currents of European politics and deeply imbedded in the mire of economic disorganization from which it is gradually emerging.

Legislative.

The National Assembly consists of the Chamber of Deputies, with 300 members, and the Senate, with 150 members. The two bodies are coordinate—both may initiate legislation—yet the Senate is amenable to the lower house which may override any rejection by the upper house.

Citizens over 30 years of age are eligible to the Chamber of Deputies; and, all citizens over 21 years of age may vote for Deputies.

Citizens over 45 years of age are eligible to the Senate; and, all citizens over 26 years of age may vote for Senators.

Another distinction is found in the terms of service; Deputies are chosen for six years, while Senators serve eight years.

No bill passed by one house may become law, unless it is accepted by the other, except, however, that the Chamber of Deputies may override the nonconcurrence of the Senate, or when the Chamber of Deputies fails to reject, by a stated vote, a Senate proposition.

When the Chamber of Deputies passes a bill, it is sent to the Senate, which has six weeks on ordinary bills and one month on budgets and defense bills, to act. If the Senate fails to reject within the specified time a proposal of the lower house, it is deemed to have assented to the proposed legislation.

If the Senate passes a bill, it is sent to the Chamber of Deputies which has three

months to act on Senate bills. If it fails to act within the specified time it is deemed to have accepted the proposed legislation.

A novel feature of the Czechoslovak Constitution is the provision giving effect to bills passed by one house and rejected by the other. Thus, if the Chamber of Deputies originates and passes a bill which the Senate rejects, it will be deemed as passed by the National Assembly provided the Chamber of Deputies (1) repasses it by a majority membership vote in ordinary instances, or, (2) if the Chamber of Deputies repasses the bill by a three-fifths membership vote in those cases where the Senate rejected the proposed legislation by a three-fourths membership vote.

Likewise, if the Chamber of Deputies rejects a bill of the Senate, and the Senate repasses the bill, it is again sent to the lower house and is deemed to have passed the National Assembly, unless the Chamber of Deputies again rejects it by a majority membership vote, in which case it is "dead" for one year.

The government may introduce legislation in the National Assembly, which thereupon, takes the ordinary course. However, if the National Assembly refuses to give its assent to a measure sponsored by the government, the latter may appeal directly to the voters, if the government unanimously so decides, who by ballot determine the fate of the bill.

A veto by the President of a bill passed by the National Assembly may be overridden, provided a membership majority vote is secured in each house.

To bring the President or any member of the government (cabinet) before the Senate for trial, it is necessary that the Chamber of Deputies approve charges when two thirds of its membership is present by a two-thirds vote of those present.

To declare war a three-fifths vote of all the members in each house is necessary.

Two sessions of the National Assembly are held annually—in March and in October. One third of the membership in each house constitutes a quorum and to pass bills a majority of those present must vote affirmatively. Budget and defense

bills must originate in the Chamber of Deputies.

The President has power to dissolve the National Assembly, or either house, but he must call an election within sixty days after dissolution.

The Executive Branch.

The President and the government (cabinet) are the executive branch of the Czechoslovak Republic. The government (cabinet) is responsible for utterances of the President.

(a) The President.

The President is elected for seven years and cannot serve more than two successive terms. However, he may again be elected after the expiration of a seven year period. An exception to this provision is made in the case of President Masaryk.

The President represents the state in foreign affairs; negotiates and ratifies international treaties. Financial, military, commercial and territorial engagements require the assent of the National Assembly. He receives and accredits diplomatic representatives; proclaims a state of war; declares war when consent of the National Assembly is obtained; convenes, prorogues and dissolves the National Assembly and declares its sessions ended; approves or vetoes bills passed by the National Assembly; presents to the National Assembly such messages he thinks proper; appoints, dismisses and determines the number of ministers (cabinet); appoints all professors of universities, and civil and military officers above certain grades; makes grants and allows pensions upon the recommendation of the government (cabinet), is commander in chief of all armed forces; and grants pardons and amnesties.

If the President is unable to discharge his duties by reason of illness or other disability for six months, or, in case of death, the government (cabinet) by a three-fourths membership vote designates an acting President for the duration of the illness or incapacity, or, for the balance of the term.

(b) The Government.

The President names and removes all members of the cabinet which as a body constitutes the "government", and of which the premier is chairman. No minister may engage in business for profit. The cabinet selects from its members the President's

deputy. The President determines over which department each minister shall preside. The government is responsible to the Chamber of Deputies which, when a majority membership is present, may by a majority vote express or refuse a vote of confidence in the government. Before a motion to declare lack of confidence may be put, it must be signed by 100 Deputies and reported by a committee within eight days. If the Chamber of Deputies votes lack of confidence, or refuses a vote of confidence, upon request of the government, then the government (cabinet) must resign immediately and the President determines who shall conduct the affairs of the state in the interim.

The government (cabinet), as a body, determines regarding

(1) bills to be offered by the government for consideration by the National Assembly; governmental regulations; and makes recommendations to the President on bills passed by the National Assembly.

(2) all matters of a political nature.

(3) appointing judges, state officials and officers of the armed forces in so far as concerns central offices; and makes recommendations regarding appointments the President is authorized to make (Sect. 64, sub. 8).

If any member of the government (cabinet) wilfully or through gross negligence, disregards any provision of the Constitution, or of any law, he is liable to prosecution which must be initiated by the Chamber of Deputies and the trial held by the Senate sitting as a high court.

Judiciary.

The judicial power is vested in the state courts and is always separate and distinct from the administrative branch. The Supreme Court passes on all questions except constitutional problems which are reserved for a special court, called the Constitutional Court. No one may be forced to appear before any court or tribunal except the one having jurisdiction.

Civil actions must be determined before regular civil courts or courts of arbitration. Criminal jurisdiction is vested in the criminal courts, except in those cases or offenses assigned to the military courts, and except in those instances which may be dealt with summarily by the police or settled by a financial compromise.

The jury trial of causes is regulated by law and may be suspended only in those cases designated by law. In times of war jurisdiction of the military tribunals may be extended over the civil population and then only for offenses committed during the period of the war.

The qualifications of judges are determined by law and they may not hold any other position of emolument, provided they are "professional" judges. All controversies must be decided pursuant to the provisions of the law. All sessions of the courts must be oral and public, but in certain cases the public may be excluded. All judgments are rendered in the name of the Republic.

The judges, in a given case, may determine all the legal points, except that they cannot pass upon the constitutionality of a law, for that question is reserved, by the constitution, for the Constitutional Court.

Rights, Privileges and Duties of Citizens.

The Czechoslovak Constitution guarantees personal liberty; liberty of conscience and profession; equal protection to all inhabitants; rights of settlement, except as restricted in the interests of public welfare; private ownership, except that expropriation may be undertaken in compliance with the law and when compensation is awarded; rights of the home; secrecy of mails; liberty of the press, liberty of individual opinion, and liberty of assemblage, provided it is without arms; right to associate for protection and betterment of conditions and economic interests, except that non-citizens may be restricted in political affairs; right to petition; and free scientific investigations and art studies, provided they do not overstep the provisions of the criminal law.

Before the law all citizens are equal regardless of race, language or religion; all religious confessions are equal and no one may be compelled to participate in any religious practices; public instruction must not conflict with scientific researches; the marriage relation, the family and motherhood are under state protection; and every physically fit citizen must obey the call to defend the state.

All citizens may freely employ any language in private or commercial relations, in religion, in the press or other publications, or, in public assemblies; the right to

use a definite language in public offices is regulated by law. Forcible denationalization is prohibited.

In districts where non-Czechoslovak speaking citizens form 20 per cent of the population, opportunity for instruction, at public expense, in such non-Czechoslovak tongue is assured. Almost similar provisions are made for the maintenance of educational, religious and charitable institutions.

Outstanding Features.

The reader is instantly impressed with two currents of thought emphasised forcibly in this instrument—one is the American system and the other is the French system of government. The sincerity of the framers is at all times evident and their goal is democracy.

In direct contrast to the current tendency, at least in the United States, the constitution is singularly free from recall and referendum provisions, except in one particular. If the government proposes a measure to the National Assembly for enactment and this body rejects it, then the government may go before the voters to have them finally pass upon the bill. To all intents rather a wise provision, whereby the sentiment of the country may readily and accurately be ascertained.

However, the power of government is centralized in the Chamber of Deputies, the lower and popular house of the National Assembly. This is evident everywhere, but the Senate is designed to act as a check to recklessness and extravagance. Contrasting the powers of the President with those of similar officers in France and America we find that they are enlarged over the French and considerably curtailed as granted in America.

The rights, privileges and duties of the inhabitants are amply safeguarded and enumerated. Taking lesson from other experiences, the rights of non-citizens, in political fields, may be restricted by law. An excellent proviso to discourage outsiders from meddling in the internal affairs of the nation.

On the whole the Constitution is not as radical as expected by some, principally those who feared the participation of the Socialists in its drafting, but on the other

hand it is not as conservative as still others would have preferred. In a word its tendency is progressive.

Exceedingly simple, concise and direct in its construction and concept it is a model

document emanating from a long oppressed, severely tried, long patient and heroic people who "stand like castle walls, their vested rights asserting". The wonder is that its provisions are so liberal.

The Policy of the Social Democrats

The general elections in Czechoslovakia have placed the Czech Social Democratic party numerically at the head of all the other parties. In consequence the policy and views of this party will no doubt exercise a great influence upon the future development of the Czechoslovak Republic.

Ever since the foundation of the Czech Social Democratic party its general policy was realistic and positive, rather than revolutionary or romantic. The constant work of the Czech labor leaders in the trade unions and political organizations and their dealings with the immediate grievances of the working classes taught them to take a reasonable view of the possibilities of economic and social developments. Thus it was very natural that the Czech Social Democrats, after Czechoslovak Independence had been achieved in 1918, took part in the formation of the first Government and greatly contributed to the consolidation of the newly established State. It was owing to this collaboration that the first Czechoslovak National Assembly was able to achieve incisive social reforms such as the Agrarian Land Reform, the levy on capital, a legal eight hours' working day, to elaborate the constitution etc. without any revolutionary upheavals whatever. And in this connection it should be remembered that during the year 1919 serious revolutionary disturbances took place in all the neighboring States.

As the war revolutionized the minds of the working classes in almost every country, it has undoubtedly also exercised some influence on the Czech workers, so that there is considerable discussion concerning the tactics of the party. But the extreme left was never able to exercise a sufficient influence to alter the moderate policy of the party which was pursued, not only in order to consolidate the newly established State, but also to prevent the possibilities of political and social reactions. The electoral manifest of the party stated clearly

that it was not a party aiming at a catastrophe, but was endeavoring rather to adjust the revolutionary tendencies of the day with salutary effect to the course being pursued by modern human society.

After the task of the first National Assembly was accomplished and the results of the elections were known, the question of tactics arose once more. It was necessary to ascertain the attitude of the party concerning the future of the Government Coalition and consequently a special conference had to be convoked. This conference which took place on April 29th has decided by a majority of four-fifths to participate in the Government, and it has therefore expressed its approval that the present Premier, M. Tusar, should accept the invitation of the President to reconstruct the Cabinet which, as is known, has resigned and therefore, in its present composition, cannot enter the newly elected National Assembly. Commenting upon this decision, the official organ of the party *Právo Lidu* said:—"The Conference has demonstrated that the division of the party into "right", "centre" and "left" is a thing of the past. At present our party is divided between a large majority of those standing on the basis of our old Social Democratic programme, and a small minority favoring communist views. There can be no doubt that this minority, on several points, is abandoning our old tactics and programme. We cannot, however, indulge in experiments, and thus put at stake the fruits of our long work. It would be an error to deny *a priori* that we cannot bring socialism about by evolutionary methods."

Thus for the time being, the Czechoslovak Social Democratic party will pursue a policy of co-operation with other parties, especially with the Agrarians, for otherwise it would be very difficult to form a stable and working majority in the new Parliament.

The Water King*)

By KAREL JAROMÍR ERBEN.

Translated by Dr. Jos. Štýbr.

I.

O'er the lake in old gray willows
Sat the green man of the billows:
"Shine, dear moonlight, shine
On my sewing twine!

"A new pair of boots I'm sewing
For dry walks and water rowing:
Shine, dear moonlight, shine
On my sewing twine!

"This is Thursday; Friday morning
In my new coat I'll be turning:
Shine, dear moonlight, shine
On my sewing twine!

"With green cloths, red boots, I'm heading
Sure to-morrow for my wedding:
Shine, dear moonlight, shine
On my sewing twine!"

II.

On morning early rose a maid
And, gathering the cloths, she said:
"I shall go, mother, to the lake
And wash the clothes as day will break."

"O daughter dear, stay home, don't take
The cloths this morning to the lake!
Ill dreamt I this night as I lay —
Avoid the water, child, to-day!

"White pearls picked I for you at night
And dressed you, dear child, all in white;
Like sea-foam did your white skirt sway —
Avoid the water, child, to-day!

"White dresses do for mourning stand,
Pearls likewise only tears portend,
And Friday's an unlucky day —
Avoid the water, child, to-day!"

But the young daughter has no rest;
The lake to-day is her sole quest;
The lake lures and seems to invite;
At home in nought she finds delight. —

But one white kerchief did she soak
When under her the frail plank broke,
And after the young pretty girl
The water closed in a swift whirl.

The water waved with rippling sound
And spread wide circles far around,
And in the willows by the rocks
His hands clapped the man with green locks.

III.

Sad and cheerless, full of gloom
Are the water regions
Where in grass 'neath lilies white
Minnows play in legions.

Here warm sun-rays never reach,
Never waft the breezes;
Cold and still — as hopeless grief
When the heart it seizes.

Sad and cheerless, full of gloom
Are the wet deep hollows;
In half-dark and in half-light
Day goes and day follows.

The court of the Water King,
Vast and full of treasures,
But guests stop here unwilling
And find but scant pleasures.

And who through its crystal gate
Once the court will enter
On him hardly ever more
His friends' eyes will center. —

*) The subject of this poem is an old Czech legend of a wizard (in the original, "Vodník"), lurking in lakes, ponds, rivers and deep pools of the brooks and luring in his victims whom he either drowns, keeping their souls stored in cups under lids, or changes into water animals, plants, stones or other subjects.—The translator.

At the gate the Water King
 . Mends his nets, torn, shabby,
 And his fair and youthful wife
 Tends her little baby.

"Sleep, my baby, by sad lot
 In my lap here lying!
 You are smiling up to me
 While from grief I'm dying.

"You stretch your arms up to me,
 Happy, joyful, merry,
 While I would prefer a grave
 In the cemetery.

"There in earth beside the church
 Under that cross gloomy,
 So my dear old mother there
 Could come nearer to me.

"Sleep, my little Water Prince,
 My sweet little bother!
 Why should I, poor soul, not think
 Of my dear old mother?

"Great cares whom I once should wed
 In her head she carried;
 Poor soul! ere she realized,
 Suddenly I married!

"Married, but in marriage
 All against her wishes:
 My best men were — dark cold crabs,
 Maids of honor — fishes!

"And my husband — bless me God! —
 Wet on land goes raving;
 In deep water under cups
 Human souls he's saving.

"Sleep and rest, my little son
 Whose head green hair covers!
 Your poor mother married here
 Where love never hovers.

"Lured in here, beguiled and caught
 In those nets, false, shabby,
 Has no pleasure in this place
 But you, my dear baby!" —

"What is that you sing, my wife?
 Quit that in a hurry!
 Your queer song, forever cursed,
 Drives me into fury!

"Sing no more of that, my wife!
 Your song surely bothers:
 Or I'll make a fish of you
 Like of many others." —

"O my husband—Water King!
 Don't disturb your bosom;
 Don't take ill a cheerless song
 Of a shattered blossom.

"The stem of my blooming youth
 You in half have broken,
 And since then I saw of love
 Not a single token.

"Hundred times I've given you
 One sweet word or other
 Asking but a brief, short leave
 To call on my mother.

"Hundred times I asked for leave,
 My tears flowed in river,
 So I could tell her at least
 Last fare-well forever!

"Hundred times I asked for leave,
 Down before you kneeling:
 Nothing softened your cold heart,
 Nothing moved your feeling!

Don't be angry, Water King,
 With me, my stern master!
 Or rage, so that what you say
 Shall befall me faster!

"And, instead of a mute fish
 That can't tell its story,
 Change me rather to a stone
 That has no memory.

"Change me rather to a stone
 With no mind, no feeling,
 So I be free of that grief
 That but sunshine's healing." —

"I would take your word, my wife,
 And believe you gladly —
 But a fish, once freed at sea,
 Can be recaptured badly.

"I would not oppose your wish
 To call on your mother —
 But the fickle woman mind
 Is what gives me bother.

"Very well — I'll let you go
From this deep wet hollow,
But I order you one thing
Strictly there to follow.

"Don't embrace your mother there
And none else to-morrow:
Or else your great earthly love
Will be changed to sorrow.

"Don't embrace there anyone
Till night from the morning,
And before the evening bell
Think of your returning.

"From the dawn till evening bell
Your stay up there may be:
For a warrant you shall leave
Here this little baby."

IV.

If bereft of warming sun-rays,
What would be left of the spring?
If without a warm embracement,
What joy would a meeting bring?
After their long separation,
If a daughter with love's passion
Will again embrace her mother,
Who'll think ill of such a thing?

The whole day enjoys her mother,
Weeping, the wife from the lake:
"Ah, fare-well, fare-well, dear mother!
What fears does the night awake!" —
"Do not fear, my darling daughter,
That assassin from the water;
I'll not leave that water-hoodoo
Now possession of you take!"

The night came. In it the green man
Stalks outside 'round in the yard.
In the chamber, the two women,
And the door is fastened hard.
"Don't allow your fear to break you;
On dry land he cannot take you;
Up above here the assassin
From the lake has lost his card." —

As the evening bell ceased pealing,
Knock, knock! outside on the door:
"Come, my wife, I had no supper,
And from hunger I feel sore." —
"Get thee gone, you wretched growler,
From our threshold, murd'rous prowler;
Get your supper in your lake there
As you used to do before!" —

Then again at midnight, knock, knock!
On the door with hand of lead:
"Come, come home, my wife! 'Tis time now;
Come to make for me my bed!" —
"Get thee gone, you wretched growler,
From our threshold, wistful prowler!
Let him get your foul bed ready
Who before this always had!" —

And at dawn, the third time, knock, knock!
Sounds again with greater zest:
"Come, come home, my wife! 'Tis time now;
Our babe cries; come, give it breast!" —
"Mother dear! My soul is shaking;
For my babe my heart is breaking;
Let me go now, my dear mother!
Let me go, I have no rest!" —

"Tracherous is the assassin
Don't go with him, daughter dear!
Though you fear for your sweet baby,
I for you have greater fear. —
Get thee gone back to your water!
Nowhere shall I leave my daughter;
If at home your baby's crying,
Bring it to our threshold here!" —

On the lake a tempest's raging;
In it cries the little thing.
Its cries fiercely pierce the soul's depth;
Then, at once, they cease to ring.
"Ah, dear mother, from that crying
My blood stops, my heart is dying!
Mother, mother, ah, dear mother,
How I fear the Water King!" —

Something fell. Upon the threshold
Splashed a fluid — bloody, red,
And as the old woman opened —
How the horror can be said!?
Two things lie here in blood heaping —
Up the body frost is creeping —
A child's head without the body
And the body without head.

Trade Credits

Before the war Germany dominated the commerce of the world through long term trade credits. England controlled her share by accepting long term paper in settlement and discounting it in Germany. Both countries marketed raw and finished materials on exactly the same basis. The Germanic banking system was developed to absorb such commercial tokens with the ultimate view to economically rule the world.

Since the opening of the World War trade relations have undergone signal changes. European sources were abruptly drained and American sources came to the front. Likewise, sales terms exacted from European buyers were made to conform to the exigency of the times. To secure goods the purchaser was forced to pay any price named by the seller and funds in full had to accompany the order. It was a period, rather a revelry, of cash over the counter selling. All during the war, and practically since, this order of things continues.

The war is ended. Europe is returning, by degrees, to normal conditions. Production is gradually being resumed. Economically, to function properly, Europe urgently needs raw materials.

In America, particularly in the United States, production for European export has been curtailed because there is less demand. Foreign born workers are deserting the new world for the old countries under numerous pretexts. Shortage of labor is fast becoming acute. But the supplies of raw materials and the demand for them from abroad has not abated.

Europe is not sufficiently stocked with gold to justify its exportation to pay cash for raw materials. However, Europe is well equipped with skilled labor and mechanical appliances to convert large quantities of raw materials into finished articles. America is top-heavy with raw materials and the only economically sound course for it to follow is, to sell Europe its surplus on acceptable credit, taking payment in finished goods. To change Europe from a producing community into a strictly consuming people, at one stroke, is impossible and economically falacious.

Universally it is conceded that Czechoslovakia is, in every respect, far better off

than any Central European state. It is not loaded up or burdened with excessive obligations. It is well balanced as regards agriculture, industry and professions — 37%, 40% and 23% respectively. Its natural resources are extensive. Its agriculture is scientific, labor skilled and efficient, and its professional men excellent. Fields are fertile and productive while its industrial machinery is of the latest designs. The value of these visible and actual resources, exclusive of the potential possibilities, is far in excess of any obligation the republic may incur. Politically it is healthy, for, practically, but one regime, that of President Masaryk, has been in power since the inception of the state.

Studying the monthly records of imports at the Port of New York one is forcibly impressed with the steady increase of goods entered at this gateway as originating in Czechoslovakia. The only conclusion to be deduced is, that the republic is producing in greater volume and consequently enabled to export more.

The "Brooklyn Daily Eagle" notes that the exchange value of the Czechoslovak crown, in New York, has risen to 3 cents from a (January 1920) low of .9 cent and attributes the appreciation to a "discounting of one big development and several newborn hopes." The "big development" refers to the formation of the "Anglo-Danubian Association" and the "newborn hopes" are purchasers or Cs. crowns for investment or speculation, and, the placing of Czechoslovak securities in the local market. Unquestionably these elements have served to enhance the value of the Cs. crown, yet this high authority has overlooked one outstanding feature which, probably, has contributed more than any other factor — increased production. In many industrial lines production has been resumed while in others it has been increased. Certainly greater production must result in greater exports and consequent creation of foreign credits.

Like all nations participating in the war, Czechoslovakia finds her expenditures exceeding her income. The 1920 budget deficit is about one-half of the 1919 deficit.

Kuneš Sontag, the Minister of Finance, expects a budgetary surplus in 1923.

From a credit man's standpoint Czechoslovakia is an excellent prospect.

Yet it is noteworthy that Czechoslovakia in face and spite of an excellent showing finds herself unable to secure American raw materials on sufficient credits—terms of credit which will allow delivery, conversion and marketing of the goods purchased.

What is the cause? Wherein lies the remedy? are the questions to be answered.

American merchants are willing, in fact anxious, to do business with Czechoslovakia. They seek permanent markets for surplus commodities. They can sell Czechoslovakia provided they are willing to tie up their capital for a period ranging from six to nine months. The merchants are satisfied with the credit standing of the prospect but they are not in a position to carry a purchaser on their books for that length of time. Czechoslovak merchants will liquidate their obligations when due—that is characteristic. The stumbling block to increased business with Czechoslovakia is, that American banks will not discount commercial paper the seller must take in payment. That is the problem.

Under the Federal Reserve Banking practice no member bank can discount commercial paper maturing in more than ninety days after discount day. If such accommodation is extended by the seller to the buyer, that is a credit of over three months, the American merchant must carry that paper until within ninety days of due day, or, until maturity. The seller is restricted, by this practice, to extend only such credits as will meet the requirements of the banks. Therein lies the crux of the situation.

Three months, on the average, are necessary for a shipment to reach its destination in Czechoslovakia. Up to three months, depending on the goods, are required for conversion. Additional three months are taken up with marketing the finished articles. Therefore, if Czechoslovakia is to consume American raw materials, under the conditions existing at present, it must be accorded a nine months credit, or, three times the usual discount term extended by the American banks.

If the United States are to cater to world markets, its merchants must extend credit,

in whatever form, to the necessities of the case. Its banks, likewise, must be in a position to absorb long term commercial paper given in payment. If the United States seek foreign markets, its banking system must be conformed to world business practices.

In the final analysis the lack of sufficient credit accommodations is the barrier to greater, and permanent, commerce between the United States and Czechoslovakia. England and Continental Europe are laying foundations for lasting business relations. American exports to all European countries are constantly decreasing. The hands of the American merchant are tied. Until the United States waken to the necessity of the hour, granting on long term commercial credits, not only will Czechoslovakia be closed to them, but practically all Europe.

CONTINUING AND INDUSTRIAL EDUCATION.

Daily, evening, noon-day and Sunday courses in higher instruction are provided in Czechoslovakia for all those desiring to complete their interrupted or unfinished education, or, for those wishing to pursue higher studies. Illiteracy is practically unknown, except in that district formerly dominated by the Magyars.

Art crafts, trades, domestic sciences and continuation schools are conveniently located throughout the country. Capable instructors are provided. This well developed system is the secret of Czechoslovakia's supremacy in the industrial field. The constant evolution of the scientific processes of production, and incidentally the perfection of the article, has been going on for years.

The number of individuals taking advantage of the opportunity to continue or complete their studies is large — 127,759 students being enrolled in the various institutions. No consideration is given to the attendance in elementary schools, the gymnasia or the universities. The appended statistics give a slight idea of the popularity of part time instruction and its phenomenal growth in the current year.

Group.	Support.	Number	Students.	
			1918-19	1919-20
1. Art Crafts	Prague	1	206	206
2. Industrial	State	24	8,380	11,463
3. Trades	"	54	4,672	6,317
4. (a) Basket making	"	12	2,659	2,17
(b) Laces and embroideries	"	36		
5. Women's Trades	"	5	869	1,281
6. Domestic sciences	"	69	11,617	13,982
7. Trades Private & Municipal	"	9	846	1,286
8. Trade people's (živnostenské) continuation schools	State	17	57,180	90,453
			227	86,429
				127,759

Economic Situation in Central Europe

BY ALEŠ BROŽ.

It is supposed by many people in this country that the State control of trade and the Government restriction of imports and exports are the principal causes of distress in Central Europe. If the States in question would establish free trade, or some kind of economic union (a Danubian Federation), it is imagined that their difficulties would vanish. Others are under the impression that Central Europe is not carrying on trade at all. Those who hold this view imagine that a Chinese wall has been erected around the Central European States, so that no interchange of goods can take place between them.

The facts, however, are quite different. The Central European States are trading with each other as far as their supply of commodities will permit, but it should be remembered that there is very little indeed to trade with. At present hardly any of the Central European States produces more than is sufficient for its own needs. And if any State has a slight surplus of a particular commodity, it demands for this surplus either other goods, or money whose value is sound. If for instance, Czechoslovakia has a surplus of coal and sugar to export, she wants in return other useful commodities or money with which purchases can be made. On no other basis is trade possible.

During the first half of the year 1919 the value of goods exported by Czechoslovakia to Austria amounted to 863 millions of Czechoslovak crowns, while the value of the imports from Austria was 355 million crowns. The balance of 508 million crowns was apparently paid in Austrian paper currency, which, as is known, is quite worthless. This means that Czechoslovakia is presenting Austria with a free gift. Yet it is a custom of Viennese journalists to accuse the Czechoslovaks of not supplying Vienna with everything she wants.

To abolish the present State control of trading and to establish free trade in Central Europe is for the time being impossible. If there were no restriction or State control of trading, the working classes of the

Central European States would have to starve, because they would be at the mercy of the profiteers. As a matter of fact, free trade in Central Europe is advocated only by the profiteers. Free trade may be advantageous while there is plenty, but when the opposite is the case, a State control of trading and distributing is necessary, for otherwise there would be no food left for the poor.

The remedy for the distress in Central Europe is not to be found in abolishing the control and restriction of trading by the Governments, but in supplying its industries with raw material to re-establish the pre-war standard of output. In this connection the recent establishment of the Anglo-Danubian Association, the object of which is to supply Central Europe with raw materials, is of great importance. According to the representative of this Association, Colonel George Schuster, Prague, the capital of Czechoslovakia is to be the Central European headquarters of the Anglo-Danubian Association.

Czechoslovakia and Jugoslavia will, however, reject all schemes aiming at any kind of Danubian Federation. Such an arrangement would be advantageous only to Vienna, which for three centuries lived at the expense of the Czechoslovaks. The Austrians, as any other nation, should work out their own future. The Czechoslovaks have neither the will nor the means to support them for ever. The Czechoslovaks by their perseverance, diligence and frugality have succeeded in coping with the post-war difficulties and their State is perhaps the only one which has not merely not increased the circulation of paper currency, but has actually reduced it. But they would certainly resent any proposal which would involve applying their activity and resources to the maintenance of idle Vienna, and no pressure whatever would induce them to agree to it.

Statistical report as to area and population of the Czechoslovak Republic, based on data from 1910, estimates the territory to be 142,575 square kilometers with 13,811,655 people.

From the Expense Account of a Nation

The baby among the nations of the Old World is wrestling energetically to make both ends meet. And since the veteran states are in several instances failing to balance their budgets, it does not seem amazing the new-born Czechoslovakia is incurring a deficit in the current year. Kuneš Sontag, the Minister of Finance, recently predicted that by 1923 the revenues of the new state would exceed its expenditures.

Since the republic of Czechoslovakia came into being on October 28, 1918 it has already made progress in reducing inflation and approaching a more sound economic basis. Its main need, according to its spokesmen in this country, is credit with which to purchase American cotton, hides, phosphates, oils and copper. And the Czechs hope to be able to pay for their imports with exports — exports of cotton goods, glassware, laces and embroideries to all parts of the world, and of sugar, machinery, shoes, clothing and cereals to other European countries.

Public Finance Correctives

When the influx and outflow of goods becomes freer, the Czechs think the matter of public finance will quickly correct itself. Meantime, during 1920 it is estimated that the revenues of the country will reach 7,750,000,000 Czechoslovak crowns (worth 20 cents each at par and 1,36 cents at the current rate of exchange). The published budget indicates an expenditure of 10,416,000,000 crowns, leaving a deficit of 2,666,000,000 crowns. This disparity is being met by the flotation of an internal loan now being offered at par bearing 4½ per cent interest. The Czechs, feeling they are making progress, point with pride to the fact that their deficit in 1920, according to estimates, will be 50 per cent lower than in 1919.

More than half the deficit is used to meet military expenses, as the Czechs have armies in Poland, on the Hungarian border and in Siberia. When real peace follows nominal peace in Europe, spokesmen for the new state anticipate that military expenditures will be reduced tremendously. Under the heading of defense 1,621,000,000 Czechoslovak crowns have been appropriated. And this total is made of three items: regular expenditures, 722,576,000 crowns; extraordinary, 439,577,000, and abroad, 430,000,000 crowns.

Aside from the statistics of public finance — and of more significance — is the ability of the country to produce wealth. Semi-official reports from the new republic indicate that labor conditions are good, and that other continental nations are taking advantage of conditions there

by shipping in raw materials and receiving payment in manufactured goods. The daily wages of skilled workers there range from thirty-five to fifty crowns a day, and the men are all organized into two groups, which have collective agreements with their employers, which are made universal for their country, although the details vary in each particular locality. Despite the reported willingness of the people to work, some are without jobs because of the scarcity of raw materials and fuels.

It is clear to observers that the future of the country economically depends on the influx of raw materials and fuels. The former hinges on the matter of establishing credits in foreign countries, particularly in the United States, whereas the fuel need must be met through better transportation facilities, particularly by the building of more cars.

Cotton Deal Consummated.

Czech merchants, however, are indisposed to pay what they consider unduly high rates for financial accommodations. The Czechs last year borrowed \$6,300,000 from a New York banking group through the sale of acceptances, which were paid off at maturity by means of establishing a credit in Paris through the sale of sugar to France. With this franc credit, dollars were purchased in the exchange market, and the loan in New York liquidated. It was recently announced that a syndicate of textile manufacturers of the country had arranged to purchase 300,000 bales of cotton in this country on credit. It purposes to pay for the raw material by exporting cotton goods. It is expected that the shipment of cotton will soon begin, although the American group has not yet concluded its own financial arrangements.

The fate of Czechoslovakia will depend on the success of its fight for economic independence. But it was not for this alone that it severed its connections with the former Austro-Hungarian Empire. It has a vision of freedom and religious toleration. Before the new constitution all are equal. Titles of nobility have been abolished. Although as an independent political identity, Czechoslovakia is still young enough to be placed in the prospect class, as a racial group it dates back through the ages.

The foreign language press, speaking of it as a whole, is of as high a grade intellectually, patriotically and educationally, as the average newspaper printed in the English language. It serves an imperative need; otherwise it would not exist. It is one of the great agencies for Americanization.

Jail

By J. S. MACHAR.

Authorized translation from the Czech by P. Selver.

I.

Tailor: Hi! hist! hi, neighbor, a word with you!

Carpenter: Go your way, and leave me in peace.

Tailor: Only a word. Is there nothing new?

Carpenter: Nothing except that it is forbidden to speak of anything new.

Tailor: How is that?

Carpenter: Step up to this house. Take care! Straightway upon his arrival the Duke of Alba had an order issued by which two or three who speak together in the street are declared guilty of high treason without a trial.

Tailor: Alas, preserve us!

Carpenter: Under pain of life-long imprisonment it is forbidden to speak of affairs of state.

Tailor: Alas for our liberty!

Carpenter: And under pain of death nobody shall say aught against the actions of the Government.

Tailor: Alas for our lives!

Carpenter: And fathers, mothers, children, relatives, friends and servants are invited with a promise of great things to divulge to a specially established court what goes on within the very household.

Tailor: Let us get home.

Carpenter: And the obedient are promised that they shall suffer no injury either to body, or honor, or possessions.

Tailor: How merciful! Why I supposed — etc. etc.

* * *

According to Goethe's "Egmont" this scene was enacted at Brussels in the year 1567, but it was enacted in reality on countless occasions in the lands of the Bohemian crown in the years 1915 to 1916.

To-day we hope that it was the last persecution, just as that in Brussels in the year 1567. Errors in policy are a crime, and every crime brings a fearful revenge in its wake.*)

It can safely be asserted that time after time in the course of the last 300 years our nation was afflicted by persecutions as other countries by earthquakes.

A very thorough-going persecution fell to our lot immediately after the battle of the White Mountain; it was a persecution which might be called an imperial one. It was aimed at the rebellious lords, but the Czech nation almost

breathed its last as a result of it. And it was the first misfortune, — not for us, since nations always outlive their dynasties, — but for those who carried it out. A river of blood began to flow between them and us, — and such blood never dries up.

The persecution which followed it was also interesting, and might be called a religious one. Its victims were books and people whose confession of faith was different from that prescribed by the holy Roman Catholic Church; and this again was a misfortune for the Church. — The Hussite spirit had always smouldered amongst us under the ashes. — The holy Church made efforts to keep it smouldering. The subsequent persecution which might be compared with a continual earthquake, because it lasted long over a hundred years, was a persecution by the lords and was directed against the serfs. It is true that it did not fall upon the nation as a whole, but on the other hand, an enormous number of individuals were its victims.

The persecution by Metternich was one of the mildest. It was directed not only against us Czechs, but against all the nations in Austria, and indeed, against a large part of Europe. It was milder because it allowed people freedom of movement; they were permitted to eat, drink, sleep, keep awake, dance, swim, walk, skate etc. — but, to make up for this, their spirits were enclosed in a dark room where windows and doors were blocked up so as to prevent light and fresh air from getting in. After the year 1848 began the political persecution which dismissed inconvenient officials and teachers, confiscated books, suppressed newspapers, locked up editors, sent strict governors to Prague, placed Czech people before German judges, and also continued for a respectable number of years, proceeding sometimes more severely, sometimes only leniently, sometimes vanishing for a period after which, having rested, it immediately began afresh. And so we experienced the persecution in the years 1915—1916, which might be designated as a military persecution.

It is certain that the human spirit which contrives to expound accurately all the periods of ancient Roman history, and bears in mind the dynasties of ancient Egypt, will very easily forget the events of those preceding years. It is therefore desirable that we, who had a little to do with it, should speak. We must make known our impressions for the purpose of supplying reliable material for the history of these two years. Yes, provisions must be made for our historians.

*) The greater part of this chapter having been deleted by the censor, the author was induced to write the following chapter.

The frame-work is something like this: At the outbreak of war the late Emperor surrendered a part of his authority as a ruler to the military staff, whose main representatives, in addition to the commander-in-chief, Archduke Friedrich, were Conrad von Hotzendorf, Marshall Metzger and Colonels Slameczka and Gregori. The general staff applied its watchful eye not only to the enemy outside, but, as is of course natural, also to the mischief-makers within. And then was made that tragic error which had far-reaching results.

In the erroneous supposition that, when war was declared against the only three foreign Slav states, Austria-Hungary, a group of states with a majority of Slav races, would not meet with assent to, and appropriate enthusiasm for war among its Slav majority, although that majority, as the mobilization showed, loyally rendered unto Caesar the things that are Caesar's, — the general staff began to look with mistrust upon the Slav nationalities, later also upon its Italian subjects and later still upon the Roumanians, and blaming the former civilian administration, — it existed only in name. Having become the obedient helper of the military authorities during the war, — for lax patriotic training, defectively inculcated Austrianism, tolerated particularism, careless lenience in dynastic and religious affairs, blindness towards all kinds of centrifugal tendencies, it undertook this training itself, and desired to carry it out in the military manner, — quickly and thoroughly.

Certainly, one other circumstance was very significant in its eyes. In the German Reichstag, Bethmann-Hollweg made a speech in which he referred to "the reckoning between the Germanic and Slavonic races", a phrase to which no contradiction was forthcoming from Austria, with its Slav majority. The three Counts, Tisza, Berchtold and Sturgkh, were silent; silent too were the nationalities fighting beneath the two-headed eagle against the Russians, Serbs, and Montenegrins,—and this silence must have been noticed by the military authorities, — again an erroneous supposition which accentuated the tragic error; the leading Counts had probably overlooked the Chancellor's remark and the Austrian nations could not become articulate, — there was no Parliament, there was no public platform: But this silence was regarded as malice and a token of secret hostility towards the position of the Empire.

And so the patriotic training began. In the kingdom of Bohemia, in Galicia, in Croatia, Dalmatia, everywhere the military showed the civilian administration what it had neglected, and how things ought to be done. A new spirit was introduced into the schools and among the teachers. Reading-books which contained a reference to the kingdom of Bohemia were confiscated; the emblems of the territories of the Bohemian crown, — confiscated; national colours, whe-

ther on clothes, on match-boxes, on bags of confectionery, — forbidden; popular tunes and national songs, as ancient and innocent as the live-long day, were forbidden; collections of songs were seized, books, old miscellanies, verse, prose were also seized; newspapers appeared full of blank spaces, and published articles, supplied to them by the police; they had to publish them too, in a prominent spot under pain of immediate suppression; and they appeared, only to be suppressed in the end after all; suspicious people, — oh, the gallant governors, the gendarmes and the Government police had a tremendous amount of work to do then! — were taken away and interned in concentration camps; recruits had a Uriah-like p. v. (Politisch verdachtig*) inscribed on their military papers and those two letters ensured their bearers a continual strict control and other agreeable attentions upon all battle-fronts, whether in Russia, in Serbia, in Roumania, in Italy; people of all classes and ranks lived under continual police observation; taverns, cafes, theatres, public places swarmed with police spies, and espionage penetrated even into families; there was a deluge of anonymous accusations on all sides, and as a result of them, cross-examinations, domiciliary searches, arrests and imprisonments took place; childish leaflets were, heaven alone knows how, circulated among the peaceful population, and it fared ill with anyone of whom it could be proved that he had possessed, read or even looked at anything of the kind.

All civilian rights were suspended. There were no personal liberties, there were no constitutional liberties. There were only military tribunals and they worked as they were obliged to work. Czech people were tried and sentenced by judges who did not know a single word of Czech; nobody was safe either by day or night. There was a deluge of halts, life-long terms of imprisonment, hundreds and hundreds of years of jail, confiscation of property; those who were locked up included women, students, female clerks, authors, members of parliament, bank managers, officials of the most diverse branches, grocers, workmen, journalists, clergymen of all denominations. — Everybody was under suspicion, the whole nation was under suspicion.

A sultry stillness settled upon the whole kingdom of Bohemia. Cowards began to accommodate themselves to the prevailing conditions, and met the rule of terror halfway. At Prague anecdotes and jokes came into being, and with the rapidity of light they sped through Bohemia and Moravia, conjuring up smiles from the faces of a nation which had become unaccustomed to mirth. Slowly but firmly there developed a feeling of national solidarity, an instinct for national honour and national justice, and joyous

*) Politically suspicious.

hopes grew like wisps of fresh grass underneath a heavy boulder.

But all this took place quietly and in secret. Outwardly, it was burdensome to breathe, the atmosphere was full of horrible uncertainty. If anyone counted upon the enforced outbreak of a revolt, after which it would have been possible to have recourse to still more violent measures, those who so counted, suffered a disappointment. The nation held its peace.

No persecution, since that following the battle of the White Mountain, was more cruel than this military one carried out in the kingdom of Bohemia in the years 1915—1916; both of them are worthy of each other, and in fact our persecution is a new epitome of all persecutions to which we have been subjected during the last 300 years.

II. *)

As long as the Russians remained in Galicia and Count Thun was acting as governor in Prague, the persecution did not venture to make any steady advance, as it were. Now and then it seized hold of some old huxter-woman, of whom it had been ascertained that she had told people how close the Russians already were, and that they would be "here" within a fortnight, — she had been told so by some tramp or other,—the old woman received, I believe, 14 months. Or, an official person, a constable or a police-agent was walking along the street and in the second story of a house heard somebody scraping away at his violin practice,—practice indeed? That is the Russian hymn,—and nothing was of any avail, the pupil-teacher could explain this and that, and call upon the whole of heaven as a witness, the official person said Russian hymn,—and the pupil-teacher received 8 months. But the persecution was still, so to speak, only dallying,—as if a hungry tiger were catching flies. It gave a grab with its paw only occasionally if some large object came into its vicinity; the news could then be read in the papers that this or that well-known person "had moved" to Vienna. But an oppressive uncertainty had already settled upon the land of Bohemia.

After the break-through at Gorlice, all was changed. They began to coax Prince Thun into believing that he was seriously ill; his sight was weak, they said, and was being impaired by his official duties at so responsible a spot. The Prince denied this energetically but vainly. He did actually fall ill and retired.

On May 21st, 1915, Dr. Kramář was arrested. He "moved" to Vienna.

A day or so after that I was travelling to Prague for the Whitsuntide holidays. In the train I met Deputy Choc. We still knew nothing

about it. We talked of this and that, until suddenly it occurred to Choc that Hofrat So-and-so was travelling in the same carriage with us, and that he would go to him and discover the latest news. He soon came back; he had promised to say nothing, but he would tell me,—they had arrested Kramář. Said I, that is impossible. — Yes, the Hofrat declares it is so.—We were silent for a while. Then I pointed out to him that this would be a Harakiri of Austrian policy in Bohemia; that everyone knew how consistent an advocate of that policy Dr. Kramář had been in the last fifteen years; that no Viennese Government could be so short-sighted as to do anything of the kind; that Dr. Kramář was *persona gratissima* in all Viennese circles,—Choc only shrugged his shoulders; the Hofrat had declared it was so.

"Well then, we shall all have our turn," I remarked to Choc.

"We shall, never mind."

In the meanwhile, the Hofrat's secret was known to the whole of Prague. And in a considerably enlarged edition. Altogether, nowhere had so many legends come into existence as at Prague in those two years. On the very same evening I heard it definitely asserted that the whole of the National Council had been removed in chains to Vienna, that old Dr. Matuš had protested, but in vain, that Prince Thun had been arrested, that the Czech University had been suspended for some protest or other,—the people were not satisfied with reality and so they invented fables.

The arrest of Dr. Kramář, however, was the only certainty which I took back with me to Vienna.

Now, the nature of man is such that he does not fathom the ways and methods of Fate, he does not know that one of its apparent oversights may in time produce the most desirable results, he ceases to believe in it and wants to correct its mistakes. So it was that immediately upon my return I proceeded to a certain highly placed personage to explain to him what I had explained in the train to Choc, and asked him to intervene. The highly placed personage was able to do so, that much I knew.

I arrived. His excellency was engaged, he was not there. His secretary received me. He shook hands, smiled, asked me how I was,—I plunged *in medias res*. Such and such a thing had happened. An error, a mistake, a blunder, a misfortune. The secretary at once assumed an appearance of very serious gloom, and his voice changed from that of an amiable friend and assumed a dry official tone. "There you are, as long as Thun was governor, he kept Kramář safe, and Kramář, supposing himself God's equal, thought that nothing could ever happen to him, that nobody would dare to interfere with him. But Thun went, the correspondence of Kramář was seized, and the result is that he is locked up in the military prison."

*) Man is a reed shaken by the wind! I vowed to myself and also declared that, after the deletion to which my first chapter fell a prey, I would not continue with "The Jail".—and behold, as soon as I received the news that fresh and capable persons had entered the Prague censorship, I am writing again after all.

Truly, a reed shaken by the wind!

I pointed out the results that this action would have in Bohemia,—the secretary turned red and remarked: "The nation will calm down and come to reason. Those who led it, have led it astray. Politicians, authors,—yes, you are all guilty. Look here, I have a dog; when I come home, he is lying on the carpet sleeping happily in the sun. I begin to pity him; why, poor old fellow, you are so neglected, nobody troubles about you,—and he then begins to growl and to pity himself, as if he really were most badly off. The Czech nation is not badly off,—on the contrary, but you, authors, politicians and—"

"Wait a moment, doctor, just a brief comment upon this canine idyl of yours. The dog,—that tallies. But the room and the carpet do not tally, and as for the sun, we have never been in it at all. However, that's all, I will not go to his Excellency. Good-day."

This canine idyl had thoroughly warmed me up. And it opened out extremely distant perspectives to me; I now saw clearly all that had happened, was happening and would happen....

The reports about Dr. Kramář grew more and more copious. It was said that he was being cross-examined by Dr. Preminger,—who was Dr. Preminger? A man from Czernowitz. The Imperial Counsellor Penížek assured everybody convincingly whom he met: "Dr. Kramář can think himself lucky to have fallen into the hands of a Jew from Bukowina whose heart is in the right place." Good. There was even a rumor that the case would not be tried at all. Then it was asserted that there would be a trial, and that it would last several days. Lieut. Preminger was said to be on his way to Prague and was cross-examining somebody somewhere. Stuergh was said to have been conferring in the matter. A deputation of Young Czech delegates had been received in audience by the General Staff. Everything, it was said, would turn out well.

Both Czech Ministers were retaining a firm hold upon their posts, a fact which also aroused a certain amount of confidence. Could they have remained, if there had been anything serious against Kramář? Certainly not, — for with the person of Dr. Kramář the whole nation would be affected. And if there were nothing? They would be still less able to remain. At any rate, that was how the people judged it, but the Ministers themselves found a different solution, — they remained. They did this, it was said, to avert still worse matters which were preparing, and some of which might prove fatal. And these too, they averted, so it was said. It will be the task of history to decide which would have been better and more honorable. Today we can assert with the determinists that what happened had to happen, and we can add that it is a good thing it happened as it did, otherwise things would not be as they are today.

That was a beautiful spring. Day by day the sky was a clear blue, the air was fresh, the birds

sang, the armies of the Central Powers advanced victoriously further and further through Russian-Poland, fortress upon fortress fell, every report announced swarms of prisoners, captured cannon, machine-guns, motor-cars, provision stores, clothes, boots,—there was joy on all sides, for the newspaper strategists announced that the war would soon come to a victorious end and peace was upon the horizon,—only above the lands of the Bohemian crown hung a black cloud, and the atmosphere beneath it was sultry, we breathed heavily, very heavily.

III.

It was the morning of June 17th. I left my office, collected my letters and proceeded home. The landlady of the neighboring house, Mrs. Helena Krásná, was leaning out of the window, she beckoned to me and called out: "There are officers in your house, they want to take you away to Prague", and, as a matter of fact, a motor-car was standing in front of the building. Also, some man or other was cautiously following me, not leaving me out of his sight; I had not noticed him previously.

Already? I thought to myself. And why can it be? I did not know, but the continual feeling of uncertainty such as was possessed at that time by every man whose language was Czech, had not left me since the arrest of Dr. Kramář. Perhaps it was some accusation,—at that time they were showering down like drops of rain in spring,—perhaps it was my mere existence, perhaps it was as Dr. Herben put it: some General or other is sitting down looking at a map, you pass by him and sneeze, the General turns round and you are immediately guilty of the crime of interfering with military operations,—well, it was possible that I had sneezed in this way,—who knows. We shall see.

I entered the house, the little fellow from the street behind me.

In the room there were three officers, a Captain, two Lieutenants and a little volunteer Officer, obviously a Jew, with a foxy look. They clicked their heels and introduced themselves. "Lieutenant Dr. Preminger" said a man of medium size with scanty fair hair and pale blue eyes. So that is he.

"What do you want, gentlemen?"

"Could we see the letters that you have from Dr. Kramář? And could we have a general look around among your things? Here is the written order." And Preminger handed me a paper.

A stamp, a signature, a hectographed text, only the name and address written in. "Certainly."

The man from the street stood in the ante-room. "Nobody is allowed to leave the house," Dr. Preminger instructed him.

Out of a box I took a bundle of letters which Dr. Kramář had written to me from the Crimea sixteen or seventeen years ago, and I gave them

to Preminger. "You will allow me, gentlemen, to have my lunch, I suppose?"

Preminger bowed. "In the meanwhile we will have a look at the books, everything is of interest to us, both written and printed matter." They sat down and took down from the shelves; I had my lunch in the next room. I was calm and said to myself: whatever it may be, I must show no weakness. I ate slowly, from outside could be heard the measured snorting of the motor-car, in the next room my guests were engaged in conversation. "I tell you that the Roumanians will go against us, I was ten years in a Roumanian regiment and I know them," expounded the Captain.

"I don't believe it," declared Preminger and closed one of my books noisily.

I was finished and went in to them.

"I will take these letters with me," remarked Preminger and he thrust some letters of Kramář into his breast pocket. "And now we will see whether anything else will suit us. First of all show us all your correspondence."

"War-time? Or all of it?"

"The whole lot."

I began with the dead. Winter—

"Who was he?"

"An author, and excellent man." Further: Čech—

"Who was he?"

"A great poet. A field-marshal was ordered to his funeral. Vrchlický—"

"Ah, Vrhlicky,—I have heard of him. Is he dead too?"

"Slaviček, a painter—"

"Is he dead too?"

"He shot himself" — Šimáček, Neruda, Sládek —

"Dead?" This is a regular graveyard. We want live ones." remarked Preminger.

"Here. Leger."

"Why Leger? Why not Ležé?"

"His name is Leger and he lives at Kolin. A poet."

Preminger looked suspiciously at the letters.

"At Kolin? Not at Paris?"

"Ah, you mean Louis Leger? No, I have nothing from him."

He laid aside our Leger disappointedly. "And you have no letters at all from abroad?"

"Yes. Here is a letter from Denis."

"Oh, that's something," and he took the letter out of my hand.

"It's no good to you. The letter is already several years old. Denis thanks me in it for the dedication of my book *The Apostles*."

"We shall see," and Denis' letter joined those of Kramář. "Nothing else from abroad?"

"Nothing else."

"Now for home affairs."

I opened drawers, undid bundles,—hundreds and hundreds of letters tumbled out, congratulations, literary matters, bills, telegrams, personal communications, cuttings from papers, rough drafts of poems—all in Czech, and these piles were shared out among the three officers, of whom only the Captain understood Czech: They looked at the signatures and dates, and asked questions.

(To be continued.)

*) i. e. giving the name a French pronunciation.

Current Topics

CHANGE IN EDITORSHIP.

Jaroslav F. Smetanka has been appointed by the Czechoslovak Republic as its first Consul for the Chicago district. Coincident with entering upon his new duties he severs his editorial connection with the "Czechoslovak Review."

Before and since the first appearance of this publication Mr. Smetanka has consistently striven to place before the thinking public the cause of the Bohemian and Slovak people. In this he has been singularly successful. This is not only our conviction but similar opinions are strongly voiced by numerous readers scattered over this great country. Rightly he belongs to that band of seers led by President Masaryk who first conceived the practical means of realizing the ideal of an independent Czechoslovakia.

Principally through Mr. Smetanka's efforts our American public was brought face to face with the oppressed Slavs of Central Europe. His presentation of their aspirations and ambitions was lucid, accurate and simple. Its force carried

conviction. Being one of the foremost American journalists of Czechoslovak origin his forceful personality will be sadly missed by the "Review". Nevertheless we have the satisfaction of knowing that he will give his energies to useful work in which his training and abilities will practically serve the Czechoslovak people. In his new endeavors he has our hearty and sincere wishes. An intimate acquaintance of almost twenty years convinces us that the confidence bestowed has not been misplaced.

The future policy of the "Review" will follow the trail blazed by our predecessor. Realizing that the needs of the hour are economic we shall enlarge this magazine, at no distant day, to provide for that department. In our efforts to make this publication authoritative, timely and attractive we shall have the cooperation of Czechoslovak commercial interests, public officials and individuals.

To our subscribers and advertisers we extend a sincere appreciation of their cordial support.

for certainly no periodical can exist without either, and we hope they will accord us the opportunity to demonstrate that their money is well spent.

AMERICAN SOKOLS ARRIVE IN PRAGUE.

A delegation of Sokols of America, numbering eight hundred, arrived in Prague on June 2nd to attend the Seventh All-Sokol Gymnastic Meet. The delegation was sent out by the Sokol Union of America and was led by Joseph Plaček, president of the Union. It sailed from New York on May 22nd by the *Mauretania*; the overflow was accommodated on the steamer *Noordam* sailing on the same day. A special train awaited the delegation at Cherbourg, which took the visitors as far as Buchs on the Swiss-Austrian boundary and there another special train brought the visitors next day to Prague.

The Americans were welcomed with great outpouring of enthusiasm in all Bohemian cities through which they passed before reaching Prague. In Prague they were welcomed by the Mayor and representatives of the Government and the following day, they were received by President Masaryk.

The American Sokols, in order to avoid living on the food resources of the country, arranged through Mr. Hoover's American Relief Warehouses to have fifty thousands dollars' worth of American food await them in Prague. The money for this was donated or loaned by the various Sokol societies of the United States.

CZECHOSLOVAK SECURITIES IN AMERICA.

May witnessed the first offerings of Czechoslovak securities in New York — the bonds of the city of Carlsbad being the principal item. This issue was put out by a leading Stock Exchange house and the amount offered for subscription was 10,000,000 crowns. A few days later two other firms advertised Czechoslovak government. City of Prague and City of Carlsbad (older issues) securities. A private offering of the stock of a leading Bohemian industrial corporation was successfully placed by a Czechoslovak firm. Another offering in an industrial concern by a Czechoslovak firm is now in progress.

All issues were well received. America is fast becoming acquainted with Czechoslovak values and possibilities. This is but the beginning. As the exchange market improves Czechoslovak business men and governmental agencies will take advantage of the opportunity to secure the participation of American capital in their diversified enterprises.

NATIONAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

At the annual meeting of the Czechoslovak Chamber of Commerce of America, held May 2nd, at Cleveland at the Hotel Statler, the principal

item of business, after the presentation of reports by the officers, was the transfer of the office from Chicago to New York.

Stated in detail were the many handicaps which confronted the officers during the past year. It was the unanimous opinion that a change to New York was desirable, and, it was decided to make it. It is also necessary to incorporate the chamber under the laws of New York. A committee of six, with full powers to effect an organization, to select directors and to choose officers for the current year, was appointed.

A very pleasant atmosphere, which controlled the meeting, indicated success under the new arrangement. Everyone present freely acknowledged the absolute necessity for such an organization and each promised help to "see it through". Nevertheless the handful of representatives from Chicago, Baltimore, Detroit, New York, Cleveland and St. Louis cannot financially sustain the new body. It must not be expected from them. It is the duty of all Czechoslovak merchants and individuals in America to help Czechoslovakia to regain her economic feet, and no better means can be devised than stimulating commerce between Czechoslovakia and America through the Chamber of Commerce. The question is not "What do I get out of it!" But the proposition is summed up by asking, "How can I help?"

Progress which the committee expected to make has been retarded by legal obstacles due to a previous incorporation of a commercial body bearing a name almost the exact counterpart of the name proposed for the National body. This difficulty is being rapidly removed, thanks to the generous help of the officers of the Czechoslovak Chamber of Commerce of New York, and in a few days it is hoped that the National Chamber will be a legal entity.

The Committee, to which temporary administration of the Chamber is entrusted, opened offices at 106 East 19th Street, New York City. Already requests for information and offers of cooperation from American Commercial bodies keep the present office personnel busy. The general public is gratified that this source for obtaining quick, unbiased, definite and reliable information regarding Czechoslovakia and its economic position has been placed at its disposal.

The main features of the Chamber's duties are to broaden the business horizon of the Czechs and Slovaks; to impress upon them the absolute necessity for bigger commercial units; to teach them to expand and when to consolidate, and, in general, to help to improve their business. Commerce between Czechoslovakia and America is in non-Czechoslovak hands. Should this condition continue?

The New York Office is well equipped to handle all inquiries regarding business and commerce of Czechoslovakia, it invites them. It extends to merchants who visit New York the use of its offices while in the city. They may make it

their headquarters, receive their mail and be generally served. Naturally it is not in a position to serve in other capacities.

THE CZECHOSLOVAK ENAMEL-WARE INDUSTRY.

In the Austro-Hungarian Monarchy there were 25 enamel-ware factories with an annual output of 50 million kilogrammes. The home consumption of the Empire was 20 million kilogrammes or 40 per cent, while the rest was exported.

Up to present, 80 per cent, of the factories, with a yearly output of 40 million kilogrammes, representing a value of about 450-500 million kronen, is concentrated on Czechoslovak territory. Of this quantity, 6 million kilogrammes are essential for the home requirements of the Republic, if 2/5 kg. (about 1 lb) per head per year is taken as a standard, while the remainder, amounting to 34 million kg. or 80 per cent would be available for export.

In the last years before the war the Czechoslovak factories supplied the other territories, at that time composing the Austro-Hungarian Empire, with about 10 million kg. of manufactured goods or about a quarter of their total output, which fact shows clearly that these territories, viz. Austria, Poland and Jugoslavia are the most important markets for the Czechoslovak enamel-ware, although a great part of the production was sold in Bulgaria, Turkey and Russia. Large quantities of first class products were also sold to France (Paris), North and South America.

The following are the largest Czechoslovak enamel-ware factories:

Gottlieb Bros. & Branchbar, Brno (Brun).

Austria Joint Stock Company, Brno (Brun).

První Česko-budějovická továrna, Čes. Budějovice (Budweis).

Vulkán, Čes. Budějovice (Budweis).

M. Ullman & Son, České Budějovice (Budweis).

Bartelmus & Co., Plzeň (Pilsen).

S. Sternlicht, Lučenec (Losonocz).

Rakottay & Co., Lučenec (Losonocz).

The production is on a very high level, and the goods find a ready market everywhere, thus representing a considerable credit item in the balance sheet of the Czechoslovak trade.

THOMAS MASARYK.

For fear there may be some who do not connect this name with modern history, it might be well to explain that Thomas Masaryk is president of the New Czech republic. The world knows all too little about him and about his nation's affairs. The Czechs are described as a temperamental and ambitious people, ambitious for culture as well as for political classification in universal concerns. President Masaryk is a man of tremendous force. Look his nation over and you would not find a citizen equipped by

education and energy better able to fill the important post to which he was called. He is said to be a man of much "civil courage," which is understood to mean that he does not hesitate to stand up for what he thinks is proper. Utterly indifferent to the criticism of his enemies, much like Woodrow Wilson one might assume, he has brought about many reforms in this new republic and stabilized the infant republic in such a way as to win acclaim even from political foes. It takes a man of strong resolution to face the responsibilities of launching a new and independent nation. Of the thousands who seek authority only a few would be courageous enough to assume direction of national affairs. Happily for the Czechish people they have selected one who understands thoroughly their innermost desires. President Masaryk is both student and scholar. He is not bound by traditional customs, except in such instance as where these have been found to represent the majority thought of his own race. — (Springfield, Ohio. News).

OFFICIAL RED TAPE?

San Francisco has the reputation of being a most cordial host. In view of this, the welcome given the 2600 Czecho-Slovak troops, arriving on the Mt. Vernon, is, to say the least, unusual.

They arrived a week ago. Since that time they have been prisoners on board the ship. There was a welcome by their fellow countrymen, a sort of reception, and then — imprisonment, discomfort and humiliation.

Of course it's more official red tape.

. . .

Checking over their history, it will be recalled that the Czecho-Slovaks made their way into Russia and, fighting on the side of the allies, were brave and effective aides. Then came the revolution, and with Russia out of the war they undertook to reach the western front via Siberia, San Francisco and the Atlantic.

For a time they opposed the soviet government because it opposed their military progress. Kolchak's forces offered them aid, but when they found Kolchak to represent reactionary interests they took their stand against him.

Throughout their campaign these troops gained the reputation of upholding the principle of democracy on which the war was fought.

We don't pretend to know exactly who is responsible for their virtual imprisonment, though we suspect the reason for the action.

The city should have welcomed them as it did their fellows who returned a year or so ago. There should have been a typical San Francisco greeting.

Surely they are at least entitled to those comforts and conveniences that any human being has the right to demand. — The (San Francisco) Daily News.

SAVE YOUR MONEY!

T HIS is an opportunity to secure the "CZECHOSLOVAK REVIEW" for one year and a copy of "THE ČECHS (Bohemians) IN AMERICA" by Thomas Čapek at reduced rates.

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Please send me the combination offer, the Review for one year and a copy of Mr. Čapek's book, "The Čechs in America" for which I enclose \$3.75 as payment in advance.

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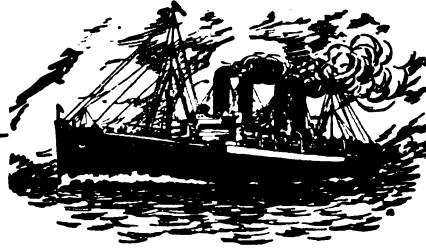
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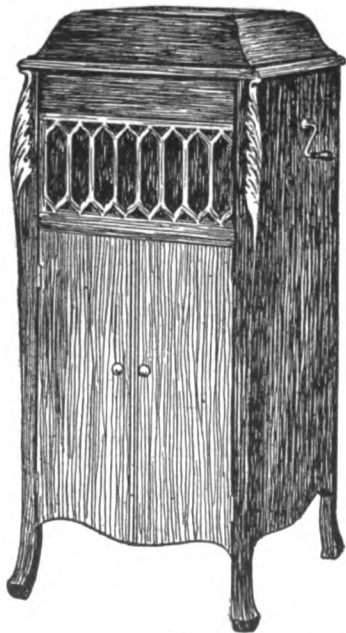
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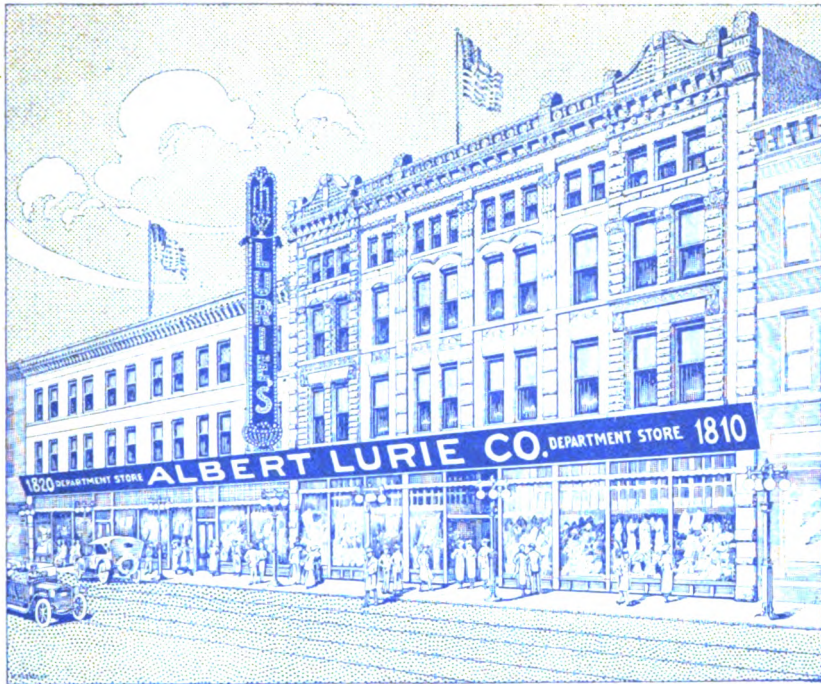
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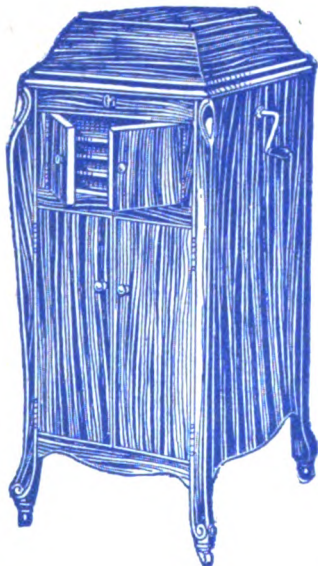
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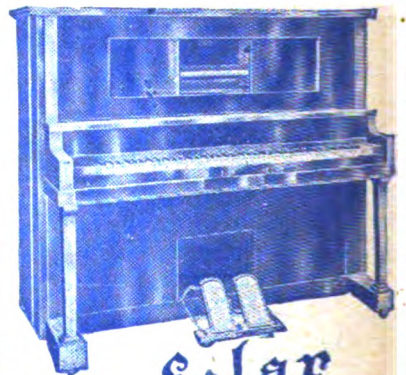
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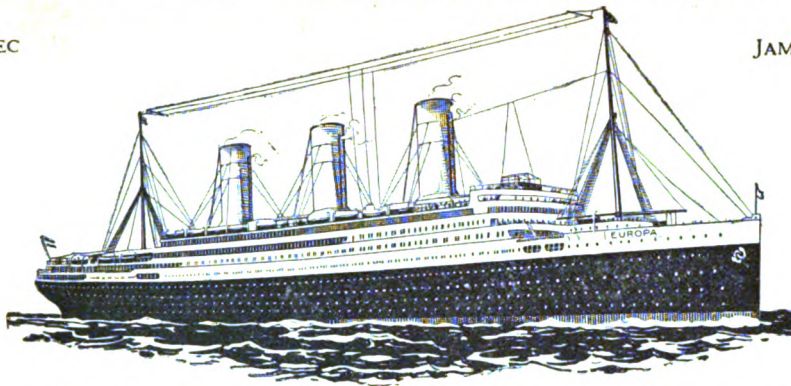
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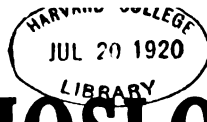
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Vol. IV.

JULY, 1920.

No. 7

Czechoslovakia and the United States

By RAYMOND B. FOSDICK.

Former Under-Secretary General of the League of Nations.

Of the new republics created by the Treaty of Versailles, Czechoslovakia probably holds the warmest place in the hearts of Americans. This is due not only to the presence in this country of thousands of Czechs, who in the course of years have numbered themselves among our most forward-looking citizens, but particularly to the fact that it was in the United States that the ideals and plans of the new State of Czechoslovakia were first laid down under the leadership and guidance of President Masaryk. America, therefore, has a sentimental attachment to Czechoslovakia which she will never forget, and it is to be hoped that the ties between the two republics, which have so much in common, will become increasingly interwoven in future years.

The United States Senate has failed to ratify any of the treaties which were set up in Paris by the Supreme Council, so that as a people we have not yet put our seal to any of the documents which have brought into being such states as Czechoslovakia, Poland and Finland. As Mr. Hoover has recently pointed out, the Treaty of Versailles is for these states the charter of independence, and the United States will not long be content, I believe, to withhold its signature and thus delay giving the birth of these democracies its blessing and approval. Until we take such action we have not played our final and determining part in helping to create this new series of republics, which we are so proud to greet.

Of all the new states, Czechoslovakia is far and away in the best economic condition. She has many resources, such as coal and iron, that form the basis of modern commerce and trade, and if normal conditions prevailed in Europe at the present

time, there would be bright hope for her future. Unfortunately, Europe is by no means in a normal condition. She is faced to face with industrial chaos. Her transportation systems are disorganized; her railroad lines, locomotives and cars are damaged and destroyed; she has little working capital, and her currency is debased in some countries almost to the point of worthlessness. Moreover, Europe is staggering under a weight of indebtedness practically beyond calculation. Consequently, the dislocation in the rates of exchange has disorganized the markets and destroyed the basis of international trade.

This situation, which is common everywhere in Continental Europe, is the one factor that makes uneasy the friends of Czechoslovakia. For example, a large part of the cotton mills of Czechoslovakia are shut down because of the lack of raw cotton. The port of Rotterdam is choked with cotton which cannot find purchasers, because although Czechoslovakia and other countries are desperate for this raw material, the unbalanced exchange makes it impossible for them to pay for it.

This condition is at present giving the League of Nations a great deal of concern, and it is hoped that in the Financial Conference called for Brussels the last of July, some solution may be found, or at least some approach to a solution may be made, which in time will develop a larger degree of hope. Czechoslovakia is a member of the League of Nations, and is in a position to exert a great deal of influence not only upon this question, but upon many other questions which are now pressing for answer. If once the economic situation is ironed out, Czechoslovakia will become one of the great nations of Central Europe. The

friends of peace and order in the world are looking forward to the day when the United States will take her place in the League of Nations, and in conjunction with

her sister republics, like Czechoslovakia, will champion not the selfish interests of individual classes or countries, but the common good of people everywhere.

The Month in Czechoslovakia

In outlining his program for the first "Constitutional" or, as it is called, the "Constructive Government", Premier Vlastimil Tusar said, "The election showed that the inhabitants of the republic, of all nationalities, desire principally economic and social work. The government will support the cooperative movement and will inaugurate the control of all exports; it will not introduce new taxation except the inheritance tax. The budgetary balance will be obtained through collecting overdue taxes, economies and demobilization of war machinery. In carrying out these reforms the government will have regard for the protection, and will see to it, that the economic system functions uninterruptedly. The state administration will be reformed. We shall not up take arms against the Poles, but we shall not relinquish our rights, — we wish to provoke no one — we desire to live in peace with all neighbors. Sincere friendship ties us to the western powers and this friendship we desire to retain." Summarized, Tusar's utterance amount to this, "absolute order, internal social and democratic development, peace with neighbors."

A Magyar Social Democratic Deputy, M. Suranyi, declared, in the Czechoslovak Chamber of Deputies, that the Magyar working classes, living in the Czechoslovak Republic, together with the Czech and Slovak workmen, will defend the Republic in case of an external attack. The same deputy demanded that the Czechoslovak Government should intervene against the White Terror in Hungary.

The Polish paper *Gwiazdka Cieszyńska* writes that a pacific solution of the Teschen question, by either plebiscite or arbitration, is not possible. "This question", the paper declares, "can be solved only by war. Poland desires war with the Czechs, but can-

not as yet satisfy this desire because of the situation in the east and Allied opposition." Other Polish papers *Goniec Krakowski* and *Głos Narodu* demands alliance with the Magyars against the Czechoslovaks and publish details about a Polish military terrorist organization in Teschen called *Obrana Wojskowa* directed by Polish officers. According to latest news reaching Prague this organization received orders to hold itself in readiness for forcible incorporation of the Teschen district with Poland, and Polish agents in Teschen already are in possession of proclamations announcing this annexation.

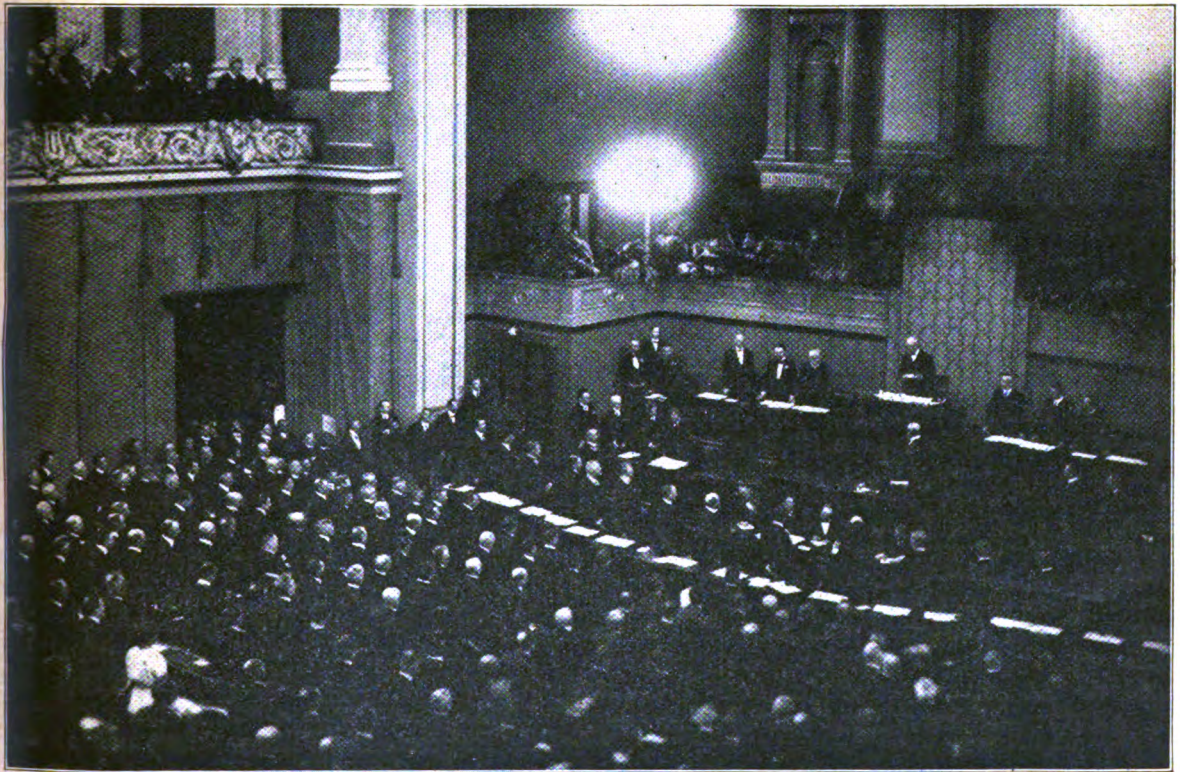
Dr. Ludvig Singer and Dr. Max. Broda, representing the Jewish Nat. Council, called on President Masaryk to lay before him their grievances. They pointed out to him that their co-religionists, in the recent election, cast 80,000 votes for their candidates to the Chamber of Deputies, and 60,000 votes for candidates to the Senate, without receiving a single mandate. The President pointed out to these gentlemen that because of the constitutional provision for proportional representation they could not elect any representatives, as they had not polled a sufficient number of votes in any one district to entitle them to such representation. He further assured them that he noted the showing as an actual and considerable success of the young Jewish political movement. He therefore assured them of his interest and advised them that they will receive every protection as a minority party of the population.

Dr. Žatkovič was named Governor of Russia by President Masaryk, in accordance with the provisions of the new constitution, which lately went into effect. To aid him, the Governor will have an advisory council of fourteen — four to be named by the president of the Republic and ten

to be elected from among the Mayors of the province — who are to be selected very shortly. For the purpose of electing the Russian members of the council the province will be divided into ten districts, from each of which one representative will be selected.

In accordance with the Treaty of St. Germain the reparation commission is to determine the proportion of the Austro-Hungarian pre-war debt each of the new states is to assume. Nothing has been done

of a state bank of issue. While many are under the impression that immediately upon the passage of that law the organization of the bank would be undertaken, it is well to note that the act provides that a monetary system must first be provided before any steps may be taken regarding the bank. Therefore, the passage of the law was somewhat premature. As Jan Kalousek remarks, "Such laws have no practical value particularly when their form must again be reframed when other laws are passed, of which no one at this time has any con-



Opening of First Elected Czechoslovak Parliament, May 27, 1920.

in this respect. Czechoslovakia has conscientiously carried out her part of the Treaty. The amount of the total obligation she is to assume is still undetermined and, as a haze, it hangs over the state, no one knowing when or with how much the new state will be deluged. It seems but fair that this proposition should be immediately determined.

In its closing days, the National Assembly passed a bill authorizing the organization

and therefore we are unable to determine their effect."

In Paris an exhibition of Czechoslovak industrial art crafts is now in progress. The comments of the local press are encouraging and highly flattering. The demand for these products has increased thereby stimulating the home industries. It is hoped that the exhibits will be brought to this country and placed on view in suitable rooms.

"If the crops yield the harvest, which is now so promising, your land (Czechoslovakia) will have a tremendous future influence." (From a private letter). The department of agriculture issued a statement summarizing the condition of the crop of the country, in the course in which it said, "The rye sown last fall did not winter well in all instances. In some localities, from thirty to fifty per cent, of the planted fields had to be replowed and replanted with spring grain. At the present time the condition of the crops, as a whole, is highly satisfactory and very encouraging, thereby indicating a large harvest".

The government of Netherlands loaned Czechoslovakia 5,000 tons of wheat in order to alleviate the existing food shortage. This commodity is to be returned about August 1st, when the usual Czechoslovak crops are harvested.

The "Commission for the Purchase of Fats" decided to buy such quantities of fats as will meet the demands of the small dealers and jobbers and to permit the large concerns to secure their supplies.

The farmers have been offered the services of former Ukrainian soldiers, now in concentration camps. They are experienced agricultural laborers and are anxious to help farmers to cultivate and harvest their crops. In return they demand sanitary lodgings, good board and sufficient wages.

The Minister of Railways is negotiating for the purchase, in America, of 8,000 narrow gauge freight cars. While Czechoslovakia is turning out large numbers of cars, the supply does not meet the demand, therefore if the pending deal is consummated it will go a long way to solving the transportation problems of the Republic.

Sugar beets are in a splendid condition in all three provinces — Bohemia, Moravia and Slovakia. Unless the Teschen question is solved before the harvest time, production of sugar from the beets will be greatly

delayed and partially lost because of the lack of fuel. The fuel situation is again brought to the front through the approaching thrashing season. Crude oil can be obtained in Roumania but it cannot be transported, because there are no tank cars and no tankers on the Danube. To relieve the immediate situation 300 cisterns of gasoline were purchased in Poland, 2,000 in Roumania and 1,000 in America. A good deal more will be required.

It is estimated that the area of the fields planted with sugar beet in 1920 covers 195,000 ha. (487,500 acres) as against 185,000 ha. (462,500 acres) in 1919. With the additional supply of fertilizers the indicated sugar crop is about 150,000 to 200,000 tons larger than the last.

Through the consolidation of a number of brick yards of Czechoslovakia one concern now has a yearly capacity of 60,000,000 bricks.

According to statistics, America imported 164,000 lbs. of Bohemian hops, which are valued at 12,536,650 Cs. crowns.

An American in Prague, reading the announcements of the moving picture theatres of Czechoslovakia, would feel perfectly at home. Douglas Fairbanks, Mary Pickford, Charlie Chaplin, Annette Kellerman, Pauline Fredericks, William Hart are as well known in Czechoslovakia as on roadway. Almost every American film company has a branch in Czechoslovakia. It is said that the animated pictures, such as Mutt & Jeff, are great favorites among the people.

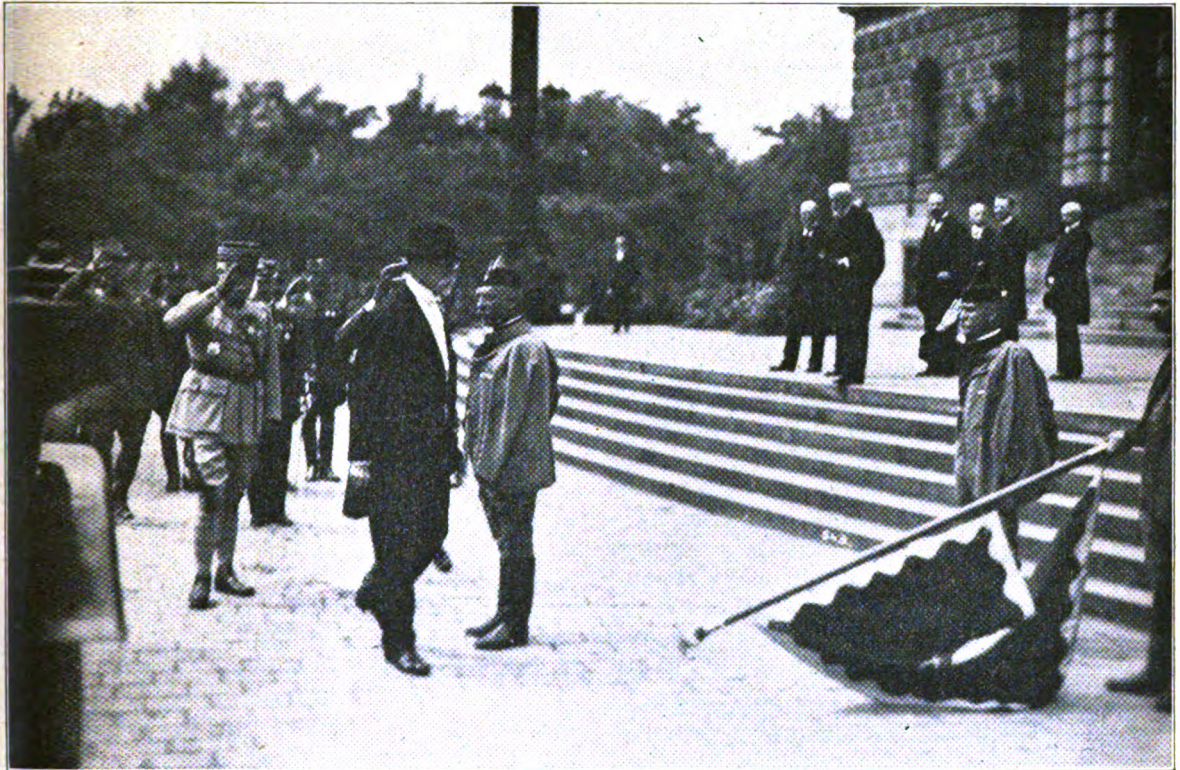
The Slovak league of America, through Albert Mamatey, its president, has presented to the Slovak people a complete printing office, which is set up at Bratislava.

Scarcity of fuels (coal and gasoline) has caused the government to frame a budget

of the farmers' needs during the approaching harvesting season, so that proper arrangements may be made for supplying them with these commodities. Fuel is still one of the pressing problems of the day.

Czechoslovak dailies show their disgust with the handling of the Teschen situation by the International Commission appointed to carry out the plebiscite. Procrastination and adjournments are the cause of the existing ill feeling. The storm centers about the chairman of the Commission, Mande-

Poland occupies a peculiar position of claiming something which historically, and in fact does not belong to her. She has everything to gain and nothing to lose. On the other hand the Czechoslovaks have every historical and economic right to Teschen. The sentiment of the inhabitants indicates that they desire to join the Czechoslovak Republic. The various adjournments of the plebiscite give opportunity to the Poles to drive out the Czechs and replace them with their own adherents. They resort to what is known in America as "bull



President Masaryk going to Parliament to take oath of office after his re-election.

ville, who it appears, is not master of the situation and according to news reports, seems to be a very weak executive. While the Czechoslovaks are faithfully carrying out their bargain, the Polish adherents are terrorizing the people and permitting depredation on their property. All of this takes place under the nose of the International Commission. The plebiscite set for July 12th will probably not be held. The official muddling of this problem through the incapacity of the chairman of the Commission is bound to react.

dozing" tactics and through the inability of the International Commission to control them they have a passive and acquiescent support. This should not and must not continue. If there is to be a plebiscite it should be held at once.

