

Labor Conference in Paris Agrees Immigration to U. S. Must Be Limited

POLAND IS CUT OFF AND TROOPS ARE HANDICAPED

Invasion of Czechs on the One Hand and Activities of Bolsheviks Make Situation Bad.

INSIDE REVIEW IS GIVEN

Germany Will Not Permit the Poles to Cross German Occupied Territory.

By Anthony Casarecki
Special Cable to The Journal and Chicago Daily News.
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Oswiecim, Poland, Jan. 28, by Courier to Paris, Feb. 6.—From thorough personal investigations on the spot I believe that I am able to give herewith the first complete account of the bitter and regrettable conflict between the Czechs and Poles in the Teschen coal region. I say I believe I am able, because it is impossible to foresee when this dispatch will reach its destination. Poland at present is practically cut off from communication with the outside world. The Czechs, by invading Silesia, and taking the principal railroad, telegraph and industrial lines, have closed the Oswiecim-Oderberg route which the couriers of the Polish government, as well as those of the American government have used in going to Vienna, whence they forwarded telegrams and messages and official pouches to Paris and other places.

Germany in the Way
Couriers can go as far as Oswiecim, but then they must pass into German occupied territory via Katowitz, whence they connect with Oderberg and then Vienna. But Germany does not permit the Polish government to send couriers through that territory because the relations between the Polish and German governments have been broken off since the Poles who lived before the war in that part of Poland under German rule have been trying to drive out the German military from their cities and villages.

At the other end of Poland the Ukrainians prevent direct communication with Roumania. Both Czech and Ukrainian forces also block connection with Hungary. The Bolsheviks, who continue to menace Poland on the old Russian-Polish frontier, prevent communications in that direction.

For one hour each night Prime Minister Paderewski and General Pilsudski can communicate by wireless from Warsaw to the Eiffel tower in Paris on diplomatic business, but otherwise they cannot communicate across the frontiers. Wounded Polish soldiers hurried in freight cars from the new fighting lines and crowds of frightened refugees from Oderberg, Teschen, Karwin, Dzialosiecz and other places in Silesia, fleeing to Warsaw, and Polish soldiers marching in the direction of the firing lines, brought me again at Oswiecim face to face with the fact that the horrors of war continue in Poland.

Voting Is Prevented
The occupation by Czech soldiers of Silesian territory in which the population is strongly Polish began January 23, three days before the Polish election of constitutional convention delegates thus preventing voting in the occupied territory.

The Czech occupation also resulted in cutting Poland off from the outside world at the very time when Polish soldiers on the northeastern frontier were fighting to stop the advance of the Bolsheviks from Vilna on Grodno.

On the southeastern frontier the Ukrainians were making daily attacks on Lemberg and bombarding the city. In the vicinity of Fosen and Danzig they were struggling to retain control of that part of Poland which ever since the old partition of the country has been under German rule.

On the night of January 23 in Warsaw, Cracow and other large Polish centers there came rumors of trouble in the Teschen-Silesian district between Czech and Polish centers. Members of the British and American commissions making a study of the problems in Poland hurried to the scene. Investigation showed that fighting was in progress and also disclosed that the following

INTERNATIONAL LABOR MISSION CONFERS



Labor leaders of the nations are in conference at Paris to form international labor laws which will assure the cessation of international labor strikes. The conference is being held at the French ministry of labor. Samuel Gompers, president of the American Federation of Labor, and G. N. Barnes, both of whom are leaders of the conference, are shown in the center background of the photo.

notice had been published and posted. Translated it reads:

Economic Breakdown Looms
"To the inhabitants of the duchy of Silesia: Unsatisfactory conditions to public safety threatening an economic breakdown in Silesia, we implore the government of the Czechoslovak republic to send you a part of the troops which have arrived from France to establish order in the land. As Frenchmen, Britons, Italians and Americans we have the sincere sympathy for both peoples which form a majority in the country. As soldiers we will do our duty, but in political questions we will take no hand. We demand from all classes of the population support in establishing order in the land. The republic is a state based on order."

The notice was signed by Gillian, lieutenant colonel in the French army; Grosfield, major in the British army; Rosada, major in the Italian army, and Voska, first lieutenant in the American army. "Commissions have been established in each of the provinces, as representatives of the entire population before the military command," reads another notice.

"They are for the purpose of putting the complaints and desires of the inhabitants before the military command. In case the commandant cannot give you satisfaction, address yourselves to the undersigned."

"Lieut.-Col. Joseph Sanjderak, military inspector for Silesia, North Moravia and Mahrtsch-Ostrau."

