

LABOR SITUATION IN POLAND ABOUT LIKE IT IS HERE

Head of Polish Delegation to Labor Conference Tells How Prices and Wages Both Mount

NORMAL COMMERCE NEEDED

Efficiency of Workmen Is About 60 or 70 Per Cent of Pre-War Standard, Mr. Sokal Estimates

By Edward Price Bell
Special Cable to The Journal and The Chicago Daily News.

London, England, Oct. 21.—Among the passengers on the Mauretania en route to America is the Polish delegation to the international labor congress in Washington. It is headed by Franciszek Sokal, M. E., chief inspector of the Polish ministry of labor and social aid. He took part on behalf of the Polish government in the labor commission of the peace congress in Paris, and I asked him to give some information about Poland and more particularly the labor question with which he is thoroughly acquainted.

"Just as in other countries," he said, "so also in Poland the labor question is now in an acute stage. The restricted amount of articles of the first necessity, and more particularly food and coal, causes a continuous rise in prices and consequently continuously repeated demands on the part of labor for increased wages. The result is a blind circle, higher wages leading to still higher prices and so on.

NORMAL TRADE NECESSARY

"There appears to be no way out of this blind circle until a normal exchange of articles of price necessity takes place. Of these there is at present a great scarcity in some countries and at the same time a surplus in other countries. Fortunately, economic conditions in Poland are not so bad as one is accustomed to hear, and it should be emphasized that the Polish workman at the present day works with fairly good efficiency. This may be estimated to be equal to about 60 per cent to 75 per cent of his pre-war efficiency. The output of the coal mines in the Dabrowa basin has recently been increasing. Nevertheless there is a great lack of coal ow-

ing to the stoppage of delivery from upper Silesia, which used to supply the provinces of Posen. Moreover, the supply from the Don basin has, of course, also ceased.

"There is a great lack of raw material indispensable for feeding the manufacturing centers. Whenever it has been possible to obtain raw materials there has been an immediate start. For instance, in Lodz, which now has a certain stock of cotton, the textile industry has come to life and is progressing favorably. The number of unemployed does not exceed half a million. If the various industries could be set going it is probable that there would be no unemployment at all.

ALLIES CAN BENEFIT

"It is essential, however, for restarting the industries that the help of the allies should be forthcoming, and it certainly is in the interest of the allies themselves to assist independent Poland in reaching as soon as possible normal and regulated conditions. Poland represents, of course, a tremendous market for goods. Thousands of schools are necessary. Agriculture must be improved on a large scale by the introduction of agricultural machinery and tools and by a vast use of artificial fertilizers.

"The plenty of scope for economic work of any kind which at the same time represents cultural progress in a country like Poland, which has a population of more than 20,000,000 eager for work, of good intelligence and possessing the old culture which was stopped in its natural development by the unfortunate partition of Poland."

LENIN'S DOCTRINES NOT LIKED

When he was asked whether Bolshevist tendencies were prevalent among the Polish workmen, Sokal said that, in his opinion, it would be necessary before giving a reply to define what was meant by Bolshevism.

"As regards the purely ideal part of the Bolshevist doctrine, such as is preached by Lenin and his adherents," he continued, "it may be said that it is hardly of any importance in Poland. The demand for higher wages, in view of the increased cost of living, has nothing in common with Bolshevism, and it may be satisfied by an improvement in food and other supplies, or, in other words, by reducing the high cost of living. Only in this manner will it be possible to fight the various strikes and economic struggles which in themselves are entirely different from Bolshevism, but may easily prepare the ground for the spread of Bolshevism. The Polish workman is modest in his requirements and is averse to revolutionary tendencies. He is patriotic and is prepared to make great sacrifices for his newly revived home land."

WILL MAINTAIN SOVEREIGNTY

I asked Sokal what, in his view, was the political situation in Poland as regards the present crisis in Russia owing to the successes of General Danilkin and General Yudenitch.