Miss. Karla Máchova died in Prague on May 7, 1920. For many years she was the editor of the "Womens News" (Ženské Listy) and advocated equal rights for the Bohemian women.

State Finance and Foreign Trade

By KAREL ENGLIŠ*.

One of the most serious burdens, which at the present moment, encumber the state, are the immense contributions toward reducing prices of food-stuffs bought in foreign countries. Under most unfavorable exchange conditions of our currency we are forced to purchase the deficiency of our foods at exorbitant prices. The flour thus secured would have to be sold excessively high in order that the state might be reimbursed. It is easily comprehended that it is impossible to ask such prices from people of small means, who form the mass of our population, particularly when the prices paid for domestic flour are so disproportionately low. Our agriculturists point to the prices of foreign flour, and base their demands on these prices translating such values into our money at the rate of exchange prevailing in the world's markets.

In foreign countries the exchange rate of our crown is unhealthy, because it does not correspond with the living conditions within and without our state. The high prices of imported foods are due, primarily, to this unfavorable exchange position of our crown in the same way as the increased costs of all our imports find root therein.

But this selfsame unfavorable exchange condition creates for every export immense gains, much larger than could be realized through domestic sales, because the exchange value of the crown does not

*) Dr. Engliš was born in Hrabyni, Silesia, in 1880. He studied at the Bohemian gymnasium at Opava (Troppau). Subsequently he graduated from the Law School in Prague and the State School at Munich. In 1911 he became professor of national economy, financial sciences and statistics at the Technical School at Brno. Since the early part of 1919 he has been professor of political economy at the University of Brno.

He has written several books, among them "Money", "Financial and Peace Problems of the Czechoslovak State" and "Tax on Sales", his last book, which attracted considerable attention.

Dr. Engliš is regarded as one of the foremost political economists of Czechoslovakia. His appointment as minister of finance in the new government, is looked upon with extreme favor by the Czechoslovak people who expect that as a result of his work the state finances and foreign trade of the country will soon be placed on sound footing. (Ed.)

answer to the domestic cost of production. The result is that private exporters increase even the domestic prices and desire to export everything, thereby increasing the costs of commodities in domestic markets, which prices conform to the foreign exchange rate of the crown. The astonishing rise in the cost of lumber and its reservations for domestic uses has its only cause in this unfavorable low exchange rate of the crown.

Under such conditions, on the one hand unheard of profits resulting from exports flow into the pockets of private exporters, while on the other hand the state must contribute to the purchase of foods bought in foreign countries. If it is in the interest of an early balance of the state's budget—that these contributions should end — and it is not intended that the state should sell foreign flour at its high cost, but the thought occurs that export profits should be made available to meet the deficiency of import losses, because, the first as well as the second condition arise from the same source — the unhealthy exchange position of the crown.

From this it is apparent that between stabilizing state finances and (among others) the organization of our foreign trade there is a very close relation, and if it is absolutely necessary that the contributions toward reducing prices of foods should disappear from the state budget, it is equally vital to undertake such reorganization of our foreign trade, which will make this possible.

There are various technical paths which lead to this goal, but all are not equally practical. The "Central Office for the Control of Foreign Exchange" was certainly theoretically organized correctly, but its success was defeated because it administratively could not compel the public to hand in currency, with the inevitable result that beside this office there flourished an outside wholesale market for currencies and exchanges. Thus even the absorption of export profits is met with technical difficulties. The state must simplify its task as much as possible.

I think particularly of this, that the state must not, in its desire for complete-

ness of details, neglect or altogether abandon the main point. Our considerations must be restricted to this — that the main artery of our foreign trade should properly function. Simply stated — it must not be permitted that we export lumber in exchange for wines, and sugar for spices and chocolates. The main articles of our exports must serve exclusively to compensate imports of those things which we need most urgently. For our sugar, hops, malt, lumber and glass we must import only that which at that moment we need most for the benefit of the whole people, particularly foods, and we must export at prices approaching those of our imports in accordance with either the domestic or the foreign markets, particularly foods.

In these goods on whose imports and exports depends the economic existence of the state we cannot allow an unrestrained foreign trade, but must insist on such regulations which will assure us, without state contributions, the import of the most essential foods. To these an importing and exporting monopoly under the existing exchange rate of the crown is a passing command. I do not mean that the state should undertake the management of such a monopoly, as it is always, particularly when dealing with foreigners, a poor merchant. There must be found another non-governmental commercially active organization, which would be empowered to export certain important commodities, but which would have the duty imposed to import compensatively for such exports; through the import of things we need most urgently.

The organization of foreign trade in other branches is not possible of control, because of the diversity of thousands of articles of export; here must and may be a loose organization; also here the interests of the state recede to the background.

In a subsequent article Dr. Engliš expresses these views:—

Extravagance is injurious and dangerous, when it is at the expense of and to the detriment of essential necessities of the great masses of our people, who give their productive forces to the creation of useful articles of which there may be a scarcity — which is the case at the moment. It is required, these days, to restrict consumption, production and import of luxuries, resort may be had to high import duties or

total prohibition to bring this about. It is not possible that out of cotton, acquired after overcoming so many difficulties, we should produce luxuries — not until the needs of the people for necessary wearing apparel are satisfied. It is not possible that in return for our industrial export we import luxuries—not until we have a sufficiency of raw materials, foods and other articles urgently required.

Extravagant consumption and gouging have attained unheard of proportions. Reckless spending and living have spread through all our social masses. War savings and the possibilities of gain without work are the root of extravagance at a time when truthfully, we are economically unhealthy. It will be the task of the incoming government to eradicate, with equal force, luxury consumption among the wealthy as well as high living and reckless spending among the broader masses.

The contention that we are better off than our neighbors is entirely correct, but the truth is, also, that our conditions may and must improve because we are possessed of superior natural resources. The sooner we place our finances and economic structure on a sound foundation, just by that much we will forge ahead in world competition to the lasting benefit of our whole future.

In these days extravagance must be treated from a socio-psychological standpoint. Upon the masses of people of small means many self-denials and restrictions are imposed. Labor is constantly asked for more work, and again more work. It is very difficult to ask these masses to retain their patience, when they see, all about them, so much extravagance of clothes, amusements, automobiles, etc.

But do not let us depend in all things on the government. All inhabitants must, through internal moral force and an understanding, work toward that which is for the general benefit. It would be gratifying if the wealthy classes, regardless of police regulations, could feel the immorality of reckless spending in these times and become disgusted with their exhibitions of spectacular personal extravagance. To hold honestly acquired property is not a transgression, rather, it is a proof of merit, labor and economy, but a reasonable use of such resources is imperative upon everyone.

Electrical Progress in Bohemia

By F. POKORNÝ.

The Czechoslovak National Assembly passed the "Electricity Bill" on July 22nd, 1919, the purpose of which is the systematic utilization of water power and the electrification of the country's industries through state financial assistance.

The electrical industry in Czechoslovakia is extensive. In recent years the shortage of coal and lack of petroleum caused a heavy increase in the use of electricity for power, light and household services. The present annual consumption of electric energy, exclusive of the railways, is about 2,500,000,000 kilowatt hours. This demand is supplied by 345 generating stations, while in addition, a large number of private plants take some of the industrial needs.

The National Assembly set aside 75,000,000 Čs. crowns for developing systematic electrification. This sum is to be appropriated in installments during the years 1919 to 1928. The appropriations will be placed at the disposal of the Ministry of Public Works for the erection of hydro-electric plants and for financial co-operation of the state in any electrical undertakings which may form a substantial part of the electric system.

In future, all energy is to be distributed by uniform transmission systems of 22,000 and 100,000 volts. The current will be generated by nine large thermo-electric power stations located in coal districts; three will be erected at Duchcov (Bohemia), Moravská Ostrava (Moravia) and in Slovakia.

According to calculations made for Bohemian and Moravian waterways, which lands are the main provinces in the new State, the electricity which may be generated by water-power is estimated as follow:

BOHEMIA.		Million Kilowatt Hour
Elbe (Labe) above Hradec Králové		17
Elbe (Labe) Hradec Králové-Mělník		87
Elbe (Labe) below Mělník		92
Elbe (Labe) tributaries		76
Moldau (Vltava) above Čes. Budějovice		156
Moldau (Vltava) Budějovice-Prague		450
Moldau (Vltava) Prague-Mělník		106
Moldau (Vltava) tributaries		674

Hence these two main rivers can furnish 1,658,000,000 kilowatt hours annually.

MORAVIA.		Million Kilowatt Hours
Morava		2
Svarcava		22
Jihlavka		35
Dyje		103

Therefore the rivers of Moravia may provide electric energy amounting to about 162,000,000 kilowatt hours per year.

However, Silesia, and Slovakia must be reckoned with. In Slovakia the potential water-power resources are almost unlimited. If the hydro-electric generation of electricity is conservatively estimated at 800,000 h. p. yearly, it will mean an annual saving of about 6,000,000 tons of coal or about 20 percent of the republic's entire coal output.

In accordance with the law, the state will utilize its water-power and build hydro-electric plants. Constructions of electric conduits and thermo-electric plants will be left to companies of whose capital at least 60 percent will be owned by the state and local authorities, and the remainder by private stockholders.

Electric plants, of whose capital the State holds 60 percent, are declared public utilities, and as such enjoy many privileges, especially regarding taxation, the free use of public roads, railways, rivers and all others lands under state control.

Existing private electric plants which may be necessary links in the electrification scheme, may be condemned by those companies which are designated as public utilities. In such cases the original proprietor will receive either full compensation, or he may participate in the new undertaking to the extent of 40 percent of his original capital, receiving payment for the balance.

The estimated cost of the complete electrification scheme, according to published figures, will be about 3,500,000,000 crowns of which 2,000,000,000 crowns are for construction of hydro-electric plants and 500,000,000 crowns for building steam plants. Primary transmission lines will cost about 500,000,000 crowns and the secondary circuits about the same amount.

The building of the thermo-electric power stations and transmission systems is spread over twenty years. The construction of the water-power stations over fifty years. At present many new large electrical concerns are in process of formation and a Government Commission has been established to deal with all matters concerning these projects.

Eduard Vojan

Eduard Vojan is no more. This majestic personality passed away on May 30, 1920, at Prague, the scene of his greatest triumphs, in his 68th year. Bohemian art, Bohemian culture and the Bohemian nation loses one of the great sons—yea, the boast of the stage.

Cherished will be the memories of his interpretations of Hamlet, the thinker and sufferer; his deeply lived and human Waldštýn as the claimant to the Bohemian throne; yet his portrayals of Hus and Žižka were the executions of the ripe mind of the master deeply imbedded in the Bohemian national spirit and feeling. He was one joyous pride of the nation before the world.

Vojan is regarded as a greater teacher and "awakener" than half of the pedagogical books of the country. Thousands of young and noble men were, thanks to Vojan for their first impulses, awakened in their hearts and souls, they gained their first perception of greatness and heroism; to them came realization of grave humility, examples and instances of soul moulding.

Born on the 6th day of May 1853 in Prague, he was destined to great things. At the age of sixteen he was an actor in body and spirit. Then for ten years he led a nomadic life, traveling with road companies from one end of the country to the other, making occasional stops here and there. In his eighteenth year he joined the Pistecky company and a few years later the Švanda troop of Smichov, (Prague). With Švanda came the opportunity to demonstrate his abilities and display his versatility. More important roles were assigned to him. But it was not until the late nineties that his ambition was realized, the goal of all Bohemian actors, — he became a member of the National Theatre of Prague.

But Dame Fortune did not smile her winsome at Vojan. For years he interpreted, with feeling, minor characters — such as Marc Anthony and Mortimer. He acted the part of an Indian in one of Vere's plays. It was not until the early years of the first decade of this century that Vojan attained every actor's ambition — leading roles. Hamlet, Mephistopholes, Othello, Cyrano

de Bergerac and Herod became mere playthings.

Vojan gained his greatest success in Bohemian drama. His interpretations were faultless. He lived his parts. His "Valenta" in "The Incendiary's Daughter" (Paličova Dcera), was a master interpretation.

His one ambition to appear before American audiences, was never to be realized. At first the war frustrated his plans and when the war ended serious sickness overtook him, which finally carried him off. It seems that destiny allotted much suffering and many disappointments to this man of great attainments.

The sweet memories of his characters, as he was not to play them, will be an ever present balm to many of his audiences. He was a Bohemian in the full sense of the word. Yet his interpretations of various characters on the stage brought home to the growing Bohemians a new vision of life and an understanding of its complex problems.

A true artist has passed away — but his influence lives.

THE PROGRESS OF SLOVAKIA.

On the occasion of taking over the administration of Slovakia the Slovak Minister, Dr. Derer, drew the following comparison of the present conditions in Slovakia with those existing under the former Magyar regime: —

"We in Slovakia have passed through a very great political, social and economic transformation. We have had to overcome a terrible legacy left by the former feudal Magyar oligarchy, a task to which we have proved equal. When the Magyar regime was overthrown, we had only 344 Slovak elementary schools, now we have 2,622. Secondary schools we had none, and to-day we have 25 of them. The membership of our Trade Unions was only 15,000, to-day we have 180,000 Trade Unionists. Before the revolution there were only 20 Slovak papers, now there are 87. Of the co-operative societies there were only 8, and to-day there are 57. Moreover, since the revolution 192 agricultural societies have been founded. These tremendous changes and progress have been accomplished in a most peaceful manner. While in the neighboring States violent conflicts have taken place, we have succeeded in establishing changes in our social institutions without any bloodshed."



Edward Vojan.

National Assembly

On April 14, 1920, the first National Assembly of the Czechoslovak Republic, after finishing its labors, adjourned *sine die*. In the midst of the tempestuous election campaign our outgoing revolutionary parliament did not receive that attention to which it was entitled. We live too near the events, therefore are unable to weigh properly or to differentiate its accomplishments from the ordinaries of daily life. This marks the end of the revolutionary period of Czechoslovakia, begun with the escape of Masaryk (from Bohemia) in December, 1914, and now begins the regular constitutional state life of the Czechoslovak Republic.

We do not know how future history will look upon the disbanded National Assembly, but this much we may expect, that two features will be pointed out — the long session of the revolutionary assembly and the absence of representatives of the German people.

The revolutionary National Assembly sat from November 14, 1918 until April 4, 1920, or, exactly one year and five months. Rightfully, it was a continuation and an enlargement of the National Committee organized on June 13, 1918, through an understanding of the political parties, which undertook the first revolutionary government in Czechoslovakia on October 28, 1918. Its first composition plainly showed that the National Assembly should be but a provisional corporation which would frame a constitution for the Czechoslovak State, control the first government of the republic and then step aside at the earliest moment possible for a duly elected representative assembly. This did not happen; the National Assembly sat longer than anyone, in the beginning, would have dared to imagine. Future history will certainly indicate several reasons for this occurrence, causes internal and external.

The Peace Conference, in spite of all pressure, domestic and foreign, procrasti-

*) Translated from "Our Era" (Naše Doba). This article shows the domestic feeling regarding the work of the first or Revolutionary National Assembly of the Czechoslovak Republic. (Ed.)

nated and dragged. Nevertheless the primary questions of the Bohemian Germans and of Slovakia were definitely solved by it in favor of the Czechoslovak Republic at least in the eyes of Germans and Magyars. Similarly, the unsettled conditions of the Magyars will be pointed to, particularly the Bolshevik invasion into Slovakia in the summer of 1919, which also delayed arrangements of constitutional matters for the republic. We must remind ourselves that even domestic causes in the Fall of 1918 tended to prolong the sessions of the National Assembly. Our leading Czechoslovak statesmen overestimated the resistive possibilities of the Central Powers, beginning with the overthrow, which actually began in October 1918 and lasted until the Spring of 1919. As a result, an agreement on the future governmental constitution of Czechoslovakia was not reached, except understandings of fundamental principles. The duty of framing constitutional bills fell to the government of the republic, whose ministers, during the session of the National Assembly, had to run about to gather working material for the new constitution and to pass on legislative bills, which might have been prepared otherwise.

Because the revolutionary National Assembly approached its main task comparatively very late, on the eve of its existence, its character was changed. The first National Assembly did not become a constitutional convention, but it impressed upon itself, by reason of circumstances greater than itself, an imprint of a parliamentary sitting, but not of parliamentary sittings from the series of famous parliamentary epochs of liberalism, when the opposition parties engaged the government in daily debates sparkling with brilliancy and humor. Our first Czechoslovak parliament resembled, too much, the modern parliament, which gives all its work to committees and makes its formal sittings a mere voting machine. Probably in our National Assembly, the extraordinary mechanism of its formal sittings will contribute even that circumstance that it did not contain an actual serious opposition.

Possibly it would have been different, if the Germans had participated in the re-

volutionary assembly, not that they would have contributed a spirit of serious opposition of which, in every parliament, there is a necessity—but also to the disadvantage of German nation, the German political thought is still permeated with the demagoguery contrasting the Czech political conception.

Future historians of the revolutionary epoch of Czechoslovakia will certainly seek causes for German nonparticipation and even of other nationalities. Possibly they may explain their exclusion. But the circumstance, that the state creating Czechoslovak nation gained its independence against the will of the Germans and Magyars, may have influenced its leaders to

frame its constitution in such form as would satisfy its state governmental ideals. But everything will not be explained thereby. Should they consider the nonparticipation of the Germans as a political blunder, they will certainly say the guilt is attributable to both sides.

After all, we see errors rather than the better side of the great work of the Revolutionary National Assembly during the first two governments of the republic. If there were no legislative activities other than the passing of numerous social bills, the land reform and the constitution of the Czechoslovak Republic, it will suffice that they remain impressed in the cherished memory of the future.

Housing Conditions in Czechoslovakia

Czechoslovakia has not been spared the housing difficulties which as a result of the war trouble all the European countries and even the United States are experiencing. In addition to the circumstances general to all countries, the Czech territories suffered more owing to the fact that the former Imperial Austrian Government systematically discouraged preparations for the coming of peace. It thus came about that on the collapse of the Dual Empire and the formation of the Czechoslovak State absolutely no plans had been made to start building.

In the chaos which prevailed in housing conditions on the establishment of the new State, when thousands of families of State employees from adjacent territories of Austria entered the Republic, together with families of repatriated Czechoslovak citizens, all of whom were seeking homes; when thousands of prisoners of war were returning, the vast majority of whom were also looking for dwellings, the Czechoslovak Government regarded it as an immediate necessity to take steps to extend and develop the protection of tenants and to make provisions that all unused or only partially occupied premises should be made available for dwelling purposes. These provisions were, it is true, not very popular, but the public recognized the necessity for them and complied with the general demand for them. These measures

have already been replaced by Parliament with regular laws.

To stimulate building activity Parliament has made a grant of 30 million crowns annually as a contribution towards the interest on the mortgages for houses built in the years 1919 and 1920 by municipalities and societies serving public interests. This grant was distributed among municipalities and 121 societies for 4,198 houses and 11,919 dwellings built at an outlay of over 500 million crowns. For the encouragement of private building, Parliament granted a sum of 252 million Cs. crowns for the completion of houses begun in 1920 and 1921.

Building activities were also considerably aided by the new law for the expropriation of land, the law for the exemption of new houses from house duty, and the legal relief from the strict building by-laws.

In spite of this, it cannot be said that the progress in building has been satisfactory because it had been unfavorably affected by the increase in price of building materials and the rise in workmen's wages, which make it impossible to draw up reliable estimates. More recently, too, there had been a very marked scarcity of money for building purposes.

Remittances of Czechoslovaks in America to relatives in the Czechoslovak Republic for the month of February, 1920, are estimated at more than 100 million crowns.

Railways and Banks

The creation of Czechoslovakia as an independent State necessitated far-reaching changes in the organisation of her railways. During her incorporation with Austria-Hungary the main lines were running south and north, Vienna, Budapest, and Berlin being the determining factors. Now the principal direction lies west- and eastward. The whole length of railway lines within the Republic is about 8,120 miles, the greatest part of which is owned by the State, but the Government also controls the private undertakings. This fact simplifies the reorganization of the whole system. The National Assembly has sanctioned an expenditure of 6,431,050,000 crowns for a working programme which is to extend over five years. The principal items are as follows: 963,950,000 crowns for the construction of new lines; 365,450,000 crowns for the enlargement of certain lines; 1,023,420,000 crowns for extension of railway stations; 764,900,000 crowns for the acquisition of engines, and 2,202,200,000 crowns for freight cars and trucks, etc. At present there are in use about 3,500 engines, 8,500 passenger cars and mail vans, and 70,000 freight cars and trucks. This is insufficient, especially as 30 per cent. of the engines are constantly in repair, against 16 per cent. formerly, which entails a slow circulation of the cars. To make the service effective another 1,000 engines are required, while the number of cars must be doubled. The share which Czechoslovakia is to receive from the partition of the Austro-Hungarian rolling-stock will somewhat diminish the deficiency; but as the native shops cannot turn out more than 1,000 cars per month, orders must be placed abroad. In carrying out the program the Ministry of Railways recognizes the necessity of facilitating the transport of export goods.

An order is about to be issued regulating the status of foreign banks in Czechoslovakia. Such banks will be required to give an undertaking that one-third of the joint-stock capital be located within the Republic, while a certain percentage of the deposits must be used for investments in the country. The measure will affect principally the local branches of Austrian banks, but, of course, will also apply to any new

foreign banking establishments. However, these restrictions are not likely to check the influx of capital from abroad, as the banks are still continuing to increase their capital, thus offering chances for investment. So has the Nederlandsche Handels-Maatschappij, a Dutch concern, lately taken up a large number of the newly-issued shares of the Industrial Bank of Bohemia, when this institution increased its capital to 150,000,000 crowns. The case of the Prague Credit Bank is another instance, a moiety of its shares being in French hands.

The following banks have recently declared their yearly dividends, the occasion being in some cases marked by a resolution to increase the capital: The Agricultural Credit Bank, dividend 8 per cent., 32 crowns per share, increase of capital from 40,000,000 crowns to 80,000,000 crowns; the Prague Agrarian Bank, dividend 6½ per cent.; German Agrarian and Industrial Bank, dividend 6 per cent., against 4 per cent. last year, increase of capital from 12,000,000 crowns to 40,000,000 crowns; Banking Association of Bratislava, (Pressburg) dividend 9 per cent., increase of capital from 2,000,000 crowns to 10,000,000 crowns; Moravo-Silesian Bank, dividend 9 per cent., 36 crowns per share; Moravian Discount Bank, dividend 7½ per cent., 30 crowns per share, against 26 crowns last year, increase of capital from 20,000,000 crowns to 30,000,000 crowns. The most important announcement in this connection is that of the Živnostenská Bank—the largest in the Republic—of a dividend of 9 per cent., 18 crowns per share, on a net profit of 20,937,474 crowns and of an increase of capital from 200,000,000 to 300,000,000 crowns. The balance-sheet of this bank shows total assets of 3,431,851,721 crowns. The first Carpatho-Russian Bank has been founded at Ungvar with a capital of 5,000,000 crowns.

An Anglo-French concern has acquired all the shares in the "Helenenhof-Imperial" Hotel Co., Ltd., Carlsbad. A preliminary increase of capital to 8,000,000 crowns has been decided upon without prejudice to a further statutory augmentation.

President Masaryk on Czechoslovakia's Future

The first number of the new issue of the Times ("Čas"), a paper which before the war was the organ of Professor's Masaryk's party, and soon after the outbreak of war was suppressed by the Austrian authorities, publishes an interview with President Masaryk. After having heard from the correspondent that the Times ("Čas") will again be conducted on the lines of its pre-war realistic and progressive tendency, President Masaryk gave the following views on the intellectual and social position of Czechoslovakia:

"Realism may prove a very sound conception in the rebuilding of our State. We certainly need to become aware of facts and realities as they are. Among us there are still many people who are satisfied with indefinite and unreal fancies and conceptions, and hence the necessity for concrete thinking. I have already explained many times that this does not mean to retreat from facts but to face them."

"The realisation of our situation at home and around us must induce every man to work. As far as politics are concerned, the true policy consists in considering the average daily events from a broad world-wide view. I always believed that our Czech question is a world question. As to whether I take an optimistic or pessimistic view of our affairs, I must say that so far I have not had time for such things as pessimism or optimism as I feel a perpetual desire for work. Of criticism, of course, I am not afraid."

"As to the attitude towards our Germans, I still adhere to the opinion which I expressed some time ago, that if the Germans will realise that the war has put an end to their hegemony and will be willing to collaborate with us, all other questions will easily solve themselves."

To the question whether he considered the present Democratic and Republican form of the Czechoslovak State as definite and best, President Masaryk said: — "I do not consider the parliamentary institutions as being untimely. The defects of parliaments consist in the facts that the electors do not send better parliamentarians. And if there are none, the councils (soviets) could not be better either. Even the coun-

cils must somehow be organized, there must be a Central Council, a Parliament in another form. Without Parliament there would be dictatorship which always leads to political and economic downfall. Politics must include not only an effort towards idealistic social establishments, but also knowledge how to establish ideal conditions. A man without boots naturally demands boots, and when he gets them, he realises that they are too tight for him and he wants them to be repaired, for which purpose he needs a bootmaker. It is the same with politics. Democracy must guarantee political experience, the defects of Parliaments arise from the defects of Society itself. Experience is also necessary for socialisation. We desire and must arrive at a higher social and economic standard, but socialisation under the present conditions is a difficult problem. For the change of the whole economic and social structure, it is necessary to possess knowledge, goodwill and sacrifice on all sides."

President Masaryk further states that the aims of Czechoslovakia will be the solution of national, linguistic, economic and social problems. "Peace must be maintained on all sides, and in particular, an endeavor must be made to arrive at a peaceful solution of the points at issue with Poland. As regards Hungary, Czechoslovakia would be on the alert, but would not allow any provocation. Our relations with Russia were always proper and they will remain so. As regards the economic intercourse with Russia we shall negotiate. We must, of course, take into account the difficulties of communication with which Russia is faced. For some time to come trading will hardly be possible. We are not immediate neighbours of Russia and in view of the unsettled conditions commerce will be hampered."

Masaryk's Academy of Labor, an incorporated body of scientists and engineers, is taking up the question of increased farm production which under Austrian rule was neglected in one year more was done about experimental farms and farmers' bulletins, than in fifty years of Austrian rule.

England
to
Czechoslovakia

ONCE—in the day of our meridian song
And young armadas—on your Bohemian hill
An older fame suffered an alien wrong
Where arms again blasphemed a people's will.
And freedom slept among your heroes then,
Sepulchred on White Mountain, till a theme
Of the unforgotten music called again,
And sovranity was where had been a dream.

FORTUNE, for all our wisdom, we can shape not,
Being free, we yet are kinsmen of the blind,
The snares of our own hearts we can escape not,
Our bravest end is fortitude of mind—
But Masaryk knows, Bohemia knows, that thence
The spirit of man walks in magnificence.

May, 1920

JOHN DRINKWATER

Spoken for the first time by
Mrs. Patrick Campbell at
the Czechoslovak Matinee,
Prince of Wales Theatre,
June 1st, 1920.

A Letter From Shanghai

By GARNER CURRAN.

Formerly in Y. M. C. A. Service in Siberia.

"Na Zdar, Na Zdar!" The salutation was spontaneous, involuntary. I could not help raising my hand in the military salute, although I was in civilian clothes. The sight of 2,000 men, neatly clad in new olive green uniforms with red trimmings, and red and white ribbon insignia in their caps, could not help but inspire anyone. They walked erect, with the swinging stride of veterans.

They seemed out of place in Shanghai and they looked a little homesick. My salutation probably seemed out of place to them, and caused many to look at me in surprise, but they always returned the greeting with a smile, and respectful salute. The moment I said, "Ya iz Vladivostok, Y. M. C. A.," the smile changed to one of real cordiality, for all the Czechoslovaks love the Y. M. C. A. secretaries and call them "Uncles."

Yes, Shanghai has been captured by the 1st Regiment of the Czechoslovaks. They arrived on the "Tras-os-Montes", (Behind the Mountains) Sunday, Dec. 21st, direct from Vladivostok. This steamer was formerly the German ship Von Buelow and has been allocated to the Portugese, but is manned now by a British crew. They sail Saturday for France.

There are 1,800 men aboard, all veterans. Fully 1,300 bear wounds. Even the Y. M. C. A. secretary, Mr. W. P. Viles, has a knife slash in the hand from a Bolshevik whose rifle aim was poor. Viles has been with this regiment for over four years and is revered by the officers and men alike for his sterling qualities and nevertiring energy. No sooner had the transport anchored in the stream here, than Viles was ashore and with the assistance of Mr. Wm. R. Durbin, general secretary of the Navy Y. M. C. A. of Shanghai, he started a program of entertainment for his regiment which kept them busy and happy during their entire stay here.

The first day he arranged for their transportation ashore through the courtesy of the Shanghai Tug and Lighter Co., and the men paraded through the main business section of the city, headed by a platoon of

mounted Sikh policemen and the municipal band.

For Christmas Eve, Viles secured the use of the town hall and put on a program which was a treat indeed. First there came a "big feed." It was a real Christmas feast. The good citizens of Shanghai donated much, but Viles spent a number of thousand taels to see that the men lacked nothing, and every man received a big bag of candy, fruit and nuts from a real Christmas tree at the end of the entertainment.

The U. S. Cruiser South Dakota sent their band ashore and gave the Czechs some of the finest music they have heard since they left home. Their enthusiastic encoring showed that they appreciated the good



Gen. Rud. Gaida (in centre) and group of allied officers.

music. The Czech chorus also rendered a few excellent selections and Frank Šmidt their famous violinist and recitation by Col. Holeček were features of the program.

Few people realize that this 1st regiment of Czechoslovaks is the most famous of all these famous fighters. This regiment started to form in 1914, when the Czechs who were in Russia volunteered for service and later the desertions from the Austrian forces swelled it into a division and then a corps. Among the original volunteers was Lt.-Col. Klecanda, who is in charge of troops returnings home now. Besides holding the Czech military cross, he has the D. S. O., the Croix de Guerre with the palm and the order of the St. Vladimír.

Lt.-Col. Klecanda in addition to his regimental service has been on the staffs of Gen. Brusiloff, Gen. Denikin, Gen. Knox, and prior to leaving Siberia on the present occasion was 2nd chief of staff of the Czechoslovak army, being in charge of operations.

People also seem to forget that it was this same Czechoslovak army which captured Vladivostok from the Bolsheviki in May 1918 and drove the Bolsheviki out of all parts of Siberia. Later, was it a Czechoslovak, Gen. Rudolph Gaida, who led the united Czechoslovak and Russian forces in the only successful campaign against the Bolsheviki in Siberia, and drove them clear across the Urals, and he probably would have captured Petrograd, had he not been recalled.

The Czechoslovaks were given 3,000 miles of the trans-Siberian railway to guard, and with an actual fighting strength of less than 30,000 men, or about 8 to the mile, they held this line against all Bolshevik attacks for nearly two years. As soon as they with-



Czechoslovak Officers in Shanghai with Sikh policemen in the rear.

drew, the line was captured by the Bolsheviki.

In guarding this line the Czechs undertook over 300 raids. This 1st regiment participated in 80. They lost 280 killed and over 800 wounded. Most of the men have seen five years of continuous fighting. Many have never heard from their relatives and know nothing about what kind of a home reception they will receive.

At one time this 1st regiment, when serving under Kerensky, captured 35 guns and took 10,000 prisoners.

The history of this Czechoslovak corps is the most romantic and remarkable of the war. Every page would be filled with

thrills. And through all these dreary five years the men have kept up a most remarkable morale in which work the Y. M. C. A. has played no small part.

The Czechoslovaks are the most remarkable troops in Siberia, bar none. They are the best drilled, best behaved and the best fighters. The entire world owes them a debt which can never be repaid. History will award them their proper niche in the hall of fame. Suffering Belgium, devastated France, ruined Russia, decimated England, illustrious Italy, and patriotic America will all in the future years bow in reverence over the graves of those brave, heroic soldiers who lie buried in the bleak graves on the hillsides from Vladivostok to Samara, in Siberia and European Russia, soldiers not of fortune, but with faith in the future, far from home, fighting for "Liberty, Right and Justice", as did our forefathers.

THE CZECHOSLOVAK TRADE JOURNAL.

American visitors to Prague state that they managed to get along there very well in English. All educated men talk some English. Now the people there actually publish an English trade journal, the first member of which appeared last month.

The paper is written in excellent English, and the articles have the merit of abounding in facts and figures, rather than in rhapsodies on the country. Among the features of the first issue are discussions of the wood and timber situation, the exchange value of the crown, hops, beet sugar, alcohol, wool lace, as well as an account of import and export regulations and notes for travellers to Czechoslovakia, which are reprinted elsewhere in this periodical. Those of our readers who may be interested in trade between this country and the Czechoslovak Republic will find the Trade Journal very helpful. The address is Purkyňovo nám. 6, Prague-Vinohrady.

Under the patronage of their Majesties, the King and Queen of England, an All-Star British matinee was given in London, at the Prince of Wales Theatre, on June 1st, 1920, in aid of the Czechoslovak fund for babies, of which Dr. Alice Masaryk is president. The honorary and program committees, in charge of the arrangements, were composed of leading men and women of the British Isles. The program was very interesting. Some of the foremost men and women of the British stage participated. The feature of the performance was the recital by Mrs. Patrick Campbell, of a sonnet written especially for that occasion, by Mr. John Drinkwater, entitled "England to Czechoslovakia", which is printed in another part of this number.

After Five Long Years

By LIEUT. STANLEY KLIMA.

In the Sunday afternoon quiet Czechoslovak songs are distinctly heard far off, and like to the roll of the drum, the rhythmic step of the soldier resounds — the Czechoslovak Legionnaires appear in the distance. They sing that their march might be more pleasant, that through song they might feel nearer their homeland which, for five years, has been but a hazy memory.

This is Sunday, June 13, 1920, at Norfolk, Va. At the embarkation station is anchored the American ship Mt. Vernon, which yesterday brought in over 3,000 Czechoslovak soldiers from Siberia. Possibly misfortune was their gift in the chrisom-cloth, for it seems to follow them constantly. The opening of the world war finds them in Bohemia in the throes of the deadly monarchy, which they hate from the bottom of their souls. They were forced, against their will, to the Russian front where, not singly, but in entire regiments, they went over to the Russians. Immediately they began to form the Czechoslovak army. Then came the revolution, and during the Kerensky regime we find the Czechoslovaks on the Russian fronts, where at Zborov they covered themselves with undying glory. The Kerensky government fell. Then came the Brest-Litovsk peace, but the Czechoslovaks did not feel their task was finished. They requested transportation to France; they wanted to prove by action on the western battlefields that they not only ask for independence, but that they will fight for it and die for it.

The Czechoslovaks began to move to the east, to Vladivostok, from whence the allied ships might transport them to France. But the Bolsheviks, while they assured a free passage to the Czechoslovaks through Siberia, immediately began attacking their rear guards, in order to make as difficult as possible their journey. The Czechoslovaks were forced to use their weapons in self defense. Then began the battle in which a handful of Czechoslovaks put to flight the Bolshevik hordes and completely dominated all Siberia. At that time there also began guerrilla fighting, the exchange of shot was a daily occurrence, it was a vitally absorbing fight, for there were none

who could relieve the war-weary Czechoslovak fighters. In fact, they knew not the day or even the hour.

Then came the armistice and battles ceased on all fronts. The Czechoslovak troops in foreign countries, except Siberia, returned to their freed homeland. There were no ships. America, England and France transported their own troops. It was nearly a year later, before the first ship came for the Czechoslovak heroes of Siberia.

In review, they march before your eyes singing, for to them a song is as necessary as water to parched desert. They carry themselves easily in their khaki uniforms, though burdened with full equipment.

The history of this transport which, by chance, put into Norfolk is truly remarkable. They left Vladivostok on the 13th of March, 1920. Stops of short duration were made in San Francisco, Colon and Panama. From Panama the transport set a course for Hamburg. In mid-ocean it met with an accident — the right propeller was lost — the ship was forced to seek the haven of the nearest port, which happened to be Norfolk.

The Czechoslovak heroes, comforting themselves with the thought that shortly they will see their homes, that to their breasts they shall clasp aged parents, wife, children or sweethearts, into whose faces they have not gazed for five long years, must again disembark, go to military camp and wait until another ship will carry them to the old world — home.

The boys prove the high intelligence of the Czechoslovak soldiers, as the newspaper published on the transport Mt. Vernon shows. It is called "Return" (Návrat). It reflects the deep love of the Czechoslovak individual for the land of his birth, a love which even the longest separation does not diminish. Their plans, their projects and experience of many years in foreign lands are discussed freely. In all of the articles one finds not only great longing for a glimpse of the homeland, but also an understanding of the tasks which await them at home. Each combatant on the eve of his new life is fully conscious of his duties.

How they conceive the future is gleaned from these lines:

"Personal labor, dependence on one's strength, critical and sober judging of surrounding conditions of our neighbors and happenings, let these be a guide to further labors, which await us in our homeland."

"The first point of our program we have fulfilled and now there are ahead of us further tasks, — to weld ourselves into the bosom of the nation, to create and to build, to be citizens and to be men. You were good fighters, therefore be good citizens, endeavoring at all times to gain the ideals of social, economic and political justice."

That is their goal, that is the thought of the heroes, which always remain a monument of the moral force of the Czechoslovak soldier.

(The transport Mt. Vernon, carrying the Czechoslovak soldiers under the direction of Major Moravek was forced, through accident, to put into Norfolk for repairs. The soldiers were visited there by the chargé d' Affaires, Mr. Jan Masaryk, and the military attaché of the Czechoslovak legation, Col. Hurban, who looked after the comfort and welfare of the troops. It is expected that in the early part of July another ship will take them to Trieste, from whence they will be transported by rail to Prague. The obstacles placed in their path have been many. With good fortune they have overcome all of them. These heroes deserve a better fate, but the hand of Destiny has allotted these men to drink from a cup of bitterness. Bon Voyage and a happy and early return home. — (Ed.)

The Problem of Silesia

By MÍLA LISCOVÁ.

The Czechoslovaks have an undeniable historical right to Teschen. The Principality of Teschen is an inseparable part of the lands of the Crown of St. Václav. From the year 1327 it was part and parcel of the Kingdom of Bohemia and the historical rights of the Czechoslovaks to it are not extinguished as the Poles declare. For as the Bohemian State and the right of the Bohemian nation thereto never ceased to exist constitutionally — even in the darkest days of oppression under the Habsburgs — so the right of the Czechoslovaks of today to the District of Teschen, as an indivisible part of their state, have not lapsed. Even Bohemia's mortal enemy, Francis Joseph I., confirmed this Bohemian right by his Rescript of September 1870 in which he acknowledged the indivisibility of the Bohemian Crownlands. The Czechoslovaks of today in defending the District of Teschen are defending desperately their own land.

The historical past of Teschen is Bohemian. The people who have for centuries inhabited it are Bohemian. As late as the year 1550 a law passed by the Duke of Teschen Václav prescribed Bohemian as the sole official language, while later, when Duke Ferdinand received the Principality of Teschen from the Emperor Ferdinand as a feudal tenure of the Kingdom of Bohemia, the Duke ratified that law.

Evidences of the glory of old Bohemian days are found everywhere in Silesia; in the parish church of Teschen, in the public offices and archives as well as in the remotest villages. Such relics comprise official charters and documents, inscriptions in the churches, epitaphs in the

churchyards and old Bohemian songs, hymn-books and prayer books which old women still preserve in their old-fashioned painted boxes as sacred remembrances.

With the growth of the coal industry it is only natural that the native working classes proved insufficient to meet the demands of that industry. Large numbers of uneducated workers were introduced from Galicia bringing with them their priests and teachers who became the pioneers of the Polish idea in Silesia, and who exerted all their powers and influence to the harm of the Bohemians whom they strove to turn into adherents of Poland. Their great aim was to Polish as quickly as possible both the Church and the School the very focus of national and intellectual work.

In the Protestant churches of Teschen District sermons were preached and hymns sung in Bohemian till the year 1870. Bohemian books, prayer-books and hymn-books are still found in the Protestant families which have preserved their Bohemian character. In their houses one still sees pictures of the Bohemian heroes Hus and Žižka. It was only by force that the Bohemian language was driven out of the churches and congregations. At Komorní Lhotka, for example, there are persons still living who remember the forcible Polonization of the Lutheran local congregation. At the Easter in the year 1865 Polish music and Polish hymns were introduced to replace Bohemian. The people were offended, they left the Church and remained defiant for a long time. They ceased to attend church, but read Bohemian religious books and

sang Bohemian hymns at home. In later times a special effort was made by a Protestant Superintendent named Haase to banish all Bohemian books out of the Protestant families of Silesia. In the year 1900 he asked the Protestant congregations to collect together all Bohemian books used for the public worship, pretending that they were to be sent to the Slavic peoples of the South. Instead he caused half of them to be burnt, the other half to be concealed in the tower of the Protestant Church of Teschen.

The schools were Polonized by similar methods as were the churches. About the year 1870 most of the schools in Eastern Silesia were Bohemian. It will suffice to give as an example the school at Karvin which was Bohemian till 1870 or thereabouts, in 1870 had become Polish and by 1902 German.

An Austrian decree relating to Silesia — notoriously known by the name of its author a certain Zeynek—conferred upon local Councils the right to substitute one language for another as the medium of instruction. In short, to introduce German or Polish at the expense of Bohemian. This decree served its purpose and contributed not a little to the destruction of the selfconsciousness of the native population.

The methods adopted by the Poles against the Bohemians in the Austrian Parliament at Vienna are well known and no further explanation is needed why the Poles in Silesia were favored by the Government as compared with the situation of the Bohemians in that land. During the elections the Polish political leaders worked hand in hand with the Germans and the result was the serious one of bringing under German rule schools and communities which were originally Bohemian. From this time on the indigenous Bohemian population there began to look upon the Poles as mortal enemies.

But besides Polish colonization, the forcible Polonizing of the churches, schools and communities, besides the official system of Germanization and the Polish-German alliance, besides all these there were the great German capitalists whose programme aimed at open or secretive Germanization by force. This programme they pursued in conformity with the intentions of the Government and under its protection and patronage. That these German capitalists had great influence in Teschen District is manifest, when one considers that the largest part of Silesia with all its underground wealth, its collieries etc. belongs to them. The result is that almost the entire population was up to the present time practically their slaves.

In the past, the Bohemian public was able to take but little interest in the desperate struggle carried on by its compatriots in the East, for the whole nation, even at its centre, was powerless in the grip of Austria. The Habsburg system and the Polish curse were all-powerful in the unhappy land. It had but one defender and that was the Silesian Bohemian himself, who, alone and

forsaken, through his own labors and with his own modest means fought out his heroic rebellion against his oppressors. He fought, he died; but he died in hope.

Through his labors, his indomitable perseverance, his self-sacrifice, there began in the year 1900 a re-awakening of Bohemian life in Teschen. The foundation of a private Grammar School at Orlová in 1909 was one of the fruits of this awakening.

The Austrian authorities did all in their power to paralyze the growth of the Bohemian movement. Bohemian engineers were refused employment, only those of German or Polish nationality being accepted. The Austrian Governor of Silesia Count Coudenhove reminded Count Larisch, that Bohemians, no matter what their abilities should be, were not to be employed.

On the outbreak of War the German hatred of the Bohemians reached its culmination in the wholesale destruction of everything that was Bohemian in Silesia. Life and existence were made impossible. German managers of mines and engineers and other educated and supposed-to-be civilized Germans together with their wives vied with the lowest class of informer as to who should denounce and ruin the greatest number of Bohemians whether they happened to be engineers, workmen, professors, teachers or students. When martial law was proclaimed in Silesia eight out of nine engineers in the employment of Count Larisch at Karvin were denounced by informers who alleged against them high treason, espionage and other capital crimes; they were arrested, kept in prison and sent into the horrible Austrian concentration camps, or, when possible to the front; their wives and children were accused of different fictitious crimes; they were persecuted in an endless variety of ways, and when, after all the torment of imprisonment, trial, and endless inquiries it was impossible to convict them, they were deprived of their livelihood or their careers were ruined by dismissal—punishments but little alleviated in some cases by the granting of a trifling pension.

The Chief Constable, Kunz, distinguished by his methods of cruelty and the still more notorious police commissioner Janka of Moravská Ostrava carried on regular hunts for Bohemians throughout the country, so that no one's life was safe, every Bohemian lived in hourly expectation that the gendarmes with fixed bayonets would appear and drag him away. Life with its torments and ignominies became a regular Golgatha for the Bohemian.

While the "Marquis Gero" (i. e. the Archduke Frederick, so designated in the political songs and poems of the Silesian poet Peter Bezruč) was holding revels in the Castle of Teschen, and at Karvin Count Larisch was entertaining the tyrant Kaiser William, on their estates, in their mines and factories Bohemian workmen were arrested and dragged at the point of the bayonet to the gallows. Others with their families were

annihilated and the mines cleared of Bohemians.

Their places were taken by Poles—the Poles who in their warm friendship for the Germans sent their legions with enthusiasm against the Entente. The Poles at this time had but one name for the Bohemians, viz, "Czech traitor". The Poles assisted the German hangmen, they denounced the Bohemians, hunted them and left mothers and children in misery and despair. It is easy to see why not one of the Silesian Poles was ever persecuted by the Austrian Government.

Then came the end of the War and the 28th of October. The Silesian Bohemians, exhausted, sank down on the threshold of their redemption, rejoicing at the prospect of new-born Bohemian liberty. But they were not to enter the paradise of their hopes. Fate closed the gates and the beaten and bruised people were driven back to the foot of their cross under Teschen. Justice cried in vain to Heaven. The people had not yet reached the culminating point of their Silesian Calvary: the cup of bitterness was not yet full to overflowing.

At the moment when the historic revolution took place at Prague — and that in spite of the presence of an armed enemy Hungarian garrison — at the critical moment when the Czechoslovaks had no army of their own, when they had in Teschen not a single soldier to defend the Eastern frontier of the newly proclaimed Czechoslovak Republic, it was at this moment that the Poles took advantage of the weak position of the Czechoslovaks to lay hands upon the Bohemian Crownland. Immediately on the 29th of October they seized the railway from Košice to Bohumín and on the 29th and 30th they occupied Teschen, Bohumín and Karvín. From that moment all the horrors of war revisited the Silesian Bohemians in a new form.

The situation was a very serious one. From Prague instructions came to keep, at all costs, on friendly terms with the Poles. In view of the critical position the Bohemian National Committee, the Národní Výbor decided, on the 5th of November 1918 to make a local pact with the Poles. It was expressly laid down in the pact itself that its terms were only provisional for the purpose of keeping peace and maintaining order in Teschen District.

This pact was never adopted by the Czechoslovak Government. The Poles systematically evaded it, but they had the presumption to declare it an international treaty, and pilloried the subsequent conduct of the Czechoslovaks in Teschen as a breach of international law.

The intolerable condition of affairs compelled the Czechoslovak Government to take resolute action. The occupation which they ordered, was, however, belated and should have taken place much earlier.

The Bohemians of Silesia had waited long enough. They had seen how their compatriots, the legionaries who had returned safe and sound

from the hell of Verdun and from the bloody battles of many fronts, returned to their native land only to be murdered in their own homes by Polish bullets treacherously fired from behind. The Poles organized guerilla bands and distributed arms even to children.

The Poles heaped every form of abuse and indignity upon all who faithfully stood by the Czechoslovak Republic.

Innocent and peaceable people were dragged from their houses to the Polish concentration camps in Deb, the horrors of which not only equalled but even far surpassed those of the notorious Austrian Talerhof.

The Poles, in fact, in Deb by neglect systematically murdered healthy Bohemian prisoners. The dark Middle Ages could hardly have invented more insidious tortures for human beings. Such was the work of the Poles.

No single enemy of the Czechoslovaks has ever done them so much evil as the Poles whom they looked upon as their kin and to whom they were always ready to offer the hand of reconciliation for the sake of justice and peace.

In the meantime the Poles by diplomatic trickery persuaded the Entente Commission to order the Czechoslovak army which had been stationed along the banks of the Vistula on their own territory, to retire to the West. This order was given at the beginning of February 1919 and the Czechoslovak representative in Paris was forced by circumstances to sign the unhappy, fatal treaty regarding the provisional frontiers by which nearly the whole of the district with the capital, Teschen, as well as the railway from Teschen to Slovakia was placed under Polish rule.

This treaty set the seal to a great injustice to the people of Silesia and is an affront to the whole Czechoslovak nation.

The people of Silesia received it as a lash across the face and the Czechoslovak nation felt the humiliation. What had happened should never have been allowed to happen. Had not the sons of Silesia fought on the Marne and on the Somme, in Siberia and on the Piave? They fought for the liberty of the world and for the liberty of their own native Silesian land.

Yet the Silesian legionary, after giving his blood in foreign lands returned home only to be forced by the Decision of the Peace Conference to leave his native land and give it up to the Polish invader. He felt it was the role of a coward, but he bit his lips and obeyed.

In the rear of the Czechoslovak army the Silesians were forced to flee from their homes. Horror, shame and ruin went with them. Even the faith which they had cherished for centuries the belief that the liberation of their own nation — the Czechoslovak nation — would bring back liberty to Silesia also, was crushed.

From this time a night darker than all the past fell over Teschen. Six months of confusion and horror passed over the unhappy land. From time to time there appeared a glimmer of hope but it

went out quickly. Confused reports came from Paris, all disturbing and painful; not one was agreeable. The Silesian Bohemians lived in unbroken fear and anxiety. The Poles brought up cannon and arms, they dug fortifications, they slandered and murdered the Czechoslovak legionaries. They threatened the life and the honor of the Czechoslovak people.

Large numbers of Polish agitators were brought in to incite violence and insult against the native population, and their reports that the Entente had already adjudged the whole district to Poland produced a feeling of paralysis and terror. For the Silesian Bohemians knew well that if these reports about which the Polish press did not conceal its delight, were true, they would signify disgrace, torture and annihilation to the Bohemian population.

For a second time the people of Silesia cried for help both to their own nation—the Czechoslovaks—as well as to the friendly nations of the West. This was on the 29th of August 1919. The Czechoslovak Republic was deeply moved and at a national demonstration representative of all classes and parties which took place at Prague the nation unanimously proclaimed that their vow should be heard, not only by their persecuted brothers and sisters in the East not only by Poland but also in Paris in England in America and in Italy. “We will never give up Teschen. *We do not lay hands upon another's property, we only defend our own.* If right and justice still reign in the world the District of Teschen must remain ours; if there is no right and no justice then the whole world should still know that Teschen IS ours.”

The legionary invalids said: “We cannot beg for our land! There is for us but one duty and that is to go and save Teschen or die for it! We fought and suffered long enough in foreign lands: if it is necessary we will go again and fight for our own. We are not cowards: we will never surrender our land to the Poles!”

The Silesian miners of Karvín sent a deputation to General Pellé, the distinguished French Commander-in-Chief of the Czechoslovak forces with the request: “Give us arms! We will defend our land! We will never leave it, never! We prefer to die fighting on our native soil amid the debris of our ruined happiness than to flee like cowards. We are miners, we are looking death in the face every minute and are not afraid of it!”

Such was the voice of the nation. These were not superfluous or useless vows and promises. The request was urgent, honorable and just and Paris had to give a plain answer. The Czechoslovaks asked for the loyalty of the Entente to their nation, they asked that promises given them should be kept, namely that the Entente would support the endeavor “to renew the independent Bohemian State in the frontiers of its former historical lands’ — and Paris answered by ordering a plebiscite in the District of Teschen, according to the proposals of the Poles.

Such was the course of events with regard to Teschen in the past.

The plebiscite undeniably violates the historical right of the Czechoslovak nation.

But historical and constitutional rights are not the only points at issue. The political and economic independence of the young state is an urgent and essential necessity for this district. It is of the utmost importance not only for the future development but for the very life itself of the state that the Czechoslovak Republic should be self supporting. The coal resources of the district are essential to the Republic without which its thriving industries would be ruined; for the Republic, deprived of Teschen coal, would be economically dependent on unfriendly neighbors.

The Polish assertion that the Czechoslovak Republic does not need this coal is an intentional and manifest untruth put forward to deceive the Entente. Experts have shown that the total coal resources of the Republic will be exhausted in the course of two or three decades while the apparently insignificant Easternmost part of Teschen—that lying between the rivers Visla and Bialka—will, with its eight billion tons of coal, be able to supply the Czechoslovak State for at least 200 years.

The Czechoslovak Republic without the District of Teschen has only 9.3 billions tons of coal, with Teschen 25.1 billions. Poland on the other hand possesses, without Teschen, no less than 141.7 billion tons.

Apart from its economic importance the district in question has a special importance for both the internal and external relations of Czechoslovakia. It not only constitutes the most important passage to and means of communication with Slovakia, it is a natural rampart against enemies from without. It is not only the coalfield of Karvín that the Poles are aiming at, they are doing their utmost to obtain possession of the railway from Bohumín to Košice. They would thus hold the key to Hungary and would be in direct communication with the Hungarians. It is not yet forgotten how, in the years 1914 and 1915, the Russians struggled to get through the mountains to Hungary, and how they failed. Had it occurred to the Russians to attack Teschen from the North they would certainly have got through the Jablunkov Pass to the Hungarian side, and with a lesser army than that which failed in the Carpathians. On the other hand, the Austrian army, numerically inferior, held the Carpathians against the larger masses of the Russians. The whole question here is vitally serious for the Czechoslovak Republic. If the Czechoslovaks are deprived of the railway line from Bohumín to Košice, they could not hold the Jablunkov Pass. This would mean that they could be severed from Slovakia and the Republic imperilled at its very centre.

Polish attempts to acquire direct connection with Hungary at the expense of Czechoslovakia

have to-day more than a local significance. It is no exaggeration to speak of an international danger as the future will prove. Hungary is prepared to risk everything, for she thinks she can lose but little—though she may after all still have disappointments to suffer. She seems not to appreciate the dangers of her course. Her political juggling results in the sudden exchange of the red Bolshevik Bela Kun for the Archducal monarchist Joseph Habsburg. The world can be prepared for further surprises. Bolshevism did not vanish, but it waits circumspectly behind the scenes for a convenient moment at which to reappear on the stage. In Poland, too, a social upheaval is pretty imminent. What will be the exact character of this revolution it is difficult to say at present, but certain it is that Poland with all its long eastern frontier borders upon Bolshevik Russia. Russian influence is strong. The recent troubles in Warsaw, reports of which have been intentionally suppressed by the Polish press are a proof of this. Should Poland be successful in acquiring an advantageous connection with Hungary through the Jablunkov Pass, in Spiš and Orava, the Czechoslovak Republic at any critical moment could be threatened from the South and East by a union of such overwhelming forces that it would be quite impossible to ward off serious danger from the West. Besides, Teschen is smouldering ground which can burst into flame at any unguarded moment. The Silesian colliery districts with their inflammable social elements form a very dangerous intermediate ground between the destructive Eastern elements and Western civilization. So long as the coal districts of Teschen are under the control of the indisputable intelligence of the Czechoslovak proletariat, so long as order is preserved in the land by the reliable elements of the Czechoslovak nation, not only the Czechoslovak Republic but also the further European West is protected from the danger of Eastern convulsions.

It is not Poland, that extensive but politically immature and unreliable state which can become a strong Eastern rampart for the greater West but the little Czechoslovak Republic which was, in the past, an indestructible barrier against the barbarian hordes of Tartars, Magyars, and Turks and which will still remain in the future a barrier against every enemy of civilization, humanity and order.

These historical facts speak better than any other words. They should be carefully and seriously considered in deciding to settle the tangled Silesian problem by means of a plebiscite in accordance with the Polish proposals, and disregarding historic rights and protests of Czechoslovakia, show an inclination to create a strong Poland and to weaken Czechoslovakia. Such a solution of the Silesian dispute would be a grave political error.

What was the behavior of the Poles during the War? From the very beginning they sent their legions with enthusiasm against the Entente, call-

ing the Czechoslovaks "Czech traitors". They accepted a so-called liberty from the Germans, united with them and co-operated with them to achieve a German triumph.

On the 6th of August 1919 the anniversary of the day on which the legions were created that fought on the side of Germany and Austria great celebrations took place throughout Poland. These celebrations took place by order of President Pilsudski who, in 1914, as chief commander of the Polish legions, issued a military order, proclaiming every Pole who should take the side of the Entente a traitor.

The Czechoslovaks feel very deeply on this point. The hesitation of the Conference to decide for the simple and most natural solution of the question (Czechoslovakia never regarded it as a question but as a settled matter admitting of no argument) and then the decision in favor of a plebiscite overriding the rights of the nation to the indivisible hereditary territory of the Crown of St. Václav came upon the Czechoslovaks as a humiliation. And it is impossible for them to feel otherwise. The plebiscite means one more postponement, one more delay in making the final decision and it signifies, too, a new period of suffering for the people of the district under the rule of the Poles, a period of persecution which might well remind us of the times of ancient ordeals.

In spite of their dissappointments the Czechoslovaks are in no doubt about the result of the plebiscite. They believe in their rights and their faith is stronger than disappointment and the hostility of others and nothing can break the steadfastness of their hope, their strong will and their work.

The Slav population of Silesia may be divided into three categories: the Czechoslovaks, the Poles and the so-called Silesians. These latter are in reality Bohemians who have been diverted from the common stock by the Habsburgian system of policy and civilization, by the Germano-Polish alliance and by the Germano-Polish school system. These Silesians form the majority and offer a strong resistance to any annexation to the Polish State. They know very well the danger which threatens them and do not hesitate to show that they have nothing in common with the Polish colonists except the language which was forced upon them in Germano-Polish schools. They take it as an offense if one calls them Poles. The word Pole is universally regarded as an epithet of abuse and its use is a 'casus belli' resulting in an affray to defend the honor of the person so insulted.

The Czechoslovak people were always opposed to the plebiscite. The Poles, however, prevailed in Paris. So long as they expected to find the long-oppressed Silesian people morally and spiritually weak enough to be gained over by threats and terror and violence, their press exulted triumphantly: "Teschen is ours! the plebiscite will prove it!" But when they saw that their judgment

had been faulty and that their hopes were destined to disappointment, their ardor for the plebiscite cooled and they seem now to be returning to their first tactical idea, namely, that to gain time is to gain everything.

Various newspapers circulated reports that the plebiscite would be postponed and the Poles afterwards attempted to demoralize the people by the assumption that the plebiscite never would take place at all.

The plebiscite, however, enforced by the Poles themselves must be carried into effect, unless the Poles will voluntarily resign all claim to that entire district, and the Czechoslovak Republic must insist on its being carried out. It would be a further mistake, if the decisive authorities should imagine that the present intolerable situation and eventually a further delay would cause harm only to the Czechoslovak Republic and its adherents. *It is not only in the interests of Czechoslovakia that the present state of affairs in Teschen should cease, it is Europe itself which has the most serious interest in the matter and which needs*

peace on every hand. Every postponement, every delay is a new menace to that peace. Procrastination is playing with fire. The Czechoslovaks realize the danger, they see it better than others can and they appeal to the Allied friendly states to use all their authority at the Conference that the plebiscite, having once been ordered, shall be carried out as speedily as possible.

Czechoslovakia, having been compelled to accept this method of solution, asks for the assistance of the Allied nations with whom she fought the great fight of the World against a common enemy, she asks them to stand by her in Truth and in Right and then her people may surely hope—nay firmly believe—that in one of their most vital and moral questions and after so much suffering and persecution—victory will finally be theirs, for they seek it and toil for it in truth and morality, for they believe that the millions of lives and careers that the World's War destroyed were not sacrificed in vain, but that they have given birth to a new justice based upon a new morality.

Stefanik

By ANTONÍN KLÁŠTERSKÝ.

When to the stars a boy he lift
At home his dreaming eye,
It was as if he would there read
His own fate in the sky.

He left his mother and his home,
To journey far he dares —
I'm going to seek my star, he says,
And searches in the stars.

The Venus attracted him not
Nor Lyre nor the Cross —
"Where is the star of mine?" he thinks
And prying on he goes.

The blazed up Mars with a great red flame,
The world in fire lies;
But through the gloom and doom he sees
A great new star arise.

"It is the star of Liberty,
This is my star," he cried,
And with a strong voice he calls his boys:
"To arms on my side!"

The fortune wavered up and down
As the billows on the sea,
Yes, on his country shines at last
The Star of Liberty!

"To home — to mother!" now he shouts
And flew in a wingéd car —
From heights he embraced his country dear
And fell down as a star.

Antonín Klášterský is one of foremost of the younger Bohemian poets. He has made available John Hay, William Cullen Bryant, James Russell Lowell, Joaquin Miller, and many others to the Czechs and Slovaks. This poem "Stefanik", Mr. Klášterský himself translated into the English.

Current Topics

A MODERN ODYSSEY.

The ancient world has no tales of wandering to compare closely with the adventures of the Czechoslovaks now spending restless days on the decks of the transport Mount Vernon as she swings in the currents of San Francisco Bay. The army of Alexander the Great, struggling back from India to their first sight of the sea, the men of Carthage pushing over the Alps with Hannibal to the plains of Italy, even Odysseus voyaging here and there in the Mediterranean cannot touch the romance and wonder of their adventure. These others were personal exploits. One man directed, one man drove, one man planned, one man at last came home. It was different with these Czechs and Slovaks; the great tides of races at war swept them from home. And when the war ends, the great complicated forces of this civilization take them home again. Those early adventures wandered a few thousand square miles at most; these men on the Mount Vernon have the circle of the world for their unwilling vagabondage.

When the war came the rulers of Austria-Hungary forced these men into the service—against their will. They were of the conquered race, compelled to fight the battles of their tyrants. They were not 'good soldiers'. They were easily "captured" by the Russians and many of them deserted. For a while they were kept in prison camps; then they were allowed to form an army and fight with the troops of the czar—fighting not for the czar, but for the hoped for independence of their race. Then came the Russian revolution and the withdrawal of that country from the war. It meant isolation and inactivity for the Czechoslovaks. These men were not Socialists, but nationalists; they cared little for Russia, still less for any new economic scheme. They were no longer able to fight with the Russians against the Germans, and since the war was not ended they could not return to Austria-Hungary. From then till now has been a weary, dangerous and disheartening time, during which they have been thrown from faction to faction, cause to cause, making the best of a bad present and dreaming always of a future which was never hopeful.

The story of those dreadful days will never be told; horror does not cling to the memory of men. The simple fact is that fighting and scheming and suffering, they came at last across Siberia to the Pacific and into the hands of the Americans. Though the war is over, they could not go home through the lines of the communists. To reach their humble farms they must cross the oceans of the world; and—ironical fact—the argosy in which they go home was once the Crown Princess Cecilie, one of the greatest of the German marine.

On the same ship go 700 German prisoners, also going home. They were captured in Galicia and Poland—dull country lads with no heart in the game—and spent their years of capture in the Siberian mines. They were taken only a few hundred miles from their homes, but they, too, must travel 25,000 miles to see the ridgepoles of their village.

Even now the future is not too bright. The Czechoslovaks go home to a new born country, but they know also that they go home to an existence that will be even more intolerable than before the war. Many of them do not wish to go back to Europe, but they can not stay in America; their legation will not allow them even to land—to stretch their legs a bit. Having fought for their country's independence they are compelled to be its citizens. And the young German prisoners who have heard vague and wild stories of their fatherland may be going home hopefully, but with a dumb uncertainty of the future.

The whole story seems like the vague sketch of a romantic imagination. There is a haphazard, undirected quality about the thing that makes these soldiers seem more like flying leaves or floating driftwood than people who eat and drink and sleep and hope. And yet, the world has seen so many wonderful and fearful things these last years that the Mount Vernon swings unregarded in San Francisco Bay and we pay little attention either to its coming or its going. The world has been piling up wonders; but in doing so it seems to have lost some of its ancient gift of wonder.

—The San Francisco (Cal.) Call.

MURALS BY MUCHA AT ART INSTITUTE.

Another link in the chain which binds Chicago and Czechoslovakia are the mural decorations by the celebrated Bohemian artist, Alphonse Mucha, which will be presented to the city of Prague by Charles R. Crane of Chicago and the artist. These are now being shown on the balcony about the grand stairway of the Art institute.

Those who have been thrilled by the spirit of the new Czechoslovakia now see in the paintings of Mucha some of the high spots in its glorious past—stirring events, fully as dramatic as those through which they have just lived. From these paintings we learn that inspiring things were happening to the Slavic people as early as 800. The great preacher Huss moves the court ladies and the peasants in the dim religious light of the Bethlehem chapel; the women of the world casting away their jewels kneel for absolution in the snow before Milič; soldiers hasten over the battlefield to seek forgiveness from Koranda for fighting against the king; a

great mass of humanity clad in white celebrate the great harvest festival of the Svantovit and witness the ancient triumph of this goddess over the wolves of Thor and the surrender of the sacred sword; and crowds stand in the snow before the majestic towers of the Kremlin to hear the famous proclamation of the czar that freed the serfs.

These are the themes of Mucha's gigantic wall paintings, themes that will grip the hearts of all who see them. Though few may know all the details of Slavic history that these portray their significance is easily grasped. This not an art for the dilettante but for the men in the street. Dramatic, full of story interest, with a marvelous wealth of detail, yet consistent in their ensemble and overpowering bigness of conception, full of mystery and poetry, and above all expressive of the modern spirit, these great decorations are universal in their appeal and stir both artist and layman. However, these paintings are not murals in the orthodox sense of the word, because they are not flat. In this respect and also because they are literary in their appeal rather than abstract, they do not rank with those of the great Puvis de Chavannes who has set the standard for all modern mural decoration.

The panels shown at the Art institute are five of a series of twenty which will be presented to Prague. Mucha has been working on these since 1911. Six others have been completed, but these are not shown here. These decorations, like his illustrations for the Lord's Prayer, represent the mature work of an artist who won his first recognition by making posters. While living in Paris, he saw Sarah Bernhardt act, and she inspired him to try his hand at posters of her in the different roles in which he saw her playing. But regarding painting as an art of greater importance he decided to give up posters and devote all his time to murals.

As one of the leaders of the "art nouveau" movement in the decorative arts, his books of designs adapted from plant and animal forms have been a bible for art students. His fondness for the figure in design has been responsible for its frequent use in modern times.

Like all geniuses his life reads like a story book. Born in Moravia, he succeeded in dissuading his parents from making a priest of him. After going through all sorts of hardships, which, among other things, consisted of living on black bread and pork grease in his student days, he found a patron who started him on his brilliant career which led him to Vienna, Munich and Paris. The story is told that when he was first beginning to win recognition and was living in Nikolsburg, he was forced to wear his overcoat at social functions because of the precarious condition of his trousers. One day a tailor came to take his measure for a pair of trousers, but it was not revealed until years after that it was the young women of the town who took up a

collection to pay the tailor. The latest chapter in his eventful career was during the late war, when he was practically a prisoner in Prague, and carrots were the chief article of his diet.—Marguerite B. Williams in the Chicago Daily News.

BOOK REVIEW.

CZECHOSLOVAK STORIES, by Šárka B. Hrbkova, Duffield and Co.

Another welcome addition to the translations of Czechoslovak literature has appeared and this time from the pen of Miss Šárka B. Hrbkova, formerly professor of Slavonic Languages and Literature in the University of Nebraska.

It is a collection of short stories selected from the leading Bohemian writers of late years. The translations are excellent.

Miss Hrbkova's introduction is in fact a proper survey of the Czechoslovak literature for the busy person. Another excellent feature is found in the short biographical sketch of the authors whose short stories are translated and appear in the pages following. We cannot have too many such books. The stories are selected for their briefness in order that as wide a field as possible may be covered.

The Rev. Vincent Pisek, D. D., Pastor of the John Hus Presbyterian Church in New York City, who volunteered as a Y. M. C. A. worker with the Czechoslovak troops in Siberia, returned in the spring of this year with one contingent to the new republic. He is delivering addresses throughout the country on his experience in America and Siberia. From accounts appearing in the Czechoslovak papers he is meeting with signal success. When he returns to America, the "Review" expects to publish one or two articles from his pen.

STATEMENT OF THE BANKING BUREAU OF THE CZECHOSLOVAK MINISTRY OF FINANCE. May 31, 1920.

ASSETS	
Austro-Hungarian Bank notes stamped and exchanged for Czechoslovak State Notes	
Cs. Crowns	7,225,844,000.00
Deposits in Austro-Hungarian Bank	2,084,430,000.00
	9,310,274,000.00
Discounted Bills	755,965,000.00
Loans on collateral	1,466,779,000.00
Foreign currency acquired	285,497,000.00
Other assets	250,945,000.00
Cs. Crowns	12,069,460,000.00
LIABILITIES	
Notes in Circulation	8,268,295,000.00
Austro-Hungarian Notes, withheld from circulation	2,132,496,000.00
Deposits	1,609,072,000.00
Other Liabilities	59,190,000.00
Cs. Crowns	12,069,460,000.00

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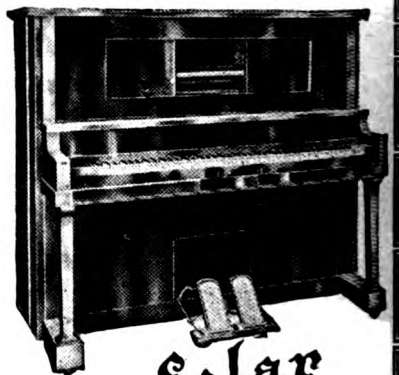
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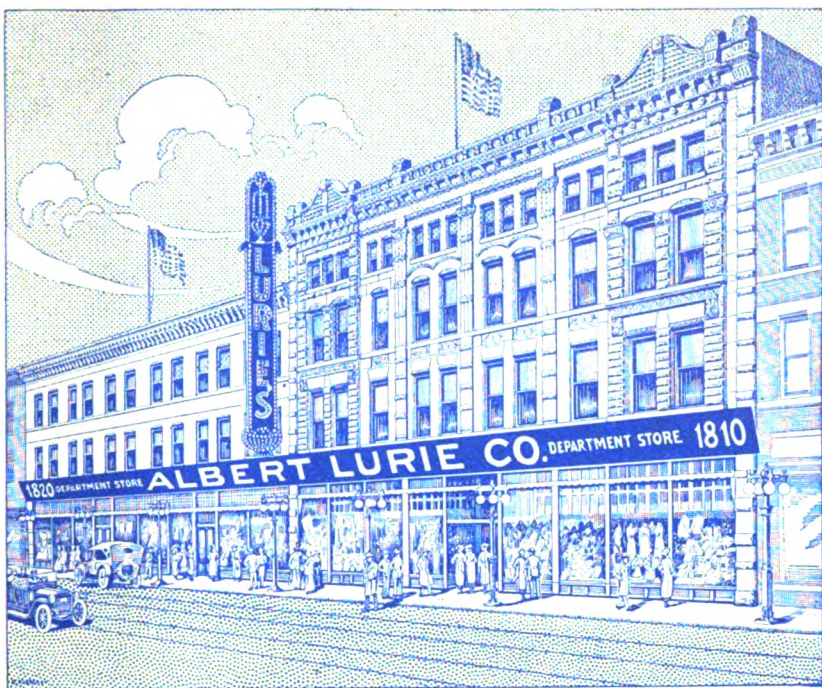
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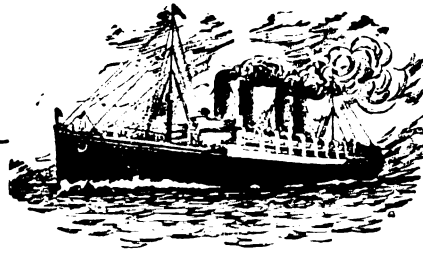
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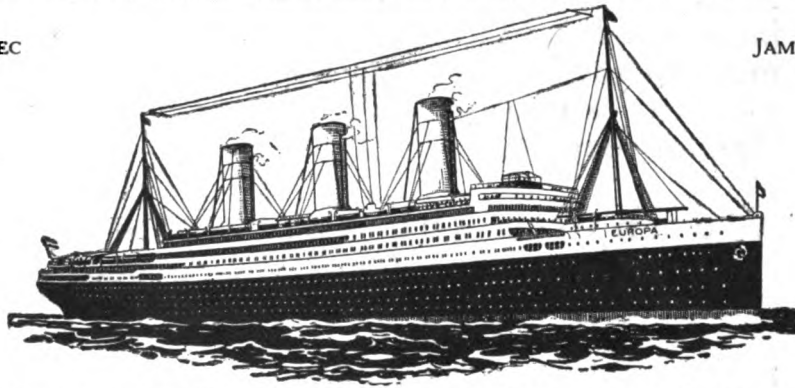
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Vol. IV. AUGUST, 1920. No. 8



JAN GARRIGUE MASARYK,
Czechoslovak Chargé d'Affaires in the United States.

The Czechoslovak Constitution

DISCUSSION OF IMPORTANT CONSTITUTIONAL PROVISIONS

By ALEXANDER A. MAYPER.

Formerly Assistant District Attorney, New York Co.

To an American, a survey of the fundamental basis of the new Czechoslovak Government presents features of enlightenment, interest and progressiveness. Certain provisions of the Czechoslovak Constitution indicate a strong leaning towards recognition of situations which are present day commonplaces, but which at the time of the enactment of our Constitution were hardly remote possibilities. On the whole, bearing in mind the exigencies which confronted the new nation last year, and still confront the whole of Europe, the document is a splendid manifestation of the intelligence and foresight of the founders.

Obviously, the founders of the nation and the framers of the constitution were beset, at the very inception, with problems which were presented by the geographical arrangement of the country and the revolutionary aftermath of the Great War. While the principles for which the brave people fought were staunch, there were difficulties in the consummation of a plan of government which would discern and provide for the support of those principles upon a sound, progressive and permanent basis. In such travail, the incorporation of certain radical departures from safeguards which are guaranteed under our constitution may be explained.

The most serious indications of strength of the elements at war with the safety and peace of nations are

- (1) Property rights have no constitutional protection; and
- (2) jury trials are not mandatory.

An instrument which undoubtedly establishes an interesting advance over the system of voting existing in this Country is proportionate voting. This is mandatory under the Czechoslovak Constitution. Such voting results in real representation of all the people. The smallest minority must have a vote and a representation for the expression of its views. It has been said that proportionate voting results in the questionable benefit of compromise legis-

lation. To a new Republic, and in fact to any Republic, compromise legislation generally means conservatism in the policies of the country,—a conservatism which the interest of the country and its people will always regulate.

Under the Constitution, the people elect a National Assembly. This body is similar to our Congress. It consists of a Chamber of Deputies, elected by all citizens over the age of 21 years, and a Senate elected by all citizens over the age of 26. The Chamber of Deputies consists of 300 members and the Senate of 150 members. The Constitution places the ultimate power to legislate and to control legislation in the Chamber of Deputies. No bill can become law without the assent of the Chamber of Deputies; and bills promulgated by the Chamber of Deputies may become law even after the rejection by the Senate and the President of the Republic. In this way the legislation of the Republic is more directly under the control of the people than in this country. The possibility of "killing" measures presented by the Chamber of Deputies by "burial" in a committee or sub-committee, as often happens in our Country, is eliminated by the Constitutional provision that a Chamber of Deputies bill must be acted upon by the Senate within four to six weeks from its submission (depending upon the nature of the measure), and the failure to act upon the measure within that time is equivalent to its approval.

The present day propaganda for the Referendum and Recall seems to have been met with a cold reception in the new Republic. The Constitution does not provide for Recall. The only Referendum provided for relates to bills offered by the Cabinet and rejected by the National Assembly. Such bills may then be referred to the vote of the people by unanimous action of the Cabinet.

A very wise introduction is the provision for the appointment of a Commission of

24, consisting of 16 members of the Chamber of Deputies and 8 members of the Senate to enact emergency legislation during the interim between sessions of the National Assembly and during adjournments. The Nation is thereby never left without a body which may legislate for the protection of the Nation between sessions. It is true that in this Country the President may convene Congress to act upon great emergencies. But such a convention cannot be accomplished without precious delay.

The present government of Czechoslovakia is undoubtedly conservative. Although the country contains an enormous Socialist population, there is nothing in the Constitution which may be said to result in the affirmative recognition of the radical Socialistic proposals now rampant in Russia. But while the Socialists were apparently within the control of the conservative element in the Nation, the Socialist influence succeeded in preventing an enactment for the safeguarding of the right of property. The Constitutional provisions concerning property are elastic. Legislation may be enacted from time to time whereby property may be confiscated with or without compensation. This seems like a sop to the Socialist element in the Government.

Labor has a distinct standing under the Constitution. It is given a definite place in the Nation. Its right to organize for its protection or advancement is definitely recognized and guaranteed.

The leaders of the Nation have taken note of the unsettled conditions in Europe and have therefore made universal military training mandatory.

The last, but not the least, of the progressive enactments into the Constitution of the new Republic is the provision for mandatory education of all peoples within the Nation, under the direct control of the National Government, but with due recognition of the different racial elements. The Government guarantees National support to schools for instruction in the languages common in the different sections of the Republic.

A change which will appear radical to Americans, but which is in line with European procedure is the provision for the election of the President of the Republic by the National Assembly.

While throughout the Constitution, the overwhelming influence of the Chamber of Deputies upon the destinies of the new Nation is apparent, there is one provision which is a controlling factor in curbing possible impromptu revolutionary tendencies on the part of the National Assembly. That power lies with the President of the Republic who is given authority to dissolve the National Assembly. This, of course, may be a double-edged sword, but as the Constitution provides that a new Assembly must be elected in 60 days, the will of the People must prevail ultimately. It is a "double-action" check.

The big Powers will be fully warranted in accepting Czechoslovakia on the footing of brotherhood, as all indications contained in the Constitution point to conservative and intelligent control of the Nation.

According to the decision of the Committee of Ambassadors, which have been hearing the dispute regarding Teschen at Paris, the mines of that district are awarded to Czechoslovakia while the city of Teschen is given to Poland. The railway running north and south through the disputed territory is made the approximate boundary line. While the final award has not been made because of the participation of United States Ambassador Wallace, who is awaiting instructions from Washington as to what course to pursue in this matter, yet it is fair to assume that the findings will be final. With this question the problem of Spisz and Orava is also settled. The greater portion of these territories go to Czechoslovakia. Thus is removed one of the most difficult questions confronting the Czechoslovak Republic.

It is estimated that over 3,500,000,000 Cs. crowns will be necessary to properly handle the next sugar crop. This amount is large even in comparison to the extent of the industry and is due to the fact that larger acreages will be planted and that the cost of seed beets has increased many fold. Plans are being worked out so that the sum may be raised without unnecessary disturbance to the money market or injuring credits. The government, and particularly the Ministry of Finance, gives hearty cooperation to the plans under consideration.

The Month in Czechoslovakia

American Independence Day was observed almost universally throughout Czechoslovakia. Owing to the presence of so many American citizens of Czechoslovak birth, who were scattered all over the Republic, an additional tinge was added to the ceremonies. The entwined flags of America and Czechoslovakia were displayed from almost every house. In Prague the American Minister, Mr. Charles R. Crane, was the principal speaker to a gathering of 50,000 people, to whom he read the American Declaration of Independence. A number of American citizens of Czechoslovak origin also spoke. At the conclusion a message of felicitations to America was sent to the President at Washington.

Internal dissensions cropped out in the Cabinet when disagreements between ministers of the Agrarian and Social Democratic parties, over the prices to be paid for grains to farmers, almost resulted in a serious crisis and a dissolution of the coalition government. The Agrarian members pointed out that the government purchased, at very high prices, flour and grain in foreign countries, whereas, in comparison, prices paid domestic producers were insignificant. They advocated that the allowances to farmers and millers be increased. Finally, a compromise was effected and all the ministers retained their offices except Dr. Prášek. Kuneš Sontag temporarily assumed the duties of the Department of Agriculture in addition to those of Commerce. Dr. Prášek has been elected President of the Senate in place of Dr. Horák, who resigned because of continued ill health.

July 6, 1415, is the day on which the great son of Bohemia, the advocate of an unrestrained conscience and the apostle of personal liberty, Magister Jan Hus, was burnt at the stake in Constance. Each recurring year the descendants of the heroic Bohemians of those days recall the martyrdom of their great son. This year the celebrations took on added zest, for is not Cze-

choslovakia a realization of Hus' ideals? For the first time in 300 years as a free people they were able to pay tribute to the memory of their noble martyr. In every city, village and hamlet exercises, befitting the work of Hus, were held. The Bohemian people look back with reverence to the accomplishments of this one man, who fought against all restraints of personal liberty and whom as an ideal they have no hesitancy in following.

Professor Otokar Ševčík, the famous violinist and teacher of the Prague Conservatory, has finally consented to come to America. He has signed a contract with the Egbert Conservatory of Music at Ithaca, N. Y., and will arrive in this country shortly before January 1, 1921, remaining at Ithaca for the ensuing six months.

Professor Ševčík was born on March 22, 1852, in Bohemia, and is noted for his pupils of later years, who included Kubelik, Kocian, Marie Hall, Carl Ondříček, Sacha, Culbertson, Eleanora, Jackson and many others well known in musical circles of the new world.

Dr. Alice Masaryk, President of the Czechoslovak Red Cross, will arrive in the United States this fall and visit the principal Bohemian and Slovak centers to inform the Czechoslovak people, in this country, of the work she and her organization are doing for the children of the new Republic.

Translations of English works are meeting with universal favor by the reading public of the Czechoslovak Republic. The latest addition is the Bohemian translation of selection from Shelley's prose writings. It is by Dr. F. Chudoba. Also, there has appeared a translation of H. L. Ripperger's "Shadows and Lights" by Fedor D. Engel-muller. This is a collection of short poems depicting the feelings of the soul of an American youth. Both are excellently translated and were well received by the press and public.

A Czechoslovak corporation which is engaged in business in the Far West, is seeking to purchase three American steamers having a net tonnage of 4,000. It is rumored that the price they are prepared to pay is in the neighborhood of \$1,400,000.00. The government has also contributed a certain sum as a subsidy.

General Jan Syrový, Commander in Chief of the Czechoslovak Siberian armies, arrived in Prague on June 17th. This is the first time, since the opening of the war, that he and most of his army have set foot on Bohemian soil. One of the first persons to greet the General, who in many respects resembles the hero of the ancient Bohemians,—Žižka, was his aged mother. The city extended its welcome.

The Ministry of Justice has introduced a bill in the National Assembly to punish business corruption. With the revival of active trade and increased business demands for "fees" and gratuities by officials and clerks became so common that they were regarded as a scandal. In many instances unscrupulous purchasers were enabled to obtain goods destined for other firms by "tipping" the proper clerk. The revulsion of feeling against this practice was such that its prohibition became necessary.

On June 20, an immense sale of people's wear was opened in Prague under the auspices of the Minister of Supplies, Mr. Johanis. Over 1,300 individual buyers from all corners of the republic, representing no less than 5,000,000 people were present, making arrangements for furnishing their localities with suitable and inexpensive apparel. The sale was a signal success, not only from the consumers' standpoint but also for the producers.

