

CZECH PATRIOTISM KEY TO ELECTION

Mightier Than Politics in Republic About to Choose Parliament

HUNGARIAN INTRIGUE SEEN

By R. F. KOSPOTH Special Correspondent Evening Public Ledger in Switzerland

Geneva, April 11.—The Czech-Slovak nation has just celebrated, with universal feelings of reverence and admiration, the seventieth birthday of President Masaryk, the grand old patriot and statesman whose compelling personality outspurs party strife in the young republic.

Patriotism is still mightier than politics in Prague, though the Czechs, like true Slavs, are inveterate politicians; and pride in their regained national independence is today the chief, almost the only asset of the nation, risen from the ruins of Habsburg tyranny in their struggle for democratic existence against bolshevism.

This struggle is as intense in Czechoslovakia as in Poland and Jugoslavia, but all independent observers I have met agree that the Czechs are a level-headed, business-like race who are really doing constructive work, and realize that they will "make good," unless chaos overwhelms them from outside.

Having adopted a constitution which in many points strikingly resembles the American constitution, the National Assembly at Prague has decided that the elections to the Senate and the Chamber of Deputies shall take place early in April. The electoral campaign has begun and is being conducted with all the vehemence of the Slav temperament, but it is a significant fact that the hostile parties have undertaken to abstain from political agitation among the soldiers of the army, although the latter are electors and will cast their vote like all other citizens.

This unanimous resolution not to demoralize the army by politics in these critical times proves how completely national considerations outweigh political interests even with the Czech Slovaks.

No Bolshevism in Czechoslovakia A Czech diplomat with whom I talked today—sure of the capable, energetic young men who worked obscurely for Czech independence in Switzerland during the war and whose enterprising optimism is now making the diplomatic service of the new republic—expressed the opinion that the coming elections will result in a strong re-enforcement of the conservative parties, who believe in maintaining private ownership on the one hand and of the radical Socialists on the other. It is believed that these two extremes will be pretty evenly balanced in the new Parliament and the government may consequently be expected to adopt a progressive policy of conciliation between them.

As the Czech Socialists, although advocates of socialization, are not blind followers of the Russian Bolshevists, their probable growth in strength does not constitute any direct menace of bolshevism to the country.

"There will be no bolshevism in Czechoslovakia," asserts this Czech diplomat, "unless Poland or Germany should go Bolshevist. If Red armies should ever arrive at our frontiers it is impossible to say what might happen. The future of our country depends a great deal not only politically, but also economically, on developments in Germany and Poland. With the Poles we have territorial differences and the Germans we are socially hostile and distrustful."

but our interests are to some extent bound up with the welfare of both. As a matter of fact the Germans or rather, German-Austrians, who form a considerable part of the population of Prague, are already rapidly growing reconciled to Czech administration, which does not seek to suppress their national feelings. Many of them are not sorry to enjoy the privilege of Czech nationality in these days, when the Teuton is at a discount all over the world, and to be able to do business as Czechs with allied countries. So the Prague government anticipates no trouble from this quarter for the present. The elections will take place under the democratic safeguard of universal, equal, direct and secret suffrage, and this applies to Prague as well as to the remotest village in Slovakia.

It is necessary to lay stress on this fact, because a very subtle Hungarian intrigue is on foot to persuade the allied statesmen that the Slovaks have been united against their will with the Czechs; that they are being oppressed and terrorized by the Czechs, and that it is their wish to form an independent state by themselves. The Hungarians are past masters in the management of this sort, and they are spending great sums of money today in the desperate hope of saving Slovakia for Hungary.

A fictitious "Slovak National Council" has been formed at Budapest—by a number of Slovak renegades in Hungarian pay and is filling the world with protests against Czech-Slovak unity. In this plot to establish an independent Slovak state Hungary is following exactly the same tactics as Germany, who is now hastily trying to transform the second and third zones of Schleswig into an "independent" state, and she has reason to fear that the plebiscite will turn out as unfavorably for her there as it did in the first zone.

In reality the Slovaks and the Czechs are, by language and race, one people. The Slovaks hate their former brutal Hungarian masters even more than the Czechs do the Austrians. Finally, the Slovaks have an opportunity at the coming elections to elect a great number of their representatives to the Prague Parliament, who will speak for their countrymen more authoritatively than the faked "national council" in Budapest.