Reports Are Unfounded
From my inquiries made in places which the Czechs have now held, places held by the Poles, and also from information given me by the Polish government and military officials, it appears that the reports which have been circulated that detachments of allied troops are taking part in occupying the district are unfounded. Czech troops alone are engaged in it. It further appears that the allied officers whose names are signed to the proclamation and who call themselves an international commission came from Prague. Their maintaining the Czech occupation as shown by the proclamation was the basis of the claim that allied troops had been sent to occupy Silesian sections.

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entire territory formerly comprising the Austro-Hungarian empire. Czech soldiers now hold these yards. Both sides agree that the first bloodshed and the death in conflict occurred at Oderberg. Lieutenant Charles Kraucher, a Czech officer whom I interviewed in the Oderberg railroad station, admitted that the first two deaths were Poles, who were shot by Czech soldiers. According to Polish official reports the Czechs fired upon an automobile containing Polish army envoys who, flying a white flag, sought to parley with the Czech forces. The chauffeur was killed outright and another occupant who held the flag was wounded. Wladislav Krull, whose home is in Trzebinia, was among those at Oswiecim who told me what occurred.

"About 2 o'clock in the afternoon I was at Oderberg. I was employed in the railroad station. At the office of the railroad commander and military host there appeared a Czech major, accompanied by an officer in French uniform. We thought the latter a Frenchman, but he talked in Bohemian with a Czech officer, who proved to be Major Sykora. When Polish officials, responding to orders, gathered to learn what the visit meant, Major Sykora produced a document supposed to be in French and Bohemian. I translated it.

Bohemians Rush In
"Lieutenant Nauman of the Polish army asked what it was all about and the explanation given was that by the order of the Czechs the Czechs were to take Silesia without delay and the Polish troops were to get out. Our commander asked for time to communicate with headquarters in Teschen. Before my reply came and while the discussion was still proceeding Bohemian soldiers rushed in from various sides and took charge. The Polish army officers had gone to various places to notify their commanders and when they returned, headed by Lieutenant Nauman, they were told by Major Sykora that they could withdraw to Teschen or elsewhere without trouble. Among the soldiers who seized the city were some wearing uniforms of the French army and some had French steel helmets. While this was going on the Czechs rushed upon the railroad employees and disarmed the railroad men, beating, kicking and otherwise mistreating them. Two Polish soldiers were killed outright, while another was wounded later, making the total number of dead and wounded a few hours later, while 20 were wounded. If the Poles had not believed that allies were not in the detachment doubtless some Czechs would have been killed."

Henry Pachonaki, living in Cracow, a petty officer in the Polish forces, was wounded in the hand. I saw him here when he came from the front.

Deception Is Practiced
"I have just come from Laki about five kilometers (three miles) from Teschen," he said. "We were sent to our post in the night. In the night-time our post was attacked by forces emerging from the woods with rifles and field guns. Lieutenant Suski was wounded and retreated. The forces were fighting against us employed the ruse of appearing in civilian clothing and pretending to be people from the neighborhood. When they came near enough they opened fire. The Czech military forces forbade the election on Sunday of Silesian delegates to the Polish constitutional convention. Captain Haller, a General of German Halls, contacted with the Poles in France, who led the defense of women and children near Dzialosiecz, was killed. The Czechs used heavy cannon."

General Marchnowski, in charge of the medical staff which received wounded soldiers and also sick people from the hospitals in Teschen, which is being evacuated in fear of the Czechs, was interviewed by me in this city. He said: "Sick men, women and children from the hospitals were being taken to other places were brought here because the Bohemian soldiers are without mercy."

All communication between Oswiecim and Oderberg having been broken off, it was necessary for me to go through the territory held by the Germans via Katowitz to reach Oderberg so as to get the Czech story. I met Lieutenant Kraucher of the Bohemian forces and, in reply to my questions, he said:

Attack Is Sound
"For the past three months we have kept a company of Czech soldiers here at Oderberg. Our troops were ordered an iron factory. We had about half as many troops as the Poles had here during that period in accordance with an agreement. Our troops were ordered to help keep order. I and 123 of our soldiers were here January 27 and were at our quarters when, at 12:30, we heard a bullet train was being stopped. Our men immediately rushed out to see what was up. Two hand grenades were thrown into the yard, but failed to explode. Our men were ordered to be calm and not to fire, but two soldiers entered the yard and our men, unable to control themselves, fired and killed them. As we understand it, we have been ordered by the allies to take charge of the whole of Silesia and we are doing it. There have been no executions of civilians by court-martial in this city, but there have been cases in Karwin and other places where the attitude of the people warranted it. Civilians, including some women, are being interned by us in various places. If there are other reprisals they are due to reports of mistreatment of our soldiers. It is reported that one of them had his eyes gouged out. We are not going to occupy any part of German Silesia, but only that

part which was under the former Austro-Hungarian empire.

Wishes of Entente
"I do not believe that the failure to proceed to German Silesia is due to a secret pact between the Germans and our government. We are merely carrying out the wishes of the entente."