President Masaryk is to appear in a film entitled "For the Liberty of the Nation", which is being produced by the Bohemian Film Company "Weteb". Mr. Vladimirov plays the leading part, while playing opposite him is the leading Bohemian

film artist, Mrs. Susan Narmille. The scenario depicts the struggles of the Bohemian and Slovak people for liberty. The hardships of the Czechoslovak troops throughout the war are shown as well as the activities of the political leaders of the movement. It is a production on a scale heretofore never attempted in the Republic. This film will be shown not only in Czechoslovakia, but also throughout the world.

Ten and twenty crown certificates of the Austro-Hungarian Bank, which were stamped in accordance with the provisions of the act of February 25, 1919, are no longer legal tender within the Republic. On June 20th these were all exchanged for new certificates of the Czechoslovak Republic.

Stephen Husty, a Slovak, has perfected a type-setting machine, which does away with the unhealthy process of melting the metals used on the ordinary machines. It may be set anywhere, just like a typewriter. It also does away with reheating of the cast metals. Patents have been applied for in all countries in the world.

"The two year reign of Lenine brought blessings to no one except possibly to the comrade-commissaries. With us every effort tending to a forced upheaval would be worse than the disastrous (effects of the battles) of White Mountain and Lipany together. Let us not be afraid of necessary compromises flowing from a sacrifice of socialistic principles. Life is but a single chain of compromises and a noncompromisist is only to be found among the felons, the insane and in death". (From a letter of a working man, an adherent of the National Socialist Party in the *Národní Listy*.)

Reports are current that the Czechoslovak Republic has granted concessions to a company organized by the Živnostenská Banka, the Prague Bank, Agrarian Bank and a foreign producing company, "Galizia", to seek oil. Under the terms of the proposed agreement 40,000,000 Cs. Crowns are to be paid for the exclusive privilege to

prospect throughout the Republic, while ownership would be divided between the banks and the oil company. Much opposition has been developed to the tentative contract due to the fact that the principal stockholder, the "Galizia", is a foreign corporation, which, it is rumored, is controlled by the Imperial Company a British-French corporation. This is further intensified by the discovery of oil seepages in various parts of Slovakia and Russia. No definite action has been taken but it is safe to assume that the concessions will not be granted.

President Masaryk signed a bill which has been received throughout the republic, particularly by widows, orphans and trustees with favor. During the war many Bohemians and Slovaks were forced to put their property into Austro-Hungarian war loans. Had not the government passed this bill many of these people as well as some financial institutions would be ruined. Under the provisions of the bill, holders of Austro-Hungarian war bonds may turn these in to the government and receive 75% of their face value in Czechoslovak bonds bearing interest at the rate of 3½% per annum, provided they subscribe a like amount to the new bond issue contemplated by the republic. The additional bonds for this are to be paid for in cash and will bear interest at the rate of 5½%, and industrial concerns, having a pension system in connection with their plants, will receive bonds bearing 6% interest.

It has been definitely decided that in the future all hops grown in Bohemia, Moravia and Slovakia shall be marketed as "Bohemian Hops". For a time an effort was made to designate them as "Czechoslovak Hops" but the trade did not take kindly to the change, and as a consequence, the old trade mark is to be again used. "Bohemian Hops" are known the world over and will continue to be sold under that name.

Industrial films put out by the "Commercial, Industrial and Educational Picture Theatres' Company of New York", are meeting with general approbation through-

out the Republic. Numerous processes are vividly pictured and brought home to spectators. Working men as well as officials of large establishments are interested in these exhibitions and in many instances production has been bettered as a result.

The forests of Czechoslovakia abound with game and as a result of the scarcity of food, poachers have become so common that their guns endangered lives of people passing along the highways and paths leading through the woods. It became necessary for the authorities to send special forces of policemen to put an end to the depredations of these people and a number of them were apprehended and brought to trial before criminal tribunals.

The eightieth birthday of the poet, Adolf Heyduk, was celebrated on June 6th with appropriate ceremonies throughout the Republic. At Pisek, the home of Heyduk, President Masaryk delivered a speech felicitating the aged nationalist.

"I am intensely interested in your new Republic, because I believe that it is a bulwark of real democracy, not only for Europe, but for the world. What other nations are hoping they can do, your people are actually accomplishing".

(From a private letter to the Editor from a prominent American temporarily residing in Paris, and who recently visited Czechoslovakia).

Mr. Charles C. Chopp, of Cleveland, an American export authority of Czechoslovak origin, has been in Czechoslovakia for several months negotiating a contract for placing large quantities of American cotton with the spinners. The middle man is to be eliminated under the proposed agreement, the cotton being supplied by the growers. The difficulties to a fast, definite and binding contract for this commodity are found in the constantly varying International Exchange rates. Under these conditions the spinners proceed very cautiously, buying only what they actually require. It is said that a skeleton agreement has been framed, the details of which are to be worked out in this country.

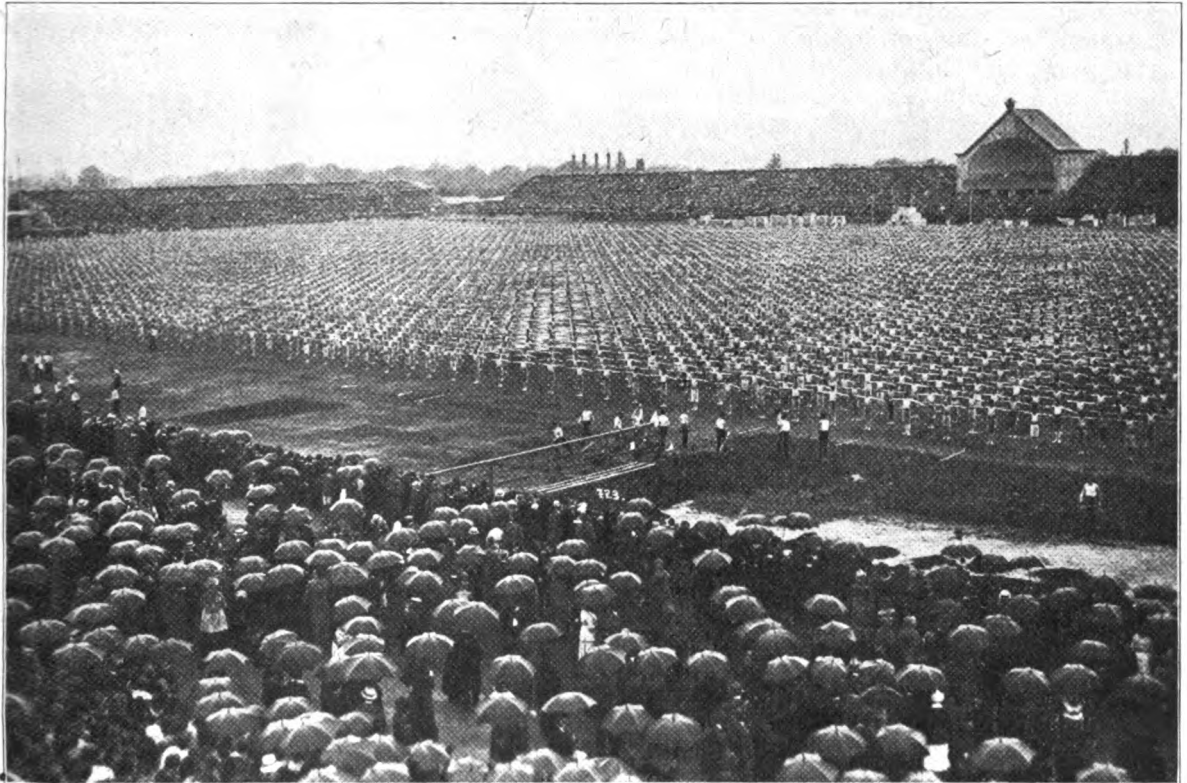
The Sokol Festival Meet

As an organization, the Sokols, an association for the development of the mind and physical improvement of the body is not of recent formation. It was founded February 26, 1862, when the first general meeting of this society was held. From time to time congresses of all the Slavonic societies were held in different cities.

It was mainly through the activities of this organization that the Czechoslovak

Therefore, it was but proper and fitting that the Sokols should conduct the first athletic festival to commemorate the liberation of the Czechoslovak lands and people. This was fittingly accomplished through a tournament held in the City of Prague during the latter part of the month of June. Visitors from all corners of the world attended and were received and honored as guests by a freed people.

Courtesy Czechoslovak Information Bureau.



Ten Thousand Sokols Drilling in Prague.

soul was kept fired with its intense nationalism. It was the soul of the Sokols which firmly held together the bands of liberty-loving Czechs and Slovaks, who made possible the wholesale desertions from the Austrian armies and their reformation as effective independent units fighting for the liberation of their home land and the breaking of the long years of bondage which held them as slaves to the House of Habsburg and its hordes.

As a sight the 10,112 men drilling as one compact mass to be replaced by 10,112 women, at once presented a magnificent spectacle long to be remembered. It carries one back to the classical days of Greece when athletic development and bodily perfection were esteemed as essential qualities of a nation. The word "Sokol" freely translated means "Hawk" or "Falcon" and is regarded by the Slavs more as a symbol of strength. A possible American comparison

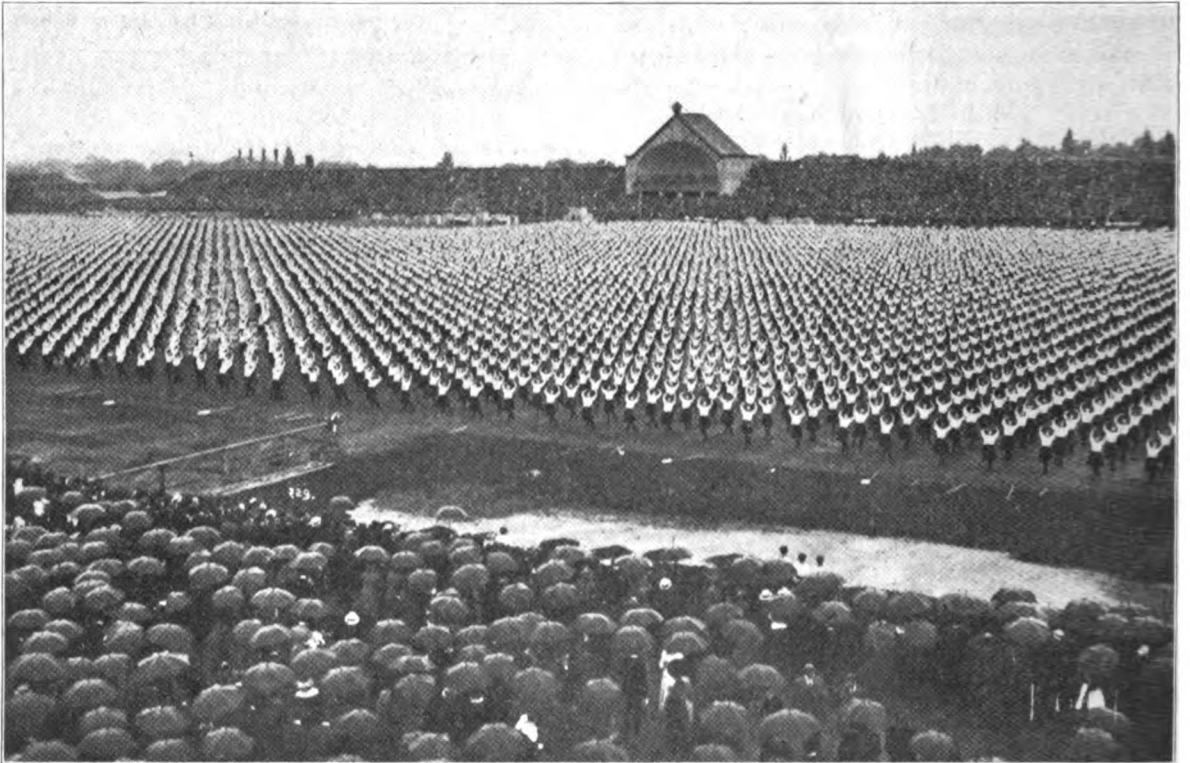
might be found in Fenimore Cooper's "Hawkeye" in his celebrated book "The Deer-Slayer". It is the strength of their faith which binds them and holds them together. The Sokols are possessed of the simplicity of a Quaker.

Flanked on all sides with humanity numbering at least 100,000 spectators, the arena was a fitting place for the Sokols to exhibit their physical and mental prowess. On all sides, on every street the picturesque costume of the Sokols is seen and one won-

into files of sixteen and sub-divided again into lines of faultless precision. These drew forth applause that resounded throughout the amphitheatre. That marvelous march ended with men distributed with mathematical accuracy in a line that covered the entire square, 640 men in each direction.

Then the first series of figures in standing position with flexible movements of arms and hands followed the musical accompaniment. The second and third series

Courtesy Czechoslovak Information Bureau.



Ten Thousand Sokol Women Drilling In Prague.

ders immediately whether or not every Czech and Slovak is not a Sokol. The women also in similarly colored garbs mingled with the vast crowds.

Monday, June 28th, the President of the Republic, Thomas G. Masaryk, appeared accompanied by his Cabinet and other dignitaries of the Republic and followed by the invited guests, took seats at the side of the vast arena. Immediately an imposing duel began. From opposite sides in ranks thirty-two deep 10,112 men marking time to the sound of the music of a band of 150 musicians marched into the arena, divided

followed in rhythmic steps and in whichever direction and in whatever angle one looked there was a symmetrical line of kaleidoscopic movements and figures that dazzled by their brilliancy, rapidity and splendor. Instantly it would arrest itself, the band would strike up a new theme, the trumpet ring out and another figure would follow, breathlessly watched by the vast throng with restrained attention. For three-quarters of an hour the men, whose arms, shoulders and bodies gave a vivid impression of health and vigor, continued their evolutions, then closed their ranks,

closing their columns, deeper and denser at each sound of the trumpet and marched out as they had entered, amid unrestrained and abundant applause.

After a brief interval the trumpet again sounded, when from the sides of the arena 10,112 lithe young women dressed in red blouses and short dark skirts entered to the music of the band. One wondered whether through nervousness they might fail in some of their rythms, but their movements seem to be more sure, their rythm more precise, their figures more perfect than all the men and they were cheered with even greater enthusiasm. The spectators in the stands wondered, stood up and applauded. The guests who had never before beheld such a sight were enraptured. Congratulations were extended to President Masaryk on the showing of the 20,000 athletes.

Among the notables who were in attendance at the Sokol Meet were H. G. Wells, the English novelist; The Deputy Lord of London; Louis Bartou, a member of the French Cabinet representing President Deschanel; Lord Dunsnay, and many high officials from Italy and Jugoslavia. America was well represented by a number of contestants and a large number of visitors.

These were mostly American citizens of Czechoslovak origin, and were everywhere in evidence. They encouraged the people as they mingled with the vast throngs of the streets.

Mr. Wells was so pleased with his reception and his experiences in Czechoslovakia that he has decided to master the Bohemian language, then to write a novel based on Bohemia's interest in history, in that language.

The program was long and interesting; everything was on a large scale. The time of the visitors was fully occupied and at each succeeding event the amazement of the visitors grew. Many side attractions, such as special performances at the theatres, concerts and lectures were held. It was really a celebration of the independence of the new republic. It brought a certain vitalizing moral stimulus to the people for they were recognized and treated as an independent nation. The Sokol's cup of success was filled to overflowing. The parting guests cheered heartily the contestants, the nation and republic with that Bohemian salutation, which has resounded around the globe—"Na zdar"—as they departed.

Principal Czechoslovak Banks

Dr. Vladimír Smetana, the Commercial Attache of the Czechoslovak Consul General in New York City, has prepared the

following statistics regarding the principal banks of Czechoslovakia as reported on Jan. 1st, 1920.

Name of Bank	Capital	Reserves	Deposits	Dividend rate
	Cs. Crowns	Cs. Crowns	Cs. Crowns	for 1919
(1) Zivnostenska	200,000,000	100,000,000	2,967,525,255	9%
(1) Bohemian Industrial	150,000,000	40,000,000	802,883,774	7%
(1) Prague Credit	75,000,000	54,000,000	990,143,609	10%
(1) Bohemian	80,000,000	34,750,000	1,315,842,656	9%
(2) Moravian Agrarian & Industrial.....	60,000,000	25,673,915	801,704,751	9%
(3) Slovak	30,000,000	30,000,000	210,000,000	?
(1) Bohemian Discount & Credit Institute.....	60,000,000	31,000,000	1,361,388,000	10%
(1) Czechoslovak Agrarian	40,000,000	16,500,000	353,379,930	5½%
(1) Industrial Credit Bank for Bohemia.....	40,000,000	8,750,000	216,200,000	8%
(1) Bohemian	40,000,000	7,500,000	119,379,011	6%
(1) Central Bank of Bohemian Savings Inst.....	35,000,000	4,700,000	406,718,875	6%
(2) Moravian Silesian	30,000,000	5,785,223	117,612,850	9%
(1) Bohemia, Czechoslovak Foreign Banking Corp.	25,000,000	10,000,000	101,798,005	8%
(2) Bank of Brno	20,000,000	3,300,000	11,708,300	6%
(1) Land Bank	40,000,000	10,000,000	167,564,000	6½%
(1) Building & Industrial	20,000,000	4,600,000	14,772,336	?
(2) Moravian Discount	20,000,000	4,700,000	141,019,034	7½%
(1) Main Office in Prague.	(2) Main Office in Brno.	(3) Main Office in Bratislava.		

After The National Assembly Election

Through the elections held for the House of Deputies and the Senate of the National Assembly of the Czechoslovak Republic on the 18th and 25th days of April, 1920, respectively, the first elective parliament under the new constitution was chosen. The results of these elections sustained the contention of those who believed that in spite of intensive pre-election party agitation no different political alignment would result materially differing from the results of the municipal elections held last year. In all, 281 deputies were elected of whom 197 were Czechoslovaks and 84 Germans and Magyars. The number of Czechoslovak deputies exceeds a two-third majority; the Germans and Magyars lack 9 mandates to constitute a full one-third membership minority. In the make-up of the House of Deputies there are 145 deputies of the various citizens parties of all nations as against 136 deputies of all socialist parties. Therefore, neither one nor the other *bloc* is sufficiently strong numerically to take over the government of the republic without regard to the other *bloc*. A coalition government is again necessary, more particularly in view of the elections to the Senate which do not differ materially from the results in the elections to the House of Deputies.

It is not believed that the elections to the National Assembly strengthened internally the political parties—rather, the opposite is true. The program of tactics of the political parties was always to be in opposition to Vienna or Budapest. The program and tactics were absolutely negative, dictated by the necessities of opposition of Austria-Hungary through oppression of national aspiration of the Czechoslovaks. The overthrow of October 28, 1918 and the creation of an independent Czechoslovak Republic confronted the political parties and their leaders with new political problems, to which they cannot find answers in the present political progress or in past experiences or even in reminiscences gathered from past political actions. The party leaders and their adherents must seek and find answers to questions of internal and external politics, which to them, as responsible instruments of the destiny

Translated from "Our Era" (Naše Doba).

of the nation, the daily flow of political life constantly presents. It is but natural that the parties and their adherents, whose programs and political experiences are silent on questions propounded by political necessities urgently seek to find proper answers. Within our parties, as well as within the German and the Magyar political parties arise discussions and various points of view are presented which foreshadow that a crisis is at hand in political programs and thoughts which may result in new alignments.

Within the ranks of the Social Democratic party is found the most latent crisis, but even here, as was indicated at a recent convention of its delegates, the discussions point to a crux in its political program. Within the ranks of the majority party standing squarely on its old programs of social democracy there is a small communistic group which falls under the sway of the political influence of Lenine. Therefore it is not strange that discussion centers about the participation of the Social Democrats in the government. The new group denying categorically the right to existence to the existing state, advocates a union of community Soviets and is emphatically against the participation of the labor deputies in the government, while it fathers a dictation by the proletariat and urges a social upheaval. The National Socialists are face to face with a fatal split. The principles of democratic and socialistic political beliefs battle for supremacy. It will either lean to the right or to the left, or it will travel the socialistic road as its labor element desires, or it will go the road of democratic politics, advocated by its old partisans and its intellectuals; but to hereafter serve both masters will be impossible. Nevertheless, this is proven by the results of the elections to the National Assembly.

Within the Agrarian Party the differences between the conservative and progressive elements of farmers have reached a partial split and it is possible that the divergence of interests between the small agriculturists and large farmers will bring about a new crisis. The enlightened conservative element of the Agrarian Party

joined the National Democrats and strengthened the conservative wing of the party. Evidently, even here the development will lead from mere discussion to a break in the party, to a split between the conservative element of the party and those of progressive tendencies. In the principal organ of the party the progressive tendency battles with advocacy of open conservatism which indicates that the time for a crisis is near. The crisis of the Peoples' Party has a new and nation-wide significance. The tendencies of the Clerical Party are antagonistic to the republic and seek a return of the monarchy. It is working under an imperfect cloak of individual-idealists endeavoring to harmonize all conservative politics of the republic. That the cleansing process in this instance should be accomplished as thoroughly as possible and as quickly as possible is of interest to the whole state.

Our political outlook is not rosy. All political fractions are experiencing crisis in thoughts, from which they will emerge only through open discussion and a new alignment of individuals and parties. It is not necessary to be pessimistic. Political conditions of the parties are peculiarly akin to those of twenty years ago, to those times when the first individual realistic politics were created. A few years prior thereto it was the ambition of Masaryk, today our Liberator, who said at the end of his book, "The Bohemian Question", that within all parties and all classes there should be created "a large number of active and thinking men, who, without constant talk and visible connections, each within his own circle, would work for a given goal. As a visible church lives within an invisible church so even we, as a nation will safely live, if a large number of us will band and through a quiet understanding which arises from a proper appreciation of our world position and from a proper judgment of what and how much we shall work." To-day a historian might put the question — and it is not doubted that future historians will ask it — whether this political principle would not have been more advantageous for Bohemian politics rather than the formation of an independent Realistic Party in 1900, which, as it could not be otherwise, brought with its serious narrowness and dechurchization of this underlying principle of realistic

politics. Let his answer be whatever it may, the conviction remains that in today's transitory condition, similar to that in which our political parties experienced when our "Leader" wrote "The Bohemian Question", we should at least strive for a realization of his ideals. Even if we gain aught else but that we bridge our political life from a period of a crisis to a period, God grant it, more peaceful, even then much will be accomplished.

THEY HAVE GONE TO WORK.

It is reported that this government has purchased fifteen million pounds of sugar from Czechoslovakia. It is learned also that the Czechs are depending upon the United States for fertilizers to apply to their season's sugar crop and that a surplus of from one hundred and fifty to two hundred thousand tons is expected from the fall crop. It is pointed out by economists that America may well trade fertilizer for sugar, since the Czechs have no other security to give for the loan. It is reasonable to think that there are many other ways in which we may extend this sort of reciprocity to the struggling new nations whom we have helped into being and that we may do so to the mutual advantage of both parties. The new nations are in earnest and have gone earnestly to work. We can benefit them and ourselves by helping them.—Mobile (Ala.) Register.

STATEMENT OF THE BANKING BUREAU OF THE CZECHOSLOVAK MINISTRY OF FINANCE.

JUNE 30, 1920.

Assets:

Austro-Hungarian Bank notes stamped and exchanged for Czechoslovak State notes, Cs. Crowns	7,424,280,000.00
Deposits in Austro-Hungarian Bank	2,084,430,000.00
	9,508,710,000.00
Discounted bills	691,805,000.00
Loans on collateral	1,828,353,000.00
Foreign currency acquired	418,168,000.00
Other assets	212,631,000.00
	12,659,667,000.00

Liabilities:

Notes in Circulation	8,729,233,000.00
Austro-Hungarian Notes, withheld from circulation	2,134,149,000.00
Deposits	1,717,399,000.00
Other liabilities	78,886,000.00
	12,659,667,000.00

July Fourth at Norfolk

By ROBERT FRANCIS LANGER.

Unique was the Fourth of July celebration this year at Norfolk. The American spirit of 1776 jointly celebrated with the spirit of 1914 of Czechoslovakia.

Czechoslovakia of old has been imbued with our spirit of '76. The Czechs of Bohemia, now a part of that new republic, became famous centuries ago when single-handed they fought against the rest of Europe to uphold the ideals of intellectual, political and religious freedom. The Czechs always fought valiantly to maintain the rights of the individual, on which real democracy rests. That is why the celebration of the Fourth of July by the citizens of Norfolk in unison with three thousand returning Czechoslovak soldiers from Siberia blended in one common accord.

The ancient democracy of Bohemia with its popular institutions was finally crushed three hundred years ago, only to be resurrected on October 28, 1918, the Fourth of July of the Czechoslovaks. It was crushed, as Vickers the American historian of Bohemia has aptly said, because "Bohemia's early enlightenment and free civil policy in one sense proved its misfortune, inasmuch as the rest of the world was then too barbarous and too cruel either to understand it or to tolerate it".

It now appears that the "anabasis" of the Czechoslovak soldiers in Siberia would not have been complete without a side-trip by at least a part of them to the United States and particularly to Norfolk. Yet this side trip was not a part of the official program. But fate willed it. On Saturday, June 12th, the United States Transport Mount Vernon, formerly the proud liner *Kronprinzessin Cecillie* of the North German Lloyd quite unexpectedly appeared at Newport News.

Norfolk soon resounded with the melodious marching songs sung by the Czechoslovaks as in full military equipment under command of Major Morávek they made their way to their new camp at the Military Base on the outskirts of the city.

The camp site seems to have been in a state of abandonment for many months. With its unpainted, weather-beaten buildings, its luxuriant growth of weeds, it hardly presents an easy object for improvised artistic adornment. But the Czechoslovaks'

proverbial instinct for the beautiful asserted itself in spite of difficulties to be overcome. In Siberia these boys adorned the exteriors of the plain railroad box cars in which they had to live, with beautiful paintings, mottoes, and designs made of evergreens. They often built beautifully designed summer houses of birch boughs beside their more "permanent" homes, the box cars.

So here in Norfolk they were soon busy improving their immediate surroundings. They built a miniature water-mill, planted out garden spots, out of pebbles they made a large map of their country in the sand, and out of various colored pebbles they have made in front of their barracks beautiful geometrical designs.

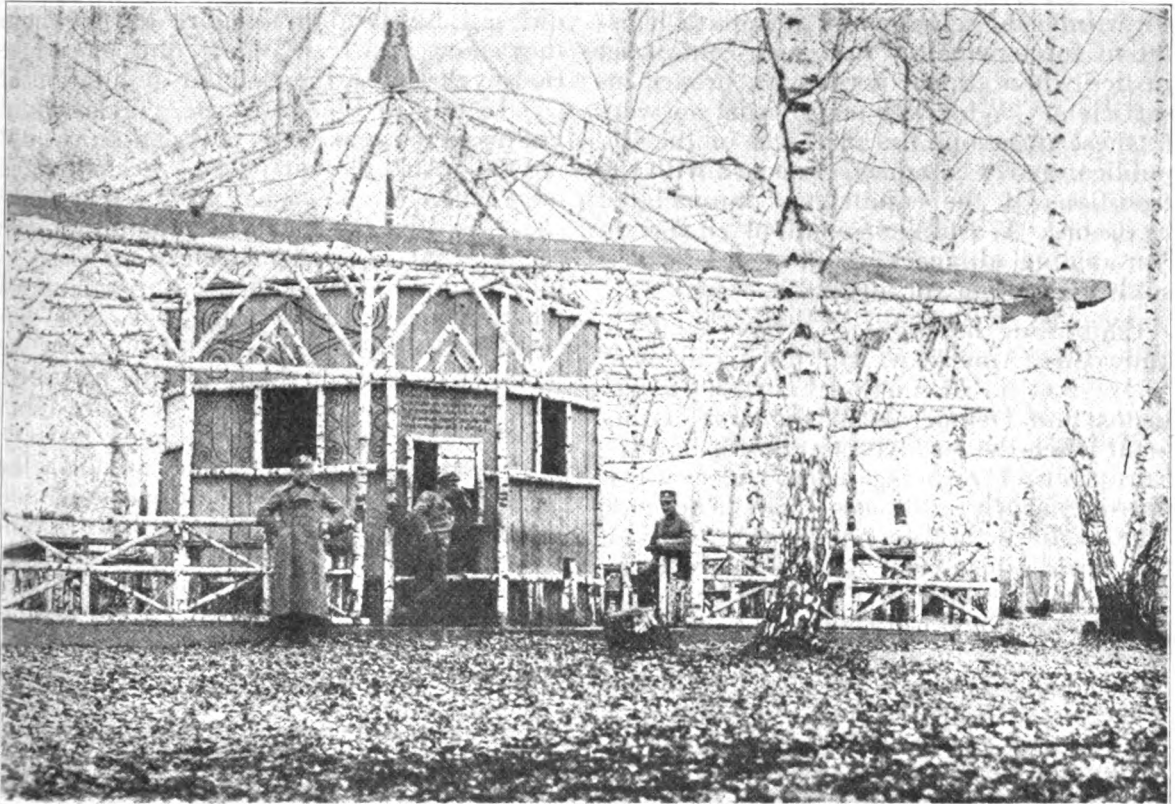
On the night of the Fourth of July the Czechoslovaks gave a concert and entertainment the first of its kind that the good people of Norfolk ever attended. It was a revelation to them. It seemed to me that its various numbers portrayed those elements that form the Czechoslovak spirit which made possible the victory of these people in this war and won them their independence. It was a blending of the spiritual and artistic together with the physical development of the individual, making for a union of the intellect with a healthy, strong body. Their own band furnished the music, opening with the American and Czechoslovak national hymns. Then Rev. Kenneth Miller, who was with them in Russia and Siberia as a Y. M. C. A. secretary gave an outline of the Czechoslovak struggle for liberty, comparing it to our own. The boys fondly call these secretaries, "The uncle from America". The famous violin teacher Ševčík, who has produced such eminent soloists as Kubelik, has a former pupil here in a Czechoslovak uniform, John Muzika, who they say, shoots as accurately as he plays his violin. Muzika furnished two exquisite numbers. Another feature that elicited prolonged applause was the singing by the Military Choir of sixty voices. They sang beside other numbers the old Husite battle-hym, "Ye Warriors of Our Lord", and the part of the audience which did not understand the words, fully comprehended their spirit.

The old Husite traditions have been a powerful factor in the lives of these soldiers. The Regiment of John Hus bears number one in the roster of their regiments. Then there is also the Regiment of John Žižka, the great Husite general.

There appears on the raised platform a picked group of Czechoslovak gymnasts and athletes, members of the "Sokol" Society. This patriotic organization, which just closed at Prague a great tournament to celebrate the independence of their country, was founded in 1862, and soon became a powerful factor in the life of the

these men carried this with them into the Czechoslovak army that they formed in foreign lands when they succeeded in escaping from the army of Austria-Hungary. It was but an easy transition from the peace footing of the Sokols to the exactions of their own national army now in open revolt against Austria. Not only abroad, but at home as well, in the shadow of the gallows and the firing-line, these Sokols were pitting their wits and all their resources against the Austro-Hungarian monarchy. The crisis had come and with it their opportunity.

Courtesy Czechoslovak Information Bureau.



Y. M. C. A. Hut of the Czechoslovak-Siberian Army.

nation. Beside physical training, their program includes the teaching of ethics, civics and patriotism. They aroused the national feeling and taught the people their duty in a national crisis. During the war their organization was dispersed by the Austrian government. But that government could not eradicate the influence of the teachings of previous years, for the members knew what to do and did it. Trained in the exercise of a self-imposed discipline, democratic in their relations to one another,

That program demonstrated in miniature the qualities of mind and body of the Czechoslovak troops, and is characteristic as well of the entire nation. It showed the inherent factors of their military and political successes.

That American audience at Norfolk had a privilege to be envied. They saw a phase of the life of Czechoslovak warriors who had contributed some of the most heroic and romantic pages to the history of the Great War.

The Soul of America

In the *Národní Listy*, (Prague) "F. P." discusses the attitude of the two leading political parties of America toward the League of Nations. After reviewing the action of the United States Senate on the Peace Treaty he points to the advocacy for creation of an International Court of Justice, in the Republican platform, saying: "Will the system of a high judicial international tribunal be sufficient to assure world peace? Is it not necessary to have more effective guarantees? Is it not necessary to have in international relations, as in internal relations of a State, a legislative force which would mete out strict justice when ethical persuasion proves insufficient? Whatever may be the answers to these questions the platform of the Republican party is in perfect accord with the traditions of the country as announced by George Washington—not to engage in "entangling alliances" with people whose soul is thirsting for justice."

Continuing he says, "We have come to know this (American) soul during the war. There was no distinction between Republicans and Democrats at the crucial moment when the enslaved nations of battling Europe cried for help. Then, America was not bound by alliances with European States, but at the psychological moment of the world's history it rose to decisive action. The President of France (Deschanel) pictured on April 6, 1917 in the Senate this moment in an inspired address. 'A committed crime invites vengeance. Following a harvest of sorrow comes a harvest of justice. But the cries of women and children from the depths of chasms into which they were cast by hideous criminals resounded throughout the world. Ashes of Washington and Lincoln shuddered in their graves. Their great souls lifted America. Honor, morality and liberty are the most valuable institutions, in the battle for these was hoisted high the American starry banner. The descendants of a new England, educated in the precepts of the gospel, come forth to punish before the face of God the hellish acts of the devil, falsehoods, false swearing, murder, robbery, slavery. The Catholics wounded to their hearts by insults heaped at their cathedrals; university professors, dependable

guardians of the thoughts of right; manufacturers, laborers and skilled artisans, endangered in their peaceful tasks, aroused at the insults thrown at their national flag, all came prepared for the contest against an insane snobbishness, striving to conquer the earth, the sea, the heavens, and the soul! The country whose whole history rests in a development of the idea of liberty remains loyal to its ideals and obligates people with new gratitude!—Thus America grasped its duty and acted accordingly. Loyal adherents of the Monroe Doctrine did not hesitate to support those whom they now attack.. What did Theodore Roosevelt say to the Belgian deputation at Oyster Bay in 1917? 'Peace, which would not assure reparation to Belgium would not be just.' A just peace we shall have only when on the ashes of Austria there shall rise the Czechoslovak Republic. We recall what a mighty inspiration was America to us during the war, particularly when Tzarish Russia failed us and Socialistic Russia deserted us. Therefore, we have no reason to look to the elections, which will give America a new president for the next four years, with any anxiety. The soul of America spoke through the mouth of the Republican, Roosevelt, and through the mouth of the Democrat, Wilson. The world, therefore, must not fear any acts which have the sanction of American conscience."

A COINCIDENCE.

Recently one of the Chicago Bohemians had an opportunity to visit the Mount Wilson Observatory in California. After being shown about the place and taken through all of the secret compartments, in the topmost framework he discovered a plate with the legend "Erected by Wensel Morava, Chicago, Ill." Upon inquiry it was found that Mr. Morava, a Czech, is one of the leading iron structural engineers and erectors of the middle west and that he has successfully engaged in this line for a great many years, having built many large steel structures in Chicago and other cities.

Vienna is getting rid of the population which it can no longer support. The recent provisional census gives the population as 1,833,708, or less by 400,000 than in 1910. There were 851,604 men and 987,014 women.

A Visit to Brno

By WILLIAM H. TOLMAN, PH. D. and ADELAIDE W. GUTHRIE.

Given a skull, a few bones, a primitive implement, domestic utensil or article of adornment, the archeologist is able to reconstruct the life of the cave man or cliff dweller.

Between the life of the cave man and that of a modern city lies a vast stretch of many centuries. Nevertheless, the Great War and its aftermath have left but skeletonized cities and civilization in many parts of the world, as, for example, in the north of France. In many other places, not in the war zone, the pulse of modern life is but faintly beating. The vital organs are just functioning; that is all. Restoration to function is, therefore, the work of the social doctors, as they may be called. Food, shelter, transportation and communication are to a community what the arterial system is to the human machine. Without this regenerating current, the heart and brain become impaired, to say the least.

Coming to Brno, the principal city in Moravia and the second of importance in the new Republic of Czechoslovakia, one is impressed by the significance of the fact that this city is awakening to after-war activity under the very shadow of the old prison of Spielberg, which stands upon the nearby hill—an arch symbol of the most iniquitous political and religious persecution known in history; also, that in contradistinction to the method of saving souls by diabolical torture, so popular in Brno in the Middle Ages, the “Y” hut is, today, a shining example of Twentieth Century ideals of humanitarian service.

Brno may be considered one of the strategic points of activity for the “Y” which was requested by the government of Czechoslovakia to continue within the Republic the work which it had done for Czech soldiers during the War. The Army Bill, recently adopted by the National Assembly calls for a standing army of 150,000 men, for the infant Republic must protect itself against the enemies who press against its frontiers.

Nearly every European city has a city within itself. Ancient walls, towers and dwellings, narrow and devious streets are

to be found in the heart of many a modern metropolis. At Brno, this inner city might be called the barrack city. Here, from 10,000 to 12,000 soldiers are garrisoned. The first impression is one of neatness and order. The barracks, or *kasárna*, are stained a tobacco brown, an excellent foil for the spring verdure of the nearby hills.

During, and even after the war, a welfare hut, at the best, was but provisional. Its atmosphere was one of emergency. Mr. A. K. Jennings, Director of the “Y” work in the Moravian division, with headquarters at Brno, was fortunate in having his hut built for him by the Army and according to his own ideas of effective service. It occupies the center of the entrance to the barracks. The portal of the hut, a large barrack suitably partitioned into a number of rooms, bears the Red Triangle, framed in a setting of bright but artistic colors. Distinctive and attractive, from the day of its opening, it has made a hit with the soldiers.

Entering the business offices of the hut secretary, one is impressed by the military neatness and order everywhere in evidence. The class rooms, reading and writing rooms seem more like those belonging to a school or college building than to a recreation center for soldiers. Nevertheless, the atmosphere is homelike and promises much in the way of relaxation and entertainment. There is a room for the playing of games and of billiards, as well as large auditorium, for concerts, cinema and theatrical performances.

At a recent Saturday night entertainment, the auditorium was crowded to capacity by more than 2,000 soldiers. The program was one of mass singing, varied by a few vaudeville skits contributed by amateur actors. To our request for some of their national folk songs and ballads, the soldiers responded most generously. The harmony of the 2,000 voices singing the plaintive melodies expressing the oppression of hundreds of years, or swelling into paeans of victory and exultation over newly-won independence, made a profound impression. If that crowd of soldier-singers could make a concert tour of the

States, they would surely sing their way into all hearts.

A real bath in Eastern Europe is a rarity, and those who desire this Anglo-Saxon luxury must look for it far and wide. In Czechoslovakia the problem of personal cleanliness is further complicated by the scarcity and high cost of soap. In view of the prevailing conditions, the bathroom at the Brno hut was a pleasant surprise. Here, 10 tubs and 50 showers are provided for the daily bathing of at least 500 men.

"I'm the happiest man in Czechoslovakia, today", recently exclaimed Director Jennings, as he announced the arrival of two carloads of American flour from Prague. "That means we can issue white rolls to our soldiers with their coffee or chocolate". An inspection of the well-appointed bake-ovens which were in the Brno hut brought a realization of the extent of the "Y's" baking industry to meet the needs of hungry soldiers, "fed up" on their regular rations of dark, unpalatable bread. An expert baker, among the soldiers detailed for "Y" service, is in charge of the ovens. As he indicated the many shelves laden with the day's supply of delicately browned rolls, his eyes reflected the gratification of his chief. The canteen and eating room adjoin the bakery and complete that part of the hut which might be called the "refectory".

Brno is the site of the new Masaryk University, which is to be the technical training center for the Republic. As the university buildings, as well as the students are scattered all over the city, there is, at present, an absence of anything like the class "spirit" or college *esprit de corps*, common to our American educational institutions. To co-operate with the students in effecting a better organization, a building, or site, is now being sought, where a real social center or club may be established for the students, of whom, including those in the preparatory schools, there are about 6,000. On the basis of the present enrollment, it is expected that this number, next year, will be increased to 12,000.

Already, there are two eating centers for the preparatory and university students in the city. These are practically "commons" or "mensas", in the maintenance and management of which the "Y" is co-operating with a student committee, so that these young people may obtain well-prepared and nourishing food at a minimum cost.

A live athletic department is conducted by Professor J. A. Pipal, National Director of Physical Work, who is also in charge of the selection and training of candidates for a national team to the Olympic Games at Antwerp.

On April 25, a National Relay and all Sports Carnival was held at Brno. The program included relay races open to soldiers only, relay races and special events open to both soldiers and civilians. The special events open to all contestants included short dashes, high and low hurdle dashes, running high and broad jumps, standing high and broad jumps, pole vaults, shot put, discus and javelin throwing and American games. To most of the spectators, the method of running several events at the same time in different parts of the big athletic field, must have been as disconcerting as the threeringed circus is to the average small boy; but time was an important element in completing the program, with a real game of American baseball, in which the "Y" secretaries took part, as a fitting finale. This did not differ greatly from a game of baseball in a strictly American setting, excepting that the umpire was a clergyman and the Czech crowd on the side lines tried to stop errant balls more often with their feet than their hands. A "fast" ball is usually a terrifying object to a European man or boy.

All of these events were, to a certain extent, elimination contests, leading up to the national all-sports carnival to be held at Praha from July 3 to 11, including all Olympic track events and other Olympic events and games. At that time, final selection will be made of the Olympic squads to represent Czechoslovakia at Antwerp.

At the Brno meet, one of the Czech records, that in javelin throwing, was broken. So the outlook for a good representative team is promising.

Field Marshal F. M. Podhajsky, the highest military officer for Moravia and Silesia, gave more than the stamp of official patronage and approval to the meet by his presence. He was a decidedly interested "bystander". Irving D. Kimball, Director of the "Y" Army Work in Czechoslovakia, was also present, with Prof. Pipal and other American athletic directors from the several divisions.

Although it deserves a chapter by itself, something should be written here of the

work of the Training School at the Brno Hut, and of its Director, Joseph F. Machotka. April 25th marked the end of Mr. Machotka's service with the Training School. On that day, before leaving for Praha, en route to Paris and New York, he not only gave an inspiring "character talk" in the Czech language to the soldiers gathered in the Auditorium for the regular Sunday morning service, but he was also one of the most active figures on the athletic field, announcing results through the megaphone and appearing in the ball game in the only real "baseball suit" the two teams could produce.

The training courses already held for the soldiers who have been assigned to service with the "Y" secretaries have proved most successful. A short three-weeks course in hut work closed on February 28th and another in athletics, covering six weeks of lectures and practice in American sports and games, came to an end with Mr. Machotka's work as Director. A striking feature of these courses has been the spiritual hour or "character talk", conducted by Mr. Machotka in the Czech language. According to the men's own testimony, this has been one of the most profitable classes in the curriculum. Mr. Ernest J. Wright,

one of the pioneer secretaries to Czechoslovakia, arriving on the field in January, 1919, is now in charge of the Training School.

In addition to the activities already mentioned, the Regional Director at Brno is planning a center for railroad men. This work will be in charge of Mr. W. J. Tubbs, who has had considerable experience in railroad work in the States. Through the co-operation of the Ministry of Railroads at Praha and of the local railroad officials at Brno, a plot of land has been set aside in the latter city for the erection of a suitable building. The equipment, maintenance and management of the building will be contributed by the "Y" at the request of the Czechoslovak Government.

A magnificent site for a stadium, level as a floor, and in an elevated section of the city has just been given by the municipal authorities, and there is an excellent prospect that another fine park will be turned over to the "Ifkas" and "Imkas" to develop as a demonstration playground for the children of Brno, for freedom of expression through wholesome physical exercise has become the order of the day in this medieval stronghold of repression and persecution.

Jail

By J. S. MACHAR.

Authorized translation from the Czech by P. Selver.

(Continued.)

The volunteer officer with the foxy eyes was standing in the next room and waiting for his turn to come. In the ante-room the man from the street was keeping watch.

I lit a cigar and offered them some. The Captain declined with thanks, saying that he only smoked cigarettes. Without a word, Preminger lit his own cigar, the third officer, an otherwise taciturn gentleman, remarked sharply that he smoked only "his own cigars" and also lit up. The smoke floated out through the open window to where the blue sky was spread out above the peaceful earth, and white swelling clouds were borne across it from north to east. There was a rustle of papers: letter after letter was translated, and as I saw that the pile was diminishing, I added fresh supplies to it.

"Tell the agent to come in," said Dr. Preminger to the volunteer officer, "we shalln't be finished in two days."

Mr. Kolbe understood Czech. They gave him this and that to read through and express his

opinion. Mr. Kolbe read it through and expressed his opinion.

The taciturn person had found a sheet of paper and gave it to Mr. Kolbe to read through and translate. There is a proverb which I once noted down: "To cut up chopped straw and prove that it is oats should not be tried even on a donkey." — Mr. Kolbe translated, the taciturn person asked Preminger whether he should take it with him. Preminger waved him aside. "But that certainly has some bearing upon the Czech nation," insisted the taciturn person. "Eh, Un-sinn" (German; nonsense), said the Captain interfering.

Dr. Preminger suddenly thrust his pile away and stretched himself in his chair. "What horrible heap of letters you have. A paper deluge."

"Tell me, why did you really arrest Dr. Krámář? That is more than an error, it is folly, if I may quote —"

"You think so?" said Preminger smiling.

"The most black-yellow politician in Austria," I went on eagerly, "for fifteen years he has had a thoroughly hellish time amongst us for that very reason."

"Well, you will see what his Austrianism amounts to. You were with him in the Crimea. —were you in touch there with Russian personalities?"

"With persons certainly, with personalities never."

"Of course, you were there seventeen years ago. You like the Russians?"

"Russian literature above all, the Russian peasant extremely, Tzarism less."

"You see we know all about you," declared Preminger triumphantly. "And the English?"

"Sir, if I were an Englishman, I should not have the pleasure of your *visit* in my house."

Preminger laughed.

"Look, that's the one," and the taciturn person pointed out to him some signature in a letter. Preminger nodded.

"Ležé again?" said I pointedly.

"What is the *Volná Myšlenka*?" asked Preminger instead of replying. "A society?"

"No, an association."

"Well, that is a society."

"An association. A society and an association are two different things."

"You were honorary President of this society, weren't you?"

"Yes I was honorary President of this association."

"Which wages war against all religions?"

"Which waged war against clericalism. Waged it,—for immediately at the beginning of the war its activities both as regards issuing periodicals and publishing books were stopped."

"Have you any papers, documents from which it would be possible to learn what were the real aims of the association?"

"I will lend you a few volumes of the paper it issued, but you will return them to me."

"Certainly, and with thanks."

I found two volumes for him.

"Mr. Kolbe, look, here is a poem Franz II; tell me what its about," remarked the taciturn person turning to the agent.

It was a poem which had once been published in the paper called "*Neruda*."

"There is nothing in it. Very nice patriotic verses. About how the soldiers fight for the Emperor?" remarked Mr. Kolbe.

The taciturn person scratched his head; "Why should Mr. M. write patriotic verses? and about Franz II?"

"Lieutenant," I said shaking my finger at him, "I must point out that by your last question —"

The taciturn person reddened angrily.

"The Lord knows that my back is already aching," said the Captain coming to his assistance.

It had grown dark. The chauffeur came up to say that there was no lamp on the car and that

they must go. I pulled out a number of new bundles.

"That's enough gentlemen," announced Dr. Preminger, "we will go. What do you want to take?" he said turning to the taciturn person.

"This," he pointed to it, "and this and this." There were about eight bundles.

"There will be no room in the car, there are four of us," explained Preminger.

"Are you taking me with you?" I asked, — I had completely forgotten the volunteer officer in the next room.

"Oh, no, no, no," said Preminger deprecatingly. "But where are we to put this litter?"

"I will lend you a trunk if you will let me have it back," I offered.

"There is one more room?" asked the Captain pointing to the closed door.

"Yes, my wife and daughter are there," and I made as if to open.

"No, we won't go there, we have nothing to do with your ladies," announced Preminger.

"Ready?" asked the Captain.

"Yes. Just a report that we have completed the search, and we must tie the bundles together a little. Hi, officer."

I lent them a trunk. The volunteer officer tied up the bundles. Suddenly he said to Preminger: "Lieutenant, this knight has the red and white colors on his shield."

On the wall hung Schwaiger's picture "The Long, the Broad and the Sharp-Sighted." The knight who is riding across the foot-bridge has actually got a red and white shield. The volunteer officer fastened his little foxy eyes upon it.

"Lieutenant," he pointed out afresh, "has it any special significance that the colors there are red and white?"

"Keep quiet, and see about getting ready," snarled the Captain.

The foxy little eyes were lowered with injured reluctance and the little volunteer officer went on packing and tying up.

The report was read in a minute. I made it as easy for them as possible. I did not want the letters to be counted, I brought the trunk, the twine, the packing paper,—when a man has had such guests for five whole hours in his house. he has a slight desire for solitude and peace at the end of it.

"I draw your attention to the fact," I remarked to Preminger, "that the search has been very incomplete; here are several thousand books, and there might be a treasonable document in every one of them."

"You haven't got the Tzar's manifesto?"

"No."

"We are ready. Tomorrow you will kindly appear at *Hernalser Guertel*, No. 126, room 89. for cross-examination. A few trifles. At 9 o'clock please."

"I shall certainly come."

They gave me their hands, clicked their heels. Mr. Kolbe and the little volunteer officer carried

out the bundles and the trunk, the car began to make a fuss, they took their seats, saluted once more from their seats and drove off.

The next day at 9 o'clock in room 89 on the *Hernalser Guertel*. An uninviting, bare room, only three writing tables, a few chairs, cupboards, on the wall a map of Bohemia, Moravia and Silesia, on one of the tables a Remington. The Captain of the day before was sitting there and typing something. I was asked to sit down, Preminger would arrive immediately.

He arrived. Yesterday he had been jovial and talkative, today he was somehow stern and restrained. He took a file from a drawer, turned over a few leaves, took out a paper, handed it me for me to translate. And he followed my impromptu version with a translation which he held in his hands. I went on reading, suddenly I stopped short. Sixteen years ago, on October 19th 1899, on the day when the language regulations were suspended, I had written a furious letter to Dr. Kramář in the Crimea. Bilge-water, fire, sulphur, petroleum, dynamite, — whatever could be said in words I had written, and flung everything at his head, of which I — — — "but must I read that?" I asked Preminger.

"Continue," he ordered sternly.

I translated the letter to the end.

"What do you say now, eh?"

"This letter is the very thing which proves what I explained to you yesterday about Dr. Kramář. I knew how I was offending his patriotic feelings, and that is why I wrote it to him. You can believe that Dr. Kramář —"

"Let's leave Dr. Kramář aside now; as you see, you are concerned here. This letter was found among Dr. Kramář's things you wrote him —"

"But I just want to explain why I wrote it to him and why such expressions —"

"Do not suppose," continued Preminger, "that military justice is some blind animal, that it scratches where and when it likes, — if it had not been for this letter, your house would not have been searched yesterday."

"I should like to point out that the letter was written sixteen years ago, that I wrote it in rage and bitterness at the blow which our nation had received when the language ordinances were suspended, that I regret everything that is in it, — but that all of it is long since out of date, both according to the letter of the law and in my own spirit."

"So much I also know, and I draw no conclusions from it — let us proceed to our report," and he prepared a sheet of paper and picked up a pen.

We soon finished the report. My relations with Dr. Kramář, our separation, our political friendship for fifteen years, something about the *Volná Myšlenka*, about my friendship with Masaryk, about that unfortunate letter — a signature and that was all.

"We have finished," declared Preminger.

"Just one more word about Dr. Kramář. Tell me what there is against him. What is he guilty of? Why was he arrested?"

"You will see. I repeat that military justice proceeds in the most cautious manner. Peace will come, parliament will meet, its actions will be discussed, will be investigated — for today I cannot tell you any more."

"And I repeat that Dr. Kramář is innocent. And that if there is a trial, not he but the whole nation will be in the dock, and that if he is condemned, the idea of Austria as current in the Kingdom of Bohemia will be justified for ever and ever. Even today, you see —"

"Yes, the Czech regiments, they are surrendering —"

"This matter has not been cleared up."

"The war loans."

"We give what we can. Blood and property."

"And at the same time you are thinking of independence."

"If that is a crime, then have a high wall built around the whole of Bohemia and Moravia, make a single gate in it, put a soldier there with a fixed bayonet, and above it put the inscription: Royal and Imperial Jail."

"Your hearts are not in the monarchy."

"That is how the monarchy brought us up."

In this way we passed the whole of the morning. Preminger looked into my eyes, I into his. We pierced into each other's souls. A razor, was the thought I had of him, well made, excellent material, admirably set. An obedient razor which shaves easily and well, but with which throats can be cut if it is used by a careless hand. It has a bluish steely glitter, it is a first-rate implement, you cannot get angry with it even when it wounds you. For with the same precision and neatness it would — under different circumstances — cut open the veins not only of Messers. Gross, Wolf, Teufel and all the rest of the Germanic Austrians, but even of any of its masters, if there were an opportunity.

"Au revoir," he said to me as we parted.

"I'd rather not", I replied.

At the same time as the search was taking place in my house, a police agent was searching the table in my office. He took away a few letters, an artistically decorated seal, several envelopes filled with postage stamps which in the course of my official work I was in the habit of cutting out and saving for the friends of my acquaintances, an old table calendar, unused picture postcards — all "*zur weiteren Amtsbehandlung*" (for further official action).

Mr. Smutný, the district Governor of Kralové Hradec (Koeniggratz), instructed the municipal authorities of suburban Prague that the street which had been named after me should be called differently, and this was done. They began to confiscate my books, and they confiscated them so thoroughly that of all my literary works only a small fragment remained. What there was of it in readers and primers for schools had to be

left out, and from what was allowed to remain in consideration of the subject matter, or as an example of such and such a poetical style — what it was I know not — my name had to be removed. I read several of these decrees issued "at the instructions of the Ministry of Education." Students were not allowed to recite my poems, to borrow my books for home reading, to select my work as a subject for critical analysis; teachers were strictly ordered to avoid referring to my name as much as possible, and if it were absolutely necessary to mention it, they were told not to omit adding "a poet detrimental (oh, holy bureaucracy! literally "detrimental") to the Austrian Empire and hence also to the Czech nation." (A similar ban was placed upon three other names besides my own — Tolstoy, Herben and de Amicis, only for them the ban was not so severe — their articles might remain, they might be spoken about, but the names had to be removed). And finally, the things I printed were to be subjected to the strictest control — how far this was to go may be best seen from the fragment of a conversation which I had during that period with a certain worthy official authority:

He: "All that you write has a double meaning. If your name is under the sentence, "the sun is rising," the Czech nation rubs its hands and exults because,—but you know—"

I: "And when I write: 'The sun is setting' and put my name to it, then you will say: "Aha paragraph 65a, offending against the interests of public order,' and you'll lock me up, won't you?"

He: "You see how well we understand each other."

In short, the sword of Damocles hung by a slender thread above my freedom. On no day was I certain whether in the evening I should be able to lie down in my bed, no night, whether I should finish sleeping in my bed. If I came home and saw a motor-car standing in front of the house, my heart gave a thump, and I said to myself: already. But this state of uncertainty by no means interfered with the straight course of my existence. I slept excellently. I ate, drank, smoked with appetite, and I followed the course of events with interest as they were reported to me in the morning and evening by the papers. And every day I saw the sun rise and the sun set, and took a sincere pleasure in both.

One day,—it was in July about six weeks after Mr. Preminger's visit to me,—I proceeded home and, lo and behold, Mr. David Kolbe stood waiting in front of the house.

"For me?"

"For you. Permit me to come up."

I permitted. And suddenly, without any ado there was another gentleman whom Mr. Kolbe introduced to me as his colleague. Good, good. Mr. Kolbe took out a paper,—a warrant for arrest? Oh no, only that they had to carry out a domiciliary search.

What? Again? Why, I had the pleasure only a few weeks ago.—

"Orders"—Mr. Kolbe shrugged his shoulders.

They searched. Mr. Kolbe ascertained that nothing had been moved from the time when he had assisted the Lieutenants here. The books, the bundles,—he himself had placed them thus, he himself had tied them up with string,—those were his knots.—

I expressed my regret; nothing had been added, letters received since then I had burnt. Nor had anything been removed, I had now no reason to hide anything.

Mr. Kolbe saw things. Everything was in its place as before. The dust lying upon them was proof that nothing had been changed.

We lit our cigars. Outside it had grown dark and a thunderstorm had come on.

"Where did you learn Czech?" I asked Mr. Kolbe.

"Why, I am from Bohemia. I did my military service at Hradec Králové."

"Hradec Králové,—a nice town. In the 18th regiment?"

"Yes, the 18th. My colleague understands Czech, too."

The colleague nodded and asked whether Mr. Kolbe would need him or whether he was to go home.

"You can go. There is nothing here." The colleague took his leave.

Mr. Kolbe told me about the domiciliary searches. In the case of authors it is an extremely simple matter; such gentlemen keep all their things together so as to have their eyes on them. But when it comes to professional thieves, to experienced robbers,—the floors had to be taken up, the furniture pulled to pieces, the chimney has to be inspected.

The thunderstorm was over. In the west a radiant topaz light was beginning to shine.

"Still, I must take something from this search to the chief commissary," and Mr. Kolbe looked around him.

"Give him this letter from Switzerland. It has passed the censor,—some unknown Russian asks me to intervene on behalf of his friend who is badly off in an internment camp. And here are a few picture postcards."

"Good, thank you. And you will come with me, won't you?"

"Pepi," I called into the kitchen, "give me quickly my box with the washing, a tooth-brush—"

"But what for, what for?" expostulated Mr. Kolbe. "You will be coming back in a short while. It's only a brief cross-examination. Pepička, don't bring anything, but get supper ready for your master," he shouted into the kitchen.

"What on earth can be the matter now?"

Mr. Kolbe smiled mysteriously. "Well, it's that article in the French paper, 'L'Independence.'—I don't know how it's pronounced—"

"An article? I? Impossible."

"But your name is there."

"Has the chief commissary got it?"

"Yes that's what this search is for and why you have been summoned there."

The chief commissary asked me about my name.

"What is this J. S.?"

"You see, it's a little souvenir of the Roman Catholic Church. It gave me two baptismal names, and I left it, I returned the names to it and kept only these two letters."

"Well, all right," he remarked.

"Have you written anything recently for a paper in Geneva?"

"No."

"Anything for the Hus number?"

"No."

"What about this?" And he laid before me a copy of a newspaper of about the same size as Sládek's old "Lumir"; above as the title "L'indépendance Tchèque", beneath this a bad reproduction of Brožík's well-known picture of Hus before the Council of Constance, beneath the picture about ten lines of letter press and beneath the letter press,—my full name. It occurred to me that perhaps it was a quotation from something, — I read it through,—no, not a word was mine,—horrible journalistic bombast.

"Sir" I said, "I can only tell you what you will hear from every criminal at the first moment when he is caught. I didn't do it,—only I shall not be able to tell you anything else even later on. If I had written and signed that, I would not deny it."

"But there isn't a single compromising word in it. Nothing about the State, the dynasty, the army, — in fact no reference to Austria at all; why should not you, as a Czech, have written a few lines about your great compatriot on such an occasion as the 500th anniversary of his death?" he observed in a friendly tone.

"Nothing compromising, it's true, but it is nonsense, nonsense both in the wording and the contents. And if I had written it, there would certainly be something compromising in it."

"Wait," he interrupted me, "I myself had doubts about your authorship,—I have read various things from your pen, and this certainly bears no resemblance to you. But perhaps you authorised somebody?"

"Ah, you really want to know whether I'm in touch with my fellow-countrymen in Switzerland?"

"And you are not?"

"No."

"Then how do you explain your signature?"

"The carelessness of somebody who signed my name and did not think of the consequences. The curse of popularity possessed by an author's name."

"In America they print heaps of your poems, —and those are poems which are rather more compromising."

"They obviously select them from my former books which are now prohibited in Austria."

"Without your permission?"

"Nobody has asked me."

"Are you in written communication with America?"

"I was. Before the war. Not now."

"And you declare that you did not write these few lines about Hus?"

"I did not write them."

"We will draw up a report. But I have already told you my impression,—that is not your prose. By the way, have you written about Hus anywhere else?"

"I was asked to, but I refused. I am in favor of celebrating Hus at a more peaceful time."

"Which papers asked you for such a work?"

I mentioned them, he noted the titles. Then we drew up a report. To the effect that I emphatically denied the authorship of this trifle, that I was not in touch with Switzerland, that I was in favor of postponing the Hus celebration to peaceful times, that I was not in communication with America, — and all this I confirmed with my own signature.

We had finished. I was just in the doorway.

Did I know Dr. Herben,—he asked me just as I was going. Of course I did. And I turned back and sat down again. Dr. Herben, — a quiet, peaceful man. In the editorial office he busied himself with literary matters, wrote obituaries, moderate social controversies; recently, however he had been forced by weakness of sight to give up all further work entirely.

"That tallied," he said. And did I know Bezruč?

Of course I did, an excellent poet.

Political?

More social and personal lyrics. He has pleasant memories of his youth in Silesia.

And who is he supposed to be?

There are legends about it. Some say that he is a simple miner, others that he is an engineer in the foundries.

But it is supposed to be certain that he is a postal official at Brno.

Yes, they say that too.

And what did I think of the arrest of Dr. Kramář?

I told him. That his imprisonment was a dreadful mistake. That it was felt by the whole nation. That there is no policy more brainless than the one which manufactures martyrs for a discontented nation. That now we were asked to forget century-old traditions. Traditions,—not our own—but Austrian, purely Austrian. That the lands of the Bohemian crown were the scene of the wars waged by Frederick the Great and of the year 1866. That by a more moderate policy in the Balkans, Austria might have become a rallying point for all the nations and states there, that the Austrian Emperor could then have boldly laid hands upon the old crown of the Eastern

Roman Empire,—on Constantinople,—on the route to Asia Minor, to Bagdad—

It was getting on for 10 o'clock when I parted from the student of my lecture.

A warm summer night, a sky full of stars.

So not today. When? When? I had an infallible foreboding that this sword of Damocles must sooner or later descend.

V.

Days elapsed, weeks elapsed.

And in one of those weeks it happened that the post became silent as far as I was concerned. No papers arrived, letters did not come, nothing. Then again a day came and the precious post put in an appearance with a bundle of all the overdue papers and a heap of letters. The address-slips on the newspapers had been torn through, the envelopes of the letters had been cut open on one side and gummed down again. Aha, even an Empire can contrive to be inquisitive, and at such a serious time about the private affairs of a respectable rate-payer. Family letters, those dealing with literary affairs, from friends, picture postcards, bills, cards from the front, parcels of provisions,—all this was of interest to the State, all this it opened and examined.

Good, the signs are increasing, I thought to myself.

I have already mentioned the confiscations of my books. They began on St. Václav's day, when newspapers published a report that my volume of verses entitled "Drops" had been confiscated. This collection had appeared at the beginning of the year, and had been received by the critics, as far as I had seen their comments, either with benevolent praise or with a profound lack of comprehension,—as the majority of my books. I had long reflected and conjectured what the State Officials could have found compromising in it, I reflected and conjectured in vain,—finally I said to myself this is not the first instance, it will not be the last.

And it was not, as I have already said.

For December 5th I received a summons to attend the military divisional Court. I was to appear as a witness in the case of Dr. Kramář and associates, charged with infringing such and such paragraphs. In the morning at 9 o'clock at the *Hernalser Guertel*. Signed Mottl, Colonel.

In the meanwhile a whole series of persons, well-known in our public life, changed their residences. They moved to the Hradchin, then to Vienna, and romantic rumors were woven about the reasons for their journeys. A misunderstood button, information lodged with the police, the thanks of its President expressed to the leaders of the Labor Party,—a man could not hear enough of it, and when he had made sure that he had heard aright, he could not and would not believe it. Nearly the whole editing staff of the suspended "Čas" was already residing in Vienna, and with them Dr. Soukup as well.

He, however, was soon set at liberty, as nothing incriminating could be associated with him.

I have a keen recollection of December 5th. Such days as these engrave ineradicable traces upon the memory.

It was not an agreeable day. Dull, overcast, chilly and dismal. Before 9 o'clock, as I had been summoned, I entered the building of the Military Court. I had been there six months previously to see Dr. Preminger. A porter was there who saluted,—curious; today I took his salute as a matter of course, as an insignificant phenomenon,—in another six months it will emerge as something particularly remarkable to me, for I shall see that this building has yet other entrances which are without porters who salute.

In the witnesses' room there were already a few gentlemen. Others arrived,—some I knew, with others I became acquainted. We were all assembled on behalf of Dr. Kramář and associates. Chief director Dr. Matuš, Dean Burian, Švehla, Prokůpek, Mayor Groš, Dr. Soukup, — we were all waiting.

A Sargeant-Major arrived, read out our names and conducted us into the hall. On a platform in a semi-circle were the judges,—uniform beside uniform, medals on their chests, crosses,—twenty or thirty persons, I do not know exactly,—several silver-braided collars,—and the whole thing a blurred picture of combed heads, moustaches, eyes, ears, noses,—and nothing by which the glance was forcibly arrested. We received our admonition as witnesses and returned to the room.

From the windows there was a view below of small courtyards and a large one. Above them arose several stories with barred windows,—the jail. Everything was faded and drab,—the courtyards, the color of the walls, the dusty windows, the air in the courtyard and the sky above it all. Drab, the most aristocratic of colors, can sometimes be very repulsive.

Dr. Matuš was the first of us to be called. A quarter of an hour, half an hour, a whole hour,—still he did not return.

"They do it thoroughly" observed Švehla who kept walking to and fro in the room.

Mayor Groš was talking to Prokůpek about fool questions in Prague. Dean Burian was reviving memories with Dr. Soukup of an encounter in connection with some school, — the Dean was once Minister for Education in the Central Committee of the Kingdom of Bohemia. In the little courtyard three Russian officers were walking about,—an old man with the badges of a staff officer, the two others being young subalterns. Two men of the defence-corps were guarding them with fixed bayonets. The area of the yard as about two hundred square metres, but it seemed that this trifle was no hindrance to the Russians. They moved along slowly, stopped, gesticulated,—perhaps their conversation had removed them to some distant district of their native land,—perhaps they were criticising the

conditions in their jail,—perhaps they were telling each other anecdotes,—who knows?

Dr. Mattuš came in, and Mayor Groš was called. The aged leader of the Old Czechs testified that they “do it very thoroughly” indeed, they want to know everything, they inquire about everything from several quarters.

A door rattled below, a military jailer opened the entry to the large yard, and a crowd of people scrambled out. They looked up at us,—some greeted, obviously our fellow-countrymen. Men old and young, in clothing which varied from the workmen’s dress to a lounge suit, healthy and sick, as shown by their gait and the color of their faces, swarmed in fours like a large dark reptile along the ellipse of the yard.

“The thick-set man in the cap is Markov,—condemned to death” explained Dr. Soukup to me, “the old man beside him is Kurylewicz, also condemned to death, the one who is just greeting us is Junio.”

All were talking, a muffled buzzing penetrated to the room where we were.

“They walk for half an hour like that in the morning, half an hour in the afternoon,” remarked Dr. Soukup. We all stood at the windows and looked out. “The jail was built for two hundred people, now there are more than seven hundred in it. They are let out for exercise by floors, and when they are relieved, it is the turn of those who are locked up in the tower.”

“Kramář and Rašín are in the tower?” asked somebody.

“Yes, here on the left.”

We looked out. In a semi-circle squeezed into the yard, arose a grey building with small barred windows. Angel’s Castle,—I was reminded of Rome.

The prisoners were guarded by defence-corps men with bayonets. The half hour was up; there was a word of command, the door opened, the black reptile crawled into the dark entrance of the building and was lost within it. The yard was empty.

Mayor Groš returned. Flushed, in high spirits, he was obviously glad that his period of torture was over.

Dean Burian went to relate what he knew and what he had seen.

It began to be tiresome. Udržal who was present at the proceedings in the body of the court, looked in for a moment and gave us an account of his impressions.

There was a buzzing in the ears, as always when a man listens to time as it elapses.

Dean Burian returned after a while. Finished? No. It’s the interval. “The presiding judge is certainly on the side of Kramář; whenever I said anything favorable to Kramář, his eyes twinkled at me.

The interval was over, the Dean was again called into the court-room. Dr. Rašín was indifferent, as if he had been a bored spectator of

the trial. Dr. Kramář,—pangs of sorrow clutched at my heart,—was sunken, his face was an ashen color,—it was years since I had seen him and now like this. Editor Červinka seemed to be in a whimsical mood, and Zamazal, by means of whom the military tribunal, with remarkable sagacity, had increased the group of traitors to a quartette, was as mournful as the overcast day outside.

Dr. Peutelschmidt, the leading counsel for the prosecution, had seemingly acquired military smartness to perfection, although his head with its almost white hair, recalled the poet Robert Hamerling. In civil life he was, I understood, a police magistrate, also very smart and stern,—here his manners, yes, they reminded me of the army; that is how an old gaunt Sergeant Major browbeats a poor raw recruit for bad marching and faulty movements. Or, if you like, another comparison. He watched the defendants in the dock like a hawk, which has somewhere come upon four captured doves, and woe betide them if they advance a single word to defend themselves. These men were condemned in advance, ruined in advance. Why these ceremonies, cross-examinations, and all this martyrdom?

The members of the court were obviously tired, the presiding judge blinked his eyes and his face twitched involuntarily like that of a rabbit,—this is what Dean Burian took to be the circumstance in favor of Dr. Kramář! — Dr. Premlinger in full-dress uniform was sitting on the left-hand, alert, lithe, ready to leap.

Name, — when born, — where, — relations with the defendant.

A witness at his wedding, — a personal friend.

“Then were you his political opponent for a number of years?”

“Yes, for fifteen years. Up to the present day.”

“How so, up to the present day?” he went for me.

“I see Dr. Kramář in the dock, when I might assume that I should see him decorated with all Austrian orders. This politician—”

I did not finish.

Swords rattled, the whole of the court was astir, Dr. Peutelschmidt reddened and shouted: “I did not ask you about that.”

“You did ask.”

“It is not your business to decide about that” he said, looking daggers at me, “answer only what I ask you.”

And he asked why we had fallen out. I explained the story of the attack on the Czech evangelicals, but it did not seem to interest him very much.

“Were you a friend of Masaryk?”

“Yes and a contributor to his papers *Čas* and *Naše Doba*.”

He showed me the copy of “L’indépendance” with Brožík’s picture of Hus, and remarked “So you didn’t write that.”

Immediately afterwards he drew from an extensive file, my file, a letter dated October 17th,

1899, and introduced it with these preliminary remarks: "We now come to an interesting document which has to be read, and I call upon the Court to decide whether the public is to be excluded during this reading."

I wanted to protest against the reading,—in vain.

"Surely you wrote that?" asked the leading counsel sharply.

"Yes I did, but these matters are now out of date, the letter was written in exasperation at the suspended language ordinances."

"The letter will be read."

Swords rattled, the court rose and proceeded to deliberate.

They called for the public to leave the court.

Dr. Peutelschmidt read the letter. The presiding judge blinked his eyes, the other members of the court cast withering glances at me.

It was the letter which I wrote to Dr. Kramář in the Crimea after the suspension of the language ordinances. A letter in which there are about seventy cases of *lèse majesté*. A letter about Franz Joseph.

"How do you reconcile it with your finer feelings, Dr. Kramář, that you selected the writer of such a letter to be a witness at your wedding?" he said swooping down on the defendant.

Dr. Kramář explained. The witness, he said, is a hot-headed poet, a pugnacious character, who has no consideration for any authority in the world, not for the nation either as a whole or individually, not for Bishops, Cardinals, not for the Pope, not for Kings and Emperors; not even his closest friends are safe from his pen, he himself could tell how he had been irritated not only fifteen years ago, but even before he fell out with the witness; he quoted an epigram which aroused suppressed mirth,—but the leading counsel swooped down on him afresh: "and you preserved such a letter, Dr. Kramar?"

"It is the manuscript of a poet" replied the defendant simply.

There followed a few questions and answers about the "Volná Myšlenka" and the tendencies of this movement,—even now I do not know why and how it was that this "Volná Myšlenka" was mixed up in all my cross examinations, and in the evidence I gave at this trial; perhaps for economic reasons so as to have certain supplies prepared for all eventualities.

Thereupon we took our leave of the court very coldly,—they did not even thank me for my evidence.

Dr. Soukup was waiting and he accompanied me. He told me the story about the mysterious button, the unknown man and the suspicious woman,—he threatened ruthless action for the future. I could not understand what he was driving at, but suddenly it dawned on me; perhaps he supposed that I was in touch with people abroad and that I could warn them not to get

Dr. Soukup into difficulties,—well, he was mistaken. So I assured him that I was not in touch with Switzerland. Whereupon we parted.

* * *

A few weeks ago, long after this affair and after the affair which I shall yet describe in this book, at a time when the Imperial Amnesty severed all my connections with the military courts, I went to Dr. Preminger to demand back the trunk which I had lent him when he searched my house in June 1915.

"Do you know that on December 7th, when you were giving evidence before the court and made a remark about the Austrian orders, all the officers were in favor of your immediate arrest?" Preminger inquired of me.

"I do not know. And who prevented it?"

"I did."

"You? Only so that you could lock me up afterwards?"

"I did not lock you up. As long as your case was in my hands, you remained at liberty. Together I take very careful counsel before arresting anyone. It was the same in the case of Dr. Kramář. A domiciliary search,—I am in favor of that immediately. But to arrest a man,—no, then I reflect for a long time. I repeat, that as long as you were in my hands, you were free. When it was taken over by somebody else—"

"Doctor, for heaven's sake don't let it get known in Bohemia that you have any opinion of me or I shall be badly off."

"How is that?"

"Did you not say that Dr. Tobolka was a good politician?"

"Yes, I praised him. *Und was ist denn mit dem dr. Tobolka?*"

"*Ein toter Hund ist er. Haben Sie ubrigens auch den Dr. Schmeral gelobt?*"

"*Dr. Schmeral ist ein hervorragender Politiker. Was ist mit ihm?*"

"*Ein toter Hund ist er.*"

I should add that *Toter Hund* (dead dog) is a Viennese expression, in which the word *Toter* (dead) has the full accent, and *Hund* (dog) is by the way. So the expression is neither a term of abuse nor of criticism.

*) "And what about Dr. Tobolka.

"He's a dead dog. By the way, did you praise Dr. Schmeral too?"

"Dr. Schmeral is a prominent politician. What about him?"

"He's a dead dog."

(To be continued.)

Richard C. Chládek, of Wilkes Barre, Pa. was awarded a prize of \$500. for his musical composition, a march entitled "The Czechoslovak March."

Current Topics

PRESIDENT MASARYK ON ELECTIONS.

President Masaryk of Czechoslovakia predicted increasing power and affluence for the working classes of his country in a conversation with American correspondents today. He said that the present tendency of Czechoslovakia was toward socialization or nationalization.

"Our recent election," said the President, "means practically socialization, or what some people call nationalization. It means State control of industries and public utilities. The workman will decide how they shall be conducted.

"For example, workmen will be among the trustees of banks and will have bonds in factories and so forth. They shall share in the earnings. That is the tendency now. There necessarily will be a great variety of economic development, because some of the workmen are now ready for the change, while others are not."

Turning to the tense situation existing between the Czechs and the German citizens, President Masaryk expressed hope that a settlement would soon be reached between the factions.

"The German minority," he said in this connection, "is a real problem for us, but we hope we shall soon come to terms with the Germans, who are in a peculiar position. Having been for centuries in the dominant place, it is hard for them to grasp the new situation. They are living in the old order of things."—Times—(N. Y.)

GOOD SORT.

Several thousand Czechoslovaks, young and old live in Yonkers, and altogether a million in the United States. Half of them are native American citizens.

Unlike most of the races, that come from Eastern Europe, the Czech emigrants are educated. The percentage of illiteracy among the Bohemians is unbelievably small, less than 6 per cent, which is far lower than the percentage in our own land.

Prague, the capital, is a notable educational center, and its medical schools are held to be among the best in the world, and have been largely patronized by American medical students.

A Yonkers lady of American birth and Anglo-Saxon parentage who sojourned a year at Prague with her sister (who is a nurse and also resides in Yonkers), was heard to describe the city of Prague as a beautiful place to live in under normal conditions.

An article in the current Christian Herald gives an interesting sketch of the new nation and its people.

The famous University of Prague was the only one allowed under the Austrian regime but now two others are about to be organized, one in Brno, the old capital of Moravia, and another in Bratislava, the capital of Slovakia.

President Masaryk, the first Chief Magistrate of this new nation, born of tyranny and war, is himself a highly-educated man, a lecturer in the University of London, in the early years of the war, and belongs to the reformed faith. Coming to America early in 1918 he was received with much honor by our people, and was frequently consulted by President Wilson. The Czechoslovak Declaration of Independence, largely his work, is a noble document.

—Yonkers (N. Y.) Statesmen.

THE TRAINING OF A NATION.

Many visitors from this and other countries have gone to Prague for the great gathering of the Sokols which has been held this week in the noble old capital of the Czechoslovak Republic. They will return with the memory of a delightful and refreshing experience. The display of the gymnastic organizations, assembled for their quinquennial exercises, is in itself a fine thing, attractive to the eye by its revelation of strength, agility, and grace. These thousands of men and women, boys and girls, from all parts of Bohemia and Moravia will assuredly have given an exhibition of individual gymnastics and combined movements which could not be rivalled elsewhere, unless, perhaps, in Sweden, where, also, there is a national cult of physical training. But there is also something more than this. The Sokols are not merely gymnastic clubs. They are associations for the promotion of mental and spiritual, as well as corporeal, excellence; they are meant to develop the character not less than the muscles and the limbs. They have, therefore, a high moral purpose, which goes beyond recreation and sport, and they are all inspired by an ideal of profound national and patriotic significance. Founded sixty years ago, they were intended to keep alive the spirit of solidarity and independence, which seemed little more than a dream then to the subjugated and divided Czechs and Slovaks, though it was a dream that had never faded from the popular consciousness through centuries of depression and persecution. It was to give fresh life and reality to this vision that the Sokols were established. Their aim was to bring together the youth and manhood and womanhood of the Czechoslovak lands in a common task of union and organization. The athletic and gymnastic societies kept before them the aim, not only of freedom, but of progress, as nothing else could have done. De-

nied the opportunity till the Great War had broken their Austrian and German masters of asserting their national aspirations on the political and military fields, the Czechs sought to realise them in other ways. They determined that when freedom came it should find them worthy of the gift, and if it did not come—it must have seemed remote enough sixty years ago—yet they would attain that inner freedom, that liberty of the soul, which tyrants and bureaucrats cannot take away. So the Sokols gathered in the best of the nation, and they devoted themselves to the promotion of physical and moral development. Scientific athletics and gymnastics gave them the former, the sense of brotherhood and corporate consciousness the other. How well they succeeded the events of the past few years have shown. There were no soldiers in the war who fought more worthily when they got the chance of fighting for their own cause and friends; there is scarcely any achievement in all the campaigns more notable than the amazing march of the Czechoslovak prisoners of war from the middle of European Russia half-way across Siberia. A people so educated for freedom and self-control as the Czechs have been in their Sokols can be trusted to make good use of the liberty they have so amply earned. We have no fear for the future of Czechoslovakia when it has succeeded in overcoming the economic difficulties from which it suffers in common with all Central and Eastern Europe. From these it will emerge more successfully and, we think, more rapidly, than its neighbors; for it has the two assets of a rich and fertile land and an energetic, intelligent, sober, and intensely patriotic people. It needs for the moment capital, raw materials, and the means to restore its damaged industries; and it will be good business, as well as sound policy, for the Western nations to give it all the assistance in their power for these purposes. — London Daily Telegraph.

EXCHANGE FLUCTUATIONS.

To the man of the street, the fact that exchange rates rise rapidly, it is a sign that commerce is constantly increasing, that the volume of products exported exceeds the commodities imported. Under ordinary conditions this is true. Nevertheless it must not be overlooked that in this day with the rapid rise of exchange rates the export business immediately becomes stagnant because the cost of production always remains, while the selling price is either reduced or raised by the corresponding rise or fall in the value of the exchange unit on which the transaction is based, thereby incurring a loss to either the seller or purchaser.

Merchants often wonder why Czechoslovak manufacturers refuse to quote binding prices in currencies other than Czechoslovak crowns. It is impossible for the merchants to exist unless

they are allowed a fair margin of profit. To quote in foreign currencies is a gamble to them. They must quote prices in crowns and require payment to be made in the currency of the country to which their goods are destined to meet the conditions of export imposed by their government.

This procedure is open to many objections but under prevailing chaotic exchange conditions no other solution has been found. The buyer may always protect himself by depositing the amount of the purchase price with his bank at the execution of the contract against the arrival of documents or goods, as the case may be, or, he may purchase exchange on Prague for the amount of the invoice and if rates rise he is the gainer, and if they fall he loses nothing.

BEEET SUGAR ORGANIZATIONS.

Organization of Czechoslovak Beet Sugar Companies is interesting. In a large measure it may be termed cooperative. A recent organization is the best illustration.

A corporation was formed with a capital stock of 6,000,000 Cs. crowns divided into 11,000 shares of a par value of 500 crowns and 2,000 half-shares of a par value of 250 crowns. Five thousand whole (500 crown) shares are sold to investors to provide funds for necessary buildings and equipment. The balance, six thousand whole (500 crown) shares and two thousand half (250 crown) shares are distributed among sugar beet cultivators on the following basis:

One whole (500 crown) share for each 100 quintals of sugar beets delivered by the cultivator.

One one-half (250 crown) share for each 50 quintals of sugar beets delivered by the cultivator.

When the farmers accept this stock they obligate themselves to furnish the given quantity of sugar beets to the sugar mill. Annually the prices are fixed by the Board of Directors at which the mill buys the sugar beets from its stockholder-farmers. This assures a fair price to the cultivators. The stock is limited as to dividends — ten per cent per annum in this case.

The division of the Board of Directors is of interest. The sugar beet growers elect three-fifths of the members and the investors two-fifths. The executive committee is constituted on similar lines.

Under this method the mill is assured of a constant supply of sugar beets the farmer knows where to dispose of his crop and a fair return is the reward of both the sugar beet producer and the investor.

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Czechoslovak Business Opportunities

102 A manufacturer of stereotype machinery is anxious to enlarge his business and with that end in view seeks a partner with capital. There is a large possibility of an export trade.

103 A large export house of Czechoslovakia offers hand made embroidery, such as handkerchiefs, curtains, ladies' collars, etc.

104 A large concern of Jablonz offers Bohemian cut glass and other products of that district.

105 A noncorroding, rust and damp proof paint is offered in any quantities.

106 An inventor seeks to market a safety device which may be used on elevators, automobiles, and engines.

107 A large Prague export house seeks a representative for the United States to sell "Bohemian Hops".

SAVE YOUR MONEY!

This is an opportunity to secure the "Czechoslovak Review" for one year and a copy of "The Čechs (Bohemians) in America" by Thomas Capek at reduced rates.

The combination is offered for a limited time—while the books last. The price for both is only \$3.75 payable with your order.

