

REFORMATION ON IN CZECHO-SLOVAKIA

The remarkable dispatch below is taken from the Christian Science Monitor of March 30, showing that the Pope is losing his grip.

Special from Monitor Bureau.

NEW YORK, March 30.—Under the heading, "The Religious Movement in Czechoslovakia: a National Church," the following statement was made public here today by the Czechoslovak Consulate General:

The appearance of a national church in Czechoslovakia rejecting the papal claims but organized on historical lines cannot fail to win the sympathetic interest of Americans.

A hundred years ago Czechoslovakia, as a nation, seemed dead. The triple alliance of the Roman church, the Germans, and the House of Hapsburg rule undisturbed. But with the French revolution, Czech nationality, like all the other submerged nationalities of Europe, began to revive. The Czech language had seemed to be dying, the tongue only of the peasantry. It was recovered and today its use is universal throughout Czechoslovakia.

National Spirit Aroused.

With parliamentary institutions Czech national parties appeared, claiming the autonomy of Bohemia within a federal Austrian state.

Through all this period the Roman ecclesiastical authorities were solidly anti-national. The bishops were Germans, or Germanized Czechs from the Court of Vienna. The church was, and is, extremely wealthy, and shares the odium attaching to the great absentee landowners, though no specific charges appear to have been

brought against ecclesiastical owners of property.

In educational matters the church was merely obstructive. The name of Huss was nowhere to be found in the government history schoolbooks. The moral tone of the clergy was low, and a large number of the country priests were irregularly married. After the revolution of 1918 the situation was radically altered. The House of Hapsburg and German rule were gone. The church, deprived of its allies, seemed unable to decide whether to support the republic or to work for a restoration. In any event it took no very effective steps in either direction. But within the ranks of the clergy there was a strong movement to secure the ecclesiastical liberties which had been long demanded by the Young Czech party. An appeal to the Vatican was met by an uncompromising refusal and a large number of priests who had regularized their unions or newly contracted marriage was excommunicated. The establishment of the Czechoslovak church followed.

The first thing to be made clear is that the Czechoslovaks are not old Catholics. Their church in Prague is instructive. All the side altars are stripped and unused. The many pictures of the saints are covered by new paintings placed in front of them illustrative of the life of Christ, and painted well and in a very modern manner. Nowhere in Prague does one observe the hideous oleographs of the continent.

Modify Ancient Forms.

Mass on Sundays is said facing the people at a special altar placed at the entrance to the choir. The Roman rite, translated in Czech, and ceremonial in a modified form is used. The priest is vested only in a cassock, on which is embroidered a red chalice, the Hussite symbol. The only statues in the church are a fine bust of Huss, and, curiously, a very large statue of St. George trampling on the dragon.

The clergy are elected by the people. Priests leaving the Roman church are not permitted to officiate until elected—an obviously wise precaution—and in future ordination, candidates will have to be elected before they can be ordained. Confession is no longer an obligation.

In their agreement with the Serbians the Czechoslovaks reserved the right to deal with the Church of England and the Czech brethren as they thought fit. English priests have received invitations to celebrate at their altars since the decision of the Patriarch Meletius. With the Czech brethren they co-operate in matters of education.

Czech Brethren a Community.

The Czech brethren are a community formed in the fifteenth century. When Joseph II issued his edict of toleration, the only permitted forms of Protestantism were the Lutheran and Calvinist confessions. Consequently, the various surviving Czech Protestant congregations had to register themselves under one or the other name. After the revolution, they, to the number of 170,000, united as the Czech brethren bound together by the Czech confession. The Czech confession was drawn up to unite Utraquists, Taborites, and Lutherans in resistance to the romanizing policy of the Hapsburgs. The Czech Brethren now number 250,000, and are organized on a Presbyterian model. They have this great advantage over the Czechoslovak church, that their pastors have been educated mostly at one or more of the foreign universities, while the Czechoslovak priests have only received the education of a Roman seminary.

Free-Thinkers Multiply.

Of course, the great majority of the people of Bohemia are still Roman Catholics, baptized and married by the Roman clergy. But, in the towns, at any rate, a very large part of the population is free-thinking, a larger proportion than is usual on the continent. Many men are laxly Catholic in practice and anti-clerical in their sympathies, like many men in other continental countries, but with an added bias due to historical and national causes.

What future lies before the Czechoslovak church no man can say. But it is not likely that the laxly Catholic population of Bohemia will be won back by Rome which has for centuries been hostile to the Czech nation. It is still less probable that in the present state of Protestantism in Europe, the Czech Brethren will win over any great proportion of the population. Either religion in Bohemia will continue to decay, or the present religious movement will result in the firm establishment of a free, Catholic, national Czechoslovak church.

NEGROES ALARMED BY ENEMY'S LIES

Western American Special. FREEPORT, LONG ISLAND, N. Y., April 11.—Negroes of this community have formed an order to combat the Klan. The Catholics and Jews have stirred them up until they believe they are in imminent danger of being lynched.

PROCLAIM WAR ON FEAR IN ALL ITS FORMS

(Continued from page 4)

training, because of orders from their master, the Pope, who aims to rule the world.