The Polish government, headed by General Pilsudski and Premier Paderewski, and also the leaders of the various parties, insist that there was no reason for the seizure of Silesia by the Czech troops. All declare that investigation shows that there was no disorder in that region. The output of coal had increased considerably since the Poles took charge of the territory in November. There has been no strike or Bolshevism in the mines. The miners are intensely Polish, having repeatedly elected to the Austrian parliament distinctly Polish representatives before the war. While the vast majority of the population in these Silesian towns is Polish, the mines and also the large industrial plants where the people are employed are owned largely by outside capital. In many of the mines, while the workmen are Polish, the administrative officers are Czech. Premier Paderewski when I interviewed him was grieving over the bloodshed between the Poles and Czechs. He declared that the situation was uncalled for, because President Masaryk of Czechoslovakia had repeatedly expressed the desire that the future relations between the two nations should be brotherly and peaceful.

League Covenant Apt to Be Changed To Soothe Critics
By Harry Hansen
Special Cable to The Journal and The Chicago Daily News.
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Paris, March 10.—Criticism directed against the present covenant of the League of Nations in America are having their effect on official circles here, where it is recognized that the covenant probably will not be adopted without change. It is also possible to point out that certain changes of opinion have been taking place here, particularly with relation to the effect of the League of Nations on the Monroe doctrine.

It may be remembered that when the league idea was first proposed the idea that the Monroe doctrine might be interfered with was openly combated. Although the statements were not specific yet the inference was plain that America need not abstain from her influence because of the league. In American circles here it is believed that as the covenant now stands the Monroe doctrine cannot exist under the league. It was specifically pointed out today that if America expected to maintain the Monroe doctrine Japan was also entitled to a doctrine of the far east and every other nation was entitled to a doctrine in its part of the world. This would negate the idea of a league of nations closely banded together throughout the world to keep the peace.

It is also pointed out in this connection that there is a growing feeling in parts of South America and especially the Argentine, for rapprochement with Spain rather than with the United States. The idea prevails in certain European circles that the Monroe doctrine is a stumbling block that might well be thrown into the discard. The conviction is also expressed in this quarter that the League of Nations will eliminate it.

Rubber boots have been invented with hollows between their outer surfaces and linings, which can be filled with hot water to keep wearers' feet warm.

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JOINT GUARANTEE OF WAR DEBTS, IS EXPERT'S METHOD

Scheme Would Include Indemnities Which Have Been Incurred by the Central Powers in War.

PLAN GIVEN TO CONFERENCE

New Idea Is Advanced by William Olsson, a Leading Financier of Stockholm.

By Bassett Dibley
Special Cable to The Journal and The Chicago Daily News.
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Stockholm, Sweden, March 8.—William Olsson, one of the leading Swedish financial men in Stockholm, has devised a scheme which would include all the belligerents incurred in the war, plus the debts incurred by the central powers in the shape of indemnities, into the League of Nations consolidated debt.

The debt would be jointly guaranteed by all the nations and jointly administered by them.

Briefly, the plan is this: The world's war weariness precludes any danger of any early recrudescence of war by the great powers. This is the main danger which will tend to contract the final settlement of a concrete League of Nations for many years, while the details are endlessly debated. The extinction of the war's debts constitutes in a very material sense an important objective for the League of Nations. He considers that they can be extinguished by the creation of those national and international virtues for which the league is to stand, and hence the desirability for the formation of a League of Nations consolidated debt.

"Of course," he says, "each nation would be directly responsible to the joint administration of the debt in the interest and the amortization. But it may be asked why a joint guarantee of the whole of all the nations is necessary or desirable.

All Are Concerned
"Apparently a joint guarantee is advantageous only to the financially weaker nations. The nations which are financially strongest, namely, America and Britain, which are so largely creditors of the weaker prospective members of the league, would be benefited to a great extent by the position of guarantors.

"In practice, before the joint guarantee is adopted, either the League of Nations or the central powers will get peace terms which they can honor or they will default. If they default, the League will be helpless. It will probably be better for them to agree on such terms as the central powers can honor. It will neither be economical nor wise to have the League of Nations undischarged bankruptcy, which would be the case if the obligations imposed upon them were abandoned.

"In what currency should the consolidated debt be expressed?"
"Probably in no existing currency but in a new one to be established on a gold basis. It may be that the League of Nations consolidated debt would offer a medium whereby the gold standard could be reestablished by the administration of the consolidated debt would become a central financial institution for the whole world while each country would base its currency on the gold standard. The gold standard would be indirectly on gold."

Consolidation Plan Favored
"It seems likely that one of the great practical problems that must be solved, namely, that of international exchange, might be solved by the consolidation of the war debts. It seems also that the administration of the League of Nations consolidated debt would be a good thing for the League of Nations, bringing home to the different legislatures that all nations had a direct interest in sound finance and that in each individual member of the league a specific would develop under which the analysis and comparison of national budgets would be simplified.