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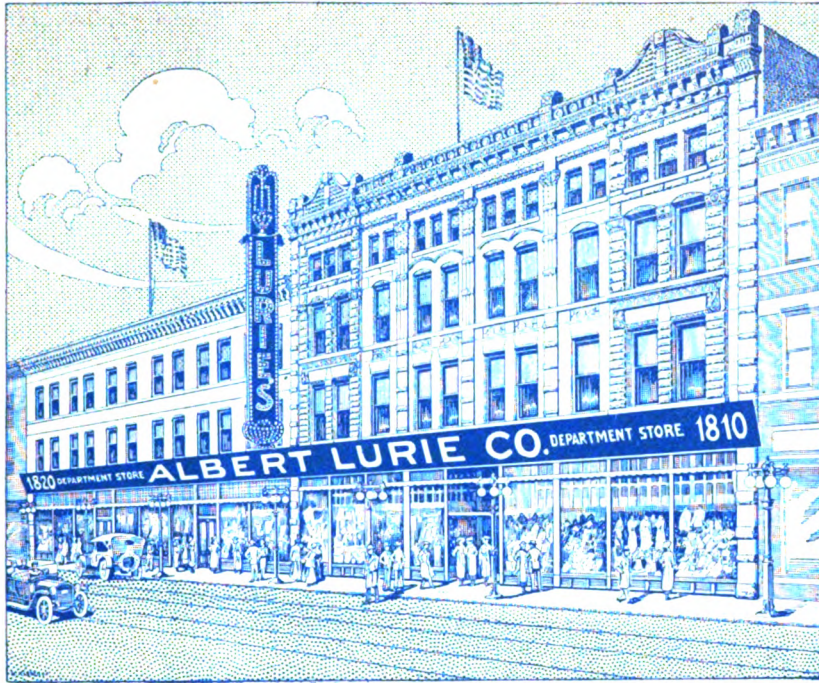
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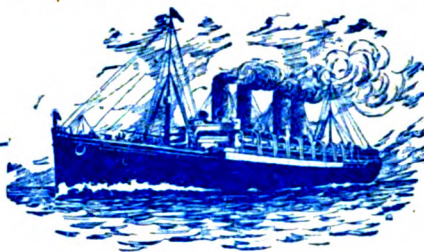
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Notes On Child Welfare in Czechoslovakia

By JULIA C. LATHROP.

Of all the spoils of war ever brought home by a returning army, surely the most unexpected were brought this spring to Prague with the troops repatriated from Siberia. I mean the 300 children who gradually had been picked up by the Czech soldiers in the course of their troublous five years' progress across Russia.

The children were of all sorts and conditions, but they were gathered in, because they had in common, hunger and nakedness and lack of all the homely care and teaching which rightfully belong to childhood.

With the human warmth of the true Czech spirit, the army adopted them and shared with them what it had. If food was scant, it was not the children who went hungry. With true Czech common sense, the army cared for them: tailors were detailed to cut over uniforms and make clothes for them, and teachers were found and detailed to keep school and teach letters and behavior.

And so they all came home together, — the soldiers to an old home made free and hopeful by the Revolution in whose success they bore so great a part, — and the children to a new home where they will be given a fair chance in the life of the new democratic Republic.

Perhaps I ought to confess that I failed to see these children. They were lodged a half day's journey from the city and although we planned repeatedly to take a day for the excursion, it was never possible.

Another war trophy I saw:—in company with a delegation of English journalists, I had the privilege of meeting face to face in their pit in the President's town garden, the amiable Russian bears brought by the repatriated soldiers as an offering to

President Masaryk. The behavior of the bears showed admirable training and I am pleased to say that they paid no attention to the visitors. Plainly Czech common sense saw that the bears were less likely to be demoralized by admiring visitors than were the children and so the children were placed out of harm's way.

When soldiers on foreign soil show such willingness to take pains for children, it may be expected that the country to which they belong will assign due importance to the protection of childhood, and evidence of Czechoslovakia's fundamental solicitude for child welfare is found in the provision of the new constitution that "marriage, the family and maternity are under the special protection of the law." Here, for the first time in the organic law of a country, so far as I know, is the welfare of mother and child expressly recognized as the concern of statecraft.

Like every other war-harrowed country, Czechoslovakia has pressing child welfare problems. If she solves them in the spirit of her Constitution and her soldiers, she will teach the world much. War tries the endurance of civilians in ways never so clearly seen as now, when tables of figures prove the lowered birth rate, the losses of children and of the aged, the impoverishment of the vitality of survivors; when juvenile courts and other agencies report increased numbers of delinquent children, when the long closing of schools of the lack of schools makes illiteracy an alarming evil and when the homeless and war-orphaned children form an army to be estimated by many hundred thousands.

It will not be possible before the census of this autumn to know the precise population figures of Czechoslovakia, with the

number of children of different ages; but the emergency does not wait for this information. It is estimated that there are 300,000 war orphans who have a claim

for depriving many children of both parents, for mothers have died of typhus and other diseases and hardships brought by war. In the invaded territories, families



Miss Julia L. Lathrop, chief Children's Bureau, U. S. Department of Labor.

upon the Government for all that they may need, whether it be complete support or only their share of the education and opportunities which the state offers every child. Also the war has been responsible

have been driven out and children lost. The war period has exhausted the savings of families formerly in comfortable independence. Hence, although the exact facts are unknown, it is clear that there are

great numbers of helpless children without proper homes.

The suffering from lack of food has been very grave, the European Children's Fund fed only the most acutely needy cases yet there were 300,000 in Czechoslovakia to whom a supplemental daily meal was given this year. While the rich harvest of the present summer promises adequate food supplies for the coming winter, it would be a most unfortunate error to imagine that all need of food from this country has ceased. The fresh milk supply is still almost non-existent in Prague, and the little children of that great crowded city will need special supplies of preserved milk.

I believe also that older children, especially those in the early teens who are just beginning to work, should have a liberal diet, not mere sustenance. At the prevailing food prices, they cannot earn enough to buy all they need and unless they are amply nourished during the strain of early adolescence, we may expect that the already large numbers of tuberculous persons will be increased by the early breakdown of working children and young persons who have spent already six years on a diet totally inadequate for proper growth.

The stunting of growth from the war underfeeding, is a recognized commonplace. The manager of a factory in Prague where many girls between fourteen and twenty were employed, said: "We have always had some little girls. Now it seems as if they were all little."

There was something singularly appealing about these slender, almost dwarfed young girls who would soon be marrying and helping to carry on the life of a nation. Can they bestow a vigor they do not possess? How far into the future will the wound be felt of "hunger, the cruellest weapon"? What of the young men and boys no better fed?

My own observation indicates that friends in this country who want to help the children of Czechoslovakia and the future of the land, can aid greatly by sending the food package orders devised by Mr. Hoover. This method sends food into the country, and by so much increasing the actual supply it tends to lower prices and this to help everybody as well as the direct recipients. I believe it is hardly possible

to exaggerate the national benefit to be derived from generous feeding of the present generation of children.

But though food is the first necessity, there are other imperative needs: The homeless children present a particular problem. No institutions exist to shelter large numbers. So far these children are fairly normal, it appears to me that they will grow up to be most valuable to themselves and to the Republic if they are reared in carefully selected families at government expense and under government supervision, instead of being placed in institutions, even were institutions available. My opinion is not based upon an abstraction but upon personal knowledge of the workings of soldiers' orphan asylums in the United States, while my confidence in the practicability of boarding-out is based upon the examples of the frugal home-loving people of Scotland and of New South Wales, upon various successful undertakings in the United States and upon the work already begun in Czechoslovakia itself. One incidental advantage of governmental boarding-out at this time is that the conditions laid down as to the care to be given the boarded children will raise or stabilize the standard of living and of behavior for the families and will in many cases enable a mother to maintain her home and keep her children under her own care by taking one or two others to board.

Institutions are urgently needed for feeble-minded and defective children who have probably increased in number during the last six years. Unquestionably tuberculous and anaemic children are more numerous—and these need sanatorium care if they are to be restored. In many of our states deaf children are taught advantageously to themselves in the public day schools with hearing children, but while this method is practicable in large towns, it will be necessary to continue to provide institutions for rural children, in Czechoslovakia.

These instances are enough to suggest the old and new demands for institutions which must be met by using buildings now existing, since new buildings could hardly be erected in time to meet the needs of the present generation of children. The Survey of Prague made by the Y. M. C. A. secretaries under Miss Ruth Crawford's direction, showed 2,000 charitable activi-

ties in that city. Doubtless many are useful and active but if we may judge by the experience of other countries, it is probable that a careful analysis of the work for children would show small, separate, ineffective, struggling institutions carried on undoubtedly with great self-sacrifice; but capable of much more useful service for the commonwealth if working together in a general cooperating plan.

Bohemia possesses near Prague a successful instance of boarding-out normal children or colony care, as it is called there, which is sure to prove a leading example in the present emergency. The

being shown here, to make a recent visitor to Czechoslovakia acknowledge the physical, mental and moral value of the characteristic national athletic training.

The ardor for universal education and for physical vigor are among the signs of the democratic development which will take place as the country is allowed to proceed undisturbed in accord with its own genius.

Another good augury for the future of child welfare lies in the new universal suffrage, the absolute equality of opportunity afforded men and women. Women are not wiser than men, but their part of the



Dr. Alice Masaryk Petting a Siberian Bear.

taking of homeless children into families to rear may well be urged as a patriotic service of the highest order. Much good could be done by an endowment for this purpose like the Frank Fund in Chicago, which has been in successful but quiet operation for many years.

Great progress has already been made in providing schools in the provinces where they are most needed but it will require time and effort to bring all parts of the republic to the high level of education already attained by Bohemia.

It did not require the wonderful photographs of the great Sokol Celebration, now

world's work in rearing the young and keeping the home is now for the first time receiving legal recognition, and already they are beginning to show that out of their experience they have new and invaluable contributions to offer to the State.

When I saw them going together to vote on Sunday morning in a great city throughout which the decorum was as perfect in the polling places as in the churches, it seemed the beginning of a new era of simple democracy which we foolishly have though unattainable. If democracy means anything, it means the growth of opportunity for each individual, the end of fatal-

ism. It means that all the wisdom of science shall be applied to common life—not hoarded, but spent—it means for mothers, less fruitless sentimentality but more true esteem, and for children richer preparation for life. It means that the weak and the bad will diminish, not by punishment and repression of individuals

but by the growing strength, the courageous moral and mental vigor of the race.

All this I saw writ so large and sure that I dared forget the present abominable confusion and poverty of Central Europe and believe that Czechoslovakia is strong enough to compel a peaceful, progressing democracy as the heritage of its children.

The Month in Czechoslovakia

A break in the ranks of the Social Democratic Party seemed imminent. Within the organization there developed a small group which advocated methods communistic and anarchistic. In Prague, recently, a conference of the adherents of the so-called Right Wing was held. A resolution was unanimously adopted providing that steps should be taken to "safeguard the Republic" and to assure "its existence against attempts of the communistically anarchistic" efforts. The 248 delegates were a unit in accepting this declaration. Not long thereafter the leaders of the two factions (Right and Left Wings) got together behind closed doors and as a result of this exchange of ideas the breach appears to be healed. Hereafter they shall work in complete harmony.

Dr. Hotovetz, a member of the Cabinet in charge of the development of foreign commerce of the Czechoslovak Republic, recently met representatives of the Czechoslovak Manufacturers National Association in Prague and discussed very freely the policies to be pursued by the government in the up-building of foreign trade. Among other things, he said, "We cannot constantly purchase food stuffs in the West and transport them under the existing high transportation costs from America and other countries, when we have, within easy distance, the grain supplies in the Balkans and in Hungary. We must shape our foreign trade politics so that they will flow in such channels as will enable us to buy all our industrial raw materials in the East, where we must market our finished products". This naturally means the end of purchasing raw materials in America, except for certain absolute essentials, be-

cause of the existing unfavorable exchange rates, the high transportation tariffs and the lack of market for Czechoslovak goods.

In a recent issue, *Národní Politika* observes that under the Teschen decision of the Council of Ambassadors, the city of Teschen is divided in two parts. The railway station and surrounding new sections are to remain with the Czechoslovak Republic while the old section with its public buildings, its barracks and business quarters goes to Poland. City water supply and gas works are in Czechoslovakia and the municipal electric plant in Poland. He who would undertake a shopping journey across the city must secure export and import permits, undergo a double severe customs inspection for, unfortunately, every tailor or baker lives in the Polish section. Manufacturing plants and larger industrial undertakings are grouped near the railroad, but the bulk of labor lives in Poland. Therefore it must cross the boundary line four times daily. Similar conditions prevail in the coal district. The mines are in Czechoslovakia and the miners live, in greater part, on Polish territory from which they travel daily to their work. It is feared that even though the railroad is under the control of the Czechoslovak Republic smugglers will reap a rich harvest because it is impossible to have any sort of strict control under the existing conditions.

The daily press reports that Czechoslovakia, Jugoslavia and Roumania have formed the "Little Entente". One of the first things undertaken by this group of new nations in an attempt to adjust the dif-

ferences existing between Jugoslavia and Italy, particularly the Fiume question. If the reports are true, and there seems to be very little reason for doubting their authenticity, it is only a realization of the idea which every one versed in European affairs possessed. Economically, it is of signal advantage because Roumania and Jugoslavia are dependent for industrial products upon Czechoslovakia. On the other hand Czechoslovakia is dependent upon Roumania and Jugoslavia for its raw materials. Finished product must be bartered for raw materials. This becomes constantly more evident when one analyzes the economic situation prevailing in Europe. Naturally the interchange of commodities is bound to bring people closer together. Economic relations foster better feelings. If the position of Poland had warranted it, undoubtedly it would have been included in this new combination. This step may be taken to mean the birth of a new era of better understanding and cooperation in war-torn Central Europe.

The stagnation produced by the gyros-copic movements in Czechoslovak exchange is causing much uneasiness to industrial circles. At the instigation of President Masaryk an Advisory Council representing all walks of life was organized to formulate recommendations as to the best means of setting in motion the producing machinery of the country. The organization of this council is hailed by labor as well as capital.

It is honestly striving to formulate plans so that resumption of production and consequent marketing may immediately be effected. Minister of Commerce, Kuneš Sontag, attended one meeting recently. It is rather refreshing to read the commendation meted by the *Tribuna* to Deputy R. Tayerle, which said, "With great satisfaction we note the voice of the representative of labor, Deputy Tayerle, who unselfishly advocates the creation of strong economic institutions which may flow as a result of the work of the Advisory Council. Such acknowledgement for cooperation is actually one of those unusually gratifying indications of the last few months". Mr. Tayerle pleaded not the acceptance of resolutions but the undertaking of greater production. He pointed out that, "Factories for the manufacture of bentwood

furniture cannot export because, first, they have no export permits, and second, because no freight cars are available. This is characteristic in other industries. This results in unemployment and the discharging of labor, and it is not to be wondered that labor comes forward with the cry, 'Take over the factories'."

Mr. Tayerle was one of the Czechoslovak delegates to the International Labor Conference held in Washington in November, 1919.

Industry is practically at a standstill. The rapid rise of the crown caused the cancellation of many export orders and correspondingly frustrated contemplated purchases of much raw material. From day to day the manufacturer does not know what price he is to receive for his article. He can only sell that which he has actually in possession. He cannot buy raw materials because he does not know what price he will be forced to pay. Not only is Czechoslovak currency affected, but all European currencies are affected. Speculation is running riot and it is said that in Switzerland every man, woman and child gambles in foreign exchange. Naturally workers become restive and dissatisfied under such conditions. Every day life is made more difficult because of the constant rise in the cost of living while wages correspondingly do not increase. It is a deplorable situation, yet, in spite of all things, an American traveller, recently returned from Czechoslovakia, stated that in his opinion the Czechoslovak crown at home had a purchasing value of ten cents while in the exchange markets it was worth only two cents.

Slovakia has been overrun by Magyar agitators who incited people to resist the authority of the government and counselled them to allow the crops to rot in the fields. Conditions became so alarming that the Cabinet decided to get at the root of the trouble. An edict was issued commanding all persons not citizens of the Czechoslovak Republic sojourning in Slovakia to appear before competent tribunals, there to present their passports for inspection and explain their presence. As a result many Magyars with and without creden-

tials were caught in this drag-net and ordered to leave the country. So that there might be no reentry of these people, martial law was declared in Slovakia.

Dr. Ivan Markovič, a Slovak member of the Social Democratic party, has been appointed Minister of National Defense. In view of the present chaotic conditions prevailing in Central Europe this post will be of the utmost importance. One of the principal tasks of the incoming minister will be the organization of the militia to replace the present standing army.

Schools are being established with somewhat of a feverish haste, in keeping with the demand of the people. At Chrudim a seminary, where young women will be prepared as instructors in domestic science, is to be opened this fall. Graduates will then be sent to various parts of the Republic to teach in local schools. At Hranice, in Moravia, a high school of forestry is to open this fall. The Czechoslovaks scientifically cultivate their forests and the establishments of this new school, whose graduates will be placed in charge of the vast forests to be taken over by the State, will meet the demands of the hour. At Beroun a school, where cooperative business principles are to be taught to youths over sixteen years of age, is also scheduled to open this fall.

Prague is fast becoming the center of Central European communication. Czechoslovakia has obtained concessions from Germany, which permit the construction of a telegraph line from Prague to Emden. The English government owns the cable, now out of repair, between Emden and London. It is expected that the British will repair the Emden-London cable and the construction of the Prague-Emden overland line will be immediately started. This will give Prague a direct wire to London and a quick cable service to America.

Czechoslovakia is to have an air mail service. Definite contracts have been signed with a French-Roumanian corporation, which will undertake the transportation by aeroplane of mail matter for the Ministry of Posts. The first line to be established is between Prague and Paris. If

this proves successful, lines in other directions will be inaugurated immediately.

Minister of Railroads, K. Stříbrný, has issued a statement wherein he states that Czechoslovak concerns have built 106 locomotives, 159 tenders and 14,558 freight and passenger cars since January 1st, 1919. He further stated that there is a shortage of 6,000 day coaches and 60,000 freight cars, that it is not possible to build all of these within the Republic but that large numbers must be secured from foreign manufacturers in order to relieve traffic congestion. American firms, it is rumored, are negotiating with the government with a view to supplying a number of cars and locomotives.

Some time this fall, possibly in October or November, the Czechoslovak mint at Kremnice will begin operations. It is reported that the 50 heller piece, made of a nickle bronze, will be the first coin. The National Assembly will determine final details very shortly. A competition in which designs for the new coins have been submitted resulted in a recommendation of the work of sculptors Španihel and Šturs-Later, when conditions warrant it, gold and silver coin will also be coined.

Pursuant to the authority of the National Assembly a committee of seven members is now engaged in revising the criminal code of Czechoslovakia. The elaborate and cumbersome old Austrian criminal code will be simplified and brought up-to-date. It is expected that by the end of September the committee working on the new draft will have its report ready for action by the National Assembly.

The battle-scarred banner of the Jan Hus regiment was decorated by General Janin with the French War cross in the presence of President Masaryk, Dr. Eduard Beneš and other dignitaries. Immediately thereafter General Janin pinned the Commander's Cross of the Legion of Honor on General Syrový. Color Sergeant Hrabíl, Lieut. Col. Voču were also awarded Legion of Honor decorations for personal bravery on the field of battle.

The post office department has put into effect, on August 1st, new postal rates. The fees for letters intended for delivery in countries which are members of the international postal union are 1 C. 25 h. for the first twenty grams or a fraction thereof, and for each additional twenty grams or fraction 75 h. is added.

The Great War has left deep scars on all classes of people in the Republic. Under-nourishment has brought about tuberculosis in many instances. For employees of the State railroads afflicted with the "White Plague", the Minister of Railways has established at *Květnici*, a health resort in the high mountains of Slovakia, a sanitarium where their treatment, under proper conditions will be undertaken.

It is currently reported that within the domains of Czechoslovakia there are no less than 250,000 graves as a result of deaths during the war. In Bohemia there are 50,000 graves, in Moravia and Silesia 80,000 and in Slovakia 120,000. Tuberculosis and typhus raged unsparingly in internment camps and the toll included not only interned aliens and captured allied soldiers but many Czechs and Slovaks, who were concentrated in stockades upon slightest pretexts.

Vital statistics for the city of Prague for the six months ending June 30, 1920, has just been made public. They show 2,098 births as against 2,463 births for the twelve months of the year 1919. It is true that many families have moved into Prague within the last eighteen months, but notwithstanding, the increase is remarkable. It is said that a large number of births is recorded in every section of the country. Another singular thing about the Prague figures is that approximately three times as many boys as girls are born.

Prague consumes approximately 100,000,000 kilowatt hours of electricity in a year. To generate this force 200,000 tons of bituminous coal are required. The approximate cost of hauling this quantity of coal from the mines to the power houses is 6,000,000 Cs. crowns. In keeping with

the tendencies of the times to develop economic processes to reduce high costs, A. Balcar, an engineer, advocates in *New Labor*, of Prague, the transfer of the generating stations from the vicinity of the city of Prague to points near the mines and transmitting electrical energy over high voltage cables to distributing sub-stations in the city. He further points out that the transmission and transformer losses would amount to considerably less than the freight charges on the coal and that the saving thus effected will quickly amortize the cost of power house removal and transmission line construction.

Roumania is desirous of placing contracts for the delivery of 4,000 locomotives with the Škoda Works of Pilsen. Should the proposed contract be consummated it will mean that the locomotive department of this vast enterprise will be busy for a number of years to come.

In Prague, in the Vinohrady Theatre, John Drinkwater's great success, "Abraham Lincoln", is being produced in Bohemian. The people are intensely interested in the story of the great American emancipator and are flocking to the performances.

From July 31st to August 8th the Automobile Show was held by the Prague Automobile Club. It was a signal success where many foreign firms, as well as all domestic firms, were represented.

The Slovak League of America, of which Mr. Albert Mamatey is President, has conferred an honorary membership on President Masaryk.

So that Czechoslovakia may obtain the Rumanian oil it has been forced to place at the disposal of the *Caile Feraate Romane* five locomotives with the necessary crews to haul tank cars with oil from Campini and Ploesti to Girgiu on the Danube for re-shipment in tankers to Bratislava. While it was a sacrifice by Czechoslovakia to part with these locomotives yet the accruing benefit to industry is such as to warrant this move.

Czechoslovakia

By CHARLES C. CHOPP.*

President of The World's Products Research Company.

The birth of a new republic is a milestone in history and involves problems in government and industry which require, in their solution, a high quality of statesmanship. To establish successfully a new republic in Central Europe means the surmounting of difficulties which most of us in America do not appreciate and only half understand.

Central Europe has long been the stronghold of autocratic monarchical governments and the people in the territory which now constitutes Czechoslovakia were among the chief sufferers. They are an unusually well educated and cultured people, statistics show only one half of one percent illiteracy, their industries are highly developed and their country is one of the garden spots of the world. In spite of these qualifications, however, they have had little real voice in the management of their government or industries. The Czechs and Slovaks were compelled to submit to the dictates of the government at Vienna and Budapest in which they had slight representation, but very little influence, their industries were controlled by and exploited for the benefit of German and Austrian capitalists and their international banking was monopolized by the international banking houses of Berlin or Vienna.

This situation could have only one result when the Czechs and Slovaks obtained the independence for which they had been hoping and struggling for centuries. Experienced governmental administrators, industrial executives and international bankers cannot be developed over night and the roots of a system which has fastened itself upon a country for generations cannot be up-rooted at will. The people who today make up Czechoslovakia have a common national aspiration but they are not yet homogeneous and it is naturally difficult

at times to reconcile varying interests. Further, there is continual opposition, sometimes carefully concealed, from those who were formerly in authority and from those elements in the community who under the new order of things have been deprived of the special social, economic and political privilege which they formerly enjoyed.

In spite of these handicaps, however, I have absolute confidence that Czechoslovakia has an unusually bright future. In President Masaryk she has one of the greatest statesmen of the world. The country is extremely fortunate in having in its service one who combines in such a high degree the qualities of intellect, force, sympathy, understanding, leadership and diplomacy. He has gathered about him a Cabinet of capable, earnest men, which ranks with the Cabinets of any of the older nations. These leaders are going ahead confidently, tackling and settling the many problems as they arise; are dealing fairly with every element in the community, and their success has been the marvel of both Europe and America. This admiration and recognition from the outside world is increasing their self-confidence and bringing out latent powers in the people which had never before had an opportunity to assert themselves. The progress already made has regenerated the people and raised not only themselves, but their Czechoslovak kin in America, in the estimation of people of other nationalities.

It would be idle, however, to claim that their problems are already solved. The task of reconstruction can only be completely accomplished after years of effort. Just a few references will indicate how far reaching and important these problems are. In pre-war days the country's industrial production was dependent on German and Austrian agencies for world distribution; the Prague banks were provincial in character and not organized to do an international business while the railways were subsidiaries and branches of the German and Austrian trunk lines. To reorganize and reconstruct these fundamentals of industrial prosperity requires not only men

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with vision and initiative but capital and credit.

Today Czechoslovakia has capital and credit in limited amount only in spite of the fact that its industrial position, its agricultural development and its mineral wealth would in normal times command almost unlimited credit. Conditions in Czechoslovakia and neighboring countries are not normal, however, and just for that reason the people in America of Czechoslovak birth or descent have a golden opportunity which they should be far-sighted enough to grasp. Financial help from America did much to make the birth of the new republic possible and financial co-operation will be the best assurance of rapid and sound reconstruction. The sane constructive work of the government at Prague has raised the Czechoslovak races in the estimation of the world and patriotism and pride of ancestry should urge us to do everything within our power to help our fatherland on the road to success. Aside from patriotism there is a real opportunity for American Czechoslovaks to make good financial returns during the next few years. The country has industrial possibilities that are not surpassed by any country in Europe and when political conditions in neighboring nations improve it will be one of the open doors for Russian and Balkan trade.

Czechoslovakia has a wonderful export opportunity, which can be taken advantage of immediately, if raw materials and credits are made available. Well built and efficiently equipped plants with an abundant supply of skilled labor put the textile manufacturing industry in a particularly favorable position. Credit is the only thing needed to put the steel and iron industry on a prosperous and profitable basis, because coal is abundant and iron ore is available. There are no more skilled cabinet makers anywhere than in Czechoslovakia and the bentwood furniture which they manufacture is known and sold in every corner of the world. This industry is capable of wonderful development. Glass manufacturing is another of the major industries and sure to become more important. The Gablenz district beaded goods, imitation pearls, buttons, embroideries, laces, jewelry, toys and kindred products are known the world over. The agricultural production in normal times is much more than adequate for home needs. Sugar can be exported in

great quantities as well as many other miscellaneous food products. Czechoslovakia has fortunately been blessed with abundant natural resources such as timber, coal and many of the more important minerals, so that her future industrially is assured if given a proper start.

The country needs cotton, copper, brass, mineral and vegetable oils, rosin, turpentine, fertilizers and other raw materials from the United States. America could also sell them modern labor saving automatic machinery and tools, agricultural implements, automobiles, tires, mechanical rubber goods and many other miscellaneous manufactured products.

Czechoslovakia, given an opportunity, the right kind of co-operation and financial assistance from the American Czechoslovaks could very soon take her proper place among the powers of Europe and it would not be long before her commerce would show credit balances. There is even now no good reason why Czechoslovak crowns should be fluctuating around fifty to the dollar because the country's natural resources, industrial plants, buildings and construction are intact. With our confidence and understanding, and based upon the country's national wealth and stability, the crown should be several times its present value in dollars. Speculators in European exchange are probably more responsible than anything else for the present unfavorable rate.

Let us not stand idly by while this nation of brave men and women are struggling for an existence, they are not asking Charity, they need our co-operation and assistance, and they are deserving of it, we must not fail them.

ATTENDANCE AT CZECHOSLOVAK UNIVERSITIES AND TECHNICAL SCHOOLS, 1919-1920.

	Teaching Staff	Students
Czech University, Prague.....	228	7,051
Czech University, Brno	16	490
Czech University, Bratislava....	10	124
Czech Technical School, Prague	130	6,268
Czech Technical School, Brno....	73	1,174
Total	457	15,107
German University, Prague.....	167	3,043
German Technical School, Prague	60	1,600
German Technical School, Brno..	65	1,592
Total	292	6,235

Russinina

At the easternmost extremity of Czechoslovakia is the autonomous state of Russinina, added to the new Republic by the Treaty of St. Germain. The political liberation of this people known as the Russinians, is due, in a large measure, to the united efforts of the Russianian emigrants in the United States, whose action was unanimously approved by the Central Russian National Council at Užhorod (Ungvar) on May 8th, 1919.

Russinina has a population of 600,000 and an area of 12,097 square kilometers. It is bordered on the north by the high peaks of the Carpathians which separate it from eastern Galicia, while its neighbors to the west and east are the Roumanians, the Magyars and the Slovaks.

With the exception of 100,000 Magyars and 50,000 Germans the inhabitants speak Russianian, a language which still employs the Cyrillic characters. It is akin to Russian and is intelligible to Slovaks and Czechs. Ninety-seven percent of the Russinians are Uniates (members of the Greek Church) who use ancient Slavonic as their liturgical language and observe the rites of the Eastern Church.

The northern part of this country is entirely covered with extensive forests, principally pine and oak. The mountain streams afford many opportunities for hydroelectric development, to furnish inexpensive light and power with the resulting saving of fuel and transportation facilities. The southern part is a plain adapted to agriculture. The Russinians are either mountaineers or peasants. The number of industrial establishments is negligible. The country is especially rich in minerals, iron ore in particular; it also abounds in petroleum, salt, mineral waters and a number of black granite quarries. The vineyards, which produce a noteworthy grape, are situated in the outskirts of Serevne, near Užhorod. Their wines rival the famous Tokay wine.

By virtue of the clauses of the St. Germain Treaty, Russinina possesses "the maximum of autonomy compatible with the unity of the Czechoslovak Republic"; it is to have a local Diet vested with jurisdiction over linguistic, ecclesiastical, educational and all other matters referred to it by the Czechoslovak Parliament. The chief executive of

the State is a Governor, appointed by the President of the Republic. Until April 20, 1920, the civil administration and all legislative affairs were entrusted to a commission consisting of five members and a controller. Since that date, the Czechoslovak Constitution no longer permitted a continuance of this temporary arrangement, and Gregory J. Žatkovič, former chairman of the Commission, was appointed Governor and Peter Ehrenfeld, Vice-Governor. They are aided in their administrative duties by a number of commissioners each of whom is in charge of a special department. In legislative affairs there is a council of sixteen members—four nominated by the President of the Republic and the others elected by municipal districts.

In Gregory J. Žatkovič we have an excellent illustration of what America does for her immigrants. As a child he arrived, was taken to the coal mining regions of Pennsylvania where he worked and attended school. When he had saved sufficient funds he came to New York, attended DeWitt Clinton High School and worked after school hours. Then at Duquesne University he took his bachelor's degree and worked after school hours. Finally he went to Law School of the University of Pennsylvania, from which he graduated with honors. He was an American citizen but had an interest in the land of his birth. He, more than any other person, is responsible for the independence of Russinina.

Election to the local Diet will be held shortly. It will be a single chamber of forty members. Once this Diet is organized the constitutional existence of Russinina begins and immediately thereafter deputies and senators to the Czechoslovak Parliament will be elected. The existing political parties, Russianian Social Democrats and the Russianian National Socialists, have already begun pre-election campaigns.

Owing to the large proportion of illiterates (75 percent) among the population, education presents a difficult problem. Fortunately, however, valuable assistance of several thousand Russinians from America will be available. They will return to the country, bringing with them not only

the learning that is much needed but also a spirit of true democracy. The country is very interesting and vies with Switzerland in its picturesque aspects. With the help and cooperation of the Czechs and Slovaks, Russia will soon emerge from the stag-

nation in which it has been steeped for a thousand years by Magyar tyranny.

Užhorod, the capital, with a population of 18,000 inhabitants, is 800 kilometers from Prague, with which it has direct railway communication.

Toy Industry

By Dr. JINDŘICH VESELÝ.*)

A study of children's toys aids the ethnographer, the historian, the artist, the psychologist, the pedagogue and even the economist in their tasks. Certain types are repeated in all eras and by all nations. Difference is found merely in technical production because as culture advances playthings shed their primitiveness and their characteristics are changed by advanced factory production, which, at all times, makes for uniformity. But internationalization, frequently, places them beyond childish comprehension. Such means of amusement are discovered by archeologists with mummies, in graves and in caskets of the young. This is also demonstrated by the excavations of Pompeii as well as by observations of explorers in countries inhabited by nations less advanced. All leading museums possess in their collections, specimens of rattles, dolls, boats, tops, hoops, balls, animals, soldiers, whistles, etc. It is highly probable that all of these toys were made in various places almost simultaneously, without doubt independently and without any connection.

The division of labor has also reached into the production of toys, which thereby are made an article of commerce to be purchased for the youngster, for the parents of this age have not the time, inclination, tools or even possibly the ingenuity to create them.

Display windows of toy shops are frequently overfilled with wonderful specimens which renders selection difficult, particularly when the desires of the child exceed the capacity of the purse. Intense competition and feverish publicity and activity have permeated the industry. Much is manufactured. That production should be simple, rapid and prices within reach,

wood replaces metal, *papier mache* is substituted for wood and the molder takes the place of the wood carver.

To fundamental types are added the new, the modish—locomotives, autos, aeroplanes—which reflect the comparative state of civilization and the feverish mood of the day.

It is regrettable that the present day toy industry literally pours out such quantities of finished articles, which, through quantitative production, lose individual characterization.

It is sad that we overlook the opportunity to bring the soul of the child in harmony with the purpose of the toy—that we press wholehearted participation. When a parent desires to purchase a book for a child he consults authoritative critics as to what is most suitable. But where will he find a consultant in the selection of toys? Who is an authority in the vast labyrinth of toy goods? Which toy will bring out and hold the child's instinctive interests and feelings? Which toy brings into play the senses, which urge to action?

It is necessary to differentiate between toys made by common people and those by professionals. People's toys, like folk songs, are the embodiment of the spirit of the creators. They are anonymous, unequalled and thus far unexcelled for simplicity, gaily colored and fully capable to awake illusions. Just as in the middle ages, Germany was far-famed for its toys and the French basket weavers and wood carvers for fashioned toys, so in Bohemia, Moravia and Slovakia we excel in the present day. In these impoverished districts we find families, in fact whole generations, which live by making toys. An experienced granddad assorts the wood, men carve, women decorate, while children glue and varnish finished parts. The return for this labor is very meagre, therefore it is nec-

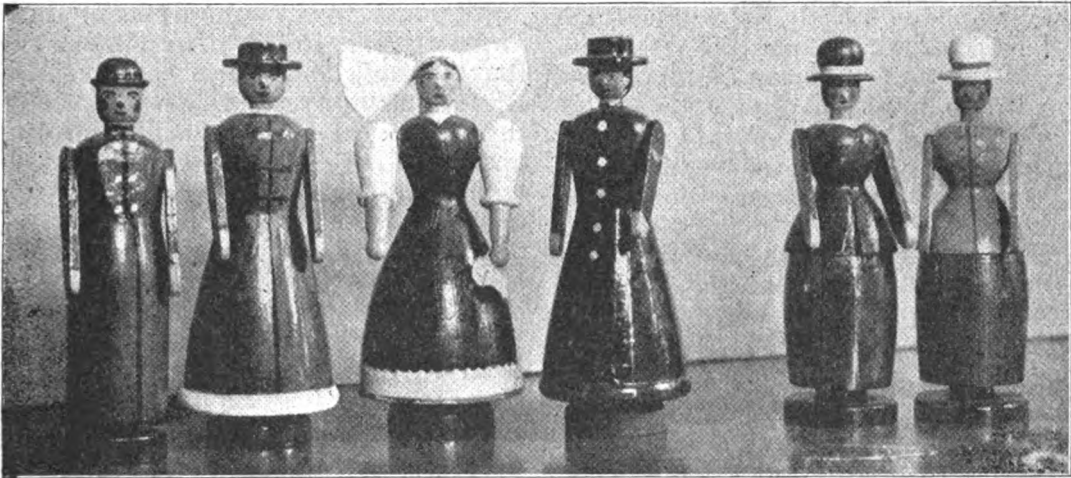
*) Translated from the Journal of the Prague Sample Fair.

essary that they work in groups, that they produce quantitatively to exist.

Artistic toys are designed by specialists and are made by them or under their supervision and produced in unlimited quantities by factories. Just as in people's toys, even the artistic ones should be solid, well made of good material, well colored and naturally useful. Since the close of the world war, all signs indicate that the Czechoslovak toy industry has a bright future, because foreigners are interested in our production.

America's markets are flooded with play-wares labelled "Made in Japan", and statistics show that 95% are supplied by the land of Nippon. Before the war America used German toys valued at \$8,000,000,

- 2, To dignify all our resources and to classify according to subjects in order to satisfy foreign consumption;
- 3, To assure a large export, it is necessary to study all novelties, not only to improve time but to eventually produce better goods;
- 4, In order that these things may be realized it is necessary to form an export association to handle our products in distant lands. It is necessary to advertise in order that other peoples may have a greater knowledge of our production;
- 5, The producers of our toys who are able to export should, each year, issue a joint catalogue, giving definite prices and in suitable centers main-



Czechoslovak "Dolls".

while the total German production was placed at \$33,000,000, giving employment to at least 100,000 people.

That our toys should find ready and lasting foreign markets it is necessary to have systematic production, critical and fair pricing, a diversity of subjects and a world-view of the requirements of the markets. If our toy industry should possess a good reputation it must not only produce but it must manufacture well and master world marketing. That these ends may be attained it is necessary to take cognizance of the following:

- 1, To have before us samples of all things produced individually, cooperatively and by large establishments of all sections of our country;

tain representative group exhibits of their wares and production.

A toy—that is a child. In a toy, just as in a fable or a story, is hidden a child poesy or the lyrics of life. Therefore a wholesome and successful export of Czechoslovak toys will act as an educator to distant worlds.

All Bohemia is a land of romance. In the hills and mountains there are picturesque castles perched upon the craggy mountains or concealed cleverly in rocky clefts. The very name Bohemia is associated with wild and wonderful legends of the rude, barbaric ages. It has been the battleground of nations. Today it is the land of story and legend, as in the olden days it was the land of loyal knights and robber barons.—Nevin O. Winter in "Travel."

The Future *)

That a return of the pre-war conditions and times is never to be realized is the consensus of judgment of competent observers. They forever belong to the by-gone past. He who basks in the rays of the hope that once again all those things — which were here then — will ever return misleads not only himself but even those surrounding him. The great war reached too vigorously into the intricate machinery of the whole world, into lives, into all matters of the people and left deep and unhealing scars. New mottoes and ideas were heard. Then began a contest of mighty forces and vast resources. All these, naturally, have a certain influence on the new order of things, both political and social. He who refuses to give due weight to these facts and deceives himself with thoughts of times now past naturally must fall under a spell of incurable pessimism. Only people who are able to adjust themselves to new conditions are the ones who may reckon with success. Weighing new forces with lamentations and light judgment accomplishes nothing. The principal task of our politicians and leaders is to keep these new forces in their proper channels.

For a nation, a most important thing is to survive the transition period — probably five or six years — which will be fraught with ferment, seething, reeling, various surprises, difficulties and crises. Whichever state manages to weather this era without bloody revolutions will fare best.

Political leaders must not give consideration exclusively to local questions or only to problems of the state, but must constantly solve them with due appreciation of prevailing world conditions. Never was production and spiritual effort of every state so dependent on external conditions as at this particular time.

“Do not promise labor more than can be given,” is the initial world problem. This does not imply that social reforms should not be undertaken, but all these must be tempered with common sense, treated as an actuality and not effected by fear on the one side or as a result of a fanatic attack

of the other side. From the ranks of labor men of signal courage must rise; men who are able to tell the working classes that a government by the proletariat is nonsense and that it must seek a common ground on which it is possible to meet with other classes.

It is essential to point out that even this problem cannot be solved except simultaneously in all states, if for no other reason than that it is world-wide.

No politician believes Bolshevism can take root in cultured states. To transfer Russian programs and methods to some other countries is an utter impossibility, as all attempts thus far undertaken in that direction have failed. In enlightened states the working classes soon would reject Bolshevik principles and most particularly their practical application. Naturally, everywhere there is a group of idiots who believe that they might overthrow the government after the Russian fashion. It is significant that particularly these individuals, because of the hue and cry they raise—that they bring forth something new—receive more attention than voices from sensible circles. Nevertheless, this does not imply that anywhere they are in the majority.

The most effective antidote of this disease is employment and sufficient food supply. But this medicine cannot be administered in some states, and right here mutual assistance and cooperation is necessary. Therefore, even here it is demonstrated that to-day all pressing questions must necessarily be solved with regard to world-wide conditions.

On the sound solutions of the labor problems hinges the question of state finances.

To gain financial soundness even the greatest nations must attain it through intensified work. Striking must not become a “daily occupation”. Labor must be made to realize that constant interruption in the production of coal, industrial articles and agriculture hurts, in the final analysis, only the laboring classes. Eventually, if the strike ailment becomes chronic, the other classes would be forced to seek safety against it—and necessity would force them to find a device to meet or counteract it.

*) Translated from Prague “Venkov”.

Glass Industry

Despite the constantly increasing production the glass works are not in a position to accept orders for early delivery.

New concerns have been organized with large modern plants. Four establishments have been completed and the latest machinery is being installed. These, with 60 additional enterprises, are expected to increase the normal pre-war capacity by 50 per cent.

The present production in the Czechoslovak glass industry can be estimated from the quantities of coal needed in the industry and the number of tons actually allotted to it. In the month of March, 1920, the entire coal demand of the glass industry was 154,418 metric tons and the allotment was 81,138 tons. During May the coal situation has improved to such an extent that production has increased considerably.

Hollow and cut glass branches are operating to about 60 percent of their normal capacity. Before the war these products in the Austro-Hungarian Empire reached a total value of 137,500,000 crowns, of which 120,000,000 crowns were manufactured by the factories situated in the territories now comprising the Czechoslovak Republic. Plate glass works are attaining 75 percent of their pre-war capacity. Bottle factories, of which there are seventeen, are engaged to about 35 percent of their normal output, it being limited by the shortage of coal, soda, potash and other raw materials.

In addition to the factories there are about 3,500 independent finishing works.

Industry occupies an important position in Gablonz, employing about 50,000 people, among which are many home workers. Until a few months ago Gablonz exported goods valued at about 90,000,000 crowns per month. Owing to the fall in the foreign exchange, and also to the increase in the export duty, augmented some months ago from $\frac{1}{2}$ to 5 percent, this industry experienced a setback. After protracted negotiations the Gablonz factories have succeeded in obtaining the cancellation of the advance. As regards the other branches of the industry, the 5 percent export duty has been modified as follows:—Hollow glass now pay 1 percent and high-class painted and cut glass 2 percent. This re-

duction became operative on July 1, but no refunds are being made on account of the higher rates paid already.

In the past wood was greatly needed in the production of glass, and for this reason the oldest factories were located near forests, but with the increase in the price of wood, and owing to the discovery of factory production with the use of chemicals, soda, potash and glauber salt, the factories have been gradually giving way to those using coal exclusively.

While soda and potash are manufactured in the country, great quantities must be imported from Austria and Germany. About 1,000 metric tons of potash, it is said, would cover the needs of the glass industry for one year, and domestic production thereafter would be sufficient; 50 tons of saltpeter, 1,000 tons of glauber salt, 20 tons of boric acid, 100 kilogrammes of selenium and 20 kilogrammes of gold must be imported monthly for the industry; 2,000 kilogrammes of nickel and about the same quantity of cobalt are the annual requirements.

STATEMENT OF THE BANKING BUREAU OF THE CZECHOSLOVAK MINISTRY OF FINANCE.

July 31, 1920.

ASSETS

Austro-Hungarian Bank	
Notes stamped and exchanged for Czechoslovak State notes, Cs.	
crowns	7,430,614,000.00
Deposits in Austro-Hungarian Bank	2,084,419,000.00
	9,515,033,000.00
Discounted bills	724,841,000.00
Loans on collateral	1,986,937,000.00
Foreign currency acquired	549,308,000.00
Other assets	157,198,000.00
Cs. Crowns	12,933,317,000.00

LIABILITIES

Notes in Circulation	9,267,874,000.00
Austro-Hungarian Notes, withheld from circulation	2,134,149,000.00
Deposits	1,171,084,000.00
Other liabilities	360,210,000.00
Cs. Crowns	12,933,317,000.00

DISCOUNT RATE

Prime Commercial Paper	6%.
Collateral Loans	6½% and 7%.

Political Rights of Czechoslovak Women

By F. PLAMINKOVA.

The position of women in the Czechoslovak Republic today in respect to political rights may be regarded as the realization of the fondest hopes of those who have labored for civic rights of women and of the hopes of all who have desired to see civic equality forming the foundation of the State. Since the war ended women have been placed on complete equality of rights with men, all differences of class and standing have vanished in so far as concerns the political rights of citizens of the Republic. A universal, equal, direct and secret franchise, active and passive, has been introduced. The Preamble of the Czechoslovak Constitution adopted on February 29, 1920 by the National Assembly provides: "The people are the one and only fountain of state authority in the Czechoslovak Republic." Section 106 states: "Privileges based on sex, birth, or profession are not recognized."

The constitution further provides that the right to vote at elections for the House of Deputies and the Senate of the National Assembly is enjoyed by all citizens, irrespective of sex, above certain ages. That is, all citizens over 21 years of age may vote for Deputies and all citizens over 26 years of age may vote for Senators. For all other elections, those over 21 years of age enjoy the privilege.

It follows as a matter of course that the right of political association is guaranteed by the Constitution to all citizens.

There are few places in the whole world where such a radical change has taken place in the position of women with regard to political rights. We have to remember that up to the time of the Revolution (October, 1918) Bohemia formed a part of Austria-Hungary. By the laws of the Empire it was expressly prohibited for women to be members of political associations or to form such associations. In more recent times (1907) the franchise laws for election to the Vienna Parliament were amended and women expressly excluded from suffrage although, till then, women who were landed proprietors enjoyed the right to vote.

In Bohemia women enjoyed to a limited extent, the right of voting at local elections and at elections to the Bohemian Diet. Indeed they even succeeded, with the support of some justice-loving Bohemian men, in having women elected as members of the Diet of the then Kingdom of Bohemia, but not a year passed in which they had not to fight in defense of these rights, for the Vienna government was continually aiming at their abolition.

And now the Republic guarantees absolute equality of rights.

This equality has not been won by violence or by a surprise attack. It has grown from tradition—a fact which so much enhances its value in our eyes—it has been prepared and worked up to through many years by the women's movement, and is therefore all the more logical and founded on a more solid basis.

There have been times in our history—the days of the Husites and the Bohemian Brethren—during which a real brotherly and sisterly relation of the two sexes actually existed—a living interest on the part of women in the sufferings of men, an equality of strength and determination in the work for justice, for liberty of conscience and later for liberty of the nation. Side by side with the male warriors of God of the Husite days we see also women warriors; side by side with the Bohemian Brethren of the days of Comenius we see also Bohemian sisters.

We are not blind to the fact that in the daily rounds we are no longer as true to this tradition as we were in those former times. The irresistible pressure of successive Austrian Governments who favored the Germans and Hungarians as elements capable of destroying the national sentiment of the Czechoslovaks and of moulding them into a single uniform mass—in short of converting them into Austrians—subservient to the incompetent Habsburg sowed its seeds also among us. But the moment the Czechoslovak nation was liberated and could decide for itself the future fabric of its State, the old Czech spirit of justice re-awoke in the breasts of its legislators.

We may therefore make bold to say that the victory won by women is not a "revolutionary" victory in the evil sense of that word, in the sense, that it is something of which future development may deprive them.

Our whole revolution was perhaps the most unique of its kind. It cost not one drop of blood and was not accompanied by destruction of any property whatsoever. And yet through it there arose to freedom a nation which had been oppressed for centuries and it would only have been human nature, if in the intoxication of freedom they had made use of bloody weapons in order to avenge themselves on those at whose hands they had suffered persecution.

This liberated people have bestowed by their new Constitution, absolute equality of civic rights even upon their former oppressors.

This fact alone will possibly suffice to prove how deep-rooted is their sense of justice, how strong is this bulwark of Right in this little state, wedged in the heart of Europe, whilst in Hungary revolution followed revolution, whilst in Germany Bolshevism alternated with reaction and again with socialism of a mild form, whilst in Austria battles were fought in the streets of Vienna, the Czechoslovak Republic has constantly stood firm on the foundation of true democracy and justice, in matters social and racial.

How does the equality of rights of women work in actual practice?

It was established even before the war ended. There had arisen throughout the whole country "National Committees" which prepared the revolution and which subsequently took over the executive power of the State. These Committees were composed of delegates from every political party and among the members of the "National Committees" there were very many women—some even holding high offices.

There arose also economic-political institutions. The Government of the Habsburgs, as is well known, looked upon the Czechoslovak lands as their granary and regardless of how the war itself had exhausted supplies, regardless of the famine prevailing in all Czech regions, carried off all they possibly could. The "economic councils" composed of delegates from the

political parties also became institutions for assistance and defense.

The idea of establishing these "economic councils" originated in the brain of a woman, they relied on the co-operation of women who were members possessing full rights, in all committees and central offices. (The "Economic councils still exist as semi-official organs of public control over food supply and it is provided that one-fifth of their members must be women. The present chairman of the central organization is a woman).

Similarly, we meet women at the close of the war in all corporate bodies and occupying responsible positions to a degree unknown before. It is indeed true that Czechoslovak women even in the eyes of the Austrian Government were ripe for political responsibilities. Otherwise they would not have been condemned to death, interned and persecuted just as the men. The Czech men found in them steadfast supports and self-sacrificing co-operators.

Immediately on the Revolution taking place—October 28, 1918 the co-operation of women in the creation of political institutions took an official form.

The Central "National Committee" declared itself appointed by the will of the people as a law-giving National Assembly and women obtained here too their places. Of 269 members of Parliament only 8, it is true, were women, but they played a very honorable part, during a period of great responsibility, in laying foundations for the State.

It is interesting to record that it was the socialist women members in particular who were the most active in the Revolutionary National Assembly.

The National (Czechoslovak) Socialists were represented by two women, the Social Democratic Party by two, the Agrarians by two and the National Democrats by one. The daughter of the first President—Dr. Alice Masaryk—in consideration of her social labors and sufferings (she had been imprisoned by the Austrian government) was sent to the National Assembly by the unanimous vote of all parties. She subsequently retired from Parliament to devote herself to her work as President of the Czechoslovak Red Cross, a task which she is accomplishing in a manner which brings credit to the name of woman. In her stead another woman—a Social Democrat—came into the National Assembly.

In the sittings of parliament they were successful exponents of their views and the views of the parties to which they belonged. They introduced Bills in the Parliament and frequent successes rewarded their efforts. To mention only one or two: Women presented plans for the betterment of the social conditions of students; for taking over of schools and places of education by the State hitherto conducted by monasteries, convents or other church organizations; for placing girls; middle schools under State control; for converting into state institutions, reorganizing and extending, women's technical and industrial schools and schools of domestic sciences; for establishing central refuges for Children and Children's Homes; for introducing day instruction in apprentice schools; for prohibiting evening and Sunday instruction; and for regulating the legal position and the conditions of advancement of women teachers in national schools.

They further brought in Bills for the punishment of corruption, for the abolition of licensed houses of ill-repute, for the stern punishment of secret prostitution, for compulsory reporting and treatment of sexual diseases and for the systematic disinfection of public buildings, schools etc. and also of private dwelling houses, etc. Most of these proposals were crowned with success sometimes complete, sometimes partial.

In June, 1919, the first elections were held—elections to local and municipal bodies. They took place according to the system of fixed lists of candidates, that is to say, the names of the candidates are arranged in a certain order by the political parties on lists which afterwards are not allowed to be altered. The executive committees of the parties thus have power, according to whether their view-point regarding women is a progressive one or not, to place women's names in such a position on the list that they have a prospect of being elected.

Women who take no part in political activities of one party or another, or who are not organized, are excluded from the possibility of election.

If we realize that the parties are organizations, which make systematic political effort possible, that they are groups of persons who have similar or identical views

on the ordering of the affairs of the state and that it is the task of the party to effectuate the principles of its program in the State and that the individual can only give due effect to his good ideas when he gathers round him organized co-workers—if we realize this, we see that behind the fixed lists of candidates there is a sound principle. It is only necessary that all parties be imbued with justice towards women.

From the elections we gather the following interesting statistics. The number of women voters was much larger than that of men voters. Of the total number of voters 2,746,641 or 54 per cent were women and only 2,302,916 or 46 per cent men. Also the duty of recording their votes was better fulfilled by the women than by the men. 90.4 per cent of men voting as against 92.6 per cent of women. The number of women organized in the ranks of the various parties varies from 20 per cent to 70 per cent according to private statistics while about 12 per cent of those elected were women.

One of the objections to bestowing the franchise on women was that they would vote conservatively. The opposite has proven to be the case. After the elections the socialist parties recorded their thanks to women for the victory, a victory which actually saved the country from convulsions for as soon as the broad masses of the people were able to take up the administration of local institutions in a proper degree they bore patiently all the horrors of post-war famine and the ever-increasing rise in prices.

The women members of local administrative bodies principally occupy themselves with problems of pauperism, housing, health, food supply, and education. They are also members of city Councils, occupy the most of deputy mayors and three are "starosty", i. e. burgomasters of cities.

Their influence is widely felt in the communities. Through them investigations are made into the conditions in which the poor live and are housed, housing reforms are introduced, schools and baths established, care of mothers and babies organized, assistance given in household duties to women who are in ill health, courses arranged in nursing for mothers, nursemaids and servants (a thing previously non-existent)

nourishment supplied to needy children, etc., etc.

The development of the work is hindered by the financial straits in which the communities find themselves as a consequence of pre-war and war-time administration as well as by the increased needs of all communities. Self-help cannot possibly meet the demands made.

The "revolutionary" National Assembly was purely Czech. The Germans and Magyars were at that time, although co-citizens, in revolt against the Republic: they refused to recognize it and proclaimed certain districts as independent; the Magyars indeed even took up arms against the Republic.

And yet the Constitution has given equal electoral rights to all. By taking part in the elections they have acknowledged their citizenship to the Czechoslovak Republic; they have recognized that the nation of Hus, of Comenius and of Masaryk is loyal and ready for friendship, that even when the Czechs had absolute political power in their hands they did not abuse it even against those who were for centuries their foes and, until quite recently, their sworn foes.

It is very difficult for foreigners to understand the composite and complicated conditions of our country—and all the more so as they gain their information about us from the press of our enemies.

It is a great thing to be the heart of Europe, but it is at the same time a responsibility and a danger.

England is separated by sea from all other states; it is secure like America which need fear no enemy at its gates even on its short southern frontier. Spain, France and Italy likewise have scarce one vulnerable frontier.

But we are surrounded completely on all sides by foreign powers. We are like an island in the midst of surging waves, we feel the shocks as though they were of the breakers. How many foreigners penetrate across the frontiers to us! But we do not force them to abandon their original sentiments of race and nationality. We have always erred rather on the side of charity.

But this center of Europe, perhaps by virtue of its geographical comingling and the position of most varied influences is like a gigantic workshop in which these influences are remoulded and give rise to progressive ideals.

We anticipated the Reformation in Germany by a whole century with our Husite movement led by John Hus who stood for purity of life, liberty of conscience and liberty of conviction. John Amos Comenius, "The teacher of the Nations", was born in the 16th century. He composed his great life-work—a revolution in the culture of nations—with the object of promoting universal peace, and that, at a time when such an idea was still quite foreign to other nations. He not only was the author of the idea but in his immortal works elaborated a method of its realization.

And the Czech Declaration of December 8, 1870, continuing the work of Comenius, proclaimed even then the Wilsonian principle of to-day—the right of nations to self-determination. It stated: "All nations, whether great or small, have an equal right to self-determination and their equality ought to be equally respected. Only by the recognition of equal rights and by reciprocal respect for the unfettered self-determination of all nations can their rights, liberty and fraternity, universal peace and true humanity flourish".

We have created our own characteristic national Art, we have built up a perfect educational system, we have scarcely an illiterate—and all this against the will and under the displeasure of Austrian Governments.

Our women founded a High School for girls which was the first to be founded in the former Austrian Empire. Vienna afterwards followed our example. All this, too, was done in the face of the opposition of a hostile Government.

Czech women may boast of the oldest rights of suffrage in the whole world. They date from the year 1861. And it is the conscious effort of Czechoslovak women alone that saved these rights from perishing. Of all Central, Western and Eastern Europe (except Finland) it was in Bohemia that the first woman was elected to Parliament.

Even today in the midst of stirring times we have not been unfaithful to our traditions. And the Czechoslovak woman is today a citizen possessed of full rights.

The progress of our State in the path of peace, right and justice as shown by all our new legislation proves that, even though a comparatively small nation, we remain the heart of Europe, beating warmly for the ideal of the liberty of nations, pure democracy and humanity.

Czechoslovakia, Jugoslavia and Roumania— an Entente

By ALEŠ BROŽ.

Ever since the proclamation of the independence of the Czechoslovak Republic, Dr. Eduard Beneš has worked unceasingly to bring about the political consolidation of Central Europe for the purpose of preventing the heart of Europe from becoming a new center of disturbance and wars. These endeavors which were begun with the collapse of former Austro-Hungarian monarchy have been systematically continued, and thanks to his untiring efforts, Czechoslovakia, Jugoslavia and Rumania, three of the main successors of the defunct Empire, have concluded an agreement to create a peaceable group around which the policies of other States may develop.

These three States, which have inherited important shares of the assets of former Austria-Hungary, have numerous interests in common which make their alliance very natural and, in fact, indispensable. Czechoslovak industries are highly developed and need suitable markets to assure their future prosperity, and thus Rumania and the Balkans will be not merely good neighbors and allies for the young Republic, but also important and comparatively near customers for its export trade.

It need hardly be said that the efforts of Dr. Beneš have no acquisitive purposes. From a territorial and national point of view, the Czechoslovak Republic has an abundance of possessions. The Czechoslovak nation as well as its Minister for Foreign Affairs, while fully conscious of their own capabilities, realise that owing to the numerical strength of the Czechoslovak people, any fresh conquest, instead of strengthening the Republic, would weaken it. Its most urgent need is to consolidate the internal situation, and to ensure exterior safety so that it can devote all its resources to the task of reconstruction particularly economic. The immense natural wealth of the country, together with the high degree of intelligence and the proverbial energy of the Czechoslovaks may be regarded as the best guarantee of the great economic future of this State. But in order to develop all these rich potentialities it is

necessary also to establish peace and security on the other side of the Czechoslovak frontiers, so that internal development of the country may not be interrupted or harassed by conflicts from without.

To re-establish peace and security beyond its borders—one of the main aims of Czechoslovak policy—is also an indispensable condition for the peaceful and the successful development of the Republic. Few politicians have realised this necessity as thoroughly as Dr. Beneš, and few have contrived to proceed as methodically as he has done to attain this end. A few months ago it was he who had the courage to inaugurate relations with Vienna, although this policy was at that time not popular either among the Czechoslovak nationalists or among the Austrians.

The guiding principles of this new Entente between Czechoslovakia, Jugoslavia and Rumania are directed towards fostering peace and liberal ideas. It is aimed not merely against all attempts at reaction which might menace the new States, it is not simply a defensive alliance assuring integrity and independence to the three States concerned, but it is above all a positive agreement to facilitate a return to normal economic conditions, to regulate exchanges of commodities between these countries which have been so severely tried by the war, and to establish a new order of things in accordance with the new political construction of Central Europe.

There has been a severe outbreak of reaction in Hungary. The Magyars desire to reconquer the territories which have been separated for ever from Turanian oppression. The monarchists are striving to bring about a restoration of former Austria-Hungary by means of a Danubian Confederation which would be a second edition of the Austro-Hungarian Empire. There was a danger that the Magyar magnates might let loose another war to regain the regions liberated from their domination. According to the Peace Treaty of Neuilly the Magyars ought to have reduced the strength of their army to 30,000 officers and men. Not only have they not done so, but, on the contrary,

they increased their numerical strength, and are making great military preparations. The Magyars, of course, pretend that their war machine is directed against the Bolshevik danger coming from Russia, but the fact is that preparations are undertaken in pursuance of Magyar Imperialist aims. The Czechoslovak Government is in possession of documents proving that the Magyars are sending agents into Slovakia with the object of fomenting strikes and social disturbances in order to give the Magyar Government a pretext to attack Slovakia. In view of these facts there was considerable uneasiness in Czechoslovakia, Jugoslavia and Rumania, and hence arose the necessity of an agreement between these three countries. The solidity of the agreement between the three States concerned has rendered impossible any aggression which may be launched against the combined defence of all those whose interests are at stake.

Finally, this Entente has concluded with Austria a series of economic arrangements

which will enable this unfortunate State to extricate itself from a difficult position. The Entente is also willing to live at peace with Hungary and to establish normal friendly relations with that State if the latter abandons its present policy and ceases to foment disturbances through its agents upon territories of its neighbors.

The united power of Czechoslovakia, Jugoslavia and Rumania is of such strength that no country in Central or Eastern Europe would venture an attack upon this alliance. It is certain that these three states will become a rallying point for neighboring governments, even for those which at present are hostile. Austria has been the first to accept the hand of friendship which the Czechoslovak Republic held out to it. It is to be hoped that the work for peace which has begun may be crowned by the establishment of a peaceful and loyal Entente between all neighboring states,—an essential condition for economic reconstruction and the institution of a stable order in Central Europe.

Distribution of Land in Czechoslovakia

In accordance with the terms of the law for the expropriation of large estates and landed property, which was passed by the Czechoslovak National Assembly last year, the distribution will be carried out as follows:

1. To small holders, to the owners of small industrial concerns, to farmers and foresters without land, to disabled soldiers, to legionaries and their dependents.

2. The associations of the above mentioned persons, and to consumers' associations.

3. For the erection of family dwellings, workshops and factories for owners of small industrial concerns, for co-operative societies.

4. To municipalities and public associations.

5. To scientific institutions and those of public utility.

6. On principle, the municipalities and the corporations will receive pasture-lands. The forests and the ponds will be assigned, first and foremost, to municipalities and public associations.

As regards industrial concerns, in so far as they come within the provisions of the

law, they will be merged with co-operative societies. Hydro-electric plants unless operated by the state itself, will then be offered to public associations and co-operative societies.

Land will be sold or converted into farms. Those acquiring it will do so on the principle that it is to be regarded as indivisible whole, to which will apply the principles of the law of Bohemia relating to the hereditary acquisition of medium-sized landed property.

The land office has fixed the area of individual plots at six, ten or fifteen hectares (1 ha. = 2.5 A.), whichever may be adequate according to the value and quality of the soil. Associations will receive as a maximum enough land to enable each member to obtain one of these areas. Local committees as consulting organs will be established to properly carry out this reform. If the process of expropriation and distribution takes up much time, it will be possible to supply those using the expropriated land for farming purposes with a certain amount in those directions where large areas are available for an extended period of more than six years.

Export Financing

"One of the troubles is that people do not realize that although hostilities with guns have ceased, a much more serious kind of hostilities have commenced, i. e. an economic war." (Extract from a private letter to the editor.)

The European markets are the magnet to which are attracted the export departments of all large American manufacturers. Some comprehend the necessities and underlying difficulties of doing business, while others have not the slightest conception. Probably this era of after war restlessness and nervousness is the most crucial in the world's history and most difficult to understand.

Almost daily the map of Europe is changed, the destinies of villages, towns, cities and in fact, whole countries are changed by one stroke of the pen. This does not tend to make the task of the exporter any simpler.

The facts which the majority of the exporting managers overlook is that in certain localities, under normal conditions, the wares which they attempt to market are produced quantitatively not only for domestic consumption, but for export. In many instances they are "carrying coals to Newcastle".

Every conceivable form of good, using it in its broad sense, are being offered and the usual terms are cash against documents in New York. During the war this was a proper practice when the destinies of the various belligerents were still undetermined and hung in the balance. Now the fighting with the weapons is over and a great economic battle has set in. All of the European nations are striving to recuperate economically and to regain their former industrial and agricultural stamina. They strive to keep skilled labor occupied because every nation to exist must create wealth in order to be able to acquire other necessities essential to existence.

It is very fallacious to attempt to market sugar machinery in Czechoslovakia, which has been one of the leading producers supplying not only continental Europe and Asia, but even Cuba and South America. Some people cannot understand why Czechoslovakia cannot use sweetened con-

densed milk, but limits its orders strictly to evaporated grades. The reason is very simple. Czechoslovakia is the only continental nation which produces sugar in quantities sufficient to warrant its export, therefore, it would be the height of folly to buy sweetened milk and pay the resulting additional costs when evaporated milk answers the purpose and particularly when beet sugar is a domestic product. In fact, it might be said that Czechoslovakia is paying in gold for her purchases abroad because sugar is her gold. Without beet sugar Czechoslovakia would be no better off than a "property-poor" individual, possessed of non-revenue producing estates.

Czechoslovakia can buy, under existing conditions, only such limited quantities of necessities as its accumulated foreign credits, flowing as a result of its export of sugar, glass goods, machinery, lumber and earthenware products, will permit. Not all of the producing agencies of these commodities are operating to full capacity; each has a certain limitation set upon it by the lack of certain essential ingredients.

For years to come there will be a great demand in Czechoslovakia for American goods. The American exporter should familiarize himself with the requirements of this market. He need have no fear of the financial stability of the reputable business houses, for in addition to the purchaser's financial responsibility may be added the guarantee of any of the principal banks of Prague, which is permitted under the law, and which further testifies to the purchaser's financial standing and integrity.

In harsh times harsh means may be applied. The travail is over. The readjustment era is at hand. While we all acknowledge that business is merciless, yet we must not overlook the fact that it may be tempered with common sense and its principles so applied that lasting benefits will accrue to the seller.

True, the United States governmental agencies do not look with much favor on foreign trade, credit financing, nor lend overmuch encouragement thereto, except by words of sagacious advice, still it is

within the power of the American exporters to so employ their capital as to assure a maximum return and lasting business. By this is meant the application of generous terms to sales made or proposed to Czechoslovakia. These in brief, are a ninety day acceptance against a delivery of finished goods or the arrival of documents in Prague, possibly to be guaranteed not only by the purchaser but also by one of the principal banks of Prague. The banks are sound, able to meet their obligations and certainly they would not be so foolhardy as to guarantee payments of their customers' liabilities unless they were convinced of their financial stability and their ability to meet obligations. Therefore the American business houses doing a foreign trade in order to successfully do business in Czechoslovakia should heed the require-

ments of that trade which will enable them to do a fair business.

In selling raw materials a different situation is presented. Credit of sufficient duration to permit transportation, conversion and marketing must be extended.

England, France and even Germany have accepted the edicts of business as dictated by present day necessities. There is no advantage in buying American wares for cash against documents in New York when similar products are sold on credit by European countries. Through obstinacy or non-realization American merchants are allowing a golden opportunity to slip through their fingers. If American financial methods do not answer the progressive requirements of foreign business they must be made to conform otherwise America must withdraw from lucrative fields.

Anthology of Modern Slavonic Literature

Translated by P. Selver. E. P. Dutton & Company, New York.

The name of Paul Selver is well known to all readers of "The Czechoslovak Review". He is a poet, a satirist, and a translator of Slav literature. His "Anthology of Modern Slavonic Literature" was published in England last year, but appeared on the American book market only recently.

The first impression one gets in looking it over is, that Mr. Selver expended a tremendous amount of energy in merely surveying the vast field of eight national literatures. He knows all the Slav languages thoroughly and he knows also what was written in each that deserves to become known to the English speaking people—the largest reading public in the world. And the next impression is that the translator has a great literary gift. Not merely in prose translation, but in poems as well, one cannot find a trace of awkwardness or anything indicating that the writer had before him foreign phrases, expressions that in the original sounded odd to English ears; in short that the translation is a translation and not an original English poem or story. And in spite of this high literary quality of the English version, the translator manages to stick remarkably close to his Slav writers, as one can prove by checking up the Czech authors concerned.

To a Czech reader, the interest of the book lies mainly in excerpts from modern Czech literature. From the prose writers Selver quotes J. S. Machar, whose "Jail" is now being published in "The Czechoslovak Review" from a version made by Mr. Selver; there is Jan Neruda, now dead for a number of years, but still beloved by the great mass of the Czech nation; there is Arne Novák, literary



P. Selver.

historian and critic; and a less known writer, Fráňa Šrámek. From the poets Selver selects a number of powerful rhapsodies of Peter Bezruč, the bard

of the Czech miners and steel workers of Teschen; a few examples of the mystical poetry of Otakar Březina, perhaps the greatest living poet of to-day, whose name would be in the mouths of all the literary critics of the world, if he but wrote in a language better known abroad than his own. There is again J. S. Machar, whose caustic wit and pugnacious character raised for him many enemies as well as admirers; there is Antonín Sova, Antonín Klášterský, Karásek ze Lvovic, and Otakar Theer—prominent figures among the living Czech poets. And there are a number of examples of the art of Jaroslav Vrchlický, the great poet, who died shortly before the war and whose enormous poetical output enriched the Czech language and marked an epoch in the history of literature of his nation.

An American who will read over these examples of the present day activity of the Czech spirit will not be able to look down on the Czechoslovaks as

a small nation, somewhere in the East of Europe, not deserving of special attention from the great American nation. Mr. Selver's book quotes only a few samples of the rich intellectual life which flourishes in Prague; but that is enough to prove the high degree of development which this particular Slav nation reached long before it secured political independence.

Those who read "The Czechoslovak Review" will be particularly interested in Paul Selver's Anthology, because Mr. Selver is to them an old friend. Americans of Czechoslovak descent ought to be grateful to the author for devoting his time and his great talents to the work of making known Czech authors to the English public, especially as the labor spent on this undertaking can never be sufficiently remunerated. The book is most cordially recommended to all who take interest in Czechoslovak life.

Jail

By J. S. MACHAR.

Authorized translation from the Czech by P. Selver.

(Continued.)

VI.

The case of Dr. Kramář and associates had been held in abeyance for some time. It was said new evidence had been discovered in Belgrade after its capture. It was also said that Dr. Preminger had fallen ill. It was also said that the proceedings would be stopped altogether. In those days of official silence, every event became the subject of a whole series of different versions and explanations, because a man likes to have complete ideas about a thing, and if he cannot get the actual facts, he invents them and tells them to his fellowmen so often, until he believes them himself.

The winter of that year was not severe and ended exactly according to the calendar. During a few evenings in February there were heavy and vicious winds, but one day the sun leapt into the blue sky with such warmth and radiance, that the people quivered with sheer delight and blinked their eyes at the unaccustomed lustre; crows swayed slantingly in the air on their ragged wings as if they wished to expose now their backs, now their bellies to the warmth of the sun; from the roofs fell drops of melted snow and glistened like brilliants; in the streets brooklets trickled merrily, the mud glistened, fur coats, winter costumes and ladies' dark dresses disappeared; the streets became gay with light overcoats and cheerful colors of women's dresses; the people rid themselves of the heavy and cautious gait they had acquired during the winter months, and strolled along displaying their contentment in dainty springtime steps; and in the parks where audacious blackbirds scurried

about on the freshened grass, there appeared a crowd of nursemaids with and without perambulators, and tiny babies who had been born in the course of the winter blinked with their expressionless little eyes at the golden, radiant air.

And at the same time in the north, south, east and west, cannons, rifles, bayonets and bombs were at the work; war was being carried on upon the earth, under the earth, upon the sea, under the sea, in the air,—war was being carried on by gods and men, machines, vapours, gases, electricity and all the acquisitions of science and art (for war was also being carried on by poets, novelists, savants, philosophers, draughtsmen, painters, pamphleteers, journalists) as if mankind had come to an agreement that it was necessary to slay all those spectres which are called culture, civilization, progress, humanity, morals and religion. Homage had been done to them for centuries,—now they must fall. A few crowns were shaking upon halloved heads, a few wearers of royal garments were homelessly wandering about Europe, the penny-aliners who had formerly greeted them on their various visits, now pelted them with coarse jokes,—a new Iliad in which the simple heroes were silent and fell, and only types like Thersites made speeches at the back.

Everybody was tired of the war,—rulers, nations, diplomats, soldiers, but the war went on.

And the spring came with its fresh greenery, skylarks, chafers, blossoms, the first swallows appeared, fitted above the streets and darted into the air with artistic curves, but what else happened and

what kind of a spring it was, I do not know. For the sword of Damocles now descended upon the head of my freedom.

A few years ago,—heavens, how pluperfect everything is today,—I wrote a little skit in three chapters, entitled "Clericalism Dead." For reasons given below, it is impossible to explain its contents—I can only hint at them. A certain caste of people, Archbishops, Bishops, Prelates, Abbots, Deans and Vicars assemble and say to themselves: we are unmarried, we have an abundance of the possessions of this world,—good, we will do something for our country and nation. And they did so; they took over the National Schools, founded a second University, gave their country-houses to disabled artists and writers,—well it was a skit. And because it was a skit, nobody here had noticed it, but in Zagreb a certain progressive paper took it quite seriously, translated it, printed it and exclaimed: Look here, just see what kind of clergy, what kind of bishops the Czechs have,—and suddenly the satire had its comic side. But that only by the way. So that hoax was called "Clericalism Dead" and the late "Volná Myšlenka" issued it as a pamphlet. It was a green, thin little book. Somewhere about the middle of April 1915 our beloved censorship also had a look at this booklet and confiscated it, which did not surprise me in the least,—not that I was convinced of the pernicious character of its contents, but because I had experiences, both my own and other people's, in these matters.

Then on April 25th the clerical paper *Reichspost* published an item of local news about the completed confiscation of this booklet, and very bitterly expressed its astonishment that I was still allowed to write, and to write things which had to be confiscated,—surely it was well known that I was undergoing a cross-examination.

To this item of local news our papers bashfully replied that the worthy *Reichspost* had been wrongly informed, that the pamphlet "Clericalism Dead" had appeared several years previously, but what is the good of speaking to them when they are Germans and do not understand you?

Some days later this paper again expressed its astonishment. Masaryk, the traitor, it said, was outside the country, but here was a man walking about in liberty in Vienna—yes, and writing too, as if there were no control,—a man who aimed at proceeding from the destruction of authors to the destruction of thrones, and so on.

I watched everything like the spectator of a bad play in the theatre,—with my mind elsewhere, with the fatalism of a Turk. I did not move a finger, I did not speak or write a single word, I gave no explanation, I did not defend myself. The performance was wearisome, there was no chance of getting away, so I waited for the end.

And I met with it on May 7th.

At home everything had been prepared. In an envelope the telegrams to my family and friends which *Josefinka* was to send off in case of my non-arrival, in my soul there was calm, in my table-

drawer the manuscripts of new books arranged for the publisher,—to be prepared is everything. And I was.

So early one day I went to my office.

It was a beautiful golden day, the streets swarmed with people, everybody was hurrying in pursuit of some aim—office machines; for years and years we have known their faces, their gait, their movements; if one of them disappears, nobody misses him, the others will press on in the same way tomorrow, the day after tomorrow, a year hence, five years hence.

I sat down at my desk and began to work.

At ten o'clock I was called on the telephone by Dr. Sieghart, the managing secretary. I was to take my hat and coat.

Now "it" is here, flashed through my mind.

I went up. The secretary's face was very solemn, and softly and slowly he began to say that "*leider muss ich Ihnen.*"

"Arrested?" I said jerkily.

"Yes. A detective is waiting in the next room."

"Good, let us go."

I was told that I had about an hour if I wanted to write home.

Unnecessary. I had already seen to that. But I should like to write a few lines to *Josefinka* asking her to bring me a handbag with clean linen.

They said I could. Here was paper, a pen, an envelope.

I wrote. Clean linen, soap, a toothbrush,—and where was I to have it sent me?

Perhaps to the police, they thought. However, we would ask the detective.

The detective came in. It was neither Mr. Kolbe nor the other taciturn person,—it was quite a strange detective. Yes, to the police, he thought.

"Have you a warrant for the arrest?" I asked.

He had. Signed by the military commander, and I was arrested under paragraph 65a.

"Doctor, have you a manual of law here? Please find out for me what that is."

The Doctor turned over the leaves, 65a,—offending against the interests of public order,—the penalty from two years upwards.

"You must obtain a counsel, perhaps *Dr. Pressburger*" remarked the secretary, "he is rather expensive."

"A counsel? What for? Not a bit of it."

"But allow me to—"

"My dear doctor, you do not understand my situation. A poet cannot be concerned about a trial, a poet has nothing to hush up, a poet must be his own counsel."

"Well, think the matter over, a military court is no joke."

"We shall see. And now, my guardian angel," I said turning to the detective, "let us go."

And we went to the police headquarters. I looked at the May sunshine, which covered the streets, the houses, the trees trembling in the air, and thought and thought. What have they against *I'm sorry to have to tell you."

me..? Two years.. Military court.. Family.. Friends, but come what may, the portion of national honour which I now possess must not be sullied.

At the police headquarters various formalities had to be seen to. Documents or something of that kind. I had to wait.

They assigned me a small room where a fat man was sitting at a table writing with a very squeaky pen. From time to time he took a deep breath, pondered and went on writing. Another human machine, it occurred to me.

After a while the constable came in. If I wanted any lunch, he would bring me something. Perhaps I should like to look at the menu—

I looked.

He brought in the lunch and I invited the fat man to join the feast. He did not refuse.

And again his pen squeaked and time went on. Hour after hour.—What have they against me?—Two years,—military court,—army prison,—family,—the honor of myself and the nation—how this fellow puffs.—

I stood up and walked through the room. Now and then somebody peeped in,—perhaps to make sure that I was still there.

The fat clerk put on his coat and took his leave of me. The machine had completed its day's work and would be a man again.

I was alone. For how long, I do not know. I had ceased even to think.

Then a constable came to take me to the chief commissary.

Ah, I know him—Mr. Kolbe took me to him on previous occasion.

The formalities, it seemed, were settled. The detective could now hand me over.

I mentioned my clean linen.

That, I was told, was a matter for the military superintendent in charge.

Good. We will go.

Outside, the detective suggested whether I wanted to take the tram.

No, let's go on foot.

We went and I bade farewell to the sunshine, freedom, to everything. I looked at the houses, the people, the sky, watched for the final sight of some familiar face, and wondered who it might be. I met nobody. The streets were full of bustle, trams rattled, carriages, motor-cars drove to and fro,—my freedom, my life, farewell.

We reached the well-known building. But we entered by a different door. Instead of a porter, a sergeant-major stood there. The detective showed him the paper. He let us in. Sentries with bayonets, grey walls, everything grey and drab.

In the chief Superintendent's office, the detective handed me over. A grumpy sergeant-major took the papers from him, drew up an acknowledgment of receipt, then the superintendent called upon me to empty my pockets, pocket-book, watch, pencil,—the money was counted out and the amount noted in the report. I signed.

An old sergeant with a bundle of keys in his belt led me away. He opened the barred door guarded by defence-corps men with bayonets, he led me through grey and gloomy passages and finally stopped at door number 60.

He opened. "Mr. Dušek, a new gentleman."

Editor Dušek stood in the doorway and held out both his hands towards me. "I have been expecting you for some time."

"Thank you."

VII.

My first impression of the interior of this apartment was, of a dirty third class waiting room of some provincial railway station. It was full of people; they were sitting, standing, walking about, smoking, some were impatient, some were bored, some eyed the floor resignedly,—the train was late but nobody knew how many hours, days, weeks, months, and time, accursed time, never lags so sluggishly as when a man is waiting.

Through three high barred windows the light of the afternoon sun was visible. It did not enter, its radiance rested upon the walls and windows of the building opposite, of that building where in the December of the previous year I had spent a day as a witness in the trial of Dr. Kramář and associates. What is reflected from yonder, falls in here, and there is not much of it; here prevails the sober twilight of an overcast day. And it is cold here as in a cellar on summer days. In the whole room there are only two military beds, two tables, a few benches, on the walls a few barrack racks were fastened, each rack was crammed with bags, boxes, bundles, clothing, tin dishes, glasses and pieces of bread; from the hooks were suspended capes and towels; high up on the ceiling an electric lamp jutted forth, beneath the windows were piled up sacks of straw, three heaps with six or seven sacks on each—that was the whole equipment of my new dwelling place. An official notice on the door announced that this was "*Stronger Arrest for 9 Mann*" (Close arrest for 9 men) now there were about twenty of us here. Of course, in peace time this room was ample for nine criminals, but now there was a war on, it was a time for economy and self-denial, we had to squeeze in together as best we could.

Prepared and fully armed I entered this place, but if it had not been for my friend Dušek, I do not know how I should have managed. Fate had already provided me with various ups and downs in life, but every time I fell from the third story on the pavement, there always happened to be a straw mattress which somebody was carrying and which broke my fall. But that in room number 60 of the Viennese Military Jail I should fall right into the arms of Dušek, was one of the happiest chances which have occurred to me in the course of my misfortunes.

A man prepares and equips himself with good resolutions, with a heroic spirit, with a most firm will; he says to himself: Prison,—good; loss of

liberty,—never mind; a jailer,—there must be one; a warder,—there must be one also,—but the reality comes and the prison turns out to be a military jail, a cold and dismal room; loss of liberty turns out to be a complete loss of your own personality; the jailer turns out to be a prison governor, and the warder a *Beschliesser*; the reality is cruel, coarse, uncouth, and a series of trifles of which you have never thought, here play a very important part.

We sat down together on the straw mattress of one of the beds,—it was Dušek's bed which the superintendent, a decent German, had put there for him, and we talked together. Dušek was as thoroughly versed in all the details of jail life, as if he had grown up there. He knew the life history and circumstances of all the jailers and prisoners, the whole building had not a single secret or mystery for him, he was acquainted with all the conditions of life there and he initiated me into them. Like the chorus of a song, the question was repeated: what are you really here for? That I was there did not surprise him—he had expected me with absolute certainty from that day in December when I gave evidence in the Kramář trial—but what could be the immediate cause? If it had been something political, they would not have locked me up with him, "accomplices" are not allowed to be together; therefore it can be nothing which is connected with the "Čas", or the Pastor (as we called Professor Masaryk); besides, I had not been concerned with politics, could not be in touch with abroad—well, it is certain that they have something and that they will tell what it is very soon, for every prisoner must be allowed to make a statement within 24 hours—"but it does not matter why they have locked you up," he observed, "you may be prepared to remain here for the duration of the war, and it is a good thing that we are together."

He told me about our fellow residents. There were Viennese, Italians, Serbs, Russians, soldiers and civilians, Aryans, Jews, orthodox believers. The room was a kind of clearing-station; four or five were a nucleus as it were, the rest arrived, remained for a few days and then moved out on to the first or second story. He himself formed part of the nucleus, he had remained, so that he knew best who the fresh arrivals were. I should need clean linen, soap, a toothbrush and a spoon. The food was not fit to eat, I should have to buy substitutes for it from the provision dealer, for which money, a good deal of money, was necessary. The money had to be sent to the office, the prisoner was not allowed to have a single heller on him—in the office everything was figured out, and when the things were purchased the superintendent of our floor handed them over. Everything that was not allowed there was done nevertheless; they read newspapers, played cards, each man had a pocket-knife, pencil, paper; smoking was allowed only on Saturday afternoon and the whole day Sunday, but

as I could see, smoking went on day after day, and from morning till evening, even at night as well. The money which was in the room was called "black",—from time to time the warder came, found it, and you parted with it for ever, but so far very little of it had been found. The same applied to knives, pencils, cigars, paper. The currency among the prisoners and the form of gratuity for all kinds of services consisted of cigars — in return for cigars it was possible to obtain newspapers, rum, brandy, everything. Letters which arrived were censored by the examining superintendent, and in the same way, the letters were read which the natives of these parts sent away. Writing was allowed only on Sunday mornings under the supervision of the warder, the jailer or some authority set up by them. Visitors could be received only with the permission of the examining superintendent, who was present on such occasions, and as he was a German, the language spoken must be German. And such a superintendent often proceeded to Bohemia, either to hold a cross-examination, or to carry out a domiciliary search, or else to fetch back more malefactors, it was desirable that the visitors should apply in writing to know the day and hour when he could come.