IL CONCILIO DEGLI ALLEATI IN ITALIA

La Conferenza di San Remo Sara' Presieduta dall'Onorevole Nitti

Published and Distributed Under PERMIT NO. 347 Authorized by the act of October 3, 1917, on the part of the Postoffice at Philadelphia, Pa. A. S. BURLESON, Postmaster General.

Parigi, 10 aprile.—I problemi sorti dalla situazione in Germania avranno la precedenza nelle discussioni che avranno luogo alla conferenza dei Primi Ministri delle nazioni Alleate a San Remo, secondo quanto annunzia l'Echo di Parigi. Le conversazioni sulla situazione nella Valle Ruhr, le quali sono state iniziate a Londra, dovranno continuare ed una risposta sara' concertata sulla domanda della Germania relativamente alla proroga di tre mesi per la riduzione dell'esercito in base alle disposizioni del trattato di Versailles.

Nella conferenza predetta sara' tentato di raggiungere una sistemazione riguardo la questione di Fiume e si attende che le conversazioni che avranno luogo durante le riunioni riportate in completa armonia tra gli uomini di stato Alleati.

Il Presidente del Consiglio dei Ministri Italiani, On. Nitti, presidera' la conferenza di San Remo. Secondo un suggerimento di Lloyd George si tentera' di escludere i giornalisti perche' il predetto avrebbe dichiarato che i corrispondenti dei giornali sono sempre indiscreti.

Un dispaccio da Londra annunzia che Lloyd George partirà oggi alla volta di San Remo. Egli fara' il viaggio per mare.

Roma, 10 aprile.—Da telegrammi giunti da Londra si rileva che l'Italia e' perfettamente d'accordo con l'Inghilterra relativamente alla occupazione francese di Francoforte. Il Ministro degli Esteri, On. Scelasio, avrebbe dichiarato che il punto di vista dell'Italia coincideva perfettamente con quello dell'Inghilterra, ma non e' stato alcun scambio di vedute diplomatiche in completa armonia tra gli uomini di stato Alleati.

L'on. Nitti, ieri l'altro, ha ricevuto il cancelliere della repubblica Austriaca ed esso ha discusso sulle importanti questioni finanziarie e sul problema di sottrarre l'Austria e fornire il materiale greggio.

Un telegramma da Trieste annunzia che lo sciopero generale di Fiume e' stato composto e che tutti gli operai sono tornati al lavoro. Il Concilio nazionale avrebbe accolto tutte le domande degli scioperanti.

Seven of the workers implicated in the assault were arrested Wednesday and brought to Vienna, whereupon the Neuenkirchen workmen struck and held a great demonstration. They sent a deputation to Vienna to demand the immediate release of their comrades.

Government Demands Punishment of Austrian Toolers Vienna, April 10.—(By A. P.)—A serious situation has been brought about by Switzerland's demand for the immediate punishment of workmen who assaulted a Swiss factory manager at Neuenkirchen, 138 miles south of Vienna, a month ago. The demand was accompanied by a threat of withdrawal from the negotiations now going on for the return of Austria to the Allies.

Seven of the workers implicated in the assault were arrested Wednesday and brought to Vienna, whereupon the Neuenkirchen workmen struck and held a great demonstration. They sent a deputation to Vienna to demand the immediate release of their comrades.

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Walkouts Hit N. Y. Passenger Roads

Continued from Page One regarded as encouraging was the delivery at the stockyards of 170 cars of cattle, almost twice as many as have been moved on any one day since the strike was called April 1.

While available figures indicated between 35,000 and 40,000 railroad men had joined the unauthorized strikes, railroad managers here estimated today that at least half a million workers in other lines had been forced out of employment by the freight tieup. In Chicago, 50,000 packing house workers were idle. Three thousand packers in other lines had been forced out of employment by the freight tieup. In Chicago, 50,000 packing house workers were idle. Three thousand packers in other lines had been forced out of employment by the freight tieup.

Freight Blocked at Detroit Although passenger, mail and milk trains at Detroit were moving virtually on normal schedules, according to railroad officials, the tieup of freight movement, due to the unauthorized strike of switchmen in yards and in other Michigan cities was virtually complete this morning.

A meeting of 500 yardmen employed on Cleveland railroads adjourned at noon today after the men had voted to go on strike at 2 o'clock this afternoon. The men were from the Erie, Pennsylvania and Big Four Railroads, it was said.

At the same time it was learned that the "first trick gang" of New York Central switchmen, numbering about 100 men in all, voted against a strike at present.