"I cannot give you any explanation of the political situation in my official capacity," was the reply, "but as a pri-

vate person I can assure you that the Poles will defend to their last drop of blood the independence of their country from whatever direction it may be threatened. I feel sure, however, that the great world war has really been finished by the peace made in Paris, and I think that the whole world will understand that for Poland, too, there has come a time to work peacefully and to start rebuilding their own country instead of continuing under the pressure of a defensive war. As soon as the world understands this a great step will have been taken toward settling human relations in general."

TURKS APPEAL FOR SENATE COMMITTEE TO HOLD TERRITORY

Senators Urged to Visit Turkey Before Peace Treaty Findings Become Effective.

By Louis Edgar Brown.
Special Cable to The Journal and The Chicago Daily News.

Washington, Oct. 21.—The invitation of the national congress of Sivas to the United States senate is as follows: "The national congress of Sivas, representing the entire Mohammedan population of European Turkey and Asia Minor, and composed of delegates representing every province and state in the said portions of the Ottoman empire, assembled September 4, 1919, for the purpose of securing the fulfillment of the wishes of the majority of the population of the empire with regard to protection of all minorities, and with life, liberty and justice and the inviolability of property rights guaranteed to all.

"The national congress of Sivas, by unanimous vote on September 9, 1919, passed a resolution outlining the desires of the majority of the population of the Ottoman empire, embodying the principles which will guide the future action of the congress and providing for a central committee which will elect from among its members before dispersal, and for all subsidiary organizations within the frontiers of the empire.

"In accordance with said resolutions of policy the congress of Sivas this day by unanimous vote requests the senate of the United States to send a committee of its members to visit all the confines of the Ottoman empire for the purpose of investigating with the clear vision of a disinterested nation conditions as they actually are in the Ottoman empire before permitting the arbitrary disposal of the peoples and territories of the Ottoman empire by the treaty of peace.

"In the name of the national congress of Sivas:

"President Mustapha Kemal Pasha.

"Vice President H. Roef.

"Secretary Emil Ismail Hamy.

"Second Vice President I. Frazil (a retired general).

"Secretary Chukri."

HENRI BARBUSSE HEADS VETERANS SEEKING REFORM

Author of "Under Fire" Refuses to Be Candidate for Chamber of Deputies, However.

SEES GOOD IN BOLSHEVISM

Believes It Could Have Been Directed So as to Have Exerted Powerful Effect for Civilization

By Henry J. Smith
Special Cable to The Journal and The Chicago Daily News.

Paris, France, Oct. 21.—The names of Anatole France and Henri Barbusse are missing from the list of Socialist candidates at the coming elections published yesterday. Anatole France prefers, it is said, to be a "plain voter." Barbusse prefers to be merely Henri. He told me about it as he sat muffled in an overcoat before a glowing grate. It was the author of "Under Fire" speaking, but, more, it was the voice of France's discontent that issued from this vivid, verve personality.

As president of the Republican Association of War Veterans—an organization distinct from the great body called "Les Anciens Combattants" (The Veteran Fighters)—and of the "Group Clarte," Barbusse is now a potent figure. Suffering still from a malady acquired in the trenches and plainly at the limit of a nervous strain, he sends from his eye in a half-hidden street utterances waking sometimes delight and sometimes wrath.

HEADS 100,000 VETERANS

"Yes," he said, "I am the president of the society of nearly 100,000 men who fought for France and have now seen the reward of their sacrifices. They fight the tyranny of the profiteers, the continuance in office of stupid and selfish officials and movements tending to make the lives of their countrymen harder and narrower. They came to me and urged me to head their list of Socialist candidates in the department of the Seine. I refused. Why? Because the chamber is not my place. My world is that of the intellect."

He threw out his long, pale hands in a gesture.

"You've heard of the Clarte? Its purpose, as the name suggests, is to bring light. It seeks an international union of intellects to insure among all peoples understanding of events and movements. It is a revolution to re-establish order out of disorder created by those in power. Their war has left destruction and their peace is the peace of disorder."

WORLD TRAGIC AS EVER

The scornful, pale face under a mass of straight dark hair became sad.