A warder opened the door. It was Sergeant Sponner, of whom Dušek told me that he barked but did not bite; he called out my name. It was for my cross-examination.

I went.

VIII.

A defence-corps man in front of me, a defence-corps man behind me, both equipped with old *Wernld* rifles, we walked solemnly along the middle of the street. We went from the *Blindengasse*, the street of the sightless, where the military tribunal held its sittings, to the *Tigergasse*, the street of Tigers, the headquarters of the military legal authorities. The *Genius Loci* is fond of making such unintentional jests.

The sun was still shining. But it was not the sun from which I had parted in the morning, it was a strange sun which somebody has put in the sky in the place of the beloved sun we know so well, and strange are its light and its warmth. Even these familiar streets have a strange appearance, and the people passing through them are not Viennese, but natives of heaven knows what town. And finally, I myself, am I myself? And is this not all a repulsive dream? Two young ladies stood on the pavement and looked at us inquisitively.

"Ein Spion*", observed one.

"Oder ein Hochverräter"†) replied the other. For a moment their eyes blazed with patriotic indignation, then they burst out laughing.

The defence-corps men marched along in military style, one two, one two, each pace 75 centimetres, 120 paces to the minute. I walked with little civilian steps, and this must have confused my

*) A spy.

†) Guilty of high treason.

guard at the back, for he kept on changing step and stamped to correct my pace.

The street of tigers is a quiet little street in the 8th circuit. For the greater part it consists of old, low-roofed little houses above which rises here and there a high and more modern tenement building. People were hurrying to and fro on the pavements, they looked at us, and from the open windows we were met by inquisitive glances of conjecture; I also looked at them, but really I saw, I felt nothing whatever. It was as if my soul had fallen asleep. I was indifferent to everything that had been, that was, and that would be, I had no interest in anything, least of all for my own fate. I was not even inquisitive now to know what they had against me. The day had brought too many impressions, it was not possible to take them in and my senses were blunted. Only the fragment of some Viennese tune sounded obstinately in my ears, and I could not get rid of it. In front of a high tenement building,—on it was a tablet with an eagle and the number eleven. The man in front of me, he of the defence-corps, stopped. He read the inscription, compared the number of the house with what was written on his official paper, made a sign to us that this was the place, and entered.

The first story, the second, the third,—on the door a tablet marked *Oberleutnant-Auditor* Dr. Frank,—this was it. The defence-corps man went in to announce my arrival, the second kept guard over me meanwhile in the little ante-room.

The fragment of that wretched tune kept ringing in my ears.

The defence-corps man came back and beckoned to me to go in. A small room with two windows, by the left window a writing table with the clerk belonging to it; further, two tables at one of which was an officer of no great height, giving somehow an impression of cleanness; he was clean-shaven, his hair carefully brushed, he had cold blue eyes,—Dr. Felix Frank, in civil life on the staff of the Viennese magistracy, now lieutenant-superintendent and searcher out of guilty Czech hearts and souls.

Let me say at once that it was certainly a relief to us all that the military persecution did not employ our own people, Czech people as its instruments. I am absolutely incapable of imagining them in this capacity,—as an author I have a feeling for unity of style, and this would certainly have been impaired to a considerable extent. Dr. Frank had taken over Czech affairs and Czech people from Dr. Preminger of Bukovina.

He asked me to sit down, and his voice was agreeable and clear with a metallic note in it.

From a drawer he took out a file—my file—and I noticed also that his hands were clean and well-cared for.

And he asked me whether I wished to appeal against my imprisonment.

Of course I did.

He drew my attention to the fact that this was a formality, that my appeal would change nothing, but might protract the course of my proceedings by several weeks. And he advised me not to appeal.

Good, I will not appeal then, but the jail was not to my liking, and of this I informed him.

He smiled, disclosing two rows of clean teeth stopped with gold, and dictated the report to the youth at the writing table. That I did not enter an appeal. The machine clattered, the yellowish official paper kept emerging from its teeth covered with symmetrical rows of writing.

Then from a drawer he drew out a book. Heavens, my own books, my verses entitled "Drops." Did I guess why I had been arrested?

No.

For four poems from this book.

I saw marked with blue pencil:

"In memory of November 5th 1908."

"Hospital Humanitarianism."

"To Dr. Frant. Měšany."

"Twenty Years."

My listless weariness fell from me at a blow. What, really for this? And in all my literary activity you found nothing else besides these four trifles? Tell me, is it possible?

Yes, for these four poems.

Joy, inexpressible joy, set me astir. I will fight for my liberty. How could this be a menace to Austrian power and order? I was prepared for all kinds of things, but that I should be imprisoned and cross-examined on account of such trifling verses, no, that I had not expected.

Like lightning there flashed through my mind the memory of Count Jáchym Ondřej Šlik. Slavata in his "Memoirs" quotes as if in mockery the letter written by him on March 2nd 1621 to Prince *Lichtenstein*. He said that he was not the instigator of that unfortunate deed which flung the Emperor's representatives from the window, that he had only heard of it about an hour and a half previously, that he could not even give them any warning, that he had opposed *Mates von Thurn* "almost to bodily violence", that *Mates von Thurn* was a "false and notorious man", who had shamefully misled and deceived the gentleman of rank, that Šlik had not laid hands on the Emperor's representatives,—poor rebel, this explanation availed him nothing; on March 18th he was seized by the *Kurfürst* of Saxony, handed over to the Emperor's justices, and on June 21st he was executed in the square of the Od Town. Every revolution, whether active or passive, produces people such as Šlik; they undertake and carry them out in the conviction that their cause is just, but then when their cause comes to grief, they desert it, disguise it, deny it and conceal it,—as if defence of this kind had ever helped those who were defeated, and could ward off the vengeance of those who had conquered.

My case was clear and free from guile,—thank God. All these poems were written long before the war, printed several times,—I did not need to

deny and conceal, I could not indeed have played so pitiable and aimless part as Count Jáchym Ondřej Šlik.

And so I dictated for the report: The first three poems appeared in *Čas* in the years 1905, 1908 and 1913, without arousing any objections; the last one appeared in *Samostatnost* in 1913. In book form they were issued,—again without arousing any objections,—in my collected *feuilletons*, then "*bei Umgruppierung meiner Werke*"*) (to use the modern term), I included them in a volume of short and topical lyric poems entitled "Drops", which I might call my diary.

"And by printing them during the war you have committed a new criminal offence" remarked Dr. Frank.

"Only that they were confiscated as far back as September 27th 1915, and the poetaster has only just been arrested, that is, seven months later" I objected.

"That makes no difference. Nothing gets out of date here. Do you make any changes in your printed verses when you prepare them for volume form?"

"Very often. Rhyme, phrases, whole stanzas."

"What are your criteria in making such changes?"

"Artistic ones."

"You have not changed anything — in the poems concerned, in order, for example to bring out their chief features more prominently?"

"No."

"Has your publisher any influence on the contents of the book? Does he read it before he sends it to press?"

"No he does not. He sends it to press just as he receives it from me. I alone take responsibility for everything."

He dictated the continuation of the report. The machine clattered, the paper rustled.

—Tomorrow I may be out of it—was the thought that occurred to me. For everything was so clear and obvious. An error, a judicial error. If they are human, I shall be among my books tomorrow.

"Did you extract only these four poems from the books of *feuilletons* referred to, or others as well?" continued Dr. Frank, and studied his pink fingernails.

"Quite a number. In fact all the verse writings which they contain."

"Could you mark them for me in the contents?"

I marked them and noticed that they formed a good third of "Drops."

"Here is your letter which you wrote when you were arrested. What is there in it? And who is Josefina Procházková?"

"She is my servant and I asked her to send me my clean linen to the jail."

"Good, I will have it forwarded. Your case is a very simple one, a matter of a few days; we will investigate your statements on Friday or Saturday, —today is Tuesday,—I will have you sent for and

*) On re-arranging the order of my works.

we shall proceed to hear the case on its merits. You will then obtain counsel to defend you."

"I shall not have counsel!"

"Why not?"

"There is nothing to defend. The matter is clear. I wrote and printed such and such a thing, here it is, I alone can explain it,—if there is anything punishable in it, punish me."

"But you must have counsel."

"No. You take a man and lock him up,—I did not ask you to do so,—and then you say: have a counsel. I have nothing to hush up, and I permit nobody to twist and turn my verses. What I have written, I have written."

"As you like. I will now read to you the report of today's cross-examination."

"There is no need, I have heard it."

"I will read it through. You will sign."

He read it. I signed.

Then he wrote on a piece of paper how long the cross-examination had lasted, and handed it and me to the defence-corps men.

And again we went through the strange streets. A defence-corps man in front, a defence-corps man behind, one two, one two, I with short civilian steps between them.

It is impossible for them to keep me here longer than the end of the week. Such a paltry matter. After all, we are in the twentieth century. Within a week I shall certainly be among my books—such were my thoughts, and I felt like a cockchafer which is preparing to fly; it raises the covering of its wings, stretches the delicate membranes of its net-like wings, and moves them as if testing them; and its whole body moves as if it were taking breath for a magnificent flight.

Dušek, a sceptical person, dampened my ardour: "Don't believe them; you will find that your case won't be heard on Friday, or Saturday either. They will keep you here on ice like me and all of us."

(To be continued.)

Record of Imports and Exports at the Port of New York on Czechoslovak Commerce from Januar 31st to July 31st, 1920.

	Imports	Exports
January	\$ 351,014.00	\$ 322,929.00
February	417,574.00	951,912.00
March	467,888.00	646,486.00
April	350,905.00	318,487.00
May	792,360.00	2,515,584.00
*June	990,074.00	1,260,836.00
July	2,202,324.00	141,331.00
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	\$5,572,139.00	\$6,157,565.00

* In June, 13,126,180 pounds of Czechoslovak Sugar was imported but credited to Germany, because its port of origin was Hamburg.

With a proper classification the showing of Czechoslovak imports to the United States would amount to \$7,865,547.

Current Topics

DANGER SIGNS.

Since the termination of the war a number of import and export firms, both professional and amateur, have sprung up. It is as a season for mushrooms, when, after a heavy night rain the morning finds the woods literally filled with these fungi. The currents of international commerce, at the present day, flow through the most treacherous channels known to economic history. Over night, depending on the rise or fall of exchange, fortunes are made and lost. The most cautious importers and exporters buy merely that which they absolutely need to satisfy their immediate trade.

It is very inexpensive to form a commercial corporation dealing in foreign goods, but it is difficult and requires much hard work to make it a paying proposition. There are many successful importing and exporting concerns doing business with Czechoslovakia and by the very conduct of their business promote the good feeling between America and Czechoslovakia, but those who are inexperienced in these matters inflict more injury than can be repaired by others in many years. It is not necessary that the concern be large to do a profitable business, even a firm of small resources can do much to promote Czechoslovak business welfare in this country.

The world is groping for second sight men — men who will lead the people to tranquility, economic prosperity and liberty. The wisest people today can't see far ahead, for the future is obscured by a veil of mist. Hence caution is necessary.

ANOTHER TRIPLE ENTENTE.

It is hoped that the consummation of an entente between Czechoslovakia, Rumania and Jugo-Slavia will tend to bring something like order out of the chaos of Central Europe. These three Powers will act in concert not only for the preservation of peace but for the rehabilitation of the economic system so completely shattered by the war.

The prime motive of the entente, however, is clearly the community of interest in curbing the growing military strength of Hungary. As constituted at present each of the three Powers embraces in its boundaries large areas which formerly were under the jurisdiction of the Government at Budapest, and they are conscious that Magyar pride will not submit tamely to their permanent alienation. And so, just as Greece, Rumania and Jugo-Slavia are at one in the purpose to retain their recent gains at the expense of Bulgaria, the new entente which almost encircles Hungary will force upon that nation obedience to the treaty of peace.

Unfortunately, these Powers are badly situated for the restoration of economic activity in Central Europe. For this they must appeal to Hungary itself, as before the war Budapest was the trade centre of the entire region, and from it radiate the railway systems which link the new allies one with the other. The coal, iron, linen, glass and woollens of Bohemia can be exchanged for the Serbian meats or Rumanian oil and grain only by passing through Hungary or by taking expensive and roundabout routes.

It is sincerely to be hoped that the nations of Central Europe will once and for all abandon aggressive intent against each other, that they will accept in good faith the outcome of the war and seek to find happiness and prosperity in the new order of affairs. They are sorely in need of peace and recuperation. Much can be accomplished by cooperation and good will; the nursing of old hatreds and ambitions can but lead to new disasters and sufferings. — The (N. Y.) Eve. Sun.

JUNGLE PAINTINGS BRING FAME.

New Works by a Daring Czech Strike New Note in European Art.

Hidden away in a tiny top flat in an apartment house in Žižkov is a painter who is expected to soar into prominence within the next year as the successor of Gauguin, who paved his way to fame with his paintings of native life in Tahiti.

The well known British artist C. W. R. Nevinson, who has just visited his studio, declares him to be the greatest art discovery of recent years in Europe and looks for a wide vogue for the paintings which Jaroslav Hneškovsky has brought back with him from the jungles of India. For Hneškovsky has lived for five years as a native among the vedas of India and has brought back a startling series of paintings which strike a new note in contemporary European art.

He is a Czech who returned from India in 1914, just before the war broke out, and who devoted himself to painting from material which he collected in India throughout the period of the war, preventing himself from being conscripted by the hated Austrian rulers of Prague by starving himself fourteen times.

Cheated the Army Doctor.

"I took the advice of my brother, who is a doctor," he told the writer, "and starved myself scientifically, so that I would not be able to pass the Austrian military doctor. Usually I weighed about 170 pounds, but I succeeded in starving myself down to 125 pounds and succeeded in hiding the fact from the Austrians by taking a glass of brandy about ten minutes before I was to be examined."

He bears the marks of this severe protest against the rule of the hated Austrians to this day. He has not yet recovered his normal physique, and his tall, bony frame and shaven head give him the ascetic look of a Buddhist priest. Surrounded by the paintings which line the walls of his little flat, the man's saturation with Oriental ideas becomes instantly apparent.

He lives only to return to the jungles of India. He says he is going back this winter—but Europe has only begun to pour its flattery upon him. Whether he will remember the jungles of India, which have given him his fame, after the salons of Paris and London have begun to dawn upon him remains to be seen, for there is no doubt that he is one of the greatest "finds" of recent years. His work has all the conciseness of Gauguin and the semi-Oriental splendor of Bakst.

Studied to Be Engineer.

Hneškovsky was originally destined for a civil engineer, but he chafed under the mathematical exactions of engineering, and in 1909 went to the School of Fine Arts at Rome. Here he made a considerable study of the old masters, but not in the accepted way of art academies. Instead, he made free paraphrases of them, taking their motives and rearranging them in his own terms.

He soon tired of copying, and after meeting another Czech artist at the Cafe del Greco, the accepted haunt of artists in Rome, the two of them set out afoot to paint through southern Italy and Sicily. This tour was merely an eye opener to him, and it was not long before they signed up as stokers on an Austrian Lloyd vessel from Trieste bound for India.

They landed at Colombo, with no possessions but artists' materials, two guns, a little ammunition and about \$6.50 between them. The expensive hotels of Colombo were shunned, and they struck off into the Ceylon jungles, to make their homes with the naked savages and to get their food by hunting and fishing.

Three years later Hneškovsky's companion was compelled to return to Prague by reason of an attack of malaria, but Hneškovsky remained behind. For two years longer he made his home with primitive peoples who were untouched by civilization. He was accepted by them as one of their own number, and clad only in a loin cloth, he spent his nights painting about the camp fire and his days in hunting.

Love for the Savages.

He has still the most profound love for these savages. He is thoroughly saturated with the Eastern simplicity of their outlook on life.

"They worship the big rocks in the forests," he says, "and it is impossible to keep from joining them in their veneration of the terrible boulders which lie in their jungles. They believe that a spirit resides in these boulders which rules the forest, and it is this simple veneration of the ele-

mentary forces of nature which makes them supremely attractive to any man who tires of the pompous hypocrisies of Western civilization.

"They have no words for right and wrong. They have no word for stealing in their native tongue. These things are not known among them. It is only as the white men in India are able to trade gin to them that they come into ruinous contact with the West."

Hneškovsky finally came back to Prague just before the war began, to begin the utilization of the material he had collected in the jungles. And there the war caught him. The terrible ordeal to which the Austrians subjected him during the war has all but broken him, but the magnificent physique which enabled him to survive five years in the jungles of India is standing him in good stead.

He is planning now to return to India this fall—but it remains to be seen whether the adulation of Paris and London will turn him away from his loved East. For the little group of British artists who have discovered him regard him as one of the great "finds" of recent years.

—Evening (N. Y.) Sun.

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

Since removing the office of the Czechoslovak Chamber of Commerce of America from Chicago to New York the new quarters have become an important center for advising American business houses regarding Czechoslovak business and merchants of Czechoslovakia regarding business conditions in the United States. A number of firms in Czechoslovakia have submitted propositions, both practical and impractical, to place before the American people. Many large business firms in the United States have come in quest of information as to the best method of opening up business relations in the new country. Information at the disposal of the executive offices of the Chamber was freely and gladly given.

The principal functions of this Chamber of Commerce are informative relative to commerce between the two countries. It cannot undertake to buy or sell. It must be a neutral and an independent body.

Naturally the expenses of maintaining an organization of this kind are heavy. One of the first organizations to grasp the importance of maintaining the New York Office was the Cleveland Chamber of Commerce. In answer to an urgent appeal they immediately sent \$168.00 as their contribution. Following the receipt of this sum came the tidings from Chicago that the following firms became active members:

Adams State Bank, Jos. Klička, President.
American State Bank, Jas. F. Štěpina, President.
Depositors State Bank, James J. Pesička, Pres.
Kasper State Bank, Otto Kasper, President.
Lawndale National Bank, Fr. G. Hájíček, Pres.
Frank G. Hájíček, Banker.

Pilsen Products Co., John A. Červenka, Pres.

Atlas Brewing Co., Otto Kubin, President.

W. Morava, Iron Construction.

Western State Bank of Cicero, John W. Jedlan, President.

Garden City Brewery, Ant. J. Zahrobsky, Pres.

Albert Lurie Co., Albert Lurie, Pres.

All of these came through Mr. F. G. Hajiček, Secretary of the American Czechoslovak Bankers Association, and Mr. John A. Červenka.

In New York:

Waldes and Company, Inc., Dress Fastening Devices, and

Bank of Europe, Thomas Čapek, President.

became members. Other members are being secured. It is very gratifying indeed that Czechoslovak business men are sufficiently interested in this undertaking to assure the continuance of an organization so vitally necessary in these times of economic chaos. The future of the Czechoslovak Chamber of Commerce of America is assured.

The Chamber has on file at its offices, 106 East 19th St., New York City, numerous requests from various firms in Czechoslovakia offering goods, requesting agencies or asking for specific information in certain particular lines. It will be the policy of the organization to send a weekly letter to each of its members and therein to show which requests have been received, thus affording the members the first opportunity to take advantage of these inquiries. It must be remembered that America knows but little regarding Czechoslovak products, that this field is large but production is limited by the exchange fluctuation.

All Czechoslovak business men and others interested in Czechoslovak economic welfare are urged to affiliate with the organization, to support it not only morally but materially. The Chamber will serve a useful purpose to the advantage not only of America but to Czechoslovakia as well.

TESCHEN QUESTION OUT OF THE WAY.

The controversy over Teschen has apparently been settled by awarding the town of Teschen to the Poles and the coal fields to the Czechs. This solution of the problem does away with the plebiscite which had been planned for this district and promises to put an end to the almost continuous strife with which the country has been torn for the last year.

The ancient duchy of Teschen, the territory in dispute, lies on the border between Poland and Czechoslovakia, and its capital, Teschen, a town of about 23,000 inhabitants, is not more than fifty miles from the old Polish capital of Cracow. The coveted treasure is the coal fields, with a resource of about 6,000,000,000 tons, in the southern part of the duchy. The question of a plebiscite is widely different here from what it is in Schleswig or

Silesia. The duchy did not belong to the German Empire but for the last six centuries has been an integral part of Bohemia. The Czechoslovaks of Teschen thus believe that in being forced to take part in a plebiscite their right to what is incontestably their own is brought into question.

The contention of the Poles was that the population of Teschen was largely Polish and that the Czechoslovaks did not actually need the Teschen coal fields. The Czechoslovaks, however, say that a plebiscite would show 260,000 votes in their favor as against 180,000 in favor of the Poles. They hold also that the resources of the Polish coal fields are greater than their own and that the Teschen fields are necessary to their industrial development.

The Ambassadors' Council gave to Poland the town of Teschen, in which there is a larger proportion of Polish inhabitants than in the rural district. It considered that the plea of the Czechs for more fuel was well founded and awarded the coal fields to Czechoslovakia. The territory was practically divided into two almost equal parts by making the railroad through the capital the boundary between the two States.

Poland and Czechoslovakia, it is said, will offer no objections to this decision of the Council. Ambassador Wallace has agreed to the finding, and it is believed that he will receive an authorization from Washington to sign the decision. The United States was called into consultation upon the Teschen question, but as it took no decided stand in the matter it is considered by the Council that it will not oppose the settlement which has been reached. Europe unquestionably stands ready to accept the agreement. It will save the expense and trouble of a plebiscite and will prepare the way for the final settlement of the whole Silesian question.

—Sun N. Y. Herald.

A BRIGHT SPOT IN EUROPE.

In the chaos of Europe that has followed the treaty of peace and the organization of the ill-starred league of nations, one country stands out brightly. That is Czechoslovakia, the amalgamation of the Bohemians and the Slovaks.

It has not escaped war entirely. Trouble with the Poles, who endeavored to slice off a section of rich mineral country for their own advantage, brought on border skirmishing; but that has long since been quieted, and for the last few months Czechoslovakia has given an excellent imitation of the sort of country of which it was said, "It is happy because it has nothing to record in history."

Its inhabitants are essentially of the same stock. They speak essentially the same language, the Slovak dialect not differing from Bohemian enough to be really confusing. It is self-dependent, with plenty of minerals, including not only iron and copper, but even silver and a little gold; plenty

of farming land and highly developed manufactures. Its people are educated; the Bohemian percentage of illiteracy is very low, said to be less than 3 per cent, and though the percentage among the Slovaks is much higher, schools are being established more rapidly than anywhere else in Europe. So far, at any rate, differences in religion have created no friction.

Best of all for Czechoslovakia, it has a leader in "Father Masaryk," who has the confidence of the whole people. They know he is honest, and they are convinced that he is practical. He has fought their battle for years, and in the time of victory has changed neither his habits nor his point of view.

The Czechoslovaks look on America with pride, as the country of idealism. It is not outside the bounds of possibility that Americans may come to look on Czechoslovakia with equal pride, as the country in which idealism was translated into efficiency.

—Chicago (Ill.) Examiner.

THE TESCHEN SETTLEMENT.

The dispute between the Poles and Czechs over Teschen, originally a district of Austrian Silesia, has been compromised in a way that apparently should be satisfactory to both sides. At one time it was a duchy attached to Bohemia, but was swallowed up along with that country by the Hapsburgs. Historically it belonged to the Czechs, but the bulk of the population is Polish. The district contains valuable coal mines which both Poles and Czechs wanted and on which Bohemian industry had largely depended. The dispute finally developed in a clash at arms.

The Poles appear to have been mainly in the wrong in starting the trouble, and they were the chief sufferers. Not only could they count on no help from the Czechs in their war against Russia, but the Russians even hoped, though in vain, for a Czech attack on the Polish rear. The Czechs have remained neutral, but Poland has found little sympathy among them. By the ambassadorial arbiters the district has been divided in almost equal parts, with Poland getting the town of Teschen, where the Austrian army headquarters were situated during most of the war, and the Czechs coal mines, but with the stipulation that Poland must be allowed part of the coal at fair prices.

Utica (N. Y.) Tribune.

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EVENING SONGS.

By Vítězslav Hálek. Translated by Dr. Joseph Štýbr. The Gorham Press, Boston.

Czechoslovaks in America will be pleased to know that considerable attention is nowadays paid to the poets of their native land. The latest contribution in this respect is made by Dr. Josef Štýbr, a physician of Pittsburgh. He rendered into English an old favorite of all Czech lovers, "Hálek's Evening Song".

The work is now two generations old and possibly will strike the present taste as too sentimental. Hálek's songs just fitted in with the days, when the waltz was supreme, but they may not appeal very much to the young people of to-day, who worship the "shimmy". The theme of the poem is an old one—the tender feeling of two youthful hearts for each other. Hálek's strength consists in the exquisiteness of his form, something that is very hard to reproduce in a translation. Dr. Štýbr succeeded in his difficult task to a considerable degree, as he has a very sensitive ear for rhythm. By giving these poems to the American public, he has placed all his Czech countrymen under a deep obligation.

NOTICE

The main office of the Czechoslovak Review is at 106 East 19th Street, New York City, N. Y. All questions relating to news and editorial matters should be directed to this office.

The publication office is at 2146 Blue Island Ave., Chicago, Ill. Subscribers' changes and all questions relating to publication should be directed to the Chicago office.

Announcement

THE Czechoslovak Review, 106 East 19th St., New York, N. Y., offers five prizes of 500 Cs. crowns, each, for articles on the following subjects:

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4. All manuscripts submitted must be written or typewritten on one side of the paper only.
5. Illustrations will be accepted.
6. Manuscripts may be submitted at any time after October 15, 1920, but none will be received or accepted after December 15, 1920.
7. The right is reserved to reject any and all in any one group or in all groups.
8. Pre-war statistics are not desired, except for comparison. The contestants should devote themselves wholly as to what these various lines of activities have done since the Republic has come into being.
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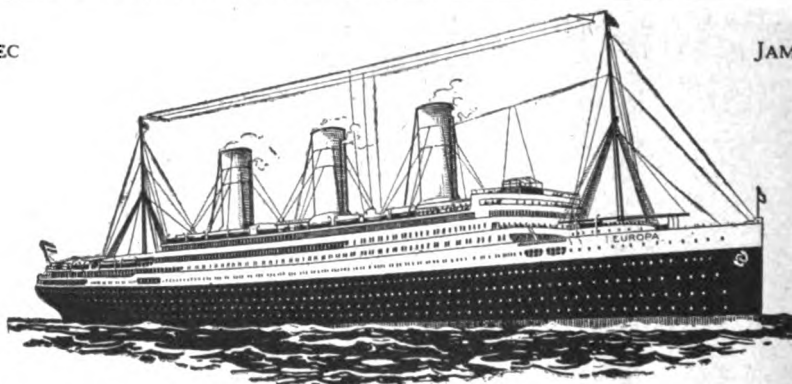
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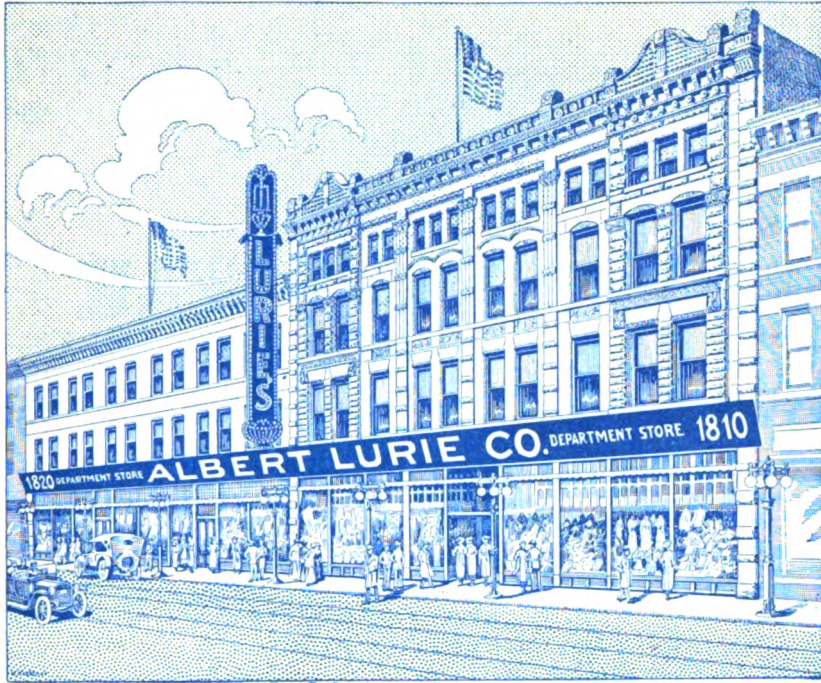
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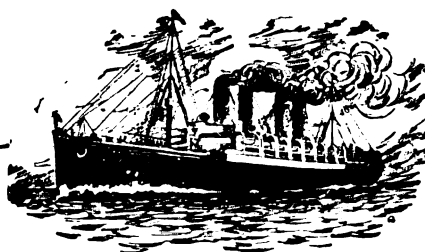
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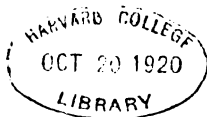
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Vol. IV.

OCTOBER, 1920.

No. 10

A Comparison of Constitutional Provisions

By KAREL PERGLER,

envoy extraordinary and minister plenipotentiary of the Czechoslovak Republic to Japan.

In American legal circles a misconception seems to have arisen as to certain features of the new Czechoslovak Constitution, or, it perhaps should be said, concerning the alleged absence of certain provisions thought to be desirable. Thus it has been said that in Czechoslovakia property rights have no constitutional protection and there has also been at least implied criticism that under the new constitution jury trials are not mandatory.*) Are such points well taken? In these respects, can any comparison be made between the American constitutions, federal and state, and, if so, is there any essential difference between the American republic and the new central European one? It would be very tempting to make an elaborate comparison. However, even should space permit, I would be somewhat handicapped by lack of library facilities, particularly of reports of adjudicated cases in the courts of last resort which constitute precedents. But perhaps it is just as well, because a cursory examination of the constitutions involved, with respect to the questions raised, shows there is hardly any essential difference between the American and the Czechoslovak fundamental laws.

I.

Are there provisions protecting property rights in the constitution of the new republic? Most certainly! Article five, sections 108 and 109 provide:—

108. "Every Czechoslovak citizen may settle in any part of the Czechoslovak

*) See Czechoslovak Review for August, 1920, article "The Czechoslovak Constitution" by Mr. Alexander A. Mayper.

Republic, acquire real property there and engage in a gainful occupation, within the limits of general legal provisions.

This right may be restricted only in public interest by law."

109. "Private ownership may only be restricted by law. Expropriation may be accomplished only in compliance with law and compensation shall be paid, except where the law specifically provides compensation shall not be paid."

Czechoslovak Review for May 1920, page 192; Current History for July, 1920, page 735.

Owing to the broad statement made that in Czechoslovakia property rights have no constitutional protection, one would be justified in simply quoting these provisions. But let us proceed further and recall what American constitutions say in such matters.

Amendment five to the Federal Constitution provides, among other things, that no person shall be "deprived of life, liberty or property, without due process of law; nor shall private property be taken for public use, without just compensation." The fourteenth amendment, section one, contains a restriction upon the states in similar language:—"Nor shall any state deprive any person of life, liberty or property, without due process of law." In nearly all the States the Constitutions provide that no person can be deprived of his life, liberty or property except by due process of law or by the law of the land or the judgment of his peers (Stimson, Federal and State Constitutions, of the United States, Book 3, par. 130.)

What is due process of law? By due process of law is not meant in all cases, judicial proceedings, for private property is frequently taken from its owner according to well-recognized methods and for legitimate purposes without the judgment of a court (McClain, Constitutional Law in the United States, par. 257.) Cooley in his Constitutional Limitations says: — "Due process of law in each particular case means such an exertion of the process of the government as the settled maxims of law permit and sanction, and under such safeguards for the protection of individual rights as these maxims prescribe for the class of cases to which the one in question belongs."

It is quite clear, therefore, that on the whole the difference presented is one of phraseology. The one class of constitutions prohibits the taking of property without due process of law, and, generally, requires compensation. The Czechoslovak constitution declares private ownership may only be restricted by law and that expropriation may be accomplished only in compliance with the law and that compensation shall be paid.

The fundamental consideration is that in the Czechoslovak Republic, in question of property rights, the rule of law is established, as in the United States. This reasoning applies as well to the exception the Czechoslovaks have made that compensation must be made except where the law specifically provides that compensation shall not be made. One cannot discuss such provisions without knowing and bearing in mind the difference of conditions. For instance, there are in the Republic large landed estates belonging to the Hapsburg dynasty. They were obtained long ago by fraud, violence and persecution. The law expropriating large landed estates provides that in such cases no compensation shall be paid. I am convinced no American will quarrel with this provision. The matter is one of a sense of right, as even in England a mere act of parliament could change the whole status of private property.

The Oklahoma constitution qualifies the usual American property protection provision by a declaration that a man has an inherent right only to such property as results from his own natural industry. (See Stimson, Federal and State Constitutions of the United States, page 36). This would

seem to open the door widely to legislative discretion in questions of property. Certainly, it is a much stronger declaration than anything found in the Czechoslovak Constitution.

There is a school of thought in the United States which complains, lately with increasing frequency, that the extension of the doctrine of police power has broken down constitutional barriers for the protection of property rights. A member of one of the courts of last resort only recently bitterly criticized Mr. Justice Holmes' famous definition of police power as being determined by prevalent public opinion. (I am of course giving only the substance of the definition—the text not being at hand.)

What is police power? In the case of the City of New York vs. Miln the Supreme Court of the United States declared, "We should say that every law came within this description which concerned the welfare of the whole people of a state, or any individual within it; whether it related to their rights or their duties; whether it respected them as men, or as citizens of the state; whether in their public or private relations; whether it related to the rights of persons, or of property, of the whole people of the state, or of any individual within it, and whose operation was within the territorial limits of the state and upon the persons and things within its jurisdiction." (The quotation is from Burgess, Political Science and Constitutional Law, vol. I, page 213.) It will be seen that this definition is so broad as to be open to infinite possibilities, and it must be remembered that since the decision quoted from, the court has, if anything, given a still broader interpretation of its understanding of police power.

In a collection of readings upon American government and politics I find it said that the police power of the state is rightly called "the dark continent" of American constitutional law, because it is the vague and undefinable authority for acting in the name of the public welfare, which the state retains in spite of the restrictions imposed by the federal constitution. (Beard, Readings in American Government and Politics.)

How the courts upheld anti-liquor and anti-saloon legislation, prior to the Prohibition Amendment, under the doctrine of police power, is well known. How the brewers claimed their property was being

destroyed by mere legislation, in contravention of the constitution, is equally well known. There is on this question a celebrated case from Kansas. The cases abound in statements that property is nothing but a creature of law. Again, let us not forget that power to tax is power to take, said Chief Justice Marshall.

In his dissenting opinion in the New York Case relating to the constitutionality of a law regulating the hours of labor in bakeries, Mr. Justice Holmes declares the fourteenth amendment does not enact Herbert Spencer's Social Statics. It is well to remember that any attempt to enact social statics into a constitution would be fatal to nation and state in more ways than one.

The American constitutional provisions under discussion are intended to make impossible arbitrary deprivation of life, or liberty, or arbitrary spoliation of property. That, too, is the object of the Czechoslovak Constitution. There can be no such arbitrary deprivation or spoliation, where the deliberate process of legislation must be invoked. The accompanying debates and the white light of publicity prevent arbitrary action even if we assume its possibility in a large body of several hundred men of diverse opinions. Therefore, in both cases the aims desired have been accomplished.

II.

Jury trials are not mandatory in the Czechoslovak Republic — nor are jury trials mandatory in the United States of America.

It is elementary that parties may waive a trial by jury and stipulate to submit their case to the court. Such instances arise frequently in the practice of all lawyers in America. Yet it may not be without profit to the lay reader to have before him the following quotation from a legal authority: —“The right to trial by jury in a court of law is one which may be waived by the person entitled thereto, and such courts are generally authorized to try cases without a jury where both parties consent thereto. In a case so tried the conclusion of the judge as to the facts takes the place of the verdict of a jury.” (McClain, Constitutional Law in the United States, par. 252.)

By the constitution of many states the right to a trial by jury may be waived by the parties in all cases in the manner pre-

scribed by law. Other states go even further and provide that the right shall be deemed waived, in all civil cases, unless demanded by the parties, or one of them, in the manner prescribed by law. In one state the constitution only provides that the right shall be preserved if required by either party. (Stimson, Federal and State Constitutions of the United States, book 3, par. 24, citing constitutions by paragraphs.)

In criminal cases, in most states a jury trial may be waived if the prisoner so desires (Hart, Actual Government, par. 25) and McClain, basing his statement upon the authority of Harris vs. People of Illinois, holds a prisoner may consent to be tried without a jury provided the court is legally authorized to try a criminal case without a jury (Constitutional Law, par. 243). Under this authority, therefore, the question of waiver in criminal cases is simply one of statutory regulation and jurisdiction.

The implied criticism of the Czechoslovak constitution concerning jury trials being narrowed to the objection that under this instrument these are not mandatory, the case again could be rested here. However, the question being not only interesting, but important as well, I feel justified in proceeding somewhat further and discussing the Czechoslovak constitutional provisions as to jury trials in the light of certain other American experiences and conclusions. These provisions, found in article four, section 95, are as follows:—

“The place of juries in judicial procedure is regulated by special laws.

Jury trials may be temporarily suspended in cases provided for by law.”

This is a distinct, though perhaps somewhat indirect, recognition of trial by jury. The American lawyer will at once recall John Marshall's doctrine of implied powers and will understand that certain rights are necessarily implied, too. The analogy is not far-fetched. The provisions cited are certainly much more than the simple constitutional provision of California, in criminal cases, that the accused shall have a speedy and public trial. (Stimson, Constitutions, par. 131, book 3.)

Most students of political institutions believe now that a constitution should be simply a general declaration of fundamentals rights and principles, and that details

should be left to ordinary legislation; that constitutions, in the interest of sane and sound progress, should be fairly elastic, and not rigid, and from this point of view these provisions of the Czechoslovak constitution are a distinct advance in the technique of constitution making.

Then, too, we must look at these things in the light of historical development. Time was when popular participation in government was unknown and when the right to trial by jury was practically the only source of justice for the common people. Conditions have changed, and, says prof. Ashley, it is no longer the one thing indispensable to the oppressed. "But constitutional provisions remain", says Judge McClain, "after conditions leading to their adoption have disappeared, and it can hardly be thought that there is longer any necessity for jury trial as a bulwark against tyranny on the part of the government with reference to the individual." An American publication has called the Czechoslovak Constitution the climax of democracy's advance. Surely, in this democracy, no one need fear such tyranny.

The question of provisions as to jury trials is increasingly one of expediency. In the United States a lively debate is going on concerning the advisability of modifica-

tions and changes in constitutional regulations of the right to trial by jury. In the Central Law Journal for July 30th, 1920, I find a discussion on the question whether the right of trial by jury is taken away by a law which authorizes a new trial on the question of damages alone. Such questions could not arise were the constitutions more flexible, or if such matters were left for regulation by ordinary legislation.

In the Philippine Islands, the United States Congress has not thought fit to apply previous indictment or trial by jury (I am relying on Hart, Actual Government, par. 16, and Beard, Readings in American Government and Politics, par. 154.) In the Mankichi case, raising the question of application of constitutional guarantees to the Islands, the United States Supreme Court, Mr. Justice Brown delivering the opinion, declared that jury trial is not a fundamental right, but that the legislation in question simply concerned a method of procedure which sixty years of practice had shown to be suited to the conditions of the islands, and well calculated to conserve the rights of their citizens to their lives, their property and their well being.

The Czechoslovak constitution hardly needs any defense on the score of its provisions concerning jury trials.

The Month in Czechoslovakia

The new Cabinet formed by Jan Černý on September 15, 1920, is constituted as follows:

Premier and Minister of Interior: Jan Černý.

Posts and Telegraphs: Dr. Emil Fat'ka.

National Defense: General Ot. Husák.

Agriculture: J. Brdlik.

Social Welfare: Prof. J. Gruber.

Unification: Dr. Vladimír Fajnor (Presiding Justice of the highest court for Slovakia.)

Supplies: Division Chief Průša.

Health: Dr. F. Procházka (Expert for the City of Prague.)

*Foreign Affairs: Dr. Eduard Beneš.

*Finances: Dr. Karel Engliš.

Education: Dr. J. Šusta (Professor of History, Prague (Czech) University.)

*These ministers held over from Tusar Cabinet.

Justice: Dr. Popelka.

*Commerce: Dr. Hotovec.

Railroads: Dr. Burger.

For Slovakia: Dr. Martin Mičura (Formerly district governor for Nitra.)

This is what is commonly called an "Official" Cabinet, most of its members being heads of departments within their respective ministries. Understanding thoroughly the problems of each portfolio they should make signal progress toward reconstruction in Czechoslovakia. After the convention of the Social Democratic party a new ministry is likely to be formed.

Much publicity has been given to a corporation formed in Europe under the name of "The Anglo-Danubian Federation". Considerable mystery surrounds the inception of this undertaking. Its purpose is said to be the commercial development of the

countries adjacent to the River Danube. One of the things strongly advocated by this organization is the elimination of customs duties, customs borders and custom guards in what was formerly Austria-Hungary. The idea is a free interchange of commodities between the countries to be embraced within the sphere of operations of the corporation. To promote this project the most adroit brains were engaged and it might be interesting to know that the little "bug" which conceived the formation of this institution hailed from Vienna. Astute English bankers and financiers, without suspecting the real purpose of the organization, were brought into this scheme by suave promoters.

What are the objects? The currency systems of the various countries are to remain intact. As exchange is higher and more valuable in some countries as regard to others, differential export taxes are levied so as to practically equalize values throughout the world. And here is where the "Anglo-Danubian Federation" plays its fine hand. The Czechoslovak rate of exchange on Roumania might be on a parity. The Czechoslovak rate of exchange on England may be comparatively high. The Roumanian rate of exchange on England might be high, proportionately equal to Czechoslovakia-England. Thus it is of immense advantage to the "Anglo-Danubian Federation" to sell Czechoslovak products to Roumania, then resell to Great Britain, thereby obviating the export tax ordinarily levied by Czechoslovakia to equalize prices. As between Czechoslovakia and Roumania, under the schemes of the "Anglo-Danubian Federation", there would be no customs duties, therefore, the "Anglo-Danubians" would profit extraordinarily by this procedure. It would buy Czechoslovak goods at Roumanian prices, undersell Czechoslovak manufacturers in foreign markets and in this way control or totally kill-off Czechoslovak foreign trade. The "Anglo-Danubian Federation", as a sop, decided on Prague as its headquarters but the "little bug" in Vienna, who first dreamed the "Anglo-Danubian Federation", as well as the adroit English promoters, knew well that the actual headquarters of this organization was to be in the Vienna branch. Therefore the "Anglo-Danubian Federation" was nothing more than an attempt to revive the old Austro-Hungarian econ-

omic system to the detriment of Czechoslovakia and its foreign trade.

A Japanese news agency reports that the S. S. "Hefferon", of the United States Shipping Board, was wrecked off Hong Kong. On board there were about 1,350 Czechoslovak soldiers returning from Siberia. The loss of life is not yet known nor is the report confirmed.

The beet sugar crop this year will be saved at all costs, if the Czechoslovak Sugar Corporation can accomplish it. The vexing problem is fuel. To overcome the deficiency of rolling stock on the railroads, fifty trucks have been hired to haul coal from the mines to the sugar mills. This will considerably aid the production of sugar.

Recently, in speaking of the 1921 budget, Dr. Karel Engliš, the Minister of Finance, said: "The indications point that in next year our expenditures will approximate 14,000,000,000 crowns, and our receipts will be 14,000,000,000 crowns. Therefore, we should strike a balance between our receipts and disbursements. However, this does not include all capital outlay as must be necessarily undertaken and for that purpose we are negotiating in England and America for loans. These will be secured by the public undertakings as well as by the credit of the State".

He then continued to speak of the exchange value of the crown, "It is not necessary that the Czechoslovak crown should return to its pre-war values. It is better that it should gradually but steadily rise in the foreign exchange markets, but it should not fluctuate so radically as it has during the last two years. Such fluctuations endanger our foreign trade and work against the interest of our labor. If it were possible for us to fix a certain value on the crown, no matter how low, and which would not permit of wild fluctuations, many of our troubles would be done away with".

The tanning industry recently held a meeting where arrangements were made for the distribution of hides purchased by the purchasing agencies of that industry, which accumulated during the last few

months. All told, there is on hand 32,000 beef hides and 32,000 calf skins. These are to be taken over at a fixed price and in return for the remission of the interest on the term of credit extended therein from three to five months, the government is to have a right to purchase such quantities of tanned hides at fixed prices during the forthcoming eight months to meet the demands of the domestic trades. The tanning industry is extremely anxious to open up business relations with Russia so as to secure the vast supplies of raw hides of that territory.

This fall a number of Bohemian artists will visit the United States to tour the country and appear in concerts. Under the management of Otokar Bartik, the ballet master of the Metropolitan Opera House, Mme. Emmy Destinova will sing in fifteen Grand Opera performances at the Metropolitan and give twenty concerts in the larger cities of the United States. Kubelik, the famous violinist, will appear in seventy-five concerts, the first of which will be in St. Louis on October 12, 1920. Boža Umírov also will appear in about twenty-five concerts. The gifted Kubelik twins are under contract to appear in this country next season.

While the fight for the control of the oil supply of the world is reaching into remotest corners of the globe almost every country is prospecting in the hopes that mother earth may disclose and pour forth the mysterious liquid which modern science has made so essential. In Moravia, in the little town of Hodonin, at a depth of 335 metres it is reported that crude petroleum has been found. The quality thereof has not yet been determined. For a country like Czechoslovakia, which is naturally dependent on foreign sources for oil supply, a discovery of oil will be of tremendous advantage in the development of its industries.

On August 8th in Bratislava the cornerstone of the postal and railroad employees' Y. M. C. A. Building was laid with appropriate ceremonies. The American Y. M. C. A. contributed an amount equal to about 5,000,000 cs. crowns, while the government furnished the balance of the cost. The

building will be of the most modern type providing daily sleeping accommodations for 250 men and is equipped with a restaurant, gymnasium, reading rooms and all other appurtenances of such institutions.

Salt, which has been one of the vexing problems of the Republic, is now furnished by the state salt mines at Akna-Slatine in Russia. It is estimated that the daily yield, under normal conditions, is about forty carloads. Just at this time almost 1,300 carloads are lying at the bottom of the shafts ready to be hoisted and transported, but due to the acuteness of the fuel situation this was not undertaken heretofore. Dr. Vrbensky, minister of public works, recently made an inspection of the conditions hereabouts and due to his interest in the matter, sufficient coal was apportioned to this section which enables this industry to properly function, thus supplying the people with salt.

Several large Czechoslovak concerns have organized a corporation for the manufacture of artificial silk. A suitable site has been purchased at Vrchlabi and the equipment is now rapidly being installed in the buildings. It is expected that the establishment will be in full operation with the beginning of the new year.

Dr. Engliš, the minister of finance, is engaged with a plan to erect two hundred apartment houses by the state in Prague, for use of its employees. The acute housing shortage in the capital makes this step necessary and it is hoped that the buildings will be finished and ready for occupancy in the early spring.

Red Hill, near Košice, contains an immense treasure—magnesite ($MgCO_3$). Europe has but three locations where this necessity is found, one in Austria, another in Slovakia and the third at Red Hill. It is stated that the last named deposits are the best in quality in the world. As the property on which these deposits are located is owned by the city of Košice, the governing body thereof decided not to sell outright but to permit their operation under a license or on a percentage arrangement. The Eastern Czech Industrial

Corporation has made an offer to the city to work these deposits. It is expected that operations will soon begin.

In July the yield of coal of the Moravská Ostrava mines amounted to 6,836,339 quintals as against 4,925,633 quintals in June and 5,693,508 quintals in May. The mines of this district give employment to 45,151 miners while the coke ovens employ 4,696 hands.

It is possible for a citizen of the Czechoslovak Republic to visit Venice, Paris, New York and London without the knowledge of other tongues than the Bohemian, without passports and without exchanging his money within the space of time of about half a day. In northern Bohemia four settlements have been renamed Venice, Paris, New York and London. It is hoped that no complications in the almost broken down postal service will be attributed to the renaming of these localities.

Czechoslovakia has purchased 250,000 metres of assorted English textiles on long term credit. This purchase was made necessary through the unhealthy conditions of Czechoslovak foreign exchange which made it impossible to buy raw materials and convert into the necessary finished products. The prices at which these will be sold to consumers are very low and will be of immense advantage to the people.

The Czechoslovak Sugar Corporation, a governmental agency for the control of the sale of Czechoslovak beet sugar, has issued a bulletin on the sugar beet crop this year. Due to favorable weather conditions it is in excellent shape and the present indications are that beets will yield about 800,000 metric tons of sugar of which about half will be consumed by the inhabitants of the Republic and the balance will be available for export.

In a recent issue, the rejuvenated Prague daily "Čas" has this to say regarding Magyar propaganda: "The officials of the Republic, whose duty it is to cope with disloyal and vicious propaganda, which is frequently evident in Slovakia, in their efforts to be just to the minorities often overlook flagrant cases. No Magyars are de-

ported until it is definitely proven that they are in the employ of the Magyar government. A large number of Magyars are working in a subtle fashion in Slovakia by appearing at *Kavárnas* and beer gardens posing as travellers. They usually get the ear of the crowd and inform it that they have learned on good authority that Slovakia is to be returned to Hungary and that when this is done all of the Slovaks who have been loyal to the Republic will be driven out. The constant repetition of such weird tales has a deterrent effect on the country's population and the Republic might well assume a more militant attitude toward these disloyal, and in many cases traitorous Magyar propagandists."

Bohemia is to spend 13,937,431 Cs. crowns for the improvement of the waterways, particularly the Rivers Elbe and Vltava. River transportation is assuming a proportion never heretofore dreamed of in this country, therefore, the rearrangements of the banks and beds of the streams become necessary to permit the navigation of boats.

The attitude of the Germans is best illustrated by the action of the City Council of Karlsbad. Months ago a contract was signed whereby the National Theatre Opera Company was to give three performances "The Bartered Bride", "Dalibor", and "Werther" in the City Theatre. When the company was ready to start on its journey to Karlsbad, a telegram was received to the effect that the city had reconsidered its decision to permit these performances and cancelled the lease. Appeals by the Minister of Education as well as the Ministry of Interior fell on deaf ears. The Germans were insistent that the performances should not be held and finally gained their point. Naturally such tactics as these do not tend to heal the breach between the Germans and the Czechoslovaks.

In the City of Kozin, Mr. Švehla found a number of glazed tiles used as interior decorations of a castle which formerly stood near the spot where the discovery was made. From the deciphered inscriptions it was found that they were placed there by Jan of Hardeka, who owned the castle during the years 1387-1392, therefore, this conclusively proves that the tiles were

made about that time and the Czechoslovaks were well versed in ceramic art even in those days.

John Wanamaker, the Philadelphia and New York merchant prince, furnished the pen with which was signed the Declaration of Independence of the mid-European races in Independence Hall, Philadelphia, on September 6, 1918. One of the signers of that document was President Masaryk. The other day a delegation consisting of Professor Herbert A. Miller, of Oberlin College, Mr. Walter Gethman and Irving Kimball, both of the Y. M. C. A. in Czechoslovakia, presented to the National Museum this historic relic where it will be placed on view.

Taxes on cultivated land have been raised 50 per cent and on forests and wood lots 200 per cent. This is the result of a compromise between the Social Democratic party on the one side and the Agrarians and Czechoslovak Socialists on the other. It grew out of the fact that the National Democrats proposed to levy a tax on the harvests of this year. The Agrarians and National Socialists contended that this would be an unequal tax weighing heavily on the thrift and industry of the farmers. Hence this compromise. The purpose of the tax is to reimburse the State treasury for extraordinary outlays incurred and not covered by previous taxation or internal loans.

Mounting costs and scarcity of white print paper in the United States is responsible for the importation of that commodity from such distant countries as Scandinavia and Finland.

With the continued depletion of American forests the question uppermost in every mind is, to where shall we look for new sources of print paper. The visible supply of newsprint paper is small and the situation critical. Publishers are at their wits ends to secure necessary stocks. At the present time the supply is limited by the mechanical capacity of the paper mills, which are rapidly consuming all the visible American standing timber.

Czechoslovakia is suitably adapted to the production of white paper. The forests are scientifically cultivated and offer

practically inexhaustible, though limited, supplies of wood for the production of this necessity. The mechanical capacity of the existing mills is not sufficient to meet domestic demands therefore existing agencies cannot furnish any quantities of this commodity.

The dense forests of Slovakia and Ruscina offer excellent locations for the erection of pulp and paper mills on rivers where power may be secured at minimum cost and at the same time offering transportation facilities either to the north, Danzig, or to the south, Trieste, or if still a cheaper means of transportation is desired the finished product could be shipped by water on the Danube and then transshipped across the Atlantic.

Before this may be realized it is necessary to understand that new mills must be erected to conform to the requirements of the American paper trade. It would be possible to manufacture machinery in the Czechoslovak machine shops, either in Prague, Pilsen or Brno, from American plans, thus saving much time, manufacturing and transportation costs. There is no doubt but what the government would give an undertaking of this character its wholehearted support because it is one of the avenues of export which is possible of development, which at this time is dormant because of a lack of capital.

In this connection it might be noted that working forces could be recruited from among the Czechoslovak people whose wages, while large in the number of crowns, when converted into dollars are but meagre. This proposition is worthy of serious investigation on the part of those seriously affected by the insufficient supply of white print paper.

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Mr. Jan G. Masaryk, the Charge d'Affaires at Washington of the Czechoslovak Republic, sails very shortly for Prague. While at his American post Mr. Masaryk made many lasting acquaintances, not only in official circles but throughout the country. His genial personality made many staunch friends for Czechoslovakia.

He goes direct to Prague, where he will report on his mission to this country and then be assigned to another diplomatic post. Many of the young diplomat's friends will regret his departure and all wish him a "Bon Voyage" and future success.

The Little Entente

Under the terms of the Czechoslovak constitution, (Sect. 54) provision is made for carrying on the work of the National Assembly during the period when it is not in session, or, when it has been dissolved by the President, by a body called the "Standing Committee". This committee consists of twenty-four members — sixteen deputies and eight senators. It has, practically, full legislative powers, subject to ratification within two months after convention by the National Assembly and if such approval is denied or withheld then their actions become null and void. Before this body Dr. Eduard Beneš, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Czechoslovakia, on September 1st, 1920, made a report regarding the formation of the "Little Entente," by Czechoslovakia, Rumania and Jugoslavia.

In the course of his talk Dr. Beneš said: "We see all about us influences of the war, of the subsequent peace negotiations and, also, through occurrences in the East, that all Europe is still in ferment and how from this restlessness and uncertainty arises nervousness, disorder and in the final analysis—fear.

"Internal as well as external unrest and dread are evidenced in all the smaller States of Central Europe. Internal apprehensions from revolutions and overthrows; anarchy and external fear from military conflicts with this or that neighbor; an overthrow of the State — a return to old conditions, particularly anarchistic or other ructions. It is noteworthy that not even individuals, therefore in a less degree the the whole nation, can live much longer under such mental strains. It would create in the end a moral stagnation and bring about the destruction of all political, economic and social order.

"Here then we find some of the reasons which led us—that we should at all costs create a center where these mental leanings of ours as well as those of others—to eradicate fear and to instill the inhabitants with confidence and try to give them that peace which would dispel nervousness and with passing time bring about order. In other words, it was our object that after a long period of destruction and demolition we begin rebuilding, that we should keep in close

relation with those who have interests identical to ours, who have the same goals and who feel as we.

"Economic necessity was the second basic idea which led us to cooperate with Jugoslavia and Rumania. There is no doubt that the existing economic situation is difficult everywhere. It is so with us and throughout all Central Europe. It is far better than it is possible to judge from public criticism, but nevertheless normal economic life does not exist, because between the interested states and nations, those which have common interests, to this day proper relations have not been established. In the last two years, or since the armistice, it has been impossible for the individual states in Central Europe to properly gauge their economic requirements. They have noted the possible tendencies of their future economic policies, they have clearly grasped mutual economic relations as between themselves, arranged their statistics and correctly worked out programs for import and export.

"This brought about divergent results. Customs barriers between individual states were built extremely high. Customs and monetary (*valuta*) regulations became so complicated that in truth *defacto* economic difficulties of these states were not only created but constantly multiplied and prevail to this day. There is no doubt that in many instances social anarchy — it is not possible to solve the problems otherwise than through early resumption of normal economic relations between those states which economically must be dependent on each other.

"Under these circumstances, between these three states which are politically intimate, there was created, regarding certain questions, a unity of purpose. It is evident that in the basis for this understanding are also found many economic fundamentals, on the one or the other side. the appeasing of which may bring these countries to more normal conditions, both commercial and financial. and through this means into more lasting legal, political and social relations.

"The policy of the Czechoslovak Republic has always been peace-loving and one of nonintervention and which resulted in the

creation of the "Little Entente", between Rumania, Jugoslavia and ourselves and which means simply—1. external (against aggression) assurances; 2. Quickly to enter into intimate political and economic relations; and, 3. make possible domestic peace to provide uninterrupted production and carrying on of social reforms.

"Aside from these ideals which are the basis for the understanding we must not forget the concrete political reasons for this entente. The three states are neighbors of the Magyars, in whose territories there exists chaos which is a real danger for all of us. Pursuant to this understanding peace is assured in central Europe against all sudden aggression from Hungary.

"Hungary is the least changed in its political and social structures of all the states that participated in the war. She is just what she was at the outbreak of the war—just as desirous to dominate and oppress other people. It was this fact, clearly in mind, that actuated my country and the other two states to form the 'Little Entente' and thus we have taken the first step toward lessening the feeling of apprehension which is depressing our peoples at the spectacle of Magyar ambitions for conquest.

"At the helm of the state, in Hungary, are the same people who are responsible for the great war. Therefore, as before the war, the same clique rules Hungary. There is not that new political regeneration which might truly take over the reins of a democratic government. These were some of the reasons which led us to form this federation. Another was the constant repetition of the statement of the possible realization of another Austria-Hungary, on a small scale, to be erected in central Europe. It was to prevent this, too, that the 'Little Entente' was formed.

"But I think that, as a result of the alliance just concluded between Czechoslovakia, Jugoslavia and Rumania, Hungary will eventually see the folly of a policy of aggression and trouble-making and realize that it is for her own interests to foster better relations with her neighbors. In the long run, I feel convinced, this change of policy by Hungary will lead to her joining the 'Little Entente' and concluding political as well as economic agreements with these neighbors of hers. In the meantime, however, we three little democratic nations must take definite steps to protect ourselves."

Cabinet Crisis

A politico-economic crisis is at hand. Divergent purposes and principles of the various factions within the parties forced the Tusar Cabinet to resign. Possibly the burden of responsibility must be borne, in the main, by the Social Democratic party, the largest single political factor within the Republic, under whose standard persons of communistic tendencies seem to congregate and form the Left Wing. The radical membership has increased until now, it appears, they are trying to control the machinery of the party. Under these conditions it is impossible for the Social Democrats to continue to cooperate with the National Socialists and Agrarians in the Cabinet of the Republic, thus precipitating a crisis in the government. This does not signify that a majority of the people stand back of the Left Wing of the Social Democratic Party, but it rather indicates that extreme teachings have fallen on willing ears of dissatisfied people who gather under one banner

thus evidently attempting to run the major party. The actual strength of this element will be definitely determined when the annual convention of the party is held and a program for the ensuing year adopted.

The Bohemians and Slovaks are hard working, thrifty and sensible people. They will not be led astray by irresponsible clamor and the belief is justified and the conviction is strong that the threatening dark cloud of an apparent overhanging storm will blow over and the Republic, its government and inhabitants emerge more determined and unified.

What brought about this very unsatisfactory condition? Due to the utter disorganization of the world's economic agencies following the war it was almost impossible for Czechoslovakia to secure raw materials. In its small way the little Republic struggled against an economic disaster by exporting commodities it could ill spare. Sugar was the chief item. The peo-

ple denied themselves sugar, using saccharine, so it might be exported to create foreign credits so absolutely essential to buy dire necessities — cotton, copper, phosphates, oils, food-stuffs, etc. The raw commodities market was a constantly rising one, prices were skyrocketed to undreamed of heights, but Czechoslovakia bought resolutely in its determination to keep its labor occupied, its inhabitants clothed and fed. Soon the walls of the warehouses, in which cotton and other raw materials were stored, were bulging because of the immense quantities stored to await "better prices". But as usual, prices "broke" causing untold suffering. Merely an instance: Cotton "broke" from 45c per pound to about 27c per pound. How did this affect Czechoslovakia? The Republic made certain definite commitments for raw materials in America. While these were in transit the "bottom fell out of the market", and when the shipments reached the mills raw commodities were at their low and Czechoslovak manufacturers were unable to compete in the markets or accept contracts for future delivery of industrial products unless they were willing to sell at ruinous losses. Then foreign exchange again began to lose ground. Industrial stagnation set in. Labor was thrown out of employment. Raw materials were stored in factories while producing agencies were idle.

It may be wondered how industrial stagnation would have any connection with the political phases of everyday life. Hunger trails idleness. A hungry individual is not possessed of ordinary reasoning power or the resistant qualities of one congenially and remuneratively occupied and normally nourished. When mixed with after-war restlessness and nervousness it is not to be wondered that picturesque pleadings fell on willing ears. The Italian debacle contributed in no small degree.

Therefore, the present Czechoslovak Cabinet crisis follows and is solely due to disorganization of the world economic system, which, through withholding and accumulating essential raw materials in an attempt to maintain exorbitantly profiteering prices precluded consuming nations from buying, on fair terms, goods most needed and resulted in a breakdown of producing agencies which undermined political stability.

Following the exit of the Tusar Cabinet it was suggested that a new government

consisting of Social Democrats and Germans should be constructed. The Germans are open and avowed enemies of the Republic. Is it any wonder that the people voiced their opposition in no uncertain terms? President Masaryk could not sanction this alliance and instead called Jan Černý to form a temporary Cabinet.

Were it possible to immediately resume industrial activities, within a very short time the Left Wing of the Social Democratic Party would be an absolutely negative factor in the affairs of the nation. But on the other hand if the general economic demoralization continues political affairs might remain unsettled. Yet, it is certain, that when the future of the nation is at stake, all classes rise and as a unit labor to safeguard the country. History teaches that this is a characteristic of the people.

Frankly, at this distance and at this time, the future reflects a bit of cloudiness, but the clouds have a colorful lining. The people refused to sanction the destinies of the Republic at the hands of the Social Democrats and the Germans which proves conclusively that the rank and file are behind President Masaryk in an attempt to create a stable government in Central Europe.

During December the Social Democrats will assemble at Prague to formulate their political program for the coming year. Both Wings will put forth their views. Each side will have earnest advocates and supporters. From past experiences it is a foregone conclusion that both factions under the guidance of cool heads will agree on a sensible course and work for the future welfare of the country.

It will not be long before the people will speak out and make known their desires in this matter, which will result in a permanent government, members of which must be firm in the enforcement of law and in the preservation of order and not vacillate as did the Tusar government during the latter portion of its brief constitutional existence. Violators of law and disturbers of order must be punished.

But the people will emerge triumphant. This is but a temporary depression. Common sense must prevail. The constitution will be supreme. The people will put their faith and strength behind President Masaryk and his advisors. It is gratifying that

in the new Cabinet, Beneš, Engliš and Hotovec, the backbone of Czechoslovakia, remain. It is an indication that the opinions and teachings of President Masaryk have weight and that his arguments will bring the weaned people back to their senses. But first and foremost, in order that these conditions might be realized, it is imperative that the economic structure of the

Republic resume its normal functions. The belief is firm that from this seemingly chaotic political maelstrom Czechoslovakia will emerge stronger, more coherent and unified, ready and willing to take its place among the nations of the world as an influential, industrial, economic and political factor of the new order of things of the world.

Parallels 45 and 50

Unless you mix a little of the mystical with your geography you cannot make it work and you certainly cannot get it listened to. I confess that I have always entertained a private worship for Parallel 45 North. It seems to me a very pleasant dividing line. South of it the olive and the Mediterranean, North of it the North. Of course, it is not really a dividing line at all. If you divide the land of the vine from all other lands, you get a very tortuous line taking you right up to the Lower Rhine in a sort of northern cape or peninsula. And if you get the line of wheat, you get a line far more northern still. And if you want to take a line which really divides the true South from the North you have to follow in a sinuous manner the mountain chains—the Pyrenees, the Cevennes, the crest of the Alps, the axis of the Balkans.

But Parallel 45 has always seemed to me an excellent symbol. It is the neighbor of Bordeaux and it is the axis of the Lombard Plain. It defines all the Lower Danube. And Parallel 45 is coming into its own in another way—as a result of the Great War. It is coming into its own through a change in European communications.

People are not yet awake to that change any more than they are awake to fifty other things, lesser and greater, which will come into the necessary settlement after the earthquake. Briefly it is this.

The great highway across Europe will no longer be that axis which we have learned to take for granted and which had Vienna for its central point, the axis of the Orient Express. It will be the railway thru North Italy, thru Croatia, and thence down the Save and the Danube. It will have a feeder from the North. The traveller to the East will not follow the line, Paris-Dijon—

Milan—all that Mediterranean world which lay excentric to the main transverse of Europe will now lie neighborly to the new transverse of Europe, and the new line will also affect the arrival into Europe from the West. The war began the new Atlantic *role* of Bordeaux, and that *role* will increase.

The reaction of political upon merely geographical forces is the most interesting thing in the world to note, and you have it here. When the Simplon was pierced the French attempted (prematurely) the development of this new line, but the forces which the Great War has destroyed were against them. They proposed a fast service thru the Simplon and the Lombard Plain to Trieste, and thence thru what were then Austrian and Hungarian provinces to the Danube.

The Austrian monarchy (the servant of the Prussian) and the Prussian monarchy itself vetoed that plan. There is now no one left to veto it. The traffic has already begun; or, rather, the channel which it will follow is already dug. It means a new activity in what will be an almost homogeneously controlled Adriatic Sea, it means a far greater position for industrial Italy than could have been dreamt of before the great upheaval. And it means an opportunity for the realization of that ideal, an ideal which may have denied to be possible in practice and which is still doubtful, the unity of the Southern Slavs. It means also perhaps, in time, an understanding and a peace in the Balkans. And it means something of the restoration of that connection between Northern Italy, Southern France, and Byzantium, which marked the Middle Ages. It means more still.

If, in spite of the probable decline of our material wealth there should be ultimately driven, as nature seems to demand, a land

*) Hilaire Belloc in *Land and Water*, (London).

route all the way to India, the European trunk of that land route will be the new railway "Parallel 45." It is already baptised by that name. If it be true, as it is, that the great transverse axis of commerce from North to South will again be at the Rhine, then you will have the nodal point at Milan, and there is a future for Milan comparable to that which it enjoyed in the last days of the Roman Empire.

But more follows, and more. So long as the Prussian state existed, an unnatural, artificial barrier cut off the Rhine from the Rhone. There is here no reason imposed by nature for such a thing. Upon the con-

way from Cette to the Bosphorous. Salonica will depend upon it. Trieste will lie upon it. Venice will almost touch it. Spezia, Genoa, Marseilles, and Toulon will be its natural outlets. With the development of that line there will grow up a complex of common interests between the three principal national groups controlling its western ends; the southern Slavs, the Italians, and the French. The necessity of transport will be too much for old rivalries, even for the hatred which will exist between the Southern Slavs and the Italians.

Take any main line of transport in the world and see how it unites its terminals



trary, an extraordinarily easy gap, a regular gate, joins those two trenches; the Gap of Belfort. The main watershed here sinks to a plain lying quite low and level, though narrow, between the Vosges and the Jura. With the destruction of the artificial Prussian frontier of Alsace that gate is opened again. The canal, the railway, and the road, which all use the gate, re-enter into life. The gate was locked; it is now not only unlocked but all its character of a barrier destroyed. The new condition is like the lifting of a sluice.

The great ports of the Northern Mediterranean will hang to and depend upon that new railway of "Parallel 45." all the

politically and draws in political points along its trajectory. Nothing made more for the unity of the Canadian Dominion and for its distinction from the United States than the great trans-continental railway, the Canadian Pacific. Nothing was a better example of the Prussian dominion over Central Europe than the canalization of all the northern traffic through Hamburg, and all the central traffic through Vienna.

The moment you establish one great backbone of transport you either reinforce the political conditions which have created it or you bring into being some hitherto unexpected unity. And that is what you

will have in the line of "Parallel 45." It is inevitable.

The creation of this great new highway will have a further effect: it will help to restore what common sense should have established long ago, the control of such a necessity for the common good. The restoration of what may be called, upon the analogy of the Roman empire, an Imperial route of this kind will forbid its remaining even under partially private control, and because once it has been established it will dominate its feeders and will be able to regulate their life, the influence of that control will be felt over all the secondary arteries of the South and West.

It will in the same way affect the changes in motive power. The greater part of its length follows the zone of maximum water-power in Europe. It is everywhere near the chief potentialities of water-power in the mountain ranges of the south, and the coming emancipation—or partial emancipation—of Europe from the coalfields will perhaps be felt here earlier than anywhere else. Ultimately it will not only become the trunk route of Europe, but, as I have said, the trunk route of the Old and of the New World.

Look at the map and see how directly in the passage to Asia such a land transport is. Anyone crossing the Atlantic will find himself nearest for an approach to Asia by touching the terminals of that line. Whether it be at Corona, with the building of a good line north of the Peaks of Europe, along the south to the Bay of Biscay, or remain, through the absence of such a line, with its terminus at Bordeaux, Atlantic communications with the East will be bound to that new trunk railway.

To reach it from the East by longer travel will everywhere mean an extension of time, and the bulky travel that will still, presumably, remain cheaper by sea than by land will probably follow the full length of the sea journey. But all the effect of human communication will pass along the new trench between West and East. It is conceivable that Belgrade may grow to be something like what Vienna was. It is certain that that prolonged valley which has always been the approach from the Ægean to the North which has Salonica for its port, the Varda and the Morava for its axial lines, will recover its old importance. It means that this line will be continued

by the line of the Middle (Hungarian) Danube northward, to the new Bohemian state and northwards to the Elbe. This transverse will help to develop the nodal point of Belgrade, and the Upper (German) Danube, the old line, will lose in proportion.

There is another parallel effort more difficult and less certain of success. It has already been christened (with equal inaccuracy) "the line of Parallel 50". The attempt to create it depends upon the strength of the new Bohemian state which so far we have continued to call by the museum or dictionary name of "Czechoslovakia".

Here are the elements. The northern part of Eastern Europe on this side of the Dnieper and Dwina, in general the great mass of Poland, must find an exit for its trade in bulk through Dantzic; and the artificial restriction of Dantzic was, as we know, the special work of Prussia. Prussianised Germany turned the traffic-in-bulk of all that region towards the western ports, particularly the port of Hamburg. Dantzic—or, if Dantzic is mismanaged by her protectors, some alternative port near the mouths of the Vistula—will take all that traffic.

The passage of ideas and men, the movement of land traffic from east to west, may follow one of two great arteries. It may follow the old artery which was established by the coincidence of railway development with the power of Prussia, Warsaw, Posen, Berlin, Hamburg; or it may follow the new one serving Bohemia, with its central point at Prague. If routine, vested interest, the established ease of communication, produce the first result, then there is nothing doing for the new conception of "Parallel 50". Poland is none the worse, but Bohemia suffers. The idea of "Parallel 50" is a trunk line parallel to the southern line uniting Paris and Strasburg, Prague and Warsaw.

If you take a railway map of Central Europe you will see how the main lines have been directed by politics. Warsaw reaches the West either through Poland or through Vienna, not through Prague. The two capitals of the two central and allied empires, Berlin and Vienna, were like magnets diverting the stream of traffic to the North and to the South in a direct line.

Were all those German states that lie between the Bohemian quadrilateral and the Rhine to be separated into so many inde-

pendencies, should they follow their natural tendency to fall apart into little particular polities, there is no doubt at all but that Prague, in spite of its screen of mountains, would attract and canalise the new traffic just as Berlin and Vienna attracted and canalised the old traffic in the past. And were this excellent result to be attained Prague would also become one of the great nodal points of Europe, like Belgrade, like Strasburg itself, like Cologne. For Prague is also the centre of all that line I have just described, uniting the Ægean with the North Sea. It is the crossing-place.

Prague is the capital of the communications between the Elbe and the Danube, and through the Middle Danube, Morava, and the Varda.

But the "if" is a considerable "if". The old Prussian Empire, though Prussia is dead, remains, on paper at least, united. Its common functions still act, and so long as it thus exercises one effort that effort will certainly be directed to maintaining the artificial hindrances between communications from Prague to the West.

The distances are not great and the obstacles are commonly exaggerated. The line could be taken through Frankfort by Eger, or through Strasburg by Pilsen (the one rather less, the other rather more, than 400 miles), the lines already exist, the communications are already established. The difficulty in their development lies in the future control of what was once the Prussian Empire. And what has still been maintained (artificially enough and through the jealousies of the allies) is a state technically united.

It is to the advantage of the Southern Germans, and particularly of the Bavarians (through whose territory either of the alternative lines would pass), that Bohemia should thus have direct access to the West. But if the control of what remains of the Prussian unit from the North continues in sufficient strength even for another generation, the plan will be marred. If, as seems very probable, Bavaria will assert its national feeling and render itself more and more independent of an alien and unpopular control from Berlin, the new "Parallel 50" will appear.

Though inaccurate, it is a truer name than the name "Parallel 45", for Cracow, and Prague itself, Eger, Frankfort, are all of them within a couple of hours' walk of

that particular line of latitude. It lends itself admirably to the use of the Channel ports, especially Boulogne. It links up, of course, with the main line from Paris to the Rhine.

It is characteristic of the care that was taken to manage an attempted survival of Prussia in the Treaty of Peace that the new Bohemia was allowed every form of access, North, South, and East; was given special, and what would in the past have been thought extravagant, rights over the German Elbe; special rights to run its own trains right down to the Adriatic, etc.; and was yet, by no clause in the Treaty, made sure of its avenue westward through the Southern German States. One of the tests of the development of the new Europe, one of the things by which we shall know whether it will use a natural series of transport lines or not, will be the power of Prague to deal with the West by the valley of the Main, or alternatively through Central Bavaria and Strasburg.

I cannot but conclude with the sentiment which I am always constrained to express when I find myself writing upon international affairs to-day, and that is a sentiment of astonishment that those things which are vital to our own future and to that of Western Europe, of which we form so intimate a part, seem somehow or another never to be discussed at all in our Press. That they should be elbowed out by sensational murders or debates upon mixed bathing I can understand, for such things are of more immediate interest to this new society which has been made so safe for democracy. But what I cannot understand is why, when our papers do touch upon international affairs at all, they cannot debate the positive and concrete side of them which alone give my food to the mind.

President Masaryk's Czechoslovakia seems to be keeping its feet better than most of the new countries. The chief internal trouble grows out of the readjustment required between the German minority and the Czech majority. Formerly the Germans were the dominating element. The reversal of that situation is occasioning some friction. Meanwhile Czechoslovakia has under way another experiment for the world to watch. The recent elections, as interpreted by President Masaryk, mean socialism for that country. Not the communism of soviet Russia, but a nationalization of industries and public utilities by political methods and under political control after the manner of orthodox socialism.—Lincoln (Neb.) Journal.

Josef Tvrzický

On Monday, September 27, 1920, Josef Tvrzický passed away at his home in Washington, D. C. He was a young man, not quite thirty-six years old, born in Bohemia. He came to the United States before the war and at the outset of that great conflict had visions that possibly from the conflagration an independent Bohemia might again arise. That was his cherished hope—and it was fulfilled.

There is hardly a Bohemian or Slovak settlement in the United States before which Tvrzický did not appear. He was a tireless worker. It made no difference to him whether the call was for morning, noon or night. He, at all times, was ready to further the cause of his beloved land. He was most active in unifying the various bands of Bohemian and Slovak people to aid their compatriots on the other side. In this field he did herculean work. He was a leader of no mean ability, constantly keeping the Czechoslovak public in this country informed of what was taking place on the other side. He was a student of men and affairs.

One of the undertakings in which he participated shortly before his death was the establishment of a weekly paper in Prague called "Unification" (*Sjednoceni*), which had for its object to bring all the various political factions into harmony of purpose for the upbuilding of Czechoslovakia. It might be interesting to our readers to note that the article in this issue on "Frantisek Bilek" was probably the last article that the deceased wrote, contributing it anonymously.

Last December he found it necessary to consult physicians because the nervous and mental strain sapped his physical vitality due to his strenuous work throughout the war. Subsequently his sight and hearing was impaired and he was given a leave of absence from his duties to fully recuperate. With time his physical defects became more marked, Tvrzický became more morose, until finally the end came on that fateful Monday.

Czechoslovakia loses one of its best workers and his many acquaintances will feel the sympathy due his widow, Mrs. Anna Tvrzická.

Forests of a New Republic

By E. F. PRANTNER, Editor, Czechoslovak Review.

Forestry in the new Czechoslovak Republic is receiving the serious attention its importance as an economic factor warrants. About 12,500,000 acres are given over to forest cultivation, or, in other words, approximately 30 per cent of the republic's whole area of over 55,000 square miles. The proportion of the forests differ in the various sections—Moravia boasts of 28.6 per cent, Bohemia has 29.6 per cent, Slovakia shows 31.5 per cent, and Silesia leads with 34.8 per cent.

It is significant that of late years forests have decreased throughout the world to an appreciable extent. Nevertheless, the territories now comprising the Czechoslovak Republic, during the period 1875-1910, added no less than 170,000 acres of forests to their forest domains, or about 4,375 acres per year.

* Reprinted (including illustrations) through courtesy American Forestry.

During the war considerable lumbering was done in Czechoslovak forests, but not to the extent of materially reducing the whole or impairing their usefulness.

In the Bohemian lands (Bohemia, Moravia and Silesia) the needle forests predominate. The pines and firs cover 78 per cent of the forest area, the leaf timber 9.1 per cent, and the mixed about 12.9 per cent. In Slovakia and Carpathian Russia, the new territories, it is noteworthy that the leaf forests prevail, forming about 67 per cent of the whole, and the needle forests make up the balance, or 33 per cent. Ownership of these forests is singular. The state owns about 1,400,000 acres, charitable institutions own 600,000 acres, municipalities hold 2,500,000 acres and the large estates, held by private owners, cover 8,000,000 acres. It must not be taken for granted that the extensive Czechoslovak forests were given over to the uses of the



FOREST AND FARM

Between forest areas are numerous stretches of farm land, well cultivated by thrifty, intelligent farmers.



A FORESTERS HOME IN BOHEMIA

Cutting of only mature timber is allowed, and the cut must equal only the amount of new growth and no soil once used for forest purposes may be used otherwise except by government sanction.

whole people. On the contrary, all the benefits to be derived enured to the foreign nobility and the wealthy owners, when the mere walking through one of these private forests was presumptive evidence of a wrongful intent. Of the vast estates held by individuals about 64.35 per cent of the whole in Bohemia, were owned in parcels larger than 1,250 acres in extent while minor holdings, those less than 1,250 acres in area were held by the poorer classes.

A slightly different condition prevails in Slovakia. Here the state owns about 750,000 acres, municipalities hold 2,000,000 acres, and private owners have 2,250,000 acres. This is the entire forest area of Slovakia, comprising about 5,000,000 acres. In many instances the municipalities of Slovakia were enabled to materially reduce or totally abolish direct taxation through lumbering operations on their holdings.

A novel feature of Czechoslovak forest development is the principle that the annual growth must equal or exceed the annual cut. This is a wise and farsighted policy. It is estimated that 6,600,000 cubic meters of fire wood and 9,400,000 cubic meters of commercial timber are cut yearly. The quantity used for fuel during and since the war will be greatly reduced, in the very near future, through stimulated production of bituminous coal, lignite and oil. At the prevailing prices for lumber competent authorities estimated the value of the annual timber cut to be about \$120,000,000.

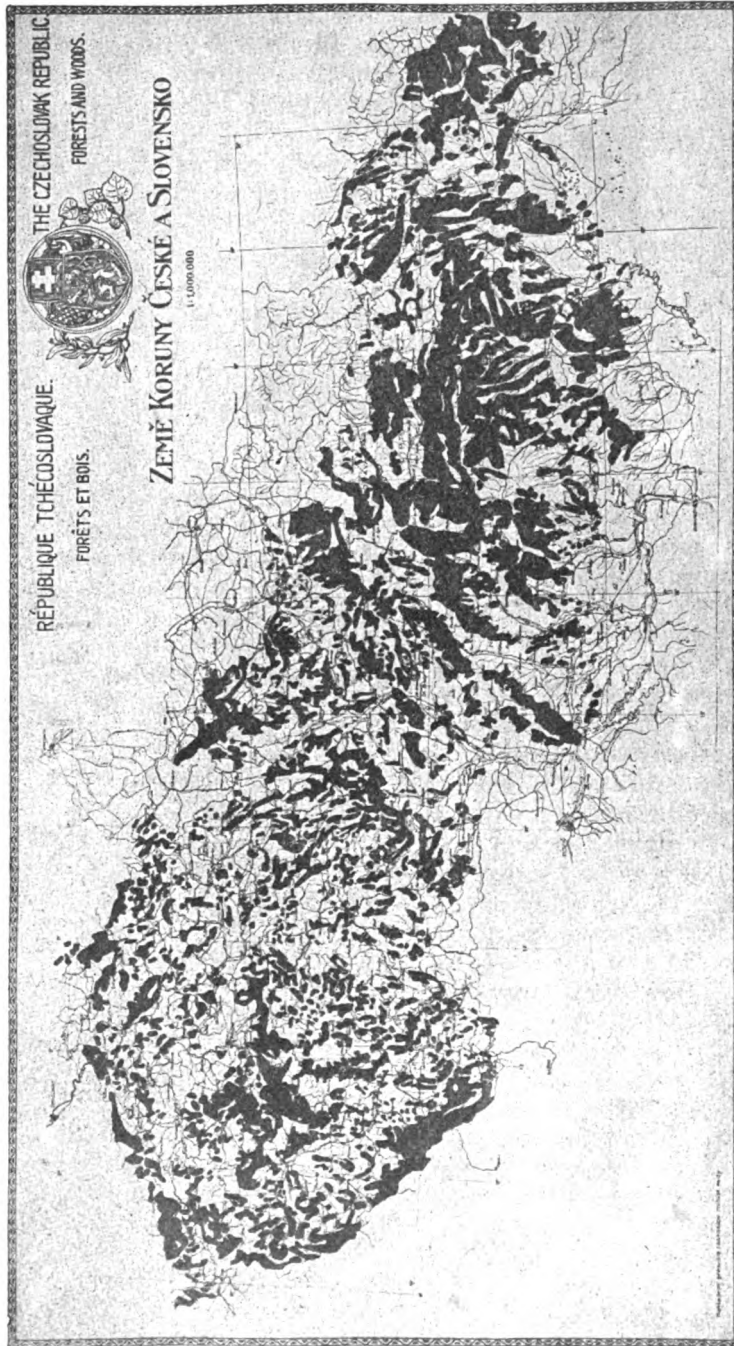
The policy now pursued in lumbering operations is to allow the cutting of only mature timber. On the other hand it restricts the cutting of timber to such quantities as are added to standing timber. That is, if the increase in standing timber in a given year amounts to 20,000,000 cubic meters, then the cut for that year may be about the same quantity. If it is more or less the cut must correspond.