The Romans have made a systematic and successful effort to capture the public school throughout the country, by substituting their teachers, and in places where they are strong enough they employ "Sisters" wearing the garb of their order. Priests are used as teachers in some places. Suppose a Protestant teacher applied for employment in a Catholic parochial school! What a laugh instantly would be evoked!

The Romans are adhering to their ancient policy of dividing the Protestant forces in order to conquer. They are in the Masonic Order for that purpose. They are boring into everything for that express purpose. They are being stopped by the Klan. For this reason, because the Klan raised its shield against political Romanism, because the Klan is striving for true Americanism, for the ideals of Washington, Jefferson, Jackson, Lincoln and Roosevelt, the foreign rabble in our country, organized and impudent, is making war upon our Order and using every cowardly artifice and expedient to deceive the people as to their true and infamous motives.

The Western leader of the Knights of Columbus, "Sir" Joe Scott of Los Angeles, comes to the metropolis of Oregon and proclaims the intention of his Order to defy and nullify the splendid public school law which was adopted by the people by an overwhelming majority. He proclaims for his Order the treasonable intention of refusing obedience to the laws of this great State. He proclaims that the authorities of Oregon cannot build jails "large enough" and "OFTEN enough" to hold his valiant warriors. What does this declaration mean? How can this man-escape arrest and prosecution, when we fill our jails with friendless "wobblies" for offenses most trivial in comparison? Shall the people of Oregon supinely submit to such an outrage?

When "Sir" Joe says the prisons cannot be built "OFTEN ENOUGH" he means, of course, that his deluded followers will destroy them. He evidently means that an effort will be made to reproduce in this State and perhaps throughout America the methods of hell that are ravaging Ireland. "Sir" Joe should be laid by the heels and haled into court and be forced to explain his meaning in the prisoner's dock.

The people of Oregon will not stand for any such infamous and insolent proclamation. "The Constitution must and shall be preserved," and the eminent propagandist of the foreign Pope has no right to immunity and special privilege. Promptly after his anarchistic speech he should have been arrested and slammed into jail, to await trial under our laws like any other offender. We demand that the law be enforced. BY THE EDITOR.

JOIN THE ROYAL RIDERS

The Royal Riders of the Red Robe is closely allied with the Knights of the Ku Klux Klan, and is for all naturalized, white, male, Protestant gentiles of 18 years and above. It is founded upon the principles of the Christian religion, and Protestantism, and has for its object the education and uplift of humanity.

It stands for:

An absolute and unqualified allegiance to the Government and Constitution of the United States of America, and the enforcement of law and order;

The protection of our homes, the sanctity of womanhood, the open Bible, the preservation and perpetuation of our public schools, in which true Americanism is taught;

The supremacy of the white race, and is strongly opposed to intermarriage with any of the colored races;

The separation of Church and State, and tolerance in religion;

The purification of civil and political conditions that have too long been controlled and dominated by corrupt politicians, and outside influence;

Real Klannishness among its members, and an unselfish service, believing that by these principles it is working out the ideal of the Great Master, "The Brotherhood of Man";

For justice, and a square deal for all, regardless of race, color, or religion;

The support only of those men, who aspire to public office, that are four square, men who will play the game fairly and honestly;

Men who will seek the greatest good for the greatest number, and not the advancement of selfish interest.

The Organization desires only those men who are real HEMEN; men who are willing to play the game with their brother man, and who can at all times be depended on.

Do you, who have made America your home, and have sworn allegiance to it, desire to join your brother Protestants in this great movement to make America for Americans, and by an unselfish service, and interest, see to it that no one but Americans shall have anything to say as to the policy and Government of the Country?

If such is your desire, do not hesitate to cast in your lot with us, and help carry out the IDEALS AND PRINCIPLES outlined herein. For further information, address

P. O. BOX 118, PORTLAND, OREGON.

THOUSANDS QUITTING CATHOLIC HIERARCHY

(Press Dispatch)

VIENNA, April 1.—Easter messages read in the churches today declared that never has Austria seen such a move of apostasy as since the new year. About 14,000 Catholics gave up their faith this year, according to the church authorities.

It was said that 5000 of these were caused by the rigid Catholic divorce rules. The other 9000 were the consequence of the free-thinking campaign. The church intends to start a vigorous movement to counter the socialists, beginning with a plea for better and more religion.

M. & F. Unfair Say Portland Unionists

Meyer & Frank's Department store still is on labor's unfair list, by unanimous vote of the Portland Central Labor Council, representing all the trades, Monday, Dec. 11. The reasons given are these, chiefly:

Starvation wages paid to 5000 employes, mostly women and girls, who get the apprentice minimum of \$9 a week. It was unanimously declared that no woman or girl, however economical she might be, could live decently in Portland, or elsewhere, on such pitifully small wages.

Enactment of unreasonable degree of service. Archaic and impudent refusal of J. Meyer, alleged head of the firm, to consider these grievances of labor with a view to amicable adjustment.

The largest part of the patronage of Meyer & Frank, amounting to millions of dollars annually, is said to come from the slender purses of the poor.

For these reasons the working folk of Portland have declared Meyer & Frank to be unfair, and are imploring a right-thinking public to consider their grievances.

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