

Bolshevism in Vienna Flourishes on Hunger, Idleness and Neglect of People

AUSTRIANS TURN TO BOLSHEVISTS IN DESPERATION

Failure of Government to Provide Work, Food and Clothing, Drives Soldiers to "Reds."

SOUP KITCHENS FEED MANY

Man, Prosperous Before War Came, Tells of Struggle to Keep Alive Now.

By A. H. Decker
Special Cable to The Journal and Chicago Daily News.
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Vienna, Feb. 27 (delayed).—Today I saw the human stuff from which the Bolshevists are made. With two friends I walked past a soup kitchen in the central part of town, where a dismal line was already stretching around the corner. I wanted to talk to one of these men and learn just why they were waiting for hours in the cold for the opportunity to buy a ladle of soup. We walked past the line several times before we found a man who would answer the purpose—a man with intelligence who would not resent our request. We selected a hatchet faced young fellow with haunted eyes. He was fairly well dressed in serge with an army overcoat, slightly changed so as to look like a civilian garment. We went to a restaurant where, though it was a meatless day, it was possible to find something more substantial than soup. The food loosened the man's tongue as he ate until he talked freely. His coat was off and I could see the utter wretchedness of the man, who had tried against fate to maintain a standing. His clothes were made for someone else for summer wear. His tie was frayed and his shirt in rags. This is the story he told.

Was Prosperous Before War
"Before the war I was a salesman in a drygoods shop, earning the then big salary of 500 crowns (\$100) a month. With this I could live like a prince in cheap Vienna. It was an exceptional salary, because I worked hard and made good. Then the war came and you can be assured that no one asked my consent before starting this ruination.

"Nevertheless, I did what I thought was my duty. I was wounded twice, once through the lungs. This wound still bothers me so that I cannot drink or smoke or be exposed to bad air.

"During the war I first saw for myself how rotten was our government and how little it cared for us, though we were giving our lives. We barely had clothes enough and hardly anything to eat. During six months I went without any underclothing. Then I hap-

THE FOUNDERS OF "THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS"



—From the Star and Stripes, Official Newspaper of the American Expeditionary Forces.

pened to find some articles of this kind in a storehouse on a farm and took a shirt. I was caught and given 21 days' confinement. When the armistice came I was given 3 crowns (\$1.50) as my back pay for a fortnight as a corporal and was told that I could go.

"Since then it has been a terrible struggle to live. The soup kitchen where you found me is the best in town because it is aided by rich women. However, I must obtain several portions in order to get enough. Thus I await my turn in the line and then return to the end of the line. I do this several times each noon, getting an extra portion to

CZECHO-SLOVAKS FACE HUGE FOOD SHORTAGE CRISIS

"Hurry! We Need Food," Is Cry to Peace Conference; Promised Help Is Not Forthcoming.

RELIEF PLANS GOING WRONG

Look to American Genius to Solve Problems of Starvation in Face of Unusual Conditions.

By Harry Hansen
Special Cable to The Journal and Chicago Daily News.
(Copyright, 1918, by The Chicago Daily News.)
Paris, March 8.—Czecho-Slovakia is facing the first great crisis in her young political life. The brave ally which contributed so much to bring about the downfall of Austria-Hungary is here on the brink of disaster unless the al-

lies cut red tape and come promptly to her aid. "Hurry, we need food!" goes out to the peace conference sitting placidly at the Quai d'Orsay. While this body is debating frontier lines, delegates, officials and others are arriving in Paris daily from Prague. All these have but one cry:

"We need food. Unless we get it at once, Bolshevism is likely to get the upper hand. American food is not arriving and the promised help is not forthcoming. Vienna is better fed than we are and dances nightly. Prague is suffering from slow starvation. The workers are discontented and Bolshevism is gaining ground. The greatest crisis in our political life is at hand. These months of spring will see either its success or failure. It must succeed."