It is well to point out some of the main features of the laws governing the Czechoslovak forests. Without official sanction, no soil once used for forest purposes may be used for any other; all lumbered areas must be reforested within five years; no forest may be wilfully destroyed, or cut in such a way as to impair its usefulness for forest purposes. Regarding fire protection, the laws further provide that owners must maintain efficient and sufficient number

of trained foresters and wardens; an acceptable number of fire prevention devices, provisions for the extermination of injurious insects, and against trespassing.

While nearly all of these regulations were enacted before the present republic came into existence, the more important provisions have been adopted by the present government. However, the Czechoslovak people are awake to the importance and economic necessity of maintaining their forests on such a plane as will yield the best results. So that one of their most precious possessions, the forest, may be properly safeguarded, a commission headed by Dr. Charles Siman, Chief Forester, is now engaged in codifying the forest laws which are expected to be second to none. This commission is also framing regulations for the intensive development of forests to assure a sufficient timber supply for the future. Czechoslovak forests are supervised by the Bureau of Forestry, which is a part of the Department of Agriculture. All forests are subject to the authority of this agency. It is also proposed that all forest estates over 1,250 acres in extent shall become a part of the public domain and be scientifically cultivated and cut.

It must not be assumed that forestry is taken lightly by the Czechoslovak people. Their woodworking industries are dependent upon domestic woods. Therefore, numerous schools for the proper education of foresters and training assistants were established. The College of Forestry is in Prague. This is a post-graduate institution which receives students who have graduated from the forestry high schools. The high schools are conveniently located in Zákupce (Bohemia), Hranice (Moravia), and Stavnici (Slovakia). Elementary forestry schools are found at Písek, Cheb and Budějovice (Bohemia), Jennice (Moravia), and Liptová Hrádek (Slovakia). These are state institutions but numerous private schools are also found. In the high and elementary schools courses of one year are provided for men in practical forestry. Thus the country is constantly educating its youth in forest cultivation. With them it is a serious business and profession. They devote their lives to it, their industries are dependent upon it, and they see to it that future generations are abundantly provided with one of our most necessary necessities—timber.



THE BLACK MARKINGS ON THIS MAP SHOW THE FORESTS AND WOOD LOTS OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA About thirty per cent of the new European Aepublic, or some 12,500,000 acres, are given over to forest cultivation. The ownership is divided among individuals, municipalities, charitable institutions and the government.

František Bílek, a Religious Artist

In a little town of Chynov, in southern Bohemia, the population of which bears many marks of the heavy heel of former ages-long Austrian oppression, there was born and reared a noted Czech artist, who, without doubt would have long since gained world fame had he been born in some other country.

Southern Bohemia, now a part of the Czechoslovak Republic, has been the cradle of three great Czech religious leaders. The foremost national hero and religious reformer, Jan Hus, whose life ended at the stake in Constance, Germany, in 1415, was born there. This section also furnished another great religious leader, Peter Chelčický, the Spiritual Father of the Church of Moravian Brethren and predecessor of Leo Tolstoy — and known to us in modern terms, as the “first anti-militarist”. And now the same section gives to the Czechoslovak nation a modern religious thinker, philosopher and artist.

František Bílek represents a type of modern religious art, peculiarly his own. He dreams of the Kingdom of God dwelling within the heart, and he hastens to embody it in his work. His mystic soul is inclined toward things transcendental and longs for real, pure and broad Christianity without inclining to any particular Christian sect or faith. Being born of a poor family, Bílek was forced early to struggle for his livelihood and thus became a wood carver. The wood carver's knife and the wood of the forest about his home were the only means with which he at first attempted to express the ideals of his religious forefathers, as well as his own conception of Faith and Christ love. From a humble wood carver, he became a famous sculptor, but it was outside of his own land that honors were first showered on him. Now he is one of the foremost Czech sculptors and still remains the same simple man imbued with deep religious feelings.

He fashions his conception from wood, metal, marble and clay; he has made a number of excellent engravings and etchings, and written a few highly praised literary essays.

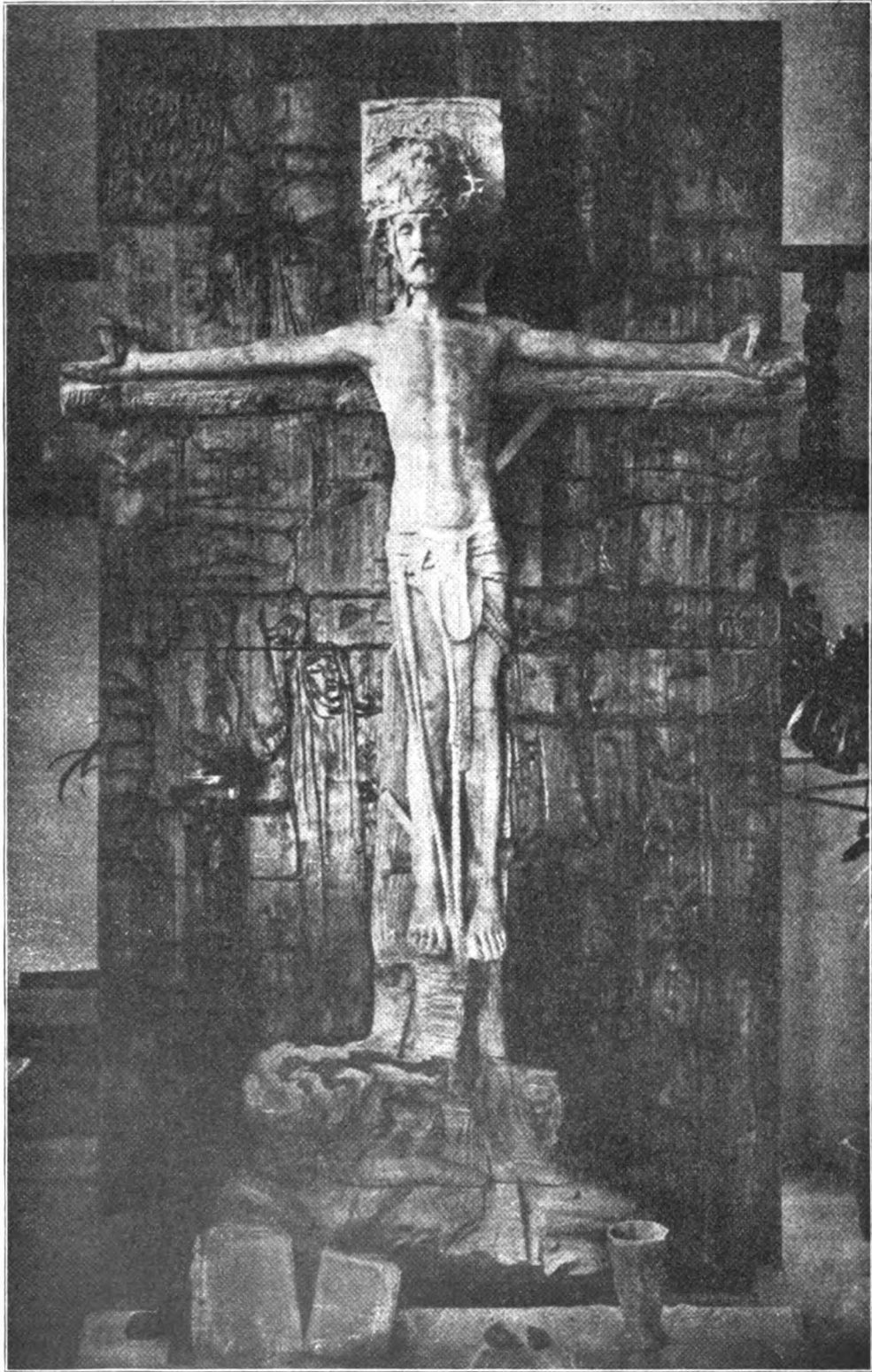
The burdensome toil of the poor farmer in the Bohemian south is to him an expression of man's hard struggle for a liveli-

hood. The Czech political, social and religious struggle, as it went on for centuries, also finds expression in Bílek's creations. In them, one can readily trace the life of the Czech nation through the centuries which now belong to the past. His “Moses” is a Czech religious leader; his “Christ” is an idealization of the Czech religious reform and his “Golgotha” is what he himself has felt.

Just before the war, Bílek added to his other achievements the fame gained from a distinctive architectural design. His residence in Prague is one of the most attractive private buildings of the new capital, but his life is as simple as in the days of dire poverty. His country life is best described by a distinguished Czech woman artist, Zdenka Braunerová: “While Bílek was working on his statue of Christ, the doors of his studio overlooking the countryside were open and people engaged in the fields stopped at the door as they passed. A plain reaper with a scythe over his shoulder, who never heard the word “studio”, laid it aside and began to recite prayers before the figure of Christ”.

“In a little out-of-the-way town surrounded by forest, farms and ponds, Bílek lives a simple, hard working life. Long before one reaches it, one can see the large windows of the studio and on the wall a head in relief. When you cross the threshold of his humble abode you feel the instant attraction of patriarchal customs. The white, plain chamber, with a table adorned by a tablecloth made by the nimble fingers of the artist's mother, is filled with an atmosphere of simplicity and kindness. It is the same as it was in the house of Chelčický and Hus—the same God-fearing mother welcomes you with a kind smile, the same hard-working father recites grace before the meal in the midst of the family and its servants. Still, Bílek's house discloses that it is the abode of a sculptor and artist”.

Amid such pleasant and pastoral surroundings Bílek creates his best examples. Strength of purpose, humility and a noble character of the poor toilers of the fields are embodied in the works of the artist. He perpetuates the Czechoslovak people.



BÍLEK'S CHRIST.

Deflation

Universal agreement has finally been reached upon one question—that the high cost of living must be reduced.

On the one hand labor and capital are insistent upon maintaining the present levels of costs while the vast majority of the people are demanding a deflation. Peak prices of all commodities were not reached until many months after the war ended. Now, in response to popular clamor, the trend seems to indicate that a readjustment of economic basic values should take place. But the singular aspect of this demand is found in the proposition that others' income should be decreased while the advocate's income should remain intact.

A statement of this proposition discloses its own falacy. It must be recognized that the greater percentage of the cost of production of a finished article is given over to labor. On the other hand, the actual cost of the raw materials is but fractional. Therefore, the problem resolves itself to this concrete proposition—one of deflating labor costs per article in given commodities, that they be made lower in price save perhaps in a few cases where the markets have been over-boomed.

In America the cry for "social justice" has been heard in legislative halls, from pulpits, lecture rostrums and in drawing rooms. In Europe the same mental evolution has been taking place under the guise of the proposition, emanating from the workers, for a nationalization of public utilities and essential industries. In other words, the common object to be attained by the two divergent sets of people and thought—justice to labor—has been the ultimate goal. In America it has taken form of stock distribution to employees at prices below current market values, or, profit sharing. In Europe, particularly in Czechoslovakia, due to the insistent demands of the working classes, representation in the governing bodies of large establishments has been secured as well as participation in profits. Neither method has proved a panacea for labor. But it is evident that neither system will be the means for reducing costs. Therefore, other channels must be sought. The responsibility to deflate rests alike on capital and labor.

Insufficient production is the cry heard the world over. Employers complain time and again that employees "soldier" on the job. It is generally conceded that the remedy lies in increased per man production. Many inquire how increased production is to be reached under existing conditions. This recalls to mind the spirited agitation following the close of the Civil War regarding the resumption of specie payment and the means whereby it could be accomplished. Finally the solution was found in the immediate resumption of specie payment—a simple expedient. Likewise, the solution of increased production in this day is found in immediate increased per man production. In this the duty of both the employer and employee is plain. The first must furnish the latest labor saving devices and quantitative producing processes, while the latter must whole-heartedly give of his abilities to fully utilize the period of employment.

The world's inventive genius must be quickened in these times of stress to meet the necessities of the day so that labor saving appliances and better methods of production may be evolved, thereby affording an avenue for increased per man production. In the evolution of quantitative production it has always been found that labor saving devices never cause unemployment but rather stimulate the call for additional labor.

Undoubtedly these things were in the mind of Deputy Tayerle, Secretary of the Czechoslovak Labor Federation, when he recently advocated the creation of strong producing institutions to insure continuity of production and employment for Czechoslovak workers. This is all the more necessary when taxation is heavy, prices of commodities high and employment spasmodic.

It is essential that the relations between employer and employee become more intimate, that each secure a better insight into the other's affairs, that they cooperate in the solution of the accruing problems which will have a tendency to bring about an "era of good feeling." In connection with these problems, politics must not be mixed with production. Each is a distinct sphere and each requires the individual's

undivided attention, which, if partially accorded to one, excludes proper attention to the other. The acknowledgment of these principles is universal and the policies of many large industrial concerns are moulded in accordance therewith.

Through the introduction of quantitative production appliances, the whole-hearted interest and cooperation of labor and legitimate profits by capital, the economic position of Europe and particularly Cze-

choslovakia, will be bettered. Greater production means a larger commerce and greater exports mean increased buying powers, and resulting greater supplies of necessities from foreign lands. Thus the wheel of commerce will speed up at each turn of the wheel. The economic position of the country will be improved, the living conditions of the people made easier and life happier while the general welfare of the nation will be vastly bettered.

What is Culture?

The large, fat cosmopolitan with the husky voice that was absurdly suggestive of prawns in aspic, tucked my arms in his, just like the Duchess in Alice. "My dear chap," he gurgled, richly, "these Czechs are very well-meaning and good natured and all that, but—" here the gurgle changed to a Drury Lane whisper—"they have no culture of their own."

I blanched. "This is very terrible," I said. "Do they know it?"

He waged a ponderous pate in solemn commiseration, "No, that's the saddest part about it. They really think they have, poor things. But now that the Austrians have gone they are becoming quite barbaric again."

"I will see for myself," I said, and escaped.

At lunch I met a highly-commercialized young man who scintillated with bright facts about the coal and iron yield of Middle Europe. He was the secretary of a big industrial group. Good, I thought; here is a typical representative of the bourgeoisie. One tests the culture of a nation by its bourgeoisie, as some pre-Leninist social philosopher said.

* *

The restaurant in which we sat was an Arabian Nights dream as dreamt by a second class bureaucrat. It was ribaldly ornate, rakishly rococo. I rightly judged that it was a specimen of the worst which a certain school of decoration could do. I made some non-committal remark about it to my companion, with the view of drawing an opinion from him.

He said: "That is probably the worst atrocity which the Austrians ever perpe-

trated in Bohemia. Presently we will bathe our eyes in something beautiful." And he insisted that we should go at once and gaze upon the noblest Gothic in the city.

That evening we went to the National Theatre. It was built by voluntary contributions from the Bohemian nation. "The Austrians would not build us a theatre, so we built one of our own," he explained. Smetana's most popular opera, "The Bartered Bride," was performed.

Smetana, of course, was a Czech of the Czechs, and his music is racy of the Bohemian soil. I was pretty familiar with the overture, which every first-class English orchestra plays, but the opera I heard for the first time. The performance was piquant, sparkling, enchanting, as deliciously light as whipped cream. The theatre was crammed with the most intent and intelligent listeners one could hope to see. There were no corpulent late comers to ruin the effect of the first act. There were no chocolate munchers. (As a matter of fact, there is precious little chocolate to munch in Prague.) People who attempted to applaud before the music ended at each act were vigorously hissed and threatened into silence by their indignant fellows. I heard what I have never heard in an English opera house—the closing notes of a big duet.

* *

I had been invited to go after the opera to the house of Madame A——, a Czech lady, who was giving a musical evening. I shuddered when I remembered the engagement. The last musical evening I had attended in London was seared upon my brain. Quite a number of young women had sung new drawing-room ballads that left upon one the desolating sense of having drunk gallons of stale, bad beer. A nasty

*) R. J. Cruikshank in the Daily (London) News.

young man at the piano had made Debussy sound like a smashed butterfly. At Madam A——'s, however, I found a beautiful and impassioned string quartet, who played Smetana and Dvorak with such magic that they kept one thrilled, breathless, on the verge of happy tears.

When it was ended, Madame A—— gently invited criticism.

I thought of the man with the voice like prawns in aspic. "Madame," I murmured, "your nation may have little enough culture, but you have the most exquisite good taste."

Jail

By J. S. MACHAR.

Authorized translation from the Czech by P. Selver.

(Continued.)

IX.

"Military justice, — that is a polypus with a multitude of arms and tentacles, and once it has seized anyone, he never escapes its clutches again. Even if you wriggled away from one tentacle, two others will grip you close, and three more will be brandished above your head. It has strength, but scarcely anything else. Together with Rašin and Kramář, the unfortunate Zamazal happened to slip into its grasp — good, it squeezed Zamazal with them. But here there can certainly be no question of a malicious joke—"anything but a joke" remarked Dušek.

We sat on the bed. Number 60 was pervaded by the mood of an ending day. Its occupants were smoking. A sergeant of the Uhlans was whistling a sentimental Viennese street song. On everything the melancholy of evening had settled. The highest windows of the building opposite were gleaming redly, the light of day was fading into dusk.

"We will have supper. Let me introduce you to our domestic arrangements. Here we have a small communist settlement, whose guest you are until you become a member. And you will become a member next Saturday as soon as you can contribute towards the supplies" explained Dušek.

I did not quite understand, but I assented. I entrusted myself entirely to my experienced friend for even when I was at liberty, I had no very strong instinct for these various necessities of life.

Dušek made a sign to a man, the man came up, and looked at him questioningly. Dušek nodded, then he introduced us. The man's name was Declich. He gave me his hand without saying a word, went away again and searched for something under the other bed, by the window and in his box.

"An Istrian peasant, a Slav name, but he is an Italian. At the beginning of the war with Italy he was interned; then they searched his house, discovered pictures of Dante, Manzoni and Cavallotti, and our dear Papa Declich (we all called him papa, —he is our housekeeper) arrived here. Whether they have anything else against him, I do not know. Every man in this building has a corner in his soul which he allows nobody to see—all except the thieves, murderers, sharpers, robbers—they'll tell

you everything, in fact more than everything, to make themselves interesting in your eyes."

In the meanwhile papa Declich had put a bottle of wine on the table, a small dish of butter, and from an old newspaper he unwrapped some salami sausage, ham, cheese; salt he had in a match-box; then he searched for glasses, cut up the bread—the feast was ready.

"Budi, Hedrich, Voronin" called out Dušek to our fellow diners.

A tall, good-looking infantry volunteer came up briskly and was already sitting at the table. Budi, a handsome fellow, a Dalmatian Serb,—“they have kept him here for weeks, and heaven knows what they want to pump out of him.”

"About secret societies, conspiracies, communications with the kingdom of Serbia,—about everything that a man knows nothing whatever about" said Budi smiling. He knew my name and had read some of my work in translations.

Hedrich was bashful. He was a little infantry man; he had thin legs, a small body, a large head, a cap thrust upon a thick shock of hair, and a cigar with a long holder in his mouth. He held it between his teeth in such a way that it stuck up in the air; and he had kindly blue eyes and honesty in his face.

Papa Declich also had blue eyes, but they were not so wide open; they were shrewd, sharp eyes which could both speak and keep silence, laugh sincerely and hurl lightning, see everything and nothing, understand and fail to understand.

Voronin did not want to sit down. He was shy. The best thing was to let him have his way. Papa Declich gave him a share of everything, Voronin thanked him with his "Spasibo", sat down in a corner on a straw mattress and ate. He was a Russian, was supposed to have been a doctor somewhere near Moscow; in some way or other he had reached our lines, and was imprisoned on suspicion of espionage. What there was in him nobody knew. He did not speak about himself, did not answer a direct question, and performed the coarsest labor in number 60. When he had arrived, he was hungry, and possessed only what he had on him. A collection was made to provide him with a shirt; he was

given a good pair of trousers. Voronin took what he was given, thanked them for it, but not even by these acts of kindness could they extract a trustful word from him. And his name was not Voronin, he had received this name from the office by mistake, he had kept it, answered to it and had not corrected it in any way. Somebody discovered that he had not the slightest notion of medicine.

Budi was talking Italian with Declich—the Italian of Istria which sounded entirely strange to me. Hedrich was from Zwickau; he had been a barber in Vienna and did not understand Czech. He gave me an account of his history. He had been an officer's servant and had reached Belgrade with his master. There his master had taken a few carpets as souvenirs, Hedrich a few spoons—not silver ones, just ordinary spoons. His master had been remanded, Hedrich was in jail. But he was satisfied there and did not long for freedom. He did shaving and hair-cutting for the superintendents, the warders and the prisoners; he was comfortable, wanted nothing—except that things should remain as they were.

Supper was over. Papa Declich cleared away and removed all the remains. Hedrich distributed cigars. They were his fees for shaving.

Again I had the impression of a waiting-room at a provincial railway station. People passed to and fro, smoked, talked, whistled, but still the train did not come.

"The days are long here, each one like an ocean. And dull, infinitely dull. On the other hand, you will see how short the weeks and months are" explained Dušek. Papa Declich remarked—this was his only German sentence—that the first two years here were the worst and then life became easier—well there was something in that. "Yes, if a man gets used to it" continued Dušek. "I feel now as if I had never been free and as if I never shall be so again. I came here from jail at Prague—ah, it was different there; visits, sufficient food, and I was at home. Here before I got into the way of everything. . . . In those awful days this Istrian peasant became my friend. It was difficult to carry on a conversation, but we understood each other. In winter—the winter here is dreadful, darkness the whole day, frost, a regular frost—we sat wrapped up in blankets, and talked. He told his story, I told mine, and it was a comfort to each of us that somebody was listening to him."

Suddenly light poured into the room. The electric lamp on the ceiling burst into a glow and illuminated the waiting-room. Voronin fetched something that had once been a broom and swept up. The straw mattresses were brought out and laid on the floor.

I came into conflict with Dušek, he offered me his bed. I lost, I could not help losing. Hedrich jumped up and made the bed. He turned the straw mattress, spread the blanket over, and put Dušek's cushion on the hard pillow.

"Will the lamp be kept burning?" I asked.

"Of course, so that our guard can keep watch on us. At 9 o'clock a bell will ring, and everybody has to go to bed. Of course, only those sleep who want to. We talk, smoke, play cards,—and then sleep in the day-time. Obstinacy is ingrained in the human character. The lamp reminds me. Recently two Englishmen were being taken through Vienna. They had captured them at Salonica and were taking them to Berlin. For the night they had them put here in the military jail. In the evening the lamp began to burn. The officers had undressed and they tried to put it out. It was no use. The elder Englishman, a staff officer, began to bang at the door. The guard asked what he wanted. Bring the superintendent here, ordered the Englishman. At last the warder arrived. This light must be put out, we are used to sleeping in the dark. The warder shrugged his shoulders and said that the lamp must burn. And he went away. The Englishman took a boot, flung it at the ceiling, the lamp was smashed and went out. After a while, an uproar, the warder, the superintendent,—but the Englishman yelled out that he had nothing more to say to them. In the morning the commandant of the jail arrived, the Englishman explained to him briefly and emphatically that he had wanted the light put out, that the warder had refused, and so he had put it out himself."

The piercing sound of a bell echoed through the jail.

"9 o'clock. That is how they will wake us up tomorrow at five."

I got into bed. White shapes slipped under the blankets. Talking went on in a whisper. And smoking continued as well.

By my bed there was some sort of ventilation. An oblong opening on to the passage, covered with perforated sheet-iron. I turned in such a way that I could breathe the air that poured in.

And I began to arrange the day's impressions—it had been a very exciting day—and I weighed up my first impressions of the jail. Everything was quite different from what I had supposed.

X.

As far as the eye could see, a plain on all sides. Nowhere even a small hill, no end of the plain was in sight. And meadows, meadows, fresh, blossoming, fragrant meadows. Above them the blue sky, in the sky not a single cloud, and I stood upon a footpath and looked about me. I felt within me the happiness of this glowing June day and the delight of a man who is not reminded by any inner voice nor by circumstances without that he has any duties, that there is anything he "must" do. I need not to hurry anywhere nor make preparations for anything, nor think about anything; there is no "you must" today, there will be none tomorrow. Freedom is the greatest happiness, and I was in full possession of it. I took a deep breath, opened my arms wide, and spread out my fingers like a fan—I wanted to enjoy this fragrant air, to embrace the golden light of day, to let this smiling happiness

in at every pore. On the summit of high mountains a man can hear the voice of Eternity, in deep forests is the speech of mysterious sorrows, from the surface of the waters of the ocean the unending speaks to him, in a plain he feels the delight of freedom—

Somewhere near by an express train raced along and with a shrill whistle emitted clouds of steam—

That is not an express train, somebody has been ringing for a long time at the door of my house—

No, I am in jail—that is yesterday's bell—get up, get up.

The light was burning no longer. From several sides came the loud cry: "A uf! A u f."

Several people gave loud and protracted yawns. Somebody was assuring his neighbour that he had not slept a wink. Somebody else was stretching himself so that his joints cracked audibly. A number lay quite quiet, as if it had been midnight.

"Gentlemen, get up, we will prepare for roll-call" ordered Dušek. He was commandant of No. 60 and responsible for the order there.

And he possessed authority, the last ones had now jumped up from the floor, Papa Declich with Hedrich; Hedrich again wore a cap on his shock of hair—the straw mattresses on our side were lifted up and placed as I had seen them the day before. Voronin had fetched his broom and was sweeping up, on the other side straw mattresses had also been removed from the floor, the tables and forms were arranged, and in a few minutes number 60 had assumed its daily aspect.

"Line up, line up. They're already in the next room," exclaimed Dušek from the door.

The occupants of number 60 formed two ranks in military style. Unkempt, half asleep, not fully dressed, with towels, soap and tumblers containing tooth brushes in their hands—thus did they wait. I stood between Declich and Budi.

"I could have slept another two hours" declared Budi sorrowfully. He was 22 years old.

"Attention" commanded Dušek. Keys rattled and turned in the lock, at the doorway stood the superintendent, a warder and an infantryman in walking-out dress and elegant riding-breeches. He had fixed his moustache in order with a network arrangement—at the first glance it looked as if he had lathered his face for shaving and had been disturbed without being able to dry himself.

In the military manner Dušek reported the "number present", and that nobody was ill. The superintendent counted, the infantryman made a note of it and announced to us the new arrivals, that the medical inspection was at half past nine, and that at ten o'clock we should be taken before the prison commandant.

They went away, the door was left open and the whole of number 60 scrambled out.

"Come on, come on" Dušek urged me, "we will have a wash. Here is a towel and a piece of soap!"

We went along a passage past the open doors of several rooms. All were empty. At a turn in the passage there was a large rectangular recess

with washing basins in it. In the wall were a few taps and under them broad lead pipes—man alive, turn on the tap, put your head under it and wash yourself.

Of course—not until there was a little more room. In the meantime there was a squeezing and pushing of a crowd of bodies stripped to the waist, water was splashing on all sides, men were bending over, puffing and brawling; those who had washed, were drying themselves in the passage or hurried off to their rooms, and through this bustle a number of convicts pushed their way dragging the night buckets from the cells—these were the house orderlies. From the opposite direction others were marching, always in twos, with large kneading boards upon which stood cups of a black liquid, black coffee, breakfast. There was shouting, cursing, quarrelling, the water poured from the taps and beat against the sheet iron, acquaintances were telling each other the latest news, warders were shouting at them to hurry up—a hellish din.

At last I got to a tap; icy water beat against my head, neck and back, Dušek beside me declared that this was the greatest enjoyment of life in jail.

We returned to number 60. Papa Declich had already put our breakfast on the table. He poured condensed milk into the black liquid, cut up the bread and invited us to sit down.

Heavens, if this had been coffee and if these tin dishes had not borne visible traces of food from a whole week and perhaps a month!

The warder poked his head in at the door; "quick, quick, time for exercise."

I should like to observe in passing that in many respects we are very much behind the great cultured German nation. For example, in jail vocabulary. A man continues his narrative, and in every sentence he sees we are completely lacking in a jail vocabulary, "Warder." That is not the "Beschliesser", Mr. Gehringer, who in peace time was a barber at Ottakring, and now keeps watch over suspicious and dangerous individuals of Czech nationality. And what a completely different sound there was about his: "Schnell, schnell, Spaziergang" to my feeble translation. The German word "Zimmer" also has quite a different tinge to our word "room," how to translate the term "Hausmeister" (I shall refer to this worthy in due course), I really do not know, and there are several other things which can be expressed only with difficulty and imperfectly in our native language. It is clear that our forefathers did not go in for imprisoning to such a degree as to create a jail vocabulary, and when we were imprisoned, it had been created by a highly cultured nation, the Germans. We have jail traditions, it is true, and extensive ones, but we lack a terminology.

So we went out for exercise. It was in that tiny courtyard where I once saw the Russian officers walking. Perhaps two, perhaps three hundred square metres. The windows of the rooms pour out all their stench upon it, the feet slip in the coughed up phlegm and spittle. Here close on two

hundred were walking, of all ages, all nationalities, all religions, old men and jail-birds who had scarcely left school, Jews from Poland and Jews from Vienna, soldiers of all possible units, thieves, robbers, murderers and we, guilty of treason. Defence-corps men with fixed bayonets guarded us, as we walked in threes and fours and high above our heads was the scanty blue of the morning sky and upon it flitted a number of black points, swallows which probably were also out for exercise.

"Dušek, is it possible; this dirt, this stench, this company, all this because of four poems?"

"What do you expect? Austria...."

Across a low wall dividing us from the other large courtyard, we looked at the tower.

That window with the flowers is where Kramář is kept. Rašín is yonder" said Dušek pointing. We went on moving round a small ellipse. The blue haze from cigarettes and the gray haze from cigars mingled and rose like the smoke from the scene of a fire. People were talking, gesticulating, standing still, laughing, brawling. Only a few walked along like shadows with their heads bowed to the ground—perhaps they did not want to show their life's misery. I should also have walked like that, if I had not found Dušek there.

Mr. Sponner appeared in the doorway. He was our second warder, a former sergeant — with voice, appearance and features of a boor, a Viennese from Hernalis.

"Fall in" (the German word was "einrücken" again with quite a different coloring.)

The key grated behind us.

We sat on the bed.

"We shall make the acquaintance of the others when we have seen a little of them. I will tell you their histories when you return from your inspection and parade," said Dušek.

Hedrich got me ready. He shaved me, dressed my hair and gave me a cigar, a good lad. And he explained to me once more the business with the spoons. He wanted to have a souvenir of Belgrade, he took them, they were not worth a couple of crowns. His mother's house was searched, nothing was found, but his mother herself gave them up of her own accord. Well, he was happy. Mr. Dušek was such a nice gentleman, and all were pleasant and friendly to him.

Papa Declich was busying himself with something by his bed. Budi had clambered up on the pile of straw mattresses and was asleep. Two were absorbed in a game; they had cut out squares on the table and were playing wolves and sheep. They had cut up pegs, and shoved these discs as carefully as if thousands were at stake. Others were looking on. The time crawled as if it had got in its legs.

Dušek and I were reviving memories of Prague, our friends, acquaintances and past events. We considered what might have been, and what probably would be. "It's no use, as long as the war lasts, they'll keep us here," sighed Dušek. At

last there was the rattle of a key. Mr. Sponner was collecting us for the medical inspection.

He led us through passages on the left on which were doors into other rooms, on the right were barred windows of ground-glass. These looked out on to the street, to freedom.

At last we reached the doctor. Dr. Princz Arpad, assistant physician and medical superintendent of the jail. A well-nourished gentleman, a Jew. One of his Polish co-religionists, a member of our number 60, knew him from Karlsbad. They were deep in a very lengthy conversation. We others waited.

At last it was my turn.

"Are you ill?"

"No."

"What are you here for?"

"Verses."

"What? Verses against Austria? I'd have sent you to the trenches. Why do you write such things?"

"Sir, am I before a doctor or a magistrate?" I snarled.

"Ah, you answer back, do you?" Of course—a Czech. Get away."

The medical inspection was over.

Mr. Sponner looked at me in astonishment.

We again went through passages, mounted staircases and stopped in a passage in front of the office.

From a room, the door of which bore a tablet inscribed: "Rechnungsunteroffizier I. Klasse Alfred Papritz," a sergeant-major majestically strode forth. His cloak unbuttoned, in the manner favoured by Generals, an officer's long sword, an upturned mustache, a capital I in his glance, — he stood before us and looked at us for a moment witheringly. Somebody in the rear rank whispered. The sergeant-major flashed lightning in that direction and thunderingly bellowed for silence.

"What have you been doing?" he asked me.

"I've been writing verses."

"Oh," and passed on to the next man.

At the third man he began to bellow. This one had been having a little scuffle in the room. The sergeant-major brandished his fist in front of his face, and threatened to chop him up.

After that he worked himself up into a temper a few times more.

When he had examined everybody, he made us line up and ordered: "Don't move your left feet,— ruht (stand at ease.)) Heavens, just like in the army, just like it used to be in the army.

The commandant of the jail, Lieutenant Colonel Werner, arrived.

"H a b t a c h t!" (attention.)

"What is your name, and why have you been arrested?"

I told him.

"Hm, hm,"—he said nothing else.

And with this hm, hm, he received all the members of today's batch. Only the sergeant-major flew into a rage a few times more on his behalf.

We were ready.

And with this, all the formalities connected with our reception were finished, and I was now a regular member of the jail.

XI.

The commandant of the jail was the Lieutenant-Colonel, Mr. Werner, his adjutant was a major, the chief staff superintendent was the third in rank among the mighty men of this under-world. Each floor then had a visible head in its own special superintendent, but the sole decisive authority, the lord of all these lords, was the one who in rank followed them all—Alfred Papritz—N. C. O. in charge of accounts. Alfred Papritz, whose acquaintance I had made at the morning's parade. He decided about everything, he intervened everywhere, and there was no strength that could defy him. The prisoners were powerless, and woe unto him who might venture to defy Papritz. Even the superintendents trembled before him, the chief staff superintendent carefully kept out of his way, for Papritz alone had the ear of the higher authorities, and his will was always their will.

Complaints, signed and unsigned information against him had been sent to the Minister for the Interior, to the Minister for Defence, to the Minister for War, but the result was the same, all these Ministers departed, fresh ones came and were relieved by others, but Papritz remained. And after every complaint he gave the prisoners a taste of his power; it was permitted—and the ghastly official food made it necessary—for prisoners under remand to eke out the food with what they bought, and they had their lunch fetched for them from a restaurant, once or twice a week also a caterer, under the supervision and through the co-operation of the superintendent's office supplied them with supper—the vindictive Papritz suddenly ordered that the prisoners were to be allowed neither one nor the other. It was further permitted on special holidays to bring the prisoners parcels of food—these parcels were strictly searched, during which process the better parts of their contents often "got lost." Papritz forbade that also. There was no appeal, and every protest was in vain.

From the restaurant and from the caterer Papritz received his fixed amount of bakshesh—and so it was said, a respectable bakshesh—how great must have been the promptings of vindictiveness within him, when he succeeded in renouncing this gratuity, or else how great must this bakshesh have been beforehand, that now he no longer needed to take it into account and could give full vent to his fury. It is true that after some time he became merciful again, but there were considerable doubts that this was due to humane considerations towards the prisoners.

When Hindenburg became an Austrian Field-Marshal, the Viennese attributed to him an an-

ecdotal desire to become an Austrian Sergeant-Major as well, if only those worthy narrators had known their Sergeant-Major Papritz as well as the members of other Austrian nationalities knew him in a military prison!

The judicial supervisors emphatically refused to interfere—the internal affairs of the jail were not their concern. They arrested a man, cross-examined him, finally brought him up for trial—whether in the meantime he lived under reasonably humane conditions, and in fact how he lived, had nothing whatever to do with them.

"Tell me, Dušek, who was that infantryman this morning in the elegant riding-boots?"

"That was Mr. Fiedler. A man who has seen a good deal of the world and of life. A Viennese, a German, who speaks all the Slavonic languages fluently, speaks a great deal and yet says nothing. At least, not about himself. He is a convict—he has another five or six years of his sentence to serve, and nobody here has found out what it is for. Ask him, he will tell you. But ask him tomorrow, he will tell you something quite different. He has been in Asia, in America, his experiences are enormous, he is an expert at a whole series of trades and at all kinds of clerical work, but what kind of a man lurks behind all this will be difficult to say. He wraps himself up in his speeches as in a mist. He is the superintendent's right hand, so that while the superintendent sits and smokes pipe after pipe, Fiedler does the work. Returns reports, bills, orders—he prepares them all. And at the same time he is a kind of minor Papritz for our floor. Only he is not such a bully. He himself is fond of life and he is willing to let others live also. He drinks good wines, smokes good cigars, obtains everything for which he has a fancy, the caterer is altogether considerate, both as a man and as a trader, and besides that, do you know that we have here quite a quantity of real millionaires? In our number 60 for example we have two—the little stout man with the large head, he is standing there by the window, Mr. Fels, and next to him the tall one, Mr. Goldenstein—Jews from Galicia, proprietors of petroleum wells; in the adjoining rooms there are also a number of them; we call them "censorists"; you see, rich men of that kind have become accustomed to regarding money as a key which opens everything in the world, and unfortunately for the world, they have never been disappointed in this belief. Well, you will see that they will try it in jail as well, and they will discover that even in jail with this key will open everything. When they want newspapers, Mr. Fiedler will supply newspapers; pencils and paper are, of course, prohibited, but Mr. Fiedler will supply them. Mr. Fiedler will provide everything. And while he does it he will smile, make jokes, run to and fro, in the morning he will give his mustache a smart twist,—"

"And he is a convict?"

"That is the only thing we know for certain about him."

Keys grated in the lock, the prisoners crowded to the door, the door opened, two orderlies threw on the floor a dirty kneading-board with twenty dishes of soup and twenty dishes with the second course lunch. The prisoners made a rush for the kneading board, seized on the cleanest dishes and carried them off like plunder to the tables, the straw mattresses, the boxes placed along the walls.

Papa Declich was one of the first—he must certainly be a man with a long record and many experiences here—the dishes stood on the table, the portions for Dušek, Hedrich, Budi, myself. Papa Declich cut up the bread. The soup contained barley, pieces of flour as big as a child's fist, unchopped vegetables and a few scraps of meat. And a horrible lot of pepper.

I tasted it—it burnt my tongue. I could not manage it.

"Tell me, why is there so much pepper?" I asked Hedrich.

"Because the head cook is a Russian prisoner, some sort of Asiatic; he is fond of it like that, and then a man has to keep on drinking and never quenches his thirst" declared our barber with good-humoured indignation.

"So a Russian prisoner is head cook here?" I asked Dušek.

"Yes, an imprisoned Russian. Or a Russian prisoner, it comes to the same thing," laughed Dušek; what do you expect? Austria. To everything that human understanding cannot grasp, this word Austria forms a key and an explanation."

They were cursing in the room. "Food for cattle", "hog-wash", this ought to be reported on parade" "send a specimen to the War Ministry", "Feed P a p r i t z with it, the beast"—and the plates were flung with the greater part of their contents of soup back on to the kneading-board.

"That's not fit to eat", remarked Dušek resignedly and he pushed his dish aside. "We must wait till the evening, and then we will eat our fill. I have discovered that it is quite enough for a man to eat once a day."

Budi and Hedrich also pushed their plates aside. Papa Declich drew them up to him, fished out the scraps of meat, cut them up, sorted them and ate them with bread. He liked it—an Istrian stomach.

"What is the second course?" I asked, looking at the thick yellowish semi-liquid in the second dish.

"Those are beans," explained Budi, "and these beans were here on Monday in their original form, but as we sent them back because we couldn't swallow them, on Tuesday they were mixed with fish, but as the fish smelt so bad that we could swallow them still less, we sent them back again; to-day the fish has been taken out of them, they have been boiled, mixed with vinegar, and now we are expected to call them gruel. But it's no use, we can't get them down even in this disguise" and Budi's dish flew in a curve on to the kneading-board so that the gruel was splashed all about.

There was fresh cursing and abuse. The dishes fell and clattered as they knocked against each other on the board.

"Those are our lunches—now we will have a piece of bread and butter and make up for it in the evening. Papa, b u t i r o."

Papa Declich unpacked his papers.

The orderlies rushed into the room and cursed at the abundance of mess on the kneading-board.

"Now it will go floating down the sink," explained Hedrich.

How many poor people H e r n a l s and O t a k r i n g could have been fed with these beans if they had been given to them before the Russian Asiatic spoiled them," and he put his hand into his breast pocket and pulled out a cigar: "Mr. Dušek."

We smoked.

"You mentioned the censorists, what are they?"

"A nice business. Only yesterday, just as you came, about 80 Jews joined us. From the censorship, into which they got by a trick. They bribed the commandant of the military censorship of letters, a Captain M o s h e n i—by the way, he is locked up here too—with four, five or six thousand, and they censored letters and in certain cases gave information where they found anything compromising. Soldier's letters, sent by field-post, passed through their hands, postcards and letters written to soldiers from home likewise; who knows how much domestic trouble these people caused by their work. And now they are here. The whole business came out in typically Austrian manner. A certain prostitute was murdered in Vienna. As usual, no trace of the murderer. Among her possessions the police discovered a number of letters from a regimental medical officer with his name and address. So they went to him and instituted a search. But even so they found nothing which would have led to the discovery of the murder, but on the other hand they came upon the censorists' trick. The regimental medical officer was mixed up with it."

The room was quiet with the quietness following a meal in the afternoon. A few were still chewing slices of bread, others were stretched out on the straw mattresses, were smoking and staring with a sullen glance into vacuity.

Papa Declich had also stretched himself out. Budi was snoring in the sound sleep of youth. Hedrich was lying down, cap on head and with a cigar which had slipped into the corner of his mouth.

"Dušek, let's have a nap."

"Let's have a nap."

XII.

Tuesday, one — Wednesday — two, Thursday — three— what, only three days? And I feel as if I had been here three weeks, no three months and even longer. My freedom is already far, far behind me; I recalled it and my heart began to ache, I began to think of the future, and gloomy thoughts arose in my mind. I have loved nothing

so much in the world as this freedom of mine; I could not even imagine that it would be possible to live without it—and lo, I am living here, I am living without sunshine, without air, in dirt, amid hunger, with thieves, shapers, robbers and murderers, which human society has rejected from its midst; I watch how time as it elapses bears away the irrecoverable hours of my life, and whenever a bitter wave of grief arises in my spirit, I suppress it, refuse to recognize within me the slightest shadow of an emotion, and I assume a bearing as if I had been here for years and were to remain here my whole life. For Danton, no weakness. Nobody in the other world has ever detected signs of it within me, nobody shall ever do so here among the filthy dregs of human society. Here a man practices mimicry, it is true, he adapts himself to his new surroundings, but he cannot drag forth his soul as the rest do, and expose it quivering to the gaze of beholders. No word of grief must pass the lips, the breast must heave no sigh, and not the least stirring of sorrow must be revealed in the glance. Everything must remain within the soul, and there let it crystallize; it already contains a whole array of such crystals of wrath and hatred, let there be more of them. There is no paper, and in any case it is impossible to write here, so let us hold our peace. I would however, give the following advice to all estimable states (if such conditions prevail elsewhere as in this one): if you lock up poets, give them paper and pencils, and let them write. Verse, prose, it doesn't matter which. They will write down the contents of their souls, and although the critics may afterwards adopt a varying attitude towards it, you will be satisfied. Let them sing when you put them into a cage, for the things that have to crystallize within them are apt to be worse than dynamite.

Yesterday evening towards 9 o'clock before the lamp flared up, I heard the warbling of a skylark. A brief, exultant scale, as if it were the greeting of one acquaintance to another. Nobody heard it, I alone, and it pleased me. The bird, I suppose, had flown from distant fields, it had passed over the outskirts of the city, had settled upon the jail roof, and uttered a call, a greeting. It was as if it knew that down below, behind the bars, here was a poet sitting, a lover of freedom who was watching the last flashes of day in the windows opposite.

And in the following night I had another beautiful dream. I was somewhere with people dear to me. The sun was gleaming magnificently, and the world was fresh and magical. And I had a feeling of freedom, we were all free, and that was why the world was so delightful. The tall figure of an antique Goddess—Artemis, I said to myself—proceeded from a grove near by, stood at the edge, pulled aside the bough of a birch tree with which she veiled her eyes, gazed upon me and smiled—

In the morning Dušek went off to the office. The superintendent needed an additional man to

help him. Mr. Fiedler was not enough, the agenda had increased enormously—there were more of us than had been arranged for. He had placed the management of the rooms in the hands of a sergeant of Uhlans. In civil life the sergeant had been a coffee house keeper in some out-of-the-way street of the fifth circuit; during the war he retained his military rank in a hospital where he had some duties in connection with the commissariat; and there it was alleged that certain cigarettes had been ordered which the patients did not receive. It was supposed that the greater part of them had been smoked by the customers of the coffee house in the fifth circuit—but this was not true—the sergeant beat his breast and vowed that his honor was everything to him, and he called as a witness Mr. Karl, an infantryman who was also accused (and of course also unjustly) of having had an unsteady hand in the barracks. And Mr. Karl (I draw attention to the fact that in jail strict attention is paid to the proper use of formalities in intercourse, "Mr." must not be omitted in addressing anyone; Mr. Fiedler, Mr. Karl, etc.) declared that if only those were to serve their time in jail who were actually mixed up in things, number 60 would have to contain quite different people from those who were there. Of course, they both gave a glance at our table, as if they were making a silent exception (I was sitting there with Budi and Papa Declich—Dušek was already performing office work); for Mr. Karl and the sergeant were patriots

The sergeant was put in charge., good. But after a while he came to ask me how he should manage at morning and evening roll-call if the superintendent did not come; he said that he as a sergeant could not say "all present, sir" to the warders Spöner and Gehring who were only platoon-leaders. I assured him very solemnly that in truth he could not. Whereupon he went to the censorists, explained the difficult situation to them corroborated it by my opinion; the censorists listened to him, nodded their heads, remarked: jo, jo, but expressed no views whatever on their own initiative, for which reason the sergeant applied to Mr. Nicolidi. Nicolidi used to sit all day on his box leaning upon a stick. He was an old man of seventy, with tiny short legs which could scarcely carry him. He was an Italian from Roveredo and had been here for several weeks. At the beginning of the war he had entered a refugees' camp, then there had been a domiciliary search where he lived in Roveredo, and in his shop (he was a tradesman who had retired from business, which was carried on by his daughter and son-in-law, but they had fled to Italy) had been found flags with the Italian colors. It was in vain that he denied having put them there, or that he knew nothing about them, that he had not been in the shop for years and years, and had neither the interest nor the opportunity to go there, they took him to Vienna and put him into jail. He did not know a word

of German, he could scarcely see; in the morning papa Declich used to dress him, wrap him up in a plaid, put his stick in his hand and placed him on the box. There the old man sat all day motionless and without speaking a word. Whether he thought, whether he did not think and, if he thought, what he thought heaven alone knew. And so when the sergeant explained matters to him, and possibly when explaining them to him, he was only explaining this difficult affair to himself again, for it is the way of the Viennese to think and reflect aloud, he only grunted, hm, hm, and coughed.

Hedrich came back from an errand. He had been shaving people in several rooms and wanted to rest. He put a cigar in his holder, lit it and sat down with us. The sergeant immediately unburdened himself to him of his dilemma. Hedrich looked around the room and remarked with deliberation: "If the superintendent comes, you can report to him, if a warder comes, let platoon-leader Kr et z e r report". The sergeant exulted. He clapped Hedrich on the shoulder, asked him for a cigarette and went off to explain to the censors how he would manage it.

Mr. Kr et z e r, the platoon-leader has an insuperable aversion to the trenches. For six months he had remained hidden in Vienna to avoid them, but he had nevertheless been tracked down. He was the size of a mountain, an unusually strong fellow except for that fatal weakness which had brought him in our midst. He had an enormous appetite and he would have felt thoroughly happy in number 60 if it had not been for this appetite. But the sergeant, following a noble impulse of his soul, gave him a slice of bread when he had expressed his consent to do the reporting.

We received a new member. A reddish, freckled man in a light overcoat entered the room, looked around him and came up to us. A censorist. In eyes, feature, voice—a Jew. He asked whether he could write and send off a post-card from here.

To whom?

To a lady. He had an appointment with her that day.

Impossible. Writing was allowed only on Sundays.

Then he would telegraph.

Impossible. Until he had undergone his cross-examination, he must not think of any connections with the outside world.

But perhaps the warder would—?

We advised him not to.

He only wanted to tell her that he could not come for several days at present, and that he was in a sanatorium

"Sanatorium is an old-fashioned phrase, we speak of an Orphan Asylum", I explained to him solemnly.

He wanted to know why I was there.

"I circulated boxes of sardines, in the belief that they contained sardines, but it was discovered that they were bombs with nitro-glycerine. So they took them away from me and I am now under re-

mand on a charge of endangering the safety of weak-minded persons in accordance with paragraph 7,580."

He introduced himself: "Editor Dr. Sm r e c s a n y i."

Budi burst out laughing: "And what was your name before?"

The editor laughed too.

Well, he did not spoil the joke.

"Editor of what?"

"Of the Reichspost."

"Of the Reichspost?" Good heavens. Immortal Nemesis—at least this much...."

"You cannot write, nor telegraph either, and they won't let any of your messages through unless they contain the truth. The examining superintendent censors everything, the jail provides all your communication with an official stamp.

"But this is terrible," he said interrupting me, "what shall I tell her? She will wait today, she'll wait to morrow—"

"Where is she waiting?" asked Hedrich inquisitively.

"In St. Stephen's."

"Not in the temple?" suggested Budi maliciously.

"I am on the editorial staff of the Reichspost and therefore r ö m i s c h - k a t h o l i s c h, the Reichspost would not take a Jew."

"Hier nur erste zwei jahre nicht angenehm" (Here only the first two years are not pleasant.) Papa Declich, uttered this, his only German eternal truth.

(To be continued.)

A LESSON IN ENGLISH FROM CZECHOSLOVAKIA.

English is the favored foreign language in the schools of Czechoslovakia, and the reason for this is worth considering. The leaders of this heroic nation, from President Masaryk down, feel that their people need education in the difficult tasks of liberty and self-government. The English-speaking countries have enjoyed liberty and practiced self-government longer than any other nations. Therefore, the English language contains the literature, the philosophy likely to be most helpful to a people who have just freed themselves from centuries of oppression.

It is sound reasoning, and it has a lesson for us on this side of the water. English, as the Journal has said many a time, is peculiarly the language of liberty with order. For that reason, every permanent resident of America should learn to speak, read and write English. Whenever the country falls short of this ideal, it is in danger of attacks of foreign propagandists—and the draft taught us that almost 25 per cent of our adult population is virtually illiterate in English — Chicago (Ill.) Journal.

Current Topics

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

The past month has witnessed further progress in the activities of the Czechoslovak Chamber of Commerce of America. New applications for membership have been received, additional information requests and offers from merchants of Czechoslovakia are on file and have been sent to the various members. Inquiries from American Czechoslovaks, large business houses and innumerable personal calls at the office of the Chamber, 106 East 19th St., New York City have fully taken up the time of the executive officers.

During the month a meeting of the New York Committee was held and the following officers to serve until the annual elections were recommended:

John A. Červenka, Acting President and First Vice President.

Albert Mamatey, Second Vice President.

John A. Sokol, Secretary.

Henry T. Schwanda, Treasurer.

E. F. Prantner, Executive Secretary.

The following gentlemen were selected to act as directors until the next annual meeting:

J. A. Červenka	Albert Mamatey	F. Bureš
Thomas Čapek	F. J. Vlček	J. F. Smetanka
Joseph Eliaš	F. G. Hajiček	Ant. J. Švejda
John A. Sokol	H. T. Schwanda	Michael Pilnáček
Wenzel Morava	John Karmazin	Alb. Hlaváč, Jr.
Harry T. Payer	Frank Filip	Charles C. Chopp
E. F. Prantner	L. B. Achec	Michael Bosak
A. A. Mayper.	K. V. Janovsky	J. F. Štěpina
	F. J. Holman	

The By-Laws adopted subject to the approval of the annual meeting to be held next spring. At the present moment there is a properly organized, well functioning organization in existence, which is attempting to promote business relations between Czechoslovakia and the United States.

It might be of interest to the general public, and it is certainly very gratifying to the officers, to know that as a result of the activities of the Chamber numerous requests and inquiries from American firms to the Czechoslovak merchants have been made.

The following firms and individuals have made applications to become affiliated with the Chamber:

Albert Hlavac, Jr., President, New York Chamber, N. Y.

J. M. Kralovec & Son, Chicago, Ill.

Detroit Chamber of Commerce, Detroit, Mich.

Slavia Trading Corp., New York, N. Y.

It must be understood that a mere organization of the Chamber of Commerce is not sufficient. More than that is required. Wholehearted support of its members and friends is necessary. It is required that they speak of the Chamber to their business associates so that effective work may be done.

Therefore, all Czechoslovak merchants in the United States, and all American business firms are invited to participate, through membership, in the activities of the Czechoslovak Chamber of Commerce of America, Inc. and we bespeak to our friends that they aid in this undertaking to assure its continued success.

CZECHOSLOVAKIAN ART IS SHOWN AT LOUVRE.

Not the least interesting of all the objects representing the art of that vague region called of late Czechoslovakia—objects displayed recently in the Musee Louvre—are the painted wooden armoires, chests and other furniture borrowed for the occasion from the museums of Prague and other cities of southeastern Europe. Although somewhat rudely carved and painted, the armoires are most decoratively treated and in spite of the naive execution, show a fine sense of design and color.

The pottery shown in the exposition is exceedingly interesting, especially the plates, centuries old, of rich blue, bearing simple designs in a sort of yellowish gray. Some of the designs on the old pottery and embroidered stuffs are Coptic in character, and all are wonderfully rich in color.

Color is everywhere employed with a lavish hand—embroidered ribbons of intricate design and the most delicately exact needle work—color wrought on color. Like bits of fine tapestry are some of these embroidered bands; some of slightly rude design and some of most elaborate pattern, exquisitely done with imperishable colors. There are metal embroideries in relief, done in palest old gold, even now untarnished.

The old ivory-tinted linens are embroidered with Japanese precision with black thread or with black and yellow in a remarkably decorative pattern.

There is a width of firm tulle bearing a trailing but slightly angular design in applique—fine white linen stitched by hand on to the tulle, and a table-cover of fine linen with a design in linen applique embroidered on with the tiniest and most perfect of stitches is similar to it.

There are jewel-studded book-covers of metal, old metal-studded belts of leather, Bohemian glass and the quaint old drinking-mugs of wood—"wooden pottery"—with high carved handles; and much more material of a highly interesting sort.

HARPER'S BAZAR.

AMERICAN BOOKS FOR CZECHOSLOVAKIA.

The Czechoslovaks of America have presented to the pedagogical library of the Komensky Institute in Prague a gift of over 1,000 books and brochures on American pedagogy and modern educational methods. The works were selected by leading American educators of Czechoslovak descent to-

gether with Professor Judd of the University of Chicago and Miss Abbott, Librarian of the University.

SLOVAK STUDENTS HERE.

One of the interesting after-effects of the war is the arrival here of five Slovak girls, students at the University of Prague, who have won scholarships offered to Czechoslovakia by Vassar College and who will take a two-year course at Vassar as their reward.

The University of Prague is the oldest in Europe next to the Sorbonne, being founded in 1348, and the idea of heirs of its more than six centuries of traditions of learning coming to a new country and to a college less than half a century old to round out their education has a curious sound, but in fact it is a logical and highly intelligent course. The traditions of learning in Prague take small account of women, and the conditions of life and study are not of a sort to develop or train the social and co-operative spirit, which, rather than learning, is the dominant note of our American colleges for women. The dormitory system does not exist there; the students live as and where they please or can, and the poverty of all the higher schools of Czechoslovakia — accredited by these students to the policy of the Austrian Government in refusing them appropriations and forcing students to German universities—has handicapped their work.

Now that Czechoslovakia is free there is a "Students Renaissance Movement" fostered by colleges in this country and encouraged by President Masaryk, who was once a professor at Prague. The student committee at Prague has \$30,000 as its share of the money sent by the American sponsors of this movement. With it they hope to erect a building which shall be a center of the college life and foster the university spirit as it exists in this country. These five students are pledged after their return to take up some form of social work for their country, and they are seeking American training as a basis for that work. Thus the relations between the new republic of Central Europe and our older Republic are likely to be strengthened and made more mutually helpful. — Brooklyn (N. Y.) Daily Eagle.

UNIFYING CZECHOSLOVAKIA.

The announcement that the Czech and German social democratic parties of Czechoslovakia have joined in a common manifesto to the workers of the republic, urging them to stand by their government in defense against the menace of Magyar attack, is a most hopeful sign of the progress that is being made by President Masaryk and his colleagues in reconciling all elements of the population.

Were there not general satisfaction with the administration of the country, such unity of aim and

action on the part of these once antagonistic racial groups would not be possible. But with the spirit of justice and progress guiding the government, it may almost welcome Magyar threats for the sake of their effect in stimulating national feeling.

The Magyars make little secret of their ambition to detach Slovakia from the republic. Masaryk has offered to cede to them, in return for concessions, the one or two Magyar counties along the border line; but they have scorned the offer. "It must be Slovakia or nothing" they say. But Slovakia, with home rule, is becoming increasingly content to remain a part of Czechland. — Denver (Col.) News.

U. S. GOODS, FOREIGN MARKETS.

Attention has been directed frequently during the last year to the economic situation of the peoples of Czechoslovakia. The extremely low exchange values of their currencies render purchases abroad almost prohibitive in cost, yet without the importation of supplies of raw materials and equipment, industries can be restored but haltingly and with serious delay. Without the accumulation of a surplus for export produced by active industries, no improvement in exchange can be anticipated. The vital importance to the world of the restoration of these countries to active work as soon as possible can scarcely be over-emphasized.

The path to normal activity is further blocked by the disruption of transportation and the lack of coal. Widespread and long continued unemployment also aggravates the political and social dangers of the situation. Under these circumstances many merchants and manufacturers are turning to the employment of direct barter of domestic products for imported products.

There is a large amount of business of this character that is now offered from all the countries in question, and it is known that such opportunities are being seized upon, especially by British traders who are in a favorable position to take advantage of them as they control the organization required to conduct such transactions. In view of the important relation which export trade now holds to our new shipping interests and to our general national prosperity, it appears that the initiative to enter this field of barter operations should be found in the United States also. It should not be beyond the powers of our traders to create the machinery that would permit of considerable direct exchange of products during the present abnormal period. Such operations have already been inaugurated but much more can be done. The safeguards that are desirable to protect the complicated operations involved in the barter of commodities of varied characters present considerable difficulties, but they could be overcome. In any event overseas commerce is so necessary that any method under which it is found possible to continue it should not be ignored. The risks that undoubtedly exist are not so great as to deter enterprise in this

field, and there is the opportunity to form lasting trade connections which the restoration of industry and normal exchange will make valuable. — *Middle-town (N. Y.) Times*.

CREDIT RATING.

In a recent financial letter from New York to the *London Times*, the opinion was hazarded that the credit of the European states in American eyes stood in this order: First, Great Britain; next, Belgium, and third (at least in banking eyes although the public is not perhaps so well informed), Czechoslovakia. I have questioned various American bankers and business men who have been giving Europe the "up and down and once over," and they have replied that this order is correct. It means, first and foremost that these countries are getting down to work and are producing. — *Leslie's Weekly*.

STATUS OF WOMEN IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA.

"The people is the one and only fountain of state authority in the Czechoslovak Republic. . . . Privileges based on sex, birth, or profession are not recognized. . . . The right of voting at elections to the House of Deputies is enjoyed by all citizens of the Czechoslovak Republic, irrespective of sex, who have attained the age of 21 years, and who fulfill all the other conditions laid down in the rules of franchise relating to such elections." In so many words did the Czechoslovak Republic provide in its Constitution for the complete equality of men and women within its borders. For nearly two years now, men and women have been working together on terms of complete equality in Czechoslovakia, grappling with one of the most difficult tasks which has ever been laid upon a people, and doing so with the most remarkable success. The steady, un-deviating progress of Czechoslovakia, surrounded as she is, on all sides, by conditions of extreme unrest, lapsing, every now and again, into revolution and something very like anarchy, has been the one great source of encouragement to those who are striving to bring order out of chaos in Central Europe.

Not the least interesting phase in these great developments is the way in which the women of Czechoslovakia are gradually making good the position they have won. It is one thing to place a great reform on the statute book. It is quite another thing to render it really effective. Thus, although immediately on the revolution of October 28, 1918, the cooperation of women in all affairs of state took an official form, only 8 women found a place in the National Assembly of 269 members. They constituted however, an active group. They presented bills; they proposed plans for social betterment in several important directions, and generally devoted themselves with the most praiseworthy whole-heartedness to the great task of building up the new state.

Then, in the first election which took place after the formal establishment and recognition of the republic, namely the local and municipal elections, the women showed themselves even more keen than men to go to the polls. Similar earnestness on the part of women characterized the first parliamentary elections, held a few months ago. It is true that in the new House of Deputies there are only 12 women members, and in the Senate only 3; still this represents a considerable degree of progress and is in no way to be taken as a just gauge of the advance that women have made in the sphere of politics since the elections to the first National Assembly, something over eighteen months ago. The latest dispatches from Prague show that all the larger Czech parties have given their women members places in the councils of the parties, in the executive and administrative bodies, both local and national. Women are also appointed secretaries and members of special committees, whilst sometimes they are nominated presidents of local organizations. Every election so far, one dispatch declares, has meant an advance in the political consciousness for women generally.

At the present time, when women have just achieved a notable triumph in the United States, such news from the much-enduring and much-achieving republic in Central Europe is particularly welcome. — *Christian Science Monitor*.

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Announcement

THE Czechoslovak Review, 106 East 19th St., New York, N. Y., offers five prizes of 500 Cs. crowns, each, for articles on the following subjects:

1. **Banking of Czechoslovakia.**
2. **Textile Industry of Czechoslovakia**
3. **Glass** " " "
4. **Iron** " " "
5. **Economic Review since October 28, 1918.**

Thomas Čapek, President, Bank of Europe, New York, N. Y.
J. F. Smetanka, Czechoslovak Consul at Chicago, Ill.
(Formerly editor of Czechoslovak Review).

Professor Šarka B. Hrbkova, the noted translator of Bohemian literature.

will act as a committee to judge and select the best paper submitted in each division.

The conditions of the contest are:

1. Any person is eligible.
2. Each article must contain not less than 2,000 or more than 4,000 words.
3. Preference will be given to articles submitted in the English language.
4. All manuscripts submitted must be written or typewritten on one side of the paper only.
5. Illustrations will be accepted.
6. Manuscripts may be submitted at any time after October 15, 1920, but none will be received or accepted after December 15, 1920.
7. The right is reserved to reject any and all in any one group or in all groups.
8. Pre-war statistics are not desired, except for comparison. The contestants should devote themselves wholly as to what these various lines of activities have done since the Republic has come into being.
9. Contestants must address their letters as follows:

Contest Editor,
Czechoslovak Review,
106 East 19th St.,
New York, N. Y., U. S. A.

10. The sum of 500 Cs. crowns will be paid for each accepted article. Only one in each class will be accepted.

Announcement of the results will be made by December 31, 1920, and checks mailed to the successful contestants immediately. All other manuscripts will be returned.

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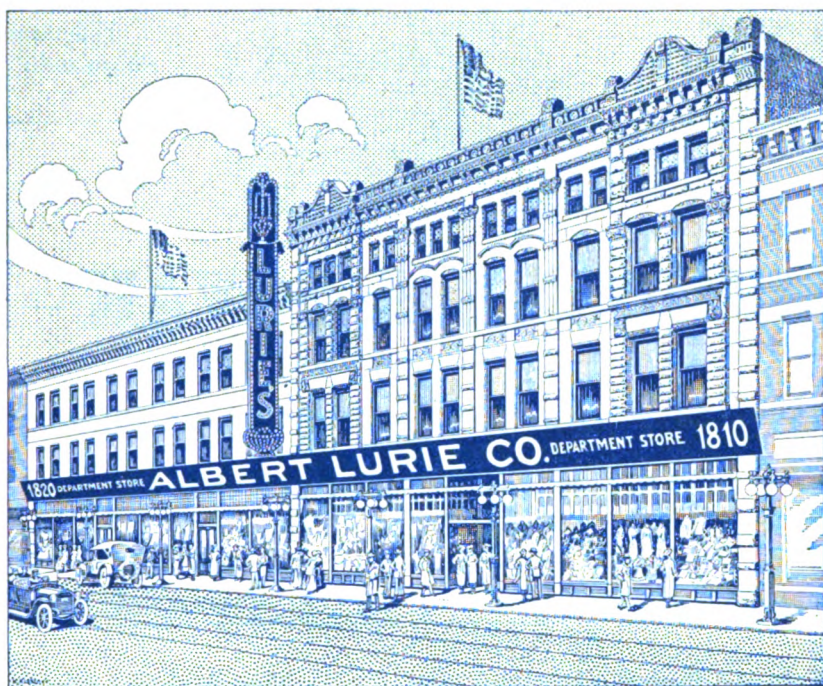
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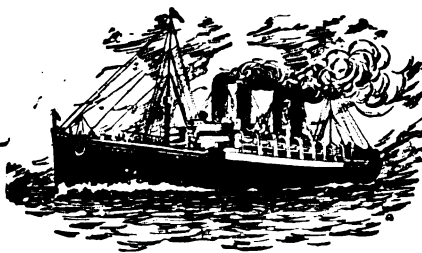
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CZECHOSLOVAK REVIEW

NOVEMBER, 1920

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Bedřich Štěpánek.
Political Atmosphere Clearing.
Month in Czechoslovakia.
Prague Letter.
Bohemian Heart.
Unfunded Loans.
Housing Shortage.
Masaryk Departs.
Jail.
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Vol. IV.

NOVEMBER, 1920.

No. 11



DR. BEDŘICH ŠTĚPÁNEK,
Czechoslovak Minister to the United States.

Dr. Bedřich Štěpánek

Dr. Bedřich Štěpánek, who succeeds *Chargé d'Affaires* Jan G. Masaryk at Washington as Minister Plenipotentiary and Envoy Extraordinary, is expected to arrive in Washington about the middle of November.

Dr. Štěpánek has been first assistant to Dr. Beneš, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, and during the Paris Peace Conference was acting as Chief of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs at Prague. His appointment to the Washington post shows that the government of the Czechoslovak Republic realizes the importance of America's friendship. He is one of the most brilliant political and diplomatic minds in Czechoslovakia and

will surely make many friends in the diplomatic and political circles of Washington.

During the war Dr. Štěpánek was actively engaged in preparing the revolution against Austria-Hungary, in Czechoslovakia and was at all times in close touch with the Serbs, Croats and Slovenes. His spectacular flight from Austria across the Adriatic in a small open boat is but one of the many experiences he had in fighting for the freedom of his nation.

Dr. Štěpánek is 36 years of age, and a bachelor. He is bringing his sister, Miss Štěpánek, who is to be the first lady of the legation.

Political Atmosphere Clearing

Following the exit of the Tusar Cabinet, the first event of importance was a meeting of the directors of the Social Democratic Party at which a resolution was adopted expelling from its ranks members of communistic tendencies and those who adhere to the principles of the Third (Moscow) International. *Tribuna* (Prague) regards this action as decisive step—and it must be necessarily admitted — an unexpected step". Of the delegates present seventeen signed a protest against the action of the majority because such action "proclaimed the expelled members as instruments of communism".

At Moravská Ostrava, presumed heretofore to be one of the strongholds of the Left Wing of the Social Democratic Party, a conference of the local leaders was held and a resolution was adopted advocating the reentry of the Social Democrats into the government and condemning the agitation for the principles of the Third International as detrimental and destructive to the Party.

On September 27th and 28th the Left Wing of the Social Democratic Party held a convention in Prague. The first sessions were held behind closed doors and thereafter several open meetings were held. Principles as outlined in the Third Inter-

national were loudly applauded and accepted as a basis for future action. Telegrams approving this convention were received from several small towns but in the main the convention represented but an insignificant fraction of the inhabitants.

One of the delegate-speakers took exception to the manner of the Czechoslovak newspapers in reporting the proceedings of this convention. As a protest against this speech representatives of the press left and thereafter refrained from further attendance.

The convention resolved to approve the principles of the Third International and decided on a new political organization in accordance therewith. Five other main points of the program were adopted:

1. A positive Socialization.
2. The upbuilding of a system of councils
3. Dictation by the proletariat.
4. The realization of Socialistic ideals.
5. The means (The action of the masses endorsed).

Thus, by its own action, the Left Wing withdraws from the largest single political party of Czechoslovakia, which gives a free hand to the remaining conservative elements to effectuate their program which will be adopted at the forthcoming convention, late in December, and to parti-

cipate in the government without regard to discontented factions.

It must not be assumed that the adherents of the Third International will be a potent factor in the future political life of the Republic, in fact, they are somewhat of a negative quantity. Everywhere they are in the minority.

Venkov (Prague) observes, "During the convention one of the delegates rose and said, 'I am a moderate Socialist, and if you declare for communism, then with my colleagues I will immediately withdraw from this congress'.

"The Bolsheviks spar for time. They despatched, ultimately, an emisary, Editor Krmaňsky, to Moscow to plead with Lenine for lightening the conditions to entry into the Third International. The thing uppermost in their minds is, that they have no desire to be called communists!"

With the consequent after-war nervousness and economic disorganization, it is not to be wondered that the inhabitants of a Republic, particularly located in Central Europe, should split into many camps, each following a distinct idealism. All of the parties, except the Germans and the faction which has just closed its convention, desire and work for the continuance and upbuilding of a constitutional Republic. The differences existing between the Germans and the Czechoslovaks are not in fact as to the form of government, but rather concern questions of language and privileges, which have been accentuated far beyond their importance. Both sides must shoulder a part of the responsibility in this respect.

The Germans must accept the inevitable. They must submit to a rule of the majority provided their rights are safeguarded in accordance with the provisions of the constitution and the Treaty of Peace. The Czechs and Slovaks have always made an effort to manfully carry out the spirit of the constitution in-so-far as the rights of minorities are concerned. At every step they have been hampered by the Germans. Should the communists and the Germans unite they would not form an effective barrier to carrying out the program of the other (constitutional) parties. On the whole the political atmosphere has cleared considerably in Czechoslovakia.

All parties are experiencing internal differences and dissensions over programs and the means to be adopted for the carrying out of them. That is to be expected. But the Czechoslovak people are sensible. They know that their liberty is at stake the minute they withdraw their support from the constitutional government. Hence all strive to uphold the hands of their President. There is not the slightest doubt that soon another coalition Cabinet will be selected from among the members of the larger parties which will have a substantial working majority behind it in the House of Deputies, and which will carry on the work of government in accordance with programs adopted by far-sighted leaders.

This may necessitate another election, as is predicted in some quarters, to thoroughly sterilize the political atmosphere. This would bring about a new alignment of voters. At any rate, it might eliminate some of the parties, which, taken alone, would be a blessing.

As *Právo Lidu* notes, "Light has penetrated into our midst at last."

"*Právo Lidu*" (*People's Rights*) underwent rather a novel experience. This newspaper is the official organ of the Social Democratic Party. On September 17th it was seized by adherents of the Left Wing, who ejected all of the conservative element and took control of the plant and thereafter issued its own paper calling it the "*Rudé Právo*" (Red Rights).

The conservatives moved to another printing shop where they continued publication of the old "*Právo Lidu*". For two days, the morning and evening editions of "*Red Rights*" appeared. Finally the conservatives again came into possession. "*Red Rights*" continued publication from another printing shop.

But the singular thing that strikes a person reading "*Red Rights*" is that they did not advocate anything ultra radical, but did recommend the adoption of the principles of the Third International. It would be expected that once in control, they would advocate in fiery articles the overthrow of the government and a substitution of a rule by the proletariat. But no such thing was done.

Month in Czechoslovakia

The second anniversary of the independence of Czechoslovakia was celebrated throughout the world by Czechs and Slovaks on October 28th. Appropriate ceremonies were held everywhere.

The 300th anniversary of the battle of White Mountain on November 8th will also bring out the patriotic spirit of the Czechs and Slovaks. The two events should serve to knit closer the inhabitants of the Republic.

"Peoples' Rights" (*Právo Lidu*) of Prague, reproduces photographic copies of intriguing documents fathered by Regent Horthy of Hungary. Propaganda, on a huge scale, to ferment uprisings among the Slovaks was its object. Newspapers were to be bought. Local committees were to be formed. Officials were to be corrupted. In the published documents it was stated that many high military officials were in league with Horthy. It was also insinuated that France approved of this propaganda. Another document showed that 1,500,000 Swiss francs were appropriated to carry out this scheme.

In addressing the miners of the Přeborn district, President Masaryk said: "I know Bolshevism well, but I observed carefully the Bolshevik Revolution. I contend, that in face of the best judgment and knowledge, the Russian example is not suitable for the Czechs to follow. I shall not launch into extended criticism. In Russia there is no communism nor socialism. Simply because the Russian nation is not cultured in socialism. But I must emphasize a fact — because as the head of a State it is my duty to observe the Russian progress and I have the further duty to make clear the happenings. We in Czechoslovakia need a new system of productions, methods of social changes in accordance with domestic usages and requirements. The Russian method we cannot use. Russia is a huge nation, but unfortunately it cannot read or write, it is less educated and is on a lower level of culture than we.

"That is the situation. Just as I said, in Russia there is no socialism. Our socialism, as well as European socialism, according to

Marx, is a scientific socialism. Thiswise your socialism differs from Russian socialism. True democracy will flourish where each individual will think, and be educated in scientific socialism. Marx and Engels speak of the proletariat, but they had in mind a cultured proletariat which may proceed in science and the philosophy of Fichte and Hegel.

"Socialization — yes. — In my message I advocated socialization and once again urge socialization. We shall socialize gradually and begin with those things which are ripe. Rightly, your line (mines) is the first which this country, and in fact the world, have under discussion. But I may and must advise you that a program of mottoes is not sufficient. We need a socialization of labor and of the mind as well as a plan to carry it out in accordance with our constitution. This will be attained only when we shall not be led by sterile mottoes."

Papal Nuncio, Archbishop Clement Micařov, was received by President Masaryk, who said: "In the first place I express thanks to His Holiness, Pope Benedict XVth, that he accredited you to our Republic as his representative. The Holy Father recommends you most cordially and places full confidence in you. We also bring you full confidence and promise you aid to bring about proper relations between the Republic and the Holy See. Wish our country religious and political progress. Be assured that to me religious progress was and is a serious subject and that the announced separation of the church from the State I judge from a religious viewpoint and in the interest of the church. We heartily greet you."

An agreement between Jugoslavia and Czechoslovakia to exchange foodstuffs for machinery has been consummated. The Republic is to receive, immediately, 6,000 carloads of wheat to be followed, shortly, by 3,000 more. About 300 carloads of lard and butchers' supplies are also included. In return Jugoslavia is to receive Czechoslovak coal, coke, iron, sugar and machinery. All transportation must be over the Danube

because of the deplorable state in which the Austrian, Hungarian and Balkan railroads find themselves. For one carload of sugar Czechoslovakia is to receive three carloads of wheat. The abrogation of customs regulations in both countries, as regards each other, is under consideration. Another consideration is the immediate repair of railroad rolling stock. Due to the limited capacity of Czechoslovak shops it was decided to send skilled mechanics to Jugoslavia and to make necessary repairs in local shops.

Owing to smuggling of food-stuffs from Czechoslovakia into adjacent countries and Austro-Hungarian securities into the Republic, martial law has been put into effect along the entire borders of the country. One woman, on her way to Russia, had 365 one thousand crown (Austrian-Hungarian) notes concealed in her hat. Her purpose was to have them stamped in accordance with law and thereby increase their value at least threefold and add a corresponding burden to the Republic.

An agreement has been reached between the "Farmers' Industrial Bank" (Rolnickou průmyslovou bankou) of Bratislava and Michael Bosak, President of the Bosak State Bank, of Scranton, Pa., for the organization of the "American Slovak Bank" in Bratislava, with a capital of 50,000,000 Cs. crowns. Shares of a face value of 25,000,000 Cs. crowns are to be issued at once. Mr. Bosak underwrote 15,000,000 Cs. crowns and will market a portion of them in America.

The tanneries are again buying raw hides in foreign countries. This is due to the prevailing low prices and because domestic supplies are entirely exhausted. It is said that all stocks of leather are entirely sold out. The demand for sole leather is the outstanding feature of the present market. Early in September the tanners and their workers signed an agreement increasing all wages about thirty percent.

The oil seepage discovered at Hodonín (Moravia) amounts to about 200 kilograms (about 26 lbs.) per day. Intensive de-

velopment work is to be immediately undertaken.

September 28th, 1920 the first Prague sample fair closed its gates. From a financial point of view it was a huge success. Negotiations are under way to consolidate the Prague and Liberec Fairs. Thus, under this plan, two fairs will be held yearly in Prague — one in the spring and the other in the fall of the year.

The majority of the exhibitors were well satisfied with the resulting business. Luxury furniture found but little sale because of an adverse exchange market. Office and low priced furniture was in demand.

Clock makers, furriers, rug dealers, candy manufacturers, liquor merchants, women's apparel manufacturers and textile factors were well repaid in contracts. But the best business done was in shoes and boots, agricultural implements, machinery, automobiles and tractors, particularly for foreign consumption.

Czechoslovakia purchased from Bulgaria 2,000 carloads of corn (at 70 centimes per kilogram) and 1640 carloads of wheat (at 150 centimes per kilogram). From the next harvest Czechoslovakia is assured a priority of 10,000 carloads of corn and wheat in exchange for which Bulgaria agrees to buy Czechoslovak agricultural implements, textiles, shoes, iron, sugar and porcelain. All transportation must be over the Danube because the railroads cannot handle the shipments.

The glass industry exported, during the first six months of the current year, the following:

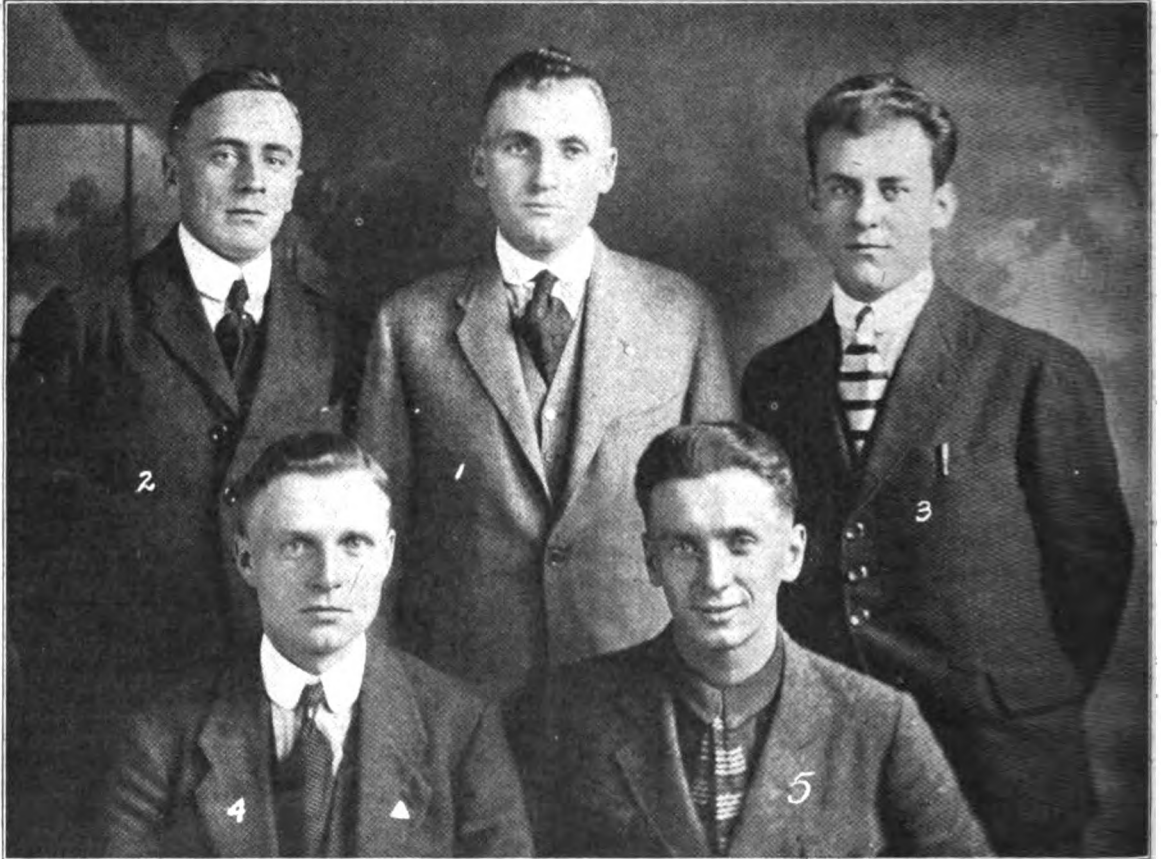
	Cs. crowns
Blown glass	368,000,000
Cut Glass	147,000,000
Plate Glass	35,000,000
Jablonec (Gablonz) goods	471,000,000
Glass Rings	57,000,000
Total	1,078,000,000

Window glass is not included because definite statistics are not available.

At a recent congress of Czechoslovak Catholics held in the hall of the Czech University of Prague, the president of this or-

ganization, Dr. Hurban (member of the Chamber of Deputies) delivered an address to the assembled delegates in which he pledged allegiance to the republic and, with the delegates' approval, pledged support to the government and asked that the Republic respect the rights of the Catholics. The Prague Archbishop, Dr. Kordač, sat at the head of the Czechoslovak Bishops. The attendance was large and representative particularly from Slovakia.

workers from Czechoslovakia at an early date and they will be replaced by Czechoslovak men, properly trained in the work. This organization did excellent work among the Czech and Slovak soldiers during the war and within the Republic after the armistice. It developed men of the highest type, who have performed yeomen services. The list is a long one but the leading men among them that are best known to our American people are: Rev. Vincent Pisek, D. D., Mr.



1. J. F. Machotka 2. Fr. Kubát 3. Bohdan Škarda
4. Fr. Marek 5. Fr. Šretr

Four Czechoslovak students have been brought to this country by the Y. M. C. A. to study American methods of that organization. Two of them, František Marek and František Šretr, are to study at Chicago, Ill. and the other two, Boh. Škarda and František Kubat, at Minneapolis, Minn. The Y. M. C. A. intends to train these young men in accordance with American standards for conducting similar work to fit them to act as leaders.

It is intended to withdraw American

J. F. Machotka, Prof. J. Pipal and Mr. Anthony W. Čiž.

Minister of Supplies caused a count of milch cows to be made in Czechoslovakia, which showed the following result:

Bohemia	928,425
Moravia	360,746
Silesia	61,594
Slovakia (incl. Russia) ..	415,564
	<u>1,766,329 head</u>

Prague Letter

By DR. F. FOUSEK.*

Czechoslovak Exchange.

Last February the "Czechoslovak Foreign Exchange Office" quoted the American dollar at 105 Cs. crowns and thereafter the rate receded until in May it was but 40.5 Cs. crowns. Since that time the dollar has again advanced to about 75. Cs. crowns. However, it must be noted that all European exchanges on New York have declined during the last few months. In comparison with the Prague rates all European exchanges have gained, with the possible exception of the Austrian crown. On the other hand the German mark is keeping pace with the fluctuation of the Czech crown. It seems that the exchanges on Italy, Rumania, Bulgaria and Jugoslavia have, somehow, escaped the sudden drop and as a matter of fact have gained in comparison with the rates on Prague. All these states are unable to cope with their internal economic difficulties and are managed in rather an inexperienced way. Nevertheless the regrettable fact remains — the Cs. crown shares the fate of the German mark, a condition which is without justification. A drop in the German mark invariably causes a decline of the Cs. crown, although, taking into account the actual value of the crown, there is no substantial reason. This is also emphasized by the fact that Czechoslovakia has entirely stopped issuing crown notes, except against legal reserve, whereas Germany is still printing and issuing millions of marks which are in no way secured.

The upward course of foreign exchange has brought to a standstill the downward trend of prices. This is particularly true of goods imported into this country and in spite of a certain steadiness attained in values. True, the slump of the crown has again enabled our industries to compete advantageously in foreign markets which will compensate, to a certain degree, the recent stagnation in business. Many workmen will again find employment, but after all, these advantages of a fluctuating

rate, which, moreover, are of a transitory nature, can by no means repair the heavy losses sustained as a result of a sudden break in exchange. There is no pessimism in Czechoslovakia as the people are of the opinion that favorable sales of sugar to foreign countries will cause a healthy inflow of foreign exchange.

Sugar.

The sugar crop outlook is very promising. The average weight of the sugar beet root is 465 grams as against but 427 grams last year. The juice analysis shows 20.68% polarisation, being 18.41 the quotient 89. and the pure sugar content 17%. The average quantity of root yielded per acre is about 9250 kilograms, or about 16.2% more than the yield of last year. The average quantity of pure sugar contained in the root is about 80.25 grams, which is far better than the root of 1919 which showed but 72.1 grams. Whereas the 1919 sugar production amounted to 480,000 metric tons the indications are that this year's crop will exceed 740,000 metric tons of raw sugar. Then this year the mills are sufficiently supplied with fuel which was not the case last year.

It must be remembered that certain quantities of the exported sugar will serve as "gold" for Czechoslovakia to pay for her purchases of grain in the Balkans or in America. Nevertheless a certain "free" amount will be available to exchange for raw materials which will tend to improve the position of the Cs. crown in the exchange markets.

Transportation Difficulties.

The transportation crisis of the last few months has improved considerably in the territories of the Czechoslovak republic. Enough freight cars are available to move coal. While there is a marked betterment in railroad movement in our republic the conditions of the roads crossing Austria and leading to the Balkans and Italy are very poor. This circumstance is a distinct disadvantage to Czech goods which must

*Dr. Fousek is the Business Editor of the "Národní Listy".

find a ready market in these countries. No matter how lucrative a contract has been closed by a Czechoslovak business man it cannot be consummated because the railway transportation conditions of Czechoslovakia's Eastern and Southern neighbors forbid it. There remains but one avenue—the Danube. But the traffic on this river is still insignificant. There are English, German, Yugoslav, Austrian, Hungarian and Czechoslovak river transportation companies. They do not transport they merely carry on conferences and negotiations among and between themselves most of the time. Therefore no practical results have flowed up to this time.

There is no doubt that Czechoslovakia would boast of a favorable foreign trade balance if it were not for the hopeless transportation demoralization in adjacent states which precludes the shipment of exports from this country to the south. Just now there is in session, in Prague, a conference of the representatives of railroad ministers of neighboring governments and it is sincerely hoped that some benefit may enure from the decisions reached.

Money Market and State Finances.

We have witnessed a feverish activity in the founding of new enterprises, and it still continues, particularly in Slovakia. This brought about a tightness in the money market. Call (day) loans were quoted at 9%. This is a rate almost without precedent with us. Prices on the Stock Exchange were influenced and brought about a decline in all securities. The public being aware of the money shortage refused to deposit its money in the banks but secreted it in their homes thus making the acuteness more severe. The indications of the last few days point that the crisis has passed, that the public's money again finds its way to the banks, that demands on the banks have decreased and the securities on the Stock Exchange have recovered some of their losses. Generally speaking, commercial life has resumed its normal aspects and seems to be on a more firm footing. This is probably due, primarily, to the announcement of the Minister of Finance that the next (1921) budget which he will place before the National Assembly will not disclose a deficit—that it will balance.

In view of the conditions prevailing in Central Europe this fact is of tremendous

importance. The Czechoslovak railroads are now self-supporting although a short time ago they showed a deficit.

Foreign Banks — Branch Offices.

There are branches of three of the largest banks of Austria-Hungary still operating in Czechoslovakia. They remain independent while the branches of other foreign institutions merged with some one of the Czechoslovak banks, or are negotiating for a merger. These three branch banks control about two billion Cs. crowns, which are invested in industrial undertakings. Their status was uncertain. The Minister of Finance promulgated a decree providing that these branch banks will be permitted to do business in Czechoslovakia provided that they apportion a certain amount of their capital to their Vienna Central Offices, that the management of the branches shall be independent of Vienna and that they shall use only such facilities as may be disposed of by them in Czechoslovakia.

Prague Fair.

Instituted by the City of Prague the first was held this fall. About 3,000 firms displayed their wares to about 150,000 visitors during the two weeks it was open. The most important business consummated was in boots and shoes, paper, furs, food-stuffs and machinery. Considerable scattering business was done in chinaware, jewelry, toys and textiles. The impression created by the initial display was very favorable. All similar exhibits were segregated. This was a distinct advantage over the Leipzig fair where they were scattered about. The next fair will be held in the spring of 1921.

NEW ENGLAND FRIENDS.

A complimentary dinner was tendered to Mr. James Keating by the Women's City Club of Boston on Tuesday evening, October fifth, at the club rooms, 40 Beacon Street. It was largely attended and was presided over by Miss Rose Standish Nichols, who introduced Mr. Keating to speak upon "Late News from Czechoslovakia and Other Countries in Europe." Mr. Keating aroused great interest in the audience by his account of the amazing progress in reconstruction in the revived Czech state and especially by his exposition of the salient features of the advanced constitution which has been evolved and adopted by the Czechoslovak Republic.

Among the club's special guests at the occasion was Professor Albert Hatton Gilmer of Tufts College.

“České Srdce”

(“The Bohemian Heart”)

By CELENA A. BAXTER.*

It has often been said and just as often believed that the story of the Great War and all subjects akin to it have been so thoroughly expressed in literature, art, and song, that only at the risk of repetition can anything new be undertaken. Always, however, is this theory disproved by the birth of a new story, coming often from some forgotten corner of the earth, picturing anew humanity rising to its best and noblest, as so often was the case during those years of idealism, when the selfishness of the present was put aside, while man struggled and died for the future of the world.

All the inspiration for another such story is found in the land of Bohemia, and it may be called the story of the “České Srdce”, or “The Bohemian Heart”.

This organization, whose membership represents the highest type of citizenship in Czechoslovakia, was started during the first year of the World War. The story of its birth is the story in miniature of the black misery that had settled like a cloud upon the land; of the country's growth and accomplishments; of a nation aroused, breaking through the darkness of that cloud, and looking once more into the sky at a rising star of hope.

Dr. Procházka, an eminent physician, was called one night to prescribe for a sick child. Upon arriving at the address given him, he was shown into a dark, damp cellar, where he found one child sitting beside a cold stove, half frozen, while another lay dead upon the table. The mother was dancing around the table in wild abandon, and the father sat nearby tuning a small flute. Both were raving mad. Investigation showed that the only food on hand consisted of barley cooked in water, and on this the family had been trying to exist for days.

This occurred during the days when the Czech (Bohemian) language was spoken only in a whisper, and only after cautious glances about to make sure of not being overheard. Days, when the Czech orphans

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were dying literally by the thousands of starvation, while their fathers were giving their lives for a cause they hated. Days when all Bohemian organizations were rigidly suppressed; when jails were crowded with prisoners of both sexes, whose only offense was their nationality; when your nextdoor neighbor was probably an Austrian spy, ready and eager to denounce your lightest word to a government that four hundred years of iron rule had made deaf to all pleas for mercy. All knew of these conditions and all knew that something must be done, if the nation was to continue to exist, but no practical method, not conflicting with Austrian censorship, had been found.

The story of Dr. Procházka's discovery, was published broadcast in the newspapers throughout the land. This proved to be the torch that lighted the way and the “České Srdce” came into being. Its emblem was a bleeding heart surrounded by a crown of thorns, representing the great heart of Bohemia with its life blood pouring out through the death of thousands of its abandoned children. Its avowed purpose was merely to bind up as far as possible this gaping wound and staunch the flow of blood by caring for the helpless. To this, even their oppressors dared interpose no objections, for it meant the saving of the lives of the younger generation and the future hopes of the country. The spontaneous support of every true Czech from all parts of the land was given, and much could be written of the work done. Not only were funds provided, by a people who could only raise them through great sacrifice, but thousands of homeless children were taken into homes in the cities and on the farms and nourished and cared for as a part of the family. Soon the proudest boast in the land was the number of adopted children in a home. Clamors for children and more children came in from all sides. The demand oftentimes exceeding the supply.

Many anecdotes, often pathetic, told of the arrival of trainloads of children at distribution centers, stories that sometimes

touched upon the sublime. One can speak of the old peasant woman, who met the train accompanied by five orphaned grandchildren, but begged to be allotted two more, on the ground that her old body could easily do on one third of what she ate and the saving would suffice to nourish two of the future hopes of her country. Of still another woman, struggling to provide for nine of her own, but asking for three more so that she, like Christ and his twelve apostles, might have twelve at her table. Then, the case of the farmer, who seeing a group of some twenty-odd little girls, who had been neglected owing to the greater demand for boys, said, "What! No one wanted girls? Come along", and bundling them all into his cart, drove them all to his farm, thereby creating a demand for girls, that grew until it became necessary to call attention to the fact that there were boys to provide for as well (Such tales as these, together with hundreds similar are related today by the citizens of Czechoslovakia.)

Soon, as a result of this organization and its unselfish work, a new feeling began spreading over the country. Men meeting on the streets, on trains, and in public places, looked instantly for the emblem of the bleeding heart, and seeing it, knew they were friends and of one blood. It was no longer necessary for them to be on guard against all men. Opinions and ideas were exchanged freely and, even if in a whisper, they spoke their native tongue. Shortly

afterwards, this freedom enabled them to organize what proved to be one of the strongest political parties of the country. It should not be difficult to understand, even for those who have always lived in a free country, what it meant to the Czech people to have found, at last, after centuries of oppression, a method of asserting their nationalism, the foundation of sovereign people.

Through the "České Srdce" this new spirit kept alive and growing through all the trying months, and years, before it became evident that the Central Powers were doomed. When that day dawned, because of this spirit and the organization they had effected among their people, they were able to seize their advantage. When the revolution was planned, men wearing the emblem of the bleeding heart, were the messengers who carried orders and instructions from frontier to frontier. Men wearing the emblem were the ones who seized the railroad system in one day, so well were they organized, and thus insured success for their well laid plans for freedom and Liberty. Many believe that Czechoslovakia, standing today a free country among the nations of the world, her back to her unhappy past, her face uplifted and steadfastly fixed upon her glorious future, owes much, if not all, of her present happiness to that one organization founded in the spirit of charity and Christian love — the "České Srdce."

Unfunded Loans

Considerable agitation has been going the rounds in banking circles to curtail unfunded loans to European countries on the score that the amount now outstanding is huge (estimated at \$3,500,000,000), that further expansion of such lines of credit would deplete the resources of American banks and tend to prove dangerous to the American financial structure. To replace this type of financing the placing of long term funding obligations is advocated.

Certain competent authorities make the statement that our European trade passes, mainly, through English hands, who in turn resell to continental consumers. The English buy on short term credit and re-

sell on long term credit. This is an unequivocal acknowledgement that actual American-European trade is but a myth. Figures and arguments are marshalled to sustain the contention that an unfunded debt is a dangerous practice on the part of American exporters and banks. It strikes one rather singular that the English financial structure is considered absolutely sound not only by British economists, but by those of America as well, in spite of the fact that the greater portion of the (European) unfunded debt is due to the United States from England and it is also noteworthy that British capital is financing the major portion of the long term credits

for continental countries without endangering the financial structure of that country.

Nevertheless the unfunded debt due to America is represented by surplus funds invested in credits extending for a period longer than that approved by the Federal Reserve Banks and those, admittedly, are practically negligible to affect our economic system. While long term funding obligations would undoubtedly find a ready market with the general public of America yet we fail to find a reputable house willing to undertake the floatation of such securities at a price which would be fair to all. It is a common knowledge that to restrict unfunded loans to European countries the Federal Reserve Banks have seen fit to "peg up" discount rates to figures practically prohibitive. Naturally, this does not tend to make money easier or more available for sound funded financing on which the return would be practically on a par with that derived from American obligations though unquestionably the security behind the loans is prime and worth intrinsically as much, and is just as safe as that of American concerns. In short the increase of the discount rate has operated to place an impassable barrier to funded and unfunded financing by Europe in America, except in extreme cases.

Assume for the moment, for the sake of argument, that European countries are bankrupt, that they are unable to meet their maturing obligations. Unquestionably through increased financing costs the obligations of the bankrupt will not be made more liquid nor more secure nor will they tend to hasten payment. Ordinarily, when a banking institution has a bankrupt concern on its hands it "nurses" the assets of the estate. It attempts to put it (the concern) on its feet by supplying producing facilities so that it may liquidate its obligations at one hundred cents on the dollar. That may be done by restricting credits; that may be done by accepting its long term securities. But it cannot be done by imposing prohibitive terms nor by insisting upon extortionate rates of interest which operate to deny all credit. Terms must be tempered with common sense. We must not overlook the fact that nearly all European nations have always been producing peoples; that we cannot

make consuming nations out of them expecting them to pay constantly for consuming necessities with funded securities. That would be foolhardy and uneconomic.

It seems that the solution of this problem rests in providing Europe with raw materials on credits to enable the various countries to convert them into finished articles and with the added fruits of labor liquidate the indebtedness incurred. This the Federal Reserve Bank is indirectly and artificially attempting to stifle by increasing its discount rate. In spite of the fact that arbitrarily credit is being denied, in spite of the artificial barrier a certain amount of credit is being extended to Europe.

If the financial structure and the economic structure of England is not endangered by the extension of long term credits to Continental Europe, how is it possible for the American economic structure to be endangered by extending the same accommodations? American people decry the domination of world markets by England. But, what is America doing to find "her place in the sun" of the marketing world? There is only one answer, and this is, that by increasing discount rates it prevents American exporters to finance their European sales thereby supporting England to establish herself as a queen in all the markets of the world through low interest charges and long term payments.

These conclusions are applicable to most countries of Europe, except Great Britain and they work a particular hardship on those nations which are industrial and dependent on foreign sources of supply for raw materials, which must be paid for in finished articles which the fingers of labor have produced.

It is useless to attempt to overthrow economic principles. It is useless to dam the rivers of commerce. It is useless to attempt to transform producers into consumers. There is but one remedy. Business does not require funded securities to flow its ordinary channels. It does need a fair and unrestricted sphere to operate properly. If England finds it safe, sound and lucrative to buy American goods on short term credits and resell to continental nations on long term credits, why cannot America undertake the same operations and eliminate an intermediary? That is the question that such authorities as Dr. B.

M. Anderson, Jr., the economist of the Chase National Bank must answer. If all our foreign business is to be done on a strictly cash basis with all the world except England then we may as well erect a Chinese Wall about the United States, place warning signs on the outside that we desire no other foreign trade under penalty of the law.

If the era of high cost of financing does not come to an end naturally, its own top-heavyness will topple it over. Bankers consider, among European nations, Eng-

land's credit best, that of Belgium second and that of Czechoslovakia third. In spite of this excellent position Czechoslovakia is unable to secure American financial accommodations except at a staggering cost which precludes any relations. High interest rates, large underwriting and flotation costs discourage business. A deflation of financing costs must set in. Guided by common sense, credits must be extended. Business between Czechoslovakia and the United States will then thrive and help to quickly rehabilitate the new Republic.

Solving The Housing Shortage

Following the break-up of Austria-Hungary the acuteness of the housing situation became apparent. Therefore, on May 28, 1919, the "Revolutionary" National Assembly appropriated 5,000,000 Cs. crowns to stimulate building operations by guaranteeing to builders a sum sufficient to meet interest and amortization charges where rental returns were insufficient. The amount proved inadequate and was subsequently increased to 25,000,000 Cs. crowns. Due to increased costs of building operations, (twelve times higher now than in pre-war days) this appropriation fell far short of accomplishing its purposes and the government is now engaged on a bill proposing further credits.

What has already been accomplished is best gleaned from the following figures which show the total number projects to which state aid has been promised and those actually under construction:

STATE AID PROMISED.

	Projects	Buildings	Apartments	Est. Cost Cs. Crowns
Municipal	152	1659	7596	348,496,650
Association	177	3457	6605	331,598,244
Total	329	5116	14201	680,094,894

UNDER CONSTRUCTION (Included Above).

	Projects	Buildings	Apartments	Est. Cost Cs. Crowns
Municipal	73	426	4145	180,963,945
Association	91	1670	3872	190,212,362
Total	164	1096	8017	371,176,307

According to Dr. Engliš, Minister of Finance, Prague, which has but eight percent of the country's population, needs at least 7,000 new buildings, whereas the projects contemplated for the whole Republic provide for but 5,116 apartment houses at a cost of 680,000,000 Cs. crowns! Thus the housing problem of the Czechoslovak Re-

public presents what might be regarded as almost an insurmountable obstacle. Yet a writer in "Our Era" (*Naše Doba*) says, "Our only salvation lies in building, and then again more building."

The main deterrent to construction is lack of money. Banks refuse to loan funds on mortgages because of the low interest returns as compared to profits accruing from purely commercial ventures. Therefore builders cannot secure the necessary capital. Another element entering into this problem is one of costs. These may never be ascertained in advance because materials and wages constantly fluctuate. Therefore the State must step in and provide the funds.

The Cabinet agreed to present a bill to the National Assembly which is expected to aid materially in solving the housing shortage. It provides; 1, Building materials must be furnished at cost; 2, Introduction of civil employment obligation in accordance with the provisions of war necessities; 3, The State has power to extend the working period beyond the eight hour limit (heretofore set); 4, Large enterprises (banks, agricultural and industrial concerns) must build dwelling houses in proportion to their resources.

Czechoslovakia has the necessary labor and materials for the erection of dwellings. It lacks the financial means to effectively utilize its resources. To provide housing facilities for its people the Republic contemplates to float a foreign loan, probably in America, to bring about a relief from the present overcrowded and unsanitary conditions.

Masaryk Departs

"In leaving America, the land of my mother, I have the one consolation of going back to my mother in the land of my birth," were the parting words of Jan G. Masaryk, the popular Chargé d'Affaires of the Czechoslovak Republic in the United States, at the dinner tendered him in Sokol Hall in New York City, on October 11, 1920, upon the eve of his departure for Prague.

About eighty friends of the young diplomat gathered to bid him "au revoir". From Newark to Chicago and from Bridgeport to Pittsburgh, representative Bohemians and Slovaks came to pay homage to our popular friend. As one of the participants expressed it, "It would have been a thoroughly enjoyable evening but for the fact that Masaryk is leaving us".

The guests of the evening were Jan G. Masaryk, Counsellor Hála of the Czechoslovak (Washington) Legation, who will act as Chargé d'Affaires until the arrival of Dr. Bedřich Štěpánek, the appointed Minister who will arrive about the last week in November, and Col. and Mrs. Vladimir Hurban. The toastmaster of the evening was Mr. Thomas Čapek, President of the Bank of Europe in New York City.

Almost every one present spoke. Each praised the services rendered by Mr. Masaryk to Czechoslovakia during his stay in this country. Each laid particular emphasis and stress on the fact that he brought to a higher plane the reputation of Czechoslovakia in the estimation of the American people. Counsellor Hála and Col. Hurban spoke first. Particularly touching was the tribute by Mr. Albert Mamatey, as well as the eloquent address Rev. Mr. Karlovsky, who represented the Slovak National League. Consul General Kopecky made a speech, which is something very unusual for him. Mr. Michael Bosak spoke feelingly.

Chicago, not to be outdone, paid a delicate tribute through Mr. Frank G. Hájíček, who also presented greetings from the Bohemian Catholic Societies emphasized by a token of appreciation — a pin. The members of the Czechoslovak press, Messers Josčeff and Grégr, Dr. Čapek, Messers Dvorsky and Mách, also voiced their approval of the work done by Mr. Masaryk, and wished him well.

Prof. Šarka B. Hrbkova, of the Foreign Language Bureau of the American Red Cross made a striking address. Mr. Caldwell, in his speech, emphasized his convictions as to the economic future of Czechoslovakia, pointing out the significance of the activities of Mr. Masaryk in connection therewith. Mr. Caldwell has just returned from Czechoslovakia, where he was on an official mission. Space is lacking to mention the other speakers, each of whom praised Mr. Masaryk's work, regretted his departure and wished him future success.

The climax of the evening came with the appearance of the representatives of the Association of Czechoslovak Legionnaires, Messers E. V. Burian, Anton Kubista, Rud. Jelinek, Rud. Secky, and Lud. Vaclavik, whose spokesman, Mr. Burian, in a concise, simple, convincing and effective speech electrified the assemblage.

"Mr. Masaryk," he said, "we thank you for the loyal support you have given us in America, for what you have done for our boys in Siberia and for your interest in all of us. We wish you success and bid you God Speed."

It was an unexpected tribute; it was hearty and it was sincere. Many moist eyes were seen in the gathering.

Among those present were:

- | | | |
|-------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. Hon. Jan G. Masaryk. | 10. Mrs. Thomas Čapek. | 19. O. Suchan. |
| 2. Counsellor K. Hála. | 11. Frank G. Hájíček. | 20. Mrs. A. S. Ambrose. |
| 3. Col. V. Hurban. | 12. Mrs. Albert Hlavac, Jr. | 21. Rev. L. J. Karlovsky. |
| 4. R. J. Caldwell | 13. Dr. V. Smetana. | 22. Ernest Appel. |
| 5. Prof. Š. B. Hrbkova. | 14. Mrs. E. F. Prantner. | 23. V. Švarc. |
| 6. Mrs. V. Hurban. | 15. Charles C. Chopp. | 24. Rev. Hok. |
| 7. Thomas Čapek. | 16. George Palda. | 25. Mrs. John Karmazin. |
| 8. Albert Mamatey. | 17. Joseph Appel. | 26. Michael Bosak. |
| 9. F. Kopecky. | 18. Dr. B. Prusik. | 27. T. D'A. Brophy. |



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Dinner to Hon. Jan 6



Ok, Oct. 11th, 1920.

- | | | |
|-----------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|
| 28. Mrs. Michael Bosak, Jr. | 40. Boža Oumiroff. | 52. Mrs. Dougherty. |
| 29. Pavel Berka. | 41. Albert Hlavac, Jr. | 53. Major V. Drake. |
| 30. Michael Bosak, Jr. | 42. E. F. Prantner. | 54. Mme. Sartoris. |
| 31. A. B. Koukol. | 43. Dr. Bartošovsky. | 55. Mrs. A. B. Achec. |
| 32. A. S. Ambrose. | 44. J. Mach. | 56. Dr. B. Ryznar. |
| 33. Mrs. L. J. Karlovsky. | 45. J. J. Novy. | 57. Frank Dloúhy. |
| 34. Emil Polak. | 46. V. Horký. | 58. M. L. Marcus. |
| 35. Mr. Comerford. | 47. Ant. Dvorsky. | 59. Mr. Gregr. |
| 36. Mrs. F. Kopecky. | 48. Mrs. Wetcbe. | 60. Mr. A. B. Achec. |
| 37. John A. Sokol. | 49. James Keating. | 61. S. Černý. |
| 38. Mrs. Michael Bosak. | 50. Mrs. Oumiroff. | 62. R. Lanctot. |
| 39. Miss Oumiroff. | 51. H. L. Ripperger. | |

Those who came after the picture was taken are:

Dr. and Mrs. N. Čapek.
Mr. John Karmazin.
Mr. Michael Pilnáček.

Mr. Edward Pilnáček.
Mr. Oswald Freund.

Mr. Henry T. Švanda.
Mr. and Mrs. Puc.
Dr. J. F. Chmeliček—Luhan.

Jail

By J. S. MACHAR.

Authorized translation from the Czech by P. Selver.

(Continued.)

XIII.

Saturday.

Yesterday evening at 9 o'clock I again heard the call of the skylark. Mr. K r e t z e r also heard it, he attracted the attention of the rest, and the whole room listened. The skylark warbled its brief exultant song a few times and then was silent.

For a while there was an oppressive stillness in the room.

"I should like to have its liberty," began Mr. F e l s.

"But not to sit with it on the top of the roof," remarked Mr. G o l d e n s t e i n. "I would go to a music hall today. But first of all I would have a good feed."

"Ah yes, a portion of smoked meat, greens, dumplings," said the sergeant rapturously.

"No, first of all fish, a portion of soured fish, then roast meat with potatoes, braised onions on the roast meat, after that chicken with preserved fruit—at M e i s l's and S c h a d'n's they have splendid preserves—a glass of Pilsen beer with it, no, I'd have two at once put in front of me, and some pudding."

"Don't tantalize me. I'll kill you," Mr. G o l d e n s t e i n threatened with comical desperation—but the comical part was put on and the despair under it was genuine.

The man who was so enthusiastic about a copious supper was named F r ö l i c h, A b r a h a m F r ö l i c h according to the jail records, but A d o l f F r ö l i c h was the name above his shop and the one by which he was known in Viennese society. Also a censorist.

"Pooh—I don't long for freedom" declared Hedrich convincingly. As long as Mr. Dušek and you (this was meant for me) are here, I like it."

"I'm quite satisfied here too", observed Mr. Kretzer, "if I were to leave to-day, I should be in the trenches within 24 hours, and that's not at all to my liking. If only there was enough to eat here."

"Yes, to eat," several hungry persons agreed. For at noon, in addition to an intolerably peppered water-soup, potatoes had made their appearance on the kneading-board. These potatoes had been thoroughly overboiled, and in the resulting pulp there were clots of baked flour, containing an intolerable addition of paprika. Nobody ate anything. Hedrich pronounced dreadful curses on the captive Russian, "an Asiatic who is head cook here, a fellow with slanty Chinese eyes, who takes good care to look after his own table." Everybody had eaten up his portion of bread (the soldiers received half a loaf, the civilians a fifth), the week's rations were consumed. Ah, Friday is here "the most horrible day," so Budi declared to me, but our Papa Deelich unwrapped a piece of cheese and butter from his moist rags, opened a box of sardines and we ate. Quietly and without zest, fifteen pairs of eyes looked over to our table in greed and anger, and we ate quickly and in silence, as if we had stolen food somewhere.

"Well, tomorrow we'll eat too" said the sergant to Mr. K a r l soothingly.

"And we'll drink — I've ordered three bottles of wine."

Let me point out that a bottle of wine sounds promising and thoroughly magnificent, but these

bottles of wine were also delivered Saturday after Saturday by the caterer, red and white wine, his own bottling, a mysterious taste (a dash of lemonade, a dash of vinegar, a dash of alcohol, an enormous amount of water) and after drinking it there was a wooden feeling in one's head.

We went to bed before the bell commanded us, and there were none of the usual conversations from mattress to mattress. Nor was there any smoking — there was nothing to smoke. Such a Friday had no other significance except that it brought us twenty-four hours nearer to freedom.

And again I dreamt about it. It seemed to me that I was floating in a boat across the sea. The wind filled my sails, whose ropes I had entwined around my hand, while with the other hand I was steering. The boat, with a slight list, was speeding over the crinkled surface, the furrowed waves beat against its sides, I longed to get further and further onwards—I did not know from whence and what was there—but onward, away.

I was awakened by a rattling at the door. All the heads raised themselves on the straw mattresses. Mr. Sponner was bringing in a new fellow inmate. An elderly man in artillery uniform.

Extensive cursing. Where was he to go? There was no room. Mr. Sponner declared that he couldn't help that, slammed the door and locked it. Everything was done with a maximum of noise, for a din is, as it were, the salt of military discipline in general and of jail discipline in particular.

"I can lie down here on the table," announced the artillery man assuringly. "I don't mind it, I'm used to everything." He threw his overcoat on the table and prepared for rest.

"And why are you here?" asked Dr. Smrečsany. (This "why are you here" was the customary formula of welcome).

"Why? A few pair of boots got lost from the store and the canteen woman reported us. There are three of us, one on the first floor, the other on the second. Cursed old hag." For a little longer he sat half undressed on the table, and demonstrated his innocence to us. Then, seeing that the heads were sinking down on the mattresses and the eyes were closing, he stopped talking, rolled over on the wood and curled up under his overcoat.

That was Friday.

And then the next day was the day upon which had centered all hopes, dreams and longing of my fellow inmates ever since Wednesday. Wait, on Saturday. If it were only Saturday. I am looking forward to Saturday.

We came back from our exercise, and the promised day began to perform its pranks.

Voronin took the fragment of a broom and swept up. We looked on—a man deprived of freedom and movement is interested by everything that happens, whatever it may be. Voronin produced whirls of dust, the dust rose upwards, formed a haze of many shapes and fell down again on to the floor, straw mattresses, the towel which had been hung

up, on the overcoats and upon us, the grateful spectators.

Papa Declich and the artilleryman of yesterday dragged in a tub of icy water, rolled up their shirt sleeves, sprinkled the water on the floor, whereupon Voronin chased it to and fro with his broom, until it had turned into a black puddle. The artilleryman thrust a brush into it which had long since lost its bristles and Papa Declich dabbled a black rag in it. The puddle chased about in this way, rolled from wall to wall, finally it turned to the threshold of the room, where however, Papa Declich jumped after it, collected it with his rag and wrung it out in the tub.

We looked on. The censorists were sitting at the other table and swinging their legs in the air. Budi was lying upon the piled-up mattresses, Mr. Karl beside him (he was whistling a tune from the "Merry Widow" the while, and he was whistling it artistically); the sergeant together with platoon-leader Kretzer, had climbed on to the second pile of mattresses and were also looking on, the sergeant relating about his captain who, if he only had an inkling where he (the sergeant) was and why he was there, would give himself no rest until he had liberated him. Old Nicolodi was sitting on his box and also looking on, Hedrich was roaming about somewhere in the jail and shaving people. Dušek was writing in the superintendent's office, the rest were standing by the walls and also looking on. How modest a man can become, how simple in his tastes, with what trifling spectacles he can manage to be satisfied here.

The sergeant suddenly told me to climb up to him and look out of the window. From the courtyard outside could be heard quick steps—I looked: Dr. Kramář. With his head bent forward he was fairly racing around the circumference of the large square courtyard. Defence-corps men with bayonets were guarding him and were watching to see that he did not communicate with Dr. Rašín, who was walking a leisurely pace as if he were not in jail at all; but I had to jump down, a defence-corps man had noticed me and made a threatening gesture.

Dr. Kramář... we have met... and here... what will come of it all? It is hard to imagine. My native land reminds me of a grayish, impenetrable mist. I did not know what was happening there, I did not know whether any faith or any hope was left there, or whether anybody was thinking of us and of what was coming. Still, the mist will fade away, the sun must appear, but shall we also see it rise? And if not... *ex oria re aliquis*... there is no policy more suicidal than to manufacture martyrs for a discontented nation.

"Dr. Kramář is a very gifted man" remarked the sergeant.

"Assuredly."

"And that is how he races along day after day. You can't call it walking."

"Where is Dr. Kramář?" asked Smrečsany and climbed up on the straw mattresses.

"Get down. If they report you, I shall be mixed up in it", and the sergeant Zimmerkommant gave him a push.

The sergeant was a Viennese and consequently an anti-Semite by birth—of course, he did not know that Dr. Smrecsanyi was römisch-katolisch and on the editorial staff of the pious Reichspost.

The air in the room was damp, the floor still moist. I jumped down and measured it off. It was 10 paces long, each pace 57 centimetres, that is, 7½ metres altogether. Something can be done to kill time and take exercise.

"Fellow criminals, our blood will grow putrid with this eternal sitting and lolling about. Of course, in jail we have to sit, but we will revolt, we will walk. Always in threes. If we walk for an hour and a half every day from wall to wall, we shall cover six kilometres, then two kilometres during our half hour's morning exercise in the yard, in the afternoon another two—ten kilometres altogether, that is enough. Messrs. Fels and Goldenstein, you join me and we will begin. And the rest of you arrange among yourselves, it's a pity to lose a single minute."

I concluded this speech, the censorists, Fels and Goldenstein joined me, and away we went.

The others talked it over and agreed that it was right.

A rhythm bore us along, the two censorists were glad that the time passed and that it was good for their health. The others looked at us. Mr. Karl intoned the Radetzky march to the sergeant's accompaniment.

"How do you manage to keep so calm?" Mr. Fels asked me.

"It's my clear conscience."

"And if they condemn you?"

"They will condemn themselves. Even if I were going to the gallows, I would whistle the Marseillaise".

"Your Czechs are a wonderful nation."

The room rumbled beneath our steps. Mr. Smrecsanyi wanted to join in. "Go away" Mr. Fels snubbed him, "you don't belong to our squad. The order is only in threes."

Just before noon Mr. Fiedler arrived and ordered everybody to go to the office. The smoking requisites were there. Twenty men dashed out of the room and down the corridor as if it were a matter of returning to the other world.

After a while they were back again and clouds of smoke quivered through the air and glided away through the bars of the windows. Payment and distribution took place. Voronin, the orderly, took and stored away cigars and cigarettes, thanking with his quiet; Spasibo. Hedrich returned, and from his pockets he produced his week's pay; cigars and cigarettes.

"Never mind hunger, as long as there's something to smoke," declared the sergeant.

The orderlies dashed in with the kneading-board. What was there? Vegetables. Invectives and curses.

The pieces of meat were fished up out of the soup, but nobody touched the vegetables. Hedrich explained about the Russian Asiatic and what a scoundrel he was.

That afternoon there was no exercise—we were to receive the provisions we had ordered. The caterer had just delivered them.

Again a gallop to the superintendent's office. The superintendent was sitting there in quiet meditation smoking a pipe. Dušek was writing, Mr. Fiedler was distributing butter, cheese, ham, salami, sardines, marmalade, wine, Krondorfer, glasses, spoons,—whatever had been ordered. We carried our "Ausspeise" back to the room in our caps and hats.

And now it was already time for the evening roll-call. The superintendent, the warder and Mr. Fiedler counted us, the door closed—the end of the day. It was 3 o'clock in the afternoon. If anybody were to be taken fatally ill now, it would be no use, he would have to wait until the next morning.

Jaws were busy and smoking went on as well.

And the room rumbled beneath the steps of the squad of "searchers". That was the new phrase.

XIV.

The evening shadows fell upon the windows of the building opposite and crept into the greyish mist of our number 60. Eating had stopped, and smoking had increased accordingly. And the room was pervaded by an affable, peaceable mood. The sergeant knelt down beside old Nicolodi and was explaining to him that this would be over one day, that we should be set at liberty, that Nicolodi would proceed to the warm south, and he, the sergeant, would return to his coffee-house. Mr. Froehlich was telling Dr. Smrecsanyi about his son, a lad of ten, a marvelously gifted child, whereupon Mr. Smrecsanyi described to him the beauty and the intellectual attainments of that lady whom he ought to have met when he was in our midst. Mr. Fels and Mr. Goldenstein were deep in a conversation about some artful Galician sharper, and were mutually recalling his knavish tricks. Platoon-leader Kretzer was walking about with Mr. Karl, and they were whispering what must have been very interesting things, for they were deaf to everything that was taking place around them. At the other table the artillery-man was playing wolves and sheep with Hedrich who was so taken up by the game that he had even forgotten to smoke. A few spectators were following the contest; Voronin silently, while others were criticising and advising. This irritated the artillery-man so much that he began to curse and warned everyone in a very incisive manner. We were sitting with Dušek, Declich and Budi at our table, and were

quietly discussing our fellow-inmates. Papa Declich termed the political prisoners "patriots", the remainder "Fallot", — we were patriots, Voronin was a patriot, the old man Nicolodi was a patriot, but otherwise the whole lot here were "Falloti", with the exception of Hedrich, who was neither a patriot nor a "Fallot", but a poveretto, a poor wretch: *massimo* "Fallot" was *questo Tironi*.

Tironi was a tiny little man, nearly as tiny as Nicolodi; he was bloated, disagreeably unclean, he laughed loudly until he started coughing, and he smelt of several smells, for which reason everybody whom he came near sought to get rid of his company as speedily as possible. He had been an apothecary at Scutari and was supposed to have gotten mixed up with both the Serbs and the Austrians. The Austrians had taken and locked him up. Whether he was an Albanian or an Italian was difficult to say. He spoke German well, he spoke Italian, Turkish, Serbian and Greek well, — a *Fallot* in all languages, in all nationalities according to Budi, a native of Cattaro, who knew him from previous years and vowed that he was a man capable of anything. *Tironi* was always in a rosy mood, for everyone whom he looked at he had a sweetish smile and a cringing joke,—a stunned conscience bestows upon its bearer just as joyous a calm as does a pure conscience.

And behold, speak of the devil,—and the *massimo Fallot* was slouching up to us and sat down beside Budi. Papa Declich addressed himself to me with a gesture of loathing, slipped off and went to his bed.

"Dušek, Saturday is over."

He guessed what this sentence referred to: "Frank? didn't I tell you beforehand? How many such Saturdays have yet to pass?"

The sound of singing penetrated to us from without. One voice began and then a whole chorus chimed in.

"What is that?"

"The Polish Jews in number 64. Students for the rabbinate. There are about twenty-five of them. They wanted to sneak out of the army,—with Polish Jews nobody knows where he is. Not even a court-martial. They have had them here for several months now and can get nothing out of them. They have no documents, they say that everything was destroyed during the Russian invasion; all they have is an endorsement from the heads of their local authorities that they are actually students for the rabbinate, but several of these heads are locked up here with them to be on the safe side, for these endorsements are exceedingly suspicious. You see them at exercise; one was a shop-keeper, one was an official in a Savings Bank, one was a tenant of an estate, one was a barber, one was a private gentleman, — the war came and he described himself as a student for the rabbinate, that is as one who was learning the

sacred theology of the Jews and who had a claim to exemption from military service. Their authorities gave them papers confirming that they actually were studying, one with this rabbi, the other with that one, another again was studying at home; at last the whole affair became suspicious to the military and they took them, They eat according to their ritual. That is, a Jewish benevolent society here provides them with food prepared according to the ritual. *Papritz*, a great anti-Semite, has fits of rage from time to time and forbids it to them; the Jews starve, deputations proceed in the meanwhile to *Papritz*, until he graciously gives permission again, only to forbid them afresh after a few days. And on the Sabbath they sing their religious songs."

I listened,—the singing was drawn out in a melancholy, lamenting, yearning manner, then they struck a few powerful notes, and the choir sang something which sounded immensely triumphant, exulting and mighty. It was from such songs that *Goldmark* is said to have derived tunes for his "Queen of Sheba".

But what was this all at once? From the other side came the sound of music, military music,—drums, trumpets, the drums were especially powerful,—and on top of this shouts, as if the military music were playing in a circus, as if the showmen were giving orders to a lady equestrian, or had charge of jumping lions,—a hellish music, the drums and cymbals drowned everything else,—the singing of the Jews was overwhelmed amid it and perished; only from time to time did some higher note still emerge,—what could that be?

"The orderlies, *Kranz*" explained Hedrich who in a state of excitement had left the wolves and sheep and had sat down with us. "*Kranz* is doing the circus, the orderlies provide the music. He doesn't like the Jews and that's how he spoils their devotions."

"And who are these orderlies?"

"Convicts. Each of them has still several years to serve. *Kranz* has six now. *Fiedler* is also among them. They keep the jail clean. They are all in one room, they have to get up in the morning before anyone else, sweep up, carry out the buckets, fetch the breakfast, clean the passages, and they live in a state of huge prosperity. They have their profitable little deals, they attend to everything that is wanted, nobody discovers how they do it, they move about in the jail freely, they eat and drink to their heart's content, and on Saturdays this is how they amuse themselves."

The din of the music continued. A dry music, without trumpets and bassoons, only drums and cymbals. And the shouting, the uproar, the yells,—the whole jail must have heard it, and not only the jail, but the streets round about as well. Bang, bang, bang bang, bang, bang, trrrrr, crash, crash, crash.

Today I shall not hear my skylark.

The lamp on the ceiling burst into flame.

"Let's go to bed", said Budi welcoming it as a means of getting rid of *Tironi*.

The straw mattresses flew about and fell to the ground. Voronin scraped the floor with his broom. The tables were pushed away, everyone was contented and it looked as if they would sleep peacefully.

Bang, bang, bang, bang, trrrr, crash, crash, crash.

"What do they do it with?"

"With everything that will make a noise. They whack the tables, the ground, beat one dish against another, play the drum with their knives on the woodwork,—there are twenty of them."

"And *Fiedler*?"

"He drinks, smokes and yells. But you will see what it will look like tomorrow."

Hedrich made my bed. He made it skilfully. He smoothed and spread everything out, he hung up my towel so that the light would not fall in my face,—a pleasant, sterling lad.

Bang, bang, crash, crash, crash.

I don't mind it, I can sleep in any noise, I can always sleep when I want to.

On the floor conversations were proceeding from mattress to mattress. The artillery-man was again lying on the table. And smoking went on the whole time.

Bang, bang, crash, crash, crash, trrrrrr.

Frank has not sent for me, has not cross-examined me,—this occurred to me. Still, —only calm, calm. We are here bearing a fragment of our country's honour, and therefore: No weakness. Poets mould the spirit of a nation. Poets and philosophers. Not politicians, not lawyers, not surgeons, not engineers. And therefore it is quite right of them to lock us up. The spirit of the nation is rebellious,—that is our work. In former times poets created gods for mankind—Homer, the poets of the Old Testament, poets of the New Testament. Now they create men. As long as they created gods, it was well with them,—seven cities disputed the honour of Homer's birth place, nature submitted to them. Orpheus tamed wild animals. Arion was saved by the dolphin from drowning. Ibycus was avenged by the cranes. Death did not venture to lay hand on Aeschylus, and an eagle had to drop a tortoise on his skull in order that his earthly fate might be fulfilled. Yes, that is how it was once, and afterwards, later, poets were the great judges,—Dante, Shakespeare, they judged Emperors, Kings, Popes,—all mankind, but from the time when poets moulded the souls of their nations, the mighty of this world have locked them up. Gods,—yes, men,—no, and I can fall asleep peacefully,—he who is my man, is firm and strong,—yes, I can fall asleep,—bang,—bang,—trrrrr,—crash, crash, crash.

XV.

On Sunday we were not awakened by the bell until half past five, the only thing being that scarcely anyone had any benefit from this half hour. As usual I opened my eyes before five,—behold: the artillery-man on the table was already smoking. Mr. *Fels* was conversing with Mr. *Goldenstein*, Mr. *Froehlich* was gazing disconsolately at the ceiling, old Nicolodi was sitting and sighing, Dr. *Smrecsanyi* was pinching his foot,—perhaps only Budi and Hedrich, the young who never got enough sleep, and Papa Declich, a sturdy peasant nature, who was glad to indulge in an extra few minutes even if the bell had already sounded, were the only ones who were sleeping the sleep of the just.

The lamps had already gone out, day was beginning to break.

In the night,—it must have been about two o'clock,—they had come to fetch Voronin. A dreadful shindy, a slamming of doors, a warder and a defence-corps man with a bayonet,—Voronin had to dress immediately get his things together to be removed into another jail. He got up, tied his things into a pocket handkerchief shook hands with us and went. We were sorry for him. What was in store for him? Where would this good, quiet man be flung?

Then we went to sleep again.

And I recalled a memory. A week previously I had been on an excursion. I had gone along the Danube through blossoming meadows to *Lang Enzersdorf*. It had been a magnificent sunny day.—I was a free man.—

"Do you know how long the orderlies kept up their row? Till after midnight, long after midnight" related Mr. *Fels*.

"I never closed an eye," added Mr. *Froehlich*.

"In England everything is permitted that is not forbidden, in Germany everything is forbidden that is not permitted, here everything is permitted that is forbidden,—especially in jail," remarked Mr. *Goldenstein* sententiously.

The bell had not yet clanged, but we got up. Even in the most oppressive situation man likes to preserve the appearance of free will,—he gets up voluntarily even though he could stay in bed another few minutes. And then he listens to the ringing of the bell with superior disdain.

But now it had already begun to peal. It seemed as if it were more shrill and ruthless than usual.

"That's it, keep your row up," growled the artillery-man.

"Get up, get up,"—those who were already awake aroused those who were still sleeping.

At the roll-call Papa Declich drew my attention to Mr. *Fiedler*. In truth, a picture of misery. His eyes were bleared, the veins in his temples swollen, his head was heavy and his hands trembled.

(To be continued.)

Current Topics

TO OUR SUBSCRIBERS

Notices to some subscribers, who are in arrears, have met with such lukewarm responses that it is necessary to request all our friends to look at the address label on this issue to determine if their subscription has expired. Beginning with the December, 1920, issue, all persons who are three months or more in arrears will be dropped from our mailing lists. This is necessary because of the constantly increasing costs of labor, paper and materials; we cannot afford to carry dormant accounts.

Please forward the renewal of your subscription at once if it is due.

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

For the promotion of trade, better understanding and mutually more agreeable relations between countries, an organization such as a chamber of commerce is an essential link. It seems to be a bridge over which the requirements of the various states are satisfied. It must not be understood that this must be an institution for the personal gain of any one person, but its field is far broader. It must intensively stimulate commercial intercourse. Such are the aims of the Czechoslovak Chamber of Commerce of America.

This is made possible through the cooperation of the people whose names have heretofore appeared in this column and who participate as members. To again emphasize this purpose the main office brings the importer and exporter in touch with the requirements of Czechoslovak business. Naturally in order to be free from all criticism no fees may be or are accepted. It might as well be known that the only expense connected with the operation of this enterprise are rent, clerk hire and publicity. The executive officers receive no salary. The cordial support accorded makes it possible for this body to continue its work, but it cannot forever continue on the small amount already received. Therefore, it is necessary that all business men of Czechoslovak origin give their support to the maintenance of this organization.

During the last month applications for membership from the following have been received:

Mr. Michael Bosak, President of the Bosak State Bank, Scranton, Pa.

American Czechoslovak Sales Corporation, Ant. F. Švejda, Sec'y-Treas., Baltimore, Md.

Security Savings Bank, F. Filip, Cashier, Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

The following have also contributed to the fund of the organization:

Mr. Joseph Sklenička, Rescue, Nebraska.

Mr. Stephen F. Macheck, Detroit, Michigan.

The Chamber of Commerce is a permanent body in the life of the American-Czechoslovak business men. It is not a fad but is a thing vitally required and absolutely essential to marketing not only wares but it leads to a better understanding of the position of Czechoslovakia in the economic structure of the world.

It is the duty of all of our people to support this work.

CZECHS AND SLOVAKS IN AMERICAN BANKING.

"Community and Americanization workers will learn of a social aspect of our Czech and Slovak fellow-citizens little known to them," say Thomas Čapek and his son, Thomas Čapek, Jr. in the introduction to their last book, "The Czechs and Slovaks in American Banking." "Banks are an unerring barometer of Americanization attained by this or that racial group. Like the ownership of real estate, a bank in our mind is associated with the notions of stability, permanence. The foreigner who is but slightly affected by our American customs and ideals seldom buys bank stock or invests in real estate; the seasonal immigrant, travelling back and forth never does."

"It will come as a surprise to most readers that Czech and Slovak Building and Loan Associations of two cities—Chicago and Cleveland—wield assets amounting to nearly \$20,000,000.00—an indication of the inborn sense of thrift of that element of our population, is it not? What tends toward a greater love for the adopted country than owning a home here, and being able to enjoy the moral benefits of a real home life?"

In all 103 banks throughout the United States are controlled by Americans of Czech and Slovak origin and their summarized statements disclose the following:

	CZECH	SLOVAK	TOTAL
Capital	\$ 4,199,000.00	\$ 500,000.00	\$ 4,699,000.00
Surplus and undivided profits	2,653,500.00	401,100.00	3,054,600.00
Deposits	61,726,780.00	8,645,000.00	70,371,780.00
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	\$68,579,280.00	\$9,546,100.00	\$78,125,380.00

Naturally the largest bank is located in Chicago. Others equally sound but not commanding the assets of this one are also in this city. New York City and Nebraska banks rank next. The largest Slovak bank is in Scranton, Pa. The balance are scattered through states where the Czechoslovak immigrants have settled. The strength of these institutions lies not in the financial pow-

er they wield but rather in diversity of location, influence and a position to serve clients. The probity and integrity of Czech and Slovak banks is emphasized by the few failures and defalcations.

Building and Loan associations of Ohio and Illinois may be classed as banks. The very nature of their business places them in this category. In Ohio ten of these associations have assets of \$5,441,460.00. The 135 Illinois associations boast of assets amounting to \$13,940,198.00.

At the end of the book are listed 99 banks which have Czech or Slovak officers. Undoubtedly they have large amounts of deposits of these people. But in no way is this ascertainable. Therefore we must be content with the results of the statistics of those institutions which we know to be wholly Czech or Slovak. These show that they have combined assets of \$97,507,038. A creditable showing—in fact one of which truly we may be proud.

'WOMEN HOPE OF THE WORLD' SAYS HELEN RING ROBINSON.

By Zoe Beckley.

New York.—“Where do we go from here, boys?” may well be paraphrased to fit the case of mother-and-the-girls.

Helen Ring Robinson, whom it is customary to introduce as “former senator from Denver,” has been looking them over in Europe and remarks her return with the emphatic declaration that women are today the hope of the world!

“We go from here,” she responds, good-humoredly, “into all the high places of earth.”

“I noticed throuth Europe that whatever ‘contempt for the weaker sex’ may formerly have existed, is now considerably shaken!

“With Alice Masaryk’s hand firmly steering the social and educational machine of Czechoslovakia, Lady Nancy Astor being listened to in parliament and Margaret Bonfield heading wisely and well the women of Britain’s labor party, pishes and tushes against women are out of date.

“Miss Masaryk, as leader of the women and president of the Red Cross in Czechoslovakia, is doing marvelous work in national housing, health, sanitation and hospital service.”

Mrs. Robinson, after some consideration, awards to Alice Masaryk the palm of greatness among the women of Europe. Miss Masaryk has a larger field to work in and bigger problems to solve than any other one woman in the world, Mrs. Robinson believes. Her field is the whole republic of which her father is president.

“And she has the wisdom, the experience, the vision, and the opportunity to do it well,” insists Mrs. Robinson. “Her personality is not vivid, but she is a doer.”—Detroit (Mich.) Times.

IMPRESSIONS OF A LAND WHERE AMERICA IS LOVED.

By Harry F. Payer.

“Nazdar (good luck), Nazdar, Nazdar!” cried out little boys and girls with a pathetic break in their voice, as though their very hearts were trying to make us understand their affection—when our automobile flying the American flag passed them, one day, this summer, as we were making our way through the villages and picturesque country of Czechoslovakia from Prague to the ancient city of Pisek.

If you would see a place, where the name of America is idolized, without question and with implicit faith—visit this land of Jan Hus and Thomas G. Masaryk. You will behold a country of radiantly verdant landscapes continuing with uninterrupted continuity, of rolling pine covered elevations reminding you of our Berkshire hills, of life giving forests that never cease to adorn the view through all the hours of travel. Its 50,000 square miles of beauty will greet you everywhere with a smile.

Thanks to generous America and the industry of its own people—the hunger of 1919, Europe’s terrible heritage of the great war, is gone from Czechoslovakia—never to stalk again, let us hope. Strenuous reconstruction and untiring zeal have produced magnificent results. The American Red Cross, the Y. M. C. A. and the Hoover organization, having enthusiastically and confidently committed their great work to their efficient Czechoslovak coadjutors, are preparing to depart from the land; but when I listened in the city of Prague a few weeks ago to the eloquent tributes paid by social welfare workers and Czechoslovak Y. M. C. A. members to these splendid American organizations of ours, I voiced a sentiment that came to me more than once this summer in Europe: “I am proud to be an American, and I would rather have for my country the simple gratitude that dwells in the hearts of this people than any material gift that could be bestowed.”

The folklore of Bohemia records that the Czech was born of the stork of liberty. But, betrayed by the Hapsburg regime he was for 300 years in chains. If you would read a thrilling chapter in world’s history, peruse the speeches of Bohemian parliamentarians during the great war: dozens of Patrick Henrys courted death by hurling defiance into the teeth of the emperor, until the great Austro-Hungarian empire crumbled and the Hapsburg dynasty was humbled in the dust. No contribution to the ending of the war was greater than this which paralyzed Germany’s only potent ally. Its present great president was condemned to death by the Austrian crown and barely escaped in time; the health of his wonderful wife, a brilliant American woman, by persecution and suffering untold, has been permanently undermined.

What does the future hold in store for this country which is so closely welded to our own, a republic that had its birth on American soil, that made its declaration of independence in our old Independence Hall, that reverently accepted our country as its great protagonist? Read the anabasis of Czechoslovak legions in Russia through the midst of bolshevist treachery and anarchy—the march of the 100,000—mostly university men, often hungry and barefooted and cold like Washington's soldiers at Valley Forge—and receive the answer.

Four times as large as Belgium, larger than Greece, or Denmark, or Switzerland or Portugal or Holland—its rich and fertile area comprehends almost 75 per cent. of all the manufacturing of the former Austro-Hungarian empire. I have repeatedly seen, this summer, as many as a hundred men, women and children working within a field of three acres until 8 o'clock and darkness. Gen. Smuts, the distinguished Boer statesman, looking out of the window of his sleeping car early one morning, beheld a surprising sight, and when he arrived at the capitol and met Thomas G. Masaryk he said: "Mr. President, the safety of your country is assured—for I have seen your people at work at 4 o'clock in the morning."

They like to hear and observe this epigram from Emerson: "Men talk as if victory were something fortunate. Work is victory, and wherever work is done, victory is obtained."

Is it any wonder that this government, hardly 2 years old, is universally respected as almost the stablest in Europe today—that bolshevism is not only not present but even safe there? They realize that a democracy without education is like a sword in the hands of a child. Authorities fix illiteracy as low as 2 per cent.—their literacy test is one of the highest in the world.

To understand their spirit you must know the organization of Sokols (gymnasts), the most unique on earth, a civilian army of 350,000 patriots with a whole nation of reserves, the minute men of the republic, the exemplars of its high culture, the conservators of its ideals, the stalwart defenders of its liberty.

I should like to have you see, as I saw, their athletic drill and exhibition this year. How marvelous this was, how stupendous what thrilling effect it had, what it all signified. I shall attempt later to tell, by having you accompany me to a vast stadium on the outskirts of Prague. More than a hundred thousand people have gathered there each day—for six consecutive days—to witness a six-day wonder of self-imposed discipline, of synchronized complicated drill in groups of tens of thousands; and you will be interested to know how the mere band playing of folksongs and the occasional wave of a flag can suffice to carry through to perfect completion with acres of superb muscular and intellectual men and women the most stirring

gymnastic drill that has ever been seen in any land. — Cleveland (Ohio) Plain Dealer.

A TOUCH OF SLOVAK BEAUTY.

By Sara Marshall Cook.

Among the novelties that have been launched for the fall are a number of dresses and coats that show the peasant embroideries of Czechoslovakia. This idea was first exploited by Jeanne Lanvin at her August openings in 1919, but at that time this maker was entirely alone in using distinctly Czechoslovak patterns and colorings. Since then many other dressmakers have taken up the idea, and now the fashion is in full swing. This is an interesting example of the way in which a fashion, if good, will live, no matter how extreme it may appear. It may not endure in its original form, perhaps because of its extremeness, but its offsprings are met for many a day. So few worthy ideas are brought out that dressmakers are not willing to let a really good thing escape.

We prophesied when this style first appeared that it would have a remarkable influence on fashion for a long time to come. While of a marked type, it was not bizarre in any way. The delicate thread embroidery was charming. Along with the black and white effects were lovely black embroideries on stone colored cloths. This has developed into black or white embroideries on all tones of gray.

Lanvin developed her costumes of Czechoslovak inspiration in the form of a long coat or overdress with a tight underskirt. Some of the costumes even had the loose hanging trousers of the rustic goat-herders. There were few women who cared to accept such an extreme movement in dress, so these were soon replaced by a short, tight skirt falling below a long tunic. The tunic did not allow more than a few inches of the underskirt to show. A great deal still is made of skirts of this type. The peasant or chemise type of overdress girdled at a low waistline has passed through many evolutions.

There is great variety in the embroideries from this new republic, as many different peasant peoples have been thus brought together. A dominant note is the black and white embroideries which may be according to the original Moravian dress from which they are taken, either black on white or white on black.

We now see the influence of the picturesque dress of these countries in both tailored suits and dresses. These ideas are carried out clearly and definitely, so that there is no mistaking the source from which they come. So distinctive are they that they would be completely spoiled if combined with any other motif. This idea is emphasized in colorings as well as embroideries. Its influence appears in the use of bright red as a trimming on dark suits. Plentiful use is

made, too, of the white and black embroideries of the Moravian and the brilliant red, white and black geometrical patterns of the southern Slavic people.

A strong feature in the fashions of the moment, which is doubtless an outcome of the Czechoslovak movement, is the craze for combinations of black and white. This is another thing which goes to prove the far-reaching effects of a fashion rich in ideas. Launching such a style is like throwing a pebble into a pond. The circles widen continually. Each maker of clothes gets her individual impression. — The (N. Y.) Tribune.

WORKERS SEEK SOCIALISTIC REPUBLIC BUT THROUGH ORDERLY MEANS.

By J. J. Zmrhal.

The burning question of today everywhere is the attitude of labor.

It is no less so in Czechoslovakia; and yet while I was there there were fewer strikes and disorder was comparatively less than in my own country, America.

I can perhaps best indicate the attitude of the workmen by describing the strike at Mělník, Bohemia. It was during the harvest time when some of the local agitators induced the agricultural laborers to go on strike. The causes of this peculiar strike were never clearly established, nor do they matter. The big thing is the attitude of the rest of the country.

All the laborers are organized into one big union led by the social democratic party. This union functions extremely well and has been for the most part victorious.

Refused Party Sanction.

When this local Mělník strike occurred, it did not get the sanction of the party, and Deputy Bechyňe, social democrat and an exceedingly able leader, criticized it as dangerous, as a sample of something that should not be done.

This strike was one of very few accompanied with violence which aroused the public spirit of the local citizens to such a pitch that they decided, irrespective of their usual occupations, that they would put an end to it.

"The grain must be harvested and brought to safety. The country needs bread," was the slogan, and all—merchants, tradesmen, clerks, professional men—went into the fields to help. A company of Siberian legionaries, the famous heroes the world has heard so much about, kept order and behaved splendidly. I do not need to add that this unauthorized strike was speedily ended and perfect order restored.

Workers Are Patriotic.

This incident exemplifies several principles guiding the Czechoslovak workmen: First, that they as a body use strikes as a desperate measure and are against the abuse of the weapon; second, that they deplore violence and disorder as a menace to the public good; third, they are at heart patriotic and sufficiently intelligent on the whole to refrain from anything which would hurt their country and the public welfare, and fourth and last, that there is among them a disorderly minority of the less intelligent, less patriotic and more violent men and women. This class would perhaps cause trouble if they were not held in check by their better informed brethren, but are comparatively so few in numbers that they are not a menace and would cease to be even a problem were the conditions a little less trying than at present, that is, were there enough bread and other necessities for all, and were they not irritated by another sad, but tremendously aggravating minority of profiteers of the bourgeois class, who are perhaps even more of a menace than ill-advised suffering workers I have mentioned above.

Majority Is Sound.

It appears that the majority of the nation in all classes is absolutely sound and can be depended upon to stand by the right, by the law and order, and against all sorts of violent action be it bolshevistic or reactionary. Passion for real freedom seems to be in the breasts of all but a few misguided ones, the extremists—bolshevistic on the one side, reactionary on the other.

Labor as a body is progressive, eager for education, enlightenment and reform. The workers belong, with very few exceptions, to the socialistic parties—either the national socialists or the social democrats, who wish to have a socialistic republic, but without violence, without dictatorship and arrived at in a democratic way by the consent of all the people.

Why Socialism Is Strong.

I asked one of the foremost social democratic leaders why it was that the socialists were so strong in Bohemia. He first pointed to the suffering of the working people during the war and even at present, to the strength of the desire of the people to have something better than they had under Austria, to the general upheaval all over the world, and added:

"I agree with you that individualism means a happier, perhaps more efficient and certainly more joyful life, such life is possible in your country, where there is enough to go around, where the problem of the distribution of wealth, of life's necessities, is not so acute as it is in our overpopulated country. Here without socialism, we should be slaves."

It is sometimes asserted that the people of this country do not want to work. Yes, there are some of that type there, no doubt, as everywhere else. But it would be a grievous error to generalize from a number of isolated cases.

People Willing to Work.

Look at the fields in May as I have looked at them; look at the factories even in those places; where there is supposed to be "bolshivism", like the city of Kladno; take a look all over the country, and you will agree with me that the evil of willful idleness is not so great after all.

There is a certain weakening caused by poor nutrition during the war years and insufficient food today; there is certain lassitude, a certain demoralization caused by the war, which is a serious problem, but in spite of this wherever there is a chance to do something, that something is done; the fields are cultivated, the factories kept going, the trains run on time. The only jarring note comes from the regions where the textile industry has its seat. "Give us a chance to work, start the factories and give us a chance to make a living wage", is the cry. With new supplies of raw material this want may be satisfied, too, gradually, but surely.

—Chicago (Ill.) Journal.

A GAME WELL WON.

It was a great day in the lives of the school children of Prague, the capital of the new country called Czechoslovakia. It was to be their first great celebration since the ending of the cruel war that had left them in poverty and want. Their faces and hands were shining and clean. They were barefooted and every now and then they would stop and show their teeth, glistening and white, to an envious friend. They were all headed toward the big school house high up on the hill.

Two automobiles whizzed up to the school and six Americans in Red Cross uniform were out in a minute and shaking hands with the teachers on the steps. As they entered the hall, five hundred Czech children cried "Na zdar! Na zdar!" (The national Czechoslovak greeting.) And then, standing very straight, they sang "America". A small child stepped out of the ranks with a huge bouquet of flowers, red, white and blue, marched up to the American woman whom they had all learned to know and love, for she had brought them much happiness in the name of the Junior Red Cross, and said: "We Czech children want to thank you, our dear Aunt, for playing the Game with us. We have tried to play fair and we promise you to try to help the ones who didn't win this month to be winners next month. Thank the American school children for us. They let us play the Game with them. They are our friends. When we grow

up we will never fight them. We send them our kisses."

Then there were speeches by the superintendent of the school and the Americans. It was a very solemn occasion, for the Children who had won the game, "Boj pro Dobré Zdraví", (the fight for Good Health) were to be decorated by the Americans.

The first of the month the Americans had come to them bringing tooth brushes and soap and cards for each child, explaining the rules of the Game. Each day the child must put a mark on his card for every rule he had followed. He must wash his face and hands, brush his teeth, sleep with the windows opened, and do one kind deed. Oh, there were ten things to be done each day, and they were most difficult! But those poor little children, who had suffered so much during the war that they scarcely knew what health and cleanliness meant, played the Game fairly and well. They had tried very hard, and four hundred had won.

It was no wonder that the teachers were proud of them as they looked down at the happy, clean faces and neatly brushed hair.

The superintendent read out the names of the winners and six came forward at once to have the Americans pin on them, a beautiful shining badge.

Outside, in front of the school for there was not enough room inside, the mothers and fathers were waiting to greet the Americans. Then as a final grand surprise the children and some of the parents sang "The Star Spangled Banner." And with the last ringing "Na zdar," the Americans drove away.

—B'nai B'rith (Los Angeles) Messenger.

CZECHOSLOVAKIA.

Almost immediately after the armistice signature Czechoslovakia was singled out as the one land that had come through with greatest credit. There was such unanimity of praise from Allied sources that one couldn't escape a suspicion of special pleading, a fear that the wish was father to the thought and that the triumphant powers were grooming the active young nation for some special purpose.

Recently Guy Hickock, a correspondent of the Brooklyn Eagle, writing from Eger, proves quite clearly that all over there is by no means as lovely as those former bright pictures showed and that in Czechoslovakia's case being in the hands of one's friends is almost as bad as being held by one's enemies.

In the first place although the Czechoslovakian is young in his freedom he is sadly battle-scarred from having been a part of the Hapsburg empire and having had hundreds of thousands of his sons killed or maimed for a cause that however distasteful was unescapable. Even while England and France vie with one an-

other in heaping promises and praises on the new government it required an effort to throw off the remembrance of the dread days when the home boys were being slaughtered but, a modicum of light-heartedness was possible for a time while it appeared assured that the fighting was over and the blessings of peace at hand.

But then came the blaze of Bolshevism sweeping outward from Moscow and as the various efforts to stay the flame, by Denekine, Kolchak and the Poles, failed or faltered it began to be realized by the Czechoslovakians that praises and promises and aids to organization had meant but one thing—the anxiety of the Western powers to place a national buffer between themselves and the Red multitude.

With peace and tranquility the expanded Bohemia, now known as Czechoslovakia, would have had a rapid industrial development, for it is a land of hard and capable workers and of considerable if somewhat one-sided natural resources, but to her the thought of going back into the trenches must be as distasteful as it was to the battle-scarred French legions that having been through the hell of Verdun were after a few days rest behind the lines ordered once more into the shambles of Douaumont or the Mort Homme.

In brief Czechoslovakia is by no means disposed to fight and yet she is endangered on all sides and is so racially and industrially involved with her squabbling neighbors that her hand may be forced at any time.

There is talk of a "Little Entente" in which that land, Rumania and Jugoslavia will be the signatories but we do not take much stock in such an alliance that would lack compactness and could scarcely be effective even if the three nations were fresh and aggressive. As matters stand Czechoslovakia is torn by strikes and radical differences of opinion, has been practically without bread since May and, spurred on by the Western powers, has been exhausting her scanty remaining resources maintaining an army out of proportion to her depleted finances and national man-power.

In short all Europe is desperately in need of peace and Czechoslovakia is little if any better off in that respect than her neighbors.

—New Orleans (La.) Picayune.

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This volume is of immense advantage to our people who may procure these stories for their children so that the continuity of noble thoughts from the land of their birth or ancestry may be imparted to their offspring. The older generations will welcome this book for they will derive a certain pleasure by being brought back to the days of happy childhood. That is sufficient compensation of itself.

The illustrations are excellent. Mr. Matulka, a Czech artist, feels the spirit of his themes.

We cannot too highly recommend this book to our readers. They form a considerable addition to the English translation of Czechoslovak literature. They belong in every household for the amusement of the youngsters and the old folks as well.

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Of The Czechoslovak Review, published monthly at Chicago, Ill., for October 1, 1920.

State of New York, County of York, ss.

Before me, a notary public and for the State and county aforesaid, personally appeared Emil F. Prantner, who, having been duly sworn according to law, deposes and says that he is the owner of the Czechoslovak Review, and that the following is, to the best of his knowledge and belief, a true statement of the ownership, management (and if a daily paper, the circulation), etc., of the aforesaid publication for the date shown in the above caption, required by the Act of August 24, 1912, embodied in section 443, Postal Laws and Regulations, printed on the reverse of this form, to-wit:

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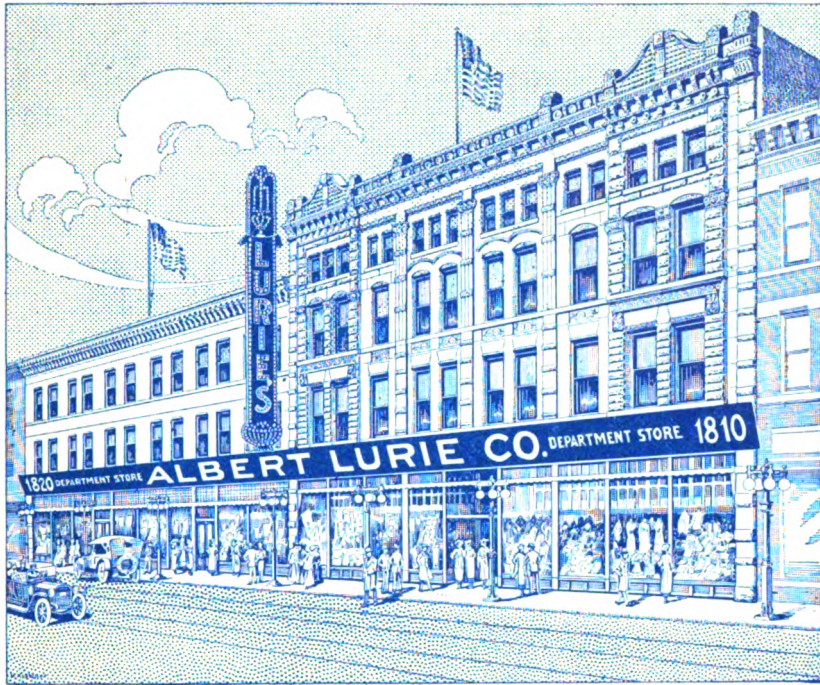
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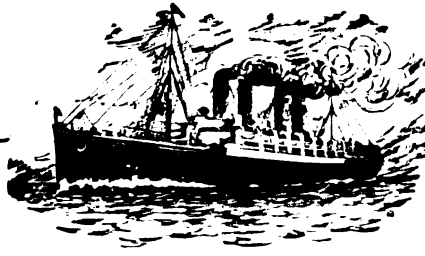
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DECEMBER, 1920

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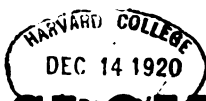
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DECEMBER, 1920.

No. 12

Position of Czechoslovakia

By J. DUGALD WHITE*

Within the past eighteen months American investors have purchased millions and millions of marks of German municipal bonds and other securities for the obvious purpose of profiting by the unprecedented situation in foreign exchange. How many of them have taken the trouble to compare the financial and commercial position of Germany with that of her new neighbor to the South? Very few, evidently, or we should have had an American demand for Czechoslovak bonds that would have exhausted the available supply at moderate prices in short order.

The reason this has not happened is apparent to anyone who has discussed Czechoslovakia with the average American who has for one reason or another made a special study of European commercial geography. I have heard reasonably well-informed business men ask whether Czechoslovakia was formerly a part of Austria-Hungary or of the German Empire and admit that, while they had read a good deal in the newspapers about Czechoslovakia and Jugo Slavia, they never could remember which was which. I have seen a letter from the United States addressed to "Prague, Hungary, Austria".

No wonder then that an American studying the new map of Europe is surprised to find Czechoslovakia almost as large as Austria and Hungary combined. No wonder that American capital is only begin-

ning to find its way into this new country, inhabited though it is, by old friends.

Having for some time been impressed with the possibilities for profit by investment in Czechoslovakia at prevailing rates of exchange, I determined several months ago to visit the country and study conditions there at first hand to confirm, so far as possible, the favorable opinion formed by a study of the available statistics regarding resources and productions.

In any consideration of the economic position of a nation, its agriculture must be given first place. This would seem to be particularly true today when the people of the entire world, because of the Great War, have been concentrating so large a part of their energy on the development of industry, necessarily to some extent at the expense of the farms. We have seen negro laborers deserting the cotton plantations of the South for the factories of Cleveland or Chicago and farm workers from Northern Connecticut move to Bridgeport, and we have seen plants manufacturing everything from automobiles to shoe laces, doubling and trebling their capacity without perhaps realizing that this same migration of labor and expansion of industry have been practically world-wide phenomena. If, as a reaction from this unbalanced situation, we find farm products stubbornly maintaining the high cost of living while the prices of manufactured commodities are cut right and left, it should occasion no surprise and the economic strength of a nation which raises its own supply of food-stuffs should be obvious.

*) Mr. White is Vice-President of J. G. White & Co., Inc., Investment Bankers.

The position of Czechoslovakia in this respect is well illustrated by pre-war statistics. With only 25% of the area of Austria, in 1913 Bohemia and Moravia produced 90% of the sugar beets, 75% of the hops, 59% of the flax, 63% of the barley and a considerable proportion of all other important farm products. In Bohemia 51% of the soil is under cultivation compared with 47% in Germany and 44% in France. Having this in mind it is no surprise to a visitor to Czechoslovakia today to find cultivated fields covering every square foot of available plateau land as far as the eye can see in any direction from the train. The neatness of farmhouses and yards and the evidences of intensive cultivation fully equal to the best in Western Europe are impressive indications of the prosperity of the country-side.

One agricultural product, beet sugar, is of such importance that it deserves special comment. Czechoslovakia's production of this staple commodity is, in Europe, second only to that of Germany which means that in view of her smaller population and consequent smaller home consumption, she is the only country in Europe having a large surplus of sugar available for export. Despite the drop in price of this commodity from the absurdly high prices of last Spring, there is ample reason to believe that a world shortage still actually exists and that judged from a pre-war standard, the price of sugar will continue high for several years at least. The exportable surplus production of Czechoslovakia should be a valuable liquid asset during this period that is not possessed by any other country in Europe and the good crop of the present year is, of course, particularly timely.

Important as it is, agriculture is by no means the sole resource to consider in connection with the present economic situation of a nation. Mineral resources are extremely important and what has been said regarding the strength of a country which provides its own raw materials and fuel. Again we find that Czechoslovakia has more than her share as, before the war, Bohemia and Moravia produced 74%

of the lignite, 43% of the coal and 45% of the iron ore of Austria's total output as well as 59% of the graphite and all the gold, silver, tin and radium. Even salt, one of the few minerals not found in these provinces, is produced in Russinia. The importance of this mineral wealth today is impressed upon the traveller who finds German factories burning wood to such an extent that the forest reserves of that country must be being rapidly depleted.

With such resources and with an intelligent and industrious population it is no wonder that manufacturing is well developed and covers an almost infinite variety of products. The Škoda Works, constituting one of the greatest steel plants in the world, are of course well known in the United States and many products ranging from Bohemian glass to Pilsener beer are famous all over the world for their quality. Nevertheless it is a surprise for an American to discover the extent of the textile industry of Brno or the porcelain industry of Western Bohemia and it is equally surprising to find a range of other manufactures from matches to automobiles and from surgical instruments to wooden toys.

In addition to the agricultural, mineral and industrial resources of Czechoslovakia, mention should be made of the great areas of woodlands which form the basis for an important paper and paper products industry and of the famous watering resorts, including Carlsbad and Marienbad, which should annually attract thousands of visitors and result in the expenditure within the country of a considerable sum of foreign money. Although I have not seen any of these resorts since before the war, I understand they are as attractive as ever and are already prepared for a record-breaking rush of visitors during the coming year.

It is apparent that Czechoslovakia is capable of producing practically all her own requirements and of exporting various commodities to an increasing extent as time goes on. Compare this situation with that of another European inland republic, Switzerland, which is obliged to import most of its fuel and most of its food sup-

ply and which depends largely, to pay for these necessities, upon exports of embroideries, watches, cheese and chocolate. Does anyone believe that the Czechoslovakia crown will long remain under 10% of its nominal dollar value while Swiss francs are selling for about 75% of par?

That the impression of what Czechoslovakia should be able to accomplish in the way of foreign trade is already being confirmed by results is evidenced by the United States Department of Commerce reports. For the nine months ended September 30th, 1920, only three countries in Europe had a favorable balance of trade with this country. Czechoslovakia being one of the three. For the month of August Czechoslovakia sold us six times the value of her purchases from us and for September this ratio was nearly nine to one.

It must not be thought from this that all difficulties resulting from the war have been overcome and that the future is all plain sailing. Although the government budget already indicates an approximate balance between receipts and expendi-

tures, further economies and continued high taxes will be necessary to accomplish the deflation of currency that is desirable. The political situation in Slovakia is one that will require the most careful handling. In Bohemia and Moravia, the relations between the Czech majority and the German minority will call for the greatest tact and mutual consideration. External politics must be the subject of painstaking diplomacy. Fortunately, for the most part, all these questions seem to be receiving the attention of the best brains of the nation. There is, of course, no question of the capacity of the people for self government and the popular interest in politics is astonishing to a foreigner. At one entertainment, which I attended, about three quarters of the program was given over to satirical monologues of a political nature.

Let us hope that the development of Czechoslovakia will continue to be guided through the channels of sound economics and peaceful foreign relations. This granted, her position as one of the commercial powers of a new Europe will be assured.

Month in Czechoslovakia

Minister of Finance, Dr. Karel Engliš, resigned his portfolio in the Černý Cabinet. This was brought about by a defeat of a government bill which provided for certain additions to State employees to help them to meet the housing situation and living costs. This bill provided that it was to take effect November 1st and the amount carried was 300,000,000 Crowns. The bill which was passed by the House of Deputies carried an amount far in excess of the government's provisions and as a result Dr. Engliš resigned, giving as his reason, that it is impossible to secure the amounts necessary to meet the sum appropriated in the opposition bill.

The Senate, the upper house of the Czechoslovak National Assembly, refused to sanction the bill passed by the House of Deputies which increased, above government estimates, allowances to state employees. It is assumed that the bill is dead. The resignation of Dr. Engliš has not yet

been accepted and it is reasonable to assume that he will continue in his present office.

Dr. Eduard Beneš, Minister of Foreign Affairs, is the Czechoslovak delegate to the initial meeting of the League of Nations now in session at Geneva. He was elected one of the six vice-presidents of the organization. This automatically places him on the executive committee.

Twenty-three former members of the Social Democratic Party, who adhere to the so-called "Left Wing", have organized the "Social Democratic Labor Party". The representation of the parent party is thus reduced and a new factor enters the legislative arena. One of its members was responsible for the resignation of Dr. Engliš through fathering the bill increasing the allowances of State employees.

On October 26th the second session of the National Assembly opened. Premier Cerny laid before it the program of his Cabinet, which does not differ materially from that of its immediate predecessor. The annual budget for 1921 was introduced. Thereupon an adjournment was immediately taken until early in November to enable the various committees to thoroughly study the proposals before them.

Rumor is current that an "All National" Cabinet is to be constructed. This will enable the Germans and Magyars to participate in the government on a footing equal with the Czechs and Slovaks. This plan has a two-fold advantage. It would necessarily mean a recognition of the authority of the State by the malcontents, and, an assumption of administrative responsibilities. This would also bring about a better insight and mutual understanding, and should create more congenial relations among the inhabitants.

In France, at Chartres, an exhibition and contest of motorized plows was held. Forty-six firms represented by 116 units took part. The purpose was to determine which machine plowed the greatest portion of a field during 48 hours of continuous operation. French, English, American, Italian and Czechoslovak manufacturers competed. Due to prolonged drought the ground was hard. This proved a distinct disadvantage to many of the entries.

"Praga", a Czechoslovak product was the winner. During the period allotted for the contest it plowed a field of 23.10 hectares at a depth of 23 centimeters, or, it "turned" 53,130 cubic meters of soil. An American entry was second with a record of 27 hectares plowed at a depth of 15 centimeters, or, 40,500 cubic meters overturn.

Germany will shortly surrender to Czechoslovakia sixty boats and three hundred barges for use in freight transportation on the River Elbe (Labe) in accordance with the Peace Treaty.

"In Russia many socialistic theories failed when put to practical tests and their

effect was entirely different from anticipated purposes. Therefore, it is not possible for us (Czechoslovakia) to dabble in experiments but we must proceed scientifically. Socialism should be founded on science, not on religion, provocation or hazardous experiment," says Josef Hudec in "28 Říjen" (October 28th).

RAILWAY STATISTICS

District	Trackage				
	Main Line		Feeders		
	State	Private	State	Private	Foreign
Bohemia	2,158	316	347	1,172	66
Moravia	776		210	328	
Silesia	116	39	142	50	
Slovakia	970	265	230	859	7
Totals	4,020	620	929	2,409	73

SUMMARY

	Miles	ROLLING STOCK	
Main Line Trackage	4,640	Locomotives	4,049
Feeder (Local)	3,338	Day Coaches	10,790
Foreign	73	Freight Cars	80,250
Total	8,051		

PERSONNEL

Total number of employees, about 160,000.

To an efficient operation of the railroads at least 500 locomotives, 6,000 passenger coaches and 60,000 freight cars in addition to the present equipment are necessary.

Profiteers do not fare well. From the middle of July until September 15th last, 950 persons were found guilty of profiteering. Sentences ranging from fourteen days to one year in jail were imposed, and in addition, fines as high as 50,000 Cs. crowns exacted. In some instances voting rights were taken away.

General St. Čeček, accompanied by his staff, and Dr. Václav Girsá have arrived in Prague. The people welcomed them at the Wilson Station. General Čeček was with the Siberian troops and Dr. Girsá was in charge of diplomatic relations of the Siberian Army.

During the months of April, May and June, Czechoslovakia exported 78,281 metric tons of refined sugar and 4,605 metric tons of raw sugar. This was shipped

to all parts of Europe and some of it found its way to the United States.

Vlastimil Tusar, the former premier, has been named as Minister to Germany.

Recently a committee representing German students of Czechoslovakia appeared before President Masaryk and laid before him a memorial touching upon student housing conditions and social welfare. The spokesman emphasized the penury of the students and begged for help from the President. The President immediately placed at the disposal of the German student body 2,000,000 Cs. crowns from the Masaryk Memorial Fund and further assured them that he would exert his influence with the government to set aside a site for the erection of suitable college dormitories. He further assured them that larger allotments of coal would be at their disposal as well as oil for lighting purposes.

One of the serious problems confronting Czechoslovak industry is to assure the seller of raw materials that on due day his bills will be paid. In many instances these were sold with the understanding that the title remains in the seller until the purchaser sold the finished product and then turned the proceeds of the sale over to his creditor. This naturally restricted the market within which Czechoslovak merchants could operate and to overcome this condition commercial bodies are engaged in drawing up a proposed bill to be placed before the National Assembly to assure foreign creditors the amount of the purchase price for raw materials. This will give a wider field in which to market Czechoslovak wares.

At a meeting of the Prague State Council held on October 1st a resolution was passed asking the government to introduce a bill in Parliament to prohibit the manufacture and sale of whiskey.

A new barter treaty between Czechoslovakia and Poland has been signed and effects principally the exchange of coal for gasolene. Czechoslovakia is to furnish 37,500 tons of coal and 15,000 tons of coke per month. In return, Poland agrees to

furnish 7,083 tons of gasolene and 1,250 tons of petroleum products. This is a distinct advantage to Czechoslovakia for she will receive a much needed help in the way of motive power essentials.