"Our people," he continued, "see a world as tragic as ever. The horizon is just as black as ever. Are the small nations protected? Is the lot of the oppressed improved? He answered his own questions by an untranslatable exclamation. "What is the situation in France? The great economist Paul Mistral says the taxes must soon increase ten fold. It is a bright outlook for the common man. To aid my comrades of the trenches to help in understanding the truths such as my life's work—except for my writings."

"Which, it is hoped, are not concluded." It was suggested. He smiled wistfully.

"I have heard that America likes them," he said. "Is it true that 'Under Fire' was prescribed?"

IRONIC OVER D'ANNUNZIO

He stared into the red coals. Fiction seemed far away. Something brought up d'Annunzio and he said with gentle irony that d'Annunzio had taken a city. "A man of action they call him," he added. "Why, in these confused times almost anyone can take a city. Whom does it help? It creates more calamity instead of less. Saying so I reflect not merely my own opinion but that of the majority of Italian Socialists who are not holding parades over Fiume. Incidentally in Italy one finds that the purest and healthiest homes are Socialist. They, like us, refuse to believe in flamboyant nationalism. They are for international comity and for the uplifting of oppressed peoples—and idea which your President Wilson made prominent."

"Your group then has not lost faith in President Wilson?"

BELIEVES IN WILSON'S POINTS

"We still believe in President Wilson's 14 points though we may have lost faith in the man. Wilson was and still is candid, but he suffered here from the intrigue of certain peace conference leaders."

He hooded awhile and then spoke of Russia. His hands writhed and his veins swelled as he described Bolshevism which he regards as a force which might once have been harnessed in the interest of civilization. He said much more much it would do me good to report. Then he reverted to the "Group Clarte" which he said has enlisted the names of celebrities like Anatole France, Georges Duhamel, Ellen Key, George Brandes,

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Radicals Meet, but No One in Germany Pays Any Attention

By Gordon Stiles
Special Cable to The Journal and The Chicago Daily News.

Berlin, Oct. 21.—(Delayed)—Although the radicals held 30 meetings throughout the city last night, nothing has developed from them to cause excitement. Most of the talk seems to have centered about the freedom of the press and kindred subjects. As a matter of fact, if it had not been for the accounts of the meetings in the newspapers, few outside of those present would have known that the meetings were held at all.

One thing which is impeding any sort of progress in the juggling with valutas (exchange rates, etc.). Stabilization of the currency and the wiping out of revolutionary plotting are matters which are firmly linked together and are things which must be done before Germany can settle down and pay her war debts. Every day which passes under existing conditions places further obstacles in the way of genuine universal peace.

Confederation of West Indies Sought

By R. W. Thompson
Special Cable to The Journal and The Chicago Daily News.

Kingston, Jamaica, Oct. 21.—Confederation of the West Indian islands is being discussed in West Indian newspapers and is strongly advocated by the Jamaica Gleaner. It is viewed as preferable to federation with Canada, annexation to the United States of America. The United West Indian chambers of commerce proposed to make

a move in this direction in January, 1921, but it is now expected that the effort will be seriously taken up long before that time.

President of China May Resign Post London, Oct. 21.—(L. N. S.)—President

Hsu Shih Chang of China is contemplating resigning because of the failure of rival political factions representing Northern and Southern China to reach a compromise, the Tien Tsin correspondent of the Exchange Telegraph stated today.

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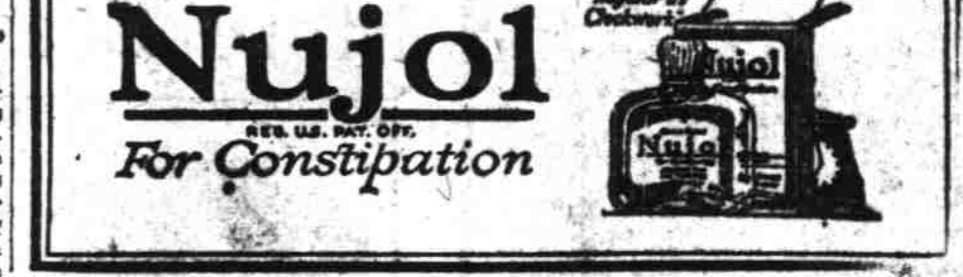
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