Relief Plans Go Wrong
Something along the line of the allied relief plans are going wrong. This is largely due to the lack of transportation, but where the matter is urgent, as in this case, where the life of a people is at stake, it seems as if America should be on the ground with rights to move the rolling stock and get food into an allied country the independence of which has been recognized. It is said that great stocks of food are stored at Trieste and that other stocks are moving into Vienna and German Austria. It appears to be imperative that quick action be obtained by the Americans to see that Czecho-Slovakia gets food, and gets it quickly.

Among the Bohemians who have arrived in Paris is Frank Krupicka, professor in the Commercial academy at Prague. He is a cultured man, speaks a number of languages and is a careful

observer. The professor informs me that when he left Prague last Monday at 6 o'clock in the afternoon there was not bread enough to go around, absolutely no fat, and no meat and very little flour. The grumbling of the discontented laborers was increasing daily. The officials saw a marked increase of Bolshevistic tendencies in the country.

Spring Months Critical

Professor Krupicka explained the situation thus:
"It is now more than three months since the armistice was signed, but our people are worse off than before. If Bohemia can stand the strain until after the crops are harvested, then she is saved, for the country is rich and raises good harvests. These spring months are critical and all depends upon the quick arrival of food. Vienna is getting more food from America today than is Prague. Laboring men are consequently discontented, and this feeling is increased by our compatriots who were taken as prisoners to Russia and who are returning daily. Many of them have adopted Bolshevist ideas and are now spreading the new doctrines among the Bohemians. In particular, work of this kind is done among the coal miners of Kladno, where the agitator Muna is extremely active. The coal mines there are working, but the means of transport are so bad that Prague often is without coal. At present we get a ration of 60 pounds of coal a week, though during the war we only got 40 pounds a week. Today we have not a drop of milk for the children, and not even for our hospital."

Cost of Feeds Is High
"In Prague eggs cost 3 crowns (43 cents) apiece, butter 90 to 100 crowns (\$18 to \$20) a kilogram (two pounds).

Fat, when it is possible to get it, costs from 200 to 300 crowns (\$40 to \$60) a kilogram. This shows the desperate straits of our country and its need for immediate help."

Professor Krupicka drew an interesting picture of the war on the different social strata.
"The farmers of Bohemia fared best," he said. "For instance, when you want to buy something of a farmer he makes the price 100 crowns (\$20) and your hat or 100 crowns and your shoes, always adding an article of wearing apparel to the price. Hence the farmers are well clothed. The citizens in this manner lost most of their daughters' dowries. In Bohemia every family tries to give its daughter a dowry. These dowries were spent during the war and hence it will be difficult for these girls to get married. It is true that wages have gone up, but they are only twice as large as they were, whereas prices have gone up 10 times what they were before the war."

Says Red Armies Will Overrun All Europe

Stockholm, March 8.—(I. N. S.)—A speaker addressed a meeting in Moscow declaring Red armies will soon be shooting in the states of Paris, London and Rome, according to a dispatch received here today.
Seasoned slabwood and inside wood, green stamps for cash. Holman Fuel Co. Main 551, A-2355—Adv.

DOORS OPEN 10:45

Well, well!

Here's that comical feller again; not as a small town guy this time, but as a college grind who is scared to death of girls—all girls!

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Autonomous Jewish State in Palestine Is Highly Probable

Special Cable to The Journal and Chicago Daily News.
(Copyright, 1918, by Chicago Daily News Co.)
Paris, March 8.—The establishment of an autonomous Jewish state in Palestine is practically assured. The peace conference is agreed on the establishment of ancient Palestine from Dan to Beersheba under the mandate of Great Britain.

While the full details still remain to be settled, it is practically certain that this state will not be under the Arabs or have to acknowledge the sovereignty of the king of Hedjaz.

This became known recently after the council of 10 had taken up the Zion question, which was presented by the Zionist committee, composed of Sokolov, Weisman, Levi and Andre Spure.

Andre Tardieu gave great credit to the United States for advancing the cause of Zionism.

Classes in Private Homes
Elkhart, Kan., March 8.—With all schools closed since October 11, on account of the influenza ban, the Elkhart high schools have begun recitations in private homes. Juniors and seniors already are attending classes, and the other schools may follow.