A Czech edition of the Talmud will appear very shortly. Those now in use are translations either from the jargon, English or German, and have led to many misunderstandings. The Bohemian Jewry will undoubtedly gratefully welcome this new departure.

"The Jihočeské Elektrárny" (South Czech Electrical Undertakings) have just been incorporated with 10,000,000 Cs. crowns, of which merely 40% is private capital. They will erect generating stations near the lignite beds at Mytlobar, which will generate 20,000 KWH. and furnish electrical energy for Tábořsko, Písecko, Něm.-Brodsko and České-Budějovicko. The beds are estimated to contain 20,000,000 tons of lignite, sufficient to furnish fuel for a period of at least eighty years. Preliminary work has been finished and the erection of buildings will begin with the new year.

BOHEMIA NEWSPAPERS.

The first newspaper of Europe was issued by the Bohemians. It was written by hand and called "The News of the Year of Our Lord, Thousand 405" (Noviny léta Božieho tisício 405). The first printed newspaper made its appearance in 1515 and was issued at irregular intervals, only when some more important events were to be recorded. The first newspaper issued regularly was printed in Prague in the year 1597. The title of this paper was "Prague News of the Whole Month of September, 1597" (Noviny Pražské celého měsíce září 1, 1597.). The thirty year war frustrated further attempts to issue periodicals and it was not again until 1672 that the leading printer of Prague, Daniel Adam, issued a newspaper. His venture was not very successful and soon ceased publication. But the first newspaper in the accepted term of today was issued in 1719 called "The Tuesday and Saturday Prague Post News" (Outeřní a sobotní Pražské poštovní noviny.) This paper was founded by K. Rosenmueller. The name of this paper was changed by his heirs in 1789 to "The Prague News" (Pražské poštovní noviny), which in later years was edited by the Bohemian "Awakeners" V. M. Kramerius and Tham. The first humorous periodical was issued in 1786 under the title "People's Teacher" (Učitel Lidu), which was merely a translation of a German periodical.

Prague Demonstrations

Since the day Czechoslovakia proclaimed its independence the German element of the Republic has obstructed political, economic and social progress. Heaping insolent ridicule was but one form of daily exercises. Disparaging the Czechs and Slovaks was considered but a mild amusement.

Always, heretofore, considered a privileged class the Germans refuse to forego their prerogatives and refuse to consider themselves citizens of the Republic on an equal footing with the Czechoslovaks. It is sufficient to point to the propaganda during the Peace Conference for a separation of Western Bohemia from Czechoslovakia. More recently a syndicated article appeared in the American Central States Press which ridiculed Czech contributions to science and contended that Teutons were the only true scientists and that Czech learning has its foundation in German studies. A prominent German physician of Karlovy Vary, who recently masqueraded in America as a patriotic Czechoslovak citizen, was responsible for this bragado.

A short while ago all Czechoslovak youths were to report for regular military training in accordance with the constitution. Germans protested, but finally, after much howling, appeared before the proper authorities. The Czechoslovak Legionaires pulled down the equestrian statue of Joseph II., in Teplice. The Germans retaliated in Cheb by demolishing a Czech school and destroying a picture of President Masaryk. The German Prague Daily *Bohemia* looked upon this as a revival of the Pan-German movement. In the National Assembly the German parties called the Czechoslovak Legionaires "loafers" (uličniky).

Patience in face of repeated insults was exhausted. A mass meeting of the people was held in one of the Prague squares and a demand was voiced that Czech and Slovak minorities in German sections should be protected. The German Casino and theatres were surrounded and performances stopped. From German schools,

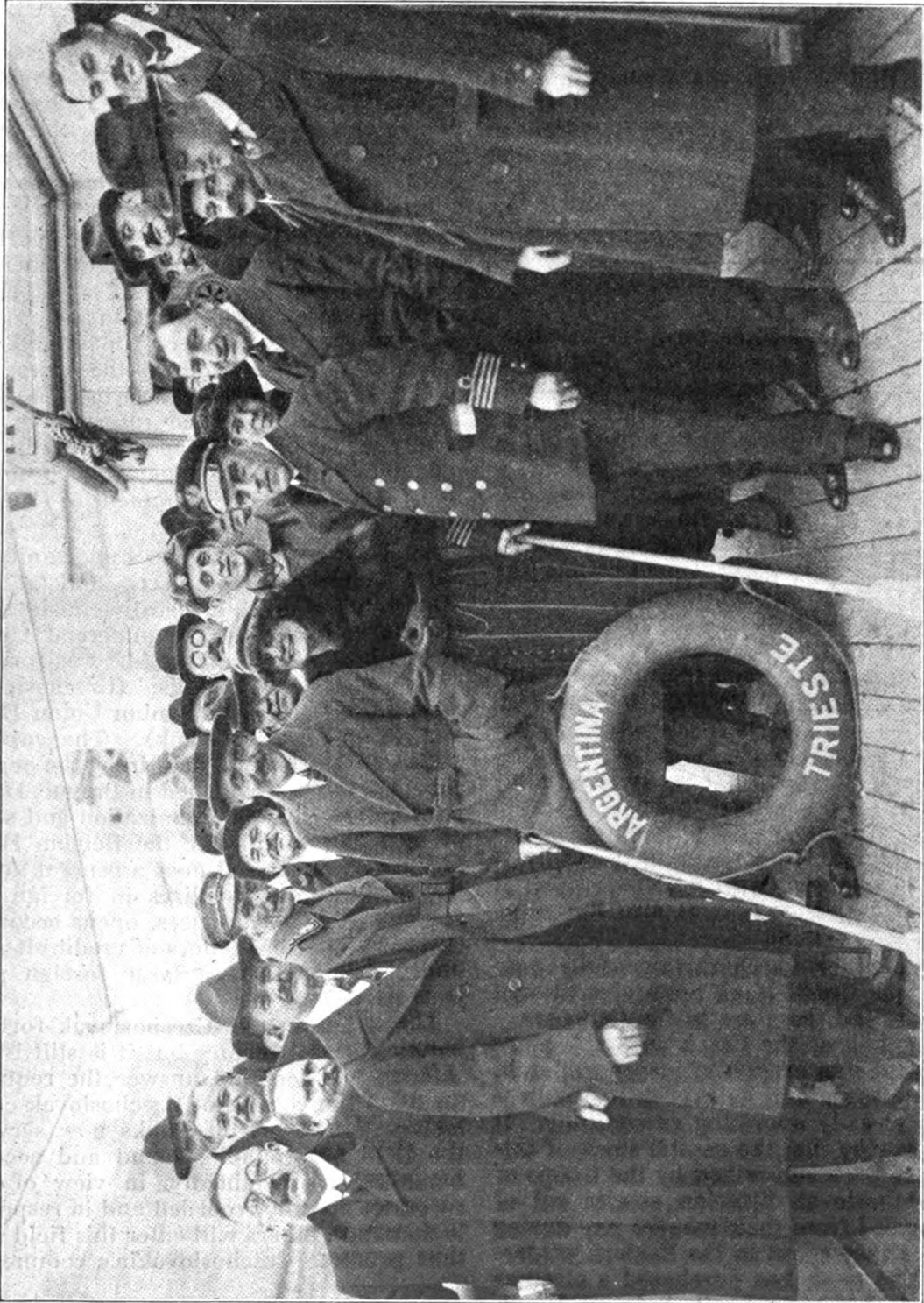
Turnhalle, Lesehalle and Šarafie and the Casino, numerous pictures, statues and shields of the Hapsburgs and Hohenzollerns were removed. The *Prague Tagblatt* and Prague *Bohemia* were prevented from publishing for one day. Czech nationalism was fired to its highest pitch by provocative tactics of the German.

Thus far the German program was carried out as originally planned. They figured that by arousing the Czechoslovaks' ire to committing rash acts their object, to demonstrate that the Czechoslovaks were unfit to rule, would be attained. But their calculations miscarried, for President Masaryk called a meeting of the leaders of all political parties and representatives of the press and impressed upon them to counsel their adherents to preserve order and to respect the law. This had an immediate quieting effect on the people. Common sense returned and quiet again reigns supreme.

Again it must be emphasized that Czechoslovakia's minorities, both German or Magyar, must respect the authority of the Republic and refrain from antagonizing the Czechs and Slovaks by insults, threats and vilification. *Never have either of these minority factions claimed that their rights are denied or infringed upon.* Having once been privileged classes, by the grace of the Hapsburgs, and extinguished by the birth of a new government, they seek their continuance and practice at the expense of the majority of people. In a representative democratic government this is impossible.

There is no reason why these various people cannot thrive under a common government. National prosperity is knocking at their doors for they have all the facilities at hand for a successful commercial development. Likewise, they may prosper socially and culturally. If these two disturbing elements would forget that the old order of things has passed beyond recall and work hand in hand with the Czech and Slovak people for the upbuilding of a strong government, what a wonderfully prosperous and contented State Czechoslovakia would be!

"Copyright, International".



"Welcoming Dr. Bedřich Štěpánek and Miss Štěpánek on SS. Argentine, New York Harbor".

Developing Foreign Banking

By F. PICK

Under the Austro-Hungarian regime the foreign trade of the lands now comprising the Republic of Czechoslovakia was held in absolute check. Commercial relations with the outside world could only be carried on through Vienna. As a result the principal Viennese banks had branches in Prague and waxed fat from the profits flowing out of the Bohemian and the Slovak trade.

After the dismemberment of Austria-Hungary there was but one institution which maintained branches in other countries for the purpose of developing foreign business. This was "Bohemia" Joint Stock Bank, which had been organized in 1909 with a capital of 1,000,000 (Austrian) kronen by the Savings Bank Corporation to engage in North American trade. Owing to the satisfactory development of this line of business its capital has been several times increased and its present amount is 25,000,000 Cs. crowns, while a proposition is under serious consideration to still further increase it to 100,000,000 Cs. crowns. The name has also been changed to "Bohemia" Czechoslovak Foreign Banking Corporation. The chief activity of this bank has been confined to catering to the needs of travellers and in dealing in foreign exchange. In connection therewith it closely cooperates with a firm (which it controls) in New York. It also has some Balkan connections.

Of the other Czechoslovak banks only the Prague Credit Bank maintains foreign branches, and these are in the Balkans.

The "Bank of the Czechoslovak Legionaires" is now in process of incorporation in Czechoslovakia and its branch in Vladivostok is already operating successfully. It is noteworthy that the capital stock of this bank has been subscribed by the troops of the Czechoslovak Siberian armies out of funds saved from their meagre pay during the time they spent in the Eastern wilderness. The bank has purchased a steamer of about 10,000 tons to ply between Vladivostok and Trieste to develop commercial relations between Siberia and Czechoslovakia, which have already proven profitable.

These circumstances led to a formation of another foreign bank having its main offices outside of the Republic with a view to stimulating Czechoslovak foreign commerce at some of the more important points.

Czechoslovakia is called the "Heart of Europe" and has an important commercial "valve" at Hamburg where The Elbe, its most important transportation artery, enters the sea. Because of the established principle that trade follows the courses of navigable rivers—particularly in these days—the Peace Conference reserved to the Republic definite wharfage facilities in this port (Hamburg) and thus laid a foundation for a possible development of Czechoslovak overseas trade.

Some financiers saw an opportunity to aid Czechoslovak commerce and at the same time establish a lucrative business in Hamburg, hence the "Commercial Union of Czechoslovaks Banks, Ltd." was formed by three Prague banks, (Czechoslovak Agricultural Bank, Bohemian Union Bank and Prague Credit Bank). The capital, 25,000,000 Marks, was paid in by the organizers. Offices were opened in Prague, Hamburg and Berlin. Its organization and service are patterned after the Belgian Bank of Foreign Trade. It does a general banking business; it specializes in foreign exchange, trade acceptances, opens accounts current and issues letters of credit. It also undertakes to finance large foreign projects as well.

The expansion of Czechoslovak foreign banking is satisfactory but it is still in its infancy. It does not answer the requirements of the volume of Czechoslovak commerce. However, the banks now serving the field are reliable, sound and accommodating. Undoubtedly, in view of the successes already recorded and in response to demands, others will enter this field and thus promote Czechoslovakia's commerce.

The largest Bohemian automobile firm, Laurin & Klement, are furnishing tractors for the cultivation of devastated northern France.

1921 Budget

A favorable balance in its Administrative Budget for 1921 is Czechoslovakia's latest achievement. This budget makes no provision for capital outlays on revenue producing projects. This roughly amounts to slightly over 3,000,000,000 Cs. crowns and bonds will be issued against these improvements. This will be the only funded financing undertaken by the State during the coming year.

It is well to note the safeguards placed

upon expenditures of the various agencies. No disbursement or liability of 50,000 crowns or over may be undertaken without the sanction of the Minister of Finance. To transfer an item appropriated for one purpose to another account, the unanimous consent of the Ministerial Council is necessary. Thus, in brief, is provided a double check system on all disbursements.

The details of the administrative budget are as follows:

DISBURSEMENTS

Department	Ordinary	Extraordinary	TOTAL
President - - - - -	1,000,000		1,000,000
President's Office - - - - -	4,238,369	11,406,753	15,645,122
National Assembly - - - - -	23,112,613	1,503,896	24,616,509
Supreme Court - - - - -	1,271,009	830,225	2,101,234
Audit Bureau - - - - -	1,404,894	855,520	2,260,414
Contr. to States - - - - -	180,220,000		180,220,000
National Debt - - - - -	813,458,669	272,421,000	1,085,879,669
Pensions and Compensations -	189,876,141	130,330,000	320,266,141
Ministries			
Ministerial Council - - - - -	106,441,242	68,826,119	175,277,361
Foreign Affairs - - - - -	157,097,171	34,232,080	191,329,254
National Defence - - - - -	1,257,210,631	1,111,619,479	2,368,830,110
Interior - - - - -	202,986,309	224,113,292	427,099,601
Education - - - - -	330,932,995	277,411,896	608,344,891
Finance - - - - -	1,126,483,581	456,369,837	1,582,853,418
Commerce - - - - -	18,095,951	3,192,429	21,288,380
Posts and Telegraph - - - - -	427,410,200	294,088,500	721,498,700
Railroads - - - - -	2,788,706,650	713,847,850	3,502,554,500
Agriculture - - - - -	221,413,396	65,217,735	286,631,131
Justice - - - - -	127,252,655	96,385,947	223,638,602
Public Works - - - - -	637,865,258	383,066,123	1,020,931,381
Social Welfare - - - - -	441,714,556	287,862,192	729,576,748
Supplies - - - - -		40,170,229	40,170,229
Public Health - - - - -	48,020,720	39,870,997	87,891,717
Unification - - - - -	1,153,681	602,857	1,756,538
After War Period Provisions -		381,073,000	381,073,000
Foreign Commerce - - - - -	64,899,242	36,750,758	101,650,000
Totals Cs. Crowns - - - - -	9,172,265,936	4,932,108,714	14,104,374,650

RECEIPTS

Ministries			
Finance - - - - -	6,340,198,924	760,240,081	7,100,439,005
Railways - - - - -	3,660,948,570	7,707,270	3,668,655,840
Post and Telegraph - - - - -	718,986,000	2,803,100	721,789,100
Public Works - - - - -	730,458,198	60,752,536	791,210,734
Unification - - - - -		1,202,000,000	1,202,000,000
Miscellaneous - - - - -	606,844,678	17,040,193	623,884,871
Total Cs. Crowns - - - - -	12,057,436,370	2,050,543,180	14,107,979,550

National Debt

As yet the net national debt of Czechoslovakia has not been definitely ascertained. The country is awaiting the decision of the Commission on Apportioning the pre-war debt of Austria-Hungary in conformity with the Treaty of St. Germain.

An excellent idea of the total debt may be gained from a resume of the amounts that are definitely known and from a liberal estimate of the sums which shall be assumed.

1. "Liberation Tax" 750,000,000 (gold) Francs. This is Czechoslovakia's contribution to the war expenses of the allies fixed pursuant to the decision of the Peace Conference.

2. Advances by Allied and Associated Powers to Czechoslovakia for maintenance and equipment of its armies and subsequent loans for purchase of food-stuffs.

a) United States \$7,000,000 (military)
 \$58,000,000 (Foodstuffs)
 \$19,000,000 (Military Equipment)

b) France \$1,149,212
 310,000,000 Francs

c) Italy 206,000,000 Lire

d) England 336,116 pound sterling.

3. Czechoslovakia's portion of the pre-war debt of Austria-Hungary is about 6,500,000,000 Crowns. Of this sum about 1,200,000,000 Crowns is held in Allied countries and the Republic must pay off this amount in gold. The balance, about 5,300,000,000 Crowns is held in Czechoslovakia and will be exchanged for internal bonds.

4. Austro-Hungarian crown notes (since stamped for identification and subsequently exchanged for Czechoslovak notes) amounting to about 9,000,000,000 Crowns and current deposits of Czechoslovak subjects in the Austro-Hungarian State Bank amounting to about 4,800,000,000 Crowns. This makes a total of 13,800,000,000 Crowns. Of the 9,000,000,000 Crown notes over 2,000,000,000 have been withdrawn from circulation and the amount outstanding is about 7,000,000,000 Crowns.

5. Internal loans (all held by Czechoslovak subjects).

a) Liberty Loan 1,000,000,000 Cs. Crowns

b) 4% Treasury Certificates 1923-4 1,048,054,000 " "

c) Premium Loan

1960 (Est.) 540,000,000 " "

d) Bank Loans

386,247,000 Crowns*

553,124,000 Crowns*

230,000,000 Crowns

215,500,000 Crowns*

500,000,000 Crowns 1,884,871,000 " "

e) 1920 Deficit Loan 1,870,371,000 " "

*These loans are being refunded with 6% Treasury certificates maturing in 1921.

6. Austro-Hungarian war loan bonds held by subjects of Czechoslovakia are being redeemed by the Republic in about 75% of their face value in Czechoslovak bonds provided a similar amount is subscribed to a new loan. The amount of these is estimated at about 7,000,000,000 Crowns and less 25% will mean an additional State burden of about 5,600,000,000 Crowns.

CZECHOSLOVAKIA

is proceeding to reorganize its industry and foreign trade along the most sensible lines. The Government has created a Ministry for Foreign Commerce, designed to stimulate overseas business and to co-ordinate the various manufacturers, exporters, importers and commercial bodies to the end that wheels of trade will revolve swiftly and smoothly.

A determined campaign is to be waged against the relabeling by German and Austrian exporters of goods manufactured in Czechoslovakia. International markets will be openly sought and the middlemen of Vienna and Berlin will be entirely eliminated. The United States and Great Britain are expected to absorb the trade that was controlled by Germany and Austria, and the pick of this attractive market is at the disposal of those Americans who are anxious to establish themselves in this field.

With a view to stimulating our interest and increasing commercial relations between the two countries the Czechoslovak Government has established a trade journal printed in English and published at Prague and freely circulated throughout the United States, and has opened chambers of commerce and information bureaus in New York, Chicago, Cleveland, Baltimore, St. Louis, Pittsburgh and Omaha.

Such enterprise is praiseworthy and opens the door of opportunity to those who really desire to do business with this enterprising nation. — The (N. Y.) Commercial.

The Smiles of The Time

Otokar Březina.*)

There is no pain in the soul which may not be soothed by mysterious whispering voices. There is no darkness in the soul, disclosed only at night, during which there are not the night butterflies seeking their blossoms. There is no road so sad on which we might meet such an odor of fragrance which will make us halt—overcome.

Fatigued by life, from the springs of time we draw new strength. The morning, breaking from the polarized life of the earth emerging from the greatness of the ages, is healing to our visions. For, like the light, time, the first strong springs of thousands of years ago, has also these mirrored reflections and the coming moon is beaming on better worlds in the far distance. Every glance is capable to meet these ethereal bodies in the different geographical altitudes in their eternity. For the moment time has become nontransparent to our eyes—the earthly light is dimming while our eyes are closing because of their heaviness.

Everything which we value in life, we value mysteriously, depending on the hope cherished by all things. Thought becomes deeper the more space and the more of those twilights it has, which could be sparkling through the light within which to stretch the wings of the dream. But all thoughts tear down and carry away a stream of the same movement through which all the lives and worlds whirl upward.

For us the sights that gave us their secrets are dead. They are cisterns whose waters have been lifted by the glowing wisdom of the Sun to refresh unknown springs in the far away. Therefore, the love, whose hope was ripening on the lowest and most accessible branches of the miraculous tree, the tree of knowledge, yield so many disappointments to those who had no information that the highest branches grow in the light and that they are merely those on which, for centuries, is ripening the fruit which for its height cannot be plucked, but will some time fall in the path of chosen ones. Fall is the hope of its weight but the lights and song are the hope of the ethereal vibration.

*) Translated by Lieut. Stan. V. Klima. From *Roycroft Magazine*.

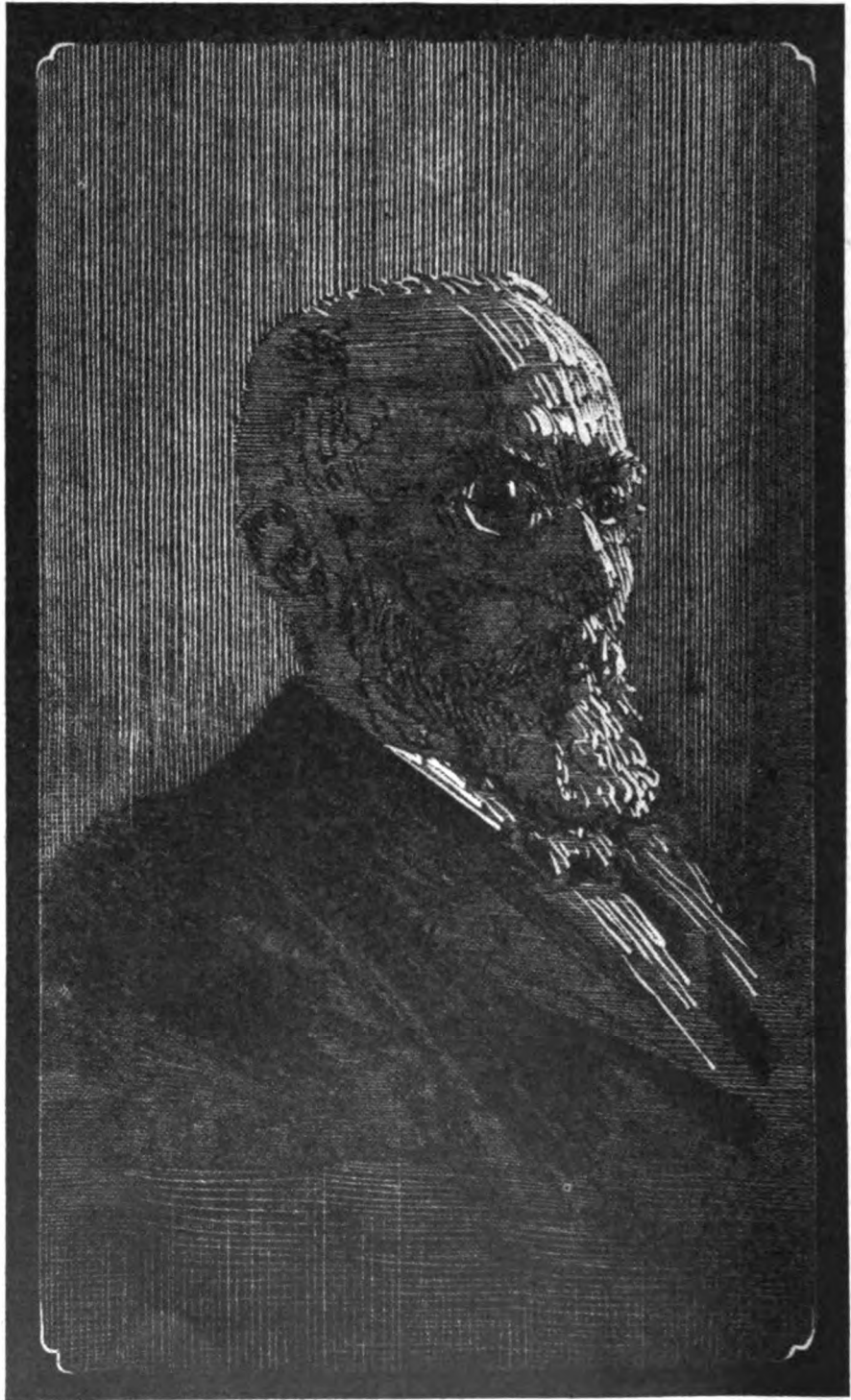
The staunchest life is the life of the highest altitude of hopes.

The wider the mighty branches spread the more abundant will be the plucking of blossoms from the heights. But in the auroras of their beauty innumerable springs are rejoicing though kept back only by the law of this life, otherwise, they would shout at once from the opening of innumerable lips for the deep draft of light as the clouds of golden seeds are gently carried by the playful winds into the future. The greater the strength of the soul the more certain is the conviction of its mysterious liberty, the more glorious and chilling are the dizzy heights of responsibility.

The evolution of our hopes is one of the most difficult through which we are passing. In the lowest and near countries we begin, and in the last, the unknown, flying through the azure behind all horizons, we end. The higher we mount the mightier are the winds of time blowing about us. Then the greater are the yearnings to embrace everything with one look—all seas, mountains, countries, like a million of brothers as the sparkling dust in the wide lightening path of the shooting star. The resultant feeling of intoxication gives us everything that belongs to us. But also is deeper the perception that above everything we love best is that which we are expecting, that which is unborn. Our impatience is constantly growing through the strengthening of our visions; hence that grief with which we return from the thundering of the tempest of times to life of ordinary moments, where everything seems to be as immovable as the stonebeds of the innumerable streams of strength are idly flowing by.

But all this life evolving with hope, this eagerness of movement and happiness of flight is only evidence, that our life is not in itself ended, but that we are living because of the mysterious hope of the soul.

OTOKAR BŘEZINA, the pen name of VÁCLAV JEBAVŮ, is the greatest living Czech poet, and recently has been mentioned for the Nobel Literary Prize, which he deserves. Březina was born in 1868, and has given to Czechoslovakia several books of essays and poems of great literary value. Březina is not a follower of old ways, but a seeker of new paths in the world of beauty, the unseen and the unknown. (Ed.)



Otokar Brzina.

Christmas Eve.

By Karel Jaromír Erben.

Translated by Dr. Jos. Štýbr.

The night is dark, with frost the windows
tapping,
But the large stove heats the whole room;
The hearth^{*)} is lighted, the old dame is napping,
The girls spin flax and work the loom.

"Turn and burr and reel, my dear spinning wheel,
For the Advent's short and makes us feel
How near we are to Christmas Eve!"

What sweet delight a maiden finds in spinning
In the long dreary winter nights!
For the end she firmly hopes in winning
What in her heart so gently lights.

Her stately lad will call on the brave maiden
And urgently say: "Be my wife!
Give me your hand and heart, so pleasure-laden,
I'll be your faithful mate in life.

"I'll be your husband and you my companion—
My sweetheart, give me your soft hand!"
And the dear maiden who'd been spinning—anon
Will sew her trousseau in the end.

"Turn and burr and reel, my dear spinning wheel,
For the Advent's short and makes us feel
That at door is Christmas Eve!"

II.

O thou blessed Christmas Eve,
Night mysterious, holy!
What doest thou bring us this year
To bar melancholy?

To the farmer his big roll —
The cow her bite's taking!
Garlick is the rooster's share,
His mate's, peas, for waking.

The fruit trees are offered bones,
From the table wasted;
Golden shower on the wall
Comes to him who fasted.

Hey, I am a jolly lass,
My heart's freely dreaming,
And a plan quite different
My mind long was scheming.

There, below the forest's edge,
On the lake's low border,
Silver-covered willows stand
In their ancient order.

One of them is mystery —
An old crooked willow —
Gazes into the blue lake
Under the ice below.

There's a saying that a maid
In the midnight hour
May behold her destined lad
By the moonlight's power.

Midnight has no dread for me,
nor the occult science:
I shall open with an ax
The ice in defiance

And look into the lake's depth
Beckoning there coldly —
And shall gaze in my lad's face
With mine eyes, straight, boldly!

III.

Mary and Hana, two names, sweet, faithful,
Both like two roses of the spring;
Which of the two might be judged more graceful,
Such a decision none can bring.

Should a lad catch a word, by one spoken,
He might go for her into fire;
But should the other bestow a token,
He'll cease the first one to admire. —

Now came the midnight. Like at haphazard
A flock of white stars came out soon,
As white sheeps' flock, 'round their shepherd
gathered —
And the good shepherd was the moon.

Now came the midnight, all night's great mother,
The midnight after Christmas Eve;
The snow shows steps of one and the other,
As the two maids the hamlet leave.

One of them o'er the water is kneeling,
The other by her watch does keep:
"Hana, dear Hana, what is your feeling?
What do you see there in the deep?"

"I see a cottage — yet 'tis all dusty —
Like where Jim lives — but nothing more —
'Tis getting brighter — there's a man husky,
He's standing right there, in the door!

"He wears a green coat, his cheeks are rosy,
His hat to one side — I know him!
O my dear God! 'Tis himself, Jim!"

She springs up quickly, her heart is throbbing,
The other bends down on her knee.
"Good luck, dear Mary, now to your probing!
What kind of vision can you see?"

"Ah, I see; I see — everything gloomy,
Haze like clouds from some smoking torch —
Now red lights flicker in a space roomy —
It seems to me like in a church.

"A dark thing seems a white space to enter
Ah, I see now as fades the cloud:
Those are white maidens, and in their centre —
Oh God! a coffin! — a black shroud!"

IV.

A warm zephyr flits and flies
O'er green spring crops, waving;
Blossoms cover all trees' crowns,
Fields in them are laving:
One day the church fills with sweet tones and
flowers,
And soon a wedding passes from its bowers
O'er the beflowered paving.

The young sprightly groom rides home
With his guests, delighted;
Dark green coat, hat to one side,
Thus he now alighted;
As she had seen him in that fateful hour
He brings home his Hana in a blossom shower
With their hands united.

The bright summer's gone. Cold winds
O'er the fields flit by.
Death-knells peal, upon a bier
A cold corpse does lie:
White maidens gather with bright candles glow-
ing:
On all sides mourning, sad music and woeing
In a profound sigh:
Miserere mei!

Whom the coffin with green wreath
To his grave does carry?
Ah, a maiden lily died —
How the times do vary!

As by dew watered, she grew to a blossom,
Then, fading, she fell into earth's dark bosom,
The poor maiden, Mary!

V.

The winter came, with frost the windows tapping,
But the large stove heats the whole room;
The hearth is lighted, the old dame is napping,
The girls spin flax and work the loom.

"Turn and burr and reel, my dear spinning wheel,
For again the Advent makes us feel
How near we are to Christmas Eve!

"Ah, thou blessed Christmas Eve!
O night, full of wonder!
Every time I think of thee,
Sadly must I ponder!

"Last year we sat just as now,
Solving each her riddle,
And before a year rolled by
Two have left our middle.

"One is sewing little gowns
For a coming fairy,
The other, the third month lies
In the cemetery,
The poor maiden, Mary!

"Last year we sat just as now
And we sang and chattered;
And before a year rolls by —
Where may we be scattered?

"Turn and burr and reel, my dear spinning wheel,
The whole world, too, turns like on the heel,
And like a dream the life we leave!"

Yet, it is better in darkness to grope
And guess in dreams the coming date
Than lift the future's veil in a vain hope
And learn too soon a dreadful fate.

* The Hearth, as known in England and America, has long been abandoned in Bohemia where the question of saving fuel had led early to the adopting of the stove for heating purposes. However, up to the middle of the last century, a small hearth, about two square feet in size on the average, was usually built in the wall above and at the side of the stove and connected by a flue with the chimney. In this small hearth fir-wood was burned at night to illuminate the room. — The translator.

Eyes of Sapphire

(Translated from the *Čech* of Anna Maria by Libuše A. Breuer).

Ida, who was four whole summers older than nine-year-old Bertha, had already read two novels; she had received a real kiss in a game of forfeits; and was not only Bertha's warm friend, but also her advisor. When the burning sun beat too mercilessly on the yellow sand in the garden, and on the green trees, and on the blue, white, red, and violet-colored flowers, Bertha and Ida sat on the plush divan in the corner of the salon, behind the portieres. All the while out of doors it was very warm and close—but the little girls found it just right for talking in the semi-twilight of the little chamber. Bertha would ask questions, and Ida would answer. When would she be a young lady? Is Ida a young lady already? Does a person feel different? Did Bertha still look like a child, or did she seem just a little grown-up; a little older than she really was? The older child would put her arms about her waist and tell her that she should first grow a little, then she would grow a little more, and let down her skirts,—and then she would go to dances, and then get married. Of course, love would come in, too. Then Ida divided love into two classes, the fortunate and the unfortunate; fortunate if the lovers married, and unfortunate if they did not. And the mystical and golden dusk of the drawn portieres enhanced the veiled charm of love for the little girls.

One day Ida came running in, flushed, embarrassed, and serious. At first she did not wish to say anything—because she *could* not say it—but then, when Bertha, eager and impatient, promised her she would not tell to any one, not even to mamma, nor Emma, her best friend at school, if she confided in her, Ida whispered her confession. She loved, right now, at first sight. Like a lightning stroke, love had come to her. Bertha, just the least bit jealous, and very inquisitive, begged, "But who, who?" It did not matter that he was below Ida socially, she wished to share poverty and suffering with him—everything till death. "But who, please, who is it?" Bertha entreated. Ida took her hand in a manner full of mystery, and, drawing her closer, whispered into her inquisitive little ear. "Hugo." Hugo? But Bertha had never heard that name. Ida, tying and retying the black ribbon on her light braid, rather excitedly stammered out her story. What, did she not know that he was their gardner's new hand, who came only yesterday in those high, close-fitting boots, and with eyes just like sapphires—and she, Bertha, did not know that? Then, after Bertha promised she would do nothing to make them conspicuous, and would make no silly

witticism about him, Ida took her hand and went to show him to Bertha.

They passed thru the fragrant, shaded avenue of lindens, whispering and laughing; they passed beside the bed of great red strawberries, sweet as kisses, but only passed there. They passed around the rosebushes, full of buds, and suddenly, there by the fish-pond, in which were ruffs and four reddish goldfishes, they saw a hand clipping the bushes, and a cap with a huntsman's feather, bending over the roses. They hushed their laughing prattle—it was he, Hugo. Ida drew a roll from the pocket, and slowly, slowly began to crumble it in small pieces, smaller yet, still smaller—so the little fishes would not choke—and patiently one little piece at a time, she cast the crumbs into the water. Suddenly the gay, huntsman's cap behind the bushes was raised, two sapphire eyes gleamed out, and the pleasantest, most courteous voice in the world said: "I kiss your hand, little ladies." — "I kiss your hand," he had said, — — and 'little ladies,' — — Bertha was thinking, and he really did have indescribably beautiful sapphire eyes. And Ida? When she heard the sound of his voice, she did not know whether to laugh or cry for joy, but the simplest thing to do never entered her mind — to return the greeting. And how long she had stood by the pond waiting for him to look up—suddenly she seized Bertha by the hand, jerked her around and disappeared down the avenue of lindens, nor did she stop till she had reached the house, out of breath and angry at herself. What will he think? Want and poverty she wished to share with him, and then she did not even return his greeting — and great, childish tears of distress and mortification fell from Ida's dark eyes. Bertha pulled at her apron, and said in a very decided tone, "Ida he *has* eyes just like sapphires!" "Like sapphires," echoed Ida dreamily,—both happy and sad at once. Then after dinner, when the two little girls had huddled together in the corner, Bertha proudly confided to Ida that she, too, was in love—with the sapphire eyes.

And both little girls, the older and the younger, would go a-wooing, without any unpleasantness between them. They would sing little snatches of song, toss their ball, and roll their great hoops,—in front of Hugo's window, around the shrubs of quince apple he was trimming, around the rosebushes he was grafting.

*) In Czechoslovakia the common form of greeting from a person of lower to one of higher rank.

even around the greenhouse where he was watering the flowers. Like birds they would wheel about him, now showing themselves, now hiding—they would flash among the bushes, disappear in the thicket. They would put their heads very close together, as if telling each other secrets, or call across to each other some humorous bit of nonsense; or sometimes sadly and languidly, overcome by this love-sickness, they would walk thru the garden paths.—They went a-wooing, both the little girls.

Once, while Ida was playing Mozart's *Sonata in C major*, Bertha ran out by herself, for strawberries,—and to find the sapphire eyes.—She leaped across the ditch, scrambled up the escarpment, to see how the strawberries were ripening—then, just as her foot touched the ground, a stone slipped and rolled down, and a great fat frog hopped out so suddenly that Bertha screamed. But what she did not tell, even to Ida, was that perhaps she would not have become so frightened, and would not have screamed so, had she not caught a glimpse of a huntsman's cap nearby. "What is the matter with the little lady?" an amiable voice behind her asked. "Why it's nothing but a frog!" But Bertha, wanting to be pitied in her startled helplessness, said, "I'm afraid, I'm afraid, I'm terribly afraid." A booted foot stamped, a stone flew from his hand and landed in the grass, a smile fluttered in the blue eyes, and—nothing. But to nine-year-old Bertha, it seemed that this gallant rescue brought her closer to—the eyes of sapphire.

Maybe it was a week, perhaps a fortnight later, that the two little girls were racing along the sun-flecked shadows of the garden. They ran along the path and on the grass, and around Hugo's window, which was wide open. Shyly and timidly, in the midst of their skipping, they peeped in.—The room was empty, not a soul in it. Like kittens they crept nearer, like thieves they stole up, silently, without a sound. Their inquisitive little eyes had a good opportunity to admire the cupboard and the lamp on top of it, and the shabby coat hanging on the nail, and the table, on which stood a pair of cuffs, one thrust into the other. But suddenly, all at once, the eyes were arrested by a single object. On the table stood a framed picture of a woman, a young woman. It might have been a sister, but to them it was she—their rival; one rival for both the little girls. For a long time they stood there, for a long time they gazed on that picture, and then, no longer quietly, they ran off together.

And in the corner of the salon they talked of his ungratefulness and faithlessness, of his treachery, black as sin. They cried a little over it, scolded a little; but all at once they thought of something. Just exactly as Hugo, with his deceiving eyes of sapphire, was untrue to them, just so could the lady in the picture be unfaithful to him—and then perhaps they could take

the woman's place. Which of them would he choose? Ida, altho she did not say it aloud, decided it would be herself, for was she not only the older, but the prettier also? And Bertha? She was certain it would be herself. Did he not gallantly rescue her on the embankment? But she did not speak of this to Ida. But this nothing worried the little girls as they sat embracing each other, nor kept them from musing and prattling of the treacherous depth of the sapphire eyes.

Just as anything has its end, so the harmonious love of these two little girls had its end, without quarrels or rupture, an end altogether sudden, just as the beginning.

On this day it was not hot, but the rain fell at intervals, and the wind rocked the branches peeping in at the windows. Now and then a swallow flew thru the trees, its white breast and dark-bluish tail glancing against the clouded sky. Late in the forenoon the door in the vestibule creaked, steps resounded on the tiles, and someone knocked on the door. Neither Ida nor Bertha called "Come in!"—little girls never call "Come in!" The door opened, and there, huntsman's cap in hand, stood *he*. They sat as the frozen to their chairs. He wished to know where the "gracious mistress was;" he wished to speak with her. A pause. A long pause. Then Bertha, younger and less confused, said she was in the kitchen. He bowed himself out, the door closed—that precious door, from which had gleamed those jewels, his eyes—retreating steps resounded, and the end came, tho the little girls knew it not.

As before, they could not utter a word, so now one talked faster than the other. They caught hold of hands and danced round and round. Then they decided that the question about his mistress was a mere excuse; that since they had not come out, he wanted to see them. They squealed, and hurrahed, and sang and danced, and jumped about, and finally flew into a tempest of laughter, now quieting down, now bursting out again, till at last they both scrambled under the bed, so their mad, childish laughter would not be heard in the next room. They did not know why, but they laughed and laughed and laughed.

The next day when the sun shone out again, and the heavens turned blue, the little girls, in light colored dresses, went outdoors. They passed down the linden alley, threw some bread to the little fishes, loitered about the greenhouse, ran thru all the foot-paths, rested in the arbor, but—in vain. Bewildered, they wandered about the first day, restless the next; on the third day they asked about him. Of mamma? No, for they thought that even that question would betray them; but of the waiting maid, just casually, among other questions, one bending over an embroidery frame, the other with her face against the window-pane. Hugo was gone—why, the maid herself did not know; he had to

go home, she said. Both little girls' expression changed mutually. It was just that way in one of the novels Ida had read. He felt, the dear fellow, the dear, foolish fellow, their difference in rank, and so he left; he conquered himself. Could there be any other explanation of his departure? The girl in the frame never entered

their minds. And in the corner, their own corner, they both cried over it, each trying to outdo the other in grief and depth of feeling for—the eyes of sapphire. Their tears quickly came, and as quickly dried over the strawberries, cherries and currants, over the carnations and roses, and perhaps even over—their dolls.

Accomplishments of 1919

"THE UTTERANCES OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE CZECHOSLOVAK REPUBLIC, T. G. MASARYK, FROM THE TIME OF HIS ELECTION TO THE DAYS OF THE JUBILEE" (December, 1918, to December, 1919). Edited by Th. Kratochvíl, Prague, 1920.

"A YEAR OF WORK," Prague, 1919. (Published in Czech by the Press Bureau of the Office of the Premier of the Ministry and Edited by Dr. Rudolf Procházka).

Reviewed by **ROBERT JOSEPH KERNER**
Associate Professor of History, University of Missouri.

These two publications reveal the heart and soul of what the leaders of the Czechoslovak nation have done and are aspiring to do in their new state.

President Masaryk's speeches are guideposts for the future. They are a nation's catechism in which "the little father" (tatiček) speaks to the common man about whose future actions elsewhere in Europe many statesmen are now so seriously concerned.

The "Year of Work" is a report of the Provisional Government's activity in the first year of the republic's existence. It is official in character in so far as it was got together from official reports and, in one case, includes a speech by Beneš, Minister of Foreign Affairs, before the National Assembly.

Both publications speak intimately, almost confidentially. They are intended for Czechs and Slovaks, not for foreign consumption. For that reason they are the more important for us. They tell of successes and failures, of an ugly past, of hopes for a brighter future. In all recent political (official or unofficial) literature in Central Europe I know of none which so openly tells the nation what has been attempted against great odds and what are the dangers ahead. Should this beginning be developed into a regular act of the Government each year it would be a signal contribution to the establishment of a new regime in Central Europe.

President Masaryk lays down in his speeches, it appears, two fundamental axioms: that the Czechoslovaks, in order to be a thoroughly new nation for the leadership of the new order in Central Europe, must "de-Austrianize and re-

educate themselves," and that social reform, not social revolution, should be the future programme of the republic, if they do not wish to undo what they have already accomplished.

By "de-Austrianization" President Masaryk means a thoroughly democratized army, a new bureaucracy, free, equal nations living contentedly within the state, and a new moral outlook for a freer, healthier development. The remnants of Old Austria, with its militarism, its decaying bureaucracy, its oppressed nations, and its degenerating effect on the cultural development of individuals, classes, and nations, are to be swept away.

By urging the nation to "re-educate itself" President Masaryk is urging a rebirth in education, in moral outlook, in ordinary, every-day ideals. The re-education is to be in the spirit of American ideals and American achievement. In that respect he wishes his nation "to Americanize itself." A nation with moral teachers of the eminence of Hus, Komenský (Comenius), and Havlíček will have rich inspiration to draw from in this respect.

In his second message to the National Assembly (October 29, 1919) President Masaryk reviews in particular the demand for the social revolution. He advocates penetrating or thoroughgoing social reforms. Through his acquaintance with Socialism and Bolshevism he bravely faces the issue. There is no hedging. There must be social reform, but there must be no social revolution. Leninism or Bolshevism is "rather revolutionary anarchism, rather syndicalism than Socialism."

President Masaryk expounds Bolshevism with especial care to the Czechoslovak laboring classes, because the masses in Slavic speaking countries show more sentiment than reason in that regard. They virtually reject Marxism because it is "German," and instinctively and, likewise, sentimentally have an unconscious interest in Bolshevism because they feel it is "Slavic."

Here is a statesman, no longer purely a theoretical social reformer, wrestling with the problem and thinking before his nation. He knows he cannot do all the thinking himself, and so he thinks before his people in order to have them "catch the habit." He leaves them in no doubt that civilization will mean a grand transformation of the evolution of the ages and that it is a long way off. And, finally, he points out that it

is not a Czechoslovak problem alone; it is likewise an international problem.

The "Year of Work" reviews the first year's activity of all the Ministries of the Provisional Government, including that of the Ministry Without Portfolio for Slovakia. It will be impossible to explain here in detail the working of each Ministry and to evaluate the information which is given in its report. We must content ourselves with illustrating the character of the valuable material which is included in this publication. For the historian and the publicist the work is of first-rate importance, and it is to be regretted that it has not been translated as a whole into English or French. A small abstract of the same has appeared in English from the pen of Brož.

The report which Beneš, Minister of Foreign Affairs, made before the National Assembly (September 30, 1919) forms a suitable introduction. Here the most capable of the disciples of President Masaryk sketches in broad lines the history of the revolutionary propaganda abroad, the work of the Peace Conference, and the bases of the future foreign policy of Czechoslovakia. He tells of the pledges which the Czechoslovak Peace Conference delegates had given for the protection of national minorities. "I am convinced," he declares, "that the Czechoslovak Republic will live up to its given word to the full."

The Ministry of National Defense admits that it began life in Czechoslovakia in 1918 with an army of 10,000 poorly disciplined men, without cannon and adequate ammunition, while thousands of excellent soldiers were kept in Siberia. The Ministry of Justice informs the reader at the outset that "the Czech at the time of the fall

of old Austria was "anti-state", there was a strong tendency in him toward anarchy." The Ministry of Social Welfare reports that in the summer of 1919 it supported or looked after about 6 per cent. of the total population, including 210,000 war invalids, 380,000 dependents from the war, 174,655 unemployed. This was not a small feeding list for a young republic, and the desire to get down to work was not an overwhelming one, in the populace, here as elsewhere after the war.

The report written for the Ministry Without Portfolio (for Slovakia) by Dr. Ivanka is perhaps most illuminating. Here the beginnings were truly heroic. The report shows that there were only about 500 Slovak "intelligentsia" to fill something like 1,100 official positions, ranging from village notary to Governor of the country. All of which helps in part to explain the ease of the Magyar invasion in the summer of 1919. Meanwhile, the Slovaks as a whole were unable to realize that a new era had come, because so many Magyars of the old regime still clung to their posts and in secret propaganda threatened the return first of the Red, then of the White Magyar Army.

Since these publications have appeared much has happened. The treaties have been accepted, a permanent constitution adopted, a new election, which resulted favorably to the Socialists, held, and further steps taken along the road mapped out by the Sage of Hradčany.

How far President Masaryk will be able to control the advance of social reform in a calm and scientific spirit will depend largely on the schooling, the patience, and the self-sacrifice of all classes of the Czechoslovak nation. — The (N. Y.) Evening Post.

Jail

By J. S. MACHAR.

Authorized translation from the Czech by P. Selver.

(Continued.)

"Fallot" remarked Papa Declich with scorn. For the Italian likes to drink, but never gets drunk.

In the wash-house there was a supply of news. The night transport had taken sixty people from our jail to the military prison at *Rossau*, to *Moellersdorf* and elsewhere. There they would be "on ice". The superintendents did not need them, they would not be called up for cross-examination, they would keep on waiting. In this place there was a lack of room. Old *Gehring*, our warder, had gone with them and had not yet returned. His successor was named *Schmied* and was a *Feuerwerker*, a bombardier in the artillery.

At breakfast Hedrich brought me a dish of black coffee. He said it was from *Kranz*. From *Kranz*? Did he know me? Perhaps he was a fellow-countryman? No, a Viennese, but he had heard that I was an author, and he said he hoped that one day I would describe what I had seen and experienced here; moreover in the course of the morning he would come himself. Altogether the news had got about in the jail that I was there, and *Warder Spunner* was very much frightened that I should describe how he cursed and shouted. The superintendent also had recently inquired how I proposed to describe it. "The superintendent is a very decent fellow" added Hedrich in a whisper, "yesterday

evening he had a row with *Papritz* in a public house, and told him straight that he worried people for no reason and called him a bloody brute. *Papritz* threatened that he wouldn't forget it."

The coffee was really coffee,—I shared it among our batch, and the patriots were glad.

Fancy, *Kranz*. A feeling for music, a feeling for literature. "Hedrich, what have they against *Kranz*?"

"Oh, he has been in prison several times. He is about forty years old, and he has spent a good half of his years in jails. He is fond of burgling jeweller's shops, he has worn military uniform without authority, and so on. At the same time he is a thoroughly good fellow. And a man of character. — *Papritz fears him like poison*".

During exercise *Dušek* introduced me to a man in dragoon uniform with chains tied round his feet. To prevent the chain from dragging along the ground, he lifted it up with a rope, the end of which he held. He walked with legs astraddle, his face had an intelligent expression, there was a certain dignity in his pale blue eyes,—a very sympathetic personality. And his story, as *Dušek* related it to me, was a regular martyrdom. Engineer *Kubaleck* had been employed at the outbreak of war in Russia, at Reval; before that he had been in Germany, in Switzerland, in France. He had a Czech name, but he was a German. When war broke out he had hurried to Austria with his wife and two small children, he had been stopped on the frontier, and at *Moravská Ostrava* he had been led before Marshal *Mattuschka*, who snarled at him: "You are a Russian spy. And you know about Russian espionage in Austria." Now *Kubaleck* knew nothing, he answered a little brusquely,—and ever since he had remained in the clutches of military justice. His family had been interned at *Chotzen*, he had finally been led away to Vienna. One day he had quarrelled with the superintendent, had broken his sword, and that was how he had come by the chain which he had worn ever since.

(I noticed that when *Dušek* was relating this story with many details, *Papa Declich* puckered his lips several times as if he wanted to say something, and at the same time his eyes twinkled with a light and sceptical smile of contempt,—but he controlled himself and said nothing.)

Kubaleck spoke the choice and pure language of an intellectual, his comments on people and things were to the point, incisive and witty, he was self-sufficing, that is, he did not make a display of his misery (and, as *Dušek* told me, his misery was great), he was resigned to his fate, but also prepared to stand up for himself and defend his rights up to the last consequences—an interesting man. He made not the slightest reference to his story when speaking to me; our conversation was about aeroplanes—he said he had served in the flying corps of the Prussian

army. He explained to me the various types, their advantages and defects, and he said that he himself had made experiments in the construction of a new machine but that the war had intervened and ended everything.

What a magnificent morning it must have been outside! The blue, rarified sky seemed to be loftier than usual, without even a cloudlet in it; only the first golden flashes of the rising sun were beginning to spread, and the swifts, drunk with the freshness of morning, were wheeling beneath it in joyful circles.

And there we were, pressing along through a crowd of talking, coughing and spitting men, in the smoke of reeking cigarettes, amid creatures whom human society had rejected from its midst, we whom blind justice had flung among them, we lovers of freedom, air and light, — "if only an aeroplane were to come down" suggested *Kubaleck*.

"I would get into it without any further reflection, and would fly over mountains, valleys and waters far, far beyond the black-yellow frontier-posts" I added.

A few tiny lads, scarcely more than fourteen years old, ran to and fro amongst us and picked up the ends of cigars and cigarettes.

"Colleagues?"

"Yes. They stole some copper wire and sold it."

Rags on their bodies, rags on their feet, deplorable misery in their faces,—fourteen or fifteen years old, and the whole of life still before them.

We were back again in the room.

Mr. *Kranz*.

He was not tall, but he was sturdy, with a military cap slantwise on his head, an upturned moustache, a good-humoured, tolerant expression in his blue eyes—he stood in the middle of the room and looked around him.

"*Kranz*, this way" exclaimed *Hedrich*.

He came up to our table. I thanked him for the coffee; he waved my thanks aside, but said he wanted to ask me that if some day I were to write about what I had seen here and whom I had met, I should not forget him. His name was *Kranz, Kranz*), the same as what rests upon coffins. *Kranz*, a thief and a rogue. But he said he would like to see his name some day written by an honest hand. Up till now he had been only in criminal records, in judges' verdicts, in the annals of the police court.

I believe that what others call a soul is a holy fire in man, greater in some, less in others, in others again only a tiny spark; and this holy fire forms our moral, artistic and human worth. At that moment I saw a spark of it flashing with humour in the eyes of this robber.

"*Kranz*, how much longer?" asked the sergeant.

*) Germ.—wreath.

"Five and a half,—if *Papritz* doesn't get into my way when I'm in a temper."

"Like yesterday evening?"

"Yes, yesterday evening. If I'd had him there, he'd have gone flying through the room. I'd have made him jump."

"*Kranz*, how many did you put away?"

"*Forty*. There's forty empty bottles. But do they call that wine? I'd just like to get hold of that blackguard of a caterer. I'd tell him the mischief he does when he mixes such stuff."

"*Kranz*, has anything been heard about an amnesty?"

"They say so. It's supposed to be because of these victories in Russia. But that will be an amnesty for us, for the slight offenders, nothing for you, for serious criminals. Nothing, gentlemen."

He looked at us, indicated us and the patriots with a comprehensive gesture, and gave a devilish laugh.

"I must have a cucumber, — my head's all to pieces" he said more to himself, and went to the door.

"Open, you blockhead," and he banged upon it with his fists. "*Sponner*, you scoundrel," and he kicked until the door shook and rattled.

Sponner opened: "Come, come, come —"

"Idiot," answered *Mr. Kranz*, and walked out solemnly.

XVI.

I was doing the third kilometre with Messrs *Fels* and *Goldstein*.

A few people were looking at us, a few were watching the game of wolves and sheep at the other table, the sergeant had got *Mr. Karl* to whistle a tune from the *Csardasfuerstin* and was endeavoring to whistle it after him. *Papa Declich* was standing on the pile of mattresses, cleaning his cap and taking a shy peep into the big yard where the imprisoned officers were exercising. Now and then *Warder Sponner* burst into the room, yelled out somebody's name, which meant that the man had a visitor; he would be led into the hall, where in the presence of the superintendent he would be allowed to converse for a few minutes about harmless topics. Everybody was smoking, and all the signs of a holiday mood were displayed in the cell and among the people.

Mr. Fiedler came in: "Is anybody going to attend mass in the chapel?"

Nobody came forward.

"*Heathen*," was his abusive comment, and he turned to me: "Wouldn't you like to have a look at it?"

"Thanks, but I am of no denomination."

"That doesn't matter. Jews are the only ones we don't let in there, that would be a bit too much. But haven't you some acquaintance with whom you would like to talk?" and *Mr. Fiedler* smiled mysteriously.

"I understand, but I have none. I alone was responsible for my verses. But how's your head, — does it ache?"

"Ach, *Mr. M.* as if somebody had been pounding it for me. Man is below the animals, far below the animals. An animal does not get in such a state. But this much I will say: If I have a boy, and that boy takes to drink, I'll kill him, I will, if I am the least bit fond of him" and he turned to the door.

Mr. Goldenstein was silent.

I went on talking. I explained to them everything that came into my mind, and what might have come into theirs. How everything is relative in this life, how the attitude of society towards jail is changing, the very word "jail" today has not the same meaning among decent people as before the war. (*die Masse macht es*, that is due to the quantity of people whom military justice has thrust into the jail), how we shall depart, richer by unique memories, how we shall only begin to love freedom afterwards, — and perhaps it was not the reasons formulated in this manner, but my inner conviction which insinuated itself upon them involuntarily, — I gave these people a fragment of my fatalistic calm and mental equilibrium, — they thanked me and shook my hand, and *Mr. Fels* said with emotion that he would certainly otherwise have done "something rash".

And *Mr. Goldenstein* declared that he would sleep well that night.

After 11 o'clock the orderlies brought the mid-day meal. *Papa Declich* fished the meat out of the soup, but he only pecked at the vegetables and with a smile put the dish back on the kneading board. There was no cursing today, but merely the announcement that "It isn't fit for food"—yesterday's supplies from the caterer were not as yet used up.

Sunday was a day when prisoners were allowed to have supplies of washing and clothing brought them,—the clothing had to be disinfected, and a written declaration given as to the completed disinfection, and the declaration had to make it clear that they had been disinfected within the course of the last twenty four hours.

They were given out to us immediately after the meal. *Josefinka* had brought me a cushion, a blanket. Odol and washing. My shirt was already as black as the floor and, being a modest man, I felt exceptional happiness at being able to put on clean linen.

One o'clock in the afternoon. Roll-call. This was the evening roll call. We were counted, and that brought the day to an end. Today there would be no exercise.

But at two o'clock the door opened to admit a new colleague. There entered an elderly man with a straw hat, with pincenez, with a bag in his hand and wearing a waterproof overcoat. He put the bag down by the wall, stood beside it and declared: "Gentlemen, I have been brought

here by mistake,—within an hour I shall certainly be led out again.”

We smiled.

At four o'clock he stood up, took the bag and stationed himself by the door.

Six o'clock. He was still standing and waiting.

Eight o'clock. We had supper. Our new arrival had sat down on his bag. But by the door.

It was before nine. The skylark began to sing again. The skylark, the only creature which of its own accord inhabited this building. The straw mattresses were thrown about, people undressed. Mr. *Karl* asked the newcomer whether he would lie down. Yes, he would lie down, he was tired, but he would not undress. They would certainly call him and take him away that same night.

Half past nine. He was lying in his overcoat and had removed only his hat. His skull was completely bald.

“I say,” said the artillery-man who was his neighbour, “take off that overcoat, it smells horrible, and what’s your name?”

“Simon *Lamm*,” replied he, and took off his overcoat.

“*Lamm* from Brody?” asked Mr. *Fels*.

“Yes. And I am here by mistake. They said I wanted to keep my son out of the army, but my son had already joined, he lost his left hand, has an artificial one now and works in an office,—they’re sure to take me away from here tonight.”

“Take off your things, Mr. *Lamm*, and try and get to sleep”. Mr. *Fels* stood up, came over to me and said softly: “One of the best Polish Jews in Galicia. A landed proprietor, — of course he’s a beggar today. The Russians are managing his estates, but he was the benefactor of the whole district.”

Mr. Simon *Lamm* undressed: “Well, if they come and fetch me, I shall be dressed in five minutes.”

The room roared with laughter.

XVII.

Monday evening. Monday has always been a repulsive day to me, and it seemed as if it became still more repulsive to me in jail.

And it was as if the whole of number 60 agreed with this view of mine; in the morning they got up grumpy and cursing,—only Messrs. *Fels* and *Goldenstein* announced that they had at last been able to sleep. The artillery-man did not even want to dress. Hedrich yawned till his eyes flowed with tears, Budi frowned,—in fact nowhere was there a pleasant glance and a contented word. Our arrival of yesterday, Mr. Simon *Lamm*, again donned his waterproof overcoat,

put on his hat and waited. He did not even want to go out for exercise so as not to miss the messenger of freedom. He then went after all when the sergeant had assured him that he would be called even from the yard; but during exercise he kept turning his head to the door where the defence-corps man stood with a bayonet.

When we returned, he took Hedrich aside,—our barber’s good-natured blue eyes had probably inspired Mr. *Lamm* with confidence — and he asked him who I was. For I had a special bed, a blue blanket, and the inmates of the room held me in some esteem. The worthy Hedrich, who was fond of hoaxing people,—but he did it in such a good-natured and pleasant manner that nobody could be angry with him,—informed him in a whisper that I was a criminal worse than a two-fold murderer, whereupon Mr. *Lamm* nodded and declared that he had immediately noticed me, and was sure that I must be something of the sort. He then went on waiting quietly.

A repulsive Monday. We were not even inclined for our usual “scorching”.

Papa Declich brought in a bucket of water and began to clean out. Budi climbed up on to the straw mattresses and began to snore. Old Nicolodi, wrapped up in his plaid sat on his box and stared at the floor. *Tironi* had made friends with Dr. Smrecsanyi and they were talking together. The artillery-man was looking for somebody who would play wolves and sheep with him—at that moment *Papritz* burst into the room.

“Mr. *Fiedler*, Mr. *Fiedler*”, called several voices.

Mr. *Fiedler* waved his hands around his head, as if he were driving away a swarm of troublesome bees, and he was already outside. *Warder Spohner* shouted: “Those who have put their names down for writing letters today. — follow me. Wait,—no censorists. Other arrangements will be made for them.”

Mr. *Spohner* led us through the corridor and explained to me: “A man has to shout, yes, shout,—but don’t suppose that it causes me any amusement. A quiet word produces no effect. Nobody has an idea of what a gang these Polish Jews are. You’d need lungs like a blacksmith’s bellows”. (It occurred to me that there were no Polish Jews in our cell, but Mr. *Spohner* shouted there all the same; if one day I should write about this jail, I will print his explanation,—besides, that was the only reason he gave me.)

He entered the isolation room for those with infectious diseases. A few beds were prepared there, even a washing basin was ready; now two tables had been thrust in and pushed up against the beds on one side, and on the other they had put some forms. There was ink on the tables, they lent us pens and distributed paper, envelopes and post cards, according to the number of applications. It was then possible to write. Forty or fifty people crowded round the tables,

others were waiting until place and a pen were available, and a defence-corps man with a bayonet stood at the door. When a man had finished writing, he waited till the warder came, handed over what he had written and then he could return to the cell. He was not allowed to fasten down the envelope, the letter would be handed over to the examining superintendent who would read it through, would cross out any compromising words or sentences beyond recognition, and, if it was God's will, would send it on. If a man wrote in his native language, the superintendent had the letter read,—and in certain cases also translated,—by a reliable interpreter, a process which always took several days. Interpreters were few and they were burdened with work of a much more important character,—the translation of confiscated letters, documents, pamphlets, books and, in my case, of verses as well.

It was like the inside of a hive,—one knocked against the other, all possible and impossible things were being asked for, pens were scraping, men were abusing them and everything, the stench was overwhelming. I had made up my mind to write as little as possible to those who were dear to me, but I wrote still less,—I am well, I am thinking of you, don't expect me, it certainly isn't pleasant here, enough.

And I was already back again in our cell and discovered that it was possible to heave a sigh of content even in jail.

Mr. *Fels* was sitting at our table with Mr. *Goldenstein* and they both had their heads propped up in their hands. A batch was just doing its turn of marching until the floor rattled. I sat down on the bed opposite the two brooders, and indulged in memories and thoughts,—nothing great,—only of the scratchy pen today. You see, forty and more years ago something of the same kind had irritated me. It was when I was beginning to learn to write. It was at Brandeis,—I was a poor schoolboy who did not venture to ask his poor parents for a farthing. Once by chance I discovered a store of pens,—there were always several of them lying beneath a window of the Archduke's castle at Brandeis. The Revenue Office was up there and the clerks used to throw them away when they were no longer fit for use. And I collected them and wrote with them in school and wrote my exercises at home with them. I wrote clumsily; the figures involuntarily acquired small pairs of slippers, the letters little black paunches. The teacher grumbled at me and threatened and finally also punished me—it was no use, I could not help it. And I could not help it even when he sternly commanded me to buy new pens. Today a scratchy pen had returned into my life, and would come again a week later, a fortnight later, a year later, two years later, — now that I have learnt to write and have been put here for writing in a certain way. Fate has a confounded instinct for making circles in human life, and closes them exactly where they were begun.

"Do you know, Mr. M., that I did not sleep all night?" said Mr. *Fels* suddenly in despair.

"Not even after all that walking?"

"That doesn't lie in the body, that lies in the soul—just ask *Goldenstein* here."

Goldenstein gazed mournfully into vacancy and nodded: "Neither of us slept. Nor did *Fröhlich*. We lay thinking, and when our thoughts led to nothing, we looked at the lamp."

"And what are your troubles? What is it that worries you?"

"Business, business," sighed Mr. *Goldenstein*.

"They dragged us away and locked us up,—a man can't speak, he's not allowed to write, the officials are helpless and indifferent, — God knows what is happening" explained Mr. *Fels*.

"Very well. Business. Imagine that you had just read the letters in your office, let us say,—suddenly you fall from your chair, the doctor is called, examines you and diagnoses inflammation of the intestine,—an operation is most urgently necessary. You are taken to a sanatorium, and after a few hours you're on the operating table. You are cut open, the inflammation was acute, you rest in a small room, the nurse is sitting with you, you are only half alive, without interest for anything in the world, you cannot think or speak, but you feel only one thing: I am on the threshold of death, life may be closed to me at any moment. Business, what do you care about business? Correspondence—what folly. To live, above all and solely to live. You are here in jail, it is true, but how much better than in a hospital. And, as is customary in Austria, everything has been forbidden you, but after a few days you will be allowed to write, visitors will arrive, and finally you will manage your affairs from here, just as well as from a sanatorium."

"He is right," observed Mr. *Fels* to *Goldenstein*, and breathed with relief.

Goldenstein, it seemed, was a sceptic, or else he wanted more of this consolation: "Yes, but for several days now we have heard nothing about our wives, our children—"

"My boy is in the third form at school; here in Vienna we have a private Polish school," declared Mr. *Fels*.

"You are from Galicia, aren't you? Well now, imagine this again: You are returning home from somewhere by train. Suddenly the train stops,—what's the matter? The bridge in front of you has collapsed into a flooded river. You must return to the nearest station. Does not our room remind you of a dirty provincial waiting room? Such a waiting room in that station is now your abode. You are living there and waiting until the bridge has been repaired. When will that be? Nobody knows,—a month, two months, perhaps half a year,—you must wait, since there is no other way."

"He is right," nodded Mr. *Fels* again.

Papritz with a rattling sword and his overcoat buttoned up, — a successful replica of the German monarch,—even with his upturned mous-

tache. He stood there and looked about him,—number 60 grew silent, otherwise nothing happened. “*Habt Acht!*” he bellowed angrily, “who is in charge of this room?”

The sergeant pushed platoon-leader Kretzer forward, and he stepped up and reported himself. Papritz looked him up and down twice from head to foot with a withering glance, then burst forth: “Don’t you know the proper thing, to do? When I enter the room you’ve got to bring them to attention, come to attention yourself and report yourself to me. And the whole room has got to stand at attention, nobody’s allowed to move,—you miserable lot,—I’ll give you what for, I’ll teach you,—what do you mean by standing there like that, you blockhead you,” he snapped at Mr. Froehlich; “I’ll have you put in solitary confinement for twenty-four hours,—and look at this, there’s one of them lying fast asleep,—come down, come down” — (Budi jumped down and opened his sleepy eyes in terror)—“this is a fine collection, look at this, a volunteer in the bargain,—and you take off your hat” he snarled at Lamm.

From the corridor could be heard the voice of Kranz, the president of the orderlies, singing:

*In fernem Afrika
da waechst der Paprika.—*

Papritz turned pale and red, but did not burst out. He threatened and yelled for a little longer, then he departed.

“He’s still soaked from yesterday,” observed Hedrich. Mr. Lamm put his straw hat on afresh.

“I shan’t report myself to him” the sergeant began to declare.

“It’s a piece of impudence” said Mr. Froehlich reminiscently, “Somebody ought to have pointed out to him that we’re brought to attention only before officers, and that he as an N. C. O. in charge of accounts has no right to wear an officers’ sword.”

“And besides, he’s got no right to carry out inspections and to make such threats” added the sergeant. And Mr. Fels felt sorry for Lamm. He took him by the arm and lead him up to my bed.

“Mr. M., yesterday you set us up and encouraged us so much, look after Mr. Lamm here, tell him something.”

“Take off your hat, remove your overcoat, hang it up yonder and try to make yourself at home,—you’ll be here several months.”

Mr. Lamm looked at me horrified, he took off his overcoat rather waveringly, removed his hat and sat down.

“That’s right,” remarked Mr. Fels. “And what about our marching?”

There was nothing else for it, we started off.

We walked silently. Warder Sponner came in, called out several names, Tironi and Dr. Smrečany amongst them: “Take your things and

come up to the first floor.” They had been transferred.

They took their leave and departed.

We went on walking.

Several people expressed aloud their satisfaction at the departure of Tironi. A hideous man with that cough of his,—the sergeant lost his taste for food when the fellow coughed.

When we had finished our “scorching”, we sat down on a mattress and looked on while the second batch marched.

Then I began to crave for something to read. One volume of Gerstäcker and something by Ganghofer were lying about on the table. I thought to myself “*Das ist kein Kaffeehaus vor mir!*” (As the Viennese Jews say). “Budi, have you got anything to read?”

Budi gave me a few stories by Rodenbach and Napoleon III’s “Life of Julius Caesar”. I started off with the stories. The author of “*Bruges la morte!*” disappointed me. Anybody who has become accustomed to read the honest and profound Russians, rarely finds satisfaction in foreign literatures. Everything there is so corpse-like, affected, machine-made and untrue to life,—it would really be a pity to waste time on it, if there were not so much to spare. If somebody had taken it into his head to sweep the floor, I would rather have watched the movements of the broom and the whirling of the dust,—there was more life in that than in these bloodless people about whom I read. But Voronin was gone and the broom was deserted.

After the midday meal of which I again touched nothing, I was summoned to the superintendent in the *Tigergasse*. A defence-corps man in front of me, a defence-corps man behind me,—the streets and the people as strange as if they were from another world,—I see how accustomed to the jail I had become. With composure I imagined that this would be second cross-examination which Dr. Frank had promised me for the previous Friday or Saturday, but I was not pleased,—I did not believe that it would mean a turning-point in my destiny.

Frank, well-groomed, clean-shaven as on the first occasion and equally restrained in manner, informed me that I had a visitor.

Dr. T., a German, whom I had known for quite a number of years. The first man who had visited me in the *Rudolfinerhaus* after my operation, the first one who was visiting me in jail.

“My dear M” he began, and his voice trembled.

“Doctor, no sentimentality, I have been imprisoned because of four stupid poems.”

“My dear sir,” intervened Dr. Frank.

“Oh, I see. It’s not allowed. Very well. As you see, I am in good health, in jail of course, but for eight hours a day I have the most glorious freedom.”

"How is that? Do you go for a walk?" asked Dr. T. in astonishment, and even Frank looked at me inquisitively.

"No. I sleep for eight hours and you know that dreams are an important part of my life,—and I dream about liberty. Night after night I have dreams about freedom, and if this estimable official here (I turned to Frank) had the least idea of it, he would station a defence-corps man by my bed to wake me up every ten minutes: Hi, hi, are you dreaming about freedom? That is forbidden, you are in jail."

Dr. Frank gave a forced smile.

"And in other respects?"

"In other respects I live amid dirt, and contemplate our beloved Austria from below, which is also very interesting."

"Do you need anything?"

"The State gives me everything that I cannot need,—thank you."

"Gentlemen," and Dr. Frank drew out his watch, "I am sorry to tell you that I have a great deal of work."

"Doctor, we will not hinder this estimable official in his activity. He has in truth a great deal of important work to do."

My friend had to wait a moment until I had gone,—obviously in order that we might not communicate with each other outside, — the devil trust such a poet!

The defence-corps men led me back and handed me over to the superintendent. When I was back again in number 60, my eyes hurt me from the unaccustomed light in the street.

And again the minutes and hours dragged on, each one had leaden soles, none was in haste.

I began to read Julius Caesar and remembered his commentaries on the Gallic war. *Gallia omnis divisa est in partes tres*. Napoleon held on to them. What a difference too, between them and the "Germania" of Tacitus. Caesar is like an unconcerned and self-assured mathematician, his reader has a feeling of security and believes, but not in the case of Tacitus. And see the elegant style of which this Napoleon III. was a master. And the knowledge he had. An Emperor.

The room resounded with footsteps, otherwise everybody was still in the grip of Monday's repulsive humour. It was quiet. If somebody made a joke, it was unbecoming and out of place,—nobody even smiled.

At the afternoon exercise I walked with the engineer. He wished that he had a few pounds of dynamite.

After exercise, Mr. Fels again sat down beside me. Did I really think that they, the censorists, would be granted written communication with their families, and would they be allowed to receive visitors. Otherwise, his mind was already at rest. And when we left here, would I do him the pleasure of dining with him and his family. I had really saved his life, he said, by what I had told him the day before.

Then he called Mr. Lamm and told him that if he felt anxious and unhappy he should apply to me for comfort. I was wiser than any rabbi.

"I know, and a very dangerous man" declared Mr. Lamm,—it was clear that he had not properly understood.

I read a little longer. And when it began to get dark, I was glad that this day was coming to an end.

Such a Monday had in truth no other value except that it brought us a little nearer,—to what? To what actually? To freedom? To life? Or perhaps merely to the end of it?

XVIII.

Mr. Fiedler acted as our official newspaper. Day by day he brought in the letters that had arrived, announced who would be transferred from our cell and where, whether there would be many new arrivals in his place, reported the amount of money which had arrived for one and the other, then under the heading of "Miscellaneous News" or "Day by Day" he related something fresh from the interior of the jail, which, by the way, might have been just an anecdote, and then he went to the neighboring cell. The letters which we received were, of course, censored by the examining superintendent. Dr. Frank consistently erased and blackened in the manner of the Czarist censors the name of each man who sent me greetings, the names of people I knew, about whom my correspondent informed me that they were ill, that they had died or merely that they asked whether I needed anything,—such circumspection on the part of a State certainly affects an imprisoned author in a variety of ways.

If money arrived for anybody, Mr. Fiedler announced only the sum,—never the sender. Evidently also a higher regulation prompted by state cautiousness. But that at least brought about humorous situations; somebody received money which he had not expected, as a rule the amounts used to be small, and somebody else kept waiting and waiting, could not and did not wait any longer. During war-time in Austria immoderate quantities of land-sharks appeared on the scene, provisions sharks, (on the railway), pecuniary sharks in the jails. You may have written for money, and received the reply that it had already been sent,—day by day Mr. Fiedler came and reported its arrival, but for you nothing had come. You lodge a complaint—in vain. You ask Mr. Fiedler to have another look in the office, he had a look, there was nothing. But when you began to threaten with a statement to the examining accountant, Mr. Fiedler went once more into the office, and lo and behold: "300 crowns have just arrived for you. Just this moment" or, as Mr. Fiedler good-naturedly added, it had been carelessly entered up, and now they have discovered it.

(To be continued.)

Current Topics

Due to Postal Regulations we are mailing, under separate cover, a new map of Czechoslovakia drawn to conform to definite and permanent boundaries. This is a supplement to our December issue.

We have on hand a few extra copies which we shall be pleased to forward to those interested on receipt of 25 cents, in stamps, at 106 East 19th Street, New York City, to cover mailing charges.

To new subscribers, those not on our mailing list, who send their subscriptions during December, we will send this map free. These should be sent to our New York Office as the Chicago office is not equipped to handle them.

CZECHOSLOVAKIA.

By Herbert A. Miller, Professor of Sociology, Oberlin College. (In the N. Y. "Times").

Hopes are brighter in some countries than in others. Of all the nations which I visited the Czechoslovak Republic seemed to be in the best condition. It has adopted and is living under its new Constitution. It is looking forward to an army on a peace basis.

The Czechoslovaks were the only people I saw who seemed to be happy. They have gone further toward getting back to work than their neighbors, and have made a better beginning of trading across the new boundary lines.

A NEW FLOTATION.

A prominent Wall Street investment house is marketing the securities of the "Land Bank of Bohemia". This security really is a participation certificate in mortgage loans made by the bank, secured by the mortgaged property, by the capital and surplus of the bank and by a further guarantee of the province of Bohemia. Actually, this is one of the best forms of investment in Czechoslovakia. The bankers who floated this loan state that the issue has been successfully placed with American investors.

"BOHEMIAN DAY" AT WACO.

During the annual fair week at the cotton palace in Waco, one day is set aside as "Bohemian Day." This year November 3rd was so designated and as the "Waco Tribune" observes, the Bohemians "filled the palace grounds with a record crowd."

In the afternoon a general meeting was held over which Judge Method Pazdral presided. The speakers were Prof. J. J. Zmrhal, of Chicago, and Dr. Vladimir Smetana, Czechoslovak Commercial Attache.

At the Hotel Raleigh, in the evening, the visitors sat down to a banquet. Judge Pazdral acted as toastmaster. The speakers of the evening and their themes were:

"WHY WE ARE HERE"—Hon. C. H. Chernosky, Rosenberg, Texas.

"BECAUSE WE ARE GLAD THAT YOU ARE HERE"—Mayor Ben C. Richards, Waco, Texas.

"THE TIE THAT BINDS US HERE"—Father A. P. Heckman, Waco, Texas.

"OVER HERE"—Hon. Roy Christian, Waco, Texas.

"LOOKING STRAIGHT AHEAD"—Dr. V. Smetana, Washington, D. C.

"FOUNDATION OF CITIZENSHIP"—Prof. B. B. Cobb, Waco, Texas.

"THE EXPOSITION THAT DRAWS US HERE"—Hon. W. V. Crawford, Waco, Texas.

"CZECHOSLOVAKIA"—Prof. Jaroslav Zmrhal, Chicago, Ill.

It was generally agreed that the day was most enjoyable, thanks to the committee, Messrs Otto Stehlik, Wichita Falls, J. F. Urbanovský, August J. Morris, Ben. Wancura and Robert Cervenska, of West, and F. H. Woytek of Waco. The program was extremely interesting and instructive. The Texas newspapers devoted much space to the events of this day.

On November 4th the local organization of the Czechoslovak National Alliance held its annual meeting. The reports of the treasurer, secretary and auditing committee were submitted.

During the year the Czechoslovaks of Texas held a "Tag Day" which netted about \$14,000 to the treasury of this organization. This certainly must be regarded as a notable achievement.

A special committee, with S. L. Kostohryz, of Corpus Christi, as Chairman, was appointed to work out a program of future activities. The details are to be supplied by this committee and shall concern higher education, commercial, agricultural and literary development of all Czechoslovaks in Texas.

Then the election of officers for the ensuing year were held with the following results:

Method Pazdral, President; Otto Stehlik, 1st Vice-Pres.; F. G. Kupec, 2nd Vice-Pres.; J. J. Franken, Treasurer; Rudolf Kolar, Secretary.

The work and purposes of the Texas organization are certainly a model for other state organizations to follow.

TEN CZECHOSLOVAK YOUNG WOMEN SEEKING EDUCATION.

Almost every week brings to the port of New York a large delegation of young men and women from some part of Europe or an even more

remote section of the globe who are seeking education in the United States. The most recent of these bands of educational pilgrims was made up of ten Czechoslovakian girls, who came through New York on their way to Cleveland, Ohio, where they will enter the Schauffler School to study to become workers among their own people both here and abroad.

For the first time in many months, even years perhaps, the Czechoslovak girls tasted good rye bread, which they love much better than the finest white bread or the most delicious hot biscuit or muffins. On the army transport they had eaten white bread for twenty-one days and were not in the least converted to American food. Before coming to this country they ate the inferior bread, which since the war has been very black and a mixture of so many kinds of flour that it bore little resemblance to pre-war bread.

Miss Polakova took them to a Czechoslovak centre, where they were treated to all the wieners and rye bread they could eat, as well as quantities of "buchty", the little cakes with poppy seeds in them, which they like far better than French or American pastry.

Afterwards the girls saw New York under the guidance of Miss Polakova and testified to their enjoyment of the subway rush, which they looked upon as an exciting game comparable to football. — The (N. Y.) Sun.

CZECHOSLOVAKS ENTERTAINED AT DINNER.

At a recent meeting of the Unitarian Woman's alliance and at the parish dinner following, Czechoslovaks were honor guests and in turn entertained the alliance and church with a fine program. The national colors were prominent in a bouquet of red and white carnations. A display of Bohemian hand embroidery, lace, dishes, woven articles, books and pictures gave the interest of a fine foreign bazaar.

In the afternoon Mrs. Joseph Hruska, who is a life member in the Woman's Club of Prague sketched the history of the Czechs and gave interesting accounts of Czechs prominent in the early life of America, paying at the close of her talk a special tribute to Prof. Masaryk, now president of the republic of Czechoslovakia.

The after-dinner program opened with a group of songs by Mrs. Mark Vilim.

Prof. Joseph Vilim, who offered two fine groups of violin selections, was for many years at the head of a violin conservatory in Chicago, and has come to make his home in Coronado. He was also a member of the Thomas orchestra.

Mr. Vilim, Jr., who accompanied for the last numbers, was, before coming to California, organist in one of Chicago's largest churches. Miss Laura Folda also did pleasing work as an accompanist.

Miss Solin wore the national costumes of Bohemia, explaining its details.

The address of the evening given by Clarence Novotny, sketched again the history of the Czechs,

emphasizing the career of the soldiers in Russia in the world war, and the founding of the new republic.

Other guests who spoke informally were John Novotny, Frank Pracna of San Jose, Joseph Hruska, Mr. and Mrs. Folda, Mr. and Mrs. Solin, Mrs. Hall, Mrs. Vilim and Mrs. V. F. Safranek, wife of Prof. Safranek, the composer and band leader.

—SAN JOSE NEWS.

Czechoslovakia built three thousand schools during the reconstruction period and made the public school the best building in each town. Poland built no schools, but spent its money on an orgy of militarism and is now enjoying itself. — Labor Advocate (Tacoma, Wash.)

"IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA AS GUEST OF THE GOVERNMENT"

*A New Lecture
by*

FRANK BUCKLAND DILNOT

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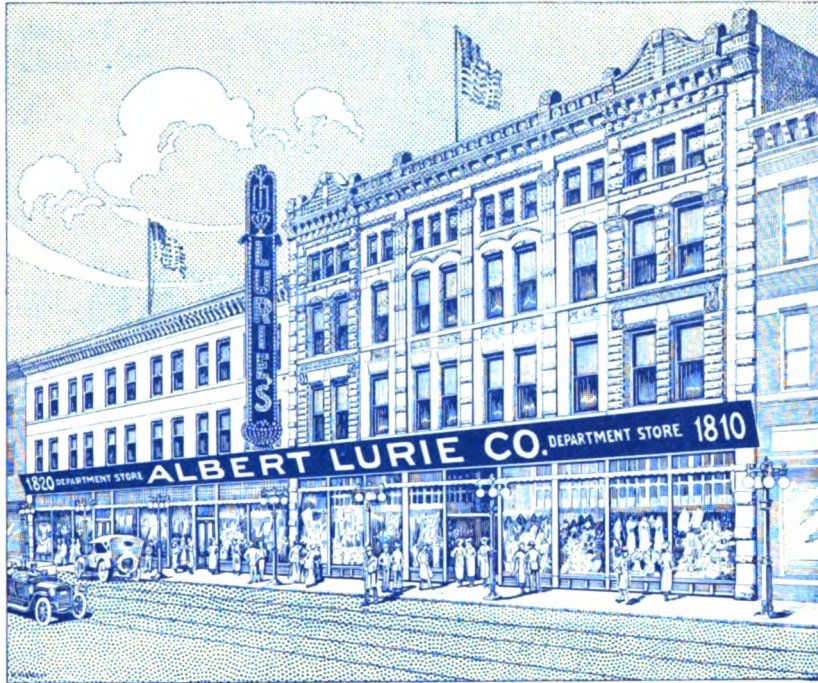
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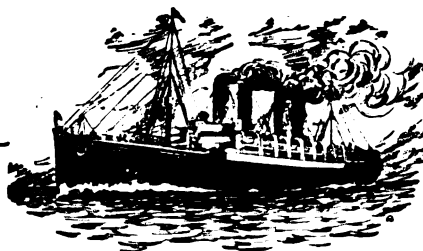
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