"Incompetence in handling finance would be exposed so that a constant levelling up of finance would ensue. On summing up the outline my proposal provides for the consolidation of the League of Nations consolidated debt, provides a basis for the machinery necessary for a League of Nations and provides for the organization of a League of Nations of the different countries into one common world security while retaining through the joint guarantee the guarantee of each of the countries which becomes so to speak a stockholder in the great League of Nations, thereby resting on a reality."

Debits Are Enumerated
The Olsson scheme thus further squares the League of Nations consolidated debt with the present international trends. "In a speech in Bristol on December 11," Olsson said, "Lloyd George estimated Britain's war debt at 8,000,000,000 pounds (\$40,000,000,000). Germany's at from 5,000,000,000 to 7,000,000,000 pounds (\$25,000,000,000 to \$35,000,000,000), say 6,500,000,000 pounds (\$32,500,000,000), and the total war costs of all the nations at 24,000,000,000 pounds (\$120,000,000,000). It is not quite clear what the last named figures covered, but I will assume that the sum to constitute the league's consolidated debt will be composed as follows: The German debt, as modified by the indemnities so that ultimately the heaviest item will be Germany's share.

"Taking the above figures at a minimum Germany would have to pay interest and amortization on 66,500,000,000 (\$332,500,000,000). How much more of the 24,000,000,000 she can manage is uncertain, but the amount is large or small the league consolidated debt has the advantage that while providing a workable scheme on which to arrange with the central powers which leaves the door open to get payment from Germany up to the limit of her capacity to use Lloyd George's expression.

"Lloyd George in his Bristol speech says that the German debt to the entente and America must get preference before those of German subjects. This I apprehend, would be arranged by carrying for 10 years the bonds which the administration of the consolidated debt issued to the German government.

Exchange May Be Made
As regards the entente and America the consolidated bonds would be issued to

FOREIGN LABOR IS WAITING TO CROSS SEAS TO AMERICA

Officials of American Federation of Labor Say Steps Must Be Taken to Protect Workers.

PROBLEM IS DELICATE ONE

Labor Men Are Firm Advocates of League of Nation, but Insist on Rights of America.

By Harry Hansen
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Paris, March 10.—Every official of the American Federation of Labor in Paris agrees that American labor must be protected from the great mass of foreigners ready to enter the United States as soon as the bars are removed. At the same time they urge the government to proceed with construction work now and not to wait until 1920, for two reasons: First to give work to the unemployed because of the closing of the munitions and other war industries and, secondly, because by 1920 foreign labor will be ready to come to the United States to compete with the home labor. Influencing legislation by congress to protect American labor will be among the principal matters to be considered by the convention of the American Federation in Atlantic City in June. The immigration problem is full of technicalities because it is regarded in some quarters as interfering with the spirit of the League of Nations plan and also with the president's expressed idea that barriers raised between the states are among the causes of war.

Restriction on Program
The restriction in the program announced by the committee on reconstruction appointed at St. Paul last summer, to the stand that immigration would have to be restricted for two years at least. It is clear that certain nations, involving the spirit of the League of Nations, will seek to make immigration an international matter for the bureau of labor to deal with, and in the event of getting into the League of Nations will attempt to go before the league court for a decision. Thus the right of any country to establish immigration laws will be in question. The problem of the brotherhood of man enters into the league, and how far the sovereign rights of the states may determine who shall and who shall not cross its boundaries and be entitled to the rights of citizenship under new surroundings, are also involved in every labor man here is a firm advocate of the League of Nations plan as a whole, on the ground that it will promote peace and better conditions for every man throughout the world, but not one of them will think of letting the league dictate to America who shall and who shall not become citizens there.

Gompers Discusses Problems
"Immigration," said Samuel Gompers today, "is different in the United States from what it is in any other country. Before the war, we had 1,250,000 immigrants arriving annually. We are opposed to immigration on both the Atlantic and Pacific seaboard. We want to be friendly to all nations, but we have ideas and ideals to live up to. It appears to me that no outside law can conflict with the laws of the self-governing nation. We shall have to solve the question of immigration ourselves."

The labor men see a way of restricting

No Disposition to Bring Panama Canal To Internationalism

By Harry Hansen
Special Cable to The Journal and The Chicago Daily News.
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Paris, March 5.—(Delayed.)—Apprehension raised in America that the organization of a League of Nations will mean the eventual internationalization of the Panama canal is absolutely without foundation. I am able to state on the best authority that when the important committee on ports and waterways, which is now holding daily sessions, makes its report it will not deal with the Panama canal nor the canal, or is there any disposition to lay the foundation for dealing with these in the future.

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