Canton Men Stop Work All switchmen in the Wheeling and Lake Erie Railroad yards at Canton, O., quit work this morning. The switchmen employed by the railroad in its yards at East Canton, Ohio, voted and officials of the company said there was a chance they would not strike. Baltimore and Ohio switchmen here were still working this morning.

Fear is growing at Toledo that the strike will spread to the ranks of clerks and railroad shopmen. With approximately 5000 switchmen, engineers, men and trainmen out, the freight tieup in Toledo terminals early today continued practically complete. Passenger and mail service still is uninterrupted.

Switchmen and yardmen of the Pennsylvania Railroad at Alliance, O., numbering 325, joined the strike this morning, completely tying up freight traffic between 12,000 and 15,000 men will be thrown out of work by the close of industries.

Railroad switchmen throughout the Shenandoah valley, in western Pennsylvania, struck this morning, completely

tying up the yards at Sharon, Farrell, Sharpville and other nearby points. The tie-up at Scranton is so complete that a number of steel plants were closed, while others were compelled to curtail operations. Strikers declared that unless a settlement was reached within twenty-four hours mines employing no less than 10,000 men would be idle.

Steel mills in the Mahoning valley also are preparing to close down as the result of a strike at Youngstown and other points and company officials said 35,000 workers would be idle by night-fall.

Extension of the strike of insurgent switchmen to minor railroad centers in western New York and northern Pennsylvania was shown by reports received at Buffalo today and local industries, already short of fuel and other supplies, began to curtail operations.

Traffic on Erie Crippled Walkouts at Hornell and Salamanca caused a virtual suspension of freight traffic on the Erie. All lines at Niagara Falls were operating short handed. A strike of the day crews on the Grand Trunk at Bridgeburg marked the first spread of the strike into Canada.

Freight traffic in the St. Louis district remains at a standstill today and 3000 stockyard workers were thrown out of work at East St. Louis. Railroad officials admitted that 5000 men on twenty-seven roads were out in this district.

Both freight and express shipments were reported under an embargo at Indianapolis. Strikers declared that a 100 per cent walkout had occurred at Kansas City.

Switchmen on all roads operating out of Fort Worth, Texas, walked out last night, tying up freight movement and impeding passenger service.

Hard Struggle on West Coast Railroad officials on the Pacific coast struggled today to keep coast and transcontinental passenger trains moving, while awaiting the result of an ultimatum that striking employes would lose their positions unless they returned to work by 4 p. m. Switchmen and

yardmen were reported on strike in thirteen terminal points in California and Oregon.

Yardmen at Minneapolis and St. Paul, Minn., and Danville, Ill., voted not to join the insurgents.

FEDERAL OFFICIALS MAY ACT IN CRISIS Washington, April 10.—(By A. P.)—Should the strike of railroad employees threaten a paralysis of transportation, the federal government would have to intervene, it was said today by high administration officials. The strike is not regarded as having reached that stage, however, and government officers who are keeping in close touch with the situation are of the opinion that the authorized leaders of the unions will be able to control it without government interference.

President Wilson is being kept advised as to developments. He still is at work on the appointment of the railroad labor board, but White House officials said it was difficult to find the right men to represent the public who would give up their business to devote their time to the board's work.

No reports of any curtailment of mail service had been received today by the Postoffice Department from the division superintendents over the country. It was said that at yet passenger and mail trains had been affected but little.

BROTHERHOOD CHIEF WELCOMES INQUIRY Cleveland, April 10.—(By A. P.)—W. G. Lee, president of the Brotherhood of Railroad Trainmen, today telegraphed Senator Cummins at Washington, replying to the latter's message informing Mr. Lee that the Senate had ordered an investigation of the Chicago yardmen's strike. Senator Cummins asked for addresses of Chicago leaders, and said the hearing would begin next Tuesday and that witnesses would be subpoenaed by wire.

Mr. Lee's reply said the Chicago strike was started by John G. Runau, president of the insurgent organization, because of a personal grievance which had no connection at the start with wage questions.

"I welcome the investigation," Mr. Lee wired, "but protest against any recognition of Runau or his insurgent organization, because the old brotherhoods will carry out the terms of agreements made by their constitutional committees who are co-operating to the fullest extent with operating officials with whom they have schedule relations."

"Any recognition of this insurgent organization will probably jeopardize the influence of legitimate organizations over the large majority of our membership who are loyal to the government and will further the 'one big union' idea that is the basic principle back of this illegal